The Mara Region in Tanzania has one of the highest rates of child marriages and school drop-out rates in the country, which has resulted in approximately 60,000 children being out of school. More than half of all girls in the Mara region are married before they reach 18 years of age which severely limits their access to education. In 2016, the Graça Machel Trust in partnership with Educate A Child, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Regional Administration and Local Government and the Mara Alliance came together to establish the Mara Out-of-School Children Programme. The Mara region is divided into 9 local government authorities (LGAs) and contains 824 primary schools.

**THE CHALLENGE**

Out-of-school children aged 7-17 years old in quality primary education.

**GOAL**

Identify, enrol & retain 20,000 out-of-school children aged 7-17 years old in quality primary education.

**OUTCOMES**

1. Build the capacity of teachers, school heads, ward, district and regional level government staff to deliver quality primary education in the Mara Region.

2. Mobilise an alliance of government, public sector, non-governmental organisations and community based organisations and parents to support 20,000 out-of-school children and their families in primary school in the Mara Region.

3. Build the capacity of school governing bodies to identify and reintegrate 20,000 out-of-school children in primary school in the Mara Region.

**ENROLMENT FIGURES**

- **The project profiled**: 22,893 children in the 9 LGAs
  - 13,676 boys
  - 9,217 girls

- **Of the total number of children profiled, 9,359 out-of-school children have been enrolled in the 5 LGAs**
  - 5,881 boys
  - 3,478 girls

- **By May 2018, 20,000 out-of-school children will be enrolled in the remaining 4 LGAs**
Ghati Nyambari (15) from Gokegena village, in Tarime District

“We are learning Mathematics, English, Kiswahili, Social studies and life Skills. When I heard that this programme had been launched, I was very happy because I was sure to keep a distance from my mother who was pestering me with marriage proposals from various suitors. To be very sincere, I was not ready for early marriage. I like studying, instead of getting married or engaging in illegal drugs like other youths.”

Seleman Jophas (14) from Bunda District

“I failed to continue with formal education due to serious illness which I contracted when I was in Standard Three at Bunda Primary School. The illness forced me to stay at home for several years. Today I know how to read and write. I would love to become a good teacher so that I may help other children.”

“What has really inspired me from this project is to see the reduction of street children and so many children being able to restore their lost dreams.”

Raphael Anthony, paraprofessional teacher, Musoma primary school – Musoma Municipal Council

“I would like to express my sincere gratitude for supporting our children, most of the children didn’t know how to read and write but now they do. Also, a lot of street children who didn’t see the value of education now see the value and are enrolled in schools. The project has reduced the number of street children, it has brought motivation in the community to take children to school even those who had failed or dropped out of school.”

Debora Chacha, OOSC parent, Kemakorere, Tarime DC

GHTI NYAMBARI (15) from Gokegena village, in Tarime District

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