

SheRose

Context

In Malawi 42% of girls are married before the age of 18 and Malawi has the 12th highest child marriage prevalence rate in the world (UNICEF, 2018). Child marriage significantly limits a girl's freedom and deprives her of opportunities, for example, girls who are victims of child marriage tend to drop out of education and thus limit her future employment opportunities. Child brides are at higher risk of suffering from sexual transmitted diseases or complicated pregnancies, also many girls suffer from domestic violence. This has been an ongoing issue in Malawi, which is driven by gender inequality, poverty, lack of opportunities, pre-marital sex and traditional customs. The high rates of child marriage and gender inequality has led to creation of SheRose in 2016, which works at a grassroots level to change community attitudes towards child marriage, gender equality and increase the number of girls in the Thyolo district of Malawi attending secondary school.

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SheRose Programs

SheRose currently runs three programs; sponsorship scheme, workshops addressing child marriage and gender-based violence, and mentoring. We have been running these programs since the organization was founded in 2016 and we are partnered with Mgunda primary school in Thyolo district. This enables us to work collaboratively with a local entity that is well versed in knowing what is needed to support the girls and young women in this area. Our community- based approach ensures that we are working in partnership with the community. Therefore, our beneficiaries' have input on our ideas and approaches. The facilitators who we employ to deliver workshops have lived experience of the gender-based issues in Malawi, we have recruited a facilitator, who is a survivor of child marriage to deliver the workshops.

Sponsorship Scheme

Our sponsorship programme currently sponsors 15 girls, we provide financial assistance to girls who have been selected into further education, but their families are



unable to meet the financial costs. This project has greatly improved the academic performance of girls in the school we have partnered with. The teachers have reported that since we have been running workshops, and providing scholarships into further education, there has been an improvement in the girls' pass rates. The teacher at Mgunda school informed us, this can be attributed to the hope SheRose has given the girls in the possibility of advancing their education. Previously, the girls were not working hard as they deemed it a waste of time, since their parents could not pay for their further education. However, through SheRose' sponsorship programme, the girls are given hope and a reason for working hard, with the hope of being funded by SheRose.

Mentoring

Our mentoring scheme offers support and encouragement as a means of helping them to deal with and navigate everyday life challenges. The mentors feedback the challenges faced by the girls and young women SheRose works with and this helps to build the contents of the programs. We know these programs work and will continue to work as we have increased the academic pass rates of the girls sponsored, increased awareness of the causes and consequences of child marriage and gender-based violence and increased the general support provided to girls and young women in the Thyolo district of Malawi.

Workshops tackling child marriage

These workshops raise awareness by local women of the causes and consequences of child marriage and encourages community dialogue on these issues. These workshops are a place to support girls and young women who may have been affected by child marriage or sexual violence. The workshops provide a space for girls to talk about these issues, where it takes away the shame and stigma they may feel and support their mental wellbeing. Being in a woman only space is important as a recovery mechanism and plays a part of the trauma informed approach. Furthermore, SheRose's workshops build the girls knowledge of their own rights and what is and is not acceptable behaviour towards them. We are developing the monitoring and evaluation processes for these workshops; we aim to develop an evaluation form which will allow us to collect quantitative and qualitative data. This evaluation form will be co-designed with the facilitators to ensure it is appropriate and reflective of the workshops style.



The network, skills and local expertise that SheRose has an organization makes this a great opportunity to further advance women's human rights in the Thyolo district in Malawi. By SheRose being partnered with M'gunda primary school, we are addressing women's and girls' human rights in the early stages of both girls' and boys' education, which is a fundamental building block to advancing women's human rights across Malawi. The workshops SheRose deliver opens-up the discussion about the issues of child marriage, such as, forced marriage, violence against women and the lack of opportunities and isolation faced by child brides. Our facilitators challenge the idea of child marriage, raise awareness of girl's human rights in Malawi, and provide emotional and practical support. Furthermore, we have found many of the children who participate in these workshops go home and discuss the topics covered in workshops with their families. Therefore, through these workshops we can advance women's human rights both at school and in the home.

Local Partners

We are partnered with Mgunda primary school in Thyolo - which enables us to work collaboratively with a local entity that is well versed in terms of knowing what is needed to support the girls. Our community-based approach will ensure that we are working in partnership with the community we are trying to support. Therefore, our ideas and approaches consist of the input of our beneficiaries. We have also recruited Ms Sitolo as a facilitator, who is a survivor of child marriage to deliver the workshops. She will be supported by a teacher from Mgunda primary school, Mrs. Kabisala, who has a strong relationship with the female students, as she runs a girls support group within the school. Furthermore, the charity receives facilitation support from Mrs Chipiko.

The facilitators of the workshops will collect evaluation forms at the beginning and end of the series of workshops The grants officer (myself) and the director will carry out the monitoring and evaluation of this project to report back to funders.

Budget

Exchange rate at £1 to (Malawi kwacha) Mk1,000

This budget is for a workshop of 20 girls, we will duplicate this 10 times - in order to reach around 200 girls.



	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount (in Mk)</u>
Facilitators	Mrs Chipiko	30,000
	Ms Sitolo	30,000
Logistics	Transport - minibus incl various pick up/ drop off points	60,000
	Food 20 student x Mk3,000 2 facilitators x Mk3,000 3 volunteers x Mk3,000	75,000
	Drinks 50 x 300	15,000
	Media/videographer	100,000
	Printing material	20,000
	Buying materials for the workshop books/pens/ snacks/ icebreaker games ect	36,000
Other	Contingency fund	50,000

Total Mk: 416,000 = £416.00

