

Save Our Girls

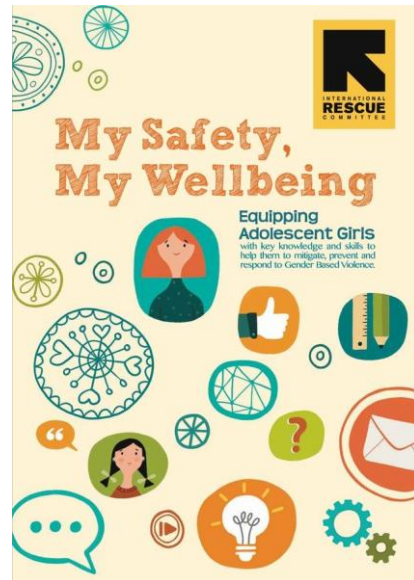
How the IRC has given girls a chance to shape their own lives

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Created in 2018, the Girl Shine program was created based on years of gathered research from the IRC's efforts to provide educational content to girls from 10-19 years of age who are placed in humanitarian roles. These skills include knowledge of caring for girls who have been living in volatile situations for years, learning to assess risks and dangers based on context, strengthening of protective mechanisms, and empowering girls to "steer their own well-being and safety once the program is complete"¹.

For many years, girls who have lived in violent, gender-biased countries have struggled to find their way into the world. They have lacked the skills and opportunities to bring themselves out of their communities which only harbor clouded judgment and dangerous decisions. However, the International Rescue Committee has released a new program that allows these girls to expand on their skills and become stronger than they thought they could.



“This is precisely why engaging girls is important - not only to reduce their exposure to harm, but also to expand the vital role they can play in actively shaping their own lives and their communities”-International Rescue Committee

In many third-world countries such as Afghanistan, Syria, etc. Women and girls are seen as objects and not actual human beings. Girls are susceptible to violence within the home with 47% of women being murdered in domestic homes while men stand at a meager 6%². Not only are women and girls vulnerable to domestic violence, they are also 98% of the individuals forced into sexual exploitation³. With these shocking numbers, it seems it is time to take a stand a make a change because women and girls are an important part of society and should be treated as

such. They have the power and potential to achieve incredible things which have been proven time and again throughout the world. Girls have the right to determine their own path and be free from violence. They have the right to equitable opportunities and choices⁴.

Girl Shine is an amazing opportunity for girls to have these opportunities opened up to them.



With the assistance of the International Rescue Committee this program has helped hundreds of girls expand their skills including Ampiya Mustafa (*photo*) who has participated in the Girl Shine program for four months. She admits that “it is important for girls to have the same opportunities so that they can develop their skills and contribute to their families and communities”⁵. There are many more girls that can participate in this program

and it is up to the IRC to bring this program to these girls.

As of now, Girl Shine is located in Ethiopia in connection with Irish Aid and they are “[responding] to and [protecting] women and girls from gender-biased violence in acute countries and forgotten humanitarian crises in East and West Africa”⁶
