

DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS & SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN 10–14 YEARS OLDS IN NORTHERN UGANDA

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Photo Credit: Rebecka Lundgren, IRH



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PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Partners

Institute for Reproductive Health (IRH), Search Institute

Purpose

Cross-sectional survey to assess the relationship between developmental assets and sexual & reproductive health (SRH)

Duration

October 2013 - September 2014

Location

Post-conflict Northern Uganda

Participants

Girls and boys aged 10 to 14



THE RATIONALE



- ✓ **50% of all adolescents** are very young adolescents (VYA)
- ✓ **Growing recognition of need to support** adolescent positive development
- ✓ **Few interventions** focus on VYAs
- ✓ **Few studies** consider resilience, self-efficacy, other developmental assets + relationship with SRH

ASSETS DEFINED



DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS:

critical supports (*external*) and strengths (*internal*) that young people need to grow up healthy, caring, and productive.”



DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS PROFILE (DAP)



WHAT DAP MEASURES

Asset Categories

Asset-Building Contexts

External Supports

- ✓ Support
- ✓ Empowerment
- ✓ Boundaries & Expectations
- ✓ Constructive Use of Time

Internal Strengths

- ✓ Commitment to Learning
- ✓ Positive Values
- ✓ Social Competencies
- ✓ Positive Identity

- ✓ Personal
- ✓ Social
- ✓ Family
- ✓ School
- ✓ Community

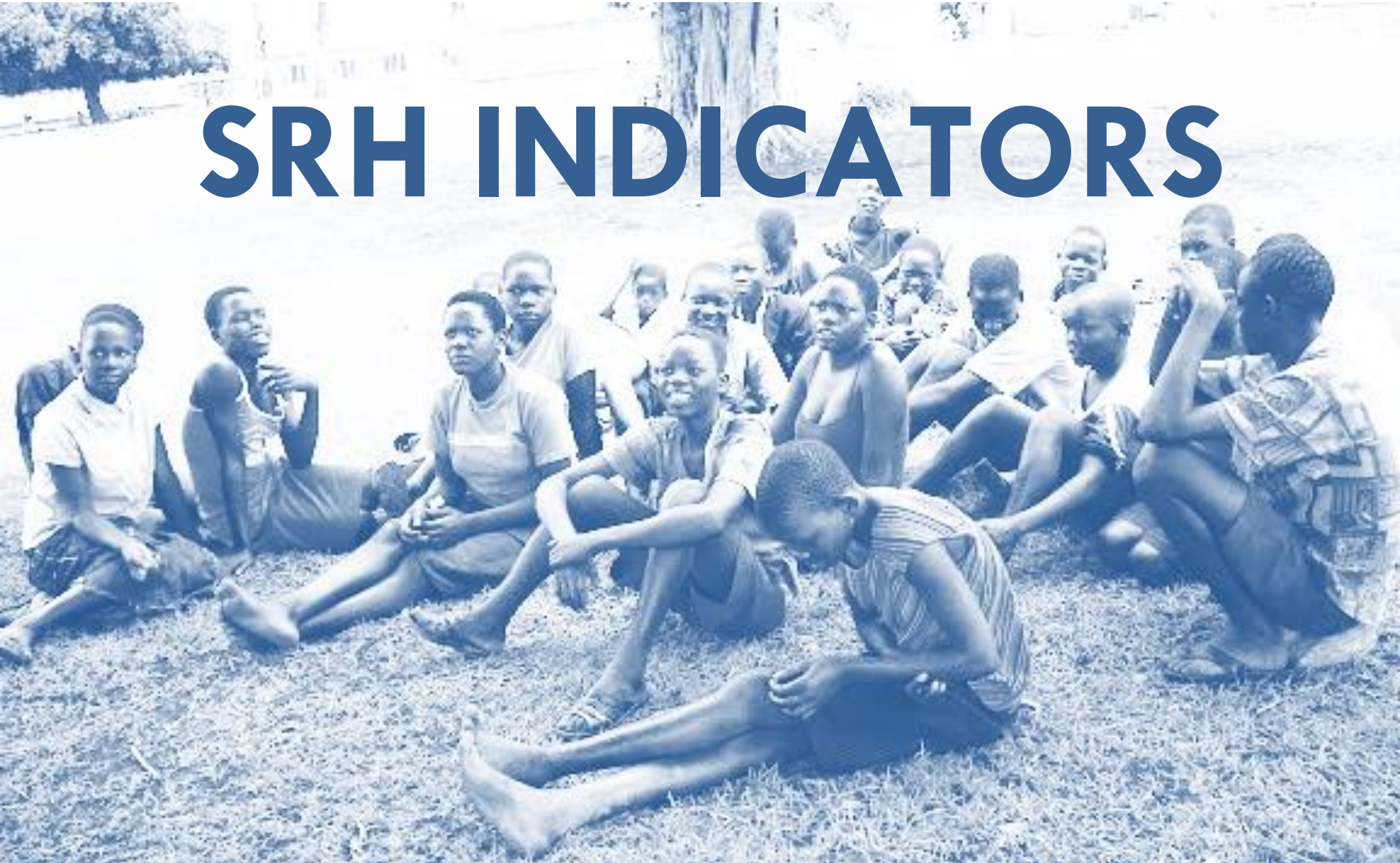
SAMPLE ITEMS FROM THE DAP BY SCALE

Items	Asset scale	Context scale
I seek advice from my parents	<i>Support</i>	Family
I feel safe at school	<i>Empowerment</i>	School
I have neighbors who help watch out for me	<i>Boundaries & Expectations</i>	Community
I am involved in a sport, club, or other group	<i>Constructive Use of Time</i>	Community
I am eager to do well in school and other activities	<i>Commitment to Learning</i>	School
I take responsibility for what I do	<i>Positive Values</i>	Personal
I build friendships with other people	<i>Social Competencies</i>	Social
I am developing a sense of purpose in my life	<i>Positive Identity</i>	Personal

All DAP items are answered on the following scale: Not At All or Rarely, Somewhat or Sometimes, Very or Often, Extremely or Almost Always



SRH INDICATORS



SRH INDICATORS



✓ Puberty knowledge



✓ Accurate knowledge about pregnancy risk



✓ HIV knowledge

✓ Condom knowledge



✓ Supportive relationships

✓ Equitable gender attitudes



✓ Ability to access to SRH services

✓ Intention to delay sex or use condoms



RESULTS

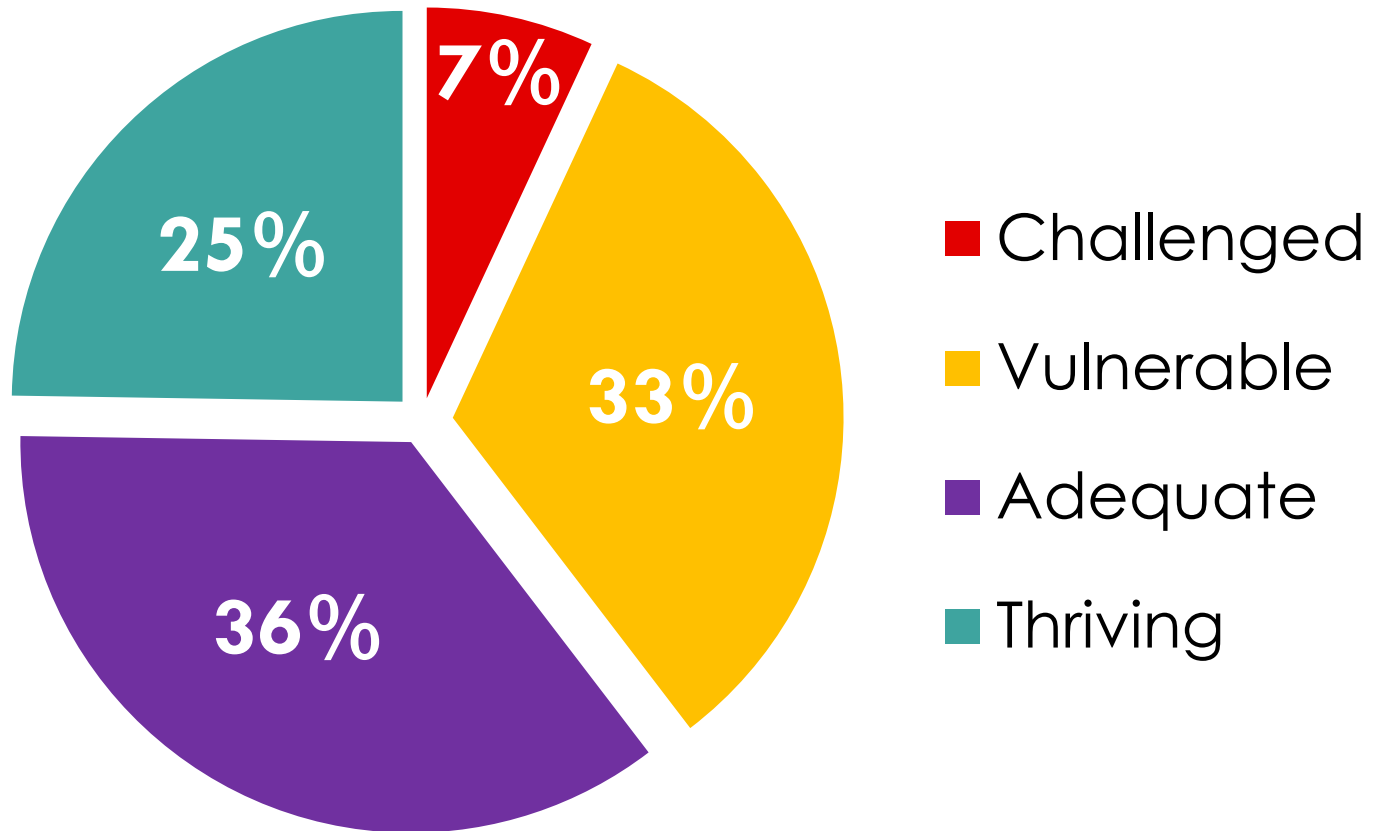


HOW WELL THE SCALES WORK: RELIABILITY & VALIDITY

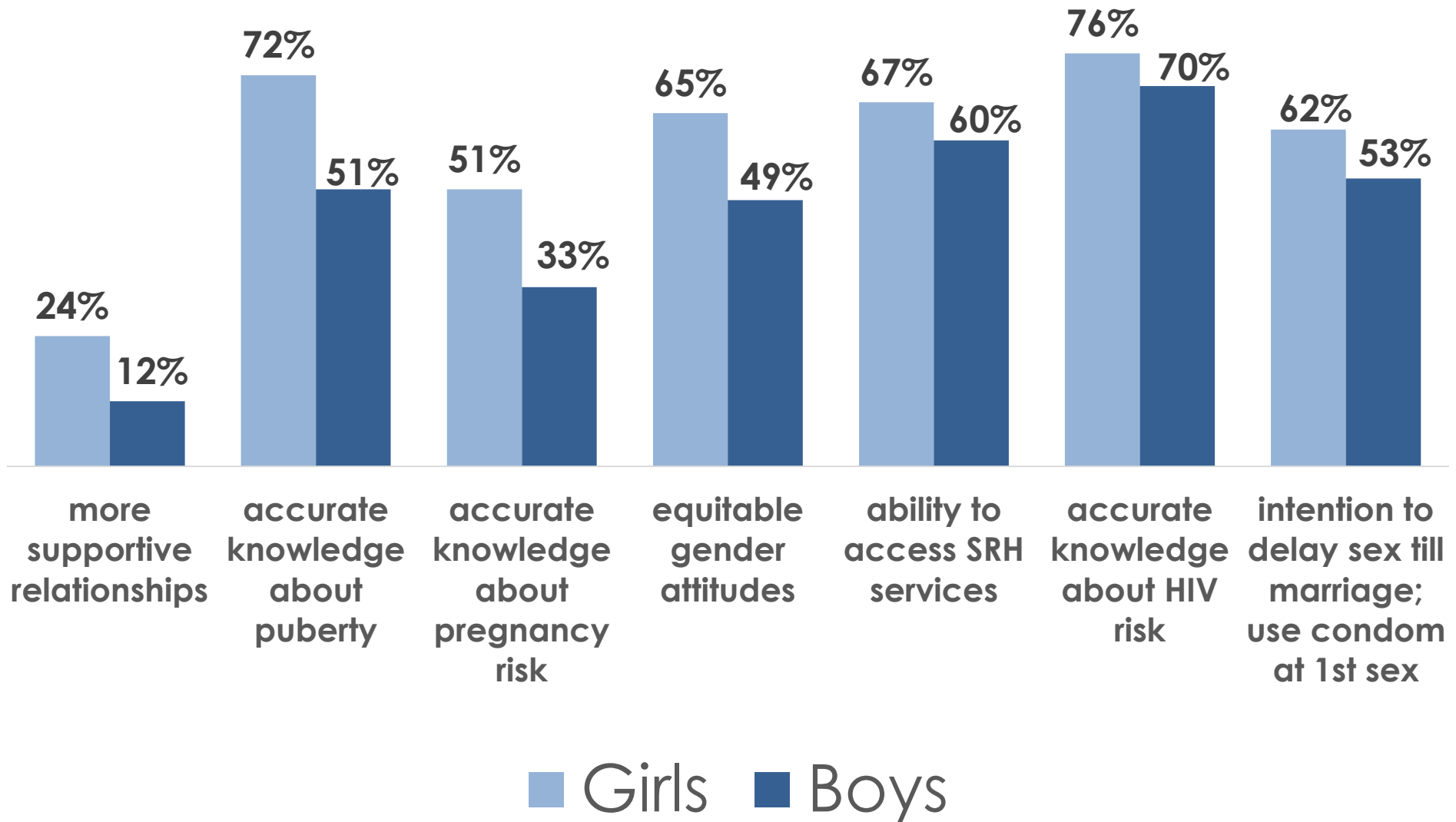
- ✓ Internal consistency reliabilities measured using Cronbach's alpha
- ✓ Most DAP subscales are either at acceptable (.70 or higher) or promising (.60-.69) levels
- ✓ Significant correlation of asset scales with SRH indicators as hypothesized supports the DAP's validity.

MOST VYAs SCORED AT *ADEQUATE OR THRIVING* LEVEL ON ASSET SCORES

% Northern Uganda 10-14 year olds, by Total DAP Score
Quartile, n= 941



SRH Outcomes



SRH INDIVIDUAL INDICATORS

Heard of HIV	94%	Girls should be flattered when boys act this way	10%
Heard of condoms	83%	Touched a girls on her breasts or buttocks without her permission	4%
Seen a condom	72%	Been touched on the breasts or buttocks without her permission	4%
Teasing girls is an appropriate way boys show girls that they like them	17%	Feel able to tell boys to stop doing something that makes them uncomfortable	86%
Boys who do not tease girls will be made fun of by other boys	40%		

GIRLS WITH ADEQUATE OR THRIVING ASSETS:



60% more likely than girls at the *Challenged* or *Vulnerable* asset levels to have accurate puberty knowledge



94% more likely than girls at the *Challenged* and *Vulnerable* asset levels to believe they can access SRH services



55% more likely than girls at the *Challenged* or *Vulnerable* asset levels to intend to delay sex until marriage or use condoms

BOYS WITH ADEQUATE or THRIVING ASSETS:



88% more likely than girls at the *Challenged* or *Vulnerable* asset levels to have accurate HIV knowledge



72% more likely than girls at the *Challenged* and *Vulnerable* asset levels to have condom knowledge



93% more likely than girls at the *Challenged* or *Vulnerable* asset levels to intend to delay sex until marriage or use condoms

GIRLS WITH THRIVING ASSETS (HIGHEST LEVEL)



60% more likely than all other girls to have accurate condom knowledge



94% more likely than all other girls to have accurate HIV knowledge



Girls **73%** more likely than all other girls to have supportive relationships

BOYS WITH THRIVING ASSETS (HIGHEST LEVEL)



74% more likely than all other boys to have HIV knowledge



2x as likely than all other boys to have supportive relationships



2x as likely than all other boys to intend to use a condom if sex before marriage

PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS



- ✓ **Improve parents' ability to support** their children; set & monitor appropriate boundaries
- ✓ **Expand rights-based programming** to engage communities & encourage youth involvement in community service & action
- ✓ **Provide youth skill development** opportunities
- ✓ **Establish links with caring adults** in schools, communities & other institutions to increase support

RESEARCH IMPLICATIONS

- ✓ **Conduct longitudinal study** to establish causal relationship between developmental assets & SRH indicators
- ✓ **Test & refine SRH indicators**, particularly those related to sexual behavior among this younger & under-studied age group



Photo Credit: Dickens Ojamuge, Save the Children

THANK YOU!



Study Report

<http://irh.org/resource-library/developmental-assets-sexual-reproductive-health-among-10-14-year-olds-uganda/>

Study Brief

<http://irh.org/resource-library/brief-exploring-links-developmental-assets-sexual-reproductive-health-among-young-adolescents-case-northern-uganda/>

DAP Information

<http://www.search-institute.org/surveys/DAP>