In many communities, the arrival of puberty decreases a girl's access to friends and her freedom to move around in her community. Adolescent girls are less likely than boys to have strong social networks, someplace they can stay in case of emergency, or a trusted person from whom they can borrow money. As a result, many girls have little to no access to spaces outside their home where they can freely speak their mind, ask taboo questions, and develop supportive, meaningful relationships.

Batonga’s Leadership Clubs provide adolescent girls with accessible, private, and physically and emotionally safe spaces where they can meet weekly with a group of their peers and a trusted female mentor. These spaces are an essential part of their strengthening girls’ voice and agency. The first sessions of any Leadership Club include discussions of club values, such as respect for your peers, confidentiality of things shared in the clubs, and trust in one another. The meeting locations of our Leadership Clubs are chosen specifically to ensure safety and accessibility. This means that meeting locations are within the girls’ walkable community and are not located in isolated or unsafe areas which might necessitate a dangerous walk for the girls. The perceived safety and privacy of these spaces helps to reduce barriers to attendance and enable discussion of sensitive, sometimes taboo issues among girls and their mentor. Girls can build solidarity networks with their peers, seek advice, share traumas, learn skills, all with a sense of security.

Batonga has broadcasted over 50 weekly radio lessons with an average listen rate of 81% among program girls.

Of program participants say they now have access to a trusted adult for advice.

Girls and young women designed & implemented community service projects in their communities.

Girls and young women created informational radio sketches to communicate information about COVID-19 to their communities.

Before, when I was home, even just talking to my mom, I would hide my face, avoid eye contact, and feel uncomfortable in my own body. But since I started Batonga, I’m not afraid to talk to people, especially if they’re my age, to prove to them that I am a strong girl of Batonga.

- Edith, Batonga Club Member

- Adolescents are part of a trusted community that supports them and shares ups and downs.
- Enables girls to learn knowledge and skills related to:
  - Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
  - Economic independence and financial literacy
  - Citizenship and leadership
- Girls and young women are empowered to take on new leadership roles in their communities.

For more information about our Leadership clubs program, please contact us at info@batongafoundation.org.

March 2021

The Batonga Leadership Clubs
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The Batonga Leadership Clubs

We currently run 126 CLUBS in 15 COMMUNITIES
We serve a total of 3,600 GIRLS between the ages of 12 and 18, and divided in 04 AGE GROUPS

Our Clubs’ Impact

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360 GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN CREATED INFORMATIONAL RADIO SKETCHES TO COMMUNICATE INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

1,940 GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN DESIGNED AND IMPLEMENTED COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

92.9% OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS SAY THEY NOW HAVE ACCESS TO A TRUSTED ADULT FOR ADVICE

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By Batonga Foundation