



Provide a Bright Future for a Child Mother

Some communities have an ultra-conservative response to child pregnancy, even though the girl has little ability to negotiate sexual relations, especially with those more powerful – older men, teachers, men promising marriage, etc. Nevertheless, due to social stigma and shame, a pregnant girl may be cast out of the family and the community – a classical case of the victim being victimized. In all cases, she must drop out of the local school, and usually, moves to an urban center where she will beg for support from others and get occasional work as a day laborer. In many cases, she must exchange sexual favors for economic benefit in a desperate attempt to support herself and her child. Her despair continues, especially if she faces further pregnancies, and though she may marry, he is unlikely to respect her and provide much support. Sauti Moja is committed to breaking this downward spiral of intergenerational poverty!

One Canadian woman provided an alternate script for Gail!



At 14 years of age, Gail (not her real name) was impregnated by her teacher. When the community discovered her pregnancy, she was chased from home and forced to reside in Marsabit town. She suffered greatly, nearly losing her life due to pregnancy complications and depression. Her dreams were shattered -no more education, a child to support, and no work.

Upon hearing her plight, Clara and Martha, our public health volunteers, contacted Gail and provided counsel and support. They learned that her dream was to return to school. There was no opportunity; at that time, the schools said that she was “a bad example to the other girls”. Fortunately, they eventually found a headmistress willing to admit her to boarding school. And, thankfully, an aged widow agreed to care for Ada, her baby.

After three years of support from Sauti Moja, Gail is completing Form 4, recently placing 5th among 43 students. She is a charming, positive young woman – a far cry from the ‘hopeless’ child mother that Clara and Martha first met. She has broken new ground for other child mothers with a history of abandonment, abuse and hopelessness. Her performance encouraged the school to accept more child mothers. Now, we are working with her to determine post-secondary opportunities.

You, too, can help restore a young girl’s dreams by becoming a sponsor

Sauti Moja’s volunteers provide support for stigmatized child mothers by:

- lobbying schools to accept them and facilitating enrollment;
- managing payment of school fees, transport costs, and personal support costs;
- providing child care training, financial support for the caregiver; and monitoring child health;
- facilitating counseling and peer support from other child mothers; and
- advising on and seeking opportunities for post-secondary education.

Your \$80/month will provide a child mother with new hope by enabling her to realize her dream of a good education and becoming self-sufficient, as well as by ensuring that her child receives good care and has a bright future!

For further information, please contact mail@sautimoja.org.