



Until we are all equal

Mariam (at centre), a 15-year-old Champion of Change with the KAGIS project, hosted an International Day of the Girl celebration in her community.



Let Girls Learn

Girls want to be in school, but they must go to extreme lengths to make it possible. The **Keeping Adolescent Girls in School (KAGIS)** project in Tanzania is helping make it easier for girls to learn, lead and thrive.

Project facts

WHO:

PARTICIPANTS: 102,236 girls and boys and 15,117 adults, including parents, teachers and government officials.

PARTNERS: Global Affairs Canada; Rafiki Social Development; Women Promotion Center; Tanzania Ministries of Education Science and Technology; Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups; and Health

WHAT: Help teen girls enter secondary school and graduate so they can lead better lives.

WHERE: Kigoma and Geita regions of northwest Tanzania

WHEN: April 2021–September 2026

HOW:

- Raise awareness among girls, boys and their communities that girls have an equal right to learn and have control over their bodies.
- Supply what girls need to stay in school, such as washrooms, menstrual products, quality teaching and financial aid.
- Partner with the government to adapt policies to ensure girls' school enrolment, retention and participation.



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40,589 girls and boys participated in Year 3 of the Keeping Adolescent Girls in School (KAGIS) project. Thank you for supporting so many young lives.

Diana (left), 14, is excelling at school with your help. Read on to find out how!

THE FIRST WORD

Equalizing Education

Girls' education isn't valued the same as boys' in Tanzania. Your support is helping rebalance the scales. Together, we've increased girls' school enrolment by 12%.

Picture this: In 2021, while more than three-quarters of boys entered secondary school in the Kigoma region of Tanzania, less than two-thirds of girls had the same opportunity. For those girls who did make it to secondary school, only two out of three graduated.

Diana, 14, was close to dropping out because of the harsh and unfair treatment she suffered at school. "I was terrified of the teachers," she says. But now everyone at her school lives by the KAGIS project slogan, "Si Sawa Bila Usawa," which translates to "It's not right without equality." The project worked with teachers at Diana's school to shift hostile habits to healthier, more inclusive teaching approaches. "Now I feel valued and encouraged to speak up," says Diana. Read more of her story on page 10.

Through this project, you're supporting girls like Diana in overcoming the obstacles of gender inequality. As girls grow up and get their periods, gender inequality manifests in many ways that limit their freedom and education. A deep-rooted societal belief dictates that a teenage girl's value isn't in being educated but in her ability to help her family at home or be married for a price. Even if a girl can attend, the school environment often doesn't meet her needs or recognize her skills. And as schools



in rural Tanzania are quite far apart, girls have to travel long distances that are time-consuming, exhausting and dangerous.

Schools often don't have clean water, bathrooms or menstrual supplies available. Girls are ignored or punished by their teachers, shamed for having their periods and likely haven't learned about sexual health education or their rights. Early pregnancy almost always ends a girl's education and traps her and her child in a life of poverty.

"I used to believe that adolescents shouldn't have sex or seek contraceptives at the health facilities," says a health worker who participated in bias training with the KAGIS project. "I am now comfortable attending them without judgment."

You are helping improve learning conditions for girls and promote their rights among teachers, parents, health workers and more. In these pages, you'll read about girl-hosted radio shows and travelling menstrual labs that help girls thrive in school and beyond. Thank you for being a champion for equality and girls' rights.

Girl-led events were the talk of the town this past year of the KAGIS project. The slogan "Si Sawa Bila Usawa" ("It's not right without equality") was on full display.

Thank you for your continued support.



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Hundreds of listeners messaged the stations and interacted on social media during the girl-led radio programs.

THE SCENE

Making Waves

Community outreach events like radio shows are by girls, for everyone.

What's fresh on the airwaves? Girl-led radio shows! In Year 3 of the KAGIS project, 25 girls, including 15-year-old Mariam (pictured on the cover of this report), teamed up to pilot eight radio programs, including one called *Being Assertive*, that became instant hits. The programs featured guests such as a menstrual health lab facilitator and a social welfare officer who discussed how to respond to cases of gender-based violence.

More than 6 million people in northwest Tanzania have tuned in to the shows, and hundreds called in or messaged on social media with questions and comments. That's 6 million people who now know more about girls' rights issues like early and forced marriage and sexual health than they did before, which goes a long way toward creating a more equal world.

Girls like Mariam led and organized more than 200 community outreach events last year. At her event, Mariam delivered a keynote speech that encouraged girls and boys to prioritize education and use the KAGIS menstrual health labs (read more about them on page 9). "Being an emcee increased my confidence that I can achieve everything in life," she says. ➤



One of the radio broadcasts featured a social welfare officer who talked about how to report and prevent incidents of gender-based violence.

Motivated and ever moving forward, Mariam then went on to represent her community at the Women Deliver Conference in Rwanda, a global conference for women's rights. "We urge governments to take a bold step forward: Support girls in accessing sexual and reproductive services without shame or stigma," she said at the conference.

Whether through a radio show, a soccer match to help men and boys become allies or a celebration on International Day of the Girl, girls are leading change in their lives.

Dialing up justice

How do community awareness campaigns like radio shows and other public events move the needle on girls' rights issues? We've seen an increase in people properly reporting incidents of gender-based violence and more teens seeking support: 63% of cases involving girls last year went through legal and medical channels. Together, the KAGIS project and the community are better protecting survivors and punishing offenders.

FEEDBACK LOOP

"I realized the power we hold when we come together," says Emma, 16, who has participated in events at her school. "We tackled important issues like early pregnancy. I'm proud to be a part of this."

When girls have a platform to share their voices and get their message across, people listen. "I've witnessed a remarkable transformation within our community since the girl-led events began," says Betilida, a 38-year-old community member. "The discussions on gender equality and the rights of adolescent girls have sparked much-needed conversations."

BY THE NUMBERS

What you've helped accomplished so far

375 teachers, **104** health workers, **986** savings group members, **433** parents and community leaders, **50** government officials and **2,139** members of school committees participated in activities to advance girls' rights in Year 3 of the KAGIS project.

90 schools are more inclusive. We renovated facilities for accessibility, supplied menstrual products, trained teachers to create positive learning environments and reinforce life skills and enacted new safety and quality assurance policies.

24,379 people are more aware of how to prevent and respond to cases of gender-based violence such as harassment, early marriage and trafficking.

119,590 children are enrolled in school.

8,154 teens took part in Champions of Change clubs to learn about their rights and boost their confidence.

240 savings groups saved **C\$468,008** to support girls' education and families' livelihoods.

5 water supply systems and **24** washrooms are being built at schools. The washrooms are **80%** complete!



“Before the project, teachers didn’t pay attention to issues of violence or child protection,” says a teacher who participated in harm-reduction trainings for school staff that focus on positive discipline and inclusive education.

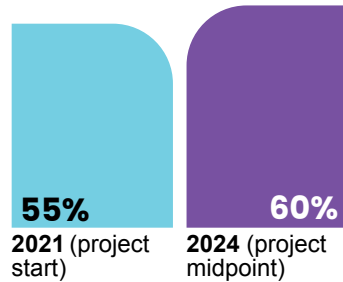


“Two teen sisters used to do child labour to afford their school supplies,” one teacher says. “It got to the point where they couldn’t attend school. After getting vouchers [like the one this girl holds] from the KAGIS project, they now attend classes and are doing well academically.”



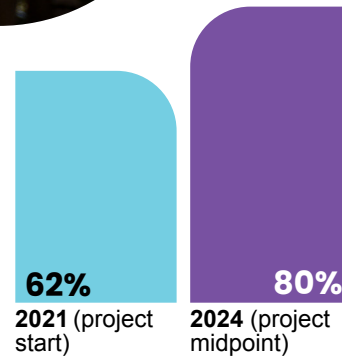
➤ **Primary school drop-out rate**

- KAGIS has boosted attendance by giving bikes to 550 girls so they can travel to school more quickly and safely. Read about it on the next page.



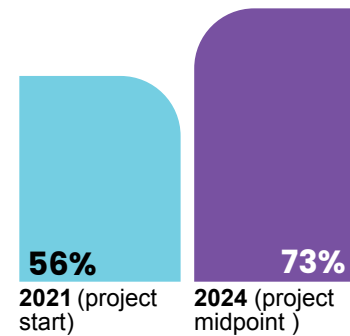
➤ **Girls' knowledge of life skills and their sexual and reproductive health and rights, especially related to avoiding gender-based violence like early marriage**

- Girls are taking charge and realizing their rights through Champions of Change clubs, public events, menstrual labs and more.



➤ **Teachers who are able to teach about children's rights and life skills**

- We've trained teachers in how to make their lessons and classrooms more inclusive, with positive discipline techniques rather than physical punishment.



➤ **Community group members with know-how to support gender equality issues**

- Outreach events like soccer matches create common ground among men and women for promoting girls' rights. As part of the KAGIS project, 24,000 people have participated in activities that help prevent and end violent practices.

STORY OF CHANGE

Saved by the Bike

Your support allowed Anitha to swap her hike for a bike, and it's made all the difference.

It was four o'clock in the morning. The sun wasn't up, but 15-year-old Anitha was. She was walking to her school six kilometres away. "I was afraid of being punished if I arrived late," says Anitha.

She walked a dirt road through the grasslands of northwest Tanzania every day. Most days, she arrived exhausted and came home exhausted, without any time for her studies. Some days, she had to bravely ignore the advances of men along the way. "Motorcycle drivers used to approach me while I was walking," she says. They would offer her rides or even "allowances" in exchange for sexual favours.

And one day, a hyena came across her path! "I ran as fast as I could that day," she recalls. Fortunately, the hyena wasn't in the mood for a chase.

But Anitha's days of pre-dawn treks are behind her, now that she has received a bicycle from the KAGIS project. "I arrive at school early, without fear," Anitha beams. She calls her new chariot her shield from harassment – and hyenas.



By the end of the project, you'll help deliver 1,100 bikes to girls like Anitha – who doesn't have to walk 12K to and from school anymore!

"The bicycles have made a real difference," says Sunzu, Anitha's teacher. "The 66 girls who received bicycles in our school arrive early and actively participate in class. I've seen a positive change in Anitha's performance."

Her grades have improved, because she is more refreshed and better able to focus in class, and she has more time and energy to devote to her goals outside of school. So far, you've helped us distribute 550 bicycles to girls like Anitha – and they're paving the way to a brighter future.



Watch your bikes rock and roll at a school in Tanzania that Plan Celebrated Ambassador Maitreyi Ramakrishnan visited.

STORY OF CHANGE

Out of Hiding

Theresia found solidarity where there was once only silence and shame.

When Theresia, 15, saw a classmate get laughed at for a period leak, she promised herself she would never let anyone know when she's on her period.

"I thought nobody should menstruate in public," Theresia says. So she hid at home during her period every month, missing classes and falling behind.

Theresia leads a session for her peers in making reusable sanitary pads.



She knew that half of the people around her menstruate too, but she thought it had to be kept a secret. "I would rather suffer in silence," she said.

Then, a mobile menstrual health lab, made possible by project supporters like you, visited Theresia's school. Picture a travelling health clinic that goes community to community, bringing together girls, boys, women and men to debunk myths about menstruation. Thankfully, the lab came on a day when Theresia wasn't hiding from school – and now, she never needs to hide again.

Theresia learned the truth about menstruation: that it's natural and should be openly discussed. The instructors from the lab taught her healthy habits for managing her cycle. They also provided materials for girls and boys to make reusable pads, for girls to track their cycles and more.

Having proper period products instead of rags is a huge confidence boost for girls and helps them stay healthy and in school. To date, your support has helped put on 89 labs that have reached more than 13,000 students.

Theresia now hosts her own menstrual health discussion club for her schoolmates. "Theresia showed us that we don't have to hide anymore," says Dina, one of the more than 150 girls Theresia has personally informed and inspired.

"I won't let my period stop me," says Theresia. "I want every girl to feel the same way."

Watch Plan International Global Celebrated Ambassador Maitreyi Ramakrishnan make pads in Tanzania with students like ally Tassan.





Thank you for helping Diana become better supported and happier at school.

STORY OF CHANGE

From 18th to First in Class

Without her teacher's support, Diana was lost. Now she's confident and feels valued.

The thought of making a mistake in class haunted 14-year-old Diana. "I had ideas in my head, but I was too scared to raise my hand to ask a question or answer one," she says. In class she often wondered, "What if the teacher humiliated me? What if the boys made fun and the girls whispered, 'You should have kept quiet?'"

So Diana kept quiet, and her confidence fell, alongside her grades. Many girls felt the same way: overlooked and undervalued. There was a significant discrepancy in engagement between girls and boys at her school. "Boys were considered naturally smarter," she says.

The teachers didn't realize their unconscious bias of favouring boys. And the use of outdated physical punishment created a hostile environment. "We thought being strict was the only way," said Fredrick, the principal at Anitha's school. "I personally didn't pay attention to all the pupils before, and I didn't know that some of them were afraid of us."

Through a teacher-training program, the KAGIS project encouraged teachers to treat all students fairly and to use positive reinforcement instead of punishment or intimidation. "The training has been a game changer," says Fredrick. His school is now creating an environment where students feel respected and aren't afraid to report bullying.

"The teachers are friendlier and more supportive," says Diana, who now feels valued and encouraged to speak up. "I believe in myself more than ever!"

Now Diana's school is among the top 10 in the district for student performance. And no one has shone more brightly than Diana. "I was 18th in exams the past two years – now I'm first in the class," she says proudly.

With your help and the support of the KAGIS project, 700 teachers across Tanzania are tackling gender inequality by engaging with girls and boys equally in encouraging ways that help them excel. "Girls and boys used to sit separately, but we use mixed seating now to help each other," one girl who participates in a Champions of Change club tells us. "Our teachers provide equal chances to girls and boys."



In menstrual health labs, girls make bracelets that help them count the days in their cycles.

Our deepest thanks

The stories in this report prove how advancements in daily life – like being treated equally, getting a bike or having the chance to lead and shine – can help keep a girl in school and change the course of her life. Your continued support makes substantial progress possible and gets us closer to a world where we are all equal.

Next year, you'll support a major development with benefits that will flow well into the future: Together, we'll finish construction of water supply systems and sanitation facilities at 15 schools. Clean, accessible water improves children's health, education and safety.

Thank you for your contributions – they are making incredible strides for girls' rights in Tanzania.

Thank you again for your continued support.



Until we are all equal



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Accredited
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You helped fresh water flow for Raida and her friends – supporting them to stay in school.

For more information,
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About Plan International Canada

Plan International Canada is a member of a global organization dedicated to advancing children's rights and equality for girls. Plan International has been building powerful partnerships with and for children for over 85 years and is now active in more than 80 countries. We stand with children, especially girls, wherever they are oppressed, exploited, left behind or not equally valued. We're determined optimists, and we will continue to persevere until we are all equal.