

AMANI GIRLS HOME 2022 NARRATIVE REPORT



Amani Girls Home

Empowering Girls 4 Sustainable Development



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ACRONYMS

ABYM	Adolescent Boys and Young Men
ADTS	Age Disparate Transitional Sex
AGH	Amani Girls Home
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

FGM	Female Genital Maturation
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

ABOUT AMANI GIRLS HOME

Our mission

Strengthen the protective and productive assets of vulnerable children and adolescents from socio-economically disadvantaged households in Tanzania.

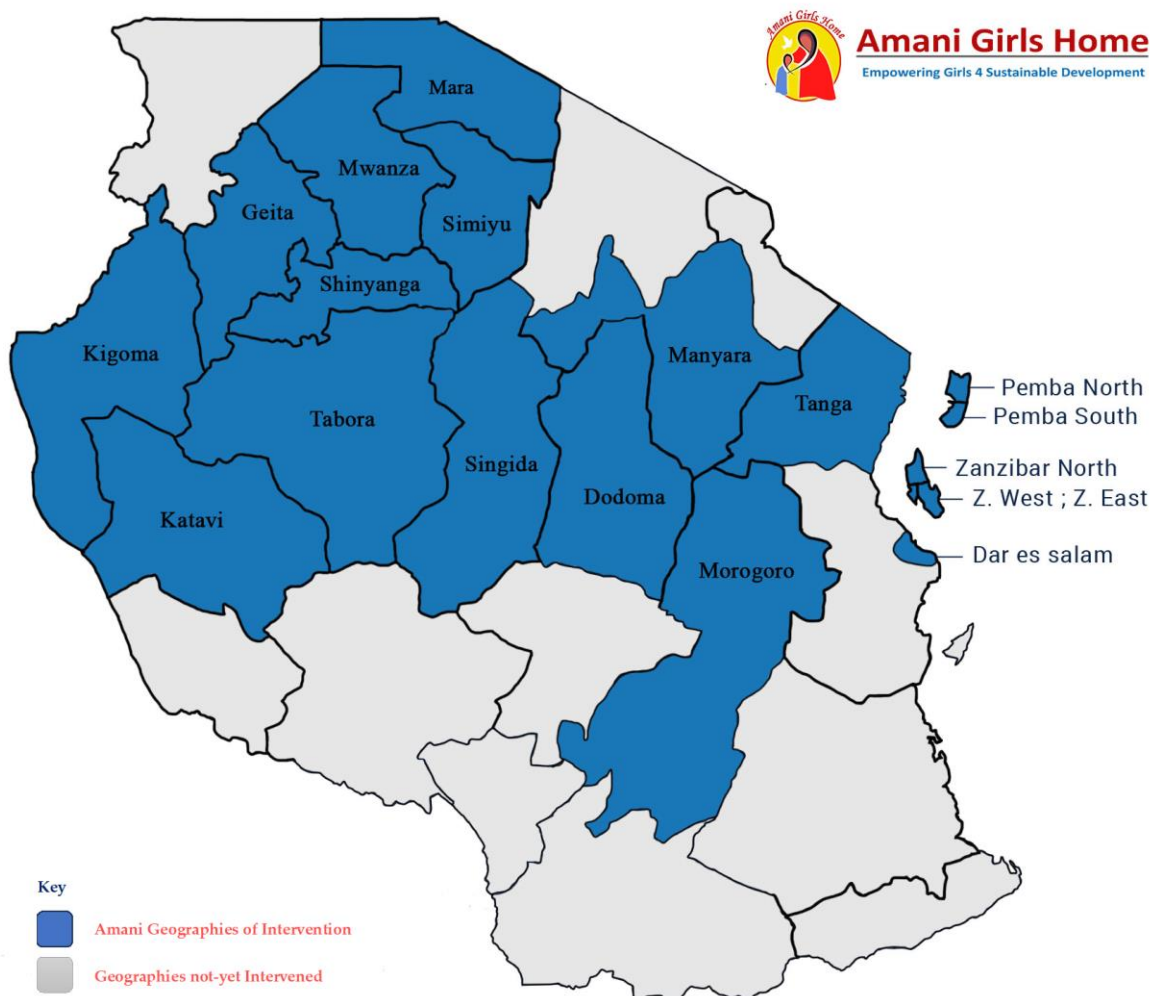
Our Vision

A society with safe and vital communities where all children and youth, especially adolescent girls, can thrive and fully enjoy their rights.

Where we Work

Tanzania Mainland (14 regions): Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Geita, Singida, Dodoma, Tabora, Katavi, Tanga, Manyara, Morogoro, Dar es salaam, Kigoma.
Tanzania Zanzibar: (Unguja and Pemba).

Geographical Areas of Amani Program Intervention





MESSAGE FROM AMANI GIRLS HOME ORGANIZATION CHAIRPERSON

I am delighted to present our organization's 2022 annual report for the year that has been nothing short of transformative. Over this year, we have achieved significant milestones that have expanded our operational coverage into thirteen (13) regions countrywide and Tanzania Zanzibar.

Our reach has allowed us to make a profound impact on the lives of communities, with special emphasis on the well-being of children and the empowerment of girls, and young women. Through our interventions, we have witnessed remarkable stories of progress and hope that have inspired us to push further.

None of this would have been possible without your unwavering support and belief in our mission. Your contributions have been instrumental in driving positive change and shaping a better future for those in need.

As the year 2023 marks our first step in the current Adoptive Strategic Plan which we believe will lead us to more impactful intervention as we continue leaving our programmatic footprints.

As we navigate with you through pages of this report, we invite you to celebrate our collective achievements and join us in our commitment to creating a more just and equitable society for all.

Agripina J. Lyangalo
Organization Chairperson
Amani Girls Home.

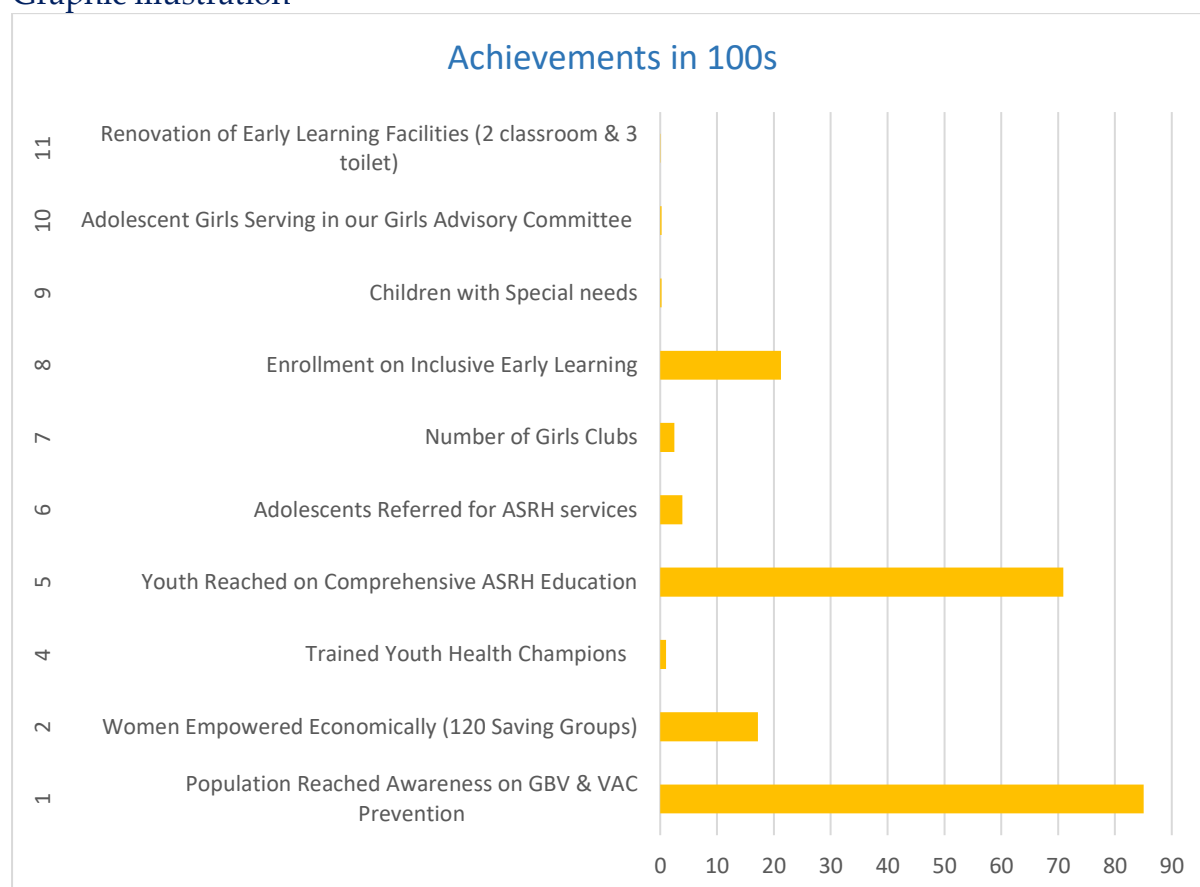
OUR 2022 PROGRAMATIC IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Following table and graph illustrates impact Amani Girls Home is advancing in supporting the furthest behind in all our three interconnected programs.

Achievements in table

No	Our Milestones	Achievements in 100s
1	Population Reached Awareness on GBV & VAC Prevention	85.06
2	Women Empowered Economically (120 Saving Groups)	17.2
4	Trained Youth Health Champions	1.04
5	Youth Reached on Comprehensive ASRH Education	70.89
6	Adolescents Referred for ASRH services	3.89
7	Number of Girls Clubs	2.48
8	Enrollment on Inclusive Early Learning	21.22
9	Children with Special needs	0.23
10	Adolescent Girls Serving in our Girls Advisory Committee	0.24
11	Renovation of Early Learning Facilities (2 classroom & 3 toilet)	0.05

Graphic illustration



2022 FISCAL YEAR OVERVIEW

Amani Girls Home (AGH) works to increase opportunities and build the protective and productive assets of vulnerable children, adolescent girls, and young women from socio-economically disadvantaged households in Tanzania.

With a strong focus on fostering community development through the promotion of gender equality, we prioritize women and girls across all of our programming. In so doing, our work also engages broader stakeholders, particularly men and boys, required to create more equitable and favorable conditions for all.

AGH envisions a society with safe and vital communities where all children and youth, especially adolescent girls, can thrive and fully enjoy their rights. It uses lifecycle and ecological model approaches to support the implementation of national poverty reduction strategies in Tanzania.

In accomplishing its goals, AGH works in three programmatic areas; explicitly Education, Health and Social Protection. Education Program focuses on increasing opportunities for accessing quality and inclusive Early Childhood Education among vulnerable children that leads to improved school readiness and receptivity to learning. Health Program aims to improve general health and wellbeing of children from conception stage, adolescent girls and young women to 25 years.

Furthermore, Social Protection program improves power balance between genders and social community structures and systems that promote national development by advancing adolescent girls rights, addressing the need of girl's migration including street involved girls, providing psychosocial support to girl's victims of violence and implementing a range of interventions geared at preventing transactional sex between young adolescent girls and older men.

It also embarks on a social accountability intervention and support out of school adolescent girls and young women to engage in decent work for employability and poverty reduction.

PROGRAMMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Education Program

Through the **Mapema Education Scheme (MES) project**, there was an increase in accessibility to Inclusive Early Childhood Education opportunities for Vulnerable children who are under 6 years old. The inclusive enrollment in Sengerema District increased from 1939 in 2021 to 2,122 children (1018 girls, 1104 boys) in 2022 from 15 pre-primary schools and 2 community ECD centers. Among the enrolled children, 23 Children with special needs (14 boys and 9 girls) also accessed Inclusive Early Childhood education.



We are nurturing a brighter future for the young minds of Buseni through a good learning environment.

Improved the learning environment for children: In a remarkable stride towards educational enhancement, we successfully renovated three learning facilities in Buseni and Ipadikilo. Two existing eco-toilets at Buseni Community ECD Center and Ipadikilo Pre-primary School, along with an ECD Classroom at Buseni Community ECD Center, were renovated. The transformations have significantly contributed to a conducive learning environment for children. To ensure lasting impact, we conducted sensitization meetings with school management committees, engaging 24 members from both schools. During these meetings, the renovated facilities were officially handed over so as to foster community ownership and pave the way for sustainable impact.



Renovated facilities to enhance Early Learning Experiences.

In our education program, we take pride in our commitment to the economic empowerment of women, who have many responsibilities in the family, specifically supporting children's educational needs. Throughout the year, we have empowered seven (7) women-led savings groups with a total of 120 members. Beyond financial gains, these groups uplift household socio-economic living standards, providing nurturing care as well as early learning opportunities for vulnerable children by supporting the school feeding program for children in Early Learning. By facilitating access to pre-primary education at Community ECD centers and pre-primary schools, these initiatives create a nurturing environment for our future leaders. Amani celebrates this achievement and reaffirms our dedication to fostering economic empowerment, unlocking potential, and ensuring a promising educational journey for every child.

2. Social Protection Program

Under the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the International Research Exchange Board (IREX), Amani successfully implemented the **Emanzi Boys Mentoring Intervention (EBM)** in Mwanza region. This gender transformative program for Adolescent Boys and Young Men (ABYM) focused on promoting positive gender norms, equitable relationships, and economic productivity while addressing reproductive health needs.

Throughout the year, Amani achieved significant milestones: creating a comprehensive work-plan, selecting Magu District for the intervention, and identifying six (6) communities/wards for implementation. However, an Intersectional Rapid Gender and Protection Assessment (IRGPA) was conducted, revealing crucial findings related to gender norms, resource ownership disparities, and decision-making authority within households. These achievements marked a remarkable step towards empowering ABYM and fostering a more inclusive and nurturing environment in Mwanza region.

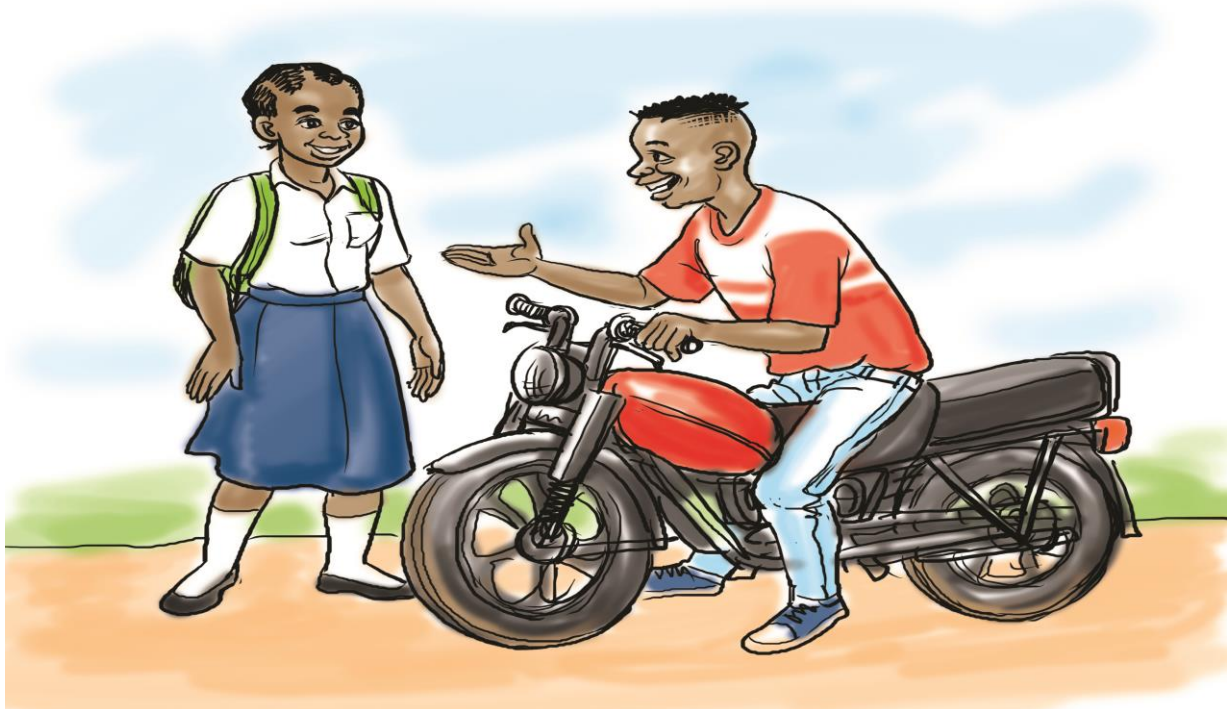
Power Up project made remarkable strides in the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV), Violence Against Children (VAC) and HIV/AIDS infection in Kisesa, Bujora, Bujashi, and Kongoro wards of Magu District, Mwanza Region. Through SASA! & Power to Girls (PtG) methodologies, the evidence-based approach addressed VAWG and HIV on a community-wide scale. The Phase IV Rapid Assessment Survey (RAS) showed significant progress, with positive changes in knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviors related to VAWG and PtG. Notably, 68% of the surveyed individuals demonstrated increased knowledge, 39% on skills and behavior, and 58% on attitudes on VAWG. 80% showed improved PtG knowledge, 49% improved PtG attitude, and 61% improved PtG skills and behavior.

However, challenges remain, with prevailing gender and cultural norms affecting women's reporting of violence cases. The project's impact assessment revealed successful income-generating activities for five girls, enabling them to meet their basic needs, while local leaders praised the project's outcomes and impact.

AGH actively raised awareness about gender-based violence by participating in various national and international commemorations, reaching over 6,000 people with transformative messages to challenge harmful social norms and behaviors. AGH's engagement with the government and community facilitated the mobilization of resources to address critical issues such as FGM, GBV, and HIV/AIDS, driven by gender norms and traditions. These achievements highlight the project's commitment to fostering a safer and more equitable environment for adolescent girls and young women in the community.



The LINEA Project made significant progress in its preliminary preparation for the full implementation of the LINEA pilot project. Key achievements include the thorough review and translation of the LINEA curriculum (Girls & Men curriculum) to ensure alignment with the Tanzanian context, particularly in the Lake Zone region. Additionally, the project conducted a meticulous media scan to select appropriate local community radio stations for collaboration. Out of 14 scanned radios, Jembe and Afya Radios were chosen based on their licensing, coverage in Mwanza region (both rural and urban areas), and accurate frequency. These selected radio stations will play a vital role in airing the radio drama as part of the LINEA pilot project. We also randomly selected Communities, Schools, Small Scale Traders and Motor Circles Associations to work with under the LINEA Pilot Evaluation. These accomplishments set the foundation for the successful implementation of the project, which aims to empower and educate communities.



Illustrative in the Msichana wa Kati Curriculum for drivers of ADTS

Msichana Thabiti project, through the Smash Community of Practice (CoP), achieved significant annual milestones by expanding girls-based interventions to all districts of the Mwanza region. The project organized 7 productive meetings, providing a platform for members to exchange methodologies and best practices in girls' programs and interventions. During public events like Women's Day, 14 sister organizations forming the Smash CoP actively advocated for girls' issues, displaying powerful messages related to gender equality through banners and posters. This collective effort reached approximately 1700 people, showcasing the project's impactful advocacy initiatives and commitment to empowering adolescent girls and promoting gender equality throughout the region.

3. Health Program

The USAID Afya Yangu - RMNCAH-Project has achieved significant annual milestones in improving both the quality of adolescent and youth friendly healthcare services (AYFHS) at the facility and community levels. At the facility level, the project successfully trained 60 Healthcare Workers on AYHFS, resulting in the creation of a pool of 347 GMs and 48 school focal persons across 11 regions in Tanzania's mainland and Zanzibar. 69 girls' clubs were formed and 17 boys' sessions were conducted in project supported regions to improve community level youth and adolescent health services. The mentors and focal persons play a crucial role in providing ASRH education and empowering in-school and out-of-school adolescents and youths to make informed decisions about their health and future. They also serve as a link to healthcare services at health facilities through effective referrals during club interactions.



Smiles all around as girls' mentors and youth health champions are ready to make a Difference

Furthermore, at the community level, the project collaborated with R/CHMTs to conduct a comprehensive nine-day training for 235 Girl Mentors (GMs) and 104 Youth Health Champions (YHCs) from the same 11 regions. The ASRH training aimed to equip adolescents and youths with knowledge that fosters positive behaviors towards sexual and reproductive health.

The trained individuals are now able to cascade this knowledge and skills to their social and peer groups, while also providing referrals to their peers to access adolescent and youth reproductive-friendly services.

A total of 7039 adolescents and youth were provided with sexual reproductive health education by GMs and YHCs in school and out of school. 386 referrals were issued to adolescents to access further services at the health facility, most of the referrals were for STI screenings, FP services and early ANC booking. Of the 386 referrals provided, only 41 were completed (with feedback forms), reasons for incompleteness were reported as limited awareness among adolescents and youth on the referral system and most adolescents and youth expected to receive free medical services when going with referral forms issued by GMs & YHCs. This is illustrated in table 1.

These achievements demonstrate the project's dedication to enhancing adolescent and youth health outcomes and promoting informed decision-making for a healthier and empowered generation.

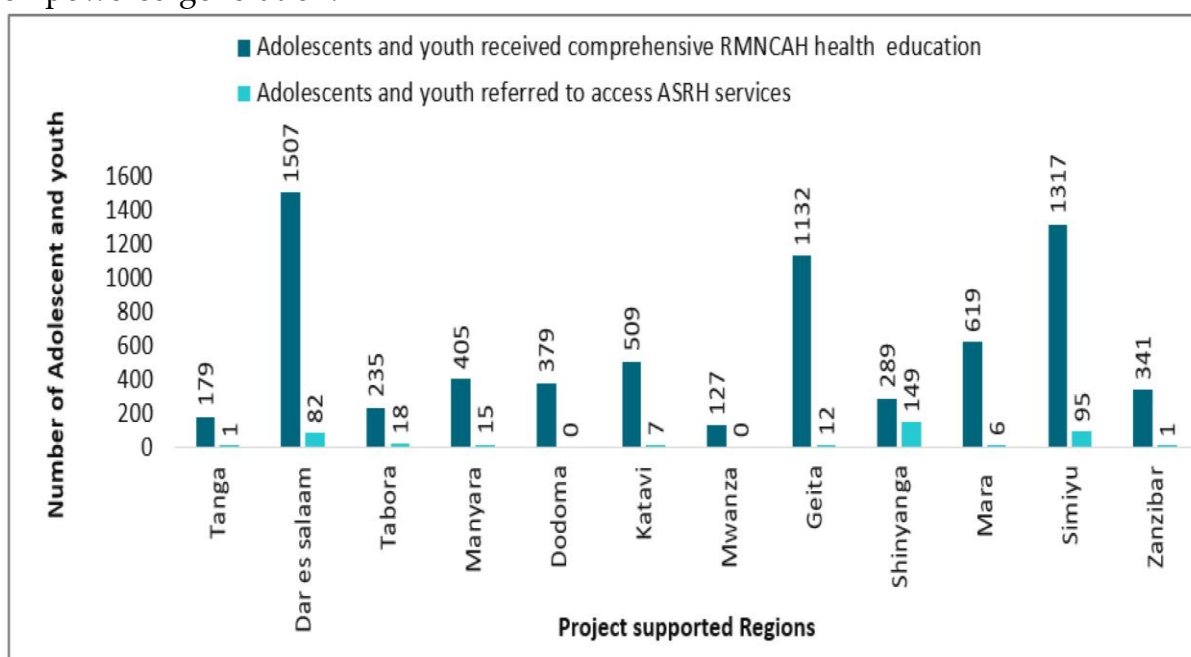


Table 1: Access to ASRH services



Guiding young mentors on how to inspire and uplift their peers.

Transforming Lives: Empowering Kiteto with Positive ASRH Knowledge

In Kiteto district, Manyara region, a pressing challenge emerged as the young population faced early sexual activity and marriages, exacerbated by cultural norms and agricultural demands. School dropouts contributed to a surge in teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, while limited access to reproductive health services compounded the issue.

In response, the USAID Afya Yangu-RMNCAH project adopted the Power to Girl model from Amani Girls Home, focusing on empowering adolescents, especially young women, with essential reproductive health information and services.

Implementation started in the Kibaya and Kaloleni wards, where a 1-day meeting gathered community leaders and youth to select and train 32 young peers on ASRH awareness. Collaborating with 4 teachers, Girls Mentors (GMs), and Youth Health Champions (YHCs), they raised ASRH awareness within school clubs.

To ensure effectiveness, the project advocated for an AYFHS District focal point and integrated ASRH with activities in Manyara Region. The results were remarkable, as within a month and a half, 8 girls' clubs and 4 health clubs were established in secondary schools, reaching 192 students. Moreover, 63 adolescents aged 10-14 benefited from the initiative in 3 primary schools.

Integration with HPV immunization campaign proved successful, reaching 97 adolescent girls. ASRH advocacy, combined with mentorship, reached 3 health facilities in Simanjiro DC and 2 in Kiteto DC, impacting 15 healthcare providers and disseminating 5 AYFHS Standards.

This story of change is one of empowerment and hope, as adolescents actively participate in their health and well-being, supported by a knowledgeable and compassionate community standing against early marriages and gender-based violence. The path towards a healthier future for the adolescents of Kiteto is now paved, led by passion and determination.

Breaking Barriers, One Healthy Facility at a Time

For many youths and adolescents, accessing health services has been challenging due to generalized service provision. This limitation hindered their health-seeking behavior and left them underserved in critical areas like sexual and reproductive health. However, recognizing this issue as a barrier to their well-being, health facilities embarked on a transformational journey to address the needs of youth and adolescents more effectively.

- Health facilities embarked on a groundbreaking intervention to cater to the specific needs of youth and adolescents. Recognizing the importance of targeted services, they designated special days solely dedicated to providing youth-friendly Adolescent Youth Health Friend Services (AYHFS). These designated days allowed health care providers to focus on addressing the unique concerns and challenges faced by young individuals.

Mr. Ndunya Francis Danga from Nyasoro Dispensary shared that, *“In our dispensary we use Friday as a special day to provide services to the youth, but also, we set a special room to provide AYHFS”*. Similarly, the same was observed from Nyanjabakenya Dispensary *“At our center we use Thursday as a special day to provide special services to the youth, we usually use platform like RCH to educate youth on ASRH services at our health facility Rorya District Hospital”* Said Madam Martha.

However, Changuge Dispensary creatively utilized Saturdays and Sundays to cater to youth needs. By acknowledging that students require customized access to services, they expanded their reach and impact despite their limited space. Furthermore, Mr. Lucas from Mang’ore Dispensary shared, *“we set two days special that is Monday and Friday to provide services to adolescents and youth at our Mang’ore dispensary”*.

The success of this initiative extends beyond the special days, as health facilities remain open and responsive to youth and adolescents' needs throughout the week. The thoughtful integration of targeted services has resulted in increased health-

seeking behavior among adolescents and youth. This has paved the way for positive change, empowering youth and adolescents to access the support and services they require. This transformative approach not only addresses health needs but also fosters a sense of understanding and inclusivity within the community.

CHALLENGES

- Negative tension between local leaders and field staff due to the engagement with a community volunteer affiliated with an opposition political party.
- Dropouts from GMs and YHCs prior to community implementation resulted in the establishment of fewer groups and fewer adolescents reached. However, the conflicting schedule with In-school timetable led to a small number of adolescents being reached at school.
- The delay in the implementation of USAID Afya Yangu, particularly in the ASRH Thematic area, was due to the delay in the engagement of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Engaging with community volunteers who are not affiliated with any political parties/ beliefs by doing background checks before engaging them.
- Selection of most community volunteers with permanent settlement in the intervention areas and increasing their incentives a little bit more so that they can be motivated to fulfill their responsibilities.
- Closely and regularly follow-up with CSOs to ensure that activities carried over to next quarter are implemented efficiently.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Since there are social norms and traditions that hinder girls' prosperity and development, more awareness meetings need to be conducted to awaken the community to the importance of supporting girls to achieve their desired goals.
- Learning spirit is vital to improving knowledge, especially on different methodologies and approaches to be applied in implementation of programs.
- Girls have knowledge and experiences of their own lives and challenges; girls centered design approach should be fully applied to give girls opportunity to participate in the design process of the project.

For more information

Visit our webpage: <https://www.amanigirlshome.or.tz/>



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