

GIRLS EMPOWERED TO TACKLE GBV

Children engaging and supporting their peers,
including reaching the most vulnerable

Latin America and the Caribbean: Tanzania

Restless Development's model is founded on a peer to peer approach, where young leaders train children and adolescents. An important challenge during COVID-19 has been adapting their model to fit online means. They've started to train young leaders online, who then go back to their communities offline to transmit their new learnings to other children.

They have been providing capacity building in ICTs online, but they're able to reach more young people than children, as children don't always have access to phones. The organization has pointed out that children are being excluded from some of their programs because of lack of access.

An initiative that stands out is their 'Girls' empowerment program', where they train girls on GBV (including how to report violence), and they collaborate with government. Girls are trained on detecting GBV and VAC, and referring to support systems. COVID has affected how girls cope with this new situation. The groups have been weakened, including peer networks, given that some girls are not being able to meet and work on their common agenda. Internet access has been critical, as when they don't have access they're not able to meet and support each other.

Also their research and data collection efforts have been affected. Young people were taking forward research and collaborating with government. They cannot collect data now, or if they do it's a more superficial level of data (as they have seen their VAC related data collection efforts affected).

They have been collaborating with partner organizations around addressing COVID-related mis-information, so young people and adolescents can take forward journalistic work to collect and disseminate information.

