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**TITLE:** Scaling-up of Hear Me Out, Respect My Rights Project

**PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Girls from rural and poor households face the greatest barriers to school access and retention. Because 84 percent of Malawi’s population lives in rural areas and 50.7 percent of the population lives in poverty, rural and poor girls constitute a significant portion of Malawi’s school age population. Primary and secondary school data indicate that the children from the poorest households are underrepresented at the primary level and are close to absent at the secondary level. Primary school completion among rural students is 34 percentage points lower than those of urban students.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Many rural vulnerable girls in Rumphi District drop out of school; they marry early, have many children, and spend their life time in poverty. Though primary education in Malawi is free, there are a lot of costs associated with sending children to schools. These include the cost of school uniform and writing materials (textbooks, pains and pencils). At secondary level, many parents cannot afford paying school fees hence high drop-out at secondary level.

There are no initiatives in Rumphi District to contribute to the implementation of this national Gender Policy and Marriage, Divorce and Family relations law which forbids marriages of children under the age of 18 years. Girl’s education issues continue to be undermined in the district especially in the rural areas.

**PROJECT BACKGROUND**

This project was once funded by HerVoice Fund with an amount of 2000 USD. The project created platform for 50 adolescent girls to present their grievances in terms of infringement to their rights to sexuality and equality in education was created. This was achieved by involvement of the girls in several activities such as personal Story writing, Stakeholders meeting and a radio program. Girls in the project area were able to write and express themselves on the challenges they face in completing school and accessing Sexual Reproductive Services in their area. In all the three activities the voices of girls were heard by several stakeholders who are duty bearers. For more details refer to this website: <https://strade983967600.wordpress.com/page/> .

**SCALING-UP PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The second phase of this project will contribute to Gender Equality Law which was passed by Malawi Government in 2013. It will also raise awareness on Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Law of Malawi which forbids marriages of children under the age of 18. It will strive to mobilise the community members within Traditional authorities Chikulamayembe and Mwankhunikila to be agents of change and contribute to Adolescent girl’s education. Mother groups (Groups of mothers advocating for girls education) will be used to lobby for more girls enrolled in primary and secondary schools in their respective villages. Girls for Girls (G4G) Groups will be formed in 3 primary schools and 2 secondary schools to equip girls with knowledge on how to fight for their education rights and gain life skills. G4G club mentors will be identified among female teachers in these schools and will be mentoring adolescent girls on life skills and the importance of completing their education. Informational, Educational and Communicational Materials will be procured for girls for Girls Groups in all the 5 targeted schools. Lobbying meetings with Rumphi District Council will be conducted to include Adolescent girls who dropped out of on bursary programmes.

**BENEFICIARIES**

The project will start with 5 schools in the area of traditional authority Mwankhunikila**.** These will be 2 secondary schools and 3 primary schools. The initial phase of the project will benefit 50 girls as direct beneficiaries and 50 mothers (Through Mother Groups[[2]](#footnote-2)) as indirect beneficiaries.

**PROJECT GOAL**

To contribute to Gender Equality in education of Adolescent Girls in Primary and Secondary schools of Rumphi district

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

* To increase enrollment of girls by 40 %in Primary and secondary of Rumphi District.
* To reduce incidences of school dropout among adolescent girls by 40 % in primary schools.
* To increase community participation and involvement in advocating for girls education.

**ACTIVITIES**

* Supporting monthly meetings of Mother Groups for 6 months. Mother Groups are formed by women members of the communities who surround a particular school. They work hand in hand with the school which is within their villages advancing activities that support girl’s education. These are normally volunteers who meet at intervals agreed by the respective groups. STRADE, through this project will support them with refreshments once a month for three consecutive months.
* Formation and Training of Girls for Girls (G4G) Groups in 3 primary schools and 2 secondary schools in Rumphi District. STRADE will facilitate the formation of G4G in the targeted schools. Meetings will be organized with school authorities in the targeted schools to identify two mentors in each school to lead the formation of G4G Groups. A total of 5 G4G Groups will be formed in 3 primary schools and 2 secondary schools. These clubs will give a platform to girls to share the challenges they face at school and map the way forward.
* Procurement of Life Skills books and educational materials for the Girls for Girls Clubs in all the 5 targeted Schools.
* Supporting one Lobbying meeting at Rumphi District Council for inclusion of Adolescent girls in bursary programmes. This meeting will be attended by key stakeholders in education sector in Rumphi district such as Government officials, NGOs and Traditional Leaders. A total of 30 participants will be targeted in these lobbying meetings.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

The strengthened mother groups will continue to work as agent of change as far as educating girls is concerned. The Girls for Girls Groups in the targeted Primary Schools will continue acting as school based structures where girls will be meeting to discuss issues affecting their endeavor to complete their studies. The identified mentors who will be teachers of the beneficiary school girls will continue to give guidance to G4g Groups beyond the timeframe of this project.

**PROJECT BUDGET**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Scaling-p of Hear Me Out, Respect My Rights** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Project Budget** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Exchange Rate** | **718** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **No.** | **Activity Description** | **Quantity** | **Frequency** | **Unit Cost** | **Total Amunt in MK** | **Total Amount in USD** |
| 1 | Supporting monthly meetings for 6 months for Mother Groups on Girls Rights and awareness campaigns on importance of educating girls and abolition of bad cultural practices that promote child early marriages. |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Refreshments for Invited Guests | 100 | 5 | 500.00 | 250,000.00 | 348.19 |
|  | Project Bronchures | 500 | 1 | 250.00 | 125,000.00 | 174.09 |
|  | Vehicle Hire for Carrying of Public Adress System | 1 | 6 | 70,000.00 | 420,000.00 | 584.96 |
|  | Public Adress System Hire | 1 | 6 | 50,000.00 | 300,000.00 | 417.83 |
|  | Production of a Banner with Girls Education Messages | 1 | 5 | 80,000.00 | 400,000.00 | 557.10 |
|  | Drama Club Hiring | 10 | 6 | 3,000.00 | 180,000.00 | 250.70 |
|  | Sub total |  |  |  | 1,675,000.00 | 2,332.87 |
| 2 | Formation and Training in Human Rights Advocacy for of 50 Girls for Girls (G4G) Clubs in 3 primary schools and 2 secondary schools in Rumphi District |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Training Facilitation fee | 2 | 5 | 10,000.00 | 100,000.00 | 139.28 |
|  | Refreshments for Participants, Facilitators and Project Staff | 54 | 5 | 1,000.00 | 270,000.00 | 376.04 |
|  | Fip Charts | 5 | 1 | 3,000.00 | 15,000.00 | 20.89 |
|  | Note Pads | 54 | 1 | 1,500.00 | 81,000.00 | 112.81 |
|  | Pens | 2 | 1 | 5,000.00 | 10,000.00 | 13.93 |
|  | Hall Hire | 1 | 5 | 15,000.00 | 75,000.00 | 104.46 |
|  | Fuel for Staff Vehicle | 20 | 5 | 935.00 | 93,500.00 | 130.22 |
|  | Pental Markers | 5 | 1 | 3,360.00 | 16,800.00 | 23.40 |
|  | Sub total |  |  |  | 661,300.00 | 921.03 |
| 2 | Procurement of Life Skills books and Informational Educational and Communication (IEC) materials for the Girls for Girls Groups in Schools in all the 5 targeted Schools. |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Human Rights IEC Booklets | 10 | 5 | 6,500.00 | 325,000.00 | 452.65 |
|  | Life Skills Booklets | 10 | 5 | 5,500.00 | 275,000.00 | 383.01 |
|  | Advocacy Hand Booklets | 10 | 5 | 4,000.00 | 200,000.00 | 278.55 |
|  | Subtotal |  |  |  | 800,000.00 | 1,114.21 |
| 4 | Supporting one Lobbying meeting at Rumphi District Council for inclusion of Adolescent girls in bursary programmes |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Hall Hire | 1 | 1 | 15,000.00 | 15,000.00 | 20.89 |
|  | Refreshments for Invited Guests | 70 | 1 | 1,000.00 | 70,000.00 | 97.49 |
|  | Transport Refunds for Invited Guests | 70 | 1 | 5,000.00 | 350,000.00 | 487.47 |
|  | Fuel for Staff Vehicle | 20 | 1 | 935.00 | 18,700.00 | 26.04 |
|  | Subtotal |  |  |  | 453,700.00 | 631.89 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Grand Total** |  |  |  | **3,590,000.00** | **5,000.00** |

1. https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/samati\_girls\_education.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . Mother Groups are a group of women within the localities of the school surrounding who promote the rights of girls to education and Menstrual Hygiene issues. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)