



**Amani Girls
Organization**
Empowering Girls 4 Sustainable Development

2024 ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

AMANI GIRLS ORGANIZATION

www.amanigirls.or.tz

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LIST ACRONYMS

ADTS	Age-Disparate Transactional Sex
AEP	Adolescent Empowerment Program
AGO	Amani Girls Organization
AGYM	Adolescent Girls and Young Mothers
AIG	Advisory and Implementation Group
ASP	Adaptive Strategic Plan
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health
AYFHS	Adolescent Youth Friendly Health Services
BELIEF	Building Empowered and Resilient Communities by Strengthening Livelihoods, Inclusion, Education and Food Security
CA's	Community Animators
CBF	Community-Based Facilitators
CMSG	Community Managed Savings Groups
CoP	Community of Practice
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CVET	Community Vocational Education and Training
DC	District Council
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECE	Early Childhood Education
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
ELCT-ELVD Diocese	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania - East of Lake Victoria
FBOs	Faith Based Organizations
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GMs	Girls Mentors
GoT	Government of Tanzania
GST	Good School Toolkit
GUC	Grants Under Contract
HCP	Health Care Providers
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HLI	High Learning Institutions

LIST ACRONYMS

HPV	Human papillomavirus
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IIDC	Impact and Innovation Development Center
IRCH	Integrated Reproductive and Child Health
LGA	Local Government Authorities
LINEA	Learning Initiative on Norms Exploitation and Abuse
LSHTM	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
MoCDGWSG	Ministry of Community Development, Gender, women, and Special Groups.
MoEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
MoH	Ministry of Health
NCF	Nurturing Care Framework
NIMR	National Institute for Medical Research
NPA-VAWC	National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children
POLARG	President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government
RCH	Reproductive and Child Health
R/CHMT	Regional/ Council Health Management Teams
RMNCAH	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
TECDEN	Tanzania Early Childhood Development Network
TENMET	Tanzania Education Network/ Mtandao wa Elimu Tanzania
TGs	Thematic Goals
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNICEF	The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
VAC	Violence Against Children
VYAs	Very Young Adolescents
WEO	Ward Extension Officers
YAC	Youth Advisory Committees
YHCs	Youth Health Champions

A WORD FROM THE ORGANIZATION CHAIRPERSON



Dear partners and friends of AGO,

As we reflect on the year 2024, we are grateful for the progress we have made together in advancing the rights and well-being of girls and young women for 20 years, since its establishment in 2004. Through collective efforts, Amani Girls Organization (AGO) has continued to challenge harmful gender norms, and create safe spaces where children and youth can thrive.

We have continued to strengthen our initiatives in early childhood education, advocated for inclusive policies, and adapted the 'Good School model' to enhance child protection and prevent violence in primary schools.

Additionally, AGO continues with life skills training programs for both youth in schools and those out of schools, equipping them with leadership skills, self-confidence, and reproductive health knowledge to help them navigate social and economic challenges.

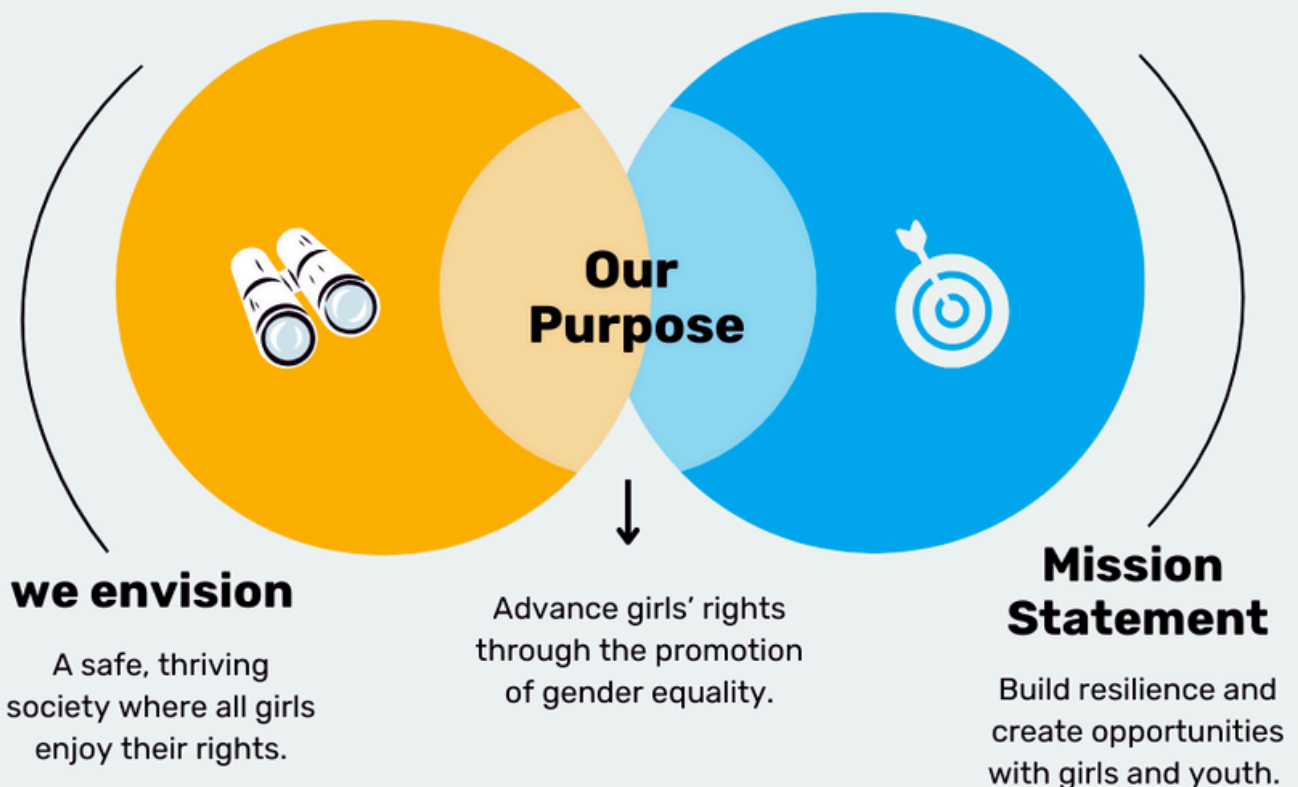
In the year 2024, we forged an exciting partnership with the Stromme Foundation in Singida Region. This partnership continues to reach communities and schools, advocating for children with disabilities to receive education just like their peers. We also emphasized climate-friendly farming practices, especially in drought-prone areas in this region.

Looking ahead, AGO remains dedicated to deepening our impact, expanding our reach in empowering girls for sustainable development. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our partners and friends for their unwavering belief in our mission.

Agripina John
Amani Girls Organization (AGO)

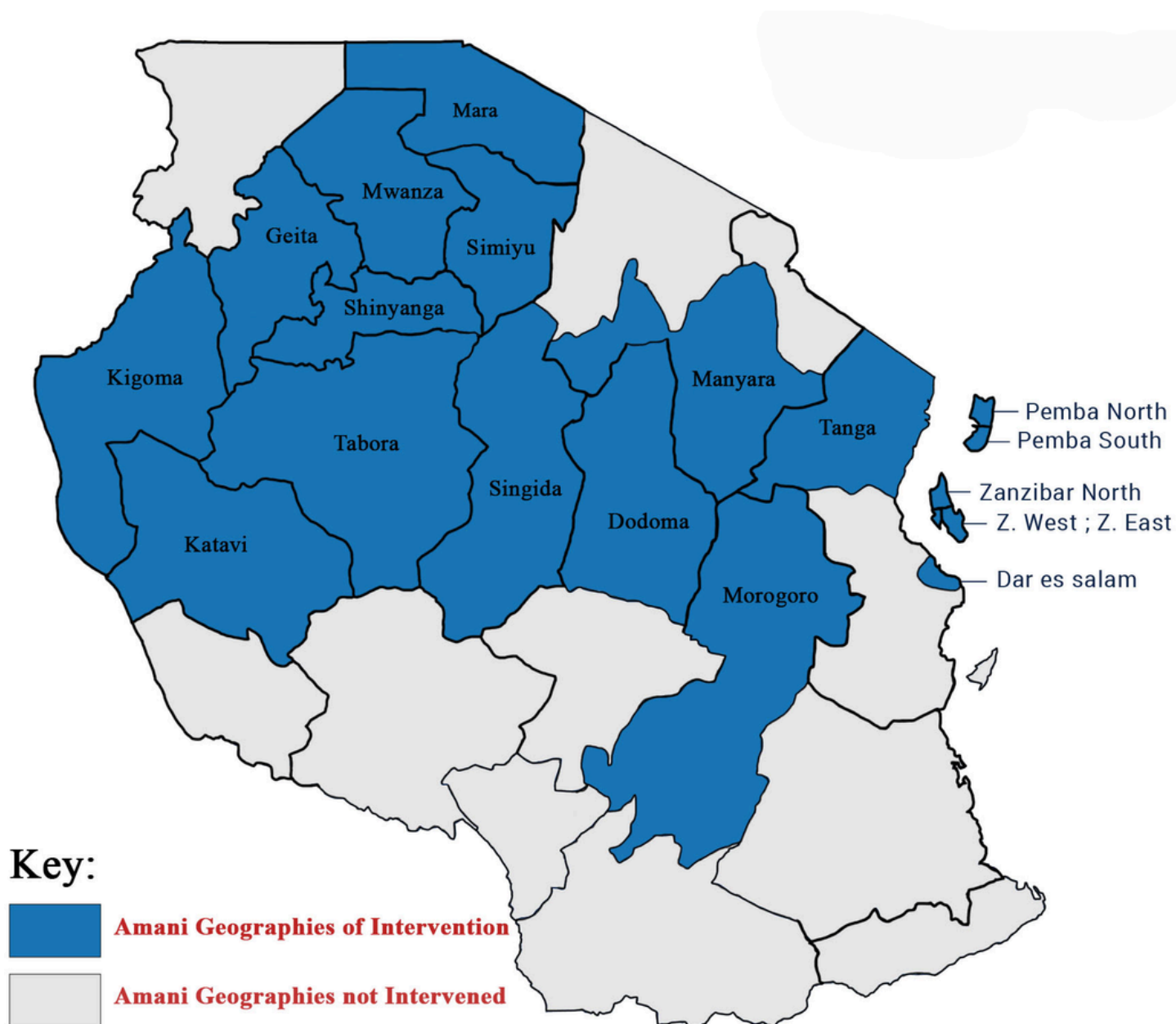
WHO WE ARE

AGO is an organization programming for and with girls, working toward gender equality, specifically empowering girls for sustainable development. AGO began as a project in 2004 to support girls living and working in the streets of Mwanza Region, Tanzania. Initially, Amani Girls was registered as Amani Girls Home, serving as a center for caring for girls in challenging environments. Over time, the organization underwent a significant transformation to align more closely with the evolving needs of its beneficiaries (girls as the centre of the programming). By 2022/2023, the organization rebranded as Amani Girls Organization, reinforcing its commitment to empowering girls and promoting gender equality. However, our work engages broader stakeholders, particularly boys and men, to create more equitable and favorable conditions for all.



WHERE WE WORK

Amani Girls Organization is currently working in 13 regions (Mwanza, Shinyanga, Geita, Simiyu, Mara, Dodoma, Katavi, Morogoro, Tanga, Manyara, Singida, Tabora, Kigoma) in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar (Unguja and Pemba).



OUR IMPACT

EDUCATION PROGRAM



5,882

Children supported to access quality ECD services

18,788

Parents/Care-givers
Received awareness on ECD

15

Young mothers re-enrolled
into formal education

29

Adolescent Girls & Young mothers
supported to establish small
businesses to improve their lives

3000+

Adolescent and Youth
trained in life skills

HEALTH PROGRAM

670

Healthcare workers trained on provision
Adolescent friendly health services

393,592

Adolescent and youth received
comprehensive ASRH education

26,460

Adolescent and youth
accessed ASRH services



OUR IMPACT

SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAM



359,635

Community members reached through radio sessions and public events

1,300+

Adults and youth joined saving groups for financial growth

12,000+

Farmers supported to engage in smart climate agriculture.

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

6,487

People actively engaged through AGO social media platforms

354

Emails received which has strengthened stakeholder engagement on partners and program collaborations with network like TENMET, TECDEN

10

AGO was featured in 10 Media platforms (BBC Media Action, Star TV, Jembe FM, Metro FM, Standard FM)



AGO'S PROGRAM AREAS

Social Protection Program; This aims to achieve two overarching goals: firstly, empowering girls and young women while shifting societal norms to prevent gender-based violence, promote disability inclusion, discourage transactional sex, and reduce the risks of HIV and unintended pregnancies; secondly, promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, self-employment, and decent work for out-of-school adolescent girls and young women.

The Health Program focuses on enhancing the well-being of young children from conception through adolescence, particularly adolescent girls and young women up to 25 years old, with a significant emphasis on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, facilitated through partnerships with health facilities in rural areas.

The Education Program supports community Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers, pre-primary, and primary education initiatives. Recognizing the challenges faced by children in remote settings, the overarching goal is to enhance opportunities for Early Childhood Education (ECE) among vulnerable children aged 3-8 years, thereby nurturing improved school readiness and receptiveness to learning. It then extends through primary and secondary school transitions and beyond (ages 9-24), supporting in and out-of-school children and youth school enrolment, quality and completion support as well as champion complementary life skills, health education, vocational and related training.

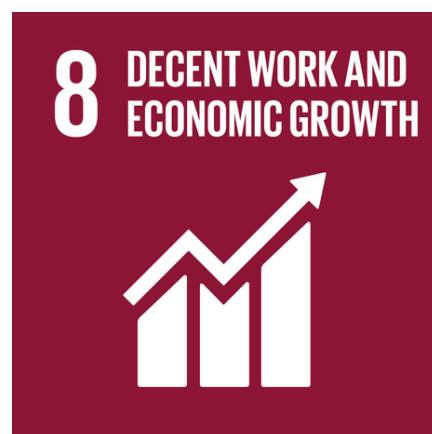
The Amani's Adaptive Strategic Plan (ASP) for 2023-2027 aims to enhance early childhood development (ECD), inclusive education, and economic opportunities, while promoting gender equality and health services.

It has set out the key priorities to be achieved during these 5 years including; integrating gender perspectives in ECD programs, supporting adolescent mothers' education, and shifting social norms against gender violence.

The strategy also focuses on increasing access to health services, particularly maternal and child health, and fostering collaboration through the SMASH Community of Practice (CoP) to optimize program delivery and outcomes.

Additionally, through its programs AGO complements into the achievement of the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's);

- Goal number 1; No Poverty
- Goal number 2; Zero Hunger
- Goal number 3; Good Health and Well-being
- Goal number 4; Quality Education
- Goal number 5; Gender Equality
- Goal number 8; Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Goal number 10; Reduced Inequalities



2024 ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

HEALTH PROGRAM

USAID AFYA YANGU, MAMA NA MTOTO PROJECT

These efforts have significantly contributed to improved knowledge and skills among HCPs thus resulting in an increased number of HCPs from 299 at the project inception, 2022 to 670 (45%) in 2024 who are competent in providing AYFHS with support from the project.

Community level adolescent and youth health services

Nevertheless, several community level ASRH interventions were conducted in collaboration with Grants Under Contract (GUC), Regional/ Council Health Management Teams (R/CHMT), and Local Government Authorities (LGAs), including quarterly school health symposia in 225 secondary schools and 41 High Learning Institutions (HLIs) across 11 regions of Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

These events reached a total of 86,584 adolescents and youth (42,314 females and 44,270 males) cumulatively, providing an avenue for trained health care professionals (HCPs) to deliver comprehensive ASRH education and inform youth about their Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) rights and access to services. 2,674 youths received family planning, 835 tested for HIV, 255 received Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines, and 424 accessed other RMNCAH services.

The project is implemented in a consortium partnership of 5 organizations i.e Benjamin Mkapa Foundation, TCDC, AGO & D-tree led by Jhpiego with focus to increasing the demand for and use of quality integrated Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) services particularly by women and youth, in 11 supported regions of Tanzania mainland i.e., Mwanza, Geita, Mara, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Dodoma, Tabora, Katavi, Manyara, Tanga, Dar es Salaam, and Zanzibar.

AGO leads the Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health (ASRH) component ensuring increased uptake of RMNCAH services by adolescents and youth at the community level, and providing Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Health Services at the Facility level.

Strengthening HCPs capacity to offer ASRH Services

During the implementation period under review, a total of 278 Health Facilities with 670 Health Care Providers (HCPs) were reached through routine supportive supervision aiming to assess the standard provision of Adolescents and Youth Friendly Services (AYFHS) as well as providing mentorship to strengthen the HCPs' capacity and improve identified gaps.

Through various commemorations, approximately 4350 young people were reached and provided with ASRH messages. Among them, 1245 were provided with Family planning methods as per their respective choices and 835 were tested for HIV, 424 received other services such as nutrition assessment, and cervical cancer screening.

The project engaged a total of 330 Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) members from 22 prioritized councils in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar to ensure their participation in program design, monitoring, and decision making. The YAC members have been involved in several project meetings to share feedback concerning ASRH interventions whereby most of them explained how the project has helped adolescents and youth gain broader knowledge concerning ASRH and equip them with decision making skills concerning their health and wellbeing.

In collaboration with the IRCH program a 3-day meeting with 15 key stakeholders from different departments in Zanzibar was conducted to discuss and review the Zanzibar ASRH guidelines for peers.

The review aimed at adding missing content on RMNCAH needs and ensuring ASRH and all other areas that are critical for adolescent health and wellbeing are captured such as nutrition, unsafe abortions, GBV and suitable solutions - Family Planning.

Throughout the year, 372 trained GMs and YHCs conducted routine ASRH sessions to provide comprehensive sexual reproductive health education and referrals for young people as identified needs. 306,978 young people were reached with education established in school and out of school clubs and groups and other various community existing platforms youth centers such as football pitches, marketplaces and bodaboda churches or religious gatherings out of these 25,945 were linked for various services; 14194 Family Planning, 808 Antenatal Care services, 827 for child immunization, 107 for Labor and Delivery, 10,009 were referred for other services. 22,272 (86%) successfully accessed services.



**Youth led symposium in school
and out of school**

EDUCATION PROGRAM

IECD PROGRAMMING

AGO's ECD programming focuses on raising awareness about the importance of health, nutrition, responsive caregiving, early learning, and safety and security within communities. These efforts engage parents, caregivers, and frontline ECD workers to actively support the provision of nurturing care services for children aged 0-8 years.

Accessibility of inclusive ECCE among 3-8 children

The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) initiative supported 4,085 children (2,068 girls and 2,017 boys) aged 3-8 years in accessing quality and inclusive education across 21 Community ECD Centers, 21 Pre-primary schools, and 2 primary schools in Mwanza, Simiyu, and Singida regions. This included 36 children with disabilities, with efforts made to address attendance challenges.

On the other hand, 18 teachers received specialized training on curriculum implementation, gender inclusivity, and early childhood education strategies, enhancing their ability to deliver quality learning experiences.

By the end of the academic year, 2418 out of 3232 preschoolers were qualified to join primary school (standard 1) in 2025.

In partnership with school management committees, AGO renovated 3 classrooms and provided 6 swings at Lusesse Pre-primary, Kikio, and Mnane primary schools, as well as inclusive gaming materials and 20 desks. Moreover, 16 latrines with changing rooms and 2 incinerators were constructed for menstrual hygiene management at Kikio and Mnane schools; 139 community stakeholders were engaged in the process. AGO also trained school committees, pupil councils, and child rights clubs on governance, gender equality, child rights, anti-corruption, and inclusive education to support ECCE programs at Kikio and Mnane schools. Following the sensitization on the importance of investing in ECCE, 20 out of 44 schools successfully implemented a feeding program.

Community awareness on ECD services among parents and caregivers.

During the implementation period of 2024, Community Animators (CAs) and health service providers from Katunguru, Ngoma and Nyamatongo wards in Sengerema DC-Mwanza collaboratively provided quality and inclusive ECD services to a total of 2167 under five children within 2 community ECD centers, 7 pre -primary schools, 8 health facilities, 7 Community Child wellbeing events and 360 households visitations.

These services included early stimulation, opportunities for early learning, assessment of nutrition and health status, immunization, deworming, vitamin and mineral supplementation. 7 children diagnosed with moderate malnutrition were kept under close monitoring, of which 6 children improved while 1 was still under monitoring and intervention. Additionally, AGO collaborated with Pasiansi Health Centre, Bugando Referral, and Chacha Memorial Hospitals to carry out a surgery to a 3 years-5 months child who was identified with a cleft lip (a common birth defect that results when facial structures that are developing in an unborn baby do not close completely).

A total of 18,788 community members across Mwanza, Simiyu, Singida, and Dodoma regions were engaged in Early Childhood Development (ECD) sessions to raise awareness on best practices for child development and provision of necessary care, support, and services for their children as well as promoting gender integration to shift gender norms affecting ECD intervention.

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Various platforms ranging from local to national and international commemorations such as parenting groups, Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) clinics, Day of the African Child, International Day of the Girl Child) were utilized to engage parents and caregivers. Significant changes reported post-engagement included increased early attendance of pregnant mothers at RCH clinics, decreased malnutrition cases among children, establishment of 12 vegetable gardens using BIA techniques in Sengerema DC.

Operationalization of the ECD Parenting and Caregiver Hub

The pioneering Parenting Hub in Dodoma has become a vibrant Resource Center, fully equipped with ECD teaching and learning materials aligned with the five components of the global NCF; Good health of the child and caregiver; Adequate nutrition since pregnancy; Responsive caregiving; Opportunities for early learning; and the Security and Safety of children.

The Hub successfully delivered in-person and on-site trainings on complimentary ECD programming to 236 parents and caregivers (99 men, 137 women) in Dodoma and 107 ECD Frontline Workers (29 ECE teachers, 20 RCH workers, 17 CAs, 14 Maisha Mema Mentors, 16 decision-makers in two school management committees, 5 religious leaders and 4 community leaders) in Singida, Simiyu and Mwanza region.



ECD services (mid-upper arm circumference and vitamin) provided to children under 5 years



ECD Parenting Hub in Dodoma

GIRLS' EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT

In our efforts to empower girls, particularly young mothers and out-of-school adolescent girls, we witnessed significant progress in 2024. AGO played a great role in facilitating the re-enrollment of adolescent girls and young mothers in formal education (primary and secondary) through collaboration with government and other non-government stakeholders. Moreover, we facilitated life and livelihood skills building and economic opportunities to out-of-school adolescent girls and young mothers.

Adolescent Girls and Young Mothers School Re-enrolment; AGO established an Advisory and Implementation Group (AIG) in Chamwino DC, Dodoma to

support in-school adolescent mothers and out-of-school girls by co-designing sustainable strategies with local government, civil society, community leaders, and the adolescent mothers themselves.

The AIG implemented a community campaign that led to the re-enrolment of 15 adolescent mothers in Chamwino Secondary School, a significant increase compared to the 3 who had enrolled prior. However, 7 dropped out again due to challenging circumstances particularly, absence of a nearby hostel, food and scholastic materials. Despite this, 4 girls successfully completed their Form IV exams in 2024.

On the other hand, 4 girls in Mwanza were re-enrolled in primary education and 2 girls supported with essential materials for their high school. Collaboration with Education Coordinators and Social Welfare Officers in 5 schools in Mwanza and Dodoma addressed stigma and discrimination against adolescent mothers, with ongoing activities to combat gender and social norms that hinder their potential.

Support for Young Mothers and Out-of-School Girls

To empower vulnerable out-of-school girls and young mothers in Dodoma and Mwanza with essential skills, AGO engaged 146 out-of-school girls (79 young mothers, 67 adolescent girls) from the mentioned regions who were capacitated with life skills and livelihood programming. In Sengerema DC - Mwanza, 61 girls submitted goal maps for various skills, and 29 were already self-employed. 7 groups started community-based businesses such as soap making, vegetable gardening, catering, and savings groups. In Dodoma, 114 out-of-school adolescent girls and young mothers were registered to participate in AGO girls-centred life skills and livelihoods programming. However, only 75 remained active by year's end. The established girls' groups created a local Girl's Resource Network to support other girls and young women in their communities. Despite some girls dropping out due to challenging circumstances, the program continues to foster skills and support for vulnerable girls. Additionally, AGO is seeking to collaborate with UNICEF and locally available stakeholders to provide essential tools such as sewing machines and cooking stoves that will support their livelihood activities.

GOAL SETTING WORKSHEET
JULIA DEO CHEMEKEO

GOAL - LINGO KUU
Lengo langu ni kuwa fundi wa kushona mifindo mbali mbali ya ng'uo. Baada ya miaka miwili ijayo.

MOTIVATION
Katika jamii yangu nimezea kuwa kijana mwanzangu ambaye ni Betta Jastini, anajishughulisha na utunzi, chachehoni alweza nisaia kutika.

Tarehe ya kuwaka lengo: 12/05/2024
DUE DATE: 17/06/2026

GOAL PROGRESS: 0% **55%** 100%

ACTION STEPS
Hata ndogondogo za kutika lengo kuu
i) Nimeshaanza kujifunza kushona ng'uo kwa kutua hii ninaona ninaweza kutika lengo langu
ii) Nimeanza kuwa kushona ng'uo za watoto ili kuniingiza pesa za mahitaji madogo madogo
iii) Nimechukua vifambao vyenye bei nakuwa koojifi ya ujifunzaji

POSSIBLE OBSTACLES
Vikomo cha kutimiza lengo
i) Walele kupungu
ii) Kukasa vifaa vya kutangia kazi
iii) Kukasa wafu wanao awaza kumishika mkono ili kutika lengo

HOW TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES
i) Kutenga muda kila ninao pata nafasi ili kuwaza kupata ujuzi zaidi kutika kazi mawundi waingine

GOAL SETTING WORKSHEET
HAPPINESS BUGOTA KATUKU

GOAL - LINGO KUU
Lengo kuu ni kuwa mfunzi wa mashuhuri wa mazao emahadi, mpunga, mharage n.k. ndani ya miaka miwili ijayo.

MOTIVATION
Nimezea kuwa mtu kwenye jamii yangu ambaye ni Paulina Mathias anajishughulisha na kutangia kushona hii ya mazao na alweza nisaia kutika lengo.

Tarehe ya kuwaka lengo: 12/05/2024
DUE DATE: 17/06/2026

GOAL PROGRESS: 0% **85%** 100%

ACTION STEPS
Hata ndogondogo za kutika lengo kuu
i) Nimeanza kushona mazao kama vile kutambua sakuni ya unga ili kutika lengo
ii) Nimeanza kushona ya mabaga za majani pamoja na mahindi ili kujipa uzoefu katika kulima mazao bera ili kutika mazao yangu pamoja na kupata mahitaji yangu
iii) Kujipa kuwaza kukundi cha ukumbao ili kupata ujuzi zaidi juu ya mazao ikiwa na kupata uelawa ili kutika lengo

POSSIBLE OBSTACLES
Choromoko, ninaoza kukumbao ras
i) Kutekeshwa tamad
ii) Kukasa wafu wanao awaza kumishika ili kupata ujuzi zaidi juu ya mazao ikiwa na kupata uelawa ili kutika lengo
iii) Kukasa wafu wanao awaza kumishika ili kupata ujuzi zaidi juu ya mazao ikiwa na kupata uelawa ili kutika lengo

HOW TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES
Nimeanza kutekeshwa tamad
i) Kutekeshwa tamad
ii) Kujijamini katika kila ninao awaza kumishika ili kupata ujuzi zaidi juu ya mazao ikiwa na kupata uelawa ili kutika lengo
iii) Kukasa kumishika ili kupata ujuzi zaidi juu ya mazao ikiwa na kupata uelawa ili kutika lengo

SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAM

POWER UP PROJECT

This project focuses on empowering girls and young women in the Mwanza region by addressing gender-based violence (GBV), HIV prevention and unintended pregnancies among girls and young women while promoting economic growth and decent work for out-of-school girls by shifting social and cultural norms.

In 2024, AGO collaborated with various stakeholders and conducted awareness campaigns during International Women's Day, life skills training, and menstrual health education. Over 3,500 participants were reached, and 40 out-of-school girls were engaged in weekly safe space programming to help them build their confidence and self-esteem and participated in Menstrual Hygiene Day events. AGO also supported 35 members of the Mwanza Queens Football Club with menstrual health education and donated sanitary pads. Additionally, AGO organized radio talk sessions to spread awareness on safe menstrual hygiene and women and girl's empowerment.

The project strengthened networking and collaboration through the Smash Community of Practice (Smash CoP), a network of organizations working to improve girls' programs. AGO updated 30 existing profiles and added 20 new Smash CoP members leading to the increased engagement among the network of like-minded actors.

Key achieved milestones included designing a three-year strategic plan (2025–2027) with input from 7 member organizations, facilitating directors' meeting with 25 leaders to review membership applications, approve a visibility plan, and encourage active participation in strategic planning efforts. Smash CoP has built a strong support system resulting in more engaged and effective efforts to empower adolescent girls and achieve sustainable positive change.

LINEA PROJECT

The LINEA intervention is a pilot implemented by AGO in partnership with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR). aims to prevent Age-Disparate Transactional Sex (ADTS) in Tanzania by challenging the social norms that have been proven to influence adolescent girls' and men's participation in transactional sex that put adolescent girls at risk of HIV, STIs, unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortions, sexual coercion and gender-based violence.

The intervention uses a multicomponent approach including a radio drama called "Msichana wa Kati" (that means A girl in the middle) targeting the entire community and curricula tailored for adult men and adolescent girls.

The intervention engaged the community through the radio drama, school programs for adolescent girls (5 schools in Illemela and 5 schools in Misungwi districts), and community meetings with adult men discussing the tailored curriculum for them. Over nine months, 39 episodes of the Msichana wa Kati radio drama was aired on local radio stations in Mwanza region (Jembe and Metro FM), reaching over 354,335 listeners. The drama raised inspiring discussions on gender, healthy relationships and supporting girls' development, and 633 reflection feedback were received from listeners. Facilitators led sessions with in-school adolescent girls and bodaboda riders, encouraging them to reflect on social and gender related issues and embrace positive changes. Positive changes were witnessed as participants shared how the curriculum transformed their way of thinking and living. The training of the LINEA curriculum reached 206 in-school adolescent girls and 158 bodaboda riders.

"We need to think outside the gender box and be able to reach the peak of the Mountain Kilimanjaro, that's my Goal. Also, the goal begins with me, we need to take action" shared by an adolescent girl from the LINEA girls curriculum.

"I abused my wife by chasing her away from my home and she had a child aged 9 months, but after these sessions I came to realise that I used my power negatively by abusing her and a child. But now I confirm that they are back at home and she has forgiven me. And I told her about these sessions that you provide". Participant from Men's curriculum.

Community sensitization efforts in Misungwi and Illemela districts, Mwanza region included public announcements, distribution of branded t-shirts and 40 radios to bodaboda spots to create awareness and ensure access to the broadcasts of the drama. AGO created a circle of influence by training 9 radio presenters to effectively deliver the key messages of the radio drama and amplifying positive norms through the radio drama. During the broadcasting of the radio drama, AGO staff participated occasionally to share some positive feedback/reflections from listeners and amplify the positive changes that we envision to see in the community.

WHAT OUR LISTENERS SHARED



The drama of Msichna wa Kati has impressed me a lot. We should provide our children with sexuality education and give them time to study. Also, when we notice differences in our daughters, let's take them for testing as quickly as possible

Honestly, the drama teaches society a lot. Additionally, the girls in the middle should avoid the habit of teachers asking them to help with their household chores as this can also lead to temptations for them. Also, tuitions are good for children. Parents should also listen to their children's thoughts

Parents should see the importance of monitoring the teachers, remembering that they haven't just entrusted the teacher with teaching their child. I completely see the situation with Nyota repeating itself with Amali if the parent aren't careful.

AGO entered into partnership with the government through the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups (MoCDGWSG), the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MoEST), and President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG) and signed an MoU to facilitate the scale-up of this intervention and ensure sustainability address age-disparate transactional sex (ADTS) specifically in NPAVAWC 2024/2025 – 2028/2029. To further accelerate the implementation of the scale-up plan, AGO engaged Spring Impact as consultants who supported the development of a feasible scale-up strategy for this project and a clear roadmap to achieve it. The project aims to reach 345,000 adolescent girls and significantly reduce teenage pregnancies by 7% and participation in ADTS by 45%. The strategy outlined three key pathways for scaling: sharing the radio drama widely, integrating the girls' curriculum into secondary schools, and training other organizations interested to implement the men's curriculum.



School program for adolescent girls



Radio interview on Msichana wa Kati radio drama (L) and boda boda riders (R)

HAPANA MAREFU YASIO NA MWISHO PROJECT

This project was implemented by a consortium of three organizations; The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania - East of Lake Victoria Diocese (ELCT-ELVD), Amani Girls Organization and C-Sema. It addresses harmful norms and values affecting gender equality, focusing on preventing early marriages.

Key achievements under this project include the training of 30 interfaith leaders (20 male and 10 female) from Mwanza, Tabora, Dodoma, Morogoro and 5 regions from Zanzibar. The training resulted into increased knowledge and awareness on the harmful social norms, child rights and child marriage prevention, and the creation of a network to prevent child marriage across those regions. On top of that, the project trained 14 personnel (6 female and 8 male) from 7 Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) namely; Nyakato Lutheran Bible college, Morogoro Muslim University, Zanzibar Muslim College, Kidugala college, Iringa University, Mweka college and Makumira University on the inclusive gender-transformative techniques to help prevent child marriages.

The project also raised awareness on child marriage through various campaigns including a children's camp in Kilosa district that reached 1,399 children (1078 girls and 321 boys), and participation in the 16 Days of Activism events in Mwanza, Dodoma, and Tabora, engaging over 150 community members.

In Zanzibar, a panel discussion was organized to address the negative impacts of child marriage and gender inequalities that engaged 320 adolescents (250 girls and 50 boys), and 20 adult stakeholders (government school teachers, representatives from the ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Ministry of Community Development Gender, Women and Special Groups, entrepreneurs, and SASA Mwisho ToT's).

A training manual to engage interfaith leaders in ending child marriage was developed, consisting seven modules focusing on gender, legal child rights, parenting and child marriage prevention. The manual was then tested by 6 lecturers from the religious universities onto the faith-based leaders and some adaptations were made to fit in the context. For the high-level oversight and strategic direction of the project, the steering committee meeting was held in Mwanza and attended by government officials and faith leaders. They reviewed the project progress to ensure it aligns with broader organizational goals and provided guidance for more improvements.



Children's camp in Kilosa district (L) and Interfaith leaders training (far right).

BELIEF PROJECT

The BELIEF Project is implemented by Amani Girls Organization (AGO) in partnership with Stromme Foundation Tanzania. This project aims to work jointly implementing Stromme Foundation current strategic plan (2024-2030) and AGO 2023-2027 Adaptive Strategic Plan. Under two Thematic Goals (TGs), which are; TG1. Inclusive Education (which targets intervention in; Early Childhood Care Education-ECCE and Adolescent Empowerment Program-AEP/ BONGA) and TG2. Job Creation and Income generation (which targets intervention in; Community Managed Savings Groups-CMSG and Community Vocational Education and Training-CVET). The Project is implementing three interventions namely; Bonga, Community Managed Savings Groups (CMSG) and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE).

BONGA INTERVENTION

BONGA meaning 'Let's Talk' is an intervention implemented under the BELIEF project. It is dedicated to empowering adolescents and young people (ages 9-19) both in and out of school by restoring their self-esteem, dignity and confidence, enabling them to lead dignified lives and contribute to their homes and communities. Through this intervention, adolescents and young people are equipped with essential skills, education, and livelihood opportunities to ensure they lead fulfilling and independent lives.

In 2024, the project recruited 8 Bonga Animators from 3 wards (Kikio, Misughaa & Ighombwe) of Ikungi district, Singida region. These animators were trained to lead sessions on life skills and livelihoods for Adolescents in the Bonga centers and reach them in the community.

AGO identified 76 out of school adolescents (39 females and 37 males) and established 3 Bonga community learning centers, engaging community members, parents and local leaders to support the intervention. Besides, 4 in-school Bonga clubs with 88 adolescents (64 girls and 24 boys) were established in Kikio and Mnane primary schools and were capacitated with skills to make reusable menstrual sanitary pads with local available materials to promote safe menstrual hygiene and ensure sustainability.

AGO invested into skills building for both adolescents and teachers. The inter-school debates were conducted to enhance critical thinking, communication and public speaking skills to in-school adolescents involving 568 pupils in Ikungi District. Additionally, the Ward Extension Officers (WEO) capacitated 285 pupils in Kikio and Mnane primary schools and practically established the kitchen gardens, teaching the pupils on nutrition and promoting healthy eating habits. 10 teachers were also trained on gender-responsive pedagogy so as to reduce inequalities in the schools.

ELCAP (ENHANCED LIVELIHOOD THROUGH COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE PROMOTION)

We started our journey in implementing ELCAP toward the end of 2024. In partnership with Stromme Foundation lead partners, other consortium partners: Norges Geotekniske Institutt (NGI), Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), Engineers Without Borders (EWB), Returkraft (energy Recovery Plant) and Amani Girls Organization Implementation lead.

The project is reaching 12,000+ farmers in 3 districts of the Singida region (Ilamba, Ikungi, and Manyoni). This project seeks to establish sustainable economic partnerships between producers and private enterprises, facilitating the supply of quality inputs, as well as advancements in processing, packaging, and marketing techniques. The initiative focuses on developing the entrepreneurial capabilities of farmers to enhance their productivity, ensure quality assurance, and improve their bargaining power.

Furthermore, the project aims to strengthen the capacity of farmers, processors, and other value chain stakeholders in value addition and marketing. It also endeavors to increase the availability, accessibility, and utilization of inclusive sustainable financial products and services that are adapted to the needs of smallholder producers and processors. Ultimately, the goal is to achieve improved nutritional outcomes for households of smallholder farmers.



The team of farmers in Manyoni District showcasing their maize farms

Inter-school debates:

Debate 1: Some traditions and customs are a barrier to our development

Debate 2: Globalization is a cause of moral decay.

Compare to debate 1, in the second debate girls and boys increased in confidence and they were able to articulate points, speak loudly and took control of the debate including moderating, note taking and time keeping

Points during the debates, on Globalization is a Cause of Moral Decay,"the opposing side argued that globalization has led to the destruction of local languages, increased access to adult content, and made people lazy due to reliance on machines" and "the proposers argued that globalization has created employment opportunities and significantly improved the business world, allowing people to transact online."

16 Days of Activism

"I appreciate Amani Girls for having this campaign in this community, our girls now understand the importance of education and this shades a light to boys as well to see girls as deserving equal rights like them," - a parent at Ikungi District

A number of awareness campaigns were conducted through public events like the International Day of the Girl Child and 16 Days of Activism and community meetings, engaging over 1800 pupils and community members. The campaigns advocating on girls' rights and gender equality went hand in hand with planting of 50 fruit seedlings in Mnane primary school emphasizing on environmental conservation. Engagement of various stakeholders into the BONGA intervention has been key so as to ensure its sustainability. Monthly meetings with adolescents' parents, Local Government Authorities, and community members have been conducted, making these stakeholders as a steering wheel to support this intervention.



*Inter-school debates in Ikungi District between Kikio and Mnane primary schools (L)
and
16 Days of Activism commemoration (R)*



COMMUNITY MANAGED SAVINGS GROUP INTERVENTION

The CMSG intervention aims to improve livelihoods by promoting joint savings, financial literacy, green jobs and linkage to access financial services for youth and their families. The intervention operates across 12 wards in 3 district councils (Ikungi, Iramba and Manyoni) in Singida region. It empowers communities to work together, save money, engage into Income Generating Activities (IGAs) and grow their income sustainably.

Together with the Local authorities and our implementing partner Stromme Foundation Tanzania, AGO recruited 12 Community Based Facilitators (CBFs) and trained them on the CMSG methodology. The facilitators played a great role in mobilizing the community, establishment and running of the local savings groups and ensuring members understand and apply effective savings and loans management practices.

The intervention's impact is evident, as 61 CMSGs were established engaging 1,303 active members (1022 females and 281 males). The CMSG intervention has made a positive impact on the livelihoods of youth and their families, contributing to their economic improvement and resilience in the community. Despite the efforts to bridge gender gaps and promote gender equality, some women refused to participate in mixed-gender CMSG groups due to some relative gender norms in those communities.

In order to ensure they are not left out in access to financial resources and economic opportunities, AGO adopted the formation of 10 women-only CMSG groups while continuing with gender awareness efforts to promote gender equality.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND GENDER NORMS TRANSFORMATION WITH VYA'S PROJECT

This project aims to prevent Violence Against Children (VAC) and address harmful gender norms, focusing on very young adolescents (VYAs) aged 9-14. It targets the developmental vulnerabilities of these children, who are often subjected to various forms of violence such as corporal punishment, sexual abuse, and economic exploitation. At the same time, it aims to empower VYAs to challenge and change gender norms that perpetuate inequality and violence. The project is being implemented in 8 primary schools of Bupamwa and Kikubiji wards at Kwimba District in Mwanza region.

As a partner to Wellspring Philanthropy who prioritizes evidence-based projects, they engaged Impact and Innovations Development Centre (IIDC) to provide technical support to its partners on how to implement evidence-based models in the projects. IIDC capacitated 10 AGO staff on results-based project design and social norms exploration so as to be able to implement evidence-based programs.

A mixed-method needs assessment conducted in three wards of Kwimba district (Kikubiji, Bupamwa, and Mhande) in Mwanza region involved 268 children and 71 adults, revealing that gender norms significantly impact educational attainment and social mobility during puberty among Very Young Adolescents (VYAs); with 93% of parents supporting equal educational opportunities, 58% still believing girls are more likely to drop out, and 76% highlighting a lack of puberty knowledge, suggesting a need for transformative programs to challenge societal norms and promote gender-equitable practices; findings were shared and strategies co-created with the community.

Additionally, AGO's social norms exploration in two wards of Kwimba district (Bupamwa and Kikubiji) through 14 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with 150 participants, revealed that harmful social and gender norms contributed to issues like child marriage, sexual violence, and physical punishment, with many parents believing in beating children for discipline and viewing girls at puberty as more valuable due to high dowries. This highlights the need for better education on sexuality, positive discipline methods, and community awareness to change these negative norms and create safer environments for young people.

Some of the quotes captured from FGDs on social norms diagnosis in Kwimba district.

Fathers often find it difficult to discuss sexual education with their daughters. In this society, it is very challenging because they feel it is inappropriate or offensive, as they aim to maintain respect between father and child." A teacher from Bupamwa shared on why parents don't talk about sexuality matters with their children especially daughters.

"If a girl grows up too much, she develops bad behavior and might get pregnant, making it difficult for her to get married later." An elder woman from Kikubiji shared on why they marry off their children early.

"The cane has become a preferred method because it is seen as a tradition that when a child makes a mistake, they are beaten. This causes the child pain, which leaves a scar—every time they see it, they remember the punishment. As a result, they develop fear of repeating the same mistake." An elder from Kikubiji shared his opinion on Corporal punishment.

"Based on her actions, such as wandering around different villages, and since she has already started her menstruation, she experiences various emotions that might lead her to engage in underage sexual activities. So, it's better for her to get married to avoid bringing shame." Shared a girl from Bupamwa on why parents marries off early their daughters.

These studies informed AGO on the appropriate models that can be used to address the identified challenges affecting VYA's in Kwimba district. Such models are; Good School Toolkit (GST) Agile adapted from Raising Voices Uganda for creating a positive learning environment in schools by targeting children, teachers, school management, and parents in specific communities within Kwimba District. REAL Fathers model for creating groups of "Gender Champions" among fathers to engage them in preventing violence against children (VAC) and promoting positive disciplining practices. The Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) adapted from the Government of Tanzania, it involves working with health workers and facilities to run awareness campaigns and provide support services on sexuality and puberty education for very young adolescents, along with their parents and teachers.

Communications and Social Media Engagement

In 2024, AGO expanded its social media presence, increasing Instagram followers from 836 to 1,184 and X (Twitter) users from zero to 84. The AGO website attracted 2,366 visitors and 4,491 views, while articles on JamiiForums reached 462 readers. Despite LinkedIn being hacked, the YouTube channel gained 25 subscribers and 266 impressions.

Media outreach was strong, with AGO being featured on 10 platforms, including BBC Media Action, Jembe FM and Star TV, helping to educate young people on sexual and reproductive health, gender equality, and AGO overall programs.

Nevertheless, AGO also strengthened stakeholder engagement, handling 354 emails on partnerships, job inquiries, and program collaborations. The organization participated in key policy discussions, attended 9 government meetings, and connected with over 520 stakeholders. AGO collaborated with TENMET and TECDEN to highlight its role in education and parenting programs, including presenting research on adolescent mothers at a regional conference. Strategic communication training with Well-Made Strategy further refined AGO's outreach, ensuring its impact stories reached the targeted audiences effectively.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- Male engagement especially on parenting initiatives is more effective when men are put at the center from the design to implementation of program activities. When men are key players in the interventions targeting them, they are more likely to support program goals and contribute positively.

- Vulnerable girls, especially young mothers and the out of school adolescents need fast actions and regular support. This can be achieved through programs that respond to their immediate needs, listen to their voices and adapt quickly such as financial literacy and safe livelihood opportunities. Also, engaging their families and community members creates a supportive environment for them to succeed. When girls experience quick returns, they are encouraged to stay involved for longer periods.
- Working closely with local government authorities (LGAs), community leaders, and program beneficiaries helps align efforts with government plans, ensures local ownership, and increases program sustainability. Such efforts require relationship and trust building, flexibility, and patience - as well as intensive AGO stewardship to keep activities moving forward.

Success Stories/ Stories of Change

Nuruh's Journey: Overcoming Challenges with Boldness

Nuruh, a determined young woman in Form IV, participated in the AGO assessment in Chamwino. Despite the obstacles of being a teenage mother, Nuruh has been actively pursuing her education since the GoT policy change. Initially, it was tough for Nuruh to continue her studies while caring for her two-months-old child. However, when she connected with AGO in 2023, they helped facilitate a solution by working with her mother, who agreed to assist Nuruh with childcare. This support allowed Nuruh to finish Form IV and progress to Form V. AGO also provided her with uniforms and essential hygiene supplies, ensuring she could begin Form V at a government school that offers free education.

In 2024, AGO continued to support Nuruh with basic needs and pocket money, all of which helped her focus on her studies. During school holidays, Nuruh stays at the AGO hostel, which provides electricity and a conducive environment for studying. She visits her mother and child during breaks, balancing her education with family life.

Nuruh is a hardworking and successful student. And with the ongoing support to meet her basic needs, she is well on her way to achieving her educational and life goals.

A Safe Haven for Dreams

In 2022, a young girl from Kigoma faced a life-altering challenge. After sitting for her Mock exams, a practice test before the form four national exams, she discovered she was pregnant. The news led to her dismissal from school, and she returned home. Soon after, she suffered a miscarriage, “I lost both, the baby and my education,” said Dorcas.

Life at home in Kigoma was difficult, but hope arrived in an unexpected form. Her aunt stepped in and brought her to Dodoma, where her uncle, a local education coordinator, asked if she still wanted to continue her studies, which in her mind it was the best choice. “Finally, someone can see me,” said Dorcas. With the support of her aunt, she seized the opportunity to rebuild her life and leave behind the struggles of Kigoma. Through the support of Amani Girls Organization, she was provided with a hostel and meals, ensuring she could focus entirely on her education. With this newfound stability, she focused her energy into her studies and recently completed her Form IV exams.

Now, with her eyes set on the future, she dreams of becoming a teacher. Her goal is not just to educate but to inspire students to persevere, regardless of life’s challenges. “Even if a girl faces pregnancy, it is not the end of her life, she can still continue her education and achieve her dreams,” she said.

Her next plan is to pursue college, earning a certificate and eventually a degree. Through her story, she hopes to encourage others to fight for their education, no matter the obstacles. With resilience and support, she has turned her challenges into stepping stones toward a brighter future.

From Setback to Success: Asha’s Journey of Resilience

In the quiet village of Kibaya, within the sprawling plains of Kiteto District, a young girl named Asha Gitani Benard once sat in her school uniform, full of dreams and ambition. As a member of Bravo Girls club at Kibaya Secondary School, she had learned to stand tall—resisting violence, embracing self-awareness, and understanding the delicate balance of reproductive health. But even as she held her head high, life threw her a challenge she never saw coming.

It was 2021, and Asha was in her third year of secondary school when her world shifted. The whispers of missed periods soon became the undeniable reality—she was pregnant. With limited knowledge about reproductive health, she had found herself navigating a path that would test her strength in ways she had never imagined. Forced to leave school, her dreams of becoming a lawyer seemed to crumble before her eyes as she prepared to face the challenges of motherhood at such a young age.

After rejoining school, Asha also became an active member of the reproductive health girls' club. This gave her inner strength to face not only the stigma that comes with teenage motherhood but also the challenges related to reproductive health. Through her engagement in the club, she built resilience, and it no longer felt like a mistake to revisit her past and use her experience to help other girls. The knowledge she gained, especially through the Power to Girls curriculum implemented by Amani Girls, empowered her to speak up, support her peers, and share lessons on overcoming adversity.

Now, as she prepares for her final exams in Form Four, Asha's story is far from over. Every page of her life carries the promise of resilience, the echo of a dream that refuses to die, and the vision of a future where she will use her voice to defend the rights of girls everywhere. Her journey, from a painful setback to a soaring success, is a testament to the strength that lies within every young woman determined to rise above adversity.



*Asha, when she met AGO's Communications Officer
for an interview*

OUR PARTNERS

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



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