THE RMT GIRLS SOCCER TOURNAMENT 2nd EDITION
Fostering social and economic wellbeing of girls through sport

Date: 13-14 July 2019
Venue: Magaya Secondary School
**Rozaria Memorial Trust (RMT)** is a non-governmental organization that supports innovative initiatives that promote education, health, and entrepreneurship for women and young people, especially girls in resource poor communities.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

In 2017, Rozaria Memorial Trust commemorated its 10th anniversary a decade dedicated to empowering women and their children in communities and responding to specific social and economic issues in health, education and social protection. The work in communities and the data at national, regional and global level makes the imperative for us to focus on adolescent girls as a priority in terms of their health, education and economic opportunities.

In Zimbabwe, girls and young women have the highest risk of HIV infection and greatest number of people living with HIV. The 14-24 age group has the highest maternal mortality rate. Many of the girls while they have access to education, they are not transitioning to secondary and tertiary education, dropping out of school for social, economic and cultural reasons. Zimbabwe is among the countries with high prevalence of child marriage. The situation is even much worse for adolescent girls in rural and poor communities where they lack quality services in education, health or social amenities including entertainment.

Rozaria Memorial Trust has responded over the years running community programmes for HIV prevention, care and psychosocial support among children and adolescent. We have provided education assistance to over 150 children systematically each year over the last 8 years and have reached over 20,000 individuals with information.

The work girls expended in the last five years, realizing the importance creating safe and empowering spaces for girls to grow into leaders, and have access to information enabling them to make decisions on sexual and reproductive health and rights issues, as well as related to economic empowerment. RMT has established girls clubs in Zimbabwe especially in
Murewa and Shamva. We also have Rozaria Girls Clubs in the USA and a nascent initiative in the UK. RMT collaborates on this model with other organisations with similar modelsof safe spaces such as SAT Youth Hubs, Plans International, KatsweSisterhool, Girls Legacy, Roots and WREPA among others. Such spaces are used for information and distribution of commodities on menstrual health, among others. The groups are for both the in and out of school girls

2. GIRLS IN SPORT: An innovative way for social and economic empowerment of in rural communities

The benefits of girls in sport has been well documented over the years. Its innovative and urgent for those working in development work, advancing social and economic justice and rights issues especially with young people to leverage more the power of sport.

The table below outlines some of the benefits of sport.

1. Girls who play sports do better in school. You might think that athletics will take up all your study time. But research shows that girls who play sports do better in school and are more likely to graduate than those who don't. Exercise improves learning, memory, and concentration, which can give active girls an advantage when it comes to the classroom.

2. Girls who play sports learn teamwork and goal-setting skills. Working with coaches, trainers, and teammates to win games and meet goals is great practice for success later in life. Being a team player can make it easier to work with others and solve problems, whether on the field or in the workplace.

3. Sports have hidden health benefits. Some benefits of sports are obvious — like improving fitness and maintaining a healthy weight. But girls who play sports are also less likely to smoke and have a reduced chance of getting breast cancer and osteoporosis later in life. Sure, you can get these benefits from any type of exercise. But if you have trouble getting to the gym, there may be more incentive to show up and play if you know your coaches or teammates depend on you.

4. Playing sports builds self-confidence. Girls involved in athletics feel better about themselves, both physically and socially. It helps to build
confidence when you see your skills improving and your goals becoming reality. Other esteem-boosting benefits of sports participation include getting in shape, maintaining a healthy weight, and making new friends.

5. **Exercise can cut the pressure.** Pressure is a big part of life. Playing sports can help you deal with it, since exercise is a natural mood lifter and a great way to relieve stress and fight depression. Plus, when you are on a team, you have friends who support you both on and off the field.


Football is the most popular sport in Zimbabwe, in Africa and the world, though it remains largely male dominated. There is an increasing interest and in female soccer and in Zimbabwe the Mighty Warriors have been role models as schools and communities promote women’s participation in soccer.

In the last 4 years Rozaria Memorial Trust within its work with girls have been growing the focus on girls and soccer. The inspiration was further cultivated by Makanaka Chikowero who at age 11 became actively involved in RMT. She is a young athlete competing in soccer and swimming. In celebration of her effort and the solid support from her family, RMT Founder and Chairperson invited her to New York for the UN CSW. It was this connection that created mutual inspiration. Maka subsequently evolved a relationship with Magaya Secondary school soccer team to whom she raised funds and donated soccer kit in 2016. In 2017, now with the established RGC USA, Maka and her friends raised resources and bought soccer boots. She also approached Adidas who then donated 5 soccer balls.

RMT then earnestly started to integrate soccer within its programme work with girls. The inaugural soccer tournament for the girls was then born, and implemented in June 2017.

3. **RMT GIRLS SOCCER TOURNAMENT 2ND EDITION: OBJECTIVES AND APPROACH**
RMT girls soccer tournament is both a leadership and sporting exchange programme for girls. It is also a community social effort for advancing the rights and wellbeing of girls and young women.

The main **objectives** of the Tournament are:

- Promoting girls’ education and facilitating motivation and performance.
- Promoting healthy bodies bright minds
- Building girls self-esteem, leadership, team work and life skills for rural girls
- Providing information on SRHR, prevention of HIV and teenage pregnancy and contribute to prevention of drop out from school and ending child marriage.
- Talent cultivation in girls soccer
- Fostering community engagement and building partnership with schools, community, business and private sector, and individuals around shared objectives of girls empowerment using sport.

**Conditions of participating**

- It is a prerequisite for each player to have their indemnity forms signed by their parents/guardian.
- Each team will be mandated to affiliate an affordable amount of 100 rtgs$
- Each participant should have gone a 6 week training module during their trainings.

A holistic **approach** to promote education through sport is adopted. On the interventions setup there is a family, the school, the girls in and out of school and the When a girl participates in sport she creates social networks, build mental and emotional health, become educated about her
rights, and develop tactical and technical sport skills. These assets are building block to more confidence and for many, first steps up and out.

Soccer has been a male dominated sport for some decades ago. It is high time that the girls’ confidence is boosted making them to realize their full potential through participating in these games. Redefinition of the gender stereotypes in sports is our concern for the girls, hence one does not need to be a man/boy to play soccer. In sport girls have an opportunity to become leaders, to control temper, to control emotions, to witness, and be applauded for their own progress and to use their voices. This therefore increases girls’ beliefs in their own abilities. Sport builds an agency that encourages girls to take initiatives and attempt things they never assumed possible. Building agency for one girl doesn’t just help her, it also helps those around her. As she begins to exercise her muscles of leadership, she becomes an increasingly valuable contributor to her family, her program and her greater community.

Community and institutional resources are often limited for girls. Well-designed sport programmes can serve as a way into gaining much needed support. Sports helps link the girls to health, education and other critical sectors as well as provide access to powerful and important information for their healthy development. Sports programs can also provide girls access to mentors, strong female role models and the social support of a team or group of peers.

4. THE TEAMS

The programme will have 14 teams, comprised of girls 10-24 years old. The girls are drawn from those in

a) in school and members of the Rozaria Girls Club

b) out of school/young moms

c) in school members of the school soccer team.
The objective is to integrate different categories of girls and also infuse the social dimension with the professional soccer players.


In the collaboration with MOE, the teams will use the sports grounds and equipment of the schools. Schools will also provide the professional soccer coach/teacher and a girls mentor. On the day of the tournament, RMT will seek official referees to provide service pro bono from the official football association (ZIFA).

Each team is expected to have 18 persons including its players, coach and mentor. Ministry of Health will be approached for provision of medics on the day.

5. TOURNAMENT TROPHIES AND PRIZES

This is a provisional indication of prizes, which is currently under review: Prizes will be awarded on individual basis and on a team basis. Special prizes to be awarded on an individual basis are:

a) Best player of the tournament

b) Goalkeeper of the tournament

c) Most disciplined player of the tournament

d) The top goal scorer of the tournament
Apart from the medals or trophies, these individual excelers shall also have their 3\textsuperscript{rd} term fees paid in full. For those that are no longer at school, they shall be awarded a scholarship to obtain a course of their choice at the center for free. This is to promote education.

\textit{Team prizes}

- One soccer ball per team.
- Winners 1-2 will be awarded a soccer kit/team.
- The Shield shall be defended
- Winners and the two (2) runners up shall be awarded a medal per player. Players from the 1\textsuperscript{st} team shall obtain a Gold medal, the 2\textsuperscript{nd}-Silver medal, 3\textsuperscript{rd}-Bronze medal.

\textbf{6. Partnerships, Collaboration and Sponsorship}

This two day tournament requires strong collaborations between Rozaria Memorial Trust and various stakeholders. This is exchange programme of learning through play as well as community engagement, therefore it should bring together the diversity of partners, organisations and individuals.

- Rozaria Memorial Trust will provide the overall coordination and organizing of the tournament.
- The REC Center shall be used for accommodation.
- Rozaria Girls Clubs with the leadership of the committee and the mentors will organize the girls and ensure quality preparations of the teams.
- Ministry of Education and individual schools will be a collaborating partner providing the teacher coaches and trainers, school facilities and other amenities.
- Ministry of Health will provide information on sports, health and
well being for kids; menstrual health and sport as well as first aid facilities during the day.

- The District Administrator’s Office, the Rural District Council and the Police will be advised and will provide the necessary security and support especially during the day of the tournament.

- The Zimbabwe Football Association (ZIFA) will be approached for support through provision of match officials and referees, as well as general technical advise as we promote female soccer and talent.

- Individual Zimbabweans and other well wishers will provide various forms of support through cash or in kind donations, support to individual teams, coverage of the pre tournament and the event itself, providing linkages and networks and simply cheering on this project.

- Business and private sector organisations will be approached for cash and kind donations in support of this initiative, which could include branding and sponsorship of the event. A package will be developed and shared.

- Media and artists will also be an integral and key partner of our project, as they amplify the messages, profile the girls and provide various products and entertainment around the project and the event. PSI Zimbabwe or other be approached to provide edutainment

- Other development partners and civil society organisations will be approached for collaboration in delivering this project.
7. Sponsorship Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Sponsorship</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Our Offer</th>
<th>Price range (USD)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRONZE</td>
<td>Provide cash or material for competition needs</td>
<td>Brand exposure during competition (thank you announcements, advertisements, banners etc.)</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SILVER</td>
<td>Donation of cash, soccer balls and uniforms for winners and runners up</td>
<td>Your company name and logo printed on the participants T-shirts and banners</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOLDEN</td>
<td>Sponsored cash directly to proceeds goods/services will be for whole event</td>
<td>Promotion of specific banners, name and logo on T-shirts and website and other digital prints. Also given a space to put a booth and promote whatever products you may have</td>
<td>5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLATINUMN</td>
<td>Covers the whole event. It includes all of the above</td>
<td>All of the above</td>
<td>12,500</td>
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8. Expected Outcomes and Impacts

This project is expected to have a high impact and create engagement with the girls, their community and parents. The following the expected key outcomes:

- 500 girls in and out of school directly reached with health and
education related information and are motivated and their confidence and self esteem enhanced.

- 280 girls directly participate in the soccer tournament including in preparations, team Bs and the final players. These girls have improved health, higher levels of self esteem and self confidence and their life skills enhances.

- % of girls motivated to pursue sport more substantively as a potential career of choice and new pathways of life in sport opens up.

- Over 2,000 people reached with information on girls in sport and the key messages including the parents and caregivers for the girls, the supporter from family, peers and school as well as members of the general public.

- Increased knowledge and information about range of issues related to economic empowerment, education and adolescent health, and on specific topics such as prevention of HIV, teenage pregnancy and child marriage as well as menstrual health and hygiene.

- Space created for entertainment and learning through play for the whole community since sport is a social event, with almost 750 people attending the day of the tournament.

9. Coordination, Management and Reporting

Rozaria Memorial Trust had the overall responsibility for the organizing and execution of this special project through the Chief Executive, with support from the relevant staff. Two staff members on the technical organizing of the tournament will be appointed to the project. One young woman leader will support the content of the training on substantive issues together with the school based mentors. The RMT Board of
Trustees assumes overall policy responsibility.

A Technical Advisory Committee is established and have function. The role of the TAC is to provide guidance during the planning, to develop the plan for the day of the actual tournament, to participate in person or virtually during the event, and provide advise in relation to sponsorships, contacts and networks.

A monthly briefing note until May, a fortnight briefing note from June until the day and report will be prepared to ensure timely update and trouble shooting. A final report will be prepared and shared with all stakeholders and supporting partners at least a month after the tournament. Social media will also be used for information sharing and updates.