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Secondary school students in Karatu District.

Photo: Rachel Chilton/USAID

TANZANIA

WAACHE WASOME

Waache Wasome (“Let Them Learn”) is a five-year activity which aims to increase adolescent girls’ participation and retention in secondary school.

Tanzania has made great strides in increasing secondary school transition rates among girls. However, while approximately equal proportions of boys and girls will begin Form I together each year, at the end of four years, many more girls will no longer be in school. *Waache Wasome*’s efforts are rooted in the principle of empowering girls to create and achieve goals for their future, while addressing the social/gender norms, economic barriers, and violence that constrain their ability to remain and excel in school.

The objectives of *Waache Wasome* are:

1. Build the agency, knowledge, and protective assets of secondary school girls
2. Increase family commitment and capacity to invest in girls’ education
3. Foster a girl-friendly and supportive school environment
4. Provide alternative education pathways for girls who have dropped out of secondary school due to pregnancy and/or marriage

Waache Wasome works closely with local government authorities, school administrations, teachers, community leaders, and parents to bring a holistic package of interventions to the target councils and ensures project ownership at the local level. The project will also work with government organs to support the dissemination and implementation of policies that pertain to adolescent girls.

PROJECT INTERVENTIONS

Waache Wasome interventions are designed in line with the priorities of the Government of Tanzania's Education and Training Policy of 2014, Law of the Child Act of 2009, and the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children. In year one, the project piloted interventions in six schools in Karatu District Council, with a phased scale-up to 67 schools and 268 communities starting in year two.

- Supporting schools to organize Protect Our Youth clubs, which foster change at the level of the adolescent by empowering them with information, skills, and support networks so that they can better navigate the variety of risks they face and build protective assets to reduce vulnerabilities.
- Forming “Livelihood Improvement for Mothers and Caregivers of Adolescents” groups, which support change at the household level through a community savings model designed to help mothers and caregivers develop a safety net and provide additional support to ensure their daughters' continued education.
- Providing teachers and school administrators training that equips them with the knowledge and skills to prevent and respond to school-related gender-based violence, develop a more positive relationship with students, and challenge harmful gender norms.
- Initiating out-of-school study groups, which provide wrap-around support for highly vulnerable girls who have dropped out of school. These help teen mothers make better decisions, develop self-confidence, and reduce their risk for HIV infection.

BUDGET \$10.5 million

DURATION

December 2016 – September 2021

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

- Karatu District Council
- Musoma District Council
- Musoma Municipal Council
- Tarime District Council

IMPLEMENTER

World Education Initiative, Bantwana
<https://bantwana.org/>

PARTNERS

Government of Tanzania
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