



EMBRACE RELIEF

"Embrace The World"

2022

EMBRACE RELIEF'S

APPROACH TO WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



I. Executive Summary

At Embrace Relief, we believe that education is one of the most crucial investments we can make in people and their communities. Education plays a key role in eliminating gender inequalities, promoting peace, and ensuring sustainable economic development around the world.

The importance of education has been recognized globally through the adoption of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Outlined in the agenda are seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aim to reduce global inequality and promote sustainability and development. To help achieve these goals, Embrace Relief has introduced the Reach Inspire Support Educate (R.I.S.E.) Program. The R.I.S.E. Program's goal is to provide immediate socio-economic improvement in the lives of the female students enrolled in the program and long-term improvements in sub-Saharan Africa's education landscape.

In many developing nations, young women face extreme challenges in their pursuits of education. Around the world, there are around 132 million girls who are out of school. Although there have been positive movements in increasing gender equality and ensuring equal educational opportunities, the promise of a world without gender inequality remains unfulfilled. Lack of access to education leads to fewer employment opportunities for women and increases their risk of being victims of gender-based violence and coercion. Embrace Relief aims to decrease the number of young women in Tanzania who face these challenges through our R.I.S.E. Program.

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II. An introduction to Embrace Relief

The Embrace Relief Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit humanitarian aid organization headquartered in Fairfield, New Jersey, which focuses on a variety of different programs designed to reduce suffering and promote human development around the world.

These programs have been developed in harmony with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide a framework for "shared peace and prosperity for people and the planet."



Since 2013, Embrace Relief has operated programs in more than 40 countries, centered on eight different humanitarian causes that address the majority of SDGs: hunger relief, clean water, women's empowerment, health and wellness, relief for children, disaster relief, education support, and refugee relief.



III. Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Economic and Social Development



SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

In recent decades, it has been generally agreed upon that gender inequalities in developing countries are one of the main challenges stymieing growth. The importance of gender equality has been noted by many as a means to bring about sustainable growth and the reduction of poverty. The importance of gender equality has provided the basis for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5. Yet, given this commonly understood relationship between growth and equality, gender inequalities continue to persist and even grow in many countries in the developing world.

One of the most important steps in ensuring SDG 5 is met and women worldwide are uplifted is providing equal education opportunities. Worldwide, there are 132 million girls who are out of school. Of these, 34.3 million are primary school-aged, 30 million are lower secondary school-aged, and 67.4 million are upper secondary school-aged.

The majority of the 132 million girls out of school are from lower-income, developing countries. However, this does not provide a complete picture of the inequality faced by young female students. Many girls who are enrolled in school face greater challenges in obtaining a quality education and performing well due to their responsibilities at home. In developing countries, a significant amount of a young girl's time is often spent helping with household chores. On average, women and girls in developing countries walk about three and a half miles and carry five gallons of water to their families. This responsibility causes girls' educational outcomes to be bleaker than their peers. With so few women completing their education, there is little opportunity for economic growth and employment.

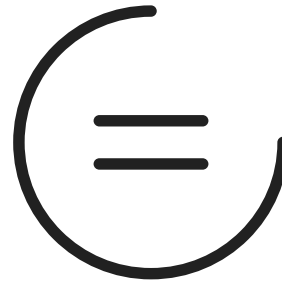


For many women, the lack of socioeconomic opportunity, coupled with other cultural factors, leaves them powerless in decisions surrounding their reproductive health. With so few opportunities for economic advancement due to unequal access to education, young women in developing countries are often left with marriage as one of their few options for survival.

This leads young women in developing nations to face a greater risk of:

- Unintended pregnancies
- Higher rates of sexually transmitted diseases (specifically HIV/AIDS)
- Intimate partner violence (IPV)
- Child marriage
- Coercion

The importance of access to quality education can not be understated. According to the World Bank, **one additional year of schooling in a young girl's life can lead to an increase of 10 to 20 percent in future earnings.** With better education and more schooling, girls and young women in developing countries would have more opportunities for employment. Often, women in these regions are restricted to working in the agricultural sector due to their low levels of education. Women are also big participants in the informal economy due to the inequalities they face in the classroom. The informal economy is a powerful economic force in developing countries but is often characterized by instability, insecurity, and poor working conditions, leaving many women vulnerable to financial hardships.



These problems result, in part, due to inequalities in education and fewer economic opportunities for women. Due to the restricted access to education, young women from developing nations often view marriage as their only option for social mobility.

However, with improved access to education, young girls will be able to break away from these sectors and find higher-paying employment opportunities. When more women are given the tools to actively participate in the formal economy, the overall economy will grow, benefitting society as a whole.

IV. Embrace Relief's approach to Women's Empowerment

To address the existing inequalities women in sub-Saharan Africa face with regard to their pursuit of higher education, Embrace Relief has created the Reach Inspire Support Educate (R.I.S.E.) Program. Although there are millions of girls in sub-Saharan Africa who desire more access to education, Embrace Relief has chosen to begin this program in Tanzania because our established partnerships with local organizations in the region allow us to ensure this program will be successful. Embrace Relief is working with the Agency for the Development of Educational Management (ADEM), the Tanzanian Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MoEST), and the Ishik Medical and Education Foundation to develop the program.

Embrace Relief's R.I.S.E. Program offers female teachers in Tanzania the opportunity to become administrators and supervisors in schools throughout the country. Through R.I.S.E., students will earn a Diploma in Education Management and Administration (DEMA) or School Quality Assurance (DSQI), offered by the Agency for the Development of Educational Management (ADEM) in Tanzania, and will become managers and supervisors in schools. ADEM is a semi-autonomous institution of the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MoEST). The purpose of ADEM is to train educational personnel in educational leadership, management, and administration to raise education standards in Tanzania.



Students have the option of two pathways: the *Diploma in Education Management and Administration (DEMA)* and the *Diploma in School Quality Assurance (DSQI)*. These programs are all legally accredited by the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE).

- The *DEMA* program produces innovative graduates who can adapt to the dynamic changes in science and technology and the system's socioeconomic needs.
- The *DSI* program is designed to fulfill the needs for quality assurance in the rapidly expanding educational sector.



ADEM provides teachers with training in educational leadership and management, consultancy services on educational issues, development and dissemination of educational materials, and research on educational management and administration. Then, the MoEST in Tanzania assigns certified women to specific schools in need, where they will access the current education system and curriculum and recommend positive changes. These positions of power allow these women to have their opinions heard and potentially change the education system to foster a more effective learning environment.

Embrace Relief's R.I.S.E. Scholars receive full financial assistance that covers tuition and housing so that they can successfully complete the program. This unique initiative welcomed its first group of 24 female teachers for the 2021-22 school year.





Donors:

Since its founding, Embrace Relief has developed a large, organic network of donors who are passionate about all of its causes. Central to this relationship is trust. With more than a decade of organizing successful initiatives aimed at improving socioeconomic conditions in the developing world, Embrace Relief offers donors a stable, credible outlet capable of improving the landscape of education in sub-Saharan Africa.

When a donor gives their money or materials to Embrace Relief, they can be assured that it will go directly to people who need support. And as we document nearly every event we organize with photos and videos, donors can often see the faces of the people their funding directly supports.



Partners:

Just as Embrace Relief continues to seek out donors, we also are constantly searching for local grassroots organizations, who are actively embedded in their communities, to join in partnership. Again, here is a dynamic in which both sides obtain something of great value. Partner organizations possess the local knowledge and deep connection to people in their community, allowing them to identify where the need exists. Local partners give Embrace Relief an entry point into these vulnerable communities that it otherwise might not have.

On the other hand, Embrace Relief can offer its institutional and organizational knowledge from its years of relief efforts, as well as the substantial resources we can generate from our donors. And by working directly with local organizations, Embrace Relief builds long-lasting bonds while retaining the flexibility to direct its funding to new challenges and new locations where it may be needed.

Volunteers:

The backbone of any humanitarian organization is its volunteers. These are the people who selflessly lend their time and expertise in support of their fellow man.



V. Conclusion

This paper is meant to detail Embrace Relief's women's empowerment strategy and to provide an explanation for its ability to create structural change in Tanzania's education sector. Embrace Relief's R.I.S.E. Program is a unique and sustainable initiative with the goal of fostering immediate socio-economic improvement in the lives of the female students enrolled in the program and sustained, positive improvements in sub-Saharan Africa's education landscape.

We believe that our "dynamic triangle" framework is ideal for all stakeholders. Those with the funding and humanitarian spirit to be donors can focus on causes and locales closest to their heart; members of local organizations who are closely connected to their communities can advocate on behalf of those communities and deliver needed support; and Embrace Relief's institutional knowledge balances both sides in harmony. We hope that through our description of this framework, readers will find this program to be appealing and worthwhile. We would be grateful for any comments or suggestions as we move forward.





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