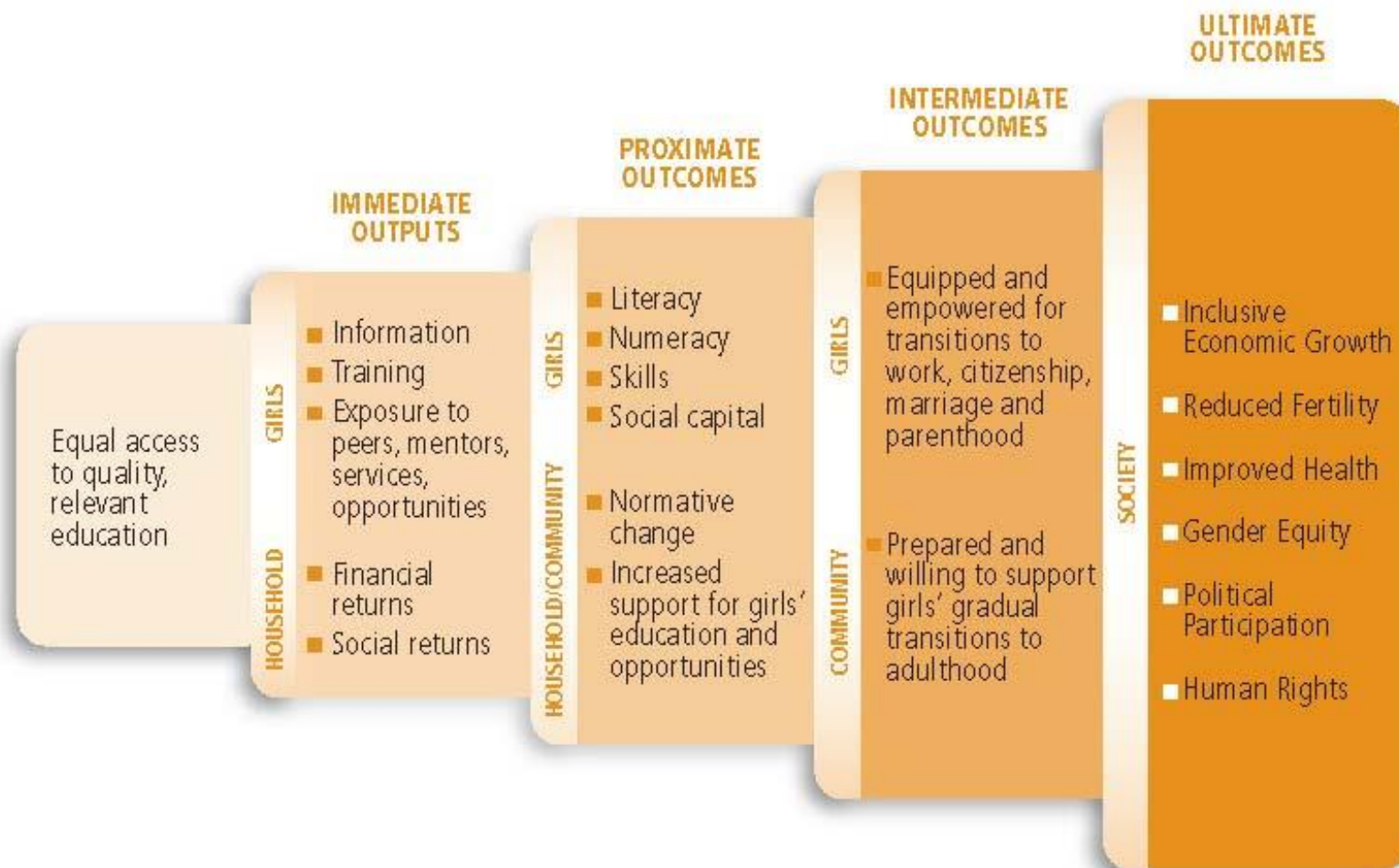


# Adolescent Girls and Drop-Out

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***School Drop-Out Prevention Summit  
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**FIGURE 2:** Telescoping the Pathway from Education to Adolescent Transitions to Development



# Global View of Adolescent Girls' Drop-Out



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where insight and action connect

- 65 million adolescents (12-15) out of school in 2013
  - Roughly equal boys and girls globally
  - Sub-Saharan Africa: girls 55% of all out-of-school children and 52% of all out-of-school adolescents. 56% of out-of-school girls in the region will never enter a classroom (compared to 41% of out-of-school boys).
  - South and West Asia: 80% of out-of-school girls in the region are unlikely to start school compared to 16% of out-of-school boys.

# Determinants of Girls' Drop-Out?

- Poverty
- Poor school performance
- Violence
- Marriage
- Pregnancy
- Gender norms and discrimination



Photo credit: David Snyder

# Schooling and Girls' Sexual and Reproductive Health



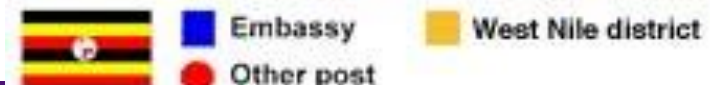
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- Evidence of role of pregnancy in dropout mixed
  - Cross-sectional data
  - Geographic variation
  - Determinants are likely shared across outcomes
- Role of gender norms / expectations
  - Influence at community, household and individual levels

# ICRW Study of Adolescent Girls' Drop-Out in West Nile, Uganda

- West Nile sub-region
  - Affected by recent conflict and central gov't neglect
  - Only 6 girls for every 10 boys in secondary school\*
  - Adolescent fertility high- 19.7% of 15-19 yr olds have had a child\*
- Research in Adjumani and Arua districts
- Cross-sectional mixed-method design
  - Quantitative Survey (n=805 girls)
  - Qualitative Research (n=110)
  - Formative (Jul. 2013); main data collection (Dec. 2013–Apr. 2014)



# Descriptive Findings

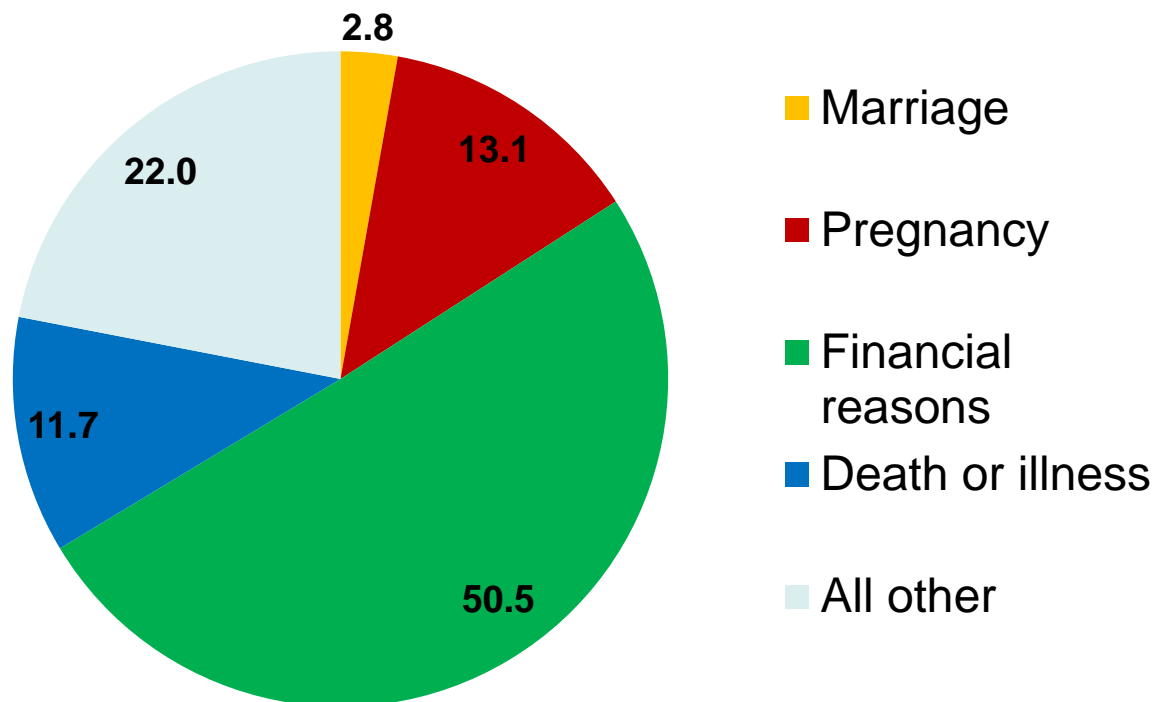
## On Dropout:

- 31% of girls ages 14-18 were no longer in school (n=248)
- Average age of dropout was 15.3
- Among dropouts, 84% dropped out in primary school

## On SRH :

- 10.4% reported ever having been pregnant
- 23.5% reported ever having sex
- 45% knew how to prevent a pregnancy
  - Source: family (10%);
  - teacher (26%)
- 39% know where to access family planning

# Main reported reason for dropout (%)





## Examining Multiple Determinants of Drop-out and Pregnancy: What matters most

Significant Determinants of <b>Dropout</b> in multivariate analysis	Significant Determinants of <b>Pregnancy</b> in multivariate analysis
<b>Age</b>	<b>Age</b>
<b>District</b>	District
Conflict	<b>Conflict</b>
<b>Mother's Education</b>	Mother's Education
Father's Education	Father's Education
Household Wealth	Household Wealth
<b>Self-rated School Performance</b>	Self-rated School Performance
<b>Mother Paid School Fees</b>	Mother Paid School Fees
Started school after age 9	Started school after age 9
<b>Inequitable Gender Beliefs</b>	<b>Inequitable Gender Beliefs</b>
<b>Low Perceived Parental support of school</b>	<b>Low Perceived Parental support of school</b>
Number of Romantic Relationships	<b>Number of Romantic Relationships</b>

## In Summary

- Pregnancy does lead to dropout, but is also a consequence
  - Eliminating schoolgirl pregnancy would not eliminate teenage pregnancy in this setting
- Role of gender norms prominent
  - Girls' own internalized expectations
  - Parent's influence on girls' schooling through domestic chores, late start, low moral and financial support

*“I wish my [mother and brother] were alive to pay for my school fees. I would have gone to school and studied and fulfilled my future dreams.... I have dropped out of school. So now I know that I will get married, give birth to children whom I cannot send to school because I will be poor. This is not what I wanted.”*

*- 14 year old, out of school orphan, Adjumani*

# Girls' Education is Highly Valued

- Parents and girls alike placed a very high value on education
- 84% of dropouts said they had wanted to continue school when they left;
- 81% indicated if given a chance they would return to school now

## ***What are your worries for the future?***

*The fact that I have got less education yet it is very vital in Uganda today. Education helps one get a good job and be respected in community.* -18 year old dropout, Arua

*In future if [my daughter] finishes school and becomes successful, she will help to also educate her siblings. I think the kind of man who will marry her will also be a decent one. So she may not dig and work hard like me.* - uneducated mother, Adjumani

*If [my daughter] studies and finishes, tomorrow I will enjoy the benefits. If she marries, the husband will enjoy the benefits.*

- Mother, Arua

## To fulfill their hopes...

- Address unequal gender norms through multiple channels.
- Provide adolescent girls and boys with information and services related to sexuality and reproductive health.
- Schooling needs to be safe, gender-equitable, relevant and connected to opportunities.

<b>Characteristics of Respondents, ages 14-18</b>	<b>In school</b>	<b>Drop-out</b>	
<b>Household Gendered Characteristics</b>			
Domestic burden affected schooling a lot at age 12	<b>9.7</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>***</b>
Felt parent's did not support her being in school at all at age 12	<b>3.1</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>***</b>
<b>School-related Characteristics</b>			
Self-rated performance at school below average/poor	<b>5.0</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>***</b>
Paid own school fees in most recent term attended	<b>4.5</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>***</b>
Started school after age 9	<b>25.2</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>***</b>
<b>Gender Inequitable Beliefs (Percent who agreed with below)</b>			
<i>Boys should be more educated than girls</i>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>***</b>
<i>If a girl stops schooling, the best thing for her is marriage</i>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>51.4</b>	<b>***</b>
<i>Women sometimes deserve to be beaten</i>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>***</b>
<i>Men should have the final say in family matters</i>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>70.6</b>	<b>**</b>
<i>A girl must get married to a boy if she spent the night with him</i>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>***</b>
<b>* p&lt;.05    **p&lt;.01    ***p&lt;.001</b>			