



Thank you for giving the gift of an **adolescent health kit**.

Being a young person in Senegal or Nigeria without an education or a job can be hard. For girls, financial stress in a family often prompts withdrawal from school and can contribute to early marriage or even transactional sex. Education about health and sexuality may go undiscussed and leave young people in poor communities more vulnerable to HIV, AIDS, and STDs and unwanted pregnancy. Girls are more likely to experience sexual violence or forced early marriage.

In 2013, World Renew embarked on a program to address this cycle and has already reached over 9,000 young people with good information about health and sexuality through peer education. Undergirded by parent groups and community and religious leader involvement, these adolescent health programs offer young people the opportunity to understand their bodies, their rights, and — most important — their value. Rates of STD treatment have risen, reports of sexual violence and coercion have gone down, and young people and their families are having important conversations. For girls in particular, job training offered in conjunction with adolescent health programs promotes ways to survive other than early marriage or transactional sex.

Ami's distress about her forced marriage to a cousin led to estrangement from her father and a hospital stay. Upon release, she found her way to an adolescent health program. "Thanks to the program," she says, "I have started to talk to my father more. He listens when I tell him that I have rights and responsibilities and that forced and early marriage has serious consequences. My father is now my best friend in the family and he pays for my vocational education. My peer educator has helped me share my thoughts with my parents. Thanks to the adolescent health program, I am not worried anymore."

With your gift of an adolescent health kit, you give young people vital information about their health, their rights, and their value. You have stepped into the gap between vulnerability and strength, between hopelessness and hope.

Thank you!

Through this gift, you stand in the gap . . .