## Protocol for the localization and contact

## of the Haiti AGI Young Women (1st and 2nd cohort)-

## Mid-line Survey (September/October 2013)

The Haiti Adolescent Girl Initiative (AGI) program was design as an evaluation method of policies that go in line with the Government of Haiti’s prioritization of youth development and employment generation for young women. The AGI program aims at being an important tool for the design and implementation of government policies that improve the levels of employment for women and youth, and lowers the level of gender inequality.

This program provides 1000 young women (between 17 and 21 years old) with a training of technical, entrepreneurship, traditional and vocational skills, as well as daily life competencies courses. The intervention is divided in two cohorts: the first cohort is composed of 500 young women trained in 2012, and the second cohort is composed of 500 young women trained in 2013. The target girls of this evaluation are located in disadvantaged neighborhoods of Port-au-Prince (Delmas 30, Delmas 32, Carrefour Feuilles, Petionville, and Martissant).

The key objectives of the program are to offer long term socio-economic opportunities to vulnerable young women, ease their transition from school/training to formal jobs, and assess their post-earthquake opportunities of entrance in sectors with high-growth potential and traditionally dominated by male labor. With this intervention we will be able to understand some of the determinants of the employment dynamics of vulnerable young women in Haiti.

The program integrates a professional and support network composed of community NGOs, training centers and employers. The participant NGOs are APROSIFA, YWCA, ANAPFEH, J/P HRO, and COFEHAPS, while the associated training centers are APEX, Haiti Tec, Transversal, INFP and INFOP. The firm in charge of recollecting the data regarding the young women’s characteristics and evolution in the program is ICIESA.

Apart from helping the young women to enter the labor market, this pilot project also aims at drawing lessons on good practices regarding the improvement of young women’s employability and agency. A rigorous impact evaluation of the project would provide us with impartial elements on the decision to reproduce and expand the project nationwide or in other countries.

With this in mind, we are interested in evaluating the specific effects of the project on the young women’s well-being and their families’. In order to measure these effects accurately we cannot just compare the trained young women’s well-being before and after the project. The main reason for this is that many things happen in a young woman’s life that can affect her well-being. Then, the change of a specific girls’ well-being before and after the program might have been influenced by the project but also other things, in different directions, which implies that this sort of comparison does not isolate the effects of the program.

In order to isolate the effects of the program we need to compare the change in a young women well-being with the program and in the absence of the program. Unfortunately we cannot have both scenarios for a young woman. This is why we need a comparison group, usually called control group, for the evaluation of policies. The control group in this case is composed of girls with the same background characteristics as the beneficiary girls, but who did not receive the training. In this sense, comparing the average change in well-being of the trained young women with that of the untrained young women would isolate the effect of the program on an average girl’s well-being.

Once the evaluation of the program is finished, the program could potentially beexpanded nationwide for a larger group of young women. But if the evaluation is not implemented correctly, the measured effects of the program could be biased and drive to bad policy planning. This is why it is very important to follow ALL the girls during the process of the AGI program, both trained and untrained.

The mid-line stage of the program helps us to measure the short term impact of the project. For this stage, all young women, trained AND untrained, who were part of the baseline stage must be contacted again. If a group of young women is not reached, the average well-being comparison between groups might be biased depending on the particular characteristics of this group of unreached girls. For instance, if we do not reach girls that did not take the training and moved out of Port-au-Prince because of the lack of opportunities, the measure of well-being of the control group would be higher than how it should be, which would be reflected in a downward biased effect of the program. On the opposite, if we do not reach young women that did not take the training and found good job opportunities, the measure of well-being of the control group would be lower than how it should be, which would be reflected in an upward biased effect of the program.

In order to contact ALL the young women that participated in the Baseline stage of the program, both trained in the first cohort and non-trained, the protocol is the following:

1. Each NGO have to make every effort possible to identify and locate the young women that participated in the AGI program, both those who took the training in the first cohort and those that did not, and are inscribed in that NGO (even those young women with whom contact has been lost since). Each NGO must have contact information of each girl and a way to communicate with her. NGOs should use as much as possible peer-referral, i.e. asking other young women of the program and of the community to provide information about the whereabouts of the young women difficult to locate. The NGOs are in charge of contacting the young women principally through the mentors, who will tell them about the importance of this project and encourage them to participate in the survey as it is a condition to have the opportunity to participate to the second cohort for the young women who did not participate in the first cohort; for the first cohort, the survey is an important step to understand the trajectory of the beneficiaries and to receive feedback from them on their experience – the NGO should is thus make clear that it is a duty/ personal responsibility for the young women to participate in this survey as a selected recipient/ beneficiary of the program. The NGOs must exhaust all the possibilities of contact with the young women: at the training center or the NGO’s installations, by phone call, going to her house, through her friends or family, through a member of the community, etc.
2. Once the young women are contacted, the NGO must agree with them on a meeting at the training center (in groups of maximum 100 girls), where surveyors from ICIESA will be present to interview the young women. The coordination between the NGOs and ICIESA is crucial at this stage of the program to communicate the agree day and time to the young women
3. The day of the interview meeting, ICIESA must receive from the NGO a list with the names of the girls to be surveyed that day. ICIESA must make sure that all the young women in the list are interviewed that day. ICIESA must then send a confirmation list of the young women interviewed in the given NGO to ensure that the NGO adjust its reaching out strategy accordingly to contract missing young women.

What happens if the NGO cannot contact a young women?

1. Again, the NGO must make sure to exhaust all the possibilities of contact. The NGOs must search for information on how to reach the young women by contacting her relatives, friends or members of the community that might have information on how to locate her. Contacting all the young women is crucial to get a full picture of the different trajectories and experiences of the young women surveyed. It is a unique opportunity to provide evidence that will serve to inform policy towards vulnerable groups in Haiti, particularly in terms of jobs, skills and empowerment (autonomisation).
2. if the young women is confirmed to reside outside of Port-au-Prince, the NGO must make an effort to obtain and confirm her phone number. The NGO must call the young women, tell her about the importance of this project and schedule a date for a phone interview. The NGO must give ICIESA the young women’s name, phone number, time and date of the scheduled interview, so that ICIESA can proceed with the data collection.
3. ICIESA should be informed as soon as possible by each community NGO of the number of cases of young women difficult to locate to allocate the needed staff resources to provide support to interview all the young women surveyed during the baseline in 2012.

Communications between NGOs and ICIESA should also have Sandra Jean-Gilles and Bernardo Atuesta copy to help with the coordination of all activities related to this component of the project.