



Pan African Adolescent Girls' Movement

Programme Overview



Background

The Graça Machel Trust (GMT) Pan African Adolescent Girl's Movement seeks to creatively cultivate and unleash the innate power and agency of African adolescent girls. This indigenous African movement, led and designed by adolescent girls themselves, will address the societal barriers that impede their holistic development. These adolescent girls, grounded in their African identity and mindful of their inherent capabilities, will be the drivers of Africa's social transformation.

Our goal is to enable adolescent girls to exercise full agency over their lives, challenge and break through the social norms that often constrict them, and in doing so, grow into a new generation of strong African women. The movement has different age groups to ensure peer learning and support as well as mentoring. The first group is called the "eagles" who are 10 to 17 years old and are at the heart of the transformation cycle. Older peers aged 18 to 19 also known as "big sisters" are often tasked with hand-holding the eagles. The "nurturing eagles" are 20 to 24 years old and mentor the big sisters through learning, participation, and action.

Strategic objectives

- To ensure that adolescent girls are equipped to effect change at the individual and community levels.
- To cultivate an environment that enables adolescents to influence decisions, policies, and actions that shape their well-being and futures.

Movement approach



Partnership and network building:

Work with national organisations that have a track record of engaging adolescents and set up “nests” of operation.



Capacity building and mentorship:

Deliver the bespoke rights-based adolescent friendly curriculum across national nests. Foster peer support as well as mentorship from big sisters and nurturing eagles to the eagles through the nests and other events.



Advocacy and policy engagement:

Facilitate access to spaces for the girls to contribute to key adolescent-focused policy making and implementation processes happening at community, national, sub regional, continental, and global levels.

The change we want to see

- Adolescent girls with the confidence, skills, and agency to effect change in their own lives.
- Adolescent girls with the confidence, skills, and agency to facilitate changes to issues that affect them and their communities.
- A community and peer support system among adolescent girls in Africa.
- Improved policy and practices that benefit adolescent girls in Africa.
- Increased flow of resources to Africa’s adolescent girls’ movements and priorities.

By 2026, the Movement aims to support 2.5 million adolescent girls across Africa.