NAFGEM Tanzania
P.O.Box 6413, Moshi – Tanzania
Tel: +255 754801784 or +255762767878,
Email: nafgemtanzania@gmail.com
or mail@nafgemtanzania.ot.tz
Website: https://www.nafgemtanzania.or.tz,

Brave Girls on a Socio-Cultural Transformation Path through NAFGEM Tanzania

Preamble: Over 25 years of engagement in FGM and child marriage-practicing communities in Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Manyara, and Tanga regions in Tanzania, community members have gradually taken efforts to eliminate these harmful traditional practices. More survivors are coming forth to report incidents, receive services, and the government is more engaged, including enforcing the law criminalizing FGM and providing strategies and policies to end such malpractices.

In 2024, NAFGEM Tanzania continues to implement two (2) main programs, being the Elimination of FGM and child marriage in the Maasai community, and the care and support to HIV affected Orphans in Kilimanjaro and Tanga regions.

Implementation Progress

The FGM practice, which is linked to child marriage, is still high within the Maasai community north of the country. According to the Tanzania Demographic Health Report of 2023, the FGM prevalence rate remains high at 43%. Although there is a reduction trend, there is a shift to subject children from 0 years and above to FGM, a strategy being used to defeat justice, since it is difficult for the children to report or for other community members to realize what happened, for prompt protection and response measures. NAFGEM Tanzania has engaged the government through Ministries of Health and Education to ensure children from birth are properly tracked to ensure FGM does not take place.



This year, 5 girls – Naomi, Penina, Janeth, Maria, and Levina completed their four years of secondary school education after they sat for a national examination.

The results, which are expected to be released early next year, will determine whether to proceed to senior secondary school or professional colleges. The photo on the right shows Maria, Penina, and Bettina on their graduation day last month. The three girls completed their studies at Sangiti Secondary School, and with optimism, they will progress to attain their dreams.



Photo below: Girls getting ready for the 2025 Christmas and New Year Celebrations. They have all come together for a long-term school holiday. While at the safe shelter, in a house donated by the Rotary Club of Louis De Geer – Norrkoping.





NAFGEM Tanzania also celebrated graduation sessions for four (4) young ladies who completed Master's of Public Health, Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Science in Agri-Business, and Bachelor of Arts in Rural Community Planning.



With the limited employment opportunities, NAFGEM Tanzania is working closely with the graduates to ensure they properly develop their careers and go for any opportunity that may be available within the government and private sectors. The organization wishes to develop employment opportunities to as many girls as possible. The girls have created their communication groups which keep them together and ensure they work closely with the organization to transform their families and societies.



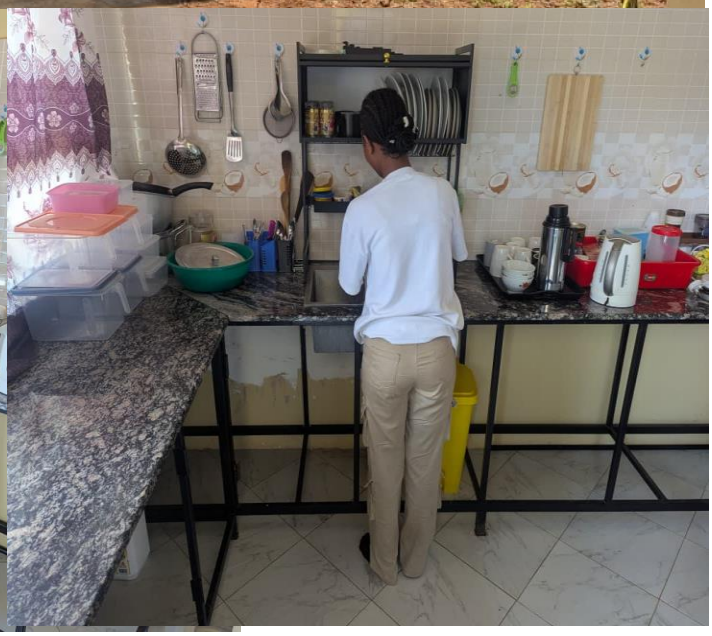


Girls at the shelter attending reproductive health sessions at the safe shelter during holidays.

The safe house provided by the Rotary Club of Louis De Geer -Norrkoping is being used by girls offering physical protection against FGM and child marriage.

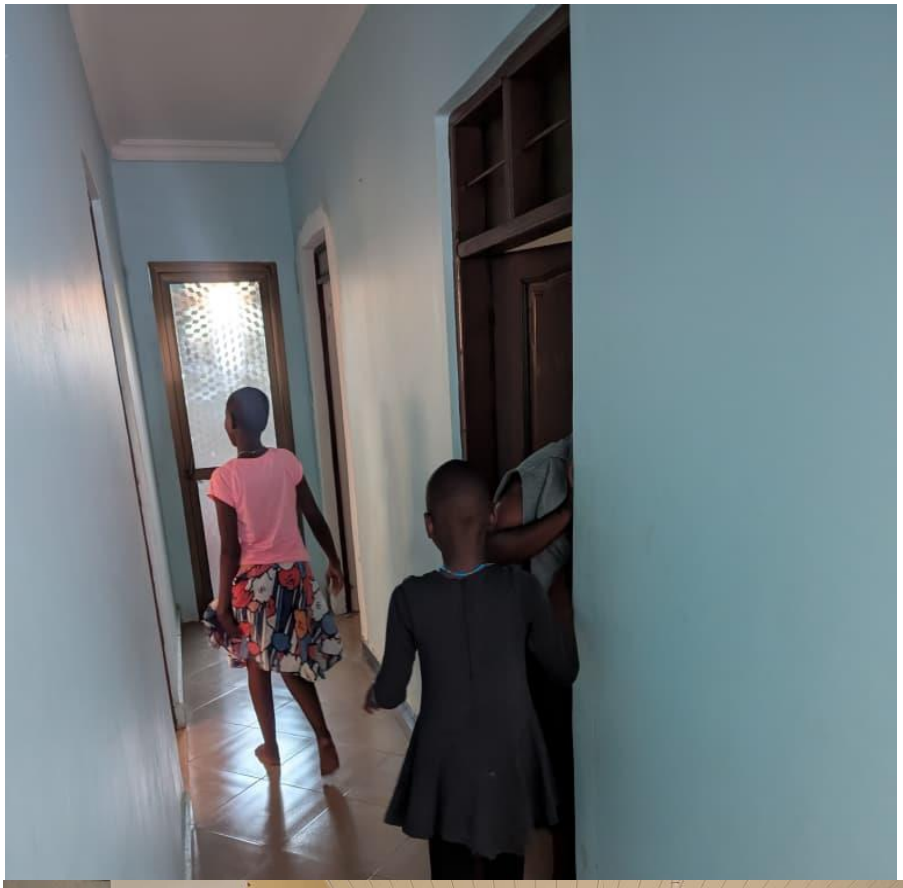






Girls' kitchen at the safe shelter were they exchange experiences in cooking their own meals.

Interior part of the safe shelter with girls demonstrating safety and happiness.









Sister to sister support in doing homework during holidays! It unites them and enforces togetherness towards the liberation women and girls in their communities.

WhatsApp Video 2025-12-11 at 14.52. - Martha and Sindima – preparing bread for all the girls at the safe shelter.

Acknowledgement

NAFGEM Tanzania remains committed to changing the lives of women and girls in marginalized communities in the country. While the value of women and girls is often downgraded by their families and communities, our organization has always stepped forward to educate them and facilitate the acquisition of power and courage for sustainable transformation. Our organization is ever grateful for the collaboration and support from local and international partners who guide us as we move ahead in responding to the needs of our beneficiaries. The Rotary Club of Louis De Geer – Norrkoping is standing close in friendship and solidarity with NAFGEM Tanzania in bringing the best lives free of abuse to women and girls.

Our many regards to all members of the Rotary Club for the trust and readiness to help at all times. We value and respect the relationship that was established many years ago through Rev. Myra, the late Angelika Dahlin, Dr. Claeus Dahlin, Dr. Carl Magnus, Agneta, Dianna and many other Rotary members and friends. Since it is difficult to mention all friends in support of the NAFGEM Tanzania's mission, this is a heartfelt appreciation to all.

Supporting girls' education and empowerment is a great and rewarding effort to individuals, families, and the world in general. This great work is far from over. The organization supports 60 children's clubs in schools with a total of 1500 members, mainly girls. We have 2 day care centers with 198 children from 3 to 7 years being protected from child abuse and supplementing their nutrition, providing school fees and scholarships to 150 girls (60 in primary level, 50 in secondary school, and 40 in various colleges. In a few years to come, NAFGEM Tanzania, with support from the Rotary Club of Louis De Geer-Norrkoping, will have contributed to having a Scientist – Narukok who is pursuing a BSc in Chemistry, an accountant – Nembris, and a Community Development worker – Anna.

As much as we wish to reach out to as many girls as possible, the organization is constrained by demands that do not correspond to the availability of funds. Often, the cost to support one girl in college ranges between US$2,000 US$ 5,000 for school fees, books, health insurance, and other incidental costs for higher learning courses. NAFGEM Tanzania is very optimistic that the graduates will continue to work with the organization in transforming the attitudes, behaviour, and practices towards women and girls.

Many regards,





Francis R. Selasini,
Executive Director – NAFGEM Tanzania

