

Sponsors give child mothers new hope and opportunity for the future



At 14 years of age, Gail was sexually-exploited. When her pregnancy was discovered, she was chased from home. She nearly lost 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, our public health volunteers visited Gail in the hospital and provided counsel and support. They learned that her dream was to return to school. They helped her gain acceptance to a new school and encouraged her aunt to care for her baby.

Now at age 20, after five years of support from Sauti Moja, Gail has completed secondary school and is studying business management in college. This year, she interned in a large bank, as it would afford her the best employment opportunity after graduation.

Gail is a charming young woman - a far cry from the 'hopeless' child mother that she once was. Now, Gail is an encouragement to other child mothers who suffer rejection and hopelessness.

Provide a Brighter Future for a Vulnerable Child Mother

Since 2006, Sauti Moja's Child Mother Program has facilitated continued educational opportunities for girls who become pregnant while students and, therefore, face shattered dreams, new responsibilities, and uncertain futures.

Plight of Child Mothers

In both Kenya and Tanzania, becoming pregnant while studying can signal the end of a girl's education. In communities where Sauti Moja works, reactions to pregnancy are different, but the consequences are equally serious. Some communities, such as the Borana and Gabra of northern Kenya have a very conservative response to child pregnancy, and due to social stigma and shame a pregnant girl may be cast out of the family and community. She loses her educational opportunity, due to lack of support for herself and child.

In Tanzania, a pregnant student is permanently expelled from the public school system. Some Maasai families that place a lower value on education of girls which coupled with loss of affordable education often results in the child mother being forced into early marriage.

Sauti Moja Needs Your Help

You can help restore a young girl's dreams by becoming a sponsor. Your sponsorship will make it possible for Sauti Moja to support child mothers by:

- Counselling pregnant girls, mediating with her parents, and negotiating return to school;
- Ensuring healthy choices during pregnancy and safe delivery of the baby;
- Lobbying schools to accept child mothers and facilitating enrolment;
- Paying school fees, transport costs, and personal support costs;
- Training girls in childcare; and monitoring the baby's health.

*"I have become aware of how disadvantaged women are in many cultures, and believe that the education of girls will be key to changing this."
-Current Child Mother Sponsor*

Your \$90/month will provide a child mother with new hope by enabling her to realize her dream of a good education and becoming self-sufficient.

For further information, please contact mail@sautimoja.org or go to www.sautimoja.org.



Esupat: a child mother in Tanzania

Esupat lost both parents when she was very young. She doesn't even have a picture of them. She was raised by her grandmother, who lives in the small village about 50 km from Longido, Tanzania. Her grandmother is poor, but she wanted to help this orphan by sending her to secondary school.

In July 2011, Esupat noticed something was different. She was feeling angry and emotional, and had strange preferences for food. To her great shock, she learned that she was pregnant. She felt very bad, and didn't tell anyone, at first. Esupat was so worried and depressed that she stayed in bed for whole days. She could no longer bring herself to attend class.



Esupat's school found out that she was pregnant, but they let her stay to write Form II exams. After this, they expelled her, as required by Tanzanian law. At that time, she was five months pregnant.

Esupat was too afraid to return to her grandmother, so she went to her uncle's house. He directed her to Sauti Moja-Tanzania. With a mediator from Sauti Moja-Tanzania, Esupat was able to talk to her grandmother. This mediation along with the prospect of sponsorship convinced Esupat's grandmother to give her permission to return to school. Things were well, then; Esupat was feeling hopeful about her future, and gave birth to a healthy baby, at home.

Lately things have changed. Sauti Moja hasn't found a sponsor for Esupat, yet, and her grandmother is getting very impatient. Word has reached Esupat that **her grandmother is planning to marry her off**, and is looking for a suitable candidate. Esupat is very worried now, and doesn't know what to do. She doesn't want to get married yet, and when she does, she wants to marry someone that she loves. Right now, she wants nothing more than return to school so that she will be able to make her own decisions in the future and take raise her baby. **Time is running out for Esupat!**

Will you sponsor Esupat so that she has opportunity, choice, and hope?

You can provide a new future for Esupat and her baby. You can help her get a good education, become self-sufficient, and build a future that she chooses.

Many young girls, like Esupat, come to Sauti Moja in a desperate situation that is not their fault. They really do need our support to restore hope and realize their dreams. Sponsorship is the key to a promising future for them!

YOU can restore hope and provide opportunity to a vulnerable girl.

ESUPAT'S STORY