



**Amani Girls Home**  
Empowering Girls 4 Sustainable Development

# AGH 2021 NARRATIVE REPORT

Empowering Adolescent Girls 4 Sustainable Development

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## ACRONYMS.

ADTS – Age Disparate Transactional Sex  
AGH - Amani Girls Home  
AIDS - Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome  
BMF – Benjamin Mkapa Foundation  
BWF - Better Way Foundation  
C3HP- Comprehensive Client Centered Health Program  
CAs – Community Activists  
CBOs – Community Based Organizations  
CHMT – Council Health Management Team  
D-Tree – D-Tree International  
ECD – Early Childhood Development  
FYDP III – Financial Year Development Plan III  
GMs – Girls Mentors  
HIV/AIDS – Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome  
KIWOHEDE – Kiota Women Health Development Organization  
LGA – Local Government Authority  
LINEA – Learning Initiative on Norms Exploitation and Abuse  
LSHTM – London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine  
MES – Mapema Education Scheme  
NAAIA-AHW – National Accelerated Action and Investment Agenda for Adolescent Health and Wellbeing  
NGOs – Non-Governmental Organization  
NM-ECDP - National Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Program  
Novo - Novo Foundation  
OVCs – Orphans and Vulnerable Children  
PtG – Power to Girls  
RHMT – Regional Health management Team  
RMNCAH – Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child and Adolescent Health  
SASA! – Start, Awareness, Support and Action  
Smash – Smash Adolescent Girls Community of Practice  
TCDC – Tanzania Communications and Development Center  
TCRA – Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority  
TCRS – Tanganyika Christian Refugees Services  
TECDEN – Tanzania Early Childhood Development Network  
TMG – The Manoff Group  
UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund  
USAID – United State Agency for International Development  
VAWG – Violence Against Women and Girls  
WDC – Ward Development Committee



## INTRODUCTION.

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 North Western 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 resilient socio-economic environments enabling development of children and young adults. It uses a lifecycle and ecological model approaches to support the implementation of national poverty reduction strategies in Tanzania.

In accomplishing its goal, 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 aged 3-8 years that leads to improve children's school readiness, receptiveness 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 girl 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.

Highlighted here under are activities implemented during the year 2021 as per three interconnected AGH programs;

### Education Program;

As a result of Mapema Education scheme (MES) project, 2435 under 6 years children accessed Inclusive Early Childhood Education in 21 pre-primary schools including 4 community ECD centers in Sengerema, Ilemela and Nyamagana districts of Mwanza region as per 2021 enrollment. Table 1: Indicates accessibility.

S/N	DISTRICT	# Pre-primary Schools	Boys	Girls	Total
1	NYAMAGANA	6	187	214	401
2	ILEMELA	2	46	49	95
3	SENGEREMA	17	984	955	1939
<b>TOTAL</b>		25	1217	1218	2435



AGH participated in the launching event of the National Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Programme (NM-ECDP); a comprehensive programme that focuses on addressing the holistic developmental needs of children with the combined effects of all interventions delivering a positive impact on nurturing care to be felt in the span of human life. AGH was one among Tanzania Early Childhood Development Network (TECDEN) members who facilitated technical, administrative and financial supports throughout the development of the NM-ECDP. This programme was developed by the Ministry of Health, Community Development Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHDGEC) in collaboration with key ministries President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG); Prime Minister's Office (Policy Coordination, Parliamentary Affairs, Labor, Youth and Persons with Disabilities); Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST); Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA); Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP) and Early Childhood Development (ECD) stakeholders led by TECDEN. The NM-ECDP will compliment laws and policies relevant to ECD by strengthening identified opportunities and responding to gaps so as to promote the provision of comprehensive ECD services to all children aged 0-8 years in Tanzania over a five-year period from 2021/22 to 2025/26.



*AGH team (standing back) with other stakeholders during the launch of NM-ECDP at Jakaya Kikwete Convention Center in Dodoma capital city.*

## **Social Protection Program;**

In collaboration with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSMTH) and UNFPA (United Nation Population Fund); Amani Girls Home, Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service (TCRS) and Kiota Women's Health and Development (KIWOHEDE) conducted a LINEA (Learning Initiative on Norms Exploitation and Abuse) research-study titled 'Preventing Age-Disparate Transaction sex (ADTS) through a radio drama following COVID-19 in Shinyanga and Kigoma regions, Tanzania.

LINEA initiative looks at how social norms theories can be used to reduce sexual exploitation of young people with an emphasis on adolescent girls, disability inclusion. The sub-study involved field - data collections in three waves, In-depth interview



reaching 120 participants (40 adolescent girls, 40 adult women and 40 Adult men) from 24 Villages in Kishapu District, Shinyanga region and Focus group discussion was conducted to 120 people (20 men, 20 women, 80 adolescent girls) from 10 wards in Ujiji District, Kigoma region. The study findings will provide valuable insight that can inform prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, teenage pregnancy and gender based violence in Tanzania, in line with the priorities in the National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children (2017/18-2021/22), under the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups.

Power Up project implemented through adopted SASA! and Power to Girls (PtG) methodologies. SASA! is based on the understanding that Violence against girls and women (VAGW) occurs and repeats within family, community, and social structures, calling for community-wide intervention whereas PtG focuses on young females recognizing them as a unique and diverse sub-population that require contextualized strategies to address the power differentials they experience across the domains of



their lives. AGH collaborated with 86 Community Activists (CAs) and 108 members from network of change (Local leaders, medical, psychosocial, and security personnel's) in Phase 4 implementation that is 'Action' was conducted in Kisesa, Kongolo, Bujora and Bujashi wards of Magu district reaching 1138 people (396 men, 742 women). Materials used in discussions emphasize taking actions to women, adolescent girls and young mothers who

experience violence whereby this lead to reduced number of violence, increased respect, protection and fulfilment of their rights at the family and societal level.

Also, adolescent girls were empowered with training on issues such as HIV/AIDS, Sexual reproductive health, health and sanitation, human rights, self-esteem especially handicrafts training and financial literacy so that the girls, with the help of a micro-credit, can start their own small business and become responsible, self-reliant young adults through their groups and clubs guided by Girls Mentors and Local Artisans reaching 394 girls from 28 groups (241 in 14 school girls' clubs and 153 from 14 out- of school girls' groups). The sessions were helped 60% of 394 adolescent girls and young women to exercise agency and autonomy over their bodies and lives. *Picture above (in and out of school adolescent girls discussing power posters.*





The SMASH Adolescent Girls Community of Practice (SMASH) led by Amani Girls Home is a group of 14 like-minded local NGOs and CBOs aiming at creating a platform where members can share experiences, knowledge and tools; network; build and strengthen capacity of advocacy services; influence girl-related policy; and support girl-led programming and coordinating for collective action. Some members are girl- and women-led, working across a spectrum of issues including gender norms, sexual and reproductive health, education, violence, civic engagement, human rights, and financial literacy.

Through Msichana Thabiti, a collaborative project, the joint event was organized and conducted to commemorate an International Day of the Girl Child. The event involved



Mwanza government officials and other stakeholders; Vodacom Tanzania, TCRA to mention a few as well as young girls' representatives from various areas of Mwanza Region adding up to a total of 278 participants. In alignment with the

event's theme that is "DIGITAL GENERATION OUR GENERATION" some organization exhibited digital inventions and how they intervene with the digital applications in their implementations. Whereas other invited participants (stakeholders) raised awareness on the benefits, consequences and challenges of the digital era. In overall implementation of Msichana Thabiti activities 6213 Girls were reached in Ilemela, Nyamagana, Sengerema and Magu districts of Mwanza region. *(In the Picture above: Smash Adolescent Girls Community of Practice representative giving a speech in commemoration of International Day of the girl Child).*

Facilitated organization's participation in commemoration of International events such as International women Day, The day of the African Child and 16 days of Activism at regional level; In collaboration with Regional Community Development Office and other stakeholders, AGH participated in exhibitions and celebrations of the organized events where it raised community awareness on Gender Based Violence prevention, balancing Power and prevention of HIV/AIDS infection reaching 3839 people (847 children, 2456 women and 536 men) in Mwanza region.



*Beneficiaries and stakeholders marching during celebration of the Day of the African Child.*

## **Health Program;**

AGH worked in a consortium with Jhpiego, TCDC, Benjamin Mkapa Foundation, The Manoff Group (TMG) and D-Tree International to design a project titled: Comprehensive Client-Centered Health Program – Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (C3HP-RMNCAH). The project aims to increase the demand for, and use of quality integrated RMNCAH services, particularly women of reproductive age, youth and children, by improving access to quality RMNCAH services in both facilities and the surrounding communities, promoting positive health seeking behaviors among Tanzania's population and enhancing the overall policy environment for RMNCAH services delivery. It is a five-year project to be implemented in 11 targeted regions of Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar. Subject to USAID's C3HP award, AGH will collaborate as an exclusive partner of the Jhpiego-led consortium and lead Adolescent Health component.

AGH also finalize community exit of the AMKA/Nutrition Intervention (to improve nutrition situation among under 5 years and women of reproductive age in Mwanza region. Exit meeting was attended by 41 stakeholders, being 19 women and 22 men.

## **CHALLENGES**

- ✚ The long-term impact caused by COVID-19 in the Global economy has resulted into shrinking of funding, also eruption of new viral phases has resulted to decelerating of implementation of some project activities in the project areas.
- ✚ Limited funding delays effective operationalization as resources are insufficient.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✚ AGH should integrate the use of technology in implementation of its programmatic activities as part of a safe and effective COVID-19 response that pushes us to build on and strengthen the existing technology infrastructure to facilitate the above goals while being realistic and practical about the limitations of virtual programming in our context. To ensure the safety and protection for all community members, AGH should keep training all staff and community networks in digital safeguarding and activate organizational policy and clear protocols to prevent, protect and respond should the need arise. With a basic mobile community network in place, we can support basic programming remotely and the system can continue to be strengthened to enable program efficiencies and responsiveness within AGH organization over the long term.
- ✚ AGH should establish means of self-grant generation i.e. Basket fund for organizational financial sustainability in undertaking its programs.

## A STORY THAT BRINGS OUR INTERVENTIONS INTO LIFE!

**Successfully Stopping a Case of Child Exploitation: A Quick Look:** Actions were taken by sons of a father, sexually abusing his daughter.

In a village named Bujashi, there was a family of a father, a daughter, and a few sons. When the daughter was 16 years old, it was discovered that her father had been sexually abusing her for over two years. The daughter had no idea where to turn for help, since her mother did not live with them, and her father was deceiving and threatening her. The daughter had epilepsy, and her father would tell her that the treatment for it was having sex with him, and in order for her not to carry a pregnancy, he would give her abortion/birth control pills, claiming they were for her headaches or some other sickness she had at the time. On top of that, he would threaten to kill her if she told anyone about what was going on. Her brothers picked up that something very wrong was going on and wanted to do something about it.

When community activities (CAs) came to their area, giving education on violence, they were told about this family's situation and went to try to help. They educated the family about violence. The boys went multiple times to the CAs, asking again and again for them to come help their father and sister. However, when the CAs would come, the girl would remain closed and reserved due to the threats from her father, and the father would not change at all. One day, the boys came home and found the girl's bedroom door open, her not in her room, and their father's bedroom door locked and people inside, and put two and two together. They broke down the door, screaming and yelling, causing such a commotion that the neighbors and even the CAs came and witnessed what was going on.



The CAs took the girl to talk with her, showing her that she was not alone. They also took the case to the village chairperson and the police, and helped cool down the community members who were quite angry and wanting to attack the father for what he had done to his daughter. In the end, the father was sentenced to 30 years in prison for child sexual abuse. The daughter was able to get a referral to go to the hospital and get the medical attention she needed, and was moved to another village for her safety. No sexually abused girl should be ignored; the fault is not her own. As this account shows, the community should help girls in order for them to live in security.

## CONCLUSION

AGH Board of Director, Internal Management Team, Program Staff and collaborating partners, are proud to all the milestones achieved for the betterment of our esteemed beneficiaries in the Mwanza region that we continue to save as per our organization mission. Regardless the Covid-19 pandemic, which continues to devastate many lives across the Global, we are continuing to run our interventions which in-turn impact thousands.

While we keep in our thoughts the most disadvantage ones, we will keep our spirit of designing programs with and for beneficiaries, ensuring the furthest behind are not left out of our scope. With the Almighty support we pray 2022 may become more exceeding in success. We finally dedicate this report to our beneficiaries (OVCs and Adolescent Girls), community and all stakeholders we worked with over the cause of 2021 fiscal year.



AGH: Empowering Adolescent Girls 4 Sustainable Development