



Dining for Women
AGE Africa – Progress Report
August 30, 2018

1. Please provide the following information:
 - a. **Organization Name**
Advancing Girls' Education in Africa (AGE Africa)
 - b. **Project Title**
CHATS: Creating Healthy Approaches to Success
 - c. **Grant Amount**
\$50,000
 - d. **Contact Person**
Concepcion Gaxiola
 - e. **Address**
921 Pennsylvania Avenue SE Suite 308
Washington, DC 20003

2. Address Recap briefly what outcomes the project was designed to achieve.

Advancing Girls' Education in Africa (AGE Africa) empowers vulnerable and underprivileged girls in rural Malawi by providing access to comprehensive scholarships and an innovative, peer led, after-school, life-skills program: *Creating Healthy Approaches to Success* (CHATS), with a central focus on sexual reproductive health (SRH), leadership, mentoring, and entrepreneurship training. CHATS addresses the multiple causes of girls' dropout and targets their improved retention and achievement in school, in which girls understand and appreciate the need form to learn economic, health, social and technical skills. Our Human Centered Design approach and assessments conducted in the communities where AGE Africa operates show that adolescent girls face multifaceted vulnerabilities due to lack of family and community support, limited economic opportunities, lack of voice, and adverse social attitudes. AGE Africa's multi-pronged approach enables academically talented young women from marginalized communities to attend and complete secondary school as well as pursue opportunities beyond secondary school by equipping them with the resources, knowledge, skills, and agency they need to succeed. The combination of the two interventions is potent and has yielded high graduation rates of over 90% among AGE Africa participants compared to the national average graduation rate of 6% among girls; and a post-secondary transition rate into higher learning of 55%.

3. Has funding changed for this project? For example, have you received unexpected funding from another source?

Funding for this project at the moment remains the same, however, the success for the program has garnered recognition among the communities we serve, which has led to preliminary conversations with several funders interested in supporting CHATS after the completion of this grant. Dining for Women was listed as a reference for one of the funding opportunities, and we're proud to announce that our proposal has been approved for 2020.



4. Is your organization or project situation different than presented in the approved proposal? For example, new executive director, significant project staffing changes or NGO affiliation, loss of large funding, or other significant changes?

AGE Africa went through a leadership transition in January 2017, shortly before learning of the grant award. Dining for Women was informed of the leadership changes during a Skype conversation with Veena Khandke and Concepcion Gaxiola, AGE Africa Executive Director.

5. Have the number of beneficiaries changed? To report this please refer to the original numbers in your grant proposal under Number of women and girls Directly Impacted and population Indirectly Impacted.

The number of girls supported by Dining for Women remains at 480 girls in AGE Africa's CHATS. We expect a slight increase in attendance of CHATS programming at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, as the number of girls enrolling and attending secondary school increases every year in Malawi.

6. What challenges are you facing as you move forward with this project? How are you approaching these challenges?

In the 2017-2018 school year, the level of participation in AGE Africa's CHATS program continued to grow; despite duplicated efforts and lack of coordination among organizations implementing similar programming within the schools in which AGE Africa is active. AGE Africa is working with partners and the Ministry of Education to identify duplicated efforts and shift life skills programming to areas in which programming doesn't exist. AGE Africa is committed to long-term impact and success in the communities we serve. We will continue to reach out to the organizations implementing new programming and seek partnerships to work towards the same goals.

7. Have you revised your original objectives since the project began? If so, why? What are your new objectives?

The objectives for this project remain the same, however AGE Africa is currently undergoing an independent evaluation of our monitoring and evaluation tools. The findings of the evaluation may result in revisions to the original objectives submitted in the original proposal. The evaluation is scheduled to be completed in late October 2018. Revisions, if any, will be communicated to Dining for Women ahead of the final report.

8. What progress have you made toward achieving your objectives? Please address each stated objective.

AGE Africa's program is monitored and evaluated against three primary objectives:

1. Empowering girls to become agents of change in their own lives;
 - a. Demonstrate increased leadership skills;

- b. Demonstrate increased “voice” – defined as ‘the confidence to have and express an opinion;’¹
 - c. Demonstrate an enhanced knowledge and understanding of sexual and reproductive health
 - d. Demonstrate an enhanced knowledge and understanding of gender equity
2. Improving girls’ retention and achievement in school;
 3. Improving girls’ post-secondary transitions.

As of the writing of this report, we’re proud to announce that mid-year monitoring and evaluation results show that:

- 98% of the girls supported by this grant completed the school year and are scheduled to return in mid-September
 - 80% of the girls’ self-report increase in leadership skills, this is supported by the number of girls participating in class and student government. In Malawi, students vote for leaders in student government, in two schools supported by this grant, CHATS scholars comprise 60% of the seats held.
 - Post-secondary information will be available later in the school year. Unfortunately, the release of passing grades to enter university are done in the late fall. We will provide an update in the final report, or when the results are available.
9. Do you anticipate any difficulties in completing your project in the timeframe outlined in your proposal?

AGE Africa does not anticipate any difficulties completing the project under this grant. We are currently in final discussions with a new funder to continue CHATS in the schools currently supported by this grant. Funding has been approved for 2020, however we will need seeking funding to continue CHATS in the schools currently supported by the grant for 2019.

Within the report also include:

- Several high-resolution JPG photographs of the project depicting the women/girls who have benefited from the grant funds should be posted to your assigned Dropbox. Photos should be submitted with the right to use in all forms and media in DFW documents and website. Include confirmation of grantee’s right and consent to use photos/videos as per local law.
 - Included in Dropbox
- Any message you would like us to convey to our membership and donors about the impact our grant is having on those being served and/or your organization and its mission.
 - On behalf of AGE Africa and the girls we serve, we’d like to thank you for your contribution and impact in changing the lives of girls in Malawi. Because of your support, over 400 girls in our program are receiving the skills they need to complete secondary school and move to higher education or creating social enterprises. Currently, our girls are working on school garden projects that will provide resources for the girls to be able to pay for their own school fees and help their communities prosper. This labor of love is possible, because the girls know they are supported with the skills,

¹ Warner, Stoebenau and Glinski 2005



knowledge and agency to change their own lives and the lives of future generations. In a country where only 6% of women graduate from high school and where less than 1% of girls will enter university or even graduate from university, your support has made an impact in increasing access to education and livelihood skills.

We thank you and look forward to sharing our final results in the spring.

- Detailed list of all expenses incurred during the reporting period which have been paid for with the Dining for Women grant.
 - Attachment in dropbox