

GFI Girls First Initiative

IMPACT REPORT 2022







A Word from the Director

Dear Girls, Partner and supporters of GFI,

Greetings!

Here is our 2022 annual report . In fact, this is the second year of our existence . Wow, how quickly time passes.

Together, we overcame the obstacles and took advantage of the opportunities that 2022 presented, and we owe you all of our gratitude.

We appreciate all of your efforts in sharing information about our programs through word-of-mouth, social media, and other channels. What we've accomplished this year is a direct result of your support, and you should be pleased with your part in that.

We've come a long way in empowering girls and young women to reach their full potential and advocate for their own rights.

The achievements presented in this Annual Report deserve everyone's attention. We added to our history of extraordinary success.

To end the undervaluing of girls' abilities and shift public perception, we must empower a generation of young women and girls to use their voices and skills to demand equality.

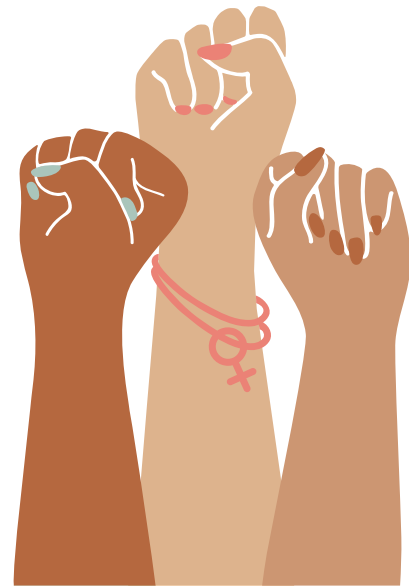
Your unwavering commitment to GFI is greatly appreciated.

Regards

DORCASBAHATI MGOGWE
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GIRLS FIRST INITIATIVE (GFI)

Introduction:

Girls First Initiative (GFI) is a non - profit organization in Tanzania that works to protect and empower young women and girls, especially those who are susceptible to sexual harassment. The organization fights for the protection of women and girls rights. Lack of access to health care, education, and economic opportunity are just some of the social and economic factors that GFI is working to address those issues in order to reduce the prevalence of sexual assault against girls and young women



Our Objectives

By expanding girls' access to education about sexual and reproductive health and rights, business and innovation training, and other resources, we hope to empower them to speak up for themselves and stand up for what they believe in.

Our vision

A world where girls and young women don't have to worry about sexual assault and are free to express themselves without fear of reprisal.



CONNECTIVITY TO SDGs:

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



We advocate for the inclusion of reproductive health into national plans and work to ensure that all girls, no matter where they live, have access to quality sexual and reproductive health care, including family planning, information, and education.

The goal of GFI's educational work is to guarantee that all children, regardless of their gender, have equal access to a good education.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



We provide young women with equal access to career-related information, resources, opportunities, mentorship, and coaching, GF' works to help all girls and young women reach their full potential.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Our goal is to promote economic growth, employment, and decent work by equipping young women and girls with the tools they need to succeed in the workforce.





Examining the Year 2022



An Overview of Our Achievements

Making a self-exploration diary/journal in Swahili

When a girl reaches puberty, she has reached the pinnacle of her physical growth, mental development, and emotional maturity. Adolescent girls are expanding their minds and developing a strong sense of self while also testing the waters of independence and making connections with people beyond their immediate circle of family and friends.

This is a trying time for many girls because they are undergoing significant emotional changes, seeking out new social connections, and coming to terms with their emerging sense of independence.

To help tween and teen girls find their identities and navigate the challenges of puberty, we published a swahili journal "Mimi ni nani," which translates to "who am I?" in November 2022. This diary advises young women getting ready for adulthood to practice self-defense, assertiveness, and selective friendship.



Creating a Braille version of a fact sheet about the menstrual cycle

Menstruation can have a greater impact on girls with disabilities than on girls without disabilities. Painful periods (dysmenorrhea), heavy flows (menorrhagia), hygiene issues during menstruation, changes in mood and behavior before menstruation (premenstrual syndrome [PMS]), and other MHM issues are all too common. Women and girls with disabilities may be less likely to participate in menstrual circles or seek out information about menstrual hygiene.

We teach girls with disabilities about menstruation through our accessible programming. As such, we hope to empower them and make it easier for them to participate in all aspects of society.

We held an online campaign in May to raise awareness about the rights of people with disabilities, with a particular emphasis on the difficulties that women and girls with disabilities face when trying to meet the demands of menstrual hygiene management. We also made a Braille version of a fact sheet about menstruation for the girls at Uhuru Mchanganyiko Secondary School who are blind or visually impaired.

Raise the number of people using our central hub on the Msichana Kwanza Platform by a factor of four.

The Msichana Kwanza (www.msichnakwanza.org) Online Hub aims to equip young women and girls with resources for success in the workplace and in business, empowering them to take charge of their own lives. This online community is working toward gender equality by equipping young women to have a voice in economic decision-making and to share in the financial rewards of their efforts.

The addition of SRHR and human rights education modules to the platform in 2022 caused its user base to explode from 500 to over 2,000. Each of these lessons is designed to teach young women how to effectively advocate for their own basic human rights.



THE MOST NOTABLE PROJECTS

BIG SISTER LITTLE SISTERS

Adolescent girls face life-altering choices. Girls' chances in life depend a lot on how much time and effort they put into learning and what subjects they focus on. We found 10 "big sisters" (mentors) to guide over 60 selected teenage girls on a journey of self-discovery in partnership with Gai Tanzania and with funding from Global Youth Mobilization. The goal is to help the girls learn about themselves, their limits, and how to create a safe space for themselves and their peers. All of the big sisters were selected because of the positive impact they have made in their communities by challenging traditional gender roles.



SANAA PAMOJA

As a cultural phenomenon, art has evolved and changed over the ages. Some artists have made both positive and negative statements about society through their work. The arts have not lagged too far behind the advancement of human rights because of the importance of human rights in any discussion of free expression. Artists don't just push boundaries—they inspire and excite their audiences, too. The Sanaa Pamoja Consortium was founded in 2022 by the Girls First Initiative, Tanzania Bora Initiative and the Nafasi Art Space with the goal of training sixty artists and ten journalists to use their respective crafts to protest human rights abuses and gender-based violence. The following topics were discussed over the course of four separate modules held as part of this project: This first module provides an overview of human rights and free speech, as well as economic and social justice, diversity, and addressing sexual assault and harassment, both with and without consent.

This project was supported by a grant from Ignite Culture: ACP-EU Culture Programme (Eastern Africa). This fund is being implemented by HEVA, in partnership with the British Council Kenya with the financial contribution of the European Union, and with further support from the Organization of ACP (African, Caribbean, and Pacific) States. It is part of the global ACP-EU culture program.



THE MSICHANA KWANZA PLATFORM

For women, it is a worldwide uphill battle to enter the workforce. The International Labor Organization (ILO) reports that among recent graduates in Tanzania, 72% of males and 47% of females are in a strong position to find work. Women not only have a lower employment rate, but they also have a harder time landing the jobs they want. Women outnumber men in low-paying industries and occupations, and those that are only part-time or temporary.

The Msichana Kwanza online hub is a one-stop-shop community for young women that encourages them to develop a strong sense of identity and agency by giving them ready access to high-caliber workforce readiness, resources, training, and information. This virtual hub promotes the idea that young women and girls should have the same access to economic decision-making and benefit-sharing opportunities as their male counterparts.



**MSICHANA
KWANZA**



MIMI NI NANI JOURNAL

The process of maturing for adolescent girls is not something anyone would describe as a simple process. Every girl, even in the best of circumstances, goes through a time of introspection, adjustment to physical changes, and growing pains (both literal and metaphorical). Teenage girls need access to translation tools and self-defense resources to help them navigate through that process.

The Swahili phrase *mimi ni nani* translates to "who am I?"; this journal is meant to help teenage girls answer that question by prompting them to consider their lives from a number of perspectives and learn from their mistakes and successes.

The goal of the diary is to encourage girls to be proud of what makes them special and to make the most of the resources they have at school, at home, and in their communities. This will help them be more assertive, make friends, and reach their full potential.



Highlights of event in 2022



2022's International Women's Day commemorations:

Gender-based violence is a major issue in Tanzania, Forty out of every 100 Tanzanian women and girls between the ages of 15 and 49 report having experienced physical violence, and 17 report having experienced sexual violence.

In 2022, in honor of International Women's Day, GFI participated in an exhibition hosted by Wildaf Tanzania and TANGIBLE Tanzania, where we showcased the Msichana Kwanza (<https://www.msichanakwanza.org/>) platform, which is used to combat GBVs through the use of technology and innovation. Over two hundred people came to see the Digital Tool Exhibition at the TANGIBLE Tanzania office, and the Honored Guest was Dr. Doroth Gwagima, Minister of Community Development, Gender, Elders, and Children.



International Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Day: (27th of May, 2022)

Women and girls with disabilities experience menstruation differently and, in many cases, more severely than women and girls without disabilities. Problems with menstruation hygiene management (MHM), such as a lack of resources covering these topics and a failure to account for the unique needs of women and girls with varying degrees of ability, are common complaints, as are dysmenorrhea (painful periods), menorrhagia (heavy periods), problems with menstrual hygiene, and mood and behavior changes associated with premenstrual syndrome (PMS).

More than 400 students at Uhuru Mchanganyiko Primary and Mchanganyiko Secondary School, where 90% of the students are disabled, received menstruation fact sheets translated into both visual impairment language (e Braille codes) and swahili on May 27 in honor of Menstrual Hygiene Day.

Together, Home Tutors and the Patee Pads Company we donated more than 50 boxes of sanitary napkins and 50 liters of soap, which were distributed to more than 150 students at both schools.



The Day of the African Child (16th , June 2022)

The Day of the African Child is celebrated annually on June 16. This year's theme is "Progress on Policy and Practice since 2013," and the overarching goal is "Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children." The Tanzanian version of the international slogan was "Strengthen Child Safety; End Violence Against Children"

We celebrated the International Day of the African Child (DAC) on June 16, 2022, at Mwembayanga Grounds, in cooperation with the Tanzania Women Journalists Advocate for Children's Rights (TAWAJAC) and the Temeke district commissioner office. The Temeke District Commissioner, Hon. Jokate Mwegelo, was our special guest. More than a thousand people from civil society organizations, United Nations agencies, religious leaders, faith-based organizations, communities, and other groups gathered to discuss ending violence against children.



Digital Health Week

Different organizations unite during Digital Health Week to better people's local communities and the world at large through the use of digital health technologies. These organizations are helping to speed up the process of digitizing health care delivery. It's an opportunity for people from different backgrounds to collaborate, make connections, share successes and failures in digital health, and chart a course toward improved health for all. This year's central theme is "Bridging the Technical-Political Divide."

We are a non-profit organization working to improve the lives of young women and girls, so it was a privilege to work with Transform Health to organize a two-day event for Digital Health Week. We convened over 17 youth-led SRHR organizations on October 10th and 11th, 2012, to discuss SRHR health data governance. Subjects such as "The Importance of Digital Health Data" and "How to Use SMART Advocacy Tactics to Persuade Digital Health Rights" were discussed.



16 Days of activism

A sizable number of women and girls experience sexual harassment or assault in our local community (Tanzania) and beyond. On average, 3,500 calls are made each day to the National Child Helpline (#116), a free service available on all Tanzanian mobile networks, from women and children who are victims of or at risk for experiencing violence.

We are pleased to integrate our Human Rights Education Series, a new topic on , "Consent, sexual assault, and sexual harassment in our community," in honor of the 16 Days of Activism (Sanaa Pamoja Project).

We worked with artists to make a short drama about how sexual harassment, assault, and lack of consent affect both men and women.

Use this link to watch the drama in our youtube channel:

<https://youtu.be/ithGKWVAIx0>



GIRLS KONNECT EVENT

We wrapped up the year with the Girls Konect "Njoo Tubonge" event, where over 30 young women got together to reflect on 2022 and look ahead to 2023 while having a free and open discussion about issues specific to women.

Our mission is to build a strong network of allies for women and girls so that they may confidently achieve their goals, rise in their chosen fields, and be heard. Women and girls have better chances of overcoming obstacles and advancing in their careers if they surround themselves with supportive people.





SUBSTANTIAL REACH

3000+

direct beneficiaries

2

Projects



6

Events



Social media Platforms

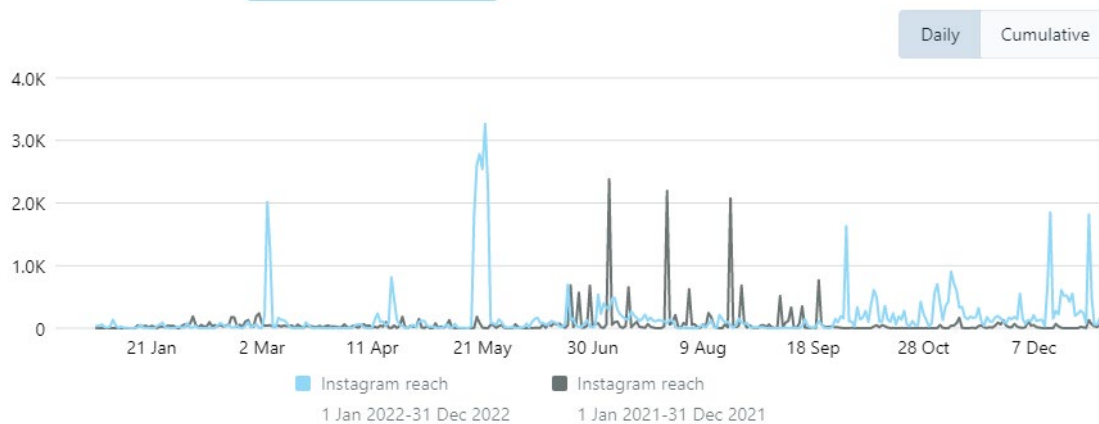
Instagram Metrics

Facebook Page reach ⓘ

30,046 ↑ 30.6K%

Instagram reach ⓘ

31,409 ↑ 114.3%



Twitter Metrics

Girls_firstinitiative ▾

GFI ▾

Sign up for Twitter Ads

OCT 2022 SUMMARY

Tweets
42

Tweet impressions
11.6K

Profile visits
3,055

Mentions
79

New followers
48



What the Ladies Are Saying About Us Online:



113 likes

naishooki_gideon Njoo tubonge ni platform ya mtoto wa kike kuongea mawazo yake na changamoto nyingi anazokutana nazo. Nilipata wasa kuangalia jinsi gani familia zetu zinapelekea mtoto wa kike kukutana na changamoto mbalimbali . Na namna tunaweza kukabiliana na hizi changamoto. Thanks to @girls_firstinitiative kwa kutupa fursa hii wasichina.

g.o.africa We would like to congratulate our team member MALAIKA A.JILIWA @malaika_77 for the great involvement she had been doing ,including attending Girls KONECT NJOO TUBONGE by Girls first initiative event that happened on Saturday 17th of December , She says, "it is an event that aim in reaching girls from different places to come together learn ,grow, listen to each other, networking and making new friends It was something that involved a lot of fun questions and answers ,planning and also building up our mindsets Through this event i was able to set my goals for the upcoming year and i look forward to more events like these"

Thank you @girls_firstinitiative

rahma.aslam.174 Nilikuwa na wakati mzuri sana kuhudhuria hafla ya Girls Connect "Njoo Tubonge" na kukutana na vijana wa kike mbalimbali, tulikuwa na mazungumzo juu ya changamoto tulizokumbana nazo kwa mwaka mzima 2022 na jinsi ya kukabiliana nazo, pia namna ya kuwa tayari na kujipanga kwa mwaka ujao #2023

@girls_firstinitiative



sakinachambulilo 2 w

@girls_firstinitiative is a safe space for girls 🔥 it was a very productive session 🙌

Reply Send



Our 2022 partners





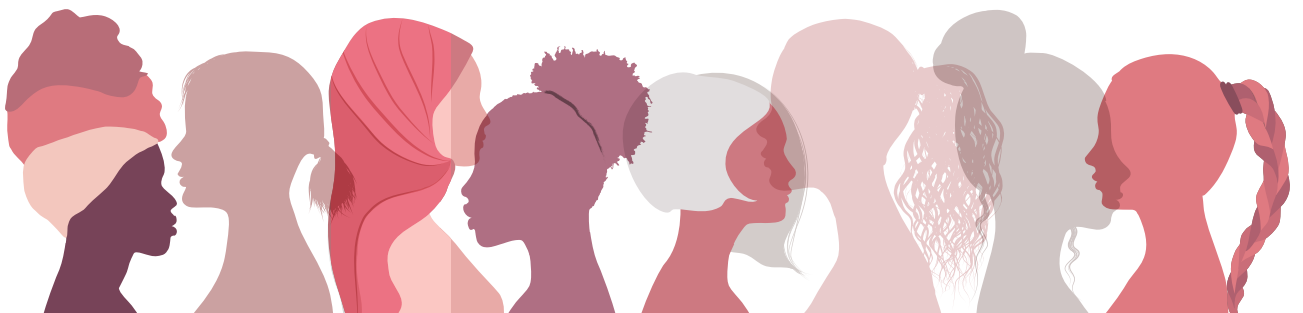
**Where do we go
from here in 2023?**



2023 is the year of the young woman for us. One of our main objectives is to raise and amplify the voice of young women's issues in households, schools, and communities.

Our Approach

- To arm young ladies with the resources they need to confidently assert themselves in the workplace, the household, and the neighborhood. To create a more fair and equitable society, it is essential to give young women the tools they need to advocate for themselves.
- To create a community specifically for young women (Girls Network Tanzania). A secure environment where females can confide in one another and collaborate to find solutions to shared challenges. This network will provide a supportive environment where young women can share their experiences, gain new perspectives, and work together to make the world a better place.





GFI Girls First Initiative

