



Redefining Girls' Spaces #EndChildMarriagesNow

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Empowerment through Education, Entrepreneurship, and Sports.

3rd International Day of the Girl Child Soccer Tournament

Concept Note

Purpose: Mhondoro and Chimanimani celebration of International Day of the Girl Child 2023

Where: Mhondoro-Ngezi in Mashonaland West, and Chimanimani in Manicaland

When: Mhondoro- Ngezi - *October 21st 2023*
Chimanimani - *October 28 2023*

Introduction

The International Day of the Girl Child is an annual and internationally recognized observance on October 11 that empowers girls and amplifies their voices. It acknowledges the importance, power, and potential of adolescent girls by encouraging the opening up of more opportunities for them. This day is designated to eliminate gender-based challenges that girls face around the world, including child marriages, poor learning opportunities, violence, and gender-based discrimination in sports and leadership spaces.

On the 21st and 28th of October 2023, MTC will be hosting its commemorations of the International Day of the Girl Child in Mhondoro- Ngezi in Mashonaland West Province, and at Nhedziwa in the Chimanimani district of Manicaland Province in Zimbabwe through hosting SRHR training and girls soccer tournaments. The MTC priority theme for this year is **"Redefining Girls' Spaces - Educate – Mobilize – Inspire"**

As an organization founded and led by a young woman Maka Chikowero (**18**), MTC Foundation recognizes the unique challenges faced by girls, especially those who are living in rural areas of Sub-Saharan Africa. With specific reference to Mashonaland West, and Manicaland, Zimbabwe. Many girls remain victims of oppressive religious doctrines which then result in child marriages, inter-generational poverty, neglect, exposure to GBV, disease, and misery. MTC Educate A Girl stands alongside all progressive partners pushing for a safer world for all girls. A safer world is one in which all girls have access to education, SRHR education, opportunities for careers as well as equal participation in all activities, including sport. This year, MTC is hosting the celebrations through SRHR seminar/training and girls soccer tournament which is our way of living this truth.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS

This project is expected to have a high impact and create engagement with the girls, their community, and their parents. The following are the expected key outcomes:

- 1000 girls to directly participate in the soccer tournament including in preparations in Chimanimani alone and a similar number in Mhondoro-Ngezi,
- The girls' overall health will be improved, higher levels of self-esteem and self-confidence, and their life skills enhanced.
- The girls will stay overnight for the SRHR training that will start on the eve of the International day of the girl child tournament on Friday October 27th in Chimanimani and the seminar will run on the sidelines of the Tournament throughout Saturday.
- Collaborate with customary leadership to achieve partnership in eliminating child marriages
- The communities will be reached with information on girls in sport and the key messages including the parents and caregivers for the girls, the support from family, peers, and school as well as members of the general public on SRHR and elevating messaging on ending child marriages which is an epidemic in the country.
- Engage adolescent girls, community, local leadership as well as religious leaders from different parts of the Mhondoro, and the Chimanimani rural districts in active sports for girls, and the need to end child marriages, while joining the world in celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child.
- To validate the lived experiences and acknowledge unique challenges of girls in remote areas
- To center adolescent girls' rights including SRHR.
- Spread the message of ending child marriages in Mhondoro, Chimanimani and beyond.
- The decline of school dropouts due to early/child marriages in Mhondoro, and Chimanimani Rural District as well as eliminating cases of teen pregnancies.

Approach & Event Structure

The event targets to equip and empower female participants between the ages of 8 -20 and also people from the surrounding community. A holistic approach to promote education and advocate against child marriages through SRHR education and sport is adopted. In the interventions set up, there is a family, the school, the girls in and out of school. When a girl participates in a sport, she creates social networks, builds mental and emotional resilience, becomes educated about her rights, and develop tactical and technical sport skills. These assets are building blocks to more confidence and for many, first steps up and out.

The MTC Girls' Sports tournament and the seminar is a commitment to achieving strategic outcomes such as achieving SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5 and 10 as well as a celebration of the diversity of culture, sport, and girls. It, therefore, has a balance of sessions that allow everyone to interact and hear each other, as well as events and spaces that enable sharing on a more cultural level.

Soccer competition: This is the frontrunner of the whole event. It is the crowd-pulling tool that we are using for social change. The teams will compete to find the winner. This will happen during the day on the 21st in Mhondoro and the 28th of October 2023 in Chimanimani

SRHR training: The girls will stay overnight for the SRHR training session that will start on the eve of the International Day of the Girl Child Tournament on Friday October 20th in Mhondoro and the 27th in Chimanimani for sessions and mentorship circles, and the seminar will continue to run on the sidelines of the tournament throughout Saturday.

Plenary sessions: These are centrally held sessions with a panel of expert speakers who will set the context on the theme for the seminar. Before the tournament starts in the morning we will have local traditional and religious leaders speak and give messages of solidarity advocating for the end of child marriage. In the end, the final match is played during the prize-giving ceremony there will also be a keynote speech.

Breakaways: During the preliminary stages while there is the main game in play the girls who are participating will be offered short workshops and talks on Child Marriage and SRHR expects. This will allow for there to be sports as well as critical information dissemination for the girls during the day. There will be many information sessions during the final stages

Thank you for your consideration.

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