

# BI-ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE GRIEG GENDER CHALLENGE PROGRAMME 2015



SOS  
BARNEBYER

Et trygt hjem for alle barn

Gender sensitive communities  
make stronger families for children



October 2015

## Main output by August 2015

### Summary – Making progress for girls' education

- The Grieg Gender Challenge Programme contributes to raise the minimum age for marriage to 18 years in Malawi.
- The Programme is in front towards implementing the Gender Equality Policy among 134 SOS member countries.
- Evaluation shows that the programme has created better understanding of gender challenges and the importance of gender equality.
- Strategy meeting in Harare to path out the way forward
- Meeting with the Norwegian Prime Minister
- The programme improves the quality of education

### 1. The Grieg Gender Challenge Programme contributes to raise the minimum age for marriage to 18 years in Malawi

The Grieg Gender Challenge Programme made a great contribution to raise the minimum age for marriage from 15 to 18 years by law in Malawi. SOS Malawi has indeed contributed to push for this change of law. All the SOS associations in cooperation with other actors carried out intense advocacy campaigns to raise the age of marriage to 18 years. Early marriage and child-bearing is one of the major reasons for girls to drop out of school in the program countries.



*Left: Children in front of a banner in Pemba, Mozambique: Marriage only after 18 years!*

*Right: Celebration on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 in Inhambane, Mozambique.*

SOS Children's Villages have become more visible in their local communities, and taken action to hold their governments accountable towards girls' right to education. In the time ahead, SOS Malawi will have an important role to play in spreading the information about the new law at schools, local communities, in addition to the other SOS countries in the Grieg Gender Challenge Program for a possible spin-off effect.

### 2. The Programme is in front towards implementing the Gender Equality Policy among 134 SOS member countries.

The programme has made a concrete contribution to the process of realizing the SOS Gender Policy within the organization. SOS International chose SOS Malawi to become part of a new global Gender Equality Pilot. The pilot is carried out in four countries (Kenya, Malawi, Vietnam and Uruguay) in the period 2015-16. SOS Malawi feeds in lessons learned from all the six countries supported by the Grieg Group in the pilot. The plan is to start global implementation in all programmes and structures from 2017. On 18th of August 2015, a kick-off meeting was held in Addis Ababa to launch the new Gender Equality Policy Pilot. More than 20 participants representing their SOS member associations and their respective regions joined in. The participants highlighted lack of access to education for girls, child marriage and teenage pregnancy among the greatest barriers to girls from pursuing an education and a secure future.



### 3. Evaluation

An external evaluation found that the Grieg Gender Challenge programme has created better understanding of gender challenges and the importance of gender equity, both within SOS Children's Villages, at the community and within families.<sup>1</sup> The evaluation also concluded that although the staff at the SOS country offices had limited experience in how to apply gender questions in their daily work from the start, the support to girls through the programme has fostered a better conceptual understanding of how to work with gender in practice.

### 4. Strategy meeting in Harare to path out the way forward

To learn and follow-up on the recommendations from the evaluation, a strategy meeting was held in Harare in April 2015. For more details about this meeting, please refer to the Grieg Gender Challenge Annual Report 2014. The participants concluded that future activities have to be relevant to the overall goal of providing equal education for girls and boys. As a follow-up of the strategy meeting, an action plan and a budget for the Grieg Gender Challenge Programme for the period 2016-19 has been prepared (please refer to annex 2).

### 5. Meeting with the Norwegian Prime Minister

On 8th March 2015, Elizabeth (17) from Malawi and Trial (22) from Zimbabwe met with the Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg and the Minister of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion Solveig Horne.



Elizabeth explained how she dropped out of school due to early marriage and childbearing as a teenager. One of the local mothers groups supported and convinced her of going back to school, despite being a young mother. SOS Norway was one of the co-organizers of the event, which created valuable input on how to address gender equality in Norway's development assistance, particularly on girls' right to education. SOS Norway has witnessed that both the Norwegian Prime Minister and the Minister of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion have referred to the strong meeting with the young SOS women in several other speeches related to Norway's international development agenda of providing education to children.

### 6. The programme improves the quality of education

Based on previous experience from the programme, SOS Norway identified the need to increase the focus on quality education. This entails both renovation of governmental schools in lack of the most basic infrastructure, as well as the quality of teaching and learning processes. Renovation of the Primary Government School, which is part of the new SOS-children's village programme in Mwanza (Tanzania), was finished in 2015. A new administration block for teachers has been built, the classrooms are renovated to serve thousand pupils, and water and sanitation is improved.

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<sup>1</sup> Keeping Children in the Family: An evaluation of the Family Strengthening Programme (2009-13) and the Grieg Gender Challenge by Nordic Consulting Group (2015).

In addition to the renovation of the school, SOS will cooperate with the local government to improve the access to quality education for the poorest and neediest children in the community, making the school a role model for other governmental schools in the region. Collaborating with governments and local schools to improve the quality of education in local communities is part of SOS Children's Villages international education policy on how to reach more children in the most effective way and continue to advocate for the government's responsibility to provide quality education. Equal opportunities for girls and boys to education will create positive changes in the local community and later in life contribute to economic growth.



Before



After

*Renovation of the  
Primary School in  
Mwanza, Tanzania*

### FINANCIAL STATUS 2015

The Bi-annual report for 2015 confirms implementation rates on the same level compared to 2014 and in line with the revised budget for 2015. By the half year of 2015 an overall of 28% of the annual budget for Grieg Gender Challenge Programme has been spent. It is estimated that the budget will be spent by the end of the year.

Remaining funds, from the three-year programme period, were approved by the Grieg Foundation in May 2014 to be allocated for 2015. An additional donation of NOK 1.800.000 was bestowed to keep the implementation rate of the programme in 2015.

The total budget for the programme is kept at the same level in 2014 and 2015, NOK 7.500.000.

Country	2014				2015			
	Total budget 2014	Expenditure pr 30.06 2014	Rest budget 2014		Total budget 2015	Expenditure pr 30.06 2015	Rest budget 2015	
	USD	USD	USD	%	USD	USD	USD	%
Zambia	195	43	152	22 %	175	19	156	11 %
Zimbabwe	287	99	188	35 %	258	91	167	35 %
Malawi	210	37	173	18 %	189	33	156	17 %
Mozambique	217	114	103	52 %	195	63	132	33 %
Uganda	174	92	82	53 %	157	57	100	36 %
Tanzania/Zanzibar	179	54	125	30 %	161	52	109	32 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 263</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>35 %</b>	<b>1 136</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>28 %</b>

*Amounts in 1000*

SOS Zambia lost its Gender officer to Oxfam in the beginning of April and the position was first reinstated after the summer. This has contributed to lower activity in 2nd Q and some activities are postponed.

SOS Mozambique has faced significant challenges within the organization, as well as mismanagement related to the programmes. A new national director has been appointed to move the organization in the right direction. Due to the situation, the national office has been wary of transferring money to the locations during the first half of the year, before they were sure that good financial routines are in place. SOS Norway informed the Grieg Foundation about the challenges in December 2014. SOS Norway will pay close attention to the financial management and expenditure.

SOS Uganda has postponed the advocacy activities until later in the year.

#### The Grieg Foundation donation 2015

Suggestions for how the generous donation from Grieg Foundation in 2015, NOK 7.000.000 can be allocated was presented for Elisabeth Grieg of SOS Norway October 2014.

Project	Budget 2015 NOK	2016	2017	2018	2019
The Grieg Gender Challenge Programme	1.800.000	5.000.000	5.000.000	5.000.000	5.000.000
Gender Equality Policy Pilot Project	1.300.000	1.000.000	500.000		
Visit from Malawi and Zimbabwe	200.000*				
Quality education (primary and secondary)	3.700.000		1.500.000	2.000.000	2.000.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.000.000</b>	<b>6.000.000</b>	<b>7.000.000</b>	<b>7.000.000</b>	<b>7.000.000</b>

\* Only NOK 50.000 was spent on the visit from Malawi and Zimbabwe (originally an event in New York on the UN Commission of the Status of Women was planned, but not carried out). SOS Norway kindly asks to transfer the remaining amount of NOK 150.000 to the next years' budget, to be spent on a partner meeting spring 2016 for improvement of results-based management and gender auditing among partners.

## Annex 1: Action Plan for the Grieg Gender Challenge Program 2016-19

The programme will be implemented in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In order to benefit from mainstreaming gender and efficient programme management, SOS Norway recommends to merge reporting framework and programme design of the Grieg Gender Challenge Programme with the Norad supported Family Strengthening Programme. Therefore, SOS Norway recommends a new four year period (2016 – 2019) in line with the Norad agreement.

The results framework below allows SOS to measure the programme achievements. It has been challenging to find reliable sources of data, and it remains some work to identify qualitative indicators that are relevant to measure progress towards the program goal. The partners and SOS Norway will therefore further develop baseline values, targets and indicators during a SOS partner meeting in spring 2016.

The budget for the programme is kept on the same level in 2016-2019, NOK 5.000.000.

### Action Plan 2016-2019

Overall goal: Equal education for girls and boys		
Outcome: Families, communities and other duty bearers protect and promote the rights of children to grow in a caring family environment		
Expected results (outputs)	Justification	Activities
Male and female caregivers have <b>equal access to socio economic opportunities</b> , to care for and protect their children.	This will ensure that both male and female caregivers have economic capacity to provide essential needs to their children. Research has proved that female caregivers are more likely to use their finances on their children, including materials and support to educate girls - hence the need to ensure that female caregivers have control over their own resources. But it is also essential that male caregivers spend more of their financial resources on their children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Train community based partners and volunteers on the formation, supervision and management of village savings and loan groups.</li> <li>✓ Vocational training of youths.</li> <li>✓ Promote increased and active participation of men in childcare and family development, especially for the education of girls.</li> </ul>
Decreased incidences of <b>teenage pregnancies</b>	Child pregnancies are a major factor for girls to drop out of school, and also one of the main reasons why girls enter into early marriages. The vulnerabilities of children are many and complex, and therefore it is important to provide sexual and reproductive health education, and to work together with other actors for wider social impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provide sexual and reproductive health education to girls, boys and caregivers to prevent child pregnancies.</li> <li>✓ Work with and train Mothers Groups on how they can work with girls in their communities to prevent early pregnancies.</li> <li>✓ Launch advocacy campaigns with other networks to raise the minimum age for marriage to 18 years in all the five countries.</li> </ul>
Changed <b>community attitudes</b> towards importance of educating girls	The change of attitudes among caregivers and communities towards educating girls is of crucial importance for girls' education (for example preference of educating boys before girls, beliefs around girls and early marriage).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Strengthen the knowledge and capacity of caregivers and community partners to actively promote girls' education.</li> </ul>
Outcome: Target schools provide quality education		
Expected results (outputs)	Justification	Activities
Local schools and caregivers' capacity to provide all children with <b>quality education</b> improved.	SOS Children's Villages aims at addressing some of the key challenges faced by children in education at primary and secondary school levels as evidenced by low completion rates, especially among girls and those from poor households.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Community partners such as Mother Groups will train teachers on bringing drop-out children back to school, counsel for girls who are at risk of drop-out, and sexual and reproductive health education.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Work with relevant stakeholders to improve school statistics for target children (girls/boys).</li> <li>✓ Enable caregivers to provide school materials and support to educate girls.</li> <li>✓ Distribution of school materials to poor households (school bags, exercise books, pens and uniforms).</li> <li>✓ Improve sanitation at schools, incl. renovation of toilets and provision of clean water.</li> </ul>
Increased <b>security</b> for children on their journey to school and at school	Violence against children, including sexual abuse, causes immense suffering and trauma among children. It is also a reason for low performance and drop-out. Girls are adversely affected. This is not easy to deal with, but the focus will be on how to prevent violence and abuse, in addition to information on existing reporting mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Programmes will strengthen child protection systems by helping both children and parents to report and respond to any case of exploitation, abuse, violence and neglect.</li> <li>✓ Information meetings for boys, girls and caregivers on the existing reporting mechanisms of abuse within their communities. This will be implemented in cooperation with local authorities.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome: SOS CV works to influence policy and promote children's rights</b>		
<b>Expected results (outputs)</b>	<b>Justification</b>	<b>Activities</b>
SOS CV and community partners <b>advocate for children's rights</b>	<p>SOS CV conducts advocacy interventions to respond to current gaps between the obligations of the state as outlined in international, regional as well as the national legal and policy instruments and the practice on the ground.</p> <p>Establishing partnerships with organizations that support and address gender inequalities is strategic, as it will mobilize larger support and advocacy will be more effective. SOS will continue the "Care for ME!" campaign, and continue to lead and/or participate in relevant networks at national and district levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ SOS CV work with networks to advocate for equal access and benefit to education for girls and boys.</li> <li>✓ SOS CV will advocate by being the voice of the vulnerable children, families and communities on matters concerning girls' education, child marriages, gender equality, HIV/AIDS, and disability.</li> <li>✓ SOS will train local child protection committees to identify and report on child protection cases.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome: SOS CV is capable of empowering communities and families for child care and protection</b>		
<b>Expected results (outputs)</b>	<b>Justification</b>	<b>Activities</b>
<b>Gender balance</b> in SOS CV (Governing boards, senior management, and staff)	In a kick-off meeting for the gender equality pilot in August 2016, participants recommended to put a more focus on the low number of women in leadership and decision making positions in the organization.	<p>Actively respond to and measure progress regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ % of females in senior management.</li> <li>✓ % of females on governing boards</li> <li>✓ % of females in staff</li> </ul>
Experience from the <b>Gender Equality Policy Pilot</b> (GEPP) creates valuable input to SOS International's implementation of the Gender Equality Policy	The pilot project will include Malawi, Kenya, Vietnam and Uruguay in the period 2015-16. SOS International adopted a Gender Policy in 2014. The background for the need of a pilot project is that the lack of understanding of "HOW" gender perspectives can be identified and addressed remains a challenge for the organization. The pilot will promote organizational learning on how to effectively implement gender mainstreaming in programmes and structures of the whole organization from 2017.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Develop a Gender Audit tool for gender assessments that can be used in each country when global implementation starts as of 2017.</li> <li>✓ Collect good practice examples that are helpful for other countries to start implementation.</li> </ul>

### Investing in girls is both the right and the smart thing to do

While all children are entitled to decent livelihoods, girls face disproportionate risks of being exposed to discrimination. Investing in girls is crucial to break the cycle of poverty and to drive development forward.

1. **Higher Incomes:** When girls learn to read, write and do math, they are more likely to enter the workforce and earn up to 25 percent more.
2. **Delayed Marriage and Fewer Children:** When girls attend school, they delay marriage and children by several years.
3. **Healthier Families:** Educated girls grow up to have healthier children and fewer children.
4. **Less Poverty:** An educated girl, on average, spends 90 percent of her income on her family.

### Gender Challenges

In Eastern and Southern Africa girls are more likely than boys to drop out from school due to:

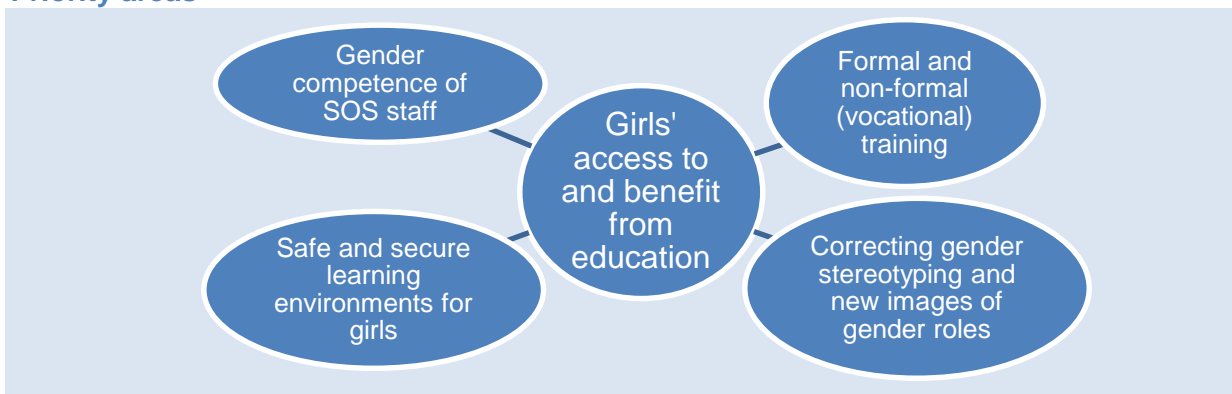
- Early marriage and pregnancy
- Gender-based violence
- Domestic unpaid labour
- Encounter violence

### The Grieg Gender Challenge Strategy and Programme Focus

The Grieg Gender Challenge Programme makes investments to achieve three overarching outcomes:

1. Strengthen girls' access to and benefits from education.
2. Increase capability of women and girls to realize their rights, determine their life outcomes, and influence decision-making in households, communities, and societies.
3. Limit the reproduction of gender inequality across generations.

### Priority areas



### Gender Goals

**Gender goal 1:** Equal opportunities for girls and boys to access and benefit from education.

**Gender goal 2:** The board and co-workers in the national associations are equipped and supported to implement programmes in a gender sensitive way.

### Programme Facts

- Implementation started April 1<sup>st</sup>. 2012.
- Programme countries: Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Mozambique
- 4 year programme period.