



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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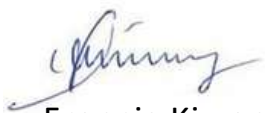
WORD FROM BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am delighted to present the Flaviana Matata Foundation's (FMF) 2023 Annual Report. Since 2011, FMF has championed girls' education, recognizing it as the key to unlocking their potential and driving positive change in Tanzania.

This year, FMF aligned with its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, achieving significant milestones. Scholarships, school re-entry programs, and menstrual health education empowered girls to stay in school and pursue their dreams. Additionally, WASH facilities created healthier learning environments, promoting better educational access and achievement.

These accomplishments are a product of incredible collaboration. FMF extends its gratitude to partners: government of Tanzania officials, partners in the civil society and private sectors, communities, guardians, and generous donors. Their unwavering financial, technical, and moral support fuels FMF's mission. The foundation is also thankful for its dedicated staff, whose passion and hard work are the driving force behind its success.

Looking ahead, FMF remains dedicated to breaking down barriers and building a brighter future for Tanzanian girls. Together, with your continued support, FMF can ensure every girl has the opportunity of better access to education in Tanzania.



Francis Kiwanga
Board Chair
Flaviana Matata Foundation



WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear esteemed partners,

It is with great pleasure that I present the annual report for the year 2023, offering a comprehensive overview of the Flaviana Matata Foundation's (FMF) activities and financial performance. Throughout the year 2023, FMF remained steadfast in its commitment to collaborate with local communities and government entities to improve education by addressing the challenges adolescent girls and young women are facing to get education through our programs and we were able to extend our reach to the strategic regions identified across Tanzania.



Aligned with our adopted strategic plan, our operational focus in 2023 centered on fostering inclusivity and partnerships to address the multifaceted challenges faced by girls in communities. Through conventional and unconventional alliances, we pursued our strategic objectives, ensuring that each initiative was aligned with our overarching mission and vision. We are proud to report significant progress across all key strategic areas, including the Scholarship Program, Back to School, Menstrual Health Hygiene Management, Sexual Reproductive Health Rights advocacy, Gender-Based Violence awareness campaigns, Donate A Period, and SWASH (Latrine Construction) programs.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our partners who have continuously placed their trust in us and supported our mission. Your unwavering partnership is invaluable to us, and we eagerly anticipate continuing our collaborative efforts to achieve our shared goals. Looking ahead, our strategic plan outlines expansion efforts into Mwanza and Ruvuma in 2024, furthering our mission to create opportunities and support more girls across Tanzania.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Flaviana Matata'.

Flaviana Matata

The Executive Director



Student Quote

"I feel captive by our culture; they always tell us that we are weak and can't do what boys can do. It is very disappointing and breaks my heart."

Student at Mandela Secondary at satellite event in Bagamoyo,

INTRODUCTION

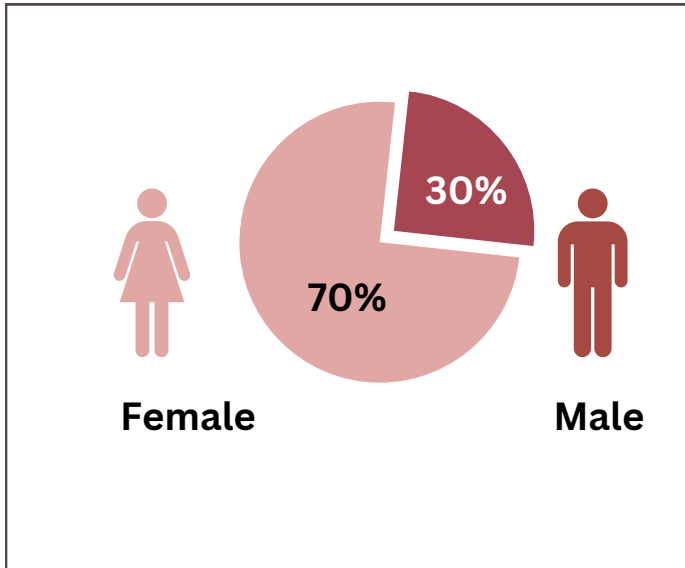
While 2022 marked the end of the previous strategy, 2023 has set-up a notable contribution to the 2023 – 2027 strategy achievement. The Flaviana Matata Foundation remains committed to its mission of promoting gender equality and advancing the rights and well-being of girls in Tanzania. With a focus on education, health, and economic empowerment, we strive to create a supportive environment where girls can have equal rights and reach their full potential. This annual report serves as a testament to our dedication to this cause and highlights the progress we have made in collaboration with our stakeholders.

In 2023, FMF undertook some extensive efforts in implementing activities and hold events that aimed at placing adolescents and young women in an environment whereby they will access friendly health services, education and economic empowerment through improving their attitudes, building their confidence, skills and knowledge. The report showcases the organization achievements attained from activities carried out, reflection on efforts to empower adolescent girls and young women in Tanzania. Similarly, as we shade light on the 2023 performance, this report also provides insights into the impactful initiatives undertaken, challenges encountered, and next financial year plans.

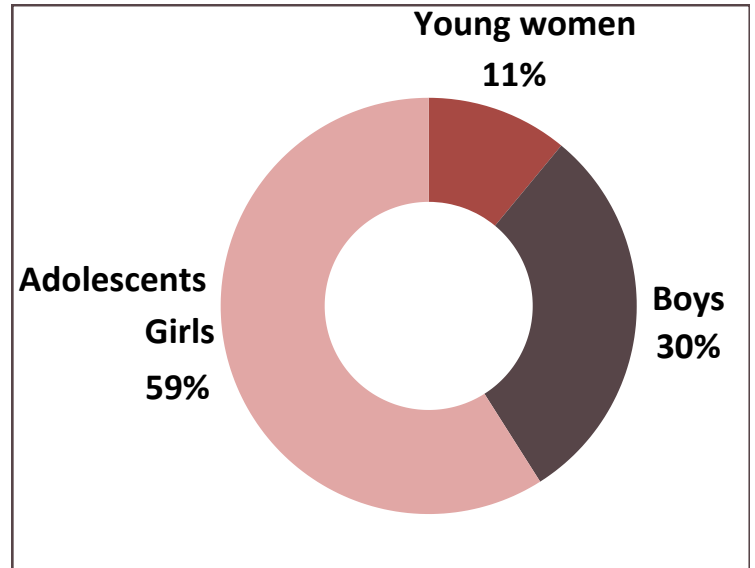
In this reporting period, the Flaviana Matata Foundation has achieved 100% of the annual workplan and we have performed our overall reach by 126% compared to target, reaching 59% of adolescents girls, 11% of young women and 30% of boys. This achievement has been contributed by five programmes including Scholarship programme, Back to school, Girl's education, Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH), and School Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (SWASH). Throughout the year, the Foundation successfully reached a total of 18,257 primary and secondary students in six schools, with a primary focus on adolescent girls and young women. Our reach ranges from primary targets (adolescents girls and young women) benefiting directly, along with boys' students, and stakeholders including teachers, parents, guardians, and religious leaders. Additionally, we fostered close collaborations with government officials and non-governmental organizations to advance our mission for the girl child in Tanzania.

OUR REACH

Reach by Gender

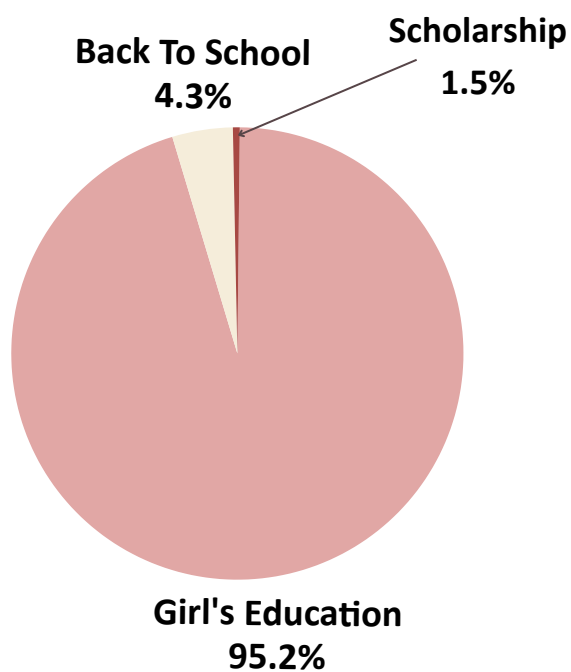


Reach by group

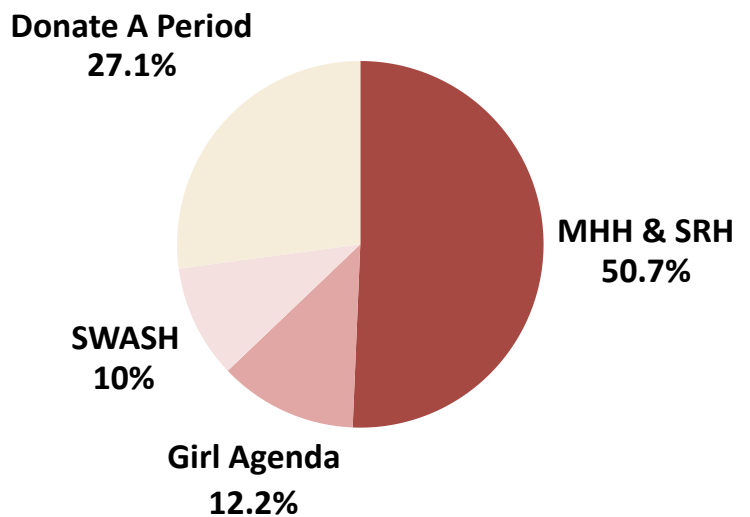


PROPORTION OF REACH PER PROGRAMME

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2



PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Programme	Target	Reach	Performance
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1			
Back To School	100	106	106%
Scholarship Program	12	12	100%
Girls Education	2,130	2,330	109%
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2			
MHH & SRH	9,000	9,124	101%
SWASH	1,700	1,801	106%
Donate A Period	1,500	4,884	326%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	14,442	18,257	126%

WHO WE ARE



The Flaviana Matata Foundation (FMF) is a nonprofit making organization, established in 2011 and officially commenced its operations in 2012. Registered as a not-for-profit organization in Tanzania and as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in the United States, FMF serves as a platform for inspiring, empowering, and supporting girls to unlock their potential and realize their aspirations by addressing the challenges they face.

Operating in both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar, FMF strategically targets key regions, including the Coastal Region (Dar es Salaam and Pwani), Southern Highlands (Njombe and Ruvuma), and Lake Zone (Mwanza, and Shinyanga). The 2023 annual report, shed light on successful initiatives and impacts made across Njombe, Pwani, Shinyanga, and Dar es Salaam regions.

Mission Statement

To ensure Tanzanian adolescent girls and young women have access to quality education, resources, and opportunities they need to improve their livelihood.

Vision

A world where girls are more confident, economically independent and supportive of their communities.

Core Values

Integrity, Excellence, Confidentiality, Inclusion, and Accountability.

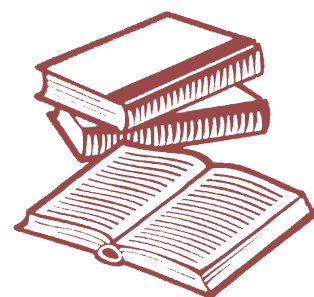
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Strategic Objectives

Aligned with the FMF's Strategic Plan for 2023–2027, the Foundation has been implementing projects and activities that are closely aligned with the established objectives.

Strategic Objective 1

Adolescent girls and young women have the necessary technical and financial support to pursue their education and/or livelihood opportunities.



Strategic Objective 2

Adolescent girls and young women have improved knowledge and Access to MHHM, SRHR, and SWASH services and are free of coercion, discrimination, and violence.



Strategic Objective 3

The Flaviana Matata Foundation is delivering development projects sustainably by 2027





STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

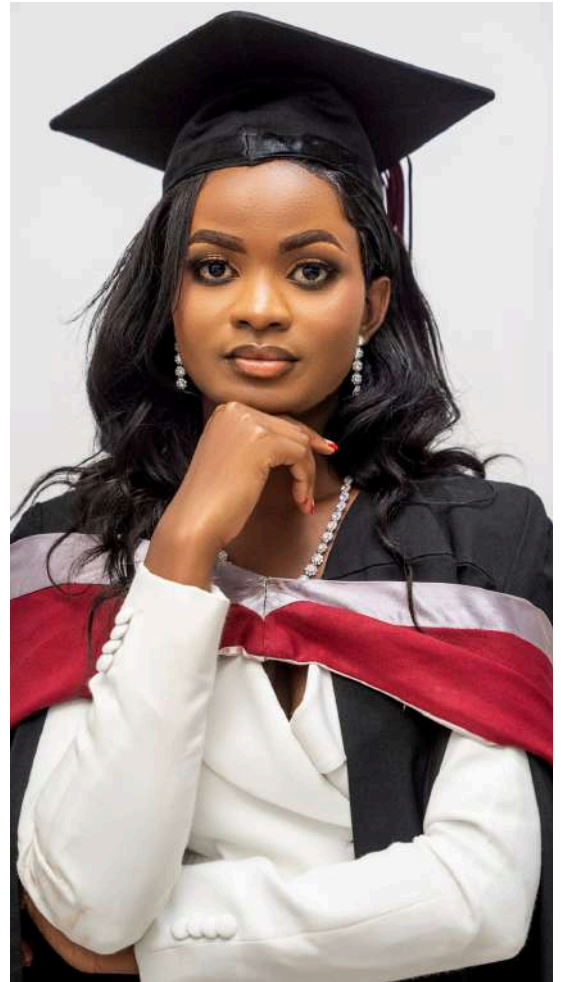
In 2023, the Foundation implemented Strategic Objective 1 with the resources available, conducting the following programs:

1. The Scholarship Program
2. Back to School Program
3. International Day of the African Child
4. Girl Agenda Forum

1. THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Flaviana Matata Foundation fosters girls' education through facilitating provision of academic Scholarships to adolescent girls unable to access financial resources due to different reasons. These scholarships are designed holistically, covering tuition fees, school supplies, hostels, and scholars' upkeep for one academic year, with two categories based on educational levels:

- a) Secondary School Academic Scholarships
- b) University Academic Scholarships.



Picture: Loveness Mlach of the Scholarship Program beneficiaries in 2023.

In 2023, the Foundation awarded full academic scholarships to 12 girls out of 12 targeted, from marginalized communities in Tanzania. Among the recipients, 4 were granted University Academic Scholarships, with 3 successfully graduated with bachelor's degrees in engineering and medical science, and one currently in her second year of college. Additionally, 8 students received Secondary School Academic Scholarships, with 5 currently pursuing advanced level secondary education (A-Level) and 3 have completed their ordinary level education (O-Level), preparing to continue with advanced level studies in 2024. Through this program, the Flaviana Matata Foundation continues to support these girls with education and equipping them with invaluable skills for their future endeavors.

MAKING THE MOST OUT OF OPPORTUNITIES



"I am immensely grateful for the life-changing opportunity that FMF provided to me. This foundation not only supported my academic journey but also offered invaluable advice and treated us like their own. I'd like to encourage other girls to persevere and make the most of such opportunities. It's essential to work diligently towards your goals and always put your faith in God. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to FMF, Diamonds Do Good, and other partners that have made my dream come true."

Alikanjera Bwakea

Graduated in Bachelor of Science in Mining Engineering in 2023



Before receiving the FMF scholarship, Alikanjera and her twin sister faced significant challenges and were on the brink of dropping out of school. This was primarily due to the lack of tuition fees and essential support to continue their education. With their father's death and their mother's fragile health due to her battle with high blood pressure, they struggled to afford school fees. Despite their financial difficulties, Alikanjera was determined not to abandon her dream. She decided to apply to the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) in the hopes of securing a brighter future.

The dean encouraged her not to lose hope and advised her to continue attending classes even without clearing the tuition fees. Two weeks later, the dean informed her about FMF's scholarship program, and her name was shortlisted. Within a few months, she received support from FMF, covering her tuition fees, supplies, meals, accommodation, and all the essentials she needed.

In her journey, her twin sister remained at home while Alikanjera is currently employed as a mining engineer intern at ESAP Mining Services, located at the Buckreef Gold Mine site in Geita. She is incredibly proud to be an alumna of the FMF Scholarship program.

2. BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

This programme is an FMF intervention to support the School Re-entry initiative in Tanzania. The programme has (2) two integral components namely to conduct baseline survey and identification of potential collaboration methodologies. Initially, it focused on providing school supplies to students and teachers in marginalized communities at the start of the academic year, but in 2023 our focus shifted to facilitating a conducive environment for girls and young women who have dropped out of school for various reasons to return to school and complete their studies.

The identification and recruitment of girls in need are among the approaches used in this programme using specific criteria. The programme targets adolescent girls and young women who have dropped out of school due to factors such as teenage pregnancy, child marriage, and poverty. FMF facilitates their return to formal and informal education systems. This initiative was prompted by the government's decision to lift the ban on re-entry in 2022, offering out-of-school adolescent girls and young women the opportunity to resume their education and attain academic completion.



The Executive Director of the Flaviana Matata Foundation during a School Re-entry Support session with some beneficiaries of the Back-to-School Program in January 2023.

In 2023, the Back-to-School Program was implemented in Dar es Salaam Region, reaching a total of 106 adolescent girls and young women across ten informal education centers. Additionally, 65 teachers and 9 government officials from ten Secondary Education Quality Improvement Program (SEQUIP) centers in the region were involved in the program. Engagement of teachers and LGAs, provided avenues to improve the programme implementation. Subsequently, a follow-up session with teachers was conducted to gather valuable feedback and ensure alignment with the program's objectives and creating a harmonious environment for girls to access education.

FMF SCHOLARSHIP, A LIFE CHANGING INITIATIVE

I hold a bachelor of Pharmacy from St. John University in Dodoma graduate this year 2023.

"My association with the FMF scholarship program started in 2012 when I was starting my secondary education at Morogoro Secondary School. Life before the scholarship was fraught with challenges; following my father's passing when I was in Standard Four, my mother, a local small food vendor, struggled to meet our basic needs, including school fees and essentials. To support her, I often assisted with her small food business, known as "Mama Ntilie" says Zuhura. There were times when we couldn't even afford bus fare, compelling me to walk long distances to school.



My deputy head teacher brought the FMF scholarship to my attention where I applied, and I was fortunate to be among the applicants. Shortly after applying, I received the life-changing news that I am one of the two girls selected. The sponsorship covered my school fees, medical expenses, supplies and all essentials, playing a pivotal role in realizing my academic aspirations. My journey with FMF has evolved from mentorship to career development.

Today, I am a Pharmacy graduate, currently serving as an intern at the Regional Referral Hospital in Dodoma, the capital city of Tanzania. From a young girl struggling with her mother in Morogoro to a pharmacist contributing to the community, this role at the Dodoma Regional Referral Hospital is shaping my pharmaceutical career in meaningful ways.

Zuhura Khalid Maalim

Graduated in Bachelor of bachelor of Pharmacy in 2023

3. COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF AN AFRICAN CHILD

Lining up with the theme, “The rights of the child in digital environment” of 2023 International Day of the African Child and Tanzania girl’s contexts, FMF depicted that this will leave many girls behind if major challenges facing girls will not be addressed.

Therefore, to place Tanzanian children, especially girls in a digital environment, FMF in collaboration with other stakeholders utilized commemoration of International Day of African Child to hold advocacy events advocating for amendment of Tanzania's Marriage Act of 1971 which permits girls to marry at the age of 14. Amendments will allow girls to focus on education and relevant skills needed to place them in a digital environment and be able to avoid online and internet challenges. On the commemoration day, FMF used peaceful rallies aimed at raising awareness and demanding the government to amend the existing law, ensuring the protection of girls' rights to education and overall well-being.

As we celebrated our collective efforts to support vulnerable girls in sub-Saharan Africa, the event served as a poignant reminder of our shared responsibility to dismantle systems that impede girls' progress. In 2023, our focus remained steadfast on safeguarding girls' rights to education and advocating for legislative changes that foster the realization of their dreams. Through collaborative advocacy endeavors like this, the Foundation strives to catalyze positive change and promote the rights and welfare of girls across Tanzania.

Successfully, the commemoration was contributed by Flaviana Matata Foundation partnered with various stakeholders, including TAI, Sema, Msichana Initiative, Jamii Forums, and Child Dignity Forum, to organize a significant event advocating for change in Tanzania's Marriage Act of 1971. The event drew participation from 130 students, comprising 100 girls and 30 boys, as well as one government official. Both in and out-of-school adolescent girls and young women actively participated in a peaceful march to highlight the need for legal reform.



**SISI WATOTO
WA TANZANIA
TUNAPINGA AINA
ZOTE ZA UKATILI
KWA WATOTO!**

**Day of the
African
Child 2023
#DAC2023**

4. GIRL AGENDA

The Girl Agenda is an annual convening that serves as a platform for girls from diverse backgrounds and stakeholders in girls' rights to come together, celebrate achievements, and address the challenges hindering them. This forum empowers girls to lead discussions, articulate their issues, and develop actionable recommendations.

This year, the Flaviana Matata Foundation partnered with three other girls' rights organizations namely; Msichana Initiative, Sema, and Tai Tanzania as stakeholders invested in girls' welfare. Together, we assessed progress and made commitments to address laws that need change such as Child Marriage Act, including policy and legal reforms, to safeguard and advance the rights of girls in Tanzania.

The theme for the Girl Agenda Forum 2023 was "Who am I? Reframing norms and practices in building confident girls". This theme underscored the pressing need to prioritize girls' self-image as a pivotal and revolutionary starting point for effecting transformative change. The forum was actively participated by over 2,200 girls from diverse backgrounds, encompassing both the satellite event and the main Girl Agenda Forum.



"If everyone holds a girl's hand, I believe that we will have a nation where a girl is respected, valued, and empowered to attain her desired destiny."

Mr. Amon Mpanju, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the MoCDGWS



The pre-events, known as the Satellite Event, engaged 1,800 girls across various locations including Tabora, Pwani, Zanzibar, Dodoma, and Dar es Salaam. The main forum activities unfolded over two days. The first day featured an outdoor sports festival involving 200 girls, with Faraja Nyalandu, the Executive Director of Shule Direct, serving as the guest of honor. The event also welcomed Hon. Dorothy Gwajima, Minister of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups (MoCDGWS), as the mentor of the GAF.

On the second day of the forum, 200 girls from diverse backgrounds, including those with disabilities, teenage mothers, out-of-school girls, former child brides, in-school primary and secondary girls, girl leaders, and Indigenous girls, participated in the event. Various discussions and dialogues were held, guided by the theme adapted from the national theme for the International Day of the Girl Child. High-ranking government officials took part to ensure the effective implementation of the resolutions made during the event.

During the second day's event, Hon. Tulia Ackson, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania, served as the Guest of Honor. It was agreed upon to establish a relevant bridge between the ministry and girls, recognizing that it is easier to reach girls through CSOs (the event organizers). She encouraged that discussions on issues affecting girls have to be conducted in collaboration between implementing organizations and the ministry.

"You will build your own future, there will be no one to shake you because you are built on a strong foundation of your understanding, and the cooling systems will be coming straight from your brain. We took the same route, that is why girls' issues are our priority, and anything else can wait when it comes to girls' matters."

Hon. Dorothy Gwajima, Minister of Community Development & Gender.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Under objective 2, the Foundation successfully carried out the following activities/projects during the year:

1. Awareness on Menstrual Health Hygiene and Sexual Reproductive Health program.
2. Donate a Period Program.
3. Commemoration of International Menstrual Health Hygiene Day.
4. SWASH – School Water Sanitation and Hygiene Program.
5. Advocacy activities.

5. AWARENESS INTERVENTION ON MHH AND SRH

Focused on creating an enabling, safe and supportive environment, Menstrual Health Hygiene (MHH) and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) programme targeted in-school and out-of-school adolescent girls and young women to discuss issues related to MHH and SRH to foster a deeper understanding. During the past year, FMF successfully implemented various activities to raise awareness, advocacy and enhance the capacity on MHH and SRH among students, out of school youths, teachers, religious leaders, and parents. We focused on regions known for their high rates of school dropout, child marriage, and early pregnancy in Tanzania, including Shinyanga, Dar es Salaam, Pwani, and Njombe.

The Flaviana Matata Foundation has successfully raised awareness to 4,657 adolescent girls and 3,672 boys through training which was conducted using the girl center model. Through advocacy campaigns/meetings/dialogues conducted in Shinyanga and Njombe regions, FMF successfully reached 263 parents who were invited to hear out girls' needs and rights which have been neglected. As a result, most parents and students are now engaging in supporting adolescent girls' education.

The programme is particularly vital in regions where girls are married off after experiencing their first menstrual cycle, irrespective of their age. The Foundation adopted a consultative dialogue approach, engaging students, teachers, parents, guardians, and community members in meaningful discussions. Moreover, religious, and traditional leaders were actively involved in these initiatives recognizing the role they have in removing barriers in their community for girls to access their rights. Additionally, advocacy activities were undertaken with decision-makers to advocate for systemic improvements and policy adaptations that prioritize the unique needs and challenges faced by adolescent girls in schools within these regions.



5.1. STUDENTS DIALOGUE ON MHH AND SRH

The MHH and SRH programme was implemented using different approaches including students dialogues. These were open discussions on crucial topics related to MHHM and SRHR, allowing them to deepen their understanding of these vital issues. In 2023, the Flaviana Matata Foundation successfully conducted three awareness dialogues on Menstrual Health Hygiene Management (MHHM) and Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) for students in Shinyanga, Pwani, and Dar es Salaam. These dialogues cultivated a supportive, safe, and inclusive environment for both in-school and out-of-school adolescent girls and young women.

Across all three regions, the interventions comprised a range of activities, including practical demonstrations on the proper usage of sanitary pads and engaging discussions covering subjects such as SRH, MHH, gender-based violence (GBV), and advocacy. In total, these interventions reached 8,329 students, equipping them with essential knowledge and skills for them to make informed decisions concerning their health and overall well-being.

In Dar es Salaam, our outreach activities expanded to six secondary schools (Mbezi Juu, Godwin Gondwe, Boko, Atlas, Magomeni, and Kambangwa), broadening the impact of our interventions. The successful execution mirrors our achievements in the Shinyanga region, particularly at Samuye and Salawe Secondary Schools. Additionally, our initiatives extended to Mandela Girls Secondary School in the Pwani Region. These efforts underscore FMF's commitment to reaching a diverse range of students across various regions, ensuring they receive essential support, the right information, and education on MHHM and SRHR.



5.2 DIALOGUE WITH PARENTS AND GUARDIANS ON MHH AND SRH

Additionally, we conducted awareness campaigns on Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) through dialogues with parents and guardians of girls in Shinyanga. The first campaign took place in March 2023, followed by a subsequent intervention in May, focusing on education, Menstrual Health Hygiene, and Sexual Reproductive Health Rights. Through dialogues facilitating open conversation and participation, parents were informed on the benefits of girls' education and how bad practices on MHH affect girls' academic performances and well-being. Most participants were female; only 30% were males indicating higher responsiveness among females.

The Foundation successfully engaged 263 parents and guardians from Mazinge, Salawe, and Samuye Secondary Schools in the Shinyanga Region, equipping them with valuable knowledge and discussing with them the best ways to support their daughters in matters related to their well-being and education.

5.3 AWARENESS DIALOGUE WITH TEACHERS ON MHH AND SRH

The Flaviana Matata Foundation acknowledges the pivotal role of teachers in shaping students' attitudes, beliefs, and understanding of Menstrual Health Hygiene Management (MHHM) and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH). Well-informed teachers can provide accurate information and help dismantle cultural, traditional, and religious barriers to open discussions on these topics.

In the Shinyanga Region, the Foundation conducted dialogues with teachers from Samuye, Mazinge, and Salawe Secondary Schools, equipping them with accurate information and understanding of MHHM and SRH. A total of 56 teachers benefited from these dialogue interventions.



*"The Flaviana Matata Foundation has significantly enhanced parental involvement and active participation in school activities, including providing meals for students and attending meetings as needed. This marks a notable improvement compared to the past challenges we faced as teachers. We extend our gratitude to the Flaviana Matata Foundation." **One of the parents from Samuye Secondary School.***

6. DONATE A PERIOD

In Tanzania as for many other countries, adolescent's girls and young women struggle to access menstrual products along with friendly environment to use during their menstruation. Lack of affordability and accessibility of menstruation products, along with the stigma associated with menstruation, has widespread negative effects for adolescent's girls and young women, severely limiting their participation in school.

Flaviana Matata Foundation focuses precisely on reforms to make menstrual hygiene products affordable and accessible through advocacy for policy reforms and supportive structure. The Foundation uses a holistic approach that brings together awareness on menstruation, menstrual hygiene products, and friendly accessibility infrastructure. In collaboration with other stakeholders in coalitions, joined effort to make menstrual products affordable, accessible, and safe. Among others, we demand elimination of taxes on menstrual products to foster accessibility and affordability.

In 2023, the Foundation has continued to advocate for systemic change, creating awareness and provision of menstruation products. Our goal is to facilitate access to education and prevent school absenteeism and/or dropout due to the lack of menstrual products. We recognize the profound impact this support can have on girls' academic performance and strive to mitigate the stigma and shame often associated with menstruation, which can lead to feelings of isolation.

Moreover, through a Donate a Period initiative the Foundation supported adolescent girls and young women by providing access to essential menstrual products and comprehensive menstrual education, fostering confidence and body autonomy and their overall well-being. Likewise, we have championed community engagement to support this initiative and creating supportive environment for adolescent girls and young women. Raised awareness of parents and advise them to budget for such products as necessities. The programme also involved school teachers to monitor project progress and results.

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Flaviana Matata Foundation for their invaluable support at Samuye School, particularly through the Donate a Period Program. The impact has been profound, with a notable decrease in absenteeism among girls and a marked improvement in their academic performance. Moreover, the program has fostered a sense of empowerment, enabling girls to confidently address any menstrual challenges they encounter." Ms. Joyce, Teacher at Samuye Secondary School.



In this reporting period, the Foundation distributed sanitary pads every month to 4,884 adolescent girls and young women in schools and communities where we operate . We have surpassed the target for more than 100 percent, of the targeted 1,500 adolescent girls and young women. Targeted adolescent girls hail from underserved communities lacking reliable access to menstrual products. Through Donate a Period, our goal is to bolster girls' confidence, enable effective menstrual hygiene management, facilitate school attendance, and support their educational pursuits.

The mid-term evaluation conducted between June and July, as well as the end-of-year assessment in December, indicate an overall improvement in student performance following program implementation.

We believe this initiative not only enhances academic performance but also reduces the stigma and shame surrounding menstruation, which often isolates girls and leaves them feeling alone.





"Previously, my situation was very challenging as I couldn't afford sanitary pads, forcing me to resort to local methods due to insufficient supplies from my grandmother. This affected my school attendance and performance, as I often missed classes during my period. However, since I joined the Donate A Period program by the Flaviana Matata Foundation, I've felt empowered in the classroom. I can now consistently attend all classes every month, and my academic performance has notably improved. I am truly grateful for this opportunity."

Matrida Cosmas Bundi - a student from Samuye Secondary School.

7. COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY

On May 28 every year, FMF commemorates International Menstrual Hygiene Day, through a series of events. In 2023, the Foundation amplified awareness about Menstrual Health Hygiene management among adolescent girls in Njombe Region.

The Foundation shared knowledge with girls for them to advocate for their rights on health issues. Actively addressing the stigma surrounding menstruation in the region, the Foundation played a pivotal role in breaking the silence on this issue. By educating both girls and teachers at Manyunyu Girls' Secondary School, the Foundation fostered an conducive environment to proper menstrual health management, supporting the well-being of adolescent girls in the Njombe region. This intervention successfully reached 795 adolescent girls, 40 teachers, and 6 government officials at district and ward levels.

8. ENHANCING ACCESS TO RELIABLE, CLEAN AND SAFE WASH FACILITIES IN SCHOOLS

The construction intervention of latrines in two schools in Njombe and Shinyanga was successfully implemented. This initiative helps to ensure that schools are equipped with proper WASH facilities catering to the needs of both male and female students. In 2023, , we constructed latrine facilities at Mazinge Secondary School in Shinyanga and Manyunyu Secondary School in Njombe.

The construction of these WASH facilities encompassed the installation of clean running water and hand washing facilities, 34 latrine units, dedicated menstrual hygiene rooms for girls, disability-friendly toilets designed to accommodate students with disabilities, and incinerators. Upon completion of the facilities at Mazinge Secondary School in Shinyanga, we held an official handover ceremony with District officials. Ms. Johari Samize, the Shinyanga District Commissioner was the guest of honor in the ceremony, alongside other government officials such as Jomari Satura, the Director of Shinyanga Municipal, and active participation of 42 teachers, 25 parents, and 1,000 students.

These facilities benefits over 1,000 students annually, significantly enhancing sanitation standards and fostering a conducive learning environment underscoring the collective commitment to improving educational infrastructure and student well-being in the country.

This initiative responds to the pressing need for improved WASH facilities in these two schools and across the region, particularly concerning the inadequate latrines to accommodate its diverse student population. The current facilities fall short of catering to the specific requirements of disabled students and girls during menstruation periods.

In 2021, the Flaviana Matata Foundation (FMF)established a partnership with the Tanzania Education Authority to advocate for safe and conducive learning environments for students. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) identified a deficiency of latrines in 8 schools across two regions of Njombe and Shinyanga.

In 2022, FMF held an advocacy meeting with district local government leaders to address this issue. As a result, funds were reallocated to support schools lacking essential latrine facilities. In April 2023, the Shinyanga District Council acted by constructing 21 units to alleviate latrine scarcity, benefiting students at Samuye Secondary School to complement the work FMF is doing in the region.





Picture Above: *The view of latrines at Manzingo secondary school, before the construction in WASH programme.*

Picture Below: *New constructed latrines at Manzingo secondary school under WASH programme.*



IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURES TRANSFORM SCHOOL PERFORMANCE



I am Alex Lugaigalila, the head teacher of Msinune Primary School located in the Pwani region, Bagamoyo district. Msinune Primary serves over 400 students from standard one to seven. It stands as a notable example of a school that has undergone a remarkable transformation. As a government school, we have grappled with financial constraints, relying on limited government funding for administrative costs and infrastructure development. Over the years, this has presented numerous challenges for us, including insufficient latrines, high dropout rates, low student participation, demotivated teachers, and inadequate water with the school.

With support from the Flaviana Matata Foundation's programs, Msinune Primary School has experienced significant positive changes from 2014 to 2022. The Foundation's interventions, including classroom renovations, teacher housing construction, latrine provision, and water tank establishment, have played crucial roles in improving overall school performance. This intervention has led to transformative results, including improved student performance, higher retention rates, and remarkable success in exams each year. The school now boasts adequate facilities, functional latrines, teachers' houses, and sufficient student desks, all contributing to enhanced education quality.

We've observed a notable increase in exam pass rates among our students, reflecting their dedication and the supportive learning environment fostered by the Foundation's efforts. Our students have greatly benefited from education on Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH), empowering them with crucial knowledge for healthier lives and improved focus. As the Headmaster, I can confidently affirm that the Foundation's assistance has made a significant impact on both students and teachers at Msinune Primary School. This collaboration between organizations and government exemplifies how lasting change can be achieved. Looking ahead, we are committed to maintaining our progress and ensuring continued growth for our students. We eagerly anticipate ongoing collaboration with the Foundation to further enhance education quality at our school, ultimately transforming lives and shaping a brighter future for all.

9 . ADVOCACY WORKS

9.1 EDUCATION CURRICULUM

In our advocacy efforts, we collaborated with 20 other organizations under the Tanzania Education Network/Mtandao wa Elimu Tanzania (TENMET) to review and reform the education curriculum for the years 2024 to 2028. This initiative was overseen by the Ministry of Education, and our organization was selected as one of the technical experts from the NGOs.

The reformed curriculum was officially launched in November 2023 by the Minister of Education, Science, and Technology, Honorable Professor, Adolf Mkenda, marking a significant milestone in our collective efforts to shape the educational landscape for the coming years.

9.2. RE-ENTRY CURRICULUM

FMF is dedicated to ensuring that every girl has access to education as a fundamental right to thrive. As part of the Re-entry implementation curriculum task force, we devoted our efforts in 2023 to develop the curriculum. The task force, consisting of 35 participants, including NGOs, government officials, experts from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, TAMISEMI, the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Children, and People with Disabilities, the Ministry of Health, and the Institute of Adult Education.

Our collaborative efforts within the task force focused on enhancing re-entry guidelines. Together, we formulated a proposed framework and layout for the re-entry implementation curriculum. In October 2023, we presented this curriculum to the Ministry of Education for approval. Currently, the document awaits official approval and subsequent implementation.

9.3 TAX AND POLICY REFORMATION

Tanzania has achieved gender parity in primary school enrollment through various government initiatives, including the provision of fee-free education and the construction of school facilities. However, despite this progress, girls still encounter significant challenges related to Menstrual Hygiene that hinder their education, leading to issues such as teen pregnancies, absenteeism and child marriages.

The Foundation is advocating for change, to ensure challenges related to inadequate Menstrual Health and Hygiene are addressed. FMF is one of the Tanzania Menstrual Health and Hygiene Coalition, a platform of over 20 organizations, championing improved Menstrual Health and Hygiene. Recognizing the obstacles faced by adolescent girls and women in Tanzania, the Foundation, along with 11 other organizations within the coalition, has been advocating for policy reforms and policies promoting safe menstruation. This advocacy work has involved key government stakeholders, including the Permanent Secretary of the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health.

On other hand, representatives from these organizations, including the Flaviana Matata Foundation, convened for a two-day meeting in Morogoro purposely to develop a comprehensive concept note outlining the challenges faced and providing recommendations for government action. Key areas of focus included policy reform, such as the removal of taxes on sanitary pads, to ensure better accessibility for all girls. Such policy changes are essential for the effective implementation of programs providing free sanitary pads and the establishment of laws clearly guaranteeing access to these products for the targeted beneficiaries.



Annual CAUCUS Meeting the TENMET



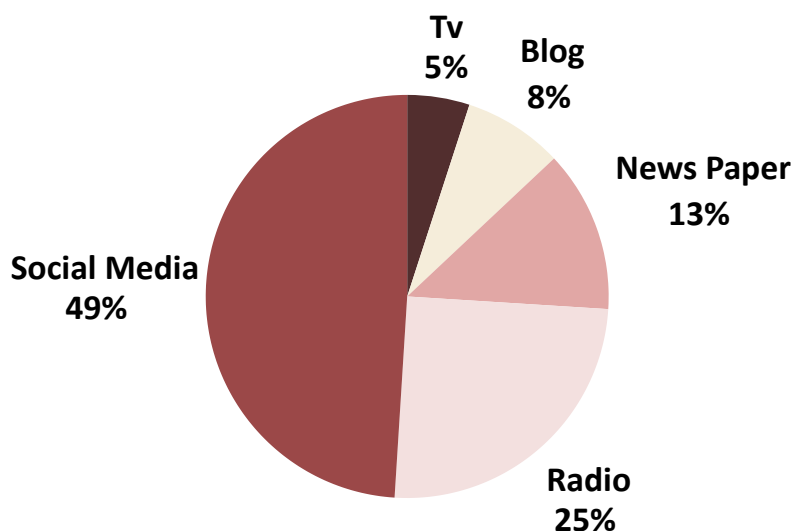
Review of Re- entry under the TENMET

10. MEDIA ENGAGEMENT AND REACH

Our work is shared across the country and beyond, showcasing our achievements, impact stories and informing the audience on events we hold and commemorate. The Foundation successfully engaged and reached a total of 16,294,660 individuals in 2023, across various media platforms such as newspapers, radio and social media including Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. This was done through strategic collaboration with our media partners in Tanzania which entailed the use of their social media channels to amplify the activities and works carried in underserved communities in Tanzania.



Chart of overall engagement with Media



11. ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

11.1 ACHIEVEMENTS

1. In 2023, we have continued to build partnerships with current and prospective funders and have held 4 meetings. Similarly, we have fortified our collaborations with local government and government institutions in target areas and areas of interests, thus helping to implement, amplify the impact and sustainability of our programs.
2. Improved sustainability and effectiveness of our interventions by employing different approaches including involving and collaboration of stakeholders in the programmes at different levels. The Foundation is striving to create ownership of the programme interventions at different levels in the community.
3. We have improved education performance in different schools by 10%, as a result of promoting school retention through improved MHH education and 2 SWASH facilities benefiting more than 2000 students annually. In 2023, we provided sanitary pads to 4,884 girls, ensuring they receive monthly supplies along with MHH education.
4. Improved the economic wellbeing of young women through our University Scholarships. Supported young women secured employment opportunities in different locations based on their area of expertise.
5. In 2023, FMF made efforts in strengthening available NGOs and CSOs collaborations and partnerships and also strived to attract new partnerships in our work. For instance, we managed to partner with Youth and Women Emancipation (YAWE), a local NGO in Shinyanga, to enhance community and school engagement while implementing our programs, showcasing our commitment to long-term impact in the communities we serve.
6. The Foundation continues to be a beacon for girls' rights to education, employing a holistic approach, community engagement for sustainable impact. We champion girls' education, improving attitudes and increasing positive change in individuals, communities, and the future of Tanzania. We also share our expertise on girls interventions to CSOs and NGOs as well as to government institutions.
7. The Foundation's commitment to advocating for increased access to education for adolescent girls has resulted in our participation in the reform of education policy, set to be launched by the ministry in 2024, heralding a significant step forward in shaping a new education curriculum.

11.2 CHALLENGES

The success above is even more impressive when we consider the challenging political environment and government and community will in Tanzania. Below are challenges FMF striving to address;

1. Community rejection and stigma compound the challenges girls face in the Re-Entry SEQUIP program, highlighting the need for community awareness efforts. Despite our efforts, many girls struggle to afford necessities, leading to increased absenteeism, high dropout rates, and psychological distress as they have to engage in economic activities to support their families. **Solution;** Continued to support the programme and resource mobilization to support our initiatives. Also we will explore further consortia building opportunities as a way to package and sell our expertise to support girls targeting initiatives.
2. Lack of correct information constitutes misconceptions and negligence of community especial parents in supporting girls targeting initiatives and anticipated results. This led to lack of open discussions, inadequate support for girls education, MHH and SRH in the community. **Solution;** Continuous efforts to inform the community, especially male parents about the importance of girls' education, MHH and SRH for overall health and well-being of girls and community at large.
3. Inadequate financial resources pose challenges in supporting more adolescent girls through re-entry programs, academic scholarships, donate-a-period initiatives, and other operational areas. Delays in the disbursement of funds from some donors further contribute to financial constraints, affecting the timely execution of the Foundation's projects. **Solution;** Improve our programmatic plan and financial plan, hold meetings with funders to demonstrate our achievements, contracts and future plans. Also, reach to other prospect funders to join in their efforts to support full of some of the components of the programme.
4. We experienced a lack of funds to implement other strategic areas, for instance, economic empowerment and also limit the number of reach in targeted groups in our programmes. While this is happening, there is a huge number of targeted groups in different communities in need of awareness, to improve their well-being, access to education and improved facilities. **Solution;** In regard to trends in the funding landscape, we will proactively build more alliances with both national and international NGOs to position ourselves for consortia funding opportunities in the future.

Despite these challenges, we remain steadfast in our mission and will continue to explore innovative avenues to secure funding, address social barriers, and provide essential support to adolescent girls and young women in Tanzania.

12.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Flaviana Matata Foundation's impactful programs have thrived through the unwavering support of our esteemed donors and partners. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Diamonds Do Good, Saks, Lavy Company Limited, the Amne Salim Fund, TJF, the Segal Family Foundation, our founder, and friends of FMF for their generous contributions. Their steadfast commitment has been instrumental in facilitating positive transformations within the communities we serve.

CONCLUSION

2023 marks the first year of our 5 years strategic plan, making our efforts towards achieving our strategic goal more ambitious to fulfill the targeted impact in the community. FMF has continued to make positive changes in the community, breaking cultural and traditional barriers and providing awareness on issues that affect the lives of girls to realize their full potential. Since there are still areas which are not fully transformed to allow girls to exercise their full potential on issues that matter to their lives, we remain focused to champion systemic changes, improve knowledge and transform girls lives.

Together, we have supported girls' rights and championed for quality education by addressing the challenges faced. The partnerships we have cultivated have been pivotal in fostering advocacy for girls' rights and implementing effective interventions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Yet, while our collective achievements are commendable, they mark only the beginning of our journey. We continue to appeal to our donors, funders, and well-wishers to sustain their support, enabling us to advance the Foundation's mission and forge a more inclusive future for the girl child in Tanzania. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful impact and uplift communities across the nation.

OUR PARTNERS



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