



Kotoku Baray

Radio drama and
discussion show

LISTENING GUIDE

Overview

Kotoku Baray (Open Secret) is a radio drama and discussion programme that explores some of the more sensitive barriers that adolescent girls face and encourages conversations on these topics. Produced by BBC Media Action, the programme was first broadcast from May-November 2022 as part of the UK Aid-funded Every Adolescent Girl Empowered and Resilient (EAGER) project.













All the characters and locations that appear in Kotoku Baray are fictional. But the stories mirror the lives of girls in Sierra Leone. Through different characters and the situations they face, the programme considers the challenges of adolescence. It explores issues around relationships and sex, access to information and services, as well as violence against women and girls.













The common theme connecting the characters and storylines is the importance of listening to, believing in and supporting girls. Kotoku Baray emphasises the benefits of having supportive discussions between girls and boys, and their parents, caregivers and partners. The aim is to stimulate inter-generational conversations about topics which are not always discussed openly.

The programme is designed to be listened to sequentially as a complete series. Storylines run and issues are explored across multiple episodes. Characters develop, change and learn over time. Each episode consists of 15 minutes of drama followed by 15 minutes of pre-recorded discussion with community groups.

All episodes are available on BBC Media Action's Soundcloud page:
https://soundcloud.com/bbc_media_action_sierra_leone/sets/kotoku-baray

The following pages present each episode's theme and discussion point.

Episode 1. Trust and responsibility 	Episode 2. Talking about sensitive issues 
Who is a trusted voice?	Whose responsibility is it to talk to girls and boys about puberty? When should they do it and how?
Episode 3. Safe sex 	Episode 4. Talking about sensitive issues – I 
If we care about our partners, we will use a condom. Do you agree?	Should parents and caregivers open up conversations with their children about sex and relationships? Why and how?
Episode 5. Talking about sensitive issues – II 	Episode 6. What makes a healthy relationship 
What should be taught about sex education in schools?	What should girls expect from partners?
Episode 7. Dealing with unplanned pregnancy – I 	Episode 8. Violence against women and girls – I 
How should partners, parents and others respond if a girl experiences an unplanned pregnancy?	Is abuse always physical or sexual?
Episode 9. Violence against women and girls – II 	Episode 10. Violence against women and girls – III 
How can the community support girls who have experienced unplanned pregnancy or intimate partner violence?	Why is it important to listen to, believe and not blame survivors of violence? What can we all do to protect girls from all forms of abuse?
Episode 11. Access to services – I 	Episode 12. Violence against women and girls – IV 
Who has the right to access family planning and contraceptive services?	What impact can violence have on a girl's life? What can parents and caregivers do if their daughter has a violent partner?

Episode 13. Menstrual hygiene and rights 	Episode 14. Dealing with unplanned pregnancy – II 
<p>Do girls in your community have what they need to be safe and hygienic during their periods? What can the community do to help them?</p>	<p>What options does a girl have in the case of an unexpected or unplanned pregnancy?</p>
Episode 15. Contraception 	Episode 16. Access to services – II 
<p>Who is responsible for preventing pregnancy?</p>	<p>How should healthcare workers treat adolescent girls who go for advice on family planning and safe sex? What is the reality in your community?</p>
Episode 17. Maturity 	Episode 18. Early and forced marriage – I 
<p>What is maturity? When is a girl ready to get married or have a baby?</p>	<p>Who gets to choose if and when a girl gets married? What does the law say?</p>
Episode 19. Early and forced marriage – II 	Episode 20. Girls' agency 
<p>What are the potential consequences for a girl and her family if she marries before she is ready or if it is not her decision?</p>	<p>How can girls not feel compelled to enter into love relationships or get married if they don't want to or are not ready?</p>
Episode 21. Respect in marriage 	Episode 22. Consent – I 
<p>What makes a strong and healthy relationship? How important is mutual respect within relationships and marriage?</p>	<p>Why is consent important in a relationship? Why is it important that girls and boys learn about consent?</p>
Episode 23. Consent – II 	Episode 24. Supporting pregnant girls 
<p>Should sex always be a choice? Who gets to choose?</p>	<p>What support do girls need if they get pregnant?</p>