



The School Club Zambia's 2022 Global Giving Fundraising Appeal

Boys and men alliance project: an approach to return girls to education in the remote district of Sinazongwe in Southern Zambia

£5,000 fundraising target on Global Giving to be launched on Giving Tuesday (Tuesday 29th November 2022)

**Global Giving have 1.2 million dollars available in incentive funds for participating projects during the 24 hours of fundraising on Giving Tuesday on their fundraising platform (which we qualified for during our 2021 campaign)*

Executive summary:

Our Own your Destiny Girls' Football League project seeks to increase the power vulnerable adolescent girls in the rural district have over their own life decisions. This 3-year project is piloting a multi-dimensional sport-based approach to returning girls to school, particularly those that have been affected by child marriage or are at risk of child marriage in rural Zambia.

After assessing the impact of the first year of the project, we are seeking to raise £5,000 which will be used to run workshops for boys and men at the 10 partner schools participating in our Own your Destiny Girls' Football League over the next 18 months. The workshops will be held in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education with the purpose of creating greater understanding amongst boys and men of the wide social, economic and health benefits of women finishing a full 12 years of education. The workshops will also be used by the Ministry of Education to explain their new adult free education policy, which allows men and women to return to school on a flexible basis. It will also be used as an opportunity for the Ministry of Health to explain what free sexual reproduce health services are available at their clinics.

This addition to the project has been deemed essential by the girls participating on the Own your Destiny project due to married girls reporting that they have been unable to return to school due to resistance from their husbands and a general lack of understanding from some men in the communities around the value of women's education.

The Need:

It is almost incredible to believe that pregnancy is still consistently among the leading causes of death for girls aged 15 to 19 worldwide.

Teenage pregnancy and child marriage, which currently affects 2 out of 5 girls under the age of 18 in Zambia, is an extremely complex issue, which our team at School Club Zambia has been working hard to address in our rural communities since 2015.

Poverty, hunger and gender inequality are the primary driving force which leads to girls ending up in marriages and there has been a sharp increase in the number of cases of child brides in our communities since the covid19 pandemic began. According to Girls not Brides, Zambia is one of the top 20 hotspots for child marriage around the world and last year it was announced on national news in Zambia that Sinazongwe now has the highest rates in the country.

Girls that are married under the age of 18 often show signs symptomatic of sexual abuse and post-traumatic stress, such as hopelessness and severe depression. We have recorded several cases of attempted suicide and self-harm from participants on our projects with girls that have escaped early marriages, which have been referred on to counsellors.

In Zambia it is currently estimated that 1.7 million girls are child brides. A child marriage in international law is considered as a forced marriage, given that one or both parties have not expressed their full, free and informed consent.

Our solution:

Girls with higher levels of schooling are less likely to marry as children and their own children have a reduced risk of entering into child marriages. In Mozambique, some 60 percent of girls with no education are married by 18, compared to 10 percent of girls with secondary schooling and less than one percent of girls with higher education (ICRW).

In 2021 we launched our Own your Destiny Girls' Football League in partnership with Play It Forward, Comic Relief and the Scottish Government with the aim of returning 750 girls over 3 years back to school. The project is aimed at girls between the ages of 15 - 25 who would have access to business training, start-up grants, literacy and numeracy catch-up lessons and key life skills and sexual reproductive health education through football drills. The first year of the project ended in April 2022 and achieved the following results -

- 1) 29% returned to school/education but 92% of the girls said that they wanted to return to school when asked at the end of the first year
- 2) 48% have functional literacy and 58% are functional in numeracy (15 -25% baseline)
- 3) 69% have started and maintained businesses
- 4) 95% have demonstrated a rise in confidence, with 23% now saying they feel that they are independent
- 5) 56% regularly access family planning services (14% baseline)
- 6) 73% now know their HIV status for the first time

We are extremely proud of our results from the first year of the project which was started at the height of the covid19 pandemic in Zambia. However, approximately 40% of the participants that took part on the project last year were already married and we experienced difficulties in persuading them to return to school when their husbands were against the idea.

This year, we have discussed a new strategy with our partners at the Zambian Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education which through a series of workshops at the 10 schools, will seek to achieve greater understanding and acceptance of the value of women's education by boys and men in our communities.

Expected Outcomes

- 1) 3 workshops per school over the course of the next 18 months (a total of 30 workshops)
- 2) 1500 boys and men reached through the community meetings at 10 school
- 3) An increased number of girls and women returning to the education system (up from 29% in year one of the project) with an aim of achieving 70% by year 3. This data would be captured through our monthly enrolment reports from schools, quarterly focus groups with participants and end of project end line.

Budget

Community events including marketing, resources and the trainers' time	£3000
Fuel to visit 10 extremely remote schools participating in the 30 workshops	£1250
Transport allowance to the Ministry of Health	£250
Transport allowance to the Ministry of Education	£250
Project administration contribution	£250
TOTAL	<u>£5000</u>

Time-Line

We would expect to hold the 30 meetings from December 2022 - March 2024, with the Own your Destiny project due to be completed in May 2024.