

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE GRIEG GENDER CHALLENGE PROGRAMME 2016



SOS
BARNEBYER

Gender sensitive communities
make stronger families for children



Annual Report for the Grieg Gender Challenge Programme 2016

Gender sensitive communities make stronger families for children. The overall aim of The Grieg Gender Challenge Programme is to ensure equal education for girls and boys in five African countries.

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1 Main outputs of the Grieg Gender Challenge Programme 2016

The programme was active in over 50 communities reaching more than 32 000 girls and 28 000 boys. In 2016 the programme continued to focus on early pregnancy prevention, development of and support to local community based organizations, mother groups and improved sanitation on local schools in all of the five program countries.

Supporting local partners

In total the programme provided training in sexual and reproductive health to more than 3500 girls and 3000 boys. In the period 2012-16, more than 163 girls who dropped out of school in young age due to early pregnancy or marriage, are now back at school in all the programme countries.

For example in Malawi, 17 of these girls have completed high school and seven are studying at the universities.

Mother groups and other community based organizations are essential in order to reach out to all the communities and school children in the programme.

In order to change community attitudes towards the importance of girls' education, the change has to come from within the local communities. Formal and informal local initiatives, with the support of SOS, provide training in sexual and reproductive health, securing girls and boys safe journey to school, informing local stakeholders about the importance of girls' education and supporting caregivers through a variety of income generation activities, in order to improve girls school attendance and reduce drop outs. In 2016 over 600 members of different community based organizations received support from the Grieg Gender Challenge Programme.



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Improved Sanitation in schools

One of the main 2016 achievements was the sanitation improvements implemented by the programme, benefitting over 30 000 schoolchildren. Broken and dirty toilets, lack of water for handwashing and poor knowledge about hygiene are crucial factors for school absenteeism and finally drop outs, especially among girls. In Zambia, proper sanitation in public schools particularly in poor communities is usually a matter of great concern. Sewer systems are mostly blocked and therefore non-functional for most of the year. Although handwashing is promoted and taught, schools do not have handwashing facilities near ablutions to enable consistent handwashing and other good personal hygiene habits. In Livingstone, the Grieg Gender Challenge contributed to a partnership with 5 public schools to improve sanitation. Linkages of handwashing, sanitary towel disposal and personal hygiene among girls contributed to girls adopting better hygiene practices and stable school attendance rates. The partnership resulted in improvements to the sanitary conditions of the schools and improved personal hygiene for the learners and improved attendance rates for girls. A total of 2,383 schoolchildren (1,942 girls and 441 boys) benefitted from improved facilities in Zambia/Livingstone.





**Hand washing demonstrations
in a school hall in Zambia.**

Reproductive health education

The Grieg Gender Challenge is continuing to support young women with their education and activities to reduce teenage pregnancies. Through girl child clubs and other peer learnings, mother groups, teacher awareness training and advocacy campaigns, girls and boys are supported and educated for better knowledge about the subject and to boost self-esteem. In Zambia SOS partnered with schools focusing on the upper secondary (grade 10-12) because the pregnancy rates were highest among girls from these grades. In the Kitwe region, Chamboli Secondary school had the highest pregnancy rates followed by Malela Secondary school. Teachers at the schools were also concerned about the harmful birth control methods some girls had adopted. Some used Morning after pills as the regular birth control method of choice while others went in for the long duration injections of up to 5 years. Meaning that girls felt protected from pregnancy for the whole duration of their secondary education but did not consider risk of contracting Sexually Transmitted Infections. A combination of approaches such as Intensive sexual Reproductive Health Education, Girls Assertiveness Workshops, dialogue with health care providers, personal safety awareness for girls, School meetings with school council members or peer to peer education were taken to address the situation. The results of the interventions have contributed to a strong reduction in pregnancy rates at the schools. From 2014/15 to 2016, the pregnancy rate decreased by 71% and 45% in the two schools. Overall, the pregnancy rate in the Kitwe target area was reduced from 52% to 38% in 2016, representing a 27% reduction and enabling more girls to stay in school and continue their education.

2 Malawi drought

2016 was another year with natural disasters affecting one of our programme countries. In April 2016, the government of Malawi declared the country as a state of disaster due to drought and hunger affecting the majority of the vulnerable groups of people in the country. The major humanitarian need in most parts of Malawi is food and relevant shelter among the most vulnerable groups of people in Malawi. The majority of the vulnerable children and families in the Grieg Programme areas hardly access food and related items for their livelihoods.

The Emergency Response Programme implemented by SOS Malawi (supported by SOS Norway, but not with funds from Grieg Foundation) provide food and related items in all programme sites to the most vulnerable families. One of the consequences of the challenging situation in the country is that more children and youngsters are not able to attend school on a regular basis, instead they have to help secure food and other essentials for their families. Many children also went to school without eating, and consequently found it difficult to concentrate in class. Despite a decrease in the number of children attending school regularly during the drought, SOS Malawi reports that the overall dropout rate has not increased from the previous year, attributing the Grieg Gender Challenge Programme and the advocacy work towards the importance of education, as an important factor. SOS Malawi will continue to implement The Emergency Response Programme in 2017 with the financial support of SOS Norway.



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3 SOS international Gender Policy rollout

The gender equality policy pilot project (GEPP) was successfully completed in the four pilot countries Kenya, Malawi, Uruguay, and Vietnam in 2016. Gender Focal Teams have been formed to lead, coordinate, and report on the implementation of the gender policy. The pilot countries have also designed action plans to address the gaps and challenges identified during the gender audit. Program managers and gender focal points have been taken through a sensitization workshop on gender mainstreaming and disseminated the same training to all co-workers working in the field. Furthermore, in February 2016 an experience sharing workshop was conducted in Nairobi for all the pilot countries. The Vice President of SOS Children Villages International and the Director of International Programmes from SOS Norway were among the participants.



SOS Swaziland celebrating international Women's Day 2016.

Incorporation of Gender focused programming in the strategic planning of the organization – Gender mainstreaming, has been given organizational focus. The pilot has led to cultivation of a stronger political will from the boards, senior management and national management teams. For example, in SOS Malawi there has been an increase in proportion of female board members from 23% to 44%.

Webinars among SOS member associations were conducted and an online collaboration platform created for sharing of projects and ideas. SOS Norway continues to take part in the Steering Committee for the SOS Gender Equality Policy, and will continue to keep gender high on the agenda. SOS Norway is also financing the Global Project Manager position for the Gender Policy pilot. Because of the global rapid assessment of programmes in 2017, a major review of all programmes in all SOS programme countries, the full rollout of the gender policy has been postponed from 2017 to 2018 to ensure that the organization has the capacity and will to implement the policy in the best way possible. After input from SOS Norway and the Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESAF), gender was included as a topic in the programme review. SOS Norway and ESAF also urged the other Promoting and Supporting Associations (PSAs) to increase their funding of programmes focusing on gender equality. This was done through presentations and discussions at two major meetings in 2016, which took place in Copenhagen and Paris respectively, and where all PSAs receiving public and/or institutional funding were present. As a consequence several PSAs have expressed a stronger interest in supporting gender projects.

4 Financial status 2016

The annual report for 2016 confirms an implementation rate more or less in line with the budget, with 78% of the annual budget spent for the Grieg Gender Challenge Programme. The main reasons for the underspending are as follows:

- SOS Mozambique has faced significant challenges within the organization, as well as mismanagement related to the programmes. Therefore, SOS Norway decided to put all remaining funds from Grieg Foundation on hold in 2016, and no new funds will be disbursed in 2017 (SOS Mozambique received 50% of the funds for 2016). A new National Director is in place, but it may take time before the organization is fully operational.
- The exchange rates in 2016, due to the strong USD meant that SOS Norway got less USD per NOK for the transfer to the programme countries, but this also means that the USD is strong against the local currency, although there is significant variations between the countries. SOS Norway commits to the budgets in USD or EUR and takes all the risk regarding changes in exchange rates.

	2015			2016		
Country	Budget USD 2015	% of Budget	% Exp. LCY	Budget USD 2016	% of Budget	% Exp. LCY
Zambia	135	12%	97%	121	19%	92%
Zimbabwe	258	24%	98%	166	26%	80%
Malawi	189	17%	56%	128	20%	83%
Mozambique	191	18%	105%	132	20%	52%
Uganda	157	14%	95%			
Tanzania/Zanzibar	161	15%	81%	104	16%	83%
Total	1091	100%	89%	650	100%	78%

SOS Norway recommends a four year period for the Grieg Gender Challenge Programme - in line with Norad and SOS Norway supported Family Strengthening Programme (2016-2019), as the two programmes are reinforcing each other. The total budget for the programme is kept at the same level for the four year period.

Since the launch of the Grieg Gender Challenge the programme has accumulated a total under expenditure of 285 000 NOK. SOS Norway recommends that this amount is allocated to support education components in SOS Norway's portfolio in 2017.

The Grieg Gender Programme have benefitted the organization in its pursuit to develop the Gender Equality Policy (finalized in 2014). A pilot project was conducted in 2015 and 2016 in four countries (Kenya, Malawi, Vietnam and Uruguay). SOS Norway requests Grieg Foundation to continue the support of the policy roll out from 2017 to 2019.

Project (Budget in NOK)	2016	2017	2018	2019
The Grieg Gender Challenge Programme	5.000.000	5.000.000	5.000.000	5.000.000
Gender Equality Policy implementation	1.000.000	1.000.000	1.000.000	1.000.000
Quality education		1.000.000	1.000.000	1.000.000
Total	6.000.000	7.000.000	7.000.000	7.000.000

5 The way forward

From 2017, going forward SOS Swaziland and SOS Nigeria will be included in the Grieg Gender Challenge programme. SOS Swaziland has identified a target area close to the capital Mbabane as the new Programme location. The gender officer is in place and activities are already being implemented. SOS Nigeria is in the process of planning its first activities in a new area, and the gender officer is in place there as well. This means that all of the countries in the Grieg Gender Challenge Programme now have a gender officer in place.

The rollout of the international gender policy will receive more focus in 2018. Due to the strain the global rapid assessment of programmes has put on the organization in 2017, most of the rollout activities were postponed until 2018.

SOS Norway is, with the support from the Regional Office in ESAF and partner countries, planning to conduct a gender and education workshop in September 2017. The workshop will be held in Zambia and all SOS countries from the Grieg Gender Challenge portfolio will be invited. The workshop will focus on experience sharing among partners, how SOS will work with education in the future and how to better measure the impact of our work.

6 Appendix

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

All children, boys and girls, are entitled to decent livelihoods, but still girls face disproportionate risks. At the same time, they play a crucial role in breaking the cycle of poverty and driving development forward.



Higher Incomes:

When girls learn to read, write and do math, they're more likely to enter the workforce and earn up to 25 percent more.



Delayed Marriage and Fewer Children:

When girls attend school, they marry later and have fewer children.



Healthier Families:

Educated girls grow up to be mothers with fewer and healthier children.



Less Poverty:

An educated girl, on average, spends 90 percent of her income on her family.

Gender challenges

In Eastern and Southern African countries, girls are likely to:



Drop-out from school



Marry at an early age



Face early childbearing



Encounter violence

The Grieg Gender Challenge Strategy

The Grieg Gender Challenge Programme makes investments to achieve four main 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.

4

Equip and support the board and co-workers in the national associations to implement programmes in a gender sensitive way.

Programme Facts

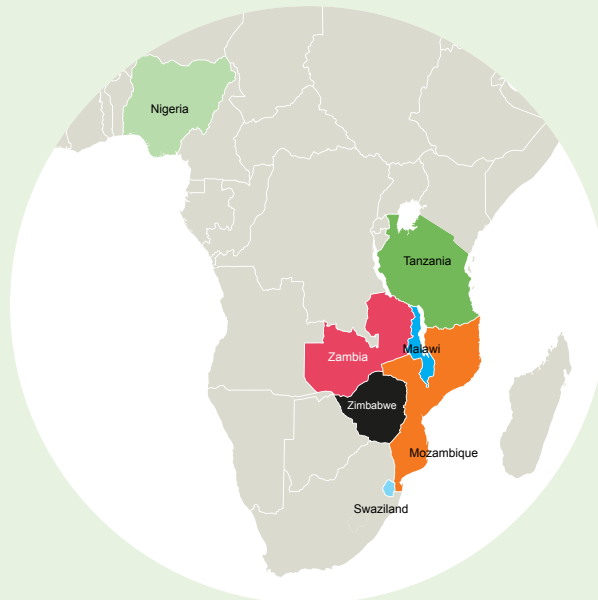
- First programme period: 2012 – 2015.
- Second programme period: 2016 – 2019.

Programme countries

- Tanzania
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

New Programme countries from 2017:

- Nigeria
- Swaziland



The programme contributes to reaching the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):

