



GRAÇA MACHEL TRUST

PAN AFRICAN ADOLESCENT GIRLS MOVEMENT



The period of adolescence is a critical stage in the life of every girl. In recent years, there has been an acceleration of investment in programs targeting adolescent girls and young women in Africa to support their improved achievement of health, education, and other outcomes. However, these investments are yet to result in the realisation of adolescent girls' empowerment.

In part, this is because the key transitions that characterise adolescence: from girlhood to womanhood, from primary to secondary education, from education to work, and family life often go unguided and unsupported. This results in high drop-out rates from primary to secondary school and even further discontinuation of study during secondary school; early pregnancy and forced marriage; exposure to violence, abuse and to HIV infection; and high maternal mortality. Adolescence is also a time when gender roles for girls become more entrenched and gender discrimination even more pronounced.

It is against this backdrop that the Trust has established a Pan African Adolescent Girls Movement aimed at unleashing the leadership potential of adolescent girls to support them to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes that directly affect their lives.



We Adolescent Girls are like Eagles. We are shaping a future of a new order of equality, social justice, and freedom of choice. Through our Adolescent Movement, we are collectively pushing the societal barriers that impede our rights and holistic development. We are grounded in our African identity and mindful of our inherent capabilities and dignity. We are the drivers of Africa's social transformation.





PAN-AFRICAN ADOLESCENT GIRLS MOVEMENT SOLUTIONS



Supports the nurturing of adolescent girls so that they are equipped with the information, skills, confidence and agency to affirm their rights and dignity and participate meaningfully in the decision-making processes that affect them.



Establishes nurturing environments for adolescent girls that enable participation and therefore drive progress.

ADOLESCENT MOVEMENT APPROACH

- The Movement is designed, led and implemented by adolescent girls. Older peers support girls aged **15 - 17**, as “big sisters” aged 18-19, to acquire agency through learning, the philosophy of adolescent participation and action.
- The Movement provides a platform for adolescent girls to mobilise themselves, advocate for their advancement agenda and synergise with a community of like-minded **‘partners’** to support the realisation of their rights, dignity, and development.
- Private and public sector institutions will contribute as **‘Movement Allies’**. These organisations demonstrate enabling characteristics. They are willing to donate time, expertise, or other value to amplify the Movement.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

*We have conducted consultations with over **900** adolescent girls in 27 countries across Africa.*

We have partnered with WoMandla Foundation in Zimbabwe to pilot the Movement, focusing on sexual reproductive health and rights.

We convened a virtual ‘regional convening’ facilitated by our implementing partner, The Amazon Leadership Initiative.

We convened more than 90 girls, partners, donors, advocates, and allies across the region.

PAST AND CURRENT PARTNERS

