

## Levelling the Field updates for the Scottish Government (2018-2019)

In January 2017 Comic Relief and the Scottish Government formed a partnership to launch Levelling the Field - an initiative using the power of sport to enable and inspire women and girls to reach their full potential. Levelling the Field is targeting **Sustainable Development Goal 5 – to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls** in Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia.

This investment of £1.8M represents a joint commitment by Comic Relief and the Scottish Government to tackle the greatest challenges facing women and girls in our world today. Our partnership will continue to maximise our impact, leverage new learning, and share stories of change.

Summary of outcomes from Levelling the Field:

In 2018, 11 grants were awarded to delivery partners: three in Zambia, five in Rwanda, and three in Malawi. All organisations are working towards a minimum of one of the following outcomes:

- Reduce gender stereotypes that have a negative impact on women and girls
- Increase social inclusion of women and girls
- Increase opportunities for women and girls to access education, employment and training
- Improve the leadership skills of women and girls
- Tackle violence against women and girls; enabling women and girls to live free from harm, and with access to crucial support. This final approach aligns with 'Equally Safe', Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls domestically.

11 organisations successfully received funding over the period from July 2017 to March 2018. In-country start-up workshops were delivered in Kigali, Rwanda, with five delivery partners.

Over this period, key outcomes have been achieved through the first phase of Levelling the Field:

- **Rwanda:** Shooting Touch are using basketball to engage women and girls in rural Rwanda. Their 6-month report highlighted that 400 men in the community attended family day events, with 96% reporting they support females playing sports.
- **Zambia:** The attitudes of the women and girls taking part in Karate is shifting through the work of YCare International in Lusaka; with Karate now being viewed as a positive sport, and an increased appreciation of the benefits to the sport (self-esteem, personal safety), particularly for the women and girls who are not attending school.
- **Malawi:** The Vice President's wife, Mrs Mary Chilima, in Lilongwe launched the British Council's 'Our Shared Goal' project, alongside key stakeholders and 129 attendees, gaining extensive positive public coverage, [here](#).

Across the three countries, all organisations are increasing their capacity around ability to adopt a Sport for Change approach to successfully engage women and girls. Highlights include the organisation Komera, in Rwanda, who is using Yoga to reach out to young mothers for the first time; and in Malawi, United Purpose are upskilling the team on the ground to use a Sport for Change approach with a focus on netball. In Malawi, collaborative has taken root in all funded programmes, with the sharing of physical resources, training and learning.

### **Partnership Workshop 2019**

In February 2019, Comic Relief had the pleasure of hosting representatives from the Scottish Government's International Development Department. Bringing together Gender Justice, Policy and Grant and Funding specialists, it was an invaluable workshop by partners in examining the key

lessons from the programme to inform future work, ensure impact, and explore amplifying the success of this partnership.

### Comic Relief, bringing together policy and practice

On Tuesday 12th March 2019, Comic Relief hosted the official Red Nose Day reception at parliament, to hear from South African delivery partners about the work of Comic Relief. Chaired by Sir Lenny Henry following his recent trip to South Africa, the reception heard from Nozandulela Samela and Thulani Manci, who travelled to the UK parliament to describe first-hand what their projects are doing with support from Comic Relief.

Attended by a representative of the Scottish Government, Ms Nozandulela Samela, an HIV activist told the reception how funds raised by Red Nose Day enables her organisation to equip and empower 'Mentor Mothers,' who work in clinics and communities across eight countries. In turn, this ensures that more children are born HIV-free and mothers are supported and educated.

### Action Aid/ GRS update from year one of delivery

- 45 coaches trained as role models to facilitate girls' empowerment using the SKILLZ street football curriculum and Human Rights based approach in the 3 project sites.
- Trained coaches rolled out school and community-based sessions on HIV and Sexual Reproductive Health to 810 adolescent girls and young women in the project sites.
- A four day Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) training was held for 19 GRS Zambia staff and coaches. The training was facilitated by ActionAid Staff, with the purpose of supporting the integration of the HRBA and Sports for development approach in the project during the three-year partnership.
- 15 media campaigns were held that focused on advocating on breaking gender stereotypes in Nakonde and Nalolo districts. These campaigns used community-based radios, with an estimated 2000 listeners.
- Engagement meetings held with school authorities, sports associations and traditional leaders and trainings held for Mother Support Groups in Nalolo and Nakonde District to enhance their capacities in GBV mitigation and reporting of referrals within the project sites.

### Images

Pictures from Shooting Touch:

[http://mm.gettyimages.com/mm/nicePath/comicrelief\\_public?nav=pr647908939](http://mm.gettyimages.com/mm/nicePath/comicrelief_public?nav=pr647908939)

## COMIC RELIEF LEVELLING THE FIELD PROJECTS – 2018/19 REPORT

#	Organisation in Malawi / Rwanda / Zambia	About the programme/aim/objectives	Contribution to SDGs	Number of Direct Beneficiaries	Key outcomes
<b>MALAWI</b>					
1	United Purpose	This project implemented a netball-based education programme for 480 girls aged 10-18 living in Dedza district in Malawi, who are identified as disenfranchised. Girls will be inspired to reach their full potential and be able to influence their own and their peers' lives. Boys, families and communities will benefit from mixed-gender community tournaments. The project will build the capacity of United Purpose Malawi in using Sport as a tool for social Change, enabling it to transfer learning in Sport for Change to its partners in Malawi and the wider sector.	Goal 5	95	<p>All 21 girls interviewed could express a vision for the future, e.g. to be a teacher, a doctor, etc).</p> <p>As with the parents, responses from boys showed high levels of gender-equitable attitudes to some questions; for example 100% of boys strongly agreed with the importance of girls accessing education, and 95% of boys disagreed with men beating wives if they had done something to deserve it.</p> <p>83% of the girls feel very confident about organising a sports event or tournament, and of their netball skills.</p>
2	The British Council	High levels of poverty, poor housing conditions and lack of access to services in Likuni and Mtandire, peri-urban settlements of Malawi's capital city, significantly hamper the healthy development of young people. Gender inequality means girls in particular are at risk of early child marriage and sexual violence. This project will provide safe spaces	Goal 5	250	<p>320 adolescents were recruited of whom 250 completed and graduated the course.</p> <p>26 coach-educators and 250 young participants trained in the project model leading to visible positive behaviour-attitude changes in both groups;</p>

		for 1170 young people (60% of them girls) aged between 7 and 20 years to learn about healthy relationships and behaviours, to gain life skills and to advocate for their rights through the delivery of a sport for development curriculum. They will be better able to access SRH services and communities will be more aware of issues they face.			
3	Tackle Africa	Rates of teenage pregnancy and early marriage are very high in Malawi and account for a quarter of all school drop-outs amongst girls. This project will use football coaching to provide 1200 teenage mothers and 1200 adolescent girls in Mangochi and Mchinji, the two districts with the highest prevalence of teenage pregnancy in the country, with the family planning knowledge, services and skills to guard against unplanned pregnancy and sexual/reproductive health rights issues. As a result, they will be better able to complete their education, remain healthy and reach their full potential. Adolescent boys and young men in the community will also display more positive attitudes towards women.	Goal 5	1480	<p>Several of the case studies collected have shown that players and coaches alike feel happier accessing services, with self-reported clinical attendance up, and increased confidence in taking control of their sexual reproductive health, re-enrolling back in school, and being long term advocates for vulnerable girls and young women.</p> <p>15 girls have been withdrawn from marriage during the project with 8 of them now back at school.</p> <p>An average of 240 boys have improved outlook towards girls who are well informed on SRHR matters and actively take decisions concerning their lives without fear of being judged by society.</p> <p>There has been marked increase in demand for STI screening services.</p>

RWANDA					
4	Cricket Builds Hope (formerly the Rwanda Cricket Stadium Foundation)	<p>Cricket Builds Hope</p> <p>The Rwandan Cricket Stadium Foundation (RCSF) works with Resonate to unlock the leadership skills of low-income young women in Gahanga. Using the stadium as the venue, they deliver a leadership development programme that combines cricket with Resonate's workshops.</p>	Goal 5		<p>97% of the participants found cricket sessions to be useful in developing skills learned in the classroom-based leadership training</p> <p>More than 62% of the participant have gained confidence in public speaking as well as in their ability to achieve their goals.</p> <p>The structure of the training programme was effective, with CBH team being certified to deliver the leadership training in the future</p>
5	Kids Play Rwanda	<p>Kids Play Rwanda (KPR) will improve gender equity in rural Rwanda through the delivery of 'Let's Play Fair' (LPF), their sport-based education program to reduce negative gender stereotypes, improve the leadership skills of girls and women, and shift the community toward more gender equitable beliefs and behaviours. 75 females aged 7-19 and 75 males aged 7-19 will benefit from the programme, with 50 of the girls aged 13 - 19 taking part in their 'All Girls United' pilot project. 13 local Coaches will be trained and supported to deliver the curriculum. Local communities will be engaged through community days.</p>	Goal 5	223	<p>45 community program days held with a total of 3000 community members attending, including 190 parents</p> <p>Girls attending KPR had an average school grade of 60.6%, a 5% increase from 2015</p> <p>150 youth took part in the Lets Play Fair programme</p>

6	Care International UK	Although attitudes have shifted greatly since the 1994 genocide, the average adolescent girl in Rwanda faces discrimination and disempowerment, which can lead to physical and sexual based violence. Sport will be used as a hook to engage with adolescent girls and boys, alongside a broader programme to educate them on the harmful results of gender stereotyping, sexual and gender based violence, and negative behaviours/socio-cultural practices on adolescent girls' lives. Added to which girls (and some boys too) will be trained as sports leaders and youth advocates to empower them to speak out on the harmful social practices, and to promote a positive change in attitudes amongst their peers.	Goal 5	8645	<p>24 coaches trained in using sport for development approaches</p> <p>Community meetings held on different themes including SRH, S/GBV, Early pregnancy, Gender inequality within households to youth, girls and boys members of sports clubs. They used Public speeches and role plays to deliver their message during meetings at schools and sports tournaments.</p> <p>Through their interactions and gaining more of an understanding about their similarities and the different challenges and role expectations faced by boys and girls, more of the young people demonstrated a greater acceptance of the other gender and a move away from negative stereotypes.</p>
7	Shooting Touch	Shooting Touch are proposing to deliver basketball health sessions that incorporate an employability module to drive gender equity, reduce stigmas, and increase employment. Existing basketball for health work will be expanded to include modalities specifically for women aimed at driving economic empowerment through employment and self-employment in their communities.	Goal 5	1116	<p>Support for females playing sports amongst their male counter-parts (in attendance) has gone from just 50% supportive to 96% supportive (surveyed over 300 men).</p> <p>100% of the girls in the class truly understand their legal rights.</p> <p>Number of attendees at the STD testing days in 2018 represent nearly a tripling of access to STD testing and education as compared to the attendee numbers in 2017. These numbers alone illustrate a decrease in stigmas surrounding STDs.</p> <p>100% of the girls in the class have increased their confidence.</p>

8	Komera	<p>Komera will work in Kayonza District in the Eastern province of rural Rwanda addressing the most pressing issues facing adolescent girls. They will use a football based curriculum to challenge gender norms in primary schools, and I use community runs to engage and bring local people together to challenge the gender stereotypes that exist around females engaging in sport; alongside messaging around gender based violence and sexual and reproductive health. They will provide direct support to the most vulnerable and marginalised teen mothers through a community based mentorship program.</p>	Goal 5	1552	<p>Adolescent mothers improved their knowledge of child and maternal health. At baseline, 73% could recall and use key messages from Komera on child and maternal health, and at endline it was 87%.</p> <p>The adolescent mothers were able to support others in their community after joining the Komera program. At baseline, 52% were able to provide psychosocial support to others, while at endline it had increased to 87%.</p> <p>Qualitative data showed an improvement in the relationships between boys and girls.</p> <p>At baseline 14% of pupils were able to recall knowledge on sexual reproductive health and child rights. By the end of the program 38% of P5 pupils were able to recall 65% of sexual and reproductive health knowledge</p> <p>One of the trainers noted that before if they spoke about gender dynamics, students would not listen. But through games and play they were able to shift the way boys and girls engaged and play together.</p>
---	--------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------	------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

ZAMBIA					
9	Y Care International	To increase social inclusion of young women who have dropped out of school, and ensure healthy relationships are understood and promoted in Kalingalinga slum, Lusaka. Via Karate, 200 young people (160 girls and 40 boys aged 15-19) will have improved skills to prepare them for economic opportunities, and contribute to and practice respectful relationships.	Goal 5	201	<p>190 beneficiaries completed the life skills training.</p> <p>141 beneficiaries completed the business training and have acquired financial and entrepreneurial skills. 10 young people have set up new businesses, including selling ice drinks, hair extensions or second-hand items like clothes and shoes.</p> <p>Positive behavioural changes have been observed between male and female karate beneficiaries. Women demonstrating their abilities has helped them gain respect with their fellow beneficiaries.</p>
10	ActionAid Zambia	Working in 3 districts of Zambia, this project will challenge the existing social norms and gender inequality that perpetuates Violence Against Women and Girls. It will support 3,000 of the most vulnerable girls and young women, at risk or survivors of violence, to realise their right to a violence-free life, and opportunities for participation and leadership in schools and communities. Football will be used as an integral part of the programme, to enhance life skills and creatively engage with girls.	Goal 5	1520	<p>45 young women gained skills as coaches. They further enhanced the knowledge and skills of 810 girls in their respective areas (Nalolo, Nakonde, Lusaka) through Skills activities.</p> <p>Media Campaigns on breaking gender stereotypes using community radio stations were conducted. Most callers committed to ensuring that the girls in their communities are supported and encouraged.</p> <p>Apart from supporting the activities of the girls, the project has motivated the boys in Nakonde who are now requesting that a similar project be set up for them because of the great work they have noticed the girls conduct in their community.</p>



11	Women Win	<p>Playing It Forward seeks to transform the lives of adolescent girls (AG) and young women (YW) in Zambia, through sport and life-skills training. Its three-year plan is to provide economic empowerment to a group of 150 young women and girls who have completed previous training, as well as bringing in a further 1200 girls as new joiners for the Goal programme. To begin, a local market analysis of openings for girls in the labour market and businesses will inform and lead to group teaching, individual mentoring and support in finding work and internships in sports or other sectors. Some girls will also be helped to set up their own small businesses with start-up grants and seed funding.</p>	Goal 5	460	<p>66% of Goal participants improved their knowledge and attitude towards gender equity and GBV.</p> <p>61% of Goal participants improved their knowledge on menstrual hygiene management, pregnancy prevention, HIV/AIDS and disease transmission.</p> <p>74% of participants increased financial literacy and improved attitudes and behaviours related to economic empowerment.</p> <p>69% of the adolescent girls improved their confidence and leadership skills to assert themselves and exercise their rights</p>
----	-----------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------	-----	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------