Component 1.2 of the Sahel Women’s Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) Project supports the design, evaluation, and scale-up of interventions strengthening viable alternatives to early marriage and childbearing in Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d’Ivoire, Mauritania, Mali and Niger. Safe spaces are one a key intervention for girls (ages 10 to 19) that SWEDD is promoting to increase income-generating potential, acquisition of critical life skills, and rates of school enrollment and completion.

Safe spaces—mentor-led groups of adolescent girls that meet on a regular basis—have shown to be effective in a wide variety of settings in facilitating the acquisition of life skills and development of the social networks that girls need for healthy, safe, and productive transitions to adulthood.

Typically, safe spaces, are used as an alternative, non-formal approach to educating adolescent girls who are not in — nor likely to return to — school. However, in recent years some girls programs have adapted the safe space methodology to also meet schoolgirls’ need for strengthened core academic competencies and mentored support as they actively address the challenges encountered in secondary school.

The World Bank Health, Nutrition & Population team in collaboration with the Centre for Girls Education (CGE) in Zaria, Nigeria have produced a series of 6 short videos on the safe space methodology for government stakeholders and for organizations that will be involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of SWEDD safe spaces for girls.

Suggested ways to use the videos

- Can be viewed both as a series or as stand-alone thematic videos
- Project design and implementation resource
- Training and peer to peer learning
- Play and pause for group discussion and reflection
- Stakeholder engagement
- Advocacy and sensitization
Highlights of the Video Series
*Approximate play time

**Overview of the Safe Space Methodology *9 mins**
Introduces the safe spaces for girls’ approach, how it seeks to addresses challenges girls face, promoting girls education, securing community buy in and involvement, recommended group size and segmentation, curriculum, mentor’s role, and girls safe guarding policies

**Overview of Safe Spaces for Religious Leaders *9 mins**
In addition to introducing the safe space methodology, features views shared by Islamic leaders, scholars and community leaders on girls education and the value of safe spaces

**Mentors * 16 mins**
Outlines the role of mentors in the safe spaces and within the community, their experiences and responsibilities, the selection process, training, range of facilitation approaches when delivering the curriculum, supervision, continuous learning and peer support

**Cascading Mentors * 14 mins**
Explains who cascading mentors are, their role, the recruitment process, leadership and advocacy training, peer support network

**Collaborating with Religious and Community Leaders *14 mins**
Underscores the importance of involving religious and community leaders, their role as influencers and champions of safe space programs for girls, collaborating with the community to ensure the acceptance and continued support for the program

**Implementation Challenges * 20mins**
Addresses a range of challenges and obstacles faced when establishing and implementing safe space programs for girls in a rural Islamic West African context. Offers practical guidance and strategies to overcome a number of these challenges and enhance project sustainability.