The issue

Adolescence brings physical, emotional, and social changes and challenges. Girls are encouraged to work, get married, and have children. This new era can be confusing, and life changing. Research has shown that for many girls, their world begins to shrink around puberty: the places in their community they’re allowed to explore become smaller while their responsibilities around the house start to increase. This can lead to increased exposure to violence. Batonga mentors come from the same communities, the same neighborhoods, the same schools and in some cases the same extended families as the young women and girls in their programs. 42% of them are past program participants.

The proven benefits of mentoring

It has been well-established that one-to-one mentoring increases positive outcomes for at-risk youth. Research also shows that group mentoring can be even more effective than one-to-one mentoring for improving adolescent girls sexual and reproductive health, knowledge, school achievement, and social networks as well as helping them decrease risky sexual behaviors and exposure to violence.

HOW WE’RE SOLVING THE PROBLEM

Batonga’s Mentor Program is central to everything we do for and with adolescent girls. Adolescence brings physical, emotional, and social changes and challenges. Girls are encouraged to work, get married, and have children. This new era can be confusing, and life changing. Research has shown that for many girls, their world begins to shrink around puberty: the places in their community they’re allowed to explore become smaller while their responsibilities around the house start to increase. This can lead to increased exposure to violence.

WHAT A MENTOR MAKES

Our mentors support girls in their daily lives and act as a trusted adviser throughout adolescence for program participants. Mentors, in their roles as trusted community leaders, play a critical role in elevating women’s leadership and building new norms in their communities around women’s roles in supporting community members, families, and girls.

The issue

The proven benefits of mentoring

-run the adolescent girls leadership clubs.
- mentor high school girls to become mentors and their families.
- help young women start and run businesses.
- organize and support the community projects led by group members.
- conduct weekly home visits to check in on girls who had been absent from the clubs and support the income-generating opportunities. Batonga’s Mentors have established themselves as trustworthy community leaders through years of work with Batonga. As such, we found that they were able to quickly and easily disseminate information to their communities in times of uncertainty and widespread mistrust.

We currently work with:

- 57 MENTORS
- 475 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Qualitative feedback from our participants

- 92.9% of program participants say they now have access to a trusted adult for advice
- 7,000+ home visits conducted in 2020 for adolescent girls
- 3,600 girls supported in 2020
- 15% of them are past program participants

Additional reflections from our participants

- 57 MENTORS
- 475 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

- run Batonga’s Radio Program and record the radio lessons.
- mentor high school girls to become mentors and their families.
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What do Batonga mentors do?

- Run the adolescent girls leadership clubs.
- Mentor high school girls to become mentors and their families.
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