

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

AMANI GIRLS ORGANIZATION

TABLE OF CONTENT



LIST OF ACRONYMS	3
MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANIZATION CHAIRPERSON	4
WHO WE ARE - Vision, Mission	5
Our Core Values, Where we work	6
OUR IMPACT	7
INTRODUCTION	8
OUR PROGRAMS	9-20
COORDINATION, COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING	21
CHALLENGES AND IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSES	22
LESSONS LEARNED	23
MEET OUR PARTNERS	24

LIST OF ACRONYMS



- ABYM Adolescent Boys and Young Men
- ADTS Age Disparate Transitional Sex
- AGO Amani Girls Organization
- AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
- ASRH Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health
- AYFHS Adolescent Youth Friendly Health Services
- CBO Community Based Organisation
- CHMT Council Health Management Team
- CoP Community of Practice
- DC District Council
- EBM Emanzi Boys Mentoring Program
- ECD Early Childhood Development
- ECE Early Childhood Education
- FGM Female Genital Mutilation
- GBV Gender Based Violence
- GMs Girls Mentors
- GoT Government of Tanzania
- HIV Human Immuno Virus
- IREX International Research for Exchange Board
- IRGPA Intersectional Rapid Gender and Protection Assessment
- LINEA Learning Initiative on Norms Exploitation and Abuse
- MCDGWSG Ministry of Community Development Gender Women and Special Groups
- MoEST Ministry of Education Science and Technology
- MoH Ministry of Health
- NAIA-AHW National Accelerated Investment Agender for Adolescent Health and well-being of adolescent girls.
- NGO None Governmental Organisation
- RAS Regional Administrative Secretary
- RHMT Regional Health Management Team
- RMNCAH Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child Adolescent Health
- SMASH An act of blowing-up/being committed to the rights, interest and wellbeing of adolescent girls
- USAID United State Agency for International Development
- VAC Violence Against Children
- YHC Youth Health Champions



A WORD FROM THE ORGANIZATION CHAIRPERSON

CRAFTING SOLUTIONS, DELIVERING COMMUNITIES

2023 has been a wonderful transition year for Amani Girls Home, which has now become Amani Girls Organization. These changes were necessary for the rebranding of the organization.



Rebranding has been crucial in creating a new image for our organization and showcasing our achievements in creating a just and inclusive environment in Tanzania.

This year has been significant, marked by the organizational transition that aligns with our mission, vision and the goal statement.

This transition propels us to strive for excellence in fostering community development. AGO's programs support and implement the 5 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including goals number 3, 4, 5, 8, and 10.

As you review the report, you will see the difference and impact we are making in making Tanzania a haven for girls. We are grateful for your continued support and partnership as we work towards a brighter future for girls in Tanzania. Together, we can achieve great things.

Agripina J. Lyangalo

AGO's Organization Chairperson





WHO WE ARE

ABOUT AMANI GIRLS ORGANIZATION

In November 2004, Amani Girls Organization was officially registered and began its work with the main goal of protecting girls from the streets and reintegrating them into their families. Many girls from the streets in Mwanza Region were engaging in survival sex work, prompting AGO to step up and provide them with counseling, education, and reintegrate them into their families.

AGO has now expanded its wings and identified many areas to support girls through various levels, including education, health, and social protection.



Vision

A sustainable evolution of resilient, safe, equitable, and healthy communities in a just and inclusive Tanzania.



Mission

To build protective and productive resources of children, youth, and families to enable their active participation in community and National development.



Our Core Values





WHERE WE WORK

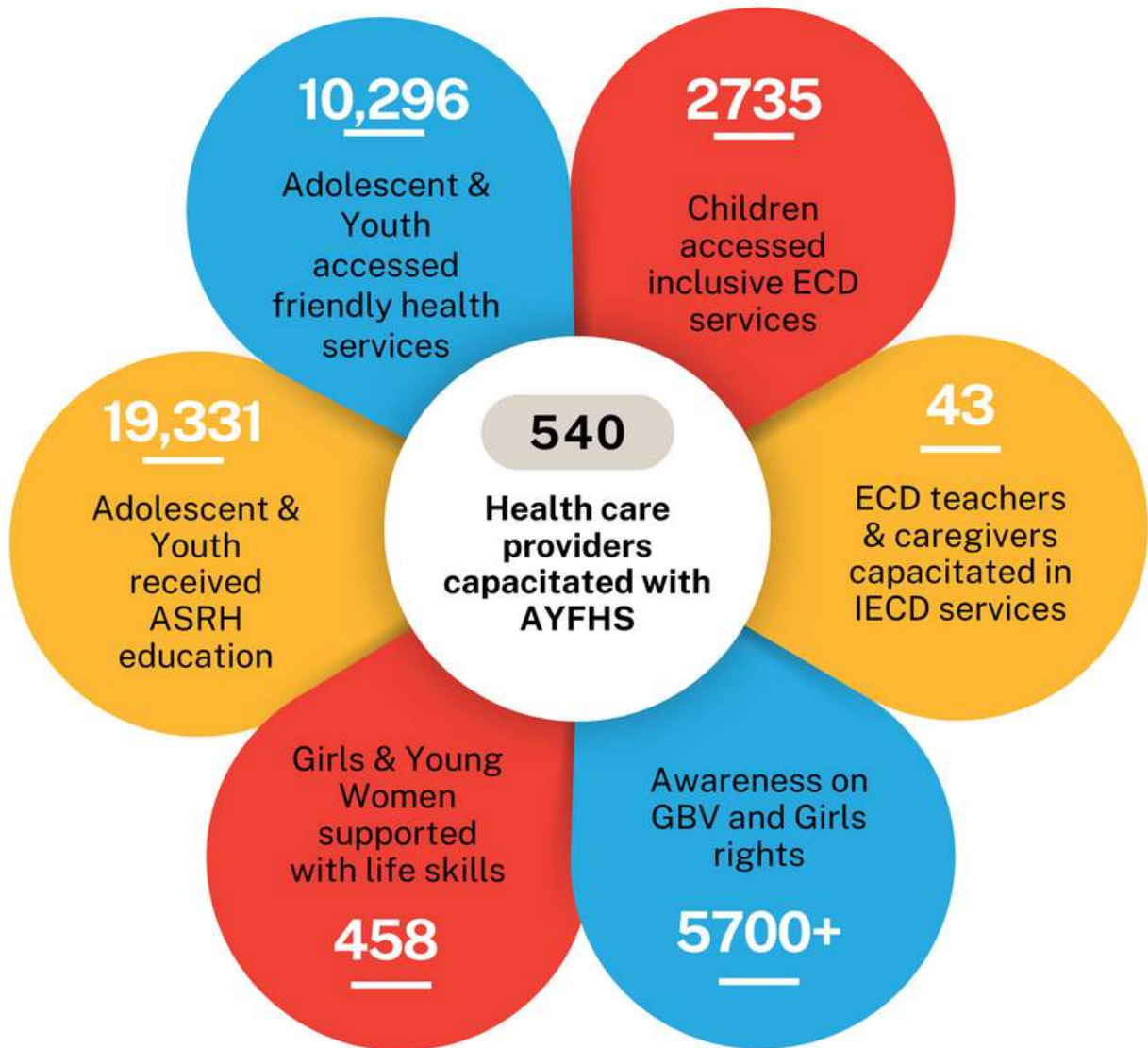
Amani Girls Organization is currently working in 13 regions (Mwanza, Shinyanga, Geita, Simiyu, Mara, Dodoma, Katavi, Morogoro, Tanga, Manyara, Tabora, Singida and Dar es salaam) in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar (Unguja and Pemba). AGO collaborates with various organizations; few of them include development partners (BetterWay, USAID, Oak Foundation), technical partners (IIDC, Jhpiego), implementing partners (Smash Cop, Fadhili Teens Tanzania, ELCT).



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OUR 2023 IMPACT





INTRODUCTION

In 2023, AGO successfully achieved its implementation goals outlined in the AGO Adaptive Strategic Plan 2023/27. Our thematic areas of implementation include the Social Protection Program, Health Program, and Education Program, which are vital in addressing the diverse needs of vulnerable children, adolescents and young women.

Under our Education Program, we focused on increasing opportunities for accessing quality and inclusive Early Childhood Education (ECE) among vulnerable children, aiming to improve school readiness and receptivity to learning, establishment of a Parenting hub in Dodoma as a learning centre for parents, caregivers and frontline workers. Meanwhile, our Health Program aimed to enhance the general health and wellbeing of children, adolescent girls, and young women up to 25 years of age.

Moreover, our Social Protection program aimed at improving gender power balance and advancing the rights of adolescent girls. We addressed issues such transforming harmful gender and social norms leading to child marriage, provided psychosocial support to victims of violence, and implemented interventions to prevent transactional sex among young adolescent girls.

Key Priorities for ASP 2023/27:

Our achievements have significantly contributed to the key priorities outlined in the AGO Adaptive Strategic Plan 2023/27. These priorities include:

- Improving the readiness and receptiveness of children ages 0-8 to learning and promoting their overall health and wellbeing through access to quality ECD programming.
- Promoting inclusive education and economic opportunities for children, adolescents, and youth through life skills and sustainable employment programs.
- Empowering age-specific cohorts and communities to shift social and cultural norms toward the prevention of gender violence and promotion of gender equality.
- Increasing access to comprehensive quality information and integrated health services, focusing on Maternal, New-born, Child, Adolescent and Reproductive Health (RMNCAH), Malaria, and HIV/AIDS prevention.
- Through our strategic priorities, we aim to create lasting positive change and improve the lives of vulnerable children and adolescents across Tanzania.



OUR PROGRAMS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 2023/27 ASP KEY PRIORITIES

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Mapema Education Scheme (MES) project

This project aims to increase opportunities for early childhood development (ECD) among vulnerable children aged 0-6 by improving children's readiness and receptiveness to learning and general health and well-being. 2043 children (1058 boys, 985 girls) under 6 had access to quality Inclusive Early Childhood Education in 15 pre-primary schools and 2 community ECD centres in Sengerema district, facilitated by trained ECD teachers.

An investment in improvement of the learning environment was done by renovating 4 eco-toilets, 2 ECD classrooms and 2 outdoor games. Also, AGO collaborated with the Montessori Community of Tanzania and capacitated 18 ECD teachers and 3 Ward Education Officers in Sengerema, enhancing their knowledge on the science of early childhood development and developing learning and teaching materials. To ensure long-term sustainability of quality ECD services, AGO engaged in dialogues with school committees, Local Government Authorities (LGAs) and Social

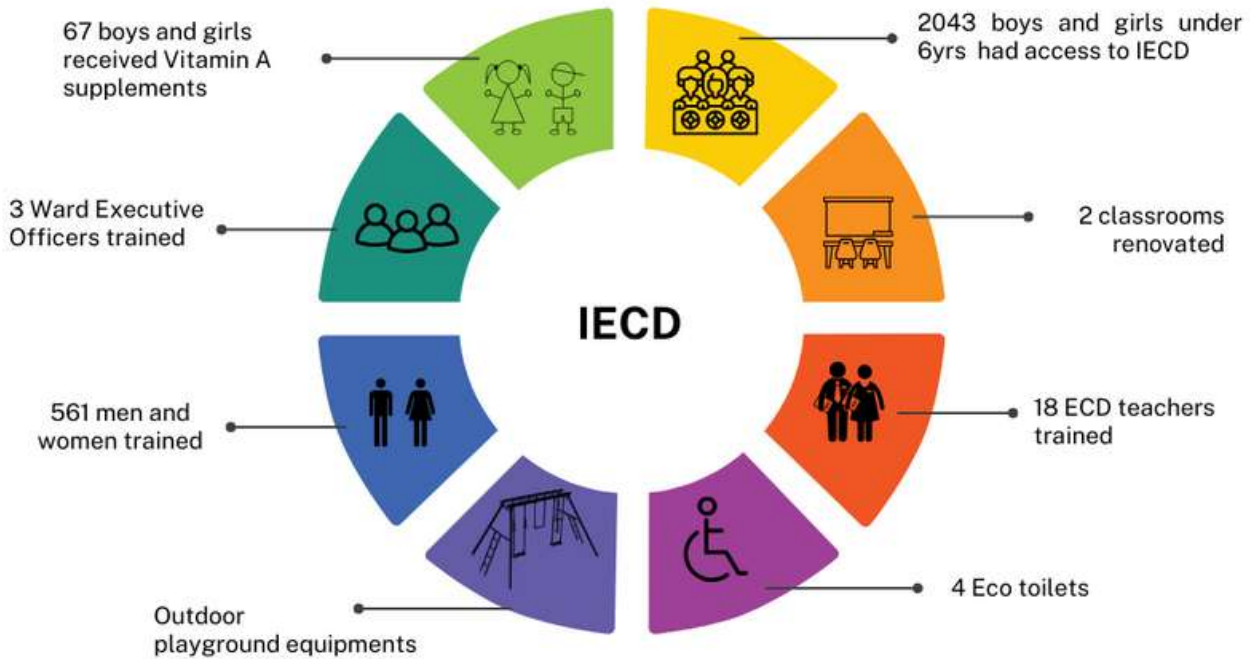
Accountability and Monitoring Committee (SAMC) from 5 schools, addressing integrated ECD service provision and community/parental engagement challenges.

Additionally, AGO provided on-site supportive supervision and mentorship to 3 Women-led savings groups in Sengerema, empowering 51 members to achieve their financial goals. Amongst, 2 groups are actively supporting children's feeding programs at Buseni community ECD centre.

Collaborative efforts with local authorities in Ngoma B ward, enabled AGO to conduct a child wellbeing day reaching over 561 individuals (285 women, 174 men and 102 children) and raising awareness on nutrition, violence prevention, and the importance of male engagement in early childhood development. 67 Children benefited from Vitamin A supplements as a result of the event. Moreover, through participation in the International Day of the African Child, AGO raised awareness about the importance of child protection and responsive caregiving in the digital age reaching over 1300 participants in Sengerema and Ilemela districts. All these reflect AGO's dedication to ensuring holistic foundation for the future success of young children.



EDUCATION PROGRAM CONT....



Parenting Hub and Young Mothers Empowerment Initiative

The Echidna Giving support for AGO's five-year ASP 2023/27 has been instrumental in establishing the parenting hub and empowering young mothers, with a focus on school re-enrollment and sustainable livelihoods. Identifying Chamwino District as a strategic project area due to its high adolescent girls' dropout rates, particularly attributed to adolescent pregnancies, AGO successfully hired and renovated a premise for the parenting hub. Currently, efforts are underway to collaborate with sectoral ministries to acquire resources for the hub's functionality.

AGO conducted a rapid needs assessment to measure the school re-entry program's effectiveness, at Chamwino DC involving various stakeholders: young mothers both in school and out of school, Government officials, Local leaders, and Faith leaders. Revealing critical insights to effectively support adolescent mothers in continuing their education and achieving their goals, it's crucial to implement responsive programs centered around their needs and advocate for broader social norm changes.



Parenting Hub and Young Mothers Empowerment Initiative cont....

Key programmatic recommendations include:

- Focus on preventing teenage pregnancy through education and awareness.
 - Offer flexible education options, like distance learning for young mothers.
 - Create sustainable peer support groups that address needs beyond academics.
 - Provide reliable childcare to allow young mothers to focus on their studies or livelihoods.
 - Conducting community sensitization to combat harmful practices that cause early pregnancy and stigma against young mothers.
 - Advocating for increased support for girls' education and personal development opportunities.
 - Encourage families and partners to support young mothers's education.
- Sensitizing and supporting school staff to create a supportive environment for young mothers.
 - Run campaigns to address negative attitudes from peers and society towards young mothers' education.

Through collaboration with community activists and local authorities, 118 young mothers who had dropped out of school were identified. AGO formed 6 support groups for these young mothers, to equip them with life and livelihood skills training. However, despite initial engagement, there's a significant dropout of members, which highlights ongoing challenges at home and the need to be on the lookout for more opportunities in other areas. What's beneficial is that 77 young mothers remained engaged in the program and acquired essential skills to help them excel in their lives.





EDUCATION PROGRAM CONT....

Mtoto Kwanza project

In a significant partnership with Tanzania Early Childhood Development (TECDEN), Amani coordinated the implementation of the National Multi-Sectoral Early Childhood Development Program (NM-ECDP) in collaboration with Simiyu Regional Administration and Local Government (RALG).

Launched by the Government of Tanzania in December 2021, NM-ECDP aims to accelerate early childhood development by enhancing a multi-sectoral approach to nurturing care for children aged 0–8 years, guided by the Nurturing Care Framework.

Amani Girls Organization, alongside Simiyu RALG and 32 ECD stakeholders, successfully organized a regional dissemination event, inaugurated by Honourable Dr. Yahaya Nawanda, the regional commissioner, engaging 96 participants from various sectors. This event showcased the importance of integrated ECD services to ensure the healthy development of children, highlighting the program's commitment to nurturing children to reach their full potential.

Additionally, AGO provided technical support to 18 ECD teachers and 7 caregivers in 8 centers in Simiyu, enhancing service delivery aligned with the Nurturing Care Framework and benefiting 590 children (278 boys and 312 girls).





SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAM

LINEA project

The Learning Initiative on Norms, Exploitation, and Abuse (LINEA) intervention focuses on addressing age-disparate transactional sex (ADTs) that involves sex in exchange for material support between adult men and adolescent girls. Amani utilizes LINEA men's and girls' curricula to be facilitated by a pool of 19 trained facilitators (11 females and 8 males), alongside Msichana wa Kati radio drama to be aired through Jembe and Metro FM radios. These methodologies aim to address poverty and harmful societal gender norms affecting adolescent girls, leading to issues like HIV, school dropouts, early pregnancies, and child marriages.

AGO engaged key stakeholders, including 8 officials from the National Norms Technical Working Group under the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups (MoCDGWSGs), 24 local government authorities (LGAs) representatives, and 9 steering committee members, lay up support for the intervention aligning with the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC) in Tanzania. Awareness efforts reached 1940 individuals, including students, teachers, and parents, with 120 participants successfully onboarded.

Power Up project

The Power Up project aims to empower girls and young women while shifting social and cultural norms to prevent gender-based violence, HIV, and unintended pregnancies, as well as to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, self-employment, and decent work for out-of-school adolescent girls and young women.

AGO's impactful efforts in promoting gender equality and addressing gender-based violence have led to significant achievements in enhancing social and economic opportunities for girls and women.

Through strategic engagement via public events like International Women's Day and the Day of the African Child, AGO reached out to 4531 people, effectively raising awareness about the rights and contributions of girls and women to societal development. Additionally, AGO provided crucial support, including distributing sanitary pads to 60 students in a primary school and essential supplies to a group of 26 vulnerable girls from Bilo Football Center.



SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAM CONT....

Through life skills sessions and empowerment initiatives, AGO facilitated re-enrolment of one girl to school, equipped 2 girls' groups of 20 members with skills for managing savings and small businesses, and collaborated with the Children Rights Innovation Fund (CRIF) to amplify the voices of 12 young mothers.

Furthermore, AGO's capacity-building efforts extended to empowering 65 community activists, ensuring sustained service delivery in their respective areas. These accomplishments prove AGO's focus on empowering communities and creating positive change.

A Journey of Hope Restored

When Amani Girls Organization (AGO) invited out-of-school girls from Pasiansi ward in Mwanza region for possible girls' group formation, a young girl named Rahel (pseudonym) was in the midst of that group. Life hadn't been kind to her. At just 9 years old, her dreams of education seemed like distant stars in a cloudy sky, shadowed by the challenges her family faced.

Separated from her parents and taken in by her aunt, Rahel found herself unable to attend school for nearly 2 years. Her aunt, burdened with her own struggles, couldn't provide the support Rahel needed to continue with her education.



But amidst the shadows of despair, a ray of hope emerged when Rahel joined Amani's program sessions. These sessions weren't just gatherings; they were beacons of possibility for out-of-school girls like Rahel. The chance to learn, to grow, and to dream again.

From the moment Rahel stepped into that first meeting, something changed. The social worker from AGO noticed the pain stamped on her young face, and the silent cries for help masked behind her demeanour were reported to Agripina John, the chairperson and safeguarding lead of the organization. Rahel's struggles didn't go unnoticed; they were met with compassion and action.

Agripina took a special interest and became Rahel's guardian angel. She saw beyond the surface, recognizing the trauma Rahel carried with her. With unwavering determination, Agripina arranged one-on-one sessions, offering a lifeline of therapeutic support tailored to Rahel's needs.



SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAM CONT....

And when representatives from Amani visited her aunt, discussing Rahel's educational journey, it felt like the dawn of a new day. On March 14, 2023, she proudly joined standard three (3) at Bwiru Primary School with a radiant smile and newfound hope. AGO has been providing Rahel with school uniforms, stationery, school fees, contributions for the guard and water, as well as covering tuition, breakfast, and lunch expenses.

Today, Rahel's journey is a testament to the transformative power of compassion and community support. Thanks to the unwavering support of Amani and the dedication of individuals like Agripina, Rahel's dreams are no longer just dreams—they're within reach. As she walks forward, head held high, the echoes of her laughter fill the air, a reminder that even in the darkest of nights, hope can always find a way.

SMASH Community of Practice (CoP)

The SMASH Community of Practice (CoP) experienced remarkable growth, expanding from 13 to 30 members across four regions in Tanzania's Lake Zone. This network of organisations focuses on empowering adolescent girls through improved health, education, and social standing.

SMASH facilitates collaboration and knowledge sharing among members, equipping them with better tools and strategies to advocate for girls' rights and influence relevant policies. This collaborative approach aims to empower girls through the delay of girls' sexual initiation, marriage, and childbearing, ultimately improving their overall well-being and societal status.

Kijana wa Mfano project

The project is funded by USAID through IREX, and focuses on implementing a gender transformative program for Adolescent Boys and Young Men (ABYM) aged 15 to 24 years in six wards of Magu DC in Mwanza region. The project aims to promote positive gender norms, healthy relationships, economic productivity, and address reproductive health needs, including reduction of intimate partner violence (IPV) and increasing support for contraceptives. Achievements include successful onboarding sessions for project teams, inception meetings with government officials to lay up support, and contextualization workshops for the project toolkit involving 60 community stakeholders. These efforts have enhanced the understanding and usability of the toolkit to facilitate the effective implementation of the project's goals.



SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAM CONT....

Hapana Marefu Yasiyo na Mwisho project

It is implemented in four regions of Tanzania mainland (Mwanza, Tabora, Dodoma, Morogoro) and Zanzibar and aims to strengthen collective voices against child marriage and girls' rights. Key achievements include a baseline survey across 5 faith-based colleges, informing targeted interventions to address societal norms perpetuating child marriage.

Participation in the International Day of the Girl Child sensitized 150 people (110 students from primary and secondary schools, and 40 people, including interfaith leaders, Morogoro diocese representatives, representatives from Morogoro municipal council (community development officers and social workers), traditional leaders, parents, and media personnel (Azam, Star TV & Upendo Daima) about the socio-economic impacts of child marriage and gender-based violence, fostering collaboration with faith leaders and government officials for advocacy.

Manual review meetings to inform the adaptation of LINEA curricula to prevent child marriage, tailored for interfaith leaders. Additionally, awareness creation activities reached 457 adolescent girls, empowering them with knowledge on violence prevention and advocacy against child marriage, showcasing their potential as local ambassadors for change.





HEALTH PROGRAM

USAID Afya Yangu project

USAID Afya Yangu project aims to increase the demand for and use of quality integrated Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) services particularly by women and youth. The project is implemented in 11 regions of Tanzania mainland i.e. Mwanza, Geita, Mara, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Dodoma, Tabora, Katavi, Manyara, Tanga, Dar es salaam and Zanzibar. As a lead in Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health component, AGO has successfully implemented activities to ensure increased uptake in RMNCAH services by adolescent and youth explained hereunder;

Strengthening HCPs capacity to offer Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health (ASRH) Services

One of the major achievements under this project was strengthening the capacity of 91 health care providers (HCPs) to offer Adolescent and Youth Friendly Health services (AYFHS).

Among the trained HCPs, 17 became mentors for Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH) and 78 were from high volume health facilities in Tabora, Katavi, Tanga Manyara and Zanzibar (Unguja and Pemba).

Additionally, 449 healthcare workers from 225 health facilities received supportive supervision to ensure the quality of AYFHS as per the national standards across all regions of project implementation in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

Community level adolescent and youth health services

Through partnership with the Ministry of Health (MOH) 184 Girls' Mentors (GMs) and 70 Youth Health Champions (YHCs) were trained on Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health (ASRH) positive behaviours adoption. The acquired knowledge and skills was then cascaded to their social groups and supported them to access adolescent and youth friendly health services through referrals. 30421 (12737 females and 17684 males) adolescents and youth participated in school health symposiums acquired knowledge on several issues pertaining their reproductive health. Leading to direct linkage of 590 students to health facilities for further ASRH services. 257 students received HPV vaccination and 333 received other services including Family Planning, Sexual Transmitted Infections consultation and counselling, and GBV management.



USAID Afya Yangu project cont....

Furthermore, the project reached 2483 adolescents and youth with key ASRH messages through leveraged community existing platforms like market days (gulio or mnada), and national and international commemorations. Amongst, 892 received health services such as HIV testing to both adult and adolescent/youth and family planning services which consisted of Implants, Depo-Provera, and male condoms.

Also, conducted quarterly supportive supervision sessions, reaching community peer educators and provided technical assistance for ASRH community interventions on aspects like facilitation of ASRH session, documentation information in reporting tools in 57 wards of the project community-supported councils.

These achievements reflect AGOs commitment to improving reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health outcomes in Tanzania.

Summary table

Service provided	Females	Males	Total
ASRH comprehensive Education	10,302	9,029	19,331
Access to ASRH services (complete referrals)	7,148	3,148	10,296





Investing in Youth to Preserve Youth

In the small villages of Katoro and Ludete, located in Geita region, the issue of adolescent pregnancies had long been a pressing concern. The lack of proper education and access to sexual and reproductive health services had led to a vicious cycle of young girls dropping out of school and facing severe health risks due to early pregnancies.

However, in September 2022, a glimmer of hope emerged with the intervention of the Amani Girls Organization, as part of the USAID Afya Yangu project. They identified a group of young people, aged 18 to 29, and trained them to become mentors and champions for adolescents in their communities. These mentors and champions were equipped with knowledge about preventing unwanted pregnancies, HIV transmission, and gender-based violence, and were also made aware of the availability of friendly reproductive health services.

Eager to make a difference, the mentors and champions began their community mobilization activities in October 2022. They established in-school and out-of-school clubs, reaching 9 primary

schools, 1 secondary school, and 4 churches. These clubs became safe spaces for adolescents to learn about sexuality and parenthood, empowering them with the knowledge to make informed decisions about their sexual health. One of the most impactful strategies was the engagement with churches. Recognizing the influence of religious structures in the community, the mentors and champions conducted sessions with both youths and adults, focusing on different aspects of sexuality and reproductive health.

They even created church-health-clubs, which received overwhelming support from the churches.

The efforts of the mentors and champions did not go unnoticed. They successfully referred 10 youths to uptake Sexual and Reproductive Health services at health facilities, showing that their work was making a tangible difference in the lives of young people.

As the months went by, the community began to change. More and more adolescents and youth were accessing reproductive health services, and the rate





A Brave Girl's Triumph Over Violence

On 25th April 2023, USAID AFYA YANGU project in collaboration with the Korogwe District Council health management team conducted a school health symposium event at Joyful day secondary school (pseudonym) in Korogwe DC, Tanga. Through this event, health care providers at Mazinde dispensary were able to address issues concerning teenage pregnancy, its causes, impacts and what to do to avoid teen pregnancy.

The event was participatory where students addressed their take on teenage pregnancy while the team of health experts gave clarity on all issues. One of the causes of teen pregnancy addressed by health care providers was domestic sexual violence. They made clarification of what was sexual violence and means to respond to it.

Through this symposium they made a very friendly environment for students to be able to address their ASRH challenges and needs to parents, trusted teachers as well as health care providers.

After the school symposium event a 16 years old form two adolescent girl came

at Mazinde dispensary and communicated to the health care provider that she has been raped by her father several times. She said she was very ashamed and she never knew that she could communicate to someone who could really help. The ASRH trained health care provider assessed the situation, made a couple of tests including HIV Testing, STI Screening and pregnancy tests.

Luckily the adolescent girl was negative in all cases. She asked her if she would like to file charges. The issue was addressed to the social welfare department. Charges were filed at the police station. The case was followed up by the social welfare department in Korogwe DC and the perpetrator was imprisoned for 60 years.

The adolescent girl was getting further counselling at the facility. She is now doing fine and proceeding well with her studies. After the symposium there has been an increase of adolescent girls and boys going to Mazinde dispensary to address their ASRH needs and challenges and the trained health care provider has been of great help to them.



COORDINATION, COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING

AGO actively participated in various collaborative efforts throughout 2023, for knowledge sharing, building partnerships, and amplifying our impact. Here are some key highlights:

Capacity Building: 15 AGO staff members participated in a Leadership and Learning Development (LLD) program organized by Jhpiego to equip departments and the Senior Management Team with skills in cash flow management, USAID regulations, resource mobilization, and program management. This enhanced capacity will strengthen AGO's overall operations and financial sustainability.

Networking and Advocacy: AGO actively participated in the Annual Non-Government Organization Forum (ANGOF-2023). This national forum was an opportunity for AGO to connect with other NGOs, including Mimi TAA Girls Foundation, TANGO, and LHRC. The organization provided financial support and participated in discussions on critical issues facing the NGO sector in Tanzania. Additionally, we used this platform to raise awareness about AGO's transition from Amani Girls Home (AGH) to Amani Girls Organization (AGO).

Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration: Representatives from AGO attended a workshop on "Youth, Environment, and Climate Change" and "Value Chain" for Income Generating Activities (IGAs) organised by the Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC).

This workshop provided valuable insights on the impact of climate change on youth and how to build sustainable income-generating initiatives. Through this collaboration, five youth-led entrepreneurship groups from Mwanza were connected with TYC for further support.

Community Engagement and Partnerships: AGO collaborated with Magu District Council officials in commemorating World AIDS Day 2023.

This collaborative event offered HIV/AIDS testing and counselling, awareness campaigns on stigma reduction, and workshops highlighting the link between gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS. Learning from Regional Experts: Through the Southern Africa Regional Conference on Early Childhood Development (ECD) and a six-days seminar series on the Science of ECD. These platforms provided valuable opportunities to learn from experts across Southern Africa and Tanzania.

The obtained knowledge will be adapted and incorporated into our programming to ensure we deliver high-quality and inclusive ECD services. National Policy Advocacy: We participated in a reflection meeting on the National Early Childhood Development (NMECDP) implementation organized by TECDEN.



This meeting facilitated dialogue with government officials and CSOs on effective NMECDP implementation strategies. We are committed to supporting the government's efforts in ensuring all children in Tanzania reach their full potential.

Through these collaborations and networking efforts, AGO has strengthened its capacity, built valuable partnerships, and gained valuable knowledge to advance its mission of empowering vulnerable children and adolescents in Tanzania.



CHALLENGES AND IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSES

Challenges	Implementation Responses
<p>Adolescent girls' school dropout rates are poorly documented, posing challenges in tracking and supporting them effectively</p>	<p>Engaged social welfare officers, schools, village authorities, health facilities, and the community at large to gather clear data on adolescent girls' school dropout rates, reasons for dropping out, and their current status.</p>
<p>Many schools lack feeding programs, impacting the nutritional wellbeing of students.</p>	<p>Utilized parent and caregiver meetings in schools to continuously raise awareness about the importance of feeding programs for children.</p> <p>Organized advocacy meetings at the district level involving key stakeholders such as community development, nutrition, social welfare, and education officers to address policy issues and promote community contributions to school feeding programs.</p>



CHALLENGES AND IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSES CONT....

Challenges	Implementation Responses
Delayed research approval for the Kijana wa Mfano project by the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) that disrupted the project's implementation schedule.	IREX is actively working to secure research approval from NIMR, and once obtained, activities will resume according to the updated project timelines.
Poor attendance and significant dropout rates among out-of-school girls groups.	Provided close mentorship through personalized one-on-one sessions to empower and encourage out-of-school girls to seize opportunities in their local context and take charge of their lives.

LESSONS LEARNED

Key learned lessons from the various programs aimed at improving the lives of vulnerable children and adolescents across Tanzania include:

- i) Adopting a holistic approach that addresses various aspects of well-being, including education, health, economic empowerment, and social protection, is crucial for creating lasting positive change.
- ii) Collaborating with local communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders is essential for the success and sustainability of interventions.
- iii) Effective intervention requires tailored support programs that address the specific needs and challenges faced by different groups. And this can be achieved through engaging beneficiaries in the project designs.
- iv) Advocacy efforts and raising awareness about key issues such as child marriage, gender-based violence, and early childhood development are essential for driving societal change and influencing policies.



MEET OUR PARTNERS

