

BI-ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE GRIEG GENDER CHALLENGE PROGRAMME 2017



SOS
BARNEBYER

Gender sensitive communities
make stronger families for children



Bi-annual Report for the Grieg Gender Challenge Programme 2017

The overall aim of The Grieg Gender Challenge Programme is to ensure equal education for girls and boys in six African countries.

- 1 General situation about girls education in Sub-Saharan Africa
- 2 Status and selected results of the Grieg Gender Challenge Programme per country: Malawi, Nigeria, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe
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1 General situation about girls education in Sub-Saharan Africa

With the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG), governments have pledged to achieve universal primary and secondary education by 2030 and to eliminate disparities so that every child and youth can complete their education.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the out of school rate in primary school is 18.6 million girls (23%) and 15.6 million boys (19%). The region has seen progress in enrollment of girls and boys at primary school level. However, at lower secondary school level, 36% of teenage girls are out of school compared to 32% of boys¹. The Regional Centre for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (RBUP) conducted a global review commissioned by SOS Norway, which showed that children who were exposed to abuse or neglect during childhood perform worse in school than unexposed children. There exists no public data that shows if children without parental care are less likely than other children to go to school in Sub-Saharan Africa.



In Sub-Saharan Africa at lower secondary school 36% of teenage girls and 32% of boys are out of school

There is a massive lack of global, regional and national data on children without parental care. Children within this category risk being left behind in the UN 2030 agenda. SOS Norway and SOS International therefore strongly argues that this target group must be included in the SDG data set, to help countries make informed decisions that will improve the education and learning prospects of all children and youth². Further breakdown of data by gender is also key if the slogan *leaving no one behind* in the 2030 agenda should make any sense.

The fact that children without parental care are invisible in the SDG will be one of the main topics discussed during an education and gender workshop in Zambia at the end of September 2017. All the six countries of the Grieg Gender Challenge Programme, SOS Norway and the Regional Office will discuss what is working well in the programme, challenges, gaps, and how the programme can make even stronger impact on education at public schools.

¹ UNESCO: Closing the Gender Gap (March 2017): <http://uis.unesco.org/en/news/closing-gender-gap>

² SOS CV International, Development Initiatives: The Care of Children in Data, 2017.

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Status and selected results of the Grieg Gender Challenge Programme per country: Malawi, Nigeria, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe

SOS MALAWI

PROGRESS / RESULTS

Advocate for ending early marriage

Malawi has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world, with approx. 1 in 2 girls married by the age of 18. SOS Malawi has strongly advocated to end child marriage and worked to change cultural attitudes through awareness activities. In February 2017, the Parliament amended the Constitution and raised the age of marriage from 15 (with parental consent) to 18 years old for boys and girls. The President signed the constitutional amendment into law at the end of April 2017. This brings the Constitution in line with the Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Bill adopted in 2015, which set the minimum age of marriage at 18.

Decrease incidences of teenage pregnancies

SOS Malawi continued to train Mother Groups to work with girls who have dropped out of school. 55 women and 5 men from Mother Groups covering 15 schools have provided sexual and reproductive health education to prevent early pregnancies. As a result, 71 girls have been brought back to school within the 2016/2017 academic year.

Increase security for girls on their journey to and from school

SOS Malawi has, in cooperation with the Government, trained 142 female/79 male teachers from 26 public primary schools on non-violence and protection of school children to and from school.

Improve hygiene

SOS Malawi has supported the construction of five water tanks and two latrines at the primary and secondary schools in Mzuzu and Blantyre, benefitting 5364 girls and 5014 boys from 7 schools.

SOS NIGERIA - NEW

SOS Nigeria was included in the Grieg Gender Challenge Programme in 2017. The programme will be implemented in Abuja and in the Plateau area.

GENDER CHALLENGES IN THESE COMMUNITIES INCLUDE

- Child Rights Violations, especially sexual abuse of children.
- Religious and cultural practices that negatively affects children, especially girls, for example early marriage and the preference of educating boys before girls.
- Low transition rates of children from free primary education to fee paying secondary schools. This leads to school drop-outs and increase of teenage pregnancies and drug abuse.

PROGRESS / RESULTS

SOS Nigeria recruited a National Gender Coordinator in April 2017.

An orientation meeting has been held to introduce the programme to SOS co-workers and to discuss further plans and activities for 2017.

A Gender analysis started in April and is expected to be completed by the end of September.

The action plan for 2018 will be developed based on this assessment.

Partnership

SOS Nigeria will work and partner with the Local Education Authority, Primary Health Care Centers, Social Welfare Departments, Police Juvenal Welfare Departments, Child Protection Networks, Community Groups, Faith based Organizations and other relevant NGOs.



Sensitization workshops and community forums have been carried out in both locations to engage community and relevant stakeholders to take local ownership of the programme

SOS SWAZILAND - NEW

SOS Swaziland is a new country to the Grieg Gender Challenge in 2017. The programme will be implemented in Mahwalala Community in the capital city of Mbabane.

GENDER CHALLENGES IN THIS COMMUNITY INCLUDE

- Poverty is the greatest challenge in Mahwalala, as a majority of people are unemployed.
- Poverty leads to prostitution and many young girls have sex with men in exchange of food or support.
- There are no successful income generating activities in the community.
- There are many child headed households, which make the children vulnerable, also to sexual abuse.
- Many taverns in the area affect children's education and exposes them to both alcohol and drugs. The lobbying to close the taverns, has so far not been successful.

PROGRESS / RESULTS

SOS Swaziland has recruited a gender officer and completed a gender assessment. The Grieg Programme in Swaziland will seek to address the above challenges and the action plan will be developed prior to the 2018 implementation period.

Partnership

SOS Swaziland has formed partnership with the Gender and Family Department under the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister as a main stakeholder for the Grieg programme. This department is responsible for coordinating all gender related activities in the country. SOS Swaziland is also a participating member of the Gender Consortium under CANGO (Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organisations) and an affiliate of a Regional Gender Based Violence Network.

SOS TANZANIA

Education in Tanzania has made significant gains in access and equity in primary education. However, for the most vulnerable children, challenges in regards to attendance and performance remain critical. Factors include; lack of food, no water at school, unsafe school roads and too many tasks at home, which limits time to do homework.

PROGRESS / RESULTS

Dialogue meetings have been facilitated between parents/guardians, school management and other stakeholders in Mwanza and Pemba with 330 participants. This resulted in an agreement to establish school feeding programmes to be run by parents, and that local community leaders must come up with a strategy to ensure children's safety to/from school.

Open community meeting at Malulu street on improving childrens academic performance



Two training sessions have been conducted with 54 caregivers (women) on entrepreneurial skills and business plan development. The aim of the training was to boost income generating activities for women and to enable loans from banks and financial institutions.

Mothers clubs in Pemba and Mwanza have raised awareness on early pregnancy - and advocated for a policy to re-enter young parents back to school (whether they are girls or boys). This has made seven children (2boys/5girls) return to school.

Meetings have been held with guesthouse owners to prevent young girls to enter guest houses with men. Mothers Clubs in Mwanza (35 women) had meetings with 60 Commercial Motorcycle riders (Boda boda riders) on the protection of young girls, several who have been abused by the Boda boda riders. SOS Tanzania wants the Boda boda riders to be change agents and to raise awareness to the rest of the riders, and also to report when they see any form of abuse against girls.



SOS Tanzania works with Boda boda riders who are bicycle and motorcycle taxis commonly found in East Africa

SOS ZAMBIA

PROGRESS / RESULTS

Every year 16,000 girls drop out of school in Zambia due to teenage pregnancies and early marriages. A total of 125 children (87 girls and 38 boys) from vulnerable households have continued with their education with support from the Grieg Foundation. 11 of these children (9 girls and 2 boys) are in college.

In Kitwe a total of 498 children (409 girls/89 boys) met with health care providers and “Women for mentorships” to build self-confidence and to be given advice. Mentors include female Managing Directors, female doctors, and education professionals. This dialogue has sensitized teenage boys and girls on reproductive health, differences between myths and truths, and taught them to make informed choices on family planning, education and career planning.

As a member of the Ending Child Marriages Network, SOS Zambia met with the Gender Minister and the Ministry management on girl's education and women's empowerment. SOS Zambia participate in the reviews of government strategies for ending child marriages. Recently, the President of Zambia issued a decree to abolish the re-entry policy. This is partially a result of the advocacy efforts of the Ending Child Marriages Network.

Construction of two girl friendly toilets at Baluba basic school has been completed and handed over to the government. The toilets are benefitting 957 girls.

Lack of information and inadequate menstrual hygiene support and services at home and in schools contribute to girls' school dropouts. SOS Zambia works with sanitary towel distribution and demonstration of personal hygiene training through partners. The involvement in the "World Menstrual Hygiene day" events resulted in wide spread education on menstruation. The event attracted thousands of participants. Three television stations and two public newspaper networks covered the activity.



SOS ZIMBABWE

PROGRESS / RESULTS

The Grieg Gender Programme continues to support more than 90 caregivers' in income generating activities to secure children's education. A further 210 female caregivers will receive training on savings and loan schemes before the end of the year.

150 boys and 150 girls participated in sexual reproductive health trainings.

150 female caregivers received training on reproductive health to support their children.

Community leaders emphasized the importance of sending girls to school and civil society organizations encouraged village heads and government institutions to work together to ensure that girls stay in school.

The Grieg Gender Programme will be scaled down in Waterfalls to give stronger support in the areas of Bindura and Bulawayo, which struggles with high prevalence of early marriages and school dropouts (especially among girls).



Janet and Tinotendaishe were enrolled into the Grieg Programme in June 2012. Janet was 16 years old when she had to look after her 13 year old sister and had no relatives to turn to for financial support. Today Tinotendaishe is at the University of Zimbabwe, whilst her elder sister works towards an accounting diploma at SPECCISS College.

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The implementation of SOS International's Gender Equality Policy

The Gender Equality Policy Project (GEPP) was successfully completed in the four pilot countries Kenya, Malawi, Uruguay and Vietnam in 2016. The Gender Equality Policy has influenced the SOS International's Strategy towards 2030. Due to the major global process of reviewing all programmes in the Federation in 2017, a full roll-out of the Gender Policy among the 134 member associations was put on hold by SOS International. However, this does not mean that the work on gender was stagnant in the organization. A virtual collaboration platform for member associations has been established and is in use. There has been regular webinars with a growing interest among members. SOS Norway has been calling for the Nordic countries, SOS Belgium, SOS Netherlands and SOS Austria – to increase their funding and focus on gender in the programmes they support. There is also positive will in the Western African region. In Latin-America, several of the SOS countries implement programmes and advocacy work to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. Gender mainstreaming was one of the topics under review in the country-specific mid-term plans for 2020.

The Global Project Manager for the Gender Equality Policy (this position is funded by the Grieg Foundation) is about to finalize a Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit to be used by SOS member associations, a simplified gender audit tool, and brochures on gender in a child friendly language. SOS Norway and the SOS Regional Office in Eastern and Southern Africa consider it very important that this position is funded also in 2018 in order to ensure continuity. There is a need for competency on gender in the organization and there is a need to coordinate the work on gender mainstreaming. The SOS countries are on very different levels when it comes to addressing gender issues in their organizations and programmes, and it is important not to lose the momentum now. SOS Norway's Strategy 2020 will be adopted in October this year, but the board has already decided on a strategic direction, which includes a continued strong focus on gender.

These sisters (4 and 17) can not go to school as they must fetch water for a household of twelve, while their brothers are at school.

SOS Swaziland



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Financial status 2017

The bi-annual report for 2017 shows that 27% of the annual budget for the Grieg Gender Challenge Programme has been spent. The main reasons for the underspending are as follows:

- SOS Swaziland and SOS Nigeria are new countries in the programme in 2017. As a first step, they had to recruit a Gender Officer in each country, and this process took some time. As both countries now have Gender Officers on board, the implementation and expenditures have speeded up. They expect to be on track by the end of the year.
- SOS Norway decided to exclude SOS Mozambique from the programme in 2016. The remaining countries have spent about 30% of their budgets for various reasons. From 2018, SOS Norway and the SOS Regional Office in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESAF) will distribute the funds among the countries in such a way that those countries that have low expenditure will receive less funds the following year, and those who spend according to their budgets may be granted more funds.
- SOS Norway and ESAF also conducted a Grant review in Malawi and Zimbabwe in March 2017. The purpose was to understand the underlying causes of underspending and uneven spending in the Norad and Grieg Gender Programmes. A report with recommendations was presented to the management of SOS Malawi and SOS Zimbabwe. After this, the management in these two countries have developed action plans to address those issues. A similar exercise will be carried out in other countries in 2018.
- 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.
- Exchange rates have not played a major role so far in 2017. SOS Norway takes all the risk regarding changes in exchange rates.

Grieg Gender Challenge Programme per country

Country	2016				2017		
	Budget 2016 USD	% of Budget	% Exp LCY Bi-annual	% Exp LCY End of year	Budget 2017 USD	% of Budget	% Exp LCY
Zambia	121	19%	51%	92%	149	23%	30%
Zimbabwe	166	26%	37%	80%	175	27%	28%
Malawi	128	20%	13%	83%	87	14%	31%
Mozambique	132	20%	24%	52%	0	0%	0%
Nigeria	0	0%	0%	0%	63	10%	11%
Swaziland	0	0%	0%	0%	63	10%	9%
Tanzania/Zanzibar	104	16%	26%	83%	104	16%	27%
Total	650	100%	30%	78%	639	100%	27%

all amounts in thousands

Gender Equality Policy Pilot

2017			
Budget 2017 EUR	Budget 2Q LCY	Exp. 2Q LCY	% Exp LCY
117	1841	585	32%

all amounts in thousands

- SOS Norway recommended a four year period for the Grieg Gender Challenge Programme – in line with Norad and SOS Norway supported Family Strengthening Programme (2016-19), 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.
- The Grieg Gender Challenge Programme has 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 recommends the Grieg Foundation to continue the support of the Gender Equality Policy roll out from 2018 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
Total	6.000.000	6.000.000	7.000.000	7.000.000

5 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

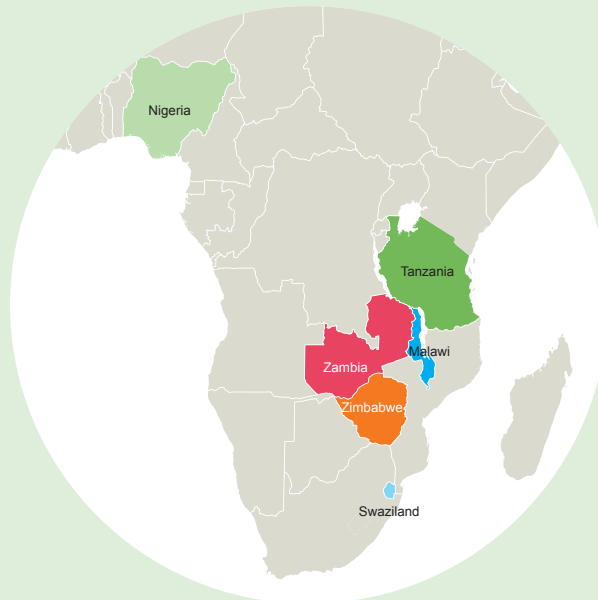
- First programme period: 2012 – 2015.
- Second programme period: 2016 – 2019.

Programme countries

- Tanzania
- Malawi
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

New Programme countries from 2017

- Nigeria
- Swaziland



The Grieg Gender Challenge Programme contributes to reaching the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):

