

## GMT Day of the Girl Child Plan

Adolescent girls represent a dynamic and demographically sizeable number. Their locus in society and their well-being— namely their health and education, their sense of worth and dignity, their experience and perception of their opportunities and possibilities, the opportunities at their disposal, and their power to choose— will have an impact on how they shape society and their future contributions as engaged citizens, women and mothers.

One in every four adolescent girls in the world live in Sub-Saharan Africa. Adolescents, 10-19-year olds, comprise the greatest proportion of the region's population—23 percent—and are a valuable source of social transformation and economic development. Empowering adolescent girls to assert themselves and claim their rights, will create an environment where they can live free from violence, exploitation, and discrimination.

The International Day of the Girl Child, was launched by UNICEF as an annual campaign for girls to amplify their voices and stand up for their rights. For this celebratio, the Graca Machel Trust aims to work with adolescent girls to have them help us reimagine a better world inspired by them. It will be from the energized and recognized efforts of these adolescent girls that we will gain leadership on how we can build a more equitable world that is considerate of the struggles of adolescent girls on the continent.

This listening series will be led by adolescent girls from all over the continent. The diversity of our continent in culture, religion and traditions would mean that the activities of this event need to be reflective of the different realities that adolescent girls face in their own environment.

We will be listening to the adolescent girls for purposes of capturing their thoughts and opinions to all stakeholders. This process of information capturing from the adolescent girls will begin with a release of vlogs that have been done by adolescent girls around the continent and end with a series of webinars and Instagram LIVE conversations.

A vlog is a video blog or video log, sometimes shortened to vlog (/vlog/), is a form of blog for which the medium is video, and is a form of web television. Vlog entries often combine embedded video (or a video link) with supporting text, images, and other metadata. Entries can be recorded in one take or cut into multiple parts, including a cell phone.

The purposes of these vlogs will be for the adolescent girls to capture their daily lived reality to illustrate the following;

- How COVID – 19 interrupted or changed their lives
- How they had to adapt to these changes
- The opportunities, if any, they believe exist for adolescent girls
- If they can envision a world post COVID – 19, how it would look like

We wish for these vlogs to reflect the activism and work done by adolescents who are change agents in their own environments. Applicants will be encouraged to send the videos in their first additional language, this including;

- Portuguese
- English
- French
- Swahili
- Arabic

The vlogs will be posted up on the Graca Machel Trust social media pages alongside a webinar and Instagram LIVE conversation listening series which will begin on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2020. The purposes of this initial webinar is to talk to adolescent activist about what the pandemic has meant for their lives as well as how they wish stakeholders could be more inclusive of the African girl child's realities as they look to the rebuilding of the world. As stakeholders, our building back has to ensure that the world is better than it was prior to the pandemic. It must take into accord the voices of adolescents which previously were marginalized. Adolescent girls cannot continue to remain as a vulnerable group in society, instead they are to be an empowered group in society that enjoys the privilege of agency over their bodies and lives.

The Trust will achieve this through a listening series that will have adolescent girls speak about the kind of world which they wish to establish during and post COVID – 19. This will be done to cultivate a culture of agency amongst adolescent girls whereby they can claim their own destinies. This bottom – up approach will see national, sub – regional and continental



## GRAÇA MACHEL TRUST

stakeholders serve to support and uplift the calls to action and works of the adolescent girls rather than providing them with antidotes that are never fully reflective or considerate of the young girls lived reality.