

Organization Profile.

Girls in School Initiative is a Boy-Led & Boy-Run community Organisation which brings into light the need by boys to increase support for Girl Child Education. The organization was started in 2014 by Magezi Bashir after attending the 3rd Women Deliver Conference in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. This has a call at the end of the conference by the organization by then CEO and President calling for every participant at the conference to go back home and think of an initiative they can undertake that supports the development of women and girls attain the desired results.

It's also an inspiration from a Primary 4 dropout mum who struggled to educate her 8 children even in circumstances which wasn't appealing, therefore to do something to support the cause she struggled for led to the starting of Girls In School Initiative.

In line with the National Strategy on Girl Child Education in Uganda 2015-2019, this is our humble contribution.

Our Mission.

To see a world where all girls not only have an equal right to Education, but also have the right fulfilled.

Our Objectives.

- To support all girls enrolled to school even the much marginalized ones.
- To remove all barriers to a girl's retention in school.
- To join the girl child at her graduation ceremony.

Our Approach.

We work on the ERC principles of;

E – Enrollment.

“Although enrollment in most cases involve up to 90% to even girls in school, efforts to advocate for more focused and less biased enrollment needs support and consistency in all communities and to all children even the highly marginalized ones.”

R – Retention.

“Advocating for the importance and relevancy of girls staying in school and fighting the surge of drop outs so as to attain 100% staying in school for girls just like the boys”

C - Completion

“An imagined world where all the girls enrolled in school, also enjoy the joy of their graduation parties.”

Programs/projects currently underway.

1. The 1st Annual Students Art Competition on Girl Child Education 2016.

This is a competition for secondary students to visualize a theme about Girl Child Education and do art works that depict their imaginations. It's a competition that currently is running in 50 schools in more than 5 Districts and final commemorations will be at the International Day of the Girl Child 2016 national commemorations.

The 1st Annual Pupils' Debate Competition on Girl Child Education. 2017.

The project Background.

According to the Statistical Abstract 2014 of the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Sports, the Net Enrollment Ratio NER 97% of the Total population of the primary Going age in Uganda, 98% are female and 96% are Male. This indicates that girls accessing Primary Education are slightly higher than boys therefore attainment of gender parity between the male and female pupils as for every 100 pupils in primary, 50 were girls.

- But then, of the total HIV and AIDS cases in primary enrollment which reaches to 0.4% of the total enrollment, Girls make 51.44% of this, which alone starts their education curve to descend.
- Overall still, boys are more engaged in Co-curricular activities than girls with an average participation of 6.6% compared to 6.3% of the girls.

These, and many other factors entirely contribute to the girls' affected completion of education, this therefore calls for greatly attached interventions, like below.

- **The Education 2030 Incheon Declaration and Frame work for action. SDG 4 Target .1** ' By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete **Free, Equitable and Quality** Primary and Secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.'
- **The Uganda Vision 2040**, states that "Emphasis will be placed on keeping Girls in School and improving their completion rates through addressing both institutional, gender and cultural barriers in collaboration with social, cultural and community groups." (Uganda Vision 2040 Chapter 5, Section 5.3, point 264)
- **The Second National Development Plan (NDPII) 2015/16-2019/20**, breaks it down to "(1) Increase the completion rate of primary 7 from 70.3 percent in 2013/14 to 85 percent in 2019/20; (2) Increase the transition rate to secondary from 73 percent in 2013/14 to 83% in 2019/20; (3) Increase net secondary completion rate from about 36% in 2012/13 to 50% in 2019/20"
- **The National Strategic Plan on Girl Child Education 2015- 2019** specifically calls for; Strategic Intervention No. 4.5 Calls for a specific focus on male involvement in supporting Girls' Education. Strategic Objective No.5 and its subsequent Guiding principles calls for Capacity Utilization and enhancement of key actors in Girls' Education particularly involving men to continuously support girls to Enroll, Remain. Complete and benefit from the education system.

Activities for proposed include; organizing male role models at community levels; organizing father protect Daughter campaigns; Increase sensitization of communities on the value of Girls' Education and more so **Including Boys in gender responsive actions at the school level.**

This comes in line with the already running 1st Annual Students' Art competition on Girl Child Education 2016 which is focused on the students in Secondary education which has close to 50 schools already taking part in the completion and close to 500 students in districts of kampala, Wakiso, Mpigi, Mityana, Bulambuli and Tororo.

Its against this that we come up with the *1st Annual Pupils' Debate completion on Girl Child Education 2017*, targeting sensitization and involvement of pupils in the primary section of learning.

The project:

A debate is a formal argument where groups or individuals present opposing views about particular issues according to a set of rules.

In the honor of the many benefits of a pupil's participation in debates here comes another opportunity to engage in efforts for supporting the Girl Child Education, therefore the pupils will not only gain skills like public speaking, cognitive and language abilities, research and debating, will also learn about the Crucial Global issue of concern which is **Girl Child Education**.

The target:

The projects target **100** primary schools in Kampala and the neighboring districts as a pilot project. Major target set of schools for the project are the Government/KCCA schools. This also comes with a concern, most public schools like these have low performance rates, and students rarely participate in such stiff competitions that expose them to more skills acquisition techniques and further opportunities for development.

Therefore, a target of 100 schools in Kampala with at most 20 school per division, and to the schools outside Kampala, the number is not to exceed 20 schools. Which brings the total number of participating schools to 120 but with the most targeted 100 schools. Each school is to have 1 (one) team and each team comprising of 4 main students, which make it 400 students ready to compete their minds out about Girl Child Education.

A Special Issue.

On a special note, all children matter and hence we are including in the **Special Needs children, the deaf**. These are to compete on the same page as the other students, there need to be a clear action undertaken to make people appreciate that disability is not inability and the deaf can actively and effectively compete with other students in a debate competition.

It is also going to help bring them out of the blanket of the special needs students of thinking that they have to be confined in their villages alone or circles, they need to learn how to actively and on the same level compete for the wide equal opportunities just like the others, and besides, Girls' Education also includes the special needs students.

Therefore 3 Kampala top deaf schools on Ntinda and Mulago will be actively involved in the competition, although, they are to be given more sophisticated care and concern especially much help in the preparations, trainings and also special point bonuses at the competitions because of them being special needs students and being the fact that, many of them have low content absorbing abilities, so a more concentrated help prior and during the competitions, brings about the **Equity & Equality In Education** that GISE stands for.

The Methodology.

Students will be given a set of Motions or themes for the different competition rounds, the first motions will be given to schools 4 months before the competitions plus the materials to create bigger spaces for research and practice, only motions for the Semi and Final rounds will be given to the students just a day before the competitions.

There are to be 6 rounds of competition, 5 Divisional competitions 1 in every division to select the best 5 who will represent the division to the District competitions. The Divisional competitions will take 1 day per division and the District Competitions will take 1 day.

All the schools that confirm participation in the project will be given full information materials about Education globally, regional and National, materials on Educational research and statistics, special material on the education of **Girl Child**, debate guidelines, timeline, competition fixtures and other information but all redesigned and aligned to suit the Primary level pupils of public schools in Uganda.

Competition Timeline:

General Call for participation: 5th/September/2016

Deadline for Confirmation of Participation: 30th/September/2016

Divisional Competition Dates:

Central: 6th//June/2017

Kawempe: 7th/June/2017

Rubaga: 8th/June/2017

Makindye: 9th/June/2017

District Competition: 12th/June/2017

Cerebration of winners and Award of Presents and Gifts: **National Cerebrations of the Day of the African Child. 16th /June/2017.**

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Prizes:

First School/Team: Primary Debating Perpetual Trophy, Debaters' **Gold** Medals. Gifts and Certificates.

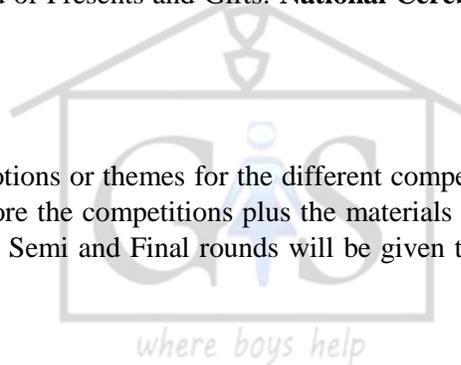
Second School/Team: Debaters' **Silver** Medals. Gifts and Certificates.

Third Team/School: Debaters' **Bronze** Medals. Gifts and Certificates.

All participants: Certificates and Gifts.

**GIRLS IN SCHOOL
INITIATIVE**

(GISI)



Call for partnership/sponsorship.

Ways of project partnering with GIS;

- **Publicity:** This is one of the main tasks and areas of cooperation, reaching the competition information to prospective participants; it involves taking messages to the schools and linking on as many schools as possible.
- There shall be visits to 100 schools in and around Kampala which schools are expected to participate in the competition, this will involve gathering all students and teachers on an assembly or main hall.

- The project will print competition guidelines and posters which will be pinned to different stations like schools, public offices or any other places where students and school authorities can access/find.
- Spreading the message can be in any other way deemed possible like adverts in the media, circulation in circles, social media, at functions etc, all are welcome.
- **Sponsoring Prizes for the competition winners.**
The competition has a set of prizes for the participating students as displayed below.
 - The gifts proposed can be of any kind, from scholastic materials, school fees and other personal belongings.
- **Working with GISI in the judging of the competition sessions.**
The competition projects 400 participants to take part in this and this means 100 teams with 6 days of intensive debates and the judging, monitoring, mentoring and supporting the participating students will need a lot support in terms of man power and expertise.
- **Working with/Involving GISI in the Organization of the Day of the African Child of June 16 2017 which is the awarding day.**
The awarding ceremony will be on 16th June and GISI seeks partnerships/involvement with other relevant stake holders in the field for involvement and inclusion of GISI in the 2017 day commemorations.
- **Good will partnership.**
GISI is an early advocacy Organisation which needs introduction and cementation into the Girl child related advocacy and support programs. And with this competition being the first public involvement activity, having many concerned partners as Good Will partners will be an added advantage.
- **Any other ways of partnering or sponsorship of the cause/project will be greatly appreciated and welcome.**

Benefits to Sponsors and Partners.

- In all the organization and project publications like posters, students' certificates, T-shirts, gifts, scholastic materials and all other relevant and ongoing materials, **sponsors and partners'** publicity names and logos will be given a high visibility value.
- Partners and Sponsors' information materials and adverts will be clearly displayed at all functions, events like displays and exhibitions in Schools, public places Art Galleries, Award ceremonies and any other subsequent events pertaining Girls in School Initiative.
- Online platforms like Organization Websites and blogs, social media addresses, local and international radio and TV appearances of Girls in School will have clear display of Partners and Sponsors' information.
- Sponsors and partners into the competition will be fronted as the guardians for the Girls who will be supported to attain their education through the support that will be given to them by Girls In School Initiative through the earlier mentioned initiatives like the Scholastic and financial support to Less privileged urban poor and the rural girls.