

Q2 2022 REPORT



About Msichana Initiative

Msichana Initiative is a young women and youth led organization, working to advance Gender Equality through advocating for girls' right to education, as a result, contributing in creating a society where rights of girls are safeguarded, and girls enjoy the recognition, dignity and excel to their fullest potential. We employ feminist approaches and principles in implementing core agenda of economic empowerment, inspiring activism and Sexual Reproduction Health Rights to inspire adolescent girls and female youth to shape their stories, build their agency and determine their own future. Our niche is in working with girls and young women directly, advocacy for gender-sensitive legal frameworks and engagement with broader national and local women movements in catalyzing and sustaining feminist movement in Tanzania and beyond.

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
- Pwani (Bagamoyo)



Message from our Executive Director

Dear Partners

Allow me to welcome you to read our Quarter 2, progress report.

The report covers key milestones within our strategic objectives, achieved during the period of April to June, 2022.

We are grateful for the continued partnership and support Msichana Initiative has been accorded from partners and allies like yourselves during this quarter. Reaching more than 100% of our fundraising targets for this quarter is something worth noting for. On behalf of the constituency, we are working with and for, we say AHSANTE SANA.



Thought leadership is something we aspire to strengthen in shaping the discourse on girls' rights, but to be able to do so we recognize the need to strengthen our own conceptual clarity as far as transforming oppressive gender norms is concerned. In that regard, during this quarter Msichana has worked in solidarity with community and other like-minded organisations to spear head conversations around changing structural inequalities like access to menstrual products, which denies girls access to education.

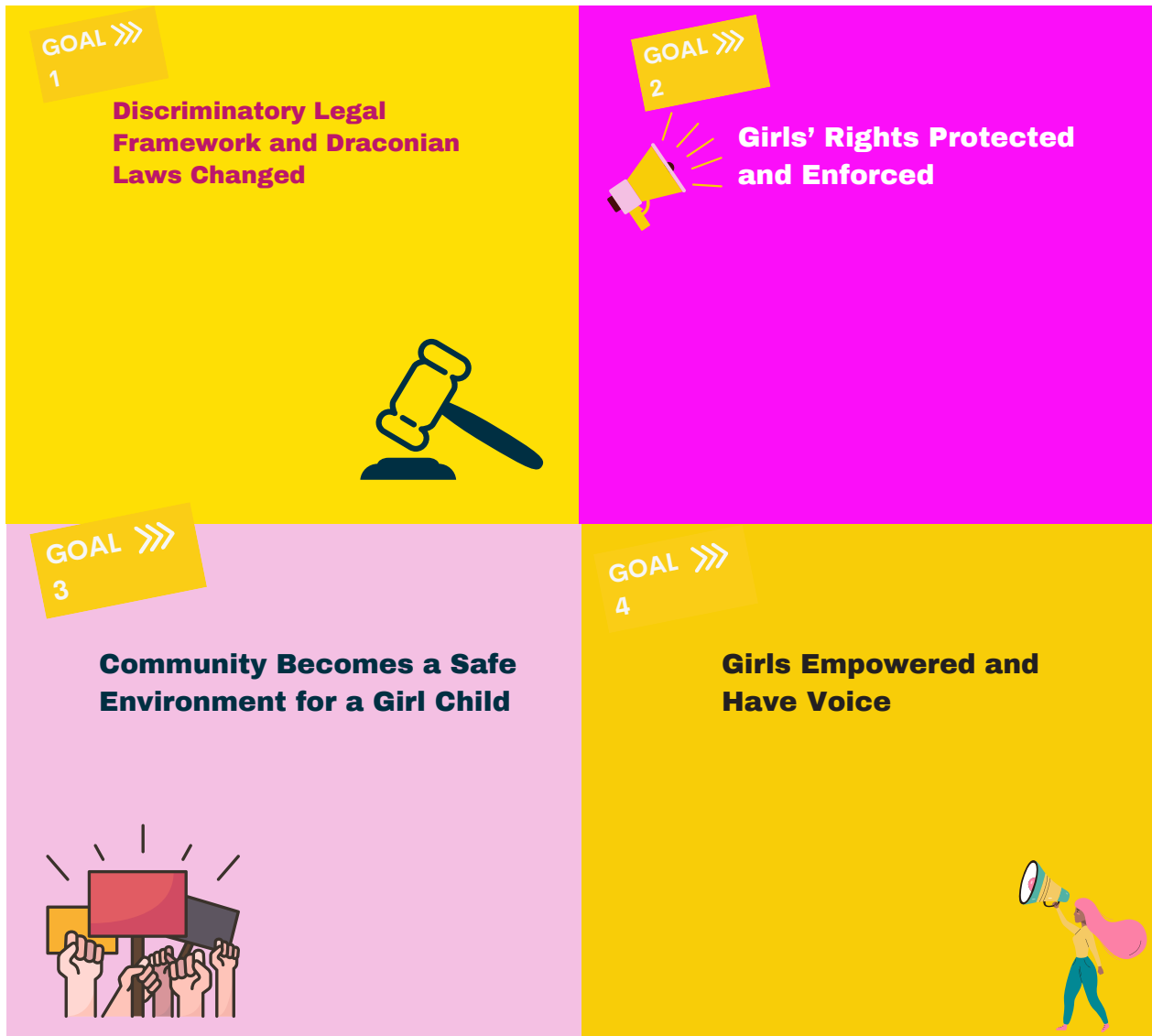
During this quarter we have also managed to deepen our community engagement with young women and community members through the established young women groups and community platforms in Kongwa and Nzega districts.

We therefore invite you to read Msichana Initiative's narrative report and kindly share your comments with us in improving programming for girls and young women.

In Solidarity & Sisterhood

Rebeca Gyumi
Executive Director

QUARTERLY UPDATE



To achieve its overall goal in advancing GENDER EQUALITY and empower young girls, Msichana Initiative employs these four Strategic Goals that are key programmatic areas of our work within the community. Here are our achievements for each goal in this 2nd Quarter.

DISCRIMINATORY LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND DRACONIAN LAWS CHANGED

➡ The Law of Marriage Act, 1971



**Augmented Collective
Understanding among Stakeholders
on the Concepts of Rule of Law,
Separation of Power and
Independence of Judiciary in
Amendment of Law of Marriage
Act, 1971.**

On the commemoration of Day of African Child (DAC) under this year's theme 'Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children: Progress on Policy and Practice since 2013' Msichana Initiative convened a Symposium on 18th June, 2022 which brought together stakeholders from the Legal fraternity, women's rights movement and selected Member of the Parliament to hold an intellectual discussion reflecting on the issues of the Rule of Law, Separation of Power and Independence of Judiciary with regards to the amendment of Law of Marriage Act 1971 and the case of **Rebeca Gyumi Vs. Attorney General (Civil Cause No. 5 of 2016)**.

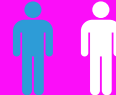
The discussion reflected the issue of compliance and the urgency to amend the Law of Marriage Act, 1971 as directed by the Court of Appeal almost 3 years ago.

**70
Stakeholders
Reached**

54



16



“

"We should exclude laws that govern the country from politics, in order to align justice"

**Hon.Judge (Rtd) Robert
Makaramba.**

”





Group Photo: Stakeholders during the Symposium at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 18th June, 2022.



MILESTONE

As an outcome of the Symposium discussion, Hon. Aida Khenani (our champion of Ending Child Marriages) presented to the Parliament our Agenda and the importance to amend the Law of Marriage Act, 1971.

"The government has played a big role in securing children's dreams, especially ensuring a girl child is protected by establishing fee free education from Ordinary level to Higher level. If we have shown these good intentions, we should then commit ourselves towards a more permanent solution in protecting the right to education. The highest court in our country (The Court of Appeal) already made a decision in regard to the Law of Marriage Act, 1971 and mandated the Law to be amended within one year. It has been three years and no amendments have been made yet. I would like to remind the Attorney General that The Court of Appeal has final decision in dispensation of justice, the good intentions of the Government should be seen by amending this Law."

Hon. Aida Khenani (Member of the Parliament).



Pad Taxation Policy

Enhanced Public Awareness by Conducting a Survey and Publishing an Analysis on the Implication of Tax on Pads to Young Girls in Tanzania.

On Menstrual Hygiene Day, 28th May, 2022 (MHH), Msichana Initiative published an analysis in 3 different Newspapers (The Citizen, Majira and Raia Mwema) on the 'Implication of Taxation on Pads to Young Girls in Tanzania' to create public awareness and debate. In this course, we conducted a simple survey (4 Focus Group Discussions) in 2 primary schools in Dar es Salaam through our in-school club program, a mobile survey with 3 out of school girls in our platform and interviewed 2 young women leaders to collect and document their opinions on Tax on Pads.



1000+
Reached



Focus Group Discussions were conducted by Msichana Initiative's program officers with members of Msichana Amani Clubs in Mlimani Primary School and Ubungu Primary School respectively.



Newspaper Articles on the implication of Taxation on Pads published on 28th May, 2022.



Re Entry Law/Policy

Successfully Conducted Analysis on the Implication of Re-entry Policy in Tanzania.



Msichana Initiative in this quarter conducted a desk review analysis as an opinion piece Interpreting the position of young mothers in Tanzania in acquiring their right to education and highlighting gaps and opportunities in regards to the adoption of Re-entry Policy and the provided Guidelines.



The analysis is yet to be published, however some of the insights from the survey indicate the need to employ a holistic approach if young mothers are to benefit from the policy change. Issues like child care, costs associated with going back to school, psycho-social support need to be addressed more urgently if we are to reap the benefits of having the re-entry guideline in place.

GIRLS RIGHTS PROTECTED AND ENFORCED

EVIDENCE BASED INFORMATION ON VIOLENCE OF GIRLS' CHILD SOUGHT FOR BY 2022

50 Young Feminist Mapped and Engaged to Scope the Situation of Young Feminist Organizing in Tanzania.

Msichana Initiative conducted 3 consultation meetings with Young Feminists in Tanzania to deep listen to existing movements as well as an initial assessment mapping phase to understand the needs of young feminists in the region in terms of support (financial, social, mental etc.) and how to decentralize funding streams to ensure accessibility to young feminists. The participatory research is still ongoing with expectation to disseminate findings by quarter 4 of 2022

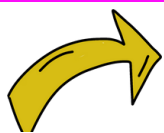
50Young
Feminists
Reached

STRATEGIC INSTITUTIONS MANDATED TO ENFORCE AND PROTECT GIRLS' RIGHTS ENGAGED BY 2022.

NPA/VAWC COMMITTEES

Msichana Initiative 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.

**17 GBV Cases Followed up****3**Child Marriage
Cases**13**Teenage
Pregnancies
Cases**1**Child Abuse
Case



MILESTONE

Decline of VAWC cases in Kongwa by 57% reported by the Social and Welfare Department as a result of mindset and behaviour change among communities attributed by Msichana Initiative interventions in Kongwa.

Newly Established NPA/VAWC Committees

17

In Chamwino, Dodoma.

12

In Kongwa, Dodoma.

Community Sensitised on Ending Child Marriages by NPA/VAWC Committees;

813



336



476



Reached

PERFORMANCE IN 36 MSICHANA CAFÉS MONITORED, RECEIVE FEEDBACK AND CASES DOCUMENTED BY 2022

MSICHANA CAFÉ

Msichana Initiative works directly with the community through these platforms (Msichana Cafés) which allows community members to voluntarily join without due regard of their age, sex, class or any other factor. The platforms give an opportunity for members to regularly meet to debate, discuss and digest solutions against Child Marriages, Teen Pregnancies and other challenges young girls in their communities.

Members of Msichana Cafés take Initiatives to report Gender Based Violence cases to Local Government Authorities, Police Gender and Children Desks but also educate young girls and communities in schools, health centres, markets, and gatherings on the need to End Child Marriages and protect a girl child.




Newly Established Msichana Cafés;

10

Newly Msichana café in Kongwa,
Dodoma

516 Participants Reached

257  

259  

6

Reported Cases by Msichana Café

6 Child Marriages cases.



Members of a newly established Msichana Café in Chiwe and Ngomai Wards within Kongwa District in Dodoma, holding a community dialogue on Child Marriages as SGBV and a challenge in their community.



Mr. Francis Shao, Msichana Initiative's Officer handing Msichana Café Guideline to the elected Chairperson of a newly established Msichana Café in Sejeli ward within Kongwa District in Dodoma.

“

“We have learnt about child marriage and we are assuring our leaders from Msichana Initiative that we understand and we are tired of Child Marriage in our community. Today we will put in place our action plan that will showcase all the interventions we will conduct in supporting organization's effort to End Child Marriages. It is my hope that, majority of us here will be active champions on this

Mr. Ezekiel Daniel, Msichana Café member.



”



“

"If we will not take an initiative to amend sections of LMA, 1971 concerning Child Marriages then it will never end. For us in grassroots level, it is an honour to be part of this program and we will meet monthly to digest solutions on Ending Child Marriage in our community. As an elected leader (secretary), I urge all of us to come up with by-laws that will enable us to end these harmful practices". **Scolastica Emmanuel from Mbande ward, Kongwa.**

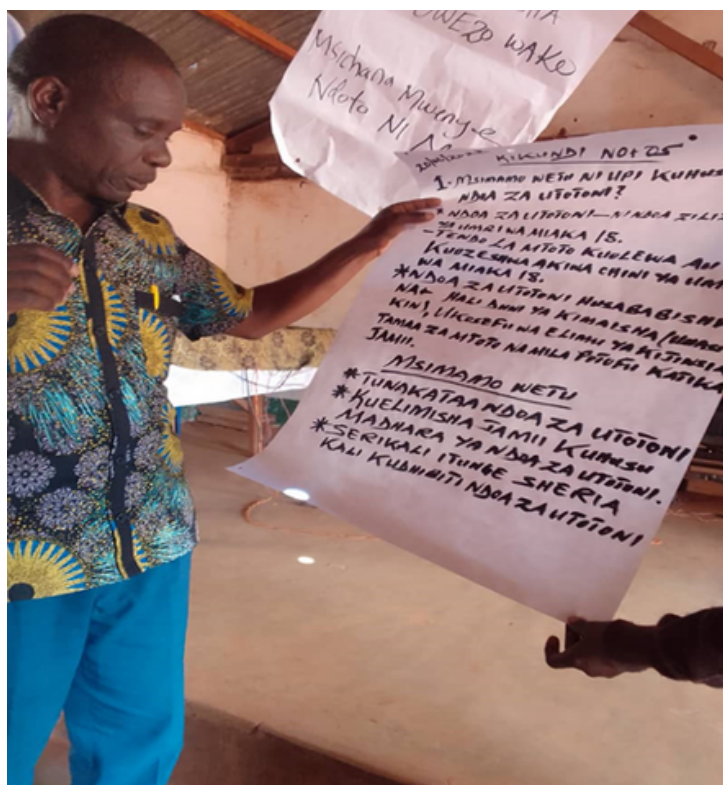
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“

"We learnt the importance of fighting against Child marriage, so now our stand is on wanting the Government to amend The Law of Marriage."

Peter Zakayo Mgonja from Chiwe ward Msichana Café.

”





MILESTONE

In Bahi, Dodoma Child marriage has decreased by -10% this quarter compared to the previous quarter which implies awareness and change of attitude among community members.

COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION AND MOBILIZATION.

Community Sensitised on Ending Child Marriages and other GBV against Girls by Msichana Café through Community Dialogues;

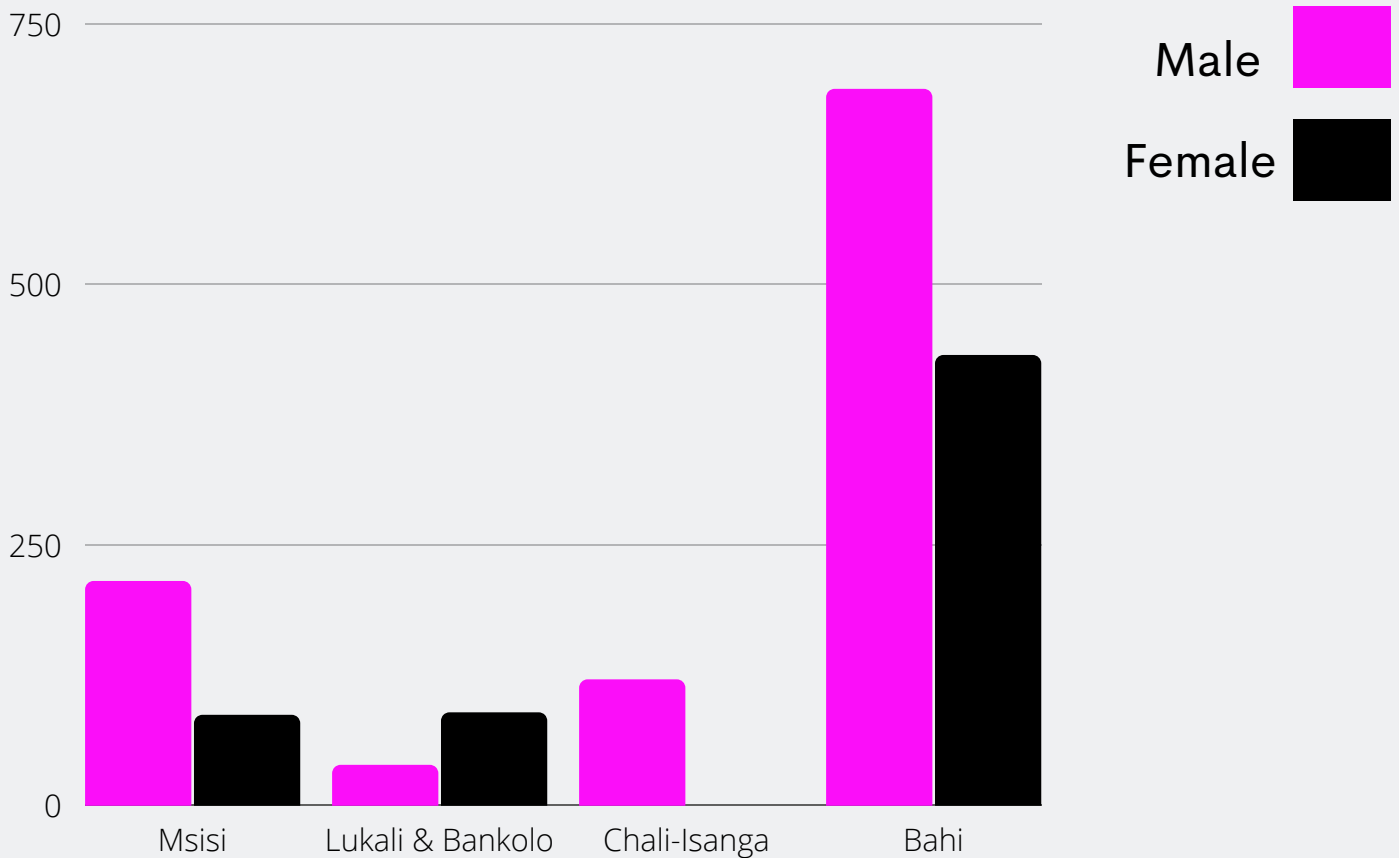
REACH

1,669 

863 

806 

In Bahi District



MSICHANA AMANI CLUBS.

Msichana Amani Clubs Re-Imagined.

From 30th-31st May, 2022 Msichana Initiative team reflected on previous operations of Msichana Amani clubs to highlight gaps, challenges and came up with innovative strategies to improve the sustainability of the program and improve performance.



10

participants

9

Female

1

Male



Few Msichana Initiative team members are collectively working to highlight opportunities to improve Msichana Amani Clubs performance.



13 Children Development and Learning Experts engaged in Review of Msichana Amani Clubs Guideline and Learning Materials.

On 28 June, 2022 at Msichana Initiative offices we invited different children development and learning experts from other organisations to input on how to review our Clubs Guideline and learning materials in a child friendly manner.



13 Stakeholders

9 Female

4 Male

Advocate Mgusuhi Maswi, Msichana Initiative's Programmes Manager facilitating the Co-creation meeting on 28th June, 2022 with Children Development and Learning Stakeholders.



One Girl One Bike



Education is one of the fundamental rights that every child should get. However, girls are in a more disadvantaged position in enjoying this right due to challenges they face like long walking distances to school that increases vulnerability associated with SGBV and poor academic performance of young girls caused by tiredness and absenteeism. The rationale behind our One Girl, One bike project is to cure some of these challenges and give a Girl Child an opportunity to thrive.



Reduced Risk of Violence to 50 Girls through Bike donation.

Msichana Initiative on 19th and 20th June, 2022 donated 50 bicycles to 50 Girls from Puge Secondary School and Mwanhala Secondary School at Nzega District in Tabora Region.

Young
50 Girls
Reached



One Girl One Bike Project Beneficiaries.



“

"I believe this bike will help me to increase my school attendance and improve my academic performance.

Before getting this bike, I used to miss some of the morning sessions due to the long distance to school

Hellena Joseph a Form Two Student at Puge Secondary School.

”

“

I will use my voice to remind youth on how to chase their dreams.

Rahel Mwintula Co-founder My Ilava and MI Partner.

”



OUT OF SCHOOL GIRLS PLATFORM.



Girls Empowerment in Agro-Ecology and Permaculture (GAPE)

Msichana Initiative continue to implement GAPE Project in Kongwa, Dodoma and Nzega, Tabora in cooperation with SAT (Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania) and help 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.



Beneficiary Psychosocial Needs Identified.

Msichana Initiative conducted training on psychosocial support for 26 groups of GAPE project beneficiaries (14 groups in Kongwa, Dodoma and 12 groups in Nzega, Tabora) with 25 Beneficiaries each group. The training aimed to equip beneficiaries with knowledge and increased capacity in conducting psychosocial assessment to better determine recipients support type needed.

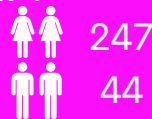
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596 Beneficiaries



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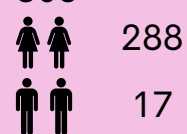
291 Beneficiaries



In Nzega

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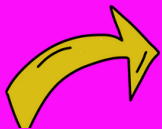
305 Beneficiaries



In Kongwa



One of the Project Beneficiaries engaging during the Psychosocial support training in Nzega, Tabora.



MILESTONES

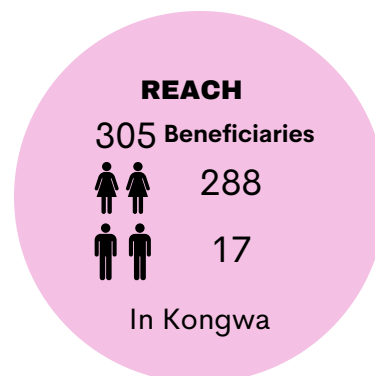
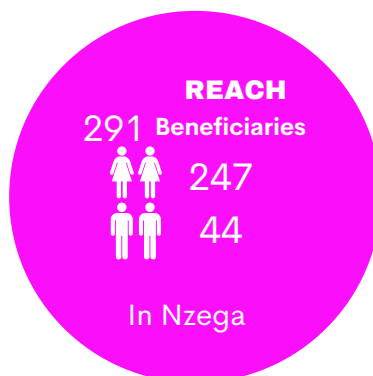
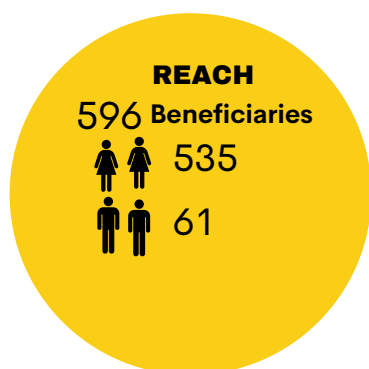
- 59.6%** Program beneficiaries were assessed on their risk environmental situation to enable them to come up with an individual risk management plan.
- 2%** of beneficiaries were linked with the existing government structures for further steps after risk assessment to get the needed help.
- 45%** of parents committee representatives were linked with the beneficiaries purposely to influence their commitment on supporting sustainability of the program.

SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS.



Impacted 596 GAPE Project Beneficiaries with Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Training.

In this Quarter, Msichana Initiative conducted consecutively trainings on Sexual Reproduction Health and Rights for 26 groups of our GAPE project beneficiaries (14 groups in Kongwa, Dodoma and 12 groups in Nzega, Tabora) with 25 Beneficiaries each group. The trainings aimed to equip and empower young people with information on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights and to impart knowledge and ability regarding relationships, sexuality, emotional and physical health as well as bodily autonomy.



One of the Project Beneficiary presenting during the Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights training in Kongwa, Dodoma.

Impact Story

A Survivor of Child Marriage Case becomes a Champion in Bahi District, Dodoma.

A 16-year-old Upendo (name has been changed for protection) from Bahi was married off to a 29-year-old man for a dowry of 2 cows, 10 goats and Tsh. 400,000/=. Marriage life was full of controversy and conflict but every time Upendo reported to her parents, they always advised her to persevere as that is what marital life is all about. After some time, Upendo could no longer bear it and had to report the same to one of our Msichana Café leaders in Bahi who reported her case to the Ward Executive Officer (WEO). An inquiry was conducted and all perpetrators of marrying Upendo at a young age were arrested and taken to Court (Zanka Primary Court). In Court, they read the charges and they all admitted to the claims. Moreover, they urged that they lacked an understanding on the impact of Child Marriage especially to a Girl Child and asked to be pardoned. Later on, the Court made a Ruling that nullified and dissolved the marriage.

After this decision, Upendo is now free and has been a championing against Child Marriage. She participates in concerts and conferences to offer education on impacts of Child Marriage and recently she has been participating in the establishment of several new Msichana Cafés in Kongwa District to educate community members about child marriage. Upendo continues to share her testimony to encourage other Young Girls to stay in school and the community to End Child Marriages.



Partnerships & Advocacy

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

MEETING	CONVENER
Concepts on ending child Marriage Tanzania	UNICEF
Fundraising Workshop	AVF For Impact Org
Financial Management Webinar	OSF
Promoting Justice to adolescent girls in Tanzania	Equality Now, CDF, TAWLA
African Conference on Sexual Health (ACSHR)	We are Purposeful
Luncheon with the Senator for the French citizen living abroad	French Embassy
Kestoria Kavazi	Soma Café
10 years anniversary of THRDC	THRDC
Roundtable Dialogue on FP2030 and smart advocacy Refresher	TAYAH Coalition
Celebrating mothers Day & appreciating Mama K Busimba award	THRDC
Preparation for Youth Summit	TAYAH Coalition
Capacity building on Ending Child Marriage	CDF
Health to Women & People with disability	Kinondoni Municipal
Mwl Nyerere's 100 Years anniversary	University of Dar es salaam

MEETING	CONVENER
Resisting Sexual Corruption	TAKUKURU
Learning Visit at Msichana Initiative Offices.	GLAMI
Partners Visit at Msichana Initiative Offices.	Partners For Equity
Partners visit at Msichana Initiative Offices.	My Ilava



OUR ESTEEMED PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

Msichana Initiative is sincerely Grateful to all our Partners and Funders for their utmost support.

- > African Visionary Fund-AVF
- > FCS Trust
- > French Embassy-Tanzania
- > Ford Foundation
- > Infobip
- > Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation
- > My Ilava
- > Masimanyane Women's Support Centre
- > Open Society Foundation-OSF
- > Partners for Equity
- > Save the Children - Tanzania
- > Segal Family Foundation
- > Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
- > Women Fund Trust-Tanzania
- > With and For Girls Fund

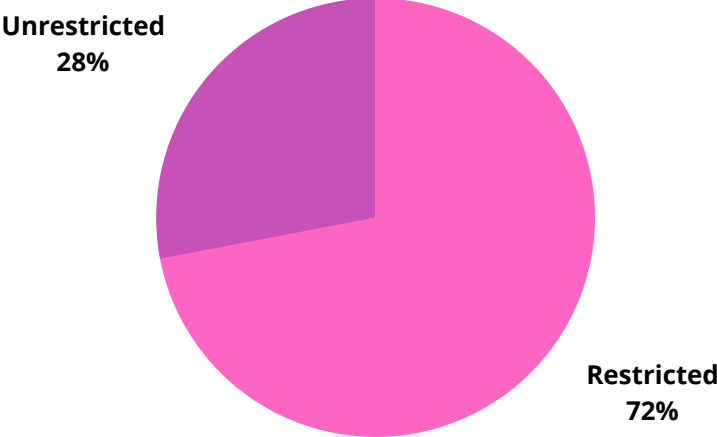
Financial Update

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

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

Funds raised this Quarter- **US \$263,088**

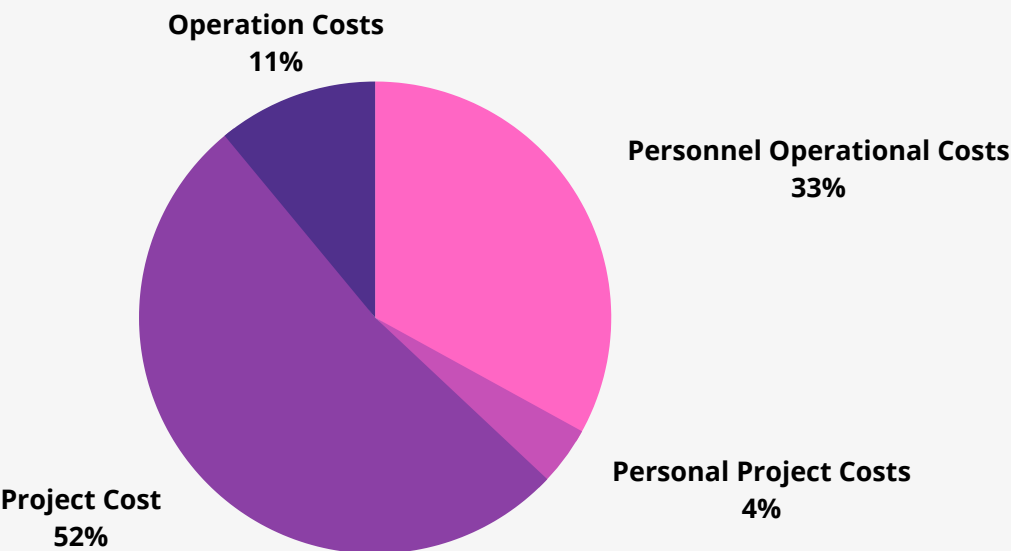
Restricted V's Unrestricted for Q1.



Expenditure

April 2022 – June 2022

Personnel Costs	39,218
Operation Costs	12,708
Project Costs	62,230
Personnel Project Costs	5,551
Total	119,707





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