



**CHANGING LIVES,
ONE GIRL AT A TIME**





MGRC began with one man rescuing one girl

Maasai Girls Rescue Center has saved the lives of over 50 Maasai girls who were malnourished, diseased or injured.

Rick Morro, founder of Maasai Girls Rescue Center (MGRC), first came to Tanzania on a church mission trip in 2012. Struck by the severe poverty, he felt called to help the Maasai tribe. In 2013, he permanently relocated to Tanzania.

Girls in the Maasai culture are usually at the bottom of the food chain; denied education and food, and often forced into genital mutilation and early marriage. Knowing this, Rick agreed to care for a malnourished girl when asked by her family. And it wasn't long before another girl came. It was then that Rick knew his mission was to rescue and educate Maasai girls, and to give them the foundation for a better life.

In 2017, MGRC was officially created with 6 girls in care. Word spread, and by the next year there were 21. With a growing waiting list, it became clear that MGRC needed more space.

In 2020, we purchased land for our permanent home in Karatu, Tanzania. And in early 2021, 52 girls, 14 staff members and 6 cows made the seven-hour journey from Longido to Karatu. We are renting temporary housing until permanent facilities can be built, allowing MGRC to serve up to 120 girls in desperate need.

This vision of MGRC's permanent home is fast becoming a reality, with construction of the ecoFarm completed. We have turned our focus on building the ecoVillage. It will be a living and learning center that provides a safe and nurturing family environment, vocational training, education opportunities, and entrepreneurship. By teaching them how to help themselves, we are providing a pathway toward breaking the cycle of poverty and oppression in Tanzania.





Joyce arrived at MGRC unable to hold her head up due to severe starvation.



Today, she is happy, healthy, and loves learning with her new friends at MGRC.

Our mission is to transform the lives of the most vulnerable, at-risk Maasai girls in Tanzania

Empower a girl, transform a community

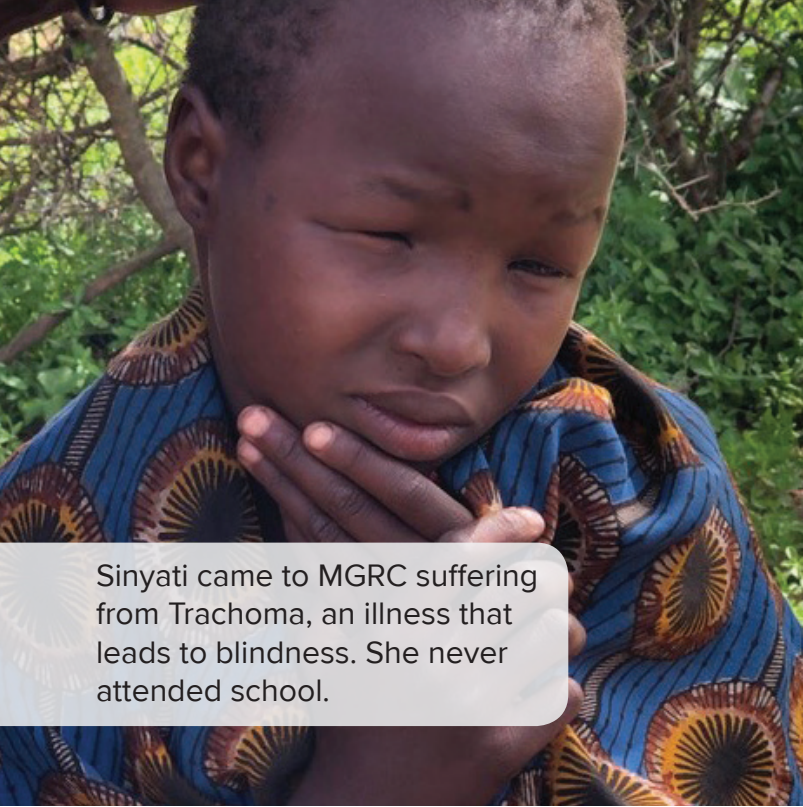
Maasai girls are at the bottom of the social hierarchy. In childhood girls as young as 7 or 8 years old are matched with much older men, having multiple wives, in exchange for livestock. Many girls are forced to undergo the traditional rite of female genital mutilation (FGM) to be considered marriageable, despite the practice being outlawed by the governments of Tanzania and Kenya. These child brides – who suffer lifetimes of health issues and trauma – become little more than breeders for their husbands.

Girls who come to the Center are alone, struggling for survival, suffering physical and emotional trauma from endemic poverty and cultural mores. Without intervention, these girls likely would die or endure scarred lives.

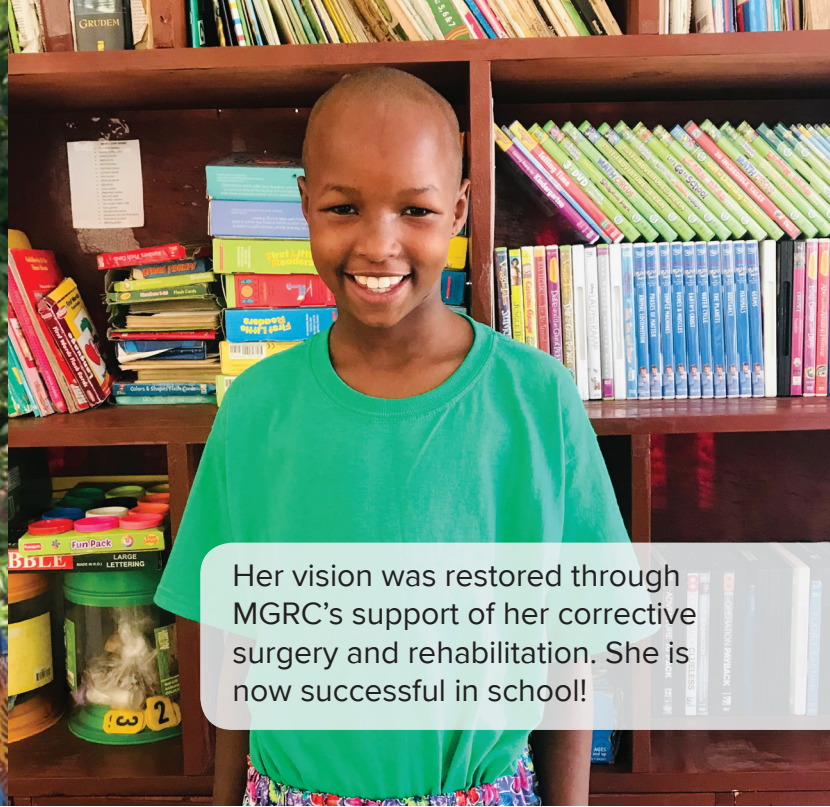


Nemopoi, one of MGRC's first girls, was failing at school due to malnutrition and her living situation. Three years later, she successfully passed the National 7 exam allowing her to attend secondary school!





Sinyati came to MGRC suffering from Trachoma, an illness that leads to blindness. She never attended school.



Her vision was restored through MGRC's support of her corrective surgery and rehabilitation. She is now successful in school!

MGRC takes in the poorest, most at-risk girls – starving, abused, abandoned or forced to marry at a tender age. With the involvement of social welfare and government authorities, MGRC accepts full custody of the neediest girls.

Some have serious medical conditions such as congenital or orthopedic issues, Trachoma, and other parasitic infections. MGRC will assume the

cost for any medical treatments and seek out the appropriate specialists in Tanzania.

MGRC provides food, shelter, and clothing, but we are not an orphanage. We raise the girls as we would our own children. For the first time these girls are enrolled in nearby schools.

MGRC's staff and volunteers give the girls love, care and guidance to help them find their path in life.





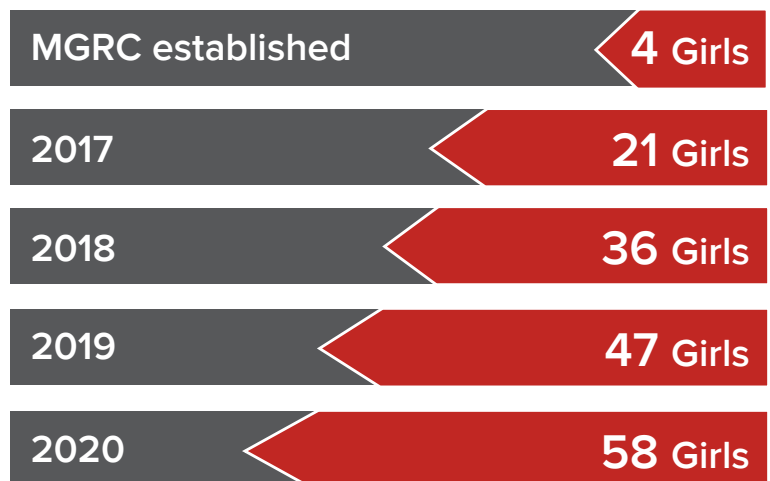
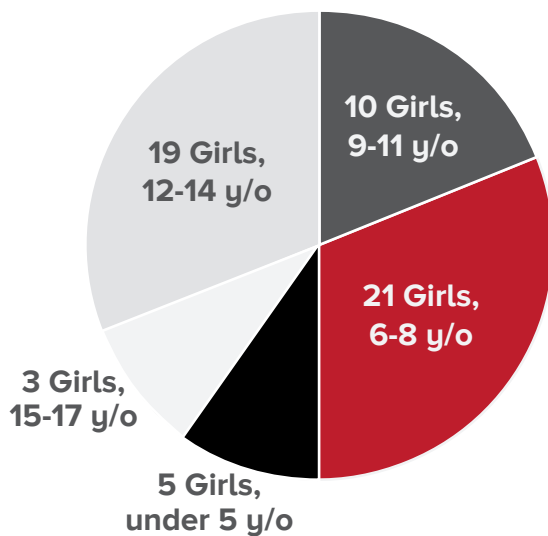
Rescued Girls' Background

- 27** - Saved from female genital mutilation
- 23** - Orphans, abandoned
- 12** - Runaways from forced marriage

Health Concerns / Issues Upon Arrival

- 47** - Malnutrition
- 16** - Temporary disabilities: Eczema, parasites
- 8** - Severe starvation
- 9** - Disabilities: Trachoma, childhood Tuberculosis, Fluorosis, Clubfoot, severe vision problems, seizures

Age & Number of Girls





Our philosophy: Lend a hand up, not a hand out

What makes MGRC different?

Maasai Girls Rescue Center works to expand opportunities for the girls— and to broaden their vision of what they can do to make a living. With counseling and guidance, we empower them to make their own choices and assume responsibility for their decisions.

Interested Maasai girls and community members can get training at the ecoVillage in a variety of occupations related to social enterprises and sustainable agriculture technologies on site — such as cooking, baking, ecofarming, hydroponics, aquaponics, skilled trades, entrepreneurial training, hospitality and tourism.

MGRC also works with local government schools, forging relationships with school officials and contributing support. We provide extra tutoring to help our girls reach their full potential.

75% of our girls are in the top 25% of their class!





Breaking the Poverty Cycle

In order to achieve our vision of breaking the poverty cycle, we have established a model based around our care and sustainability principles.

Sustainable projects have been in our DNA from the beginning. We have implemented sustainable projects to reduce our food costs and teach sustainable farming to our girls.

MGRC's ecoVillage is fast becoming reality, with construction of the three-acre farm nearly complete. Buildings are done, livestock are doing well, gardens are planted, the hydroponic system and bio-gas fuel system are in place. The farm will provide a sustainable source of food and fuel for our girls and staff.

The future phases of the ecoVillage will consist of homes for the girls and house mothers, a kitchen and dining hall, a preschool, a vocational training center, a lodge for visiting tourists and living quarters for volunteers. The ecoLodge, a social enterprise, will provide career training, employment opportunities and commerce for the MGRC girls and local community.

Projects like the ecoVillage represent a major departure from the traditional forms of aid to Africa. Much of that aid fails to effectively address long-term problems. Providing free goods creates unintended consequences; the impoverished do not develop a sustainable way to live and local economies are destroyed. In a region where two-thirds of the population live below the poverty line, this MGRC's entrepreneurial venture will give the Maasai people a modern-day way to make a living, creating a path to long-term independence.

Invest in the ecoVillage

Your donation will help us build the future of MGRC. By investing in the ecoVillage, you will help us increase the number of girls we can help, expand the services we provide and continue our path to sustainability financial independence.

Scan to make your donation to the ecoVillage project!





The only salaries that are paid are to the Tanzanian employees providing direct care for the girls.

MGRC management team: founder, president, board of directors, angel donors, and fundraising committee, are all unpaid volunteers. This support makes it possible for us to keep our promise: *“that we will never use donations to pay for our administration or fundraising expenses.”*

Get Involved

Every week, MGRC is forced to turn away girls in desperate need due to limited resources. Your tax-deductible donation allows us to provide for the needs of as many girls as possible.

Make a Donation – Your one-time donation provides rescued girls with basic needs and education in a family environment where they develop confidence and skills to reach their full potential.

Sponsor a Girl – We currently have rescued girls seeking sponsors to commit to changing their lives. You will receive photos, videos and information about your child and the opportunity to communicate with her.

Invest in the ecoVillage – Investing in the ecoVillage, you will help us increase the number of girls we can help, expand the services we provide, and continue our path to sustainability.

Volunteer – Long and short-term volunteers are crucial to our mission. By sharing your life with our girls helps open their minds to new ideas and possibilities for their future.

Visit – We welcome visitors! Connections you form will change your life and theirs!



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