

BACKGROUND

Child labor has become a prominent problem in Tanzania. This problem has greatly been fueled by three factors: the education system, poverty, and government policies. First and foremost, the Tanzanian public education system has many gaps which provide a conducive environment for child labor to occur. The primary education system requires students to pass their primary final examinations in order to continue with secondary education through the public system. There is no option of re-taking the exam if one fails; one must drop out of public school¹. Students from poor rural areas have additional challenges. Many schools in the rural areas are very far from the residential area. The students have to walk 5-7 kilometers to go back and forth to school. Moreover, the buildings are not well furnished and there are very few teachers--sometimes one teacher teaches all subjects. In such an environment, students are more likely to fail than pass. Therefore, in case of failure, the students need to do something else with their lives since they can no longer go to school. If they want to continue going to school, they have to use the private system--which is way too expensive for most Tanzanians.

Students who fail end up seeking jobs and even some of those who passed their primary final exams are forced by circumstances to work to support themselves and their families. Although the government provides tuition-free education, students must pay for books, uniforms, and food. As much as the government tries to help prevent child labor, there are still many gaps in its policies. According to a 2017 report from the United States Department of Labor, 'The minimum age for work laws in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar do not meet international standards because they do not extend to all working children, including children engaged in domestic work.' Employers may hire underaged workers in the service sectors without any penalties. Furthermore, the United States Department of Labor report shows that 29.3% of children from age 5-14 years old are working. Among the working children, 4.9% are in the service sector.²

For this project, we will be focusing on girls working as house helps, as it is a common practice in Dar es Salaam. Almost every household has a house help. Many employers take advantage of the children's young age and lack of education to exploit them. Child workers are often overworked, unpaid and verbally and physically abused. Some girls face corporal punishment when they break household items and even have their salaries deducted. To make matters worse, most of them are paid as little as \$10 dollars per month even though they work for 18 hours a day.³

Additionally, many girls face sexual abuse from employers. This is because the girls are normally threatened to lose their jobs once they refuse to have sex with their employers. This may result in conflicts with the employers' wives⁴. As a result, the house helps face mistreatment such as not being allowed to eat. These girls still choose to work for their employers because they are better off working than living in poverty.

PROJECT OUTLINE

Our initiative aims to reduce the prevalence of child abuse by providing a sustainable income through the establishment of a greenhouse agricultural business and educating the young girls through workshops. Our efforts will be partnered with New Hope For Girls organization. This organization aims to support girls who are at risk of engaging in child labor. The organization provides a home for underprivileged girls and marginalized young women in Tanzania, including orphans, the disabled, domestic workers, girls forced into prostitution and those who have been abandoned after becoming pregnant. The majority of these girls have not completed their education because of the lack of sustainable funding. The profits from this business will be used to pay the girls' tuition and educational supplies. Moreover, the girls will learn to farm as a skill that can lead to self-employment and reduce dependency.

The greenhouse farming will take place at Kimara Stop Over, Dar es Salaam. In this place, New Hope For Girls owns nine hectares of land. We will be able to grow crops in high demand such as tomatoes, capsicum and vegetables. We plan to grow these crops during scarcity to be able to gain more profit. A greenhouse of vegetables will have eight beds where each bed can produce vegetables of \$11-20 weekly. Vegetables can be harvested from 35 days to three months and then be replanted. The monthly revenue projections are on average \$420 and the average monthly profits are \$300. For a year, \$3600 is collected as average annual profits and can pay the annual school fees of up to eight students.

¹ "Findings On The Worst Forms Of Child Labor - Tanzania". *United States Department Of Labor*, (2017),1

² Ibid,2

³ House Girls Face A Hard Life In Dar Es Salaam". *We Write For Rights*, 2013,

⁴ Sotunde, Oluwabusayomi. "Forced To Be A House Girl: The Fight To Free Tanzania'S Child Slaves". *Women And Girls*, (2017),

These students will now be educated and can then get a decent job. They will no longer be forced to drop out of school and be mistreated as underage house helps. This is our vision of *Amani Kupitia Ujasiriamali*, a Swahili version of 'Peace through entrepreneurship'.

The project will last for 6 weeks with the following timeline:

Week 1	Meeting the Greenhouse International team for the initial land surveying and signing of the contract.
Week 2	Training is given to the New Hope For Girls about greenhouse farming skills.
Week 3-5	Construction of the greenhouse beds and drip irrigation systems.
Week 6	Growing crops that are always in high demand such as leafy vegetables, carrots, and tomatoes.

PARTNERSHIPS

We will be working with [New Hope For Girls Organization](#). We have decided to choose this organization because Joyceline has been working with them for more than a year and they have shown great cooperation.

We will also partner with [Greenhouse International](#) to help us with the establishment of the greenhouse farming business. This organization provides construction services, installation of irrigation system, mulching schemes and farming skills. They will also provide the initial labor force such as trainers, farmers, agronomists, constructors and land surveyors. During this period, we will be working as coordinators in each phase of the project and also be there to address any concerns that may arise. Our experience with peer mentoring and our creative approach of channeling the information from the professionals will be a great resource causing a ripple effect in reinforcing the workshops and the skills acquired.

SUSTAINABILITY

We aim to promote peace by establishing a source of income to support the girls' education. The agricultural business is continuous. Moreover, the market of the product is assured since Greenhouse International will buy the products. So, New Hope For Girls can support even more girls in the future through its profits. In this way, the girls will become financially independent and will no longer have to work as house helps. In our absence, the progress of this agricultural business will be monitored by the director of New Hope For Girls.

ABOUT US

Joyceline Marealle is a Tanzanian Chemical Engineering junior & a UWC alumna. She has been working with the New Hope For Girls Organisation to coordinate projects such as the Menstrual Hygiene training event. Joyceline's interpersonal, events and budget planning skills are essential for the execution of this project. She is also fluent in Swahili. Eve Marealle is a Tanzanian sophomore majoring in Chemical Engineering. Her job of Genesee/ Spurrier Building Manager at the University of Rochester requires organizational and teamwork skills. Eve is also fluent in Swahili. Kapambwe Chalwe is a Zambian junior and UWC alumnus majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering whose background in peer mentoring and leading community service projects gives him the communications skills to inspire future leaders to make a difference.