

# INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

## EAST AFRICA



The explosion of mobile phones in East Africa has transformed communication in recent years, although access varies, and girls' access is generally more limited than boys'. Access to ICT can provide information, opportunities and training, protective or social networks, financial tools, and even emergency help. However, girls may become exposed to new risks such as online harassment or grooming.

### NATURE OF THE PROBLEM FOR GIRLS



#### LEARN

Girls without ICT skills cannot access information or people online, which prevents them from the ability to increase their skills, receive guidance, or find information.



#### EARN

Girls who are not connected are limited in their ability to connect to opportunities. Lack of ICT skills limits girls' competitiveness in the labour market; and as jobs rely more and more on technology, gender inequalities can become more entrenched.



#### SAVE

Girls who are not able to access mobile banking are left with limited tools to connect to financial services, particularly in remote areas.



#### STAY SAFE

As social networks grow online, girls without access may be less able to develop supportive networks. However mobile phones can also put girls at risk through online bullying, harassment, or abuse. In some communities, girls with phones may be gossiped about or stigmatized.

### DEPTH: WHAT IMPACT CAN A SOLUTION BRING?



Girls can access educational information, tutoring, and support



Online tools can help girls prepare to engage in the job market and compete in the global economy.



Mobile technology can provide girls with access to financial tools, training, and convenience.



Remote access can create a channel to exchange health or other sensitive information privately. Supportive social networks can improve girls' confidence and self esteem, which works as a protective factor against harassment. Mobile phones can also be used to call for help.

### SCALE: HOW MANY GIRLS CAN BE REACHED?

#### KENYA



86% of homes have mobiles. 23% of women have no access to media

#### ETHIOPIA



Least developed ICT infrastructure: 25% of households have mobiles and 62% of girls 15-19 have no access to media.

#### RWANDA



63% mobile penetration, 1 in 3 mobile phones owned by women

#### TANZANIA



73% mobile penetration (8% smart phones) 30% of girls 15-19 have no access to media

#### UGANDA



65% mobile penetration (5% smart phones). 18% of girls 15-19 have no access to media

### FOCUS: WHICH GIRLS WOULD BENEFIT THE MOST?

ICT solutions will likely benefit urban, peri-urban and less poor girls, who already have some access to technology, financial resources and/or electricity. Young single mothers who are sometimes outcast from both their partner's home and their family home would also benefit from access to virtual social networks. ICT has the potential to impact remote, out of school, poor or ostracized girls who have the least access, but not in the short term. Extending or introducing first-time ICT access could benefit to these girls, who are difficult to reach due to the heavy burden of household responsibilities.

### SPRING PARTICIPANTS WORKING IN ICT



Accelerated  
Better Schools. Better Students

