

# Q1 2022 REPORT



# About Msichana Initiative

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## Our mission

To advocate for reform of discriminatory legal frameworks and enforcement of gender sensitive approaches through engaging girls, community and relevant stakeholders.

## Our vision

A Tanzania society where rights of girls are safeguarded and girls enjoy recognition, dignity and excel to the full potential.

## Where We Work

- Dar es salaam
- Dodoma
- Tabora
- Arusha
- Pwani (Bagamoyo)
- Shinyanga



# Message from our Executive Director

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Dear Partners

It gives me pleasure to welcome you to read our Quarter 1, progress report. The report covers key milestones within our strategic objectives, achieved during the period of January to March, 2022.

We have continued the work of advancing girls' rights by amplifying pressing issues which need enforcement and change of mindset at both community and institutional level.

Galvanizing collective efforts in young and women's movements in our community, has remained to be both an agenda and strategy in questioning structural inequalities for girls and young women in Tanzania.

We feel bold commitment is still lacking, however remaining hopeful for the community action to keep the systems accountable for girls rights, like how the Msichana Cafes in Bahi are doing.

We would like to extend our appreciation for your unwavering support and partnership into our work. Together for the rights of the girls.

**Rebeca Gyumi**  
Executive Director



# QUARTERLY UPDATE

Msichana Initiative has four strategic goals. These goals are also the key programmatic areas for our work within the community. Here are our goals' snapshot of the impact that was achieved in the 3rd Quarter.

GOAL >>>  
1

## Discriminatory Legal Framework and Draconian Laws Changed

Amplified stakeholders voice on the urgency to amend discriminatory laws



GOAL >>>  
2

## Girls' Rights Protected and Enforced



# 12

Women and Protection Committees established.

GOAL >>>  
3

## Community Becomes a Safe Environment for a Girl Child

Enforcement of By-laws on ending child marriages in Bahi District



GOAL >>>  
4

## Girls Empowered and Have Voice

# 1000

Girls in Kongwa and Nzega holding dialogues on gender norms with their communities



# DISCRIMINATORY LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND DRACONIAN LAWS CHANGED

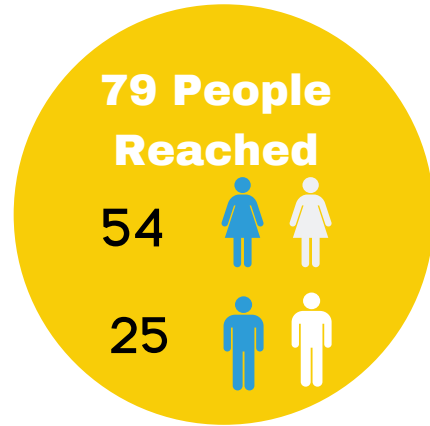
## ↪ The Law of Marriage Act, 1971



**Enhanced stakeholders  
common understanding  
on the Review of the  
Law of Marriages Act,  
1971**

On 24th January 2022 Msichana Initiative brought together women and girls' rights representatives across the five regions in Tanzania (Arusha, Tabora, Shinyanga, Dodoma, and Dar es salaam) to review the proposed Model Bill that was put together by a team of legal experts that provides for the proposed amendments of the Law of Marriages Act, 1971.

The Stakeholders provided their inputs to the proposed model bill and resolved to push use the model as the advocacy tool to the public.



“

*We hope that this proposed Model Bill will bring about a better and clear understanding to all stakeholders and serve as an instrument to push the amendment of the Law of Marriages Act, 1971 and push the parliament to table the bill so that girls' rights in Tanzania will be safeguarded*

”

**Ms Rebeca Gyumi-Executive  
Durector  
Msichana Initiative.**



*Stakeholders providing comments during the review of the Model Bill at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 24th January, 2022*

“

Male engagement is essential in the advocacy for ending child marriages. When they are actively involved they can play a key role, especially on the amendment of the Law of Marriages Act.

”

*Mr. Selemani Bishagazi,  
Coordinator of the  
Community Information  
and Resource Centre -  
Kipunguni*



**Enhanced collective advocacy for ending child marriages through mobilizing community voices.**

From 25th to 27th January Msichana Initiative coordinated a field immersion activity where 10 Women's and Girls' Rights movement members conducted a field immersion activity in Loliondo District, Arusha Region.

The movement members hosted by MIMUTIE Organization in Loliondo engaged with a Maasai community to learn about child marriages within cultural and traditional context of Maasai society and women's and girls' challenges and other cross-cutting issues.



*Movement representatives with women, girls and local government leaders after the community dialogues in Loliondo.*

66

"I was 12 years old when I was forced into a marriage with an elderly man, I refused and got severely canned by the whole clan members. I am now 50 years but I still have marks from the canning. I get tramautized whenever I see them, because they remind me of the incident".

**Survivor of Child Marriages Loliondo.**



99



**Amplified Local Government Leaders voices in supporting ending child marriages efforts.**

66

I am proud and declare myself as a feminist and very concerned with gender equality issues. I was raised by my mother and sister, I understand the struggles of women and girls including child marriages and welcomes all stakeholders to advocate for these issues in Ngorongoro.

**Mr Raymond Mangwala District Commissioner- Ngorongoro District.**



*Movement representatives engaging in discussion with women and girls in Loliondo, Ngorongoro District.*



**Devised movement's collective approach to push the government to amend the Law of Marriages Act, 1971.**

Through the Bi-annual reflection meeting on 10th March 2022, ending child marriages stakeholders strategized on pushing the decision makers demanding accountability and Rule of law.



Position statement detailing the urgency for the parliament to table the bill drafted and released via press conference

**51**

People Reached

46



5



*Ms Lydia Charles engaging with a veteran women's rights and religious leader Ms. Shamim Khan during the Bi-annual Reflection meeting at White sands Hotel.*



## Re-entry Law/Policy



In Tanzania more than 120,000 girls drop out of school annually, including 6500 due to pregnancy (World Bank). In November 2021 the government of Tanzania issued **Education Circular no. 2 of 2021** and proclaimed to re-admit teenage mothers to continue their studies after giving birth within formal education system. Later on the Ministry of Education released the guidelines for the implementation of the circular. Despite the positive developments there are some serious gaps within the guidelines which makes them impracticable with serious concerns on issues such as psychosocial support and economic aspects. Ans Yet the need to for the re-entry policy and legal framework.

### As a key stakeholder in Education sector in Tanzania Msichana Initiative in this quarter actively engaged in;

- Consultation meeting with the Institute of Adult Education on Re-entry policy-25th January, 2022. MI followed up on the Institution's implementation plan on re-entry with regard to Education Circular No. 2 of 2021
- Participated in the National Caucus Meeting to Review the Re-entry Guideline (2-4th March 2022).

### A collective position statement with recommendations on re-entry guidelines designated

- Participated in the National Girls Caucus Meeting with Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MOEST); President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) and Ministry of Community development and Social Welfare to share caucus recommendation and address gaps identified in re-entry guideline

### Enhanced Ministries commitment to collect and work on stakeholders' recommendations to improve the re-entry guidelines for effective implementation.

- Participated in the National Girls Education Caucus meeting with Tanzania Women's Parliamentarians Group to share recommendations and reflect on the roles of parliamentarians to push for incorporation of recommendation in re-entry guidelines

### Enhanced Parliamentarians commitment to address issue raise in recommendations and gaps in the re-entry guidelines.



*Msichana Initiative Program officer, Advocate Mgusuhi Maswi with other representative forming the National Girls Education Caucus*

# GIRLS RIGHTS PROTECTED AND ENFORCED

## NPA/VAWC COMMITTEES

Msichana Initiatives works with the already established protection mechanisms to enhance protection of girls' rights through working with Women and Children Protection Committees/NPA VAWC Committees established under the National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children (NPA/VAWC 2017/8-2021/2). In Engaging the committees one of Msichana Initiative's goal is to raise awareness and advocate for the minimum legal marriage age for young girls in Tanzania and sexual reproductive health and rights for girls.



### GBV Cases Followed up

**111**

**cases resolved**

- 53-Teen pregnancies
- 41-Child Marriages
- 7-Rape
- 10-Child abuse



### Newly Established NPA/VAWC Committees

**12**

In Chamwino  
And

**3**

In Kongwa



### Communities sensitized in ending Child Marriages



**1276** Reached

405



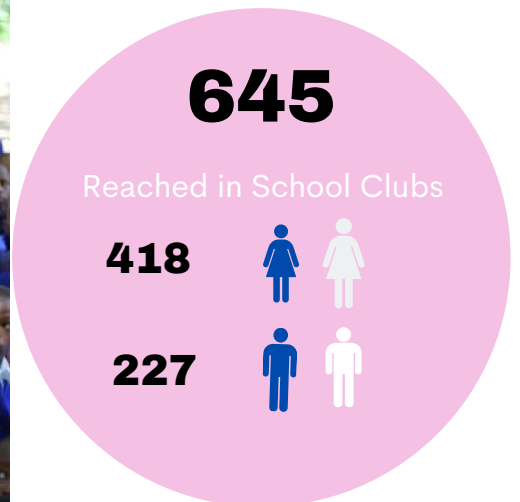
871





*Members of the NPA/VAWC Committee accompanied with Msichana Cafes Leaders and School Boards Representatives engaging with schools clubs members in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region.*

 **Inspire activism and empower girls to  
Unleash their potential**



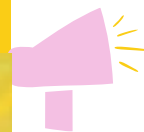
# CATALYTIC COMMUNITIES IN 6 PROGRAM REGIONS ARE SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR A GIRL CHILD

## MSICHANA CAFES

In this Strategic Goal we mainly work with the Community through engaging Msichana Cafes where community members voluntarily join to discuss and look for solutions for girls' challenges in their communities especially child marriages and teen pregnancies. There are about 21 Msichana Cafes Platform working in 15 wards in Bahi District Dodoma Region (Kigwe, Mundemu, Msihi, Bahi Sokoni, Chikola, Chali Chipanga, Mpalanga, Ibugule, Mwitikila, Lamaiti, Zanka, Makanda, Babayu and Ibiwa). Msichana Cafes engage with with community members through public convenings and young girls through clubs. They are taking Initiatives to educate young girls and communities in schools, health centres, markets, women gatherings. They also report Gender Based Violence cases to local government authorities and Police Gender and Childrens' Desks.



*Hon. Antony Mtaka, the Regional Commissioner for Dodoma*



### **Government Leaders supporting Msichana Cafes Interventions**

The Regional Commissioner for Dodoma Region Hon. Antony Mtaka inspired by the work of Msichana Cafes in cooperation with Ward Councillors to enact by-laws for purposes of ending GBV in Bahi District. Directed all Districts in Dodoma to adopt the said by-laws. Hon. Mtaka recommended such actions to local government leaders in a meeting that gathered the government stakeholders and local development partners at *Cavlum Hotel*, on 23rd February, 2022.



**Community Leaders  
Capacitated in GBV reporting**

To enhance the capacity of Msichana Cafes leaders in reporting and documentation of GBV incidents within their localities, Msichana Initiative trained 35 Msichana Cafes leaders in 7 wards at Bahi District (Bahi Sokoni, Ibiwa, Msisi, Chali, Isanga, Mpalanga and Chipanga).



*Msichana Cafes leaders learning and taking notes during the training on GBV reporting and documentation*





## Community leaders capacitated on enforcing enacted by-laws on ending GBV in Bahi District

In this quarter Msichana Cafes leaders and other influential leaders in Bahi District were capacitated on how to enforce the enacted by-laws on ending within their localities and use the by-laws as an advocacy tool in their platforms in sensitizing the community to end Child Marriages.

89

Community Leaders Trained

37



52



*Ms. Lightness Njau, Msichana Initiative Officer passing community leaders through the by-laws*



More than 4000 thousand community members reached on ending child marriages advocacy

The community members were reached through public forums and meetings, women groups such as VICOBA (Village Community Banks) and youth groups /Boda Boda Groups.

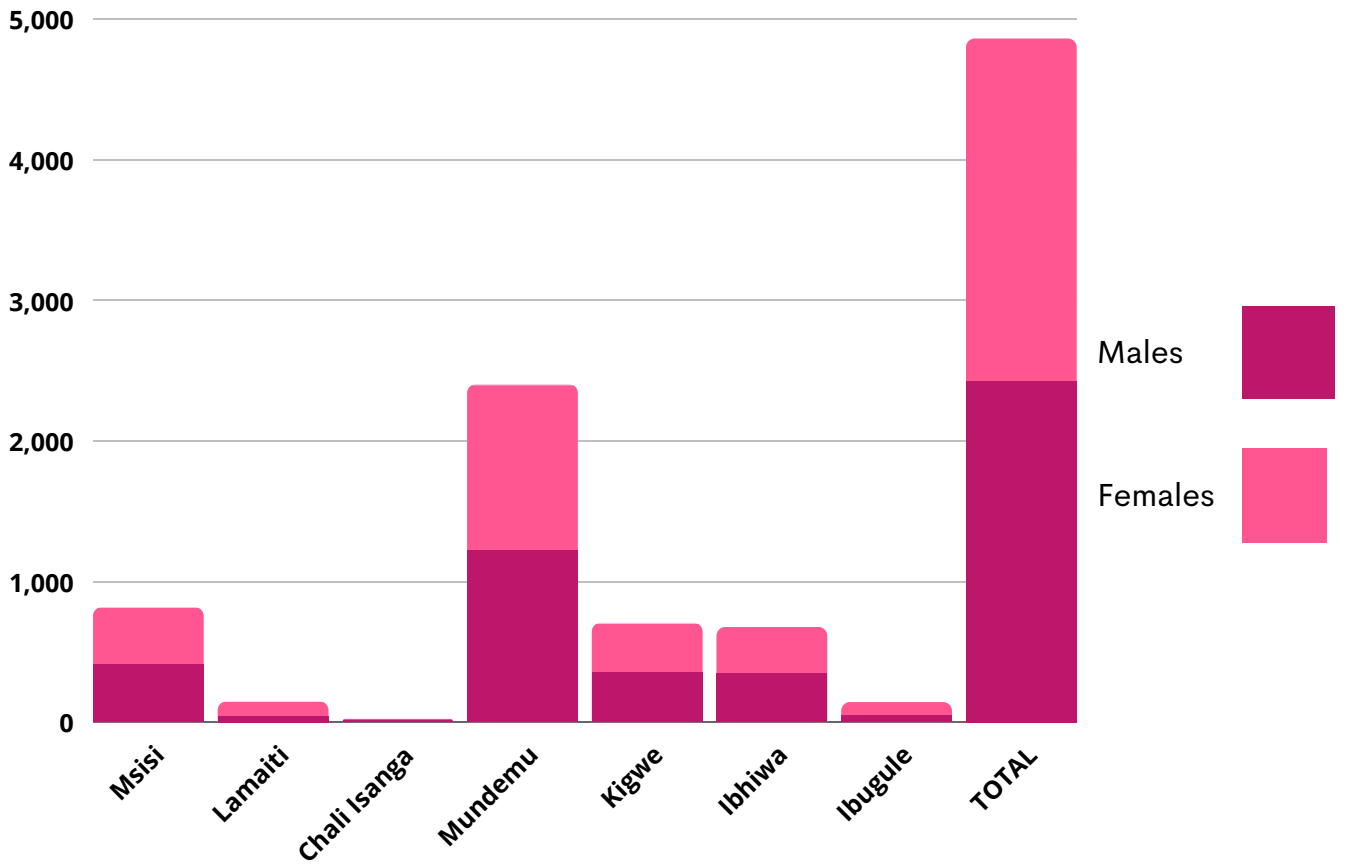
4858

Community members reached

2433



2425



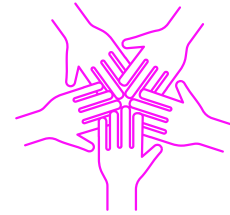
# GIRLS EMPOWERED AND HAVE VOICE

## Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights



**Impacted 1058 Club members on the International Day to Zero Tolerance on FGM**

7 Msichana Amani Clubs were Visited in Msasani, Ubungo Plaza, Mnazi Mmoja, Mlimani and Kigamboni and impacted on FGM, the effect of FGM and how they can champion ending FGM in Tanzania.



**1,033 girls and 13 boys**





# One Girl One Bike

*Long distance to and from school is a barrier that puts girls at the risk of facing sexual and gender-based violence in Tanzania. One Girl One Bike seem to reduce such risks*



## **Reduced risks of Violence to girls benefited by Bikes donation**

The monitoring of the impact of the One Girl One Bike Project conducted in this quarter revealed a number of positive impact of the project to Girls in Tabora such as reduced risks of Gender Based Violence on the way to school; increased punctuality and improved academic performance



“

*Girls can now resist temptations from perpetrators along the way who offer girls a ride to school with intention to intice them into sexual relations. Bicycles helps girls to commute to and from school instead of walking long distance which expose them to risks of sexual violence.*

”


**Bupe Mwakapuluya**  
**HeadMistress, Mpyagula Secondary School**  
**Uyui District, Tabora Region.**



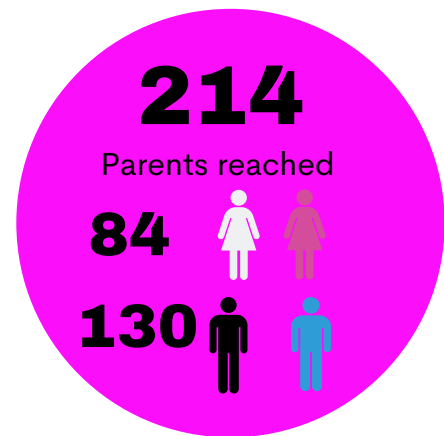


# Girls Empowerment in Agro-Ecology and Permaculture (GAPE)

*Msichana has continued to implement GAPE Project in Kongwa Dodoma and Nzega (Tabora, in cooperation with SAT (Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania) and helped building the confidence of girls and their ability to stand up for their rights on one hand and provide them with vocational training and support them in creation of micro/small business around agro-ecology on another*

 **Parents of GAPE beneficiaries developed action plan to support the effective implementation of the project**

In march 2022 MI Team conducted meeting with parents GAPE project in Kongwa and Nzega Districts  
The objectives of the meetings were to impart parents of the beneficiaries with knowledge and understanding on GAPE project so and strengthen relationship among program implementers and create sustainability of the project. The meetings resulted action plans designated by parents to enhance effective implementation of the project



*Parents meeting in Hogoro ward (mama Merry Mbogoni from Hogoro ward speaking emphasising on collaboration of all stakeholders in program implementation)*



### Community imparted with knowledge on Gender norms and approaches

GAPE beneficiaries coordinated and facilitated 10 community dialogues. The facilitators who were the project beneficiaries raised awareness on Gender norms and values and how such values influence gender relations in the community and how negatively impact women and girls and their place in the society.

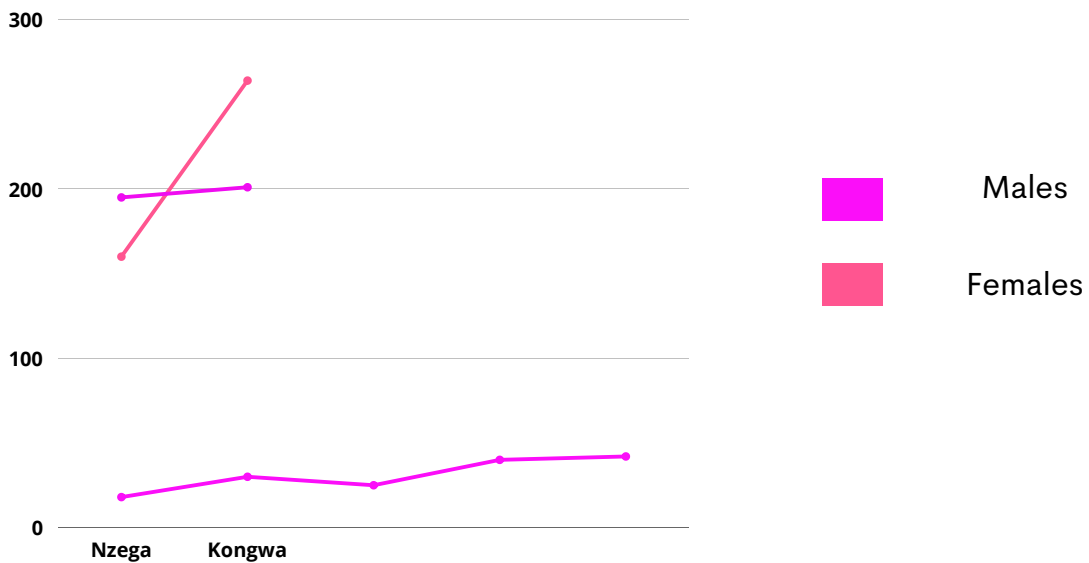


**465**

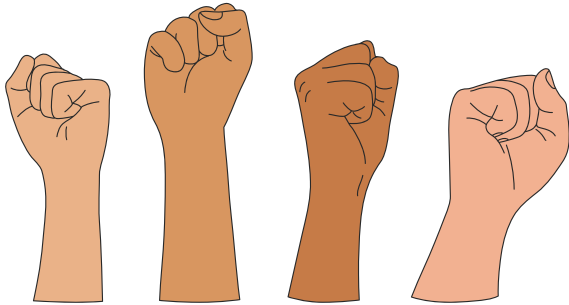
Reached in Kongwa

**335**

In Nzega



Beneficiaries of GAPE Project engaging with community members in a community dialogue.



## 47 Gender Equality Champions identified

One of the outcomes of the GAPE project is to sensitize emergence of community champions who volunteer to be agents of change and support gender equality interventions and motivate other community members to renegotiate patriarchy and challenge negative gender norms that negatively impact women



*Parents, champions and beneficiaries in one of the demonstration farms at Nzega District*

## Partnerships & Advocacy

Msichana Initiative partnered and collaborated with the following organization this quarter:

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>CONVENER</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Stakeholders meeting with Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs to submit proposed amendments on inheritance laws</li></ul>	<i>Women in Law and Development in Africa-WILDAF</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Stakeholders Reflection meeting on women's Inheritance rights.</li></ul>	<b>WILDAF</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>DRL Civil Society policy shaping workshop</li></ul>	<b>Zaina Foundation</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>SRHR Coalition building workshop</li></ul>	<b>Women Fund Trust-Tanzania</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>National Girls Education caucus meeting to Review the Re-entry guideline.</li></ul>	<b>TEN/MET</b> <b>Haki Elimu</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Launching of SRHRs study on Policy and Practice in Primary and Secondary Schools.</li></ul>	<b>Haki Elimu</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mguso training on Gender Based Violence</li></ul>	<b>Mkuki Coalition</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Launching of Women Economic Empowerment Status Report 2022</li></ul>	<b>World Bank-Tanzania</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Women's Rights Organizations reflection meeting &amp; Building Gender Responsive Budgeting Coalition.</li></ul>	<b>TGNP</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>National Girls Education Caucus meeting with MoEST, PO-RALG, MoCD, TWPG and other Parliamentarians</li></ul>	<b>TEN/MET</b> <b>Haki Elimu</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Review of the African Peer Review Report</li></ul>	<b>Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Review of the drafted proposed model Bill of the Political Party and Election Acts</li></ul>	<b>Women Fund Trust-Tanzania</b>

# **We are Grateful for the Esteemed Support of our Partners and Funders!!!**

*The Heart that Gives, Gathers~Tao Te  
Ching*



- African Visionary Fund-AVF
- FCS Trust
- Foundation for Civil Society-FCS
- French Embassy-Tanzania
- Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation
- Open Society Foundation-OSF
- Planet Wheeler Foundation
- Partners for Equity
- Ripple Foundation
- Segal Family Foundation
- Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
- Women Fund Trust-Tanzania

# Impact Story

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## *By-laws used to stop child marriages at Lamaiti ward, Bahi District*

On 18th Feb, 2022 a case was reported to Msichana Cafe by a 15 years old girl whose parents received bride price of 10 cows from Mr Jackson (name changed). On 19th Feb, 2022 Msichana Cafe Leaders reported to District Police Officer (OCD) whereas on 20th February 2022 The OCD visited the Lukali Village at Lamaiti ward, Bahi District where the incident has occurred. The OCD managed to stop the purported marriage and ordered the parents from both sides to pay a sum of 90,000/Tshs (45,000 Tshs each) as provided in the written by-laws.

The by-laws were passed in the last quarter of the year 2021 through integrated efforts of Msichana Cafes (community platforms supported by Msichana Initiative and Local government leaders.)

Community members are now using these by-laws as advocacy tool to prevent child marriages and other forms of GBV in Bahi District but also to hold accountable perpetrators of child marriages



# Financial Update

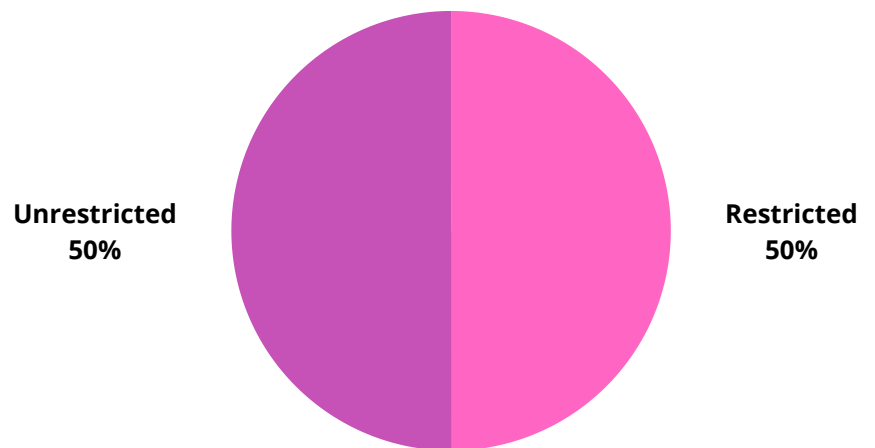
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The 2022 budget for Msichana Initiative is **US\$869,565**

The budget for this Quarter **US\$217,391**

Funds raised this Quarter- **US \$42332**

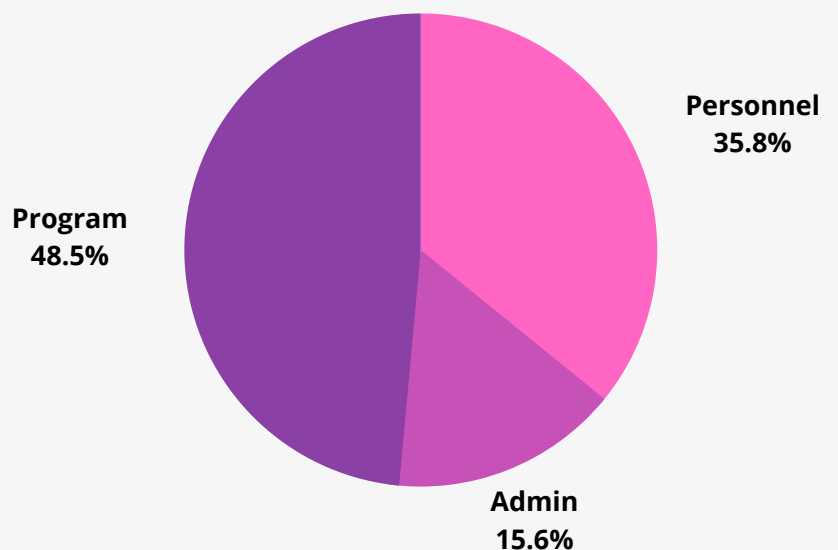
Restricted V's Unrestricted for Q1.



## Expenditure

Jan 2022 - March 2022

Personnel Costs	40,126
Operation Costs	17,489
Project Costs	54,336
<b>Total</b>	<b>111,951</b>







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