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Thinking Future-Keeping Girls in School Project (TFKGSP)

Tipologia dell'ente/Kind of organization: NGO

Nome dell'ente che lo ha realizzato/Organization-institute presenting the project: ANPPCAN - African Women's Empowerment and Leadership Project
Neglect

Paese/ Country: Malawi

Città/City: Blantyre

Descrizione del progetto/Describe the project : The Thinking Future - Keeping Girls in School Project (TFKGSP) aims to educate young girls and parents, traditional leaders and teachers about the risks of child marriage and how to tackle the issue of child marriage. TFKGSP would provide young girls with Malawi basic knowledge about different topics concerning their elementary needs, and protect them from child marriage. The awareness on the different topics are the best way to prevent child marriage. We believe it is important to sensitize all the actors involved in the project through trainings directed towards young girls (generally in Secondary School) entering puberty, these young girls are at an age when they are most vulnerable to marriage), as well as parents, teachers and traditional leaders. The project also provides knowledge about issues which can lead to school dropout such as lack of awareness on child marriage and early pregnancies, HIV/AIDS, Gender Equality, Children's and Women's; sexual violence and HIV/ AIDS. The project also provides headmasters' training in order to better the quality of education and to inform community leaders about Children's and Women's rights. The project also provides communication between teachers, headmasters, parents and learners on those issues.

Categoria del progetto/Project category : Educazione fino ai 15 anni/Up to 15 years

Uso delle tecnologie / Use of technologies: In order to ensure the smooth progress of the project and to facilitate communication, we have created WhatsApp forums for various stakeholders to be able to discuss child marriage and teenage pregnancies and the problems they are experiencing in their areas. WhatsApp has been elected as the main platform for communication because it is cheaper, commonly and friendly used tool of communication in both urban and rural settings. Again, WhatsApp can be used by both young girls and parents through Voice Notes (VN) by those who are challenged intellectually. The project also uses Short Message Service (SMS) to complement the WhatsApp.

Indicare gli elementi di innovazione del progetto / What are the innovative aspects of the project?: The most innovative aspect of the project is to tackle the issue of child marriage through the use of WhatsApp and SMS.

actors of the local communities (girls, parents, traditional leaders and teachers) about the importance of girls' education in order to tackle the issue of child marriage. Thus, we found in the education the answer to a more general problem. Consequently, TFKGSP would like to provide to young learners of Malawi basic knowledge about different topics concerning their rights and health, in order to answer to their elementary needs, and protect them from any form of abuse. Moreover, we identified Prevention and awareness on the different topics as the best strategy to to fight violations of this and other human rights.

Con quanti utenti interagisce il progetto?/How many users does the project interact with? : A total of 572 trainings.

Di quali mezzi o canali si avvale il progetto?/Which media or channels does the project use?: Main channels are radio, TV, and posters. NGO's we worked with are elected as representatives.

Il progetto è già stato replicato? /Has the project already been replicated? : Yes, during the years, it has been replicated in several schools.

Quali sono le aspettative future?/What are future expectations?: ANPPCAN expects advocacy for policy change.

Allegati/Attachments:  [project_photo_2.pdf](#) [1]

Durata progetto/project duration: 6 years and 4 months (September 2017 to December 2023)

Risultati ottenuti/Results: In each school, we have performed three trainings in front of whether a class of teachers or a class of community members. The trainings are divided into four topics: rights and importance of education ; child marriage ; HIV/AIDS ; and sexual and reproductive health. Each topic is composed of a theoretical part and an activity (tree of education, drama, card game and pictures game). Globally, the direct beneficiaries (girls and community members) and indirect beneficiaries (teachers and headmasters) were highly motivated by the project. They encouraged us to carry on with it and to implement more trainings in other schools. Five Thinking Future notebooks and three pens were distributed to the teachers. One notebook and two pens were distributed to the community members. We also provided each teacher with a training manual. In total, we have distributed 10,246 notebooks and pens from September to December. On the back of the notebooks, the beneficiaries received information on children rights along with the NGO address and phone number.

Cognome del coordinatore del progetto/project coordinator surname : Mhango

Nome del coordinatore del progetto/project coordinator name : Kenwilliams

Il Progetto ha contribuito ad affrontare la pandemia da Covid-19? / Has the project helped facing the emergency of Covid-19? : The ministry of education related teenagers' education (Eastern region) during the same period. The closure of schools led to the loss of a reputable organization. In Nsanje 324 girls have been registered. The government reported 4 arrests by Parliament in violation of consent age law. The project raised awareness on Covid-19 management and education services. We distributed Covid-19 information in various schools thereby incentivizing girls to be protected from the virus.

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Collegamenti

[1] https://gjc.it/system/files/project_photo_2.pdf