



Binti Shupavu Scholars Gain Agency through Mentoring



Measuring Agency

A new study conducted in partnership with AMPLIFY Girls shows that Binti Shupavu Scholars are developing essential life skills critical to succeeding and thriving in school and beyond. AfricAid's implementing partner, Girls Livelihood and Mentorship Initiative (GLAMI) has collaborated with AMPLIFY, a collective of girls' empowerment organizations working across East Africa, to design and implement this participatory study into how our various programs impact girls' agency. As a collective, we defined agency: the combination of self-beliefs and skills that empower a girl to make her own choices and determine her own future. AMPLIFY collected data on how each organization in the collective impacts girls' agency, and the results show that Binti Shupavu graduates have the skills that lead to agency.

Our Impact

Comparing graduates of the program to girls entering it, we saw *statistically significant* improvement on nine separate metrics of life skills development. Most excitingly, girls' scores increased by *more than 10%* in the areas of self-esteem, empowerment, volunteerism, public speaking, conflict resolution and self-awareness. The other areas where Binti Shupavu Scholars improved were self-efficacy, decision-making and perseverance. We also saw increases on the other five metrics we measured, but these were not statistically significant.

Scholars' Progress

The study further revealed that GLAMI is targeting the girls who need us most. At baseline, our Scholars scored below the average for girls across all AMPLIFY partner programs in most areas related to agency. We aim to recruit the most vulnerable girls into Binti: those who are unlikely to surmount the obstacles to completing their secondary education. They enter our program with low levels of the beliefs and skills they need to take control of their lives, and they leave Binti Shupavu transformed. Comparing girls starting the program with those who had completed it, we found that a significantly higher proportion of Scholars who had completed the Binti Shupavu program had higher scores in every category of agency (self beliefs, leadership skills and more) than the average of the AMPLIFY collective.

Up Next

This study is ongoing. We look forward to reporting results for Kisa soon, and to comparison of baseline, midline and endline results for a single cohort in each program as our Scholars progress.