



2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIR

It gives me immense pleasure to reach out to you through our Annual Report for 2017. For an organization that is two years old a lot has been achieved in this short period. The reach of the organization touching on various aspects that aim to empower the girl child and keep her in school has been phenomenal and continued to be our focus for 2018.

Through the "One Girl One Bike" we have enabled girls who would otherwise have to walk miles to get to school to get there faster and safer. An unexpected positive side of this has been that girls who have bikes have given rides to those who don't giving it a multiplier effect and promoting the spirit of my "sisters keeper". The Girls Agenda Forum has helped empowered girls and also engaged boys in an effort to support the girl child. We are proud that we have been able to support several girls in primary schools through our menstrual hygiene program. The more we reach out the more we realize there is a lot to be done, and the more we do, the more we realize it can be done. In the words of Nelson Mandela "It always seems impossible until it is done". While we have made tremendous progress our focus needs to be taking these programs to even greater scale so as to reach many more girls.

I would like to thank all the partners who have made this work possible. It is the grants the donations, the personal contributions that have made our work of empowering and supporting the girl child possible.

I would like to end by quoting the famous MI slogan "A girl with a dream is fire". Most girls have big dreams but most of the dreams are quashed for several reasons early marriages being one of them. Let us work together to keep the dreams of these children alive, let us keep the fires in the hearts of these young girls burning.

Mwele Ntuli Malecela

Board Chairperson

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LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present to you Msichana Initiative's annual report, which outlines MI's activities for the period of Jan 2017 to December 2017. We started the year with our organization's 1st anniversary, which encouraged us to persevere and thrive to be the catalyst for change in girls' lives in Tanzania. We started the year with ambitious goal of reaching many girls and increase our impact and interaction with girls from all walks of life in Tanzania.

We were humbled to learn of how important it is to include a boy child in our intervention if we are to have a meaningful impact to the lives of girls in our community. 2017 kept our intervention sober, in quest to reach many young girls it was also imperative to involve a boy child and men as partners.

We scaled our intervention in the field, and fine tune our theory of change to create sustainable change. Apart from working directly with girls, we continued to involve the communities, duty bearers and advocate for change of policy and laws, which discriminate against a girl child. Our board members continued to offer us guidance and support in sharpening our focus and better our management systems. They worked closely with the management and staff in offering on time support in fulfilling organizational vision and mission.

We would like to thank our partners, donors and stakeholders who have continued to show their commitment in supporting Tanzanian girls through our initiative. We pledge for your continued support in 2018 and beyond.

There are still pressing challenges, which limit girls' equal access to education, health and economic opportunities in Tanzania. To solve, all our efforts are needed, every ACTION no matter how small counts.

Rebeca Zakayo Gyumi
Executive Director



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OUR REACH

Hedhi Salama:
1517 pupils from 15 primary schools

DAR ES SALAAM

Girls Agenda Forum:
577 girls & boys, 63 partners from CSOs and Government

DODOMA

Amani Project:
41 pupils from 4 schools and 4 teachers

BAGAMOYO

One Girl One Bike:
35 beneficiaries in Nangaru secondary school in Lindi and Mwitikira secondary school in Dodoma, also parents, teachers and Educational officer were in attendance

LINDI

• Girls' Rights Advocacy:
We have reached 5,074 both Male and Female through Msichana Café and Child Protection Teams (CPTs)

DODOMA

3.1

OUR REACH: MAP



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OUR APPROACH

1: SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHRs)

Msichana Clubs

- Hedhi Salama
- Amani Project
- Girl Agenda Forum

2: INSPRING ACTIVISM

Girls' Rights Advocacy

- Strategic Litigation
- Msichana Café
- Child Protection Teams

3: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

One girl One bike

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ABOUT US

MSICHANA INITIATIVE

Msichana Initiative is a non - governmental organization established to advocate for a girl child right to education in Tanzania. This includes addressing and finding solution for key challenges which limit girl child right to education. Our initiative seeks to ensure this inherent right is given to all human beings without due regard to gender, discrimination, economic conditions, cultural, social and political justifications.

VISION

To create a society with empowered girls who are able to realize their full potential through advocating practical and relevant education.

MISSION

To become the leading organization in advocating for provision of quality education and safe studying environment to all girls. For the intent of creating self-reliance, confidence and self-determination.

OUR APPROACH

We address and find solution for key challenges, which limit girl child right to education through working directly with girls, community platforms, duty bearers and influence harmonization of policies and laws

OUR TARGET

Msichana initiative aims to impact the lives of young girls between the age of 10-25 years.

OUR CORE AGENDA

Inspiring Activism

This is our civic engagement agenda where young girls are motivated to stand up for their rights and speak up.

Economic Empowerment

Gender equality and women empowerment can be meaningfully reached if girls and women are

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHRs)

This component seeks to educate young girls on the areas of sexual health, sexual rights, reproductive health and reproductive rights.

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SAUTI YA JAMII

Sauti ya Jamii is a 2 years project funded by the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS). The project aimed at establishing Msichana cafes and gave support to the government on establishing and strengthening of Child Protection Teams (CPTs) in Bahi district and 10 wards in Dodoma region.

Msichana café is a community members platform which engage and participate in safeguarding girls' rights. They are equipped with necessary skills to engage with decision-making bodies, understand girl's rights and stand for them.

Child Protection Team is protective system that keeps children safe from harm. It prevents and responds to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children. Through it government multiple sectors come together to ensure the safety and protection of vulnerable children.

This project seeks to build platforms and teams which will respond to the needs of young children (girls) to seek justice and action on the reported cases of child marriages and child abuse. Activities which the project conducted was establishment of child protection teams and Msichana café which will operate at 10 ward Kigwe , Bahi Sokoni ,Mundemu,Msisi, Chikola , Chali,Mpalanga, Chipalanga, Mwitikila and Ibugule and district level in Bahi District .

On the first Quarter of the project a training activity was conducted to strengthen the Bahi district Child protection team which 19 members from the team attended the training and also establishing of the ten wards child protection team was conducted by a facilitated name Mr. Bernard Projestus the social welfare officer from Dodoma Municipal how was trained by TAMISEMI.

On the establishment of the 10 ward child protection team we had a launching ceremony which participates from the Five wards were present and the guest of Honor was Hon Elizabeth Kitundu District Commissioner and Bernadetha k January AG.DED, the launching involved 8 media company (TV news and Newspaper). A guideline was created with members from the 3 existing ward Msichana café , than we strengthen the 3 existing ones in Mundemu , Bahi sokoni and Kigwe, And also establish seven more wards Msichana café Msisi, Chikola , Chali,Mpalanga,Chipalanga, Mwitikila and Ibugule which we link the with the established Child Protection Team.



PICTURE: The launch of Bahi Child Protection Teams. Front line left MI's Programs Manager, Lineth Masala, in the middle is Hon Elizabeth Kitundu Bahi District Commissioner , on the right Bernadetha K. January Distict Executive Director.

The formed Msichana cafés had weekly and monthly activities which they conduct them self basing on what they want to educate and discuss which can help a girl child or children in general which based on monthly or weekly activities, they write report showing the activities done and they share it with the Msichana Initiative office and their local government office as well. 10 cases were reported to the gender desk (member of Child protection Team) and most of them have get judgment and solution, The Msichana café works closely with the Ward Child Protection Team , we were able to reach direct 2,762 people and indirect 483 from this project.



Participants in Chipanga Ward doing Presentation Participante from Chipanga Ward explain on issues affecting a child.

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ONE GIRL ONE BIKE

One girl one bike is a donation initiative which supports young girls who walk long distance to school, arrive late and most of the time are physically exhausted, which affects their ability to learn. They live far from school and walk 2 to 3 hours. The situation puts girls at a high risk of sexual harassment, pregnancies and early marriages causing them poor academic performance and/or forcing them to drop out of school.



25 Students from I&II from Nangaru Secondary School in Lindi

We believe providing a bicycle will assist girls living far from school, a quick means of transport, it will improve students' attendance to classes and reduce dropouts, their performance will improve through reducing tiredness caused by walking long distance. In the year 2017 we were able to provide 25 bicycles and 5 pumps to 25 young girls (from I & II) at Nangaru Secondary School which is located in Lindi Region. The bicycles were donated by a fashion designing company ILAVA based in Chicago and other bicycles from different citizens after seeing the post on social media.



25 Bicycles at Nangaru Secondary School



Guest of Hon Mrs Amina Mkadam giving a bicycle to a student of Nangaru Secondary

MONITORING & EVALUATION OF ONE GIRL ONE BIKE DONATION AT MWITIKIRA SECONDARY SCHOOL

- DODOMA

On 17th August, we visited Mwitikira Secondary in Dodoma, where we donated 10 bicycles to 10 girls December 2016. We went to evaluate the progress of these students from the time they were given those bicycles and whether the purpose of this project has been reached i.e. to solve the problem of school dropout due to frequent absenteeism which is caused by long distance that students are forced to walk to and from school every day.

In conducting this evaluation, we gave teachers and students questioners to assess the benefits of this project, results obtained from the time when donation was conducted, areas where improvement is needed, challenges if any that these students had faced i.e. latent defects of the bicycles or social related challenges and their general recommendations on this project.

LESSON LEARNT

I. 70% of the beneficiary attendance to school has improved compared to the time they didn't have bicycle and had to walk to school. 3 beneficiaries were sick when we visited school for M&E

II. It was hard to measure performance, because it was hardly 8 months since they received the incentive. Hopeful we will be able to measure performance after few years have passed. Even so, we can't credit all progress to the bicycle, they are many factors which contributes to student's performance apart from being able to reach school and go back home at a right time.

III. More than 60% of students in this school are still faced with this challenge hence more bicycles are need to help them tackle this issue.

IV. Girls who benefited from this project do help others by carrying their fellows on the way to and from school, so having donated 10 bicycles to 10 girls other 10 girls/ boys benefits from this as well. Adding more bicycles will multiply the results.

V. Teachers play a greater role in monitoring these bicycles.

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AMANI PROJECT

Amani project is a learning theory, which uses music, and making Music for emotional Intelligence, This project aim to amplifying the voices of young artists, entrepreneurs, and leaders by make music using a process of self-reflection and teamwork that breaks down barriers and builds emotional understanding. It focuses on young children age 8 to 14 form primary schools

This project was implemented in Coast region (in Bagamoyo district) to 4 government primary schools (Mbaruku Primary, Zinga Primary, Kidogo che kundu Primary and Kiromo Primary) ,41 pupils both boys and girls and their 4 teachers (mama malezi) for those four schools had a chance to be a part of this project . This project aim change emotional behaviors of those children who lived on vulnerable areas.



Bongo Flavar Aritist Ben Paul With Pupils From Zinga, Kiromo, Kindongo Che Kundu and Mabaruku , with their Mama Malezi Teachers



Sophia and Rashid, among pupils who attended the Amani Project in Bagamoyo

The students and their mama malezi (teachers) had two weeks training, they learn about emotional intelligence using the mood meter, a meter that shows different emotions using 4 colors blue, red, green and yellow, the meter help a child to overcome their emotion while there in class and they have mistreated by their fellow students, teacher or parent and they have to focus on class, also self reaction and builds emotional understanding.

The students also learnt about empathy towards each other by using Music Maker Jam, music instruments and writing songs, boys to have empathy towards girls. In groups of both boys and girls, student wrote songs basing on empathy, the songs shows a boys feeling empathy to a girl child. On writing the song they had a chance to obtain skills and knowledge on how to create and write a song from a Tanzania Bongo flavor artist Mr. Ben Paulo. He had two days section with the participate ,He was also one among the guest of horn on the graduation celebration which was hide at the art college TASUBA (Taasis Ya Sanaa na Utamaduni Bagamoyo) ,other guest Honor was Bagamoyo AG.DED Mr Julies Nganda who represented the Bagaomoyo District Commissioner, The project is designed with Children in Harmony.

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HEDHI SALAMA

Hedhi Salama is project aimed at reducing absenteeism and create friendly school environment for a girl during menstruation by providing education on menstrual hygiene management, breaking silence on the social taboos around menstruation, and ensuring water and sanitation facilities that are within their control are well maintained e.g clean toilets. Hedhi Salama is menstrual hygiene management program for Primary which was implemented to 5 schools in Dares salama region in 5 districts on the week of commemorating towards the Menstrual Hygiene day on May 28.

The training was implemented in five Primary schools: Ilala, Kigomboni, Unubini, Tandale Magharibi and Ubungo Central Primary Schools from the districts of ILALA, KINONDONI, TEMEKE, KIGAMBONI and UBUNGO in Dar es salama .Two schools had already established Msichana clubs and 3 schools are planning to open



Ravinder Gooluck educating on puberty and menstrual health at Ubungo Center Primary School



Pupils from Tandale Magharibi primary School after the training

The students had a chance to learn on how to make sanitary towels using local accessible materials like piece of clothes (khanga) and cotton material, they also learnt about hygiene on menstrual days and puberty, the changes that occurs on human body from childhood to teenage (puberty). The training was for 3 hours for five days, one day for each school , the project reached 1517 pupils from 5 primary schools. .



Open Discussion on How to End Child Marriages – Girls' Perspective. From left Justina and Leokadia from Agape Shinyanga, Jackline from Young Strong Mothers Foundation, Sharon from Children Council Kinondoni, Getrude from National Children Council and Jacqueline from Youth of United Nations Association of Tanzania.

This project works to focus on delivering the sustainable Development Goal and the Achievement of a more equitable and prosperous society for all through a particular focus on realizing the rights of poor women and girls.

Girl Agenda Forum is a Solution Forum intends to amplify the voices of young girls and call on the government to execute directives given under the "Minimum Age of Marriage" case and amend Law of Marriage Act, 1971.

We invited pupils from 5 different primary schools in Dodoma and 5 different secondary school students, and also representative from different NGO ,CSO and stakehods form Dodoma and Tanzania , about 800 young girls from different background participate in the Ajenda Ya Msichana Solution Forum they include but not limited to Disabled young girls, Teen mother, Former child brides, In-school primary, In-school Secondary, Girl leader ,Former domestic worker and Indigenous girls. In this forum the Guest of Hon was Dr Hamis Kigwangalla the Deputy Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, he motive young girls and inspire them to abstain from having sexual intercourse at early age and encouraged them to report to the

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GIRL AGENDA FORUM



The Guest of Honor, Dr.Hamis Kigwangalla received by MI's Board Member Mr. Benedict Kikove, Executive Director of Msichana Initiative, Ms. Rebeca Gyumi, Ms. Margaret S. Mussai, Director of Children affairs at the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Mr. Leonard Msigwa, Secondary Schools Education Officer (Dodoma) and the Head Teacher of Dodoma Secondary School.

authorities whenever injustice acts happen to them. And he also said the civil society organizations to help on raising awareness and create a good environment for young girls not to be impregnated. We had other guest speakers Msichana Initiative board members Mr Benedict Kikove, Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network Chairman Mama Valerie Msoka, Mr Leonard Msigwa Secondary Education Officer in Dodoma who Represented District Commissioner of Dodoma Ms Christine Mndeme, Representing Ambassador of Ireland Ms Olivia Kinabo and two former Child bride Leokadia and Justina from Agape Shinyanga .

Ajenda Ya Msichana Solution Forum involved an open discussion on how to end child marriage in Tanzania on girl's perspective where speakers from different background had an opportunity to share experience and engage with the audience through participatory question and answer session. On open discussion on how to End Child Marriages ,guest members to run the discussion was Justina and Leokadia – former child bridged from Agape Shinyanga, Jackline a former teen mother from Young Strong Mothers Foundation, Sharon from Children Council Kinondoni a member of Msichana Club, Getrude from National Children Council and Jacqueline from Youth of United Nations Association of Tanzania.

The panelists agreed that, Child marriage violate many human rights; including to education, freedom from violence, reproductive rights, access to reproductive and sexual health care, employment, freedom of movement, and the right to consensual marriage. After the discussion the girls come up with solutions that will help them tackle various challenges which include changing of the unconstitutional Law of Marriage Act of 1971 and extensive employment of sufficient social welfare officers and distribution in all wards across the country.



On the picture shows representative from different primary and secondary schools who attended the forum

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CHILD MARRIAGE STRATEGIC LITIGATION

According to the UNFPA recent report shows Tanzania has one of the highest child marriage prevalence rates in the world. On average, almost two out of five girls will be married before their 18th birthday. In 2010, about 37 percent of the women aged 20-24 were married/in union before age 18. Data shows a 10 percent decline since 2004 (41 percent). While child marriage is common in Tanzania, prevalence is highest in Shinyanga (59 percent), followed by Tabora (58 percent), Mara (55 percent), Dodoma (51 percent), Lindi (48 percent), Mbeya (45 percent), Morogoro (42 percent), Singida (42 percent), Rukwa (40 percent), Ruvuma (39 percent), Mwanza (37 percent), Kagera (36 percent), Mtwara (35 percent), Manyara (34 percent), Pwani (33 percent), Tanga (29 percent), Arusha (27 percent), Kilimanjaro (27 percent), Kigoma (26 percent), Dar es Salaam (19 percent) and Iringa (8 percent).

Realizing the intensity of the problem Msichana Initiative initiated the case to challenge and advocate for elimination of discriminatory legal framework and customary practices which force children into marriage in Tanzania. A legal framework, which promotes and protects girls' rights, is needed.

Msichana Initiative through its founding Executive Director, who is also a girl champion and human rights activist, on 25th January, filled a petition at the High Court of Tanzania, case number 5 of 2016 to challenge s. 13 and 17 of Law of Marriage Act of 1971, which sets the minimum age of marriage at 18 years for boys and 15 years for girls (with parental consent) and at 14 (with a court's permission). The High Court through Judge Shaban Lila, Munisi and Kihyo gave the judgment and declared the sections null and void and directed the government to have changed the law within one year. However few weeks after the land mark ruling the government through Attorney General filled a notice of appeal to the petitioner which resulted into stay of execution of the directives given by the court. A year after notice of appeal has been served the A.G filled a record of appeal with certificate of delay to initiative proceedings for the appeal at the Court of Appeal. The appeal was officially lodged on 14th September, 2017 case no. 204 From Jan 2017 MI in partnership with Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network (TECMN) have been involved in advocacy work at the parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, with the aim of mobilizing members of parliament to push for the bill to amend the Law of Marriage Act to be presented in the parliament.

Prevalence of child marriage undermines access to education - limiting girls' opportunities and their ability and confidence to make informed decisions about their lives. In order to end child marriage in Tanzania, there is a direct need to press for legal reform to bring in a uniform definition of childhood (removing the contradictions in current legislation) and to prescribe 18 years as minimum age of marriage (removing current laws/sections which contain loopholes that permit the marriage of under-18s).

The protection and promotion of human rights, particularly children's rights, has received little attention in Tanzania. One of the most well known violations of children's rights is the practice of child marriage in Tanzania. Yet this problem has, to date, attracted scant attention in Tanzania, prompting the need for advocating legal reforms that restore and maintain children's dignity. Today, girls between 10 – 14 years of age are forced into marriages by their parents, guardians or relatives. This is sanctioned by the 1971 Law of Marriages Act (LMA) which gives parents and judges the power to permit the marriage of children as young as 14 years. Girls are often forced to drop out of school to get married, and forego the chance to grow to maturity before marriage or make their own decisions about their lives. Child marriage disproportionately affects girls because social and biological factors make them more vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and childbearing complications.

The government must ensure that its laws governing children's affairs comply with the international and regional human rights instruments and other legal documents that it has signed.

OUR PARTNERS

In 2017 Msichana Initiative worked and partnered with different NGOs, INGOs and Development partners in reaching and addressing girls' issues in Tanzania.

01. Foundation for Civil Society (FCS)
02. VOICE
03. Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA)
04. Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC)
05. Equality Now
06. Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network (TECMN)
07. ILAVA
08. IRISH Embassy
09. Child In Harmony (CIH)
10. French Embassy.



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