

Most Significant Change Stories: Fema Club Mentors, Teachers, Education Officials





Stories of Change from Fema Club Mentors, Education Officials and Community Leaders 2015-2023

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These stories were collected between 2015 and 2023. They have been translated from Swahili into English with some grammar corrections. Some names have been changed to protect the privacy of the students. All students signed consent forms granting permission for their stories to be shared. However, express written permission from Femina Hip is required to reproduce any of these stories or any photographs in any other format or document.

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Police Gender Desk

Happy Daniel, Police Gender Desk Officer (Manyara Region)

When I was in primary school, I was among the first age-group to engage with Femina's activities. I had access to the magazines from the school library, which improved my language, writing skills, and artistic ability. Moreover, Fema Club empowered me to have self-awareness about who I was from a young age. It influenced me as I grew up, and it helped me see the bad things that some people were doing. I was encouraged to reduce persecution and violence, starting with my own family. Raised by a single mother, I used Fema magazines to inspire my mother to be strong.

Now, I work as a police officer in a department that also receives Fema magazines. The magazines are one of my biggest sources of knowledge and teaching materials. I use the drawings when I train students about gender-based violence, Female Genital Mutilation, child marriage, and teenage pregnancies. I also display the drawings in my office as a means of conveying messages. Sometimes, when I don't get hard copies, I download and print copies from Femina's website. My students love being taught using the stories from Fema magazines as testimonies, or 'visa mafunzo', as we call them in Swahili.

Apart from teaching students, I also use Fema magazines to educate the community. Manyara is one of the regions with the highest cases of gender-based violence and violence against children in Tanzania. When I sit with teachers, traditional elders and others who have influence in the community, I use the contents of the magazines to help me explain harmful cultural practices. I hand them copies to read on their own and they are always thankful.



FEMA CLUB MENTORS AND TEACHERS

Stella, Teacher, Fema Club Mentor: Itope Secondary School (Mbeya Region)

Frankly, I have experienced huge success! Fema magazines have taught me how to be a good entrepreneur, especially reading Ruka Juu articles and Anko Pesa; they inspire and empower me. Now, I know how to overcome business struggles.

I have several businesses. I source rice from farmers during harvest season, store it until the season ends in December, and then sell it at a higher price. I also own a cocoa farm, where I work on weekends. Fema magazine stories helped me to figure out mistakes I was making in my business. Now, I am 'good'.

When it comes to sexual and reproductive health and rights, Aunt Cos has given me a deep understanding about relationship matters, enabling me to answer my students' questions when it comes to sex.

One of the biggest changes is my ability to build positive relationships with various people, especially students. Students are very open to talk to me as a Fema Club mentor about different challenges they go through. I counsel them, and they even tell each other to come and see me when they face problems.

Above all, Femina activities have boosted the academic performance of the Fema Club students. The school categorizes students into streams depending on their performance, with the best performers in stream A, the average in stream B, and those who lag behind in stream C. Many Fema Club students move from stream C to B, and some from B to A!



**James Lukindile, Teacher, Fema Club Mentor: Ludewa Secondary School
(Njombe Region)**

The Fema Club had become inactive and was not formally registered, but in 2019, I took up the role as the Fema Club mentor and after finding the procedure to follow in the magazine, I formally registered the Fema Club.

As a result of being the Fema Club mentor I have changed my attitude and my behavior. When I started teaching over 10 years ago, I was very harsh when disciplining students. They even dubbed me 'Mr. Four-Four' because I would cane students four strokes. After registering the Fema Club, I was invited to participate in a one-day seminar called 'Active Learning' at Kilakala. Among the topics covered was how to use alternative methods of discipline. We were encouraged not to cane students but rather use "productive punishments", such as cultivating or fetching manure for the club's horticultural activity.

After the training, I felt the urge to change. Now, if a student makes a mistake, I call him or her and talk to them. Students are surprised that I counsel them without beating them. Some are still afraid of me, but slowly, they will understand that I am no longer the same person. In the training we were also advised to create a friendly relationship with our students. I have learned a lot from doing that, including the fact that some students deserve to be forgiven or can be disciplined in ways contrary to what I was doing before--punishing without listening to them. Now, I even feel sympathy when I see students undergoing corporal punishment.

The active learning training and regular reading of Fema magazine changed my attitude. I am hoping to gain more during the Youth Conference-2020. In just a single day, I believe I will go back to the club more active in every sector.

Currently, I have noted that the Fema Club students are more confident and expressive. There is one Fema Club member who missed a lot of school, but instead of punishing him, we gave him a position as secretary of Fema Club. He now comes to school every day, I have even brought him with me to the Youth Conference, to continue to encourage him.



Adam Liikilo, Teacher, Fema Club Mentor: Same Secondary School (Kilimanjaro Region)

When I joined Same Secondary School, I started attending Fema Club meetings. A year later the students put forward my name to the headmaster, and I was selected as the Fema Club mentor.

When I started teaching, I was just a physics teacher, and I had a limited point of view towards life--my days started and ended at the blackboard. But through my involvement in the Fema Club as a mentor, I realized that being a teacher is not just about teaching physics, but I can also give students ideas and skills outside the school curriculum. I am now more accountable towards my students. I conduct myself professionally because I know I am seen as a role model. I had to change my life to live up to the respect I now command from my students. I now engage with my community and am known throughout the town because of Femina Hip and not just a physics teacher. Therefore, I say that being a Fema Club mentor has changed my perception and way of life.

One of our club's more successful activities was an event on teenage pregnancy. The guest of honor was the District Commissioner of Same. After the event, the District Commissioner called me to his office with several NGO representatives and asked me to discuss the event with them. He then gave me the chance to travel around the district with NGOs and talk about ways to prevent teenage pregnancy with parents and students. This made me feel very honored as I never thought I would amount to this. I got all of this through being a Fema Club mentor and I am now an important person in our district.

I have also developed a volunteering spirit. For instance, at the Same Fema Club Network event the sound system had a problem and I had to rent another system with my own money. When we go to open clubs in other schools, we use my personal vehicle.



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After watching the Fema TV Show: Ruka Juu Season 3, I was also inspired to be creative in how to increase my income through small scale farming. I am also sharing that knowledge with my students.

Edward Nnko, Teacher, Fema Club Mentor: Arusha Secondary School (Arusha Region)

I first joined a Fema Club as a student at Mkwawa High School in 2002. There was another club called SPW, but I discovered that the Fema Club was more focused on young people in a comprehensive way. While I was a student at Mkwawa High School, we had a school newsletter and radio program, and I worked as a reporter. When I finished Form six, I started to work in radio and became a presenter for Radio 5 and Sunrise FM in Arusha.

At the end of Form six, I went to college for a Bachelor of Arts in Education and became a teacher. At the same time, I continued to engage in youth matters and became a radio broadcaster running a program called "Truth about Youth" where we discussed various topics like those in Fema magazine.

When I started teaching in Arusha, I was chosen as the Fema Club mentor. I still work with Sunrise FM and Triple A FM, and we have a youth-focused program. Star TV also invites me, from time to time, to host youth programs, where I share the knowledge I gain from the Fema Clubs and the magazine, first as a student and now as a teacher.

In my personal life all things started with being a member of the Fema Club. I began to show talent in club sessions as a student, and I have been more successful as a teacher through being a Fema Club mentor compared to other teachers who are not in Fema Clubs. I have been exposed to many things through the club, and I have been able to educate students on sexual and reproductive health, gender, economics, and the environment.

As a keen follower of the Ruka Juu TV entrepreneurship show, I have been inspired to start small businesses, including farming watermelon in Nduruma, and I have



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purchased a powerful printer that I use to print product labels. These businesses are the result of the education I received as a Fema Club member and a Fema Club mentor.

I am now married, and I have given my wife a small amount of capital and have helped her to get training from SIDO. She now makes food stuffs such as potato chips and has acquired a business license from the council for her product. The ultimate goal is to have a big business, she already distributes and sells to school students during breaks.

For student members of my Fema Club there have been significant changes, especially in girls. Some were easily influenced into having sex because our school is in an urban area. There were many cases of student pregnancies in the recent past, but now there is a declining trend in the number of cases. Femina education is helping.



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Kelvin Mhagama, Teacher , Fema Club Mentor: Aaron Harris Secondary School (Dar es Salaam Region)

When I was a teacher in Dodoma my Fema Club was selected as “The Best Fema Club” in 2009. When I joined the Aaron Harris Secondary School in Dar es Salaam, I realized that there was no Fema Club and so I used my previous experience to persuade students to start a Fema Club. It was not hard to get the students involved because many of them were familiar with the Fema magazine.

Initially, the Fema Club started a flower garden to give us some credibility in the school community. Soon, we gained the trust of the Head of School and so getting permission to go out of the school as the Fema Club was easy. As a club, we visited the head office of Femina Hip where we met many of the people we see in the magazine; it was exciting and motivating for the students.

The Fema Club makes significant contributions to its members. It has helped clubbers connect to various networks such as the Students Organization at the University of Dar es Salaam who hosted an academic tour, and the tourism network that is connected to a local tourism company who hosted an entrepreneurship session at the Southern Sun Hotel in Dar es Salaam. The tourism network is very successful, with the Fema Club awarded the “Best Tourism Club “ in 2016. Fema Club members traveled around the country to discover new tourism opportunities. The Fema Club also has a garden on the school grounds that produces vegetables. The vegetables are used at the school, and the money allocated for vegetables now goes to other school services.



Selestino Msigala, Teacher, Fema Club Mentor: Matema Beach Secondary School (Mbeya Region)

My interest in youth issues started at church. When I became a teacher, I saw students involved in their own organizations, but they did not have a Fema Club. I saw the Fema magazines at the school and was interested in the topics. After reading the magazine I gained insight into how to interact and collaborate with students. When I put some of the methods into practice, I found that many students were more friendly with me. They have confidence in me come to me when they need advice.

Based on this, the school officials chose me to be a student mentor, .as so we began a formal Fema Club. In 2014, our Fema Club was invited to the Annual Fema Club Youth Conference as a result of hard work by the students and myself.

The Fema Club has brought a lot of changes in me. I started to understand my rights. Before I started to involve myself with the Fema Club I was scared to face top officials, especially when I had a concern. But the Fema magazine inspired me and gave me confidence to stand for my rights. I was able to ask for study leave by going to my superiors.

Violeth Mushi, Teacher and Fema Club Mentor: Kisasa Secondary School (Dodoma Region)

I used to see Fema magazine come to our school, but it ended up going to the storeroom. Because I knew the Fema magazine, I decided that I must find a way for students to access the magazine and to enjoy its content from the first page to the last, just as I have in the past. With the support of the Head of School I managed to establish a Fema Club in our school.

The Fema Club has taught me the spirit of volunteerism and to realize that volunteerism pays. I always volunteer not because I want to be paid back in the end but because of the passion I have.



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The Fema Club members at our school are very active, and they inspire other students to want to join. I always tell the newcomers to join the club because they want to learn and be part of the activities, not just to be called a 'Fema Clubber'. As a Fema Club we discuss a number of issues, especially reproductive health. Students learn and understand how they are supposed to behave.

By demonstrating good manners in school and performing well in their academic subjects, the Fema Club has built a positive perception of our school.

Yusuph Luziga, Teacher, Fema Club Mentor: Nzondahaki Secondary School (Mbeya Region)

The three main agendas of Fema magazine (Health, Civic Engagement and Economic Empowerment) inspired us to establish a Fema Club at our school. Initially, we started by volunteering to plant flowers at our school and cleaning public places such as marketplaces, bus stations, and hospitals in our community.

Later, we realized that we need to equip youth with entrepreneurship skills for them to be able to support themselves once they finish their school studies. Therefore, we started to explore opportunities around our school. We found irrigation as the best one because there is a river passing close by the school. We also learned from people who grow vegetables along the same river, but we wanted to be different. We aimed to have a better product and win the market. As the Fema Club we reached an agreement that for our products to be sold more easily than the rest, we should grow them organically. Organic products sell because they are free from industrial chemicals, which are harmful to users and because they can make us a profit. The entire process of growing vegetables involves our Fema Clubbers and therefore we equip them with skills which are very valid and useable in their homes.

Because of the Fema Club, I can now persuade many youths and make them active citizens who freely express their views without fear. Understanding on the part of students is vital as they can share skills learned at school with their fellow youth who are out of school.



Epifania January, Fema Club Mentor: Hazina Secondary School (Dodoma Region)

My name is Epifania January, a Fema Club Mentor at Hazina Secondary School. I was transferred in this school in 2017. The Fema Club was already established I was appointed as a Fema Club mentor. I had an opportunity to learn some new skills and ideas through the Red Agenda project. Three students and I were given an orientation and taught how girls can cope with their monthly menstruation. We learned how to produce sanitary pads based on the available fabrics in our location. Some students come from family where they may not manage to afford to buy a pad at Tzs 2,000. Femina Hip facilitators taught us how to sew, how to wear a locally produced pad, and still be free to move. We decided to use sewing machines and to sew by hand. Surely, I would not know all those things without the Red Agenda project.

I shared the same knowledge on menstruation with Fema Club members, both girls and boys. Then I sat with the girls and taught them how to produce sanitary pads. We gave the students homework to make pads. Some of them stitched by hand and some used a sewing machine.

The school management was able to support us with the amount of Tzs 80,000, which was spent on buying fabric into sew into 40 sanitary pads. When I shared my knowledge with the matron, I wanted to create a conducive environment for girls during menstruation and asked her to help get water at school on a regular basis. As a Fema Club, we also managed to buy emergency underwear of different sizes and reserve skirts for girls who soil themselves with menstrual blood.

The project has helped to reduce students' absenteeism caused by menstruation challenges. Boys have also been free to discuss topics related to menstruation.



Emmanuel Msemakweli, Fema Club Mentor: Guta Secondary School

I started reading Fema magazine back in 2003, when I was a Form one student at Mweli Secondary School in Kahama, Shinyanga. As a young person, I learned the about HIV/AIDS, and I always appreciated reading the magazine.

In 2013, I became a teacher at Guta Secondary School. When I joined the school, there was no Fema Club, but the school was receiving Fema magazine. Based on my own experience as a student, I encouraged my own students to read the magazines. In 2017, I participated in Active Learning training and that is when I registered a Fema Club at my school.

From the Fema magazine I learnt about the various club activities that our students could do. As the Fema Club mentor, I asked the school authority to allocate a piece of land where Fema Club members could grow vegetables. The school provided a quarter of an acre where we grow vegetables to sell in the market. The club generates 30,000 Tsh to 40,000 Tsh and currently we have a savings of 45,000 Tsh. All money is saved in an M-Pesa account that is managed by the Fema Club accountant. The Fema Club uses the money for transport and to buy goods when they go to help the needy.

The Fema Club has not only helped to transform students but I has also changed my attitude as a teacher. Instead of complaining to my employer about my financial situation, I have now taken responsibility for changing it. Through the Fema Club I have established a poultry project with 60 chickens. The project helps me to collect 3 to 4 trays of eggs every day. I normally sell each tray for 12,000 Tsh to 15,000 Tsh.

The influence of Fema magazine and Fema Clubs also reached my own family. My wife is now saving 10,000 Tsh every day from her food vending activities.



Casmir Michael, Deputy Head of School and Fema Club Mentor: Hazina Secondary School (Dodoma Region)

My name is Casmir Michael Mng'ande, the Deputy Head and Fema Club mentor at Hazina Secondary School. Prior to my recent promotion, I was a Fema Club mentor. Femina Hip helped me transform my behaviour, instead of being a discipline teacher, I now sit with students and explain to them what is right and wrong, helping them to understand instead of hitting them.

I was very aggressive before; I used to spank and punish students a lot. When I started to engage with Fema Club issues and attended 'Active Learning' orientation, youth conferences, girls' empowerment seminars and read Fema magazine, I became empowered. I realized that being aggressive is not a solution to students' good behaviour. Instead, it's important to sit down with students and explain to them what is right and wrong, and make sure they comprehend it.

I always remind my students that when they are in class, they should also take time and discuss topics from Fema magazine, like adolescence and the effects of drugs use. By doing that students started to show good behaviour and even share their life secrets with me, which has reduced the truancy level at school. Inspiring stories from Fema magazine about successful young people, like Rebecca Gyumi motivate them to work much harder. I also engage female teachers to assist in addressing girls' challenges. All these efforts help students to perform well in their academic subjects and become disciplined.

Due to my behaviour change and coming up with alternative ways of disciplining students' behaviour, plus changes observed in most students in discipline and increased academic performance, I was promoted and became Deputy Head in my school. Fema Club and magazines have contributed significantly to my transformation journey.



Anaike Minja, Teacher, Fema Club Mentor: Miuji Secondary School (Dodoma Region)

My name is Anaike Minja, a Fema Club mentor at Miuji High School. The Fema Club was established in 2006, it's almost 14 years now since its inception. The Fema Club has changed me in so many ways. The biggest change is on girls' safety and a conducive environment during menstruation. We grew up believing menstruation is the parent's issue and the student's responsibilities, rather than the teachers.

The Fema Club has equipped me with knowledge on menstruation. Now I know that safe menstruation for girls is a social issue; girls, boys, both mothers and fathers should be involved in the safe menstruation of their children. After I received an orientation on the Red Agenda project on safe menstruation for girls, which was facilitated by Femina Hip facilitators, I developed a passion to support girls.

Recently, I have been doing charity work to support girls who are vulnerable and come from poor families to have safe menstruation. I've done this by saving money annually and buying sanitary pads that I send to vulnerable children's centres called Hope Centre. Some of my students are in those centres and they receive direct sanitary towels directly from the annual donation I give.

When I get the opportunity, I share information about menstruation with men and teachers here at school to increase awareness on menstrual hygiene management (MHM). Now I am free to talk about menstruation. I no longer see it as a taboo and a secret issue, because it is a normal thing that women go through.

Fema clubbers have changed, become more confident and are able to stand up and express themselves in public gatherings like conferences and Fema Club network festivals. Personally, I have benefited by getting entrepreneurship skills and currently I am selling spices. I order them from Dar es Salaam at a wholesale price, then I pack and sell them in small packages and distribute them to my customers. I get a profit of 500 Tsh on each pack. My spice business helps to increase my income, instead of only depending on my salary.



Kahwa Mpunami, Teacher, Fema Club Mentor: Misungwi Secondary School (Mwanza Region)

After becoming a teacher in 2004 I started a Fema Club at my school. The club currently has 156 members. I help my students in one way or another to promote self-awareness, gender education, and entrepreneurship.

I am especially concerned about students who, after graduating Form four or six do not get the opportunity to study at university. I decided to do something that could help these young people by setting up an entrepreneurship club within the Fema Club. What we are doing right now is to teach them skills through different projects; for example, we have a rabbit breeding project, and we are currently preparing to open a chalk production. The goal is to help the students who come out of school and are not eligible for university to come up with businesses that can help them generate income.

The big change that I have seen from the Fema Club is youth having a volunteering spirit. I have done this work under stressful conditions at times and have been ridiculed by fellow teachers and community members, but I believe this charity will be paid by God. Of the students who were members of the Fema Club, some have graduated from universities and have come back to express their gratitude. There are others who I have helped to get into volunteer programs with various organizations. For the young people for whom I have found work, I am proud of myself because patriotism and volunteerism have helped them to realize their talents.

All of my 156 Fema Club members have received entrepreneurship education and are involved in different projects. Another example is those who make menstrual pads using common fabrics such as cotton and wool. We sell them to students at a small price of 1,000 Tsh for a pack of three pieces. There are also other students who are in livestock keeping. Still others turn used bottles into decorative pieces for our school grounds, and we also have a plan to make benches from the bottles so that we can place them around our garden. The money we earn from our projects



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is spend on transportation like bus fares when we go to visit other neighboring schools for exchange and to encourage them to have active Fema Clubs, as well as to contribute to the school's graduation festivity budget.

Student change within the club is particularly significant, especially when it comes to developing talent. Their skills in textile and construction have really increased. We have a plan to build a Fema Club office using technicians who are members of the Fema Club.

Mayombo Charles Lutego, Teacher, Fema Club Mentor: Mnyuzi Secondary School (Tanga Region)

I first joined a Fema Club at Lindi High School when I was in Form five. After studying and becoming a teacher, I went on to become a Fema Club mentor. I am also a Regional Fema Club coordinator, and the assistant secretary of the network of Fema Club Mentors in Tanzania.

The biggest change in my life from being a part of Fema Clubs is volunteering, it is now a part of my life. I do not care how much I spend – every time I am invited to an event, I see it as part of my work, and I gain experience. In just six months I have gone to Singida for the Fema Clubs “Central Zone Network Conference”, to Morogoro for the “Turiani District Conference”, and to Kilimanjaro for a conference at Lyamungo High School. I have also traveled around Tanga region to create awareness and participation about Fema Club work, as well as encouraging young people to fulfill their responsibilities to ultimately help the nation acquire a more productive workforce. I am part of the development of my nation.

When I completed my first degree and reported for work, I did not have the morale for teaching, as our school is in a remote rural setting. But after my first time attending a Femina Hip Youth Conference and getting to meet other teachers, I realized that my education was not sufficient. I later got the opportunity to go to Jordan and studied a master's degree in planning and administration. All of this was because of inspiration from Femina Hip.



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When I joined the school, the Fema Club did not have any projects, but we now farm cassava and pawpaw. I myself farm cassava and earn an income from it. There are also seminars that I am called to and paid to attend because of my work with my Fema Club. A significant change I have experienced is helping create a network of people across the country. I am widely known wherever I go, and it has reached the point where I am asked to host many events in my region.

Being a Fema Club Mentor has also contributed to increasing my knowledge and skills. We get trainings at the conferences we attend, and through those trainings we get the knowledge that updates our skills. At last year's youth conference, we were trained on entrepreneurship, from which I got ideas on how to maximize my capital. Fema magazine, and the various topics, has also contributed a lot to my change. Watching Femina Hip's TV programs, such as *Ruka Juu*, has helped to empower me. I also interact with Femina Hip's social media accounts via Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. I have a plan to collect all of the Fema TV shows and show them in the TV room of the school for the benefit of all.

When I arrived at Mnyuzi Secondary we had a problem with student pregnancies. I needed to act as I felt that the students had lost their way. I collaborated with the village dispensary through the nurse there. I walked on foot with students from the school to the clinic where the nurse gave them knowledge about teenage pregnancy. Last year the acting District Commissioner complained about the ongoing problem of teenage pregnancy in our district; however, we did not have even a single case of pregnancy at our school. I tell my students if they get sexual advances from anyone to mention Mayombo – they know me.



James, Teacher and Fema Club Mentor

There was an unregistered Fema Club in my school. The Fema magazine provided instructions on how to register a club, so I did that. I was invited to attend active learning training where we learned a variety of things, including finding alternative punishments to corporal punishment. I was very harsh to students when they made mistakes, regardless of how small those mistakes were and without listening to them, I was just caning them severely. After the training, I started to be different. I wasn't that harsh; I have become moderate. I started listening to students, I realized that some of them need help instead of punishment. Even if it is necessary to punish them, you don't need to use corporal punishment, you can use alternative punishment.

Apart from active learning training, Fema magazine played a significant role in my change of habits. For example, in issue 49, there is a story about teacher Magesa who used to be strict but changed as a result of Femina's education, so, reading that kind of content, gave me a new skill on how to deal with students.

I also engage with Femina Hip's digital platforms, especially the Facebook page and the website, where I learn a lot. My students have manifested behavior change because of the topics they discuss from Fema magazine. Also, at the school, the Fema Club has the biggest number of members, because they get the chance to showcase and develop their talents like singing, dancing, and acting. That has impacted the students' attendance, some students who used to skip school now come to school because of Fema Club activities. Some students have also learned entrepreneurship and hard work.

I understand that Femina Hip's main target is in-school youth, but there are youth out there in the streets, they need the kind of education provided by Femina. To help more youth protect and build their lives, you have to think about reaching out to out of school youth too, for example, boda-boda drivers. A good example is where I live, when they see me, they ask "teacher, are they (Fema magazines) out?". If I have some, I share with them.



Fema Club Mentor (Mbeya Region) *(name withheld by request)*

I am a 40-year-old teacher in Mbeya and a Fema Club mentor since 2015 when I was appointed by the head of school as students' guardian/matron. Femina Hip, through its Fema magazine, Girl Power booklets (*Linda Maisha Yako* and *Jenga Maisha Yako*) and various pieces of training opened my eyes, especially on gender-based violence matters. I am mistreated by my husband, but I was not aware that what I am going through is GBV.

When I was in Form four, I got impregnated by him, I couldn't pass my exams. I gave birth to twins and eventually, we got married. I told my husband that I wanted to go back to school, he agreed, and I resat my Form four exams, then went onto Form five and six. My husband covered my education costs up to university. In 2012, I was employed, but he started taking my salary. I was not free, and I couldn't benefit from my monthly salary. One time I received my salary and bought some items for the children, and he hit me to the extent that I had to be hospitalized. As I kept reading the Fema magazine, I realized that I was being treated unjustly.

Fema magazine articles taught me self awareness. Also, after reading *Linda Maisha Yako* and *Jenga Maisha Yako*, I learnt life skills, I learned even how to generate income beside my salary. One issue of Fema magazine talked about breaking free, there was a question, "what violent act do you remember that has been done to you since you were born?" I recalled the beatings, which were like a normal routine since I got married. I was forced to see being beaten as normal by society, with people claiming that as he paid for my studies, I had to tolerate it. Another scenario was when I was beaten, I went to the hospital, a regional hospital but I was refused treatment until I begged them so much. I couldn't report the assaults because in our tribe, reporting your husband to the police is like signing your divorce papers and I didn't want to divorce.

Fema magazine has enabled me to know my rights. I now talk to different people to see if I can be assisted on how to solve this kind of GBV from my husband and I have started to use my own salary instead of my husband spending it.



**Imani Dastan, Teacher, Fema Club Mentor: Kirando Secondary School
(Rukwa Region)**

I started to hear about Fema Club in 2014 and I took the initiative to start it in my school in 2015. We officially started to run club activities after a visit by Aunty Cos and Femina Hip's community mobilization officers).

I learn a lot from reading Fema magazine. The magazine made me understand the youth better, I now know how to manage my students according to how they are. When I started working, I had a habit of being too strict with students, the same as several other teachers in my school. I was even scared of students when they moved close to me. Since I started interacting with Fema activities, I have learned that alternative ways of motivating students are better than punishments. Currently, I counsel students when they make mistakes, I advise my fellow teachers to do the same.

I have developed the ability to train others on Fema related issues and I feel like I should keep on living this way. I believe that the education I get from Fema will keep on building me to be a friend to youth so that I can help them to solve their challenges and reach their goals. I have a very good example after I became a club mentor, changed and friendly, one girl followed me believing that I am the right teacher. She shared with me a secret that was worrying her for a long time, she couldn't share it with anyone at the school, even her matron. The girl is HIV positive; the problem came when the environment was not favorable for her, she couldn't comfortably take her ARV pills, she was about to give up. With her consent, I talked to the head of school and counselled her not to give up, she is now fine and comfortable.

Fema has even simplified our work as teachers. Some students who are in Fema Clubs are no longer errant, they work hard, they have learned to make various things. I experience the changes and that is the motivation for further progress.



Richard Ndimbo, Fema Club Mentor, Teacher (Kilimanjaro Region)

I started to work as a Fema Club mentor in 2017, I am also the chairperson for Kilimanjaro Fema Clubs Network. Fema has drawn me close to many young people, it made me love children. I get hurt when I see or hear a child has done something bad. I have become more charitable, we must help others who are in need because Fema teaches us on the foundation of helping each other. Also, the club has familiarized me with my surrounding communities and that is contributed by my increased confidence and ability to express whatever I see isn't going right in society.

One of my significant changes as a result of engaging with Fema activities is being trusted by society, as we are talking right now (when the story was collected), parents and school management allowed me to take their children with me from Kilimanjaro to Dar es Salaam, that's because of the trust, they believe that the students are in safe hands. Fema has also enabled me to conduct various entrepreneurial activities, for example, with my club, we produce alternative charcoal which is environmentally friendly.

I started with writing a proposal to Enviro-care, a Poland based environmental conversation organization. They first visited our school and found that our surrounding environment is being destroyed They gave responsibility to the teacher responsible for the environment, but he did nothing. I saw it as an opportunity, I incorporated it with the Fema Club, I drafted the proposal. They brought me the alternative charcoal making machines as a remedy to the environmental destruction. We make the charcoal out of dried bushes and pieces of trees without cutting off trees. We normally work on that project once a week, on Saturdays and we make around 2 to 3 sacks per production/week. Our biggest customer is the school, we use charcoal to cook for students. We also sell it to people around the school.

We keep the earned income in our bank account, which is managed by a treasurer who is a Fema Clubber. We sometimes make up to Tshs 800,000/= but due to some



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expenditures, we currently have about 300,000. We spend the money to finance various festivities, buying sanitary pads and helping the needy. If there is an extra amount, we incentivize ourselves. Reading Fema magazine is what made me sympathize with girls during menstruation. If girls encounter challenges, I take them as the challenges for the entire school, that's why I make sure sanitary pads don't get used up. The pads are for for all girls at the school, not just Fema Clubbers. We give them to the matron who gives them to girls when they need it.

On menstrual hygiene issues, I don't just help my students. I remember one day as I was going to work around 10 am, I met a 12-year-old girl, a student, she was sitting by the road and looking very sad. I tried to probe her about what was wrong, but she was hesitant to open up. Due to my experience, I noticed that she had got her period. She was afraid to tell me, so I went to a nearby pharmacy, bought a pack of pads and gave them to her. I also told her to go to a nearby house, ask to wash and put the pad on. She was a pupil of Ngaseni Primary School, she escaped from school after starting to menstruate. She told me that, some women passed where she was sitting and rebuked her for escaping from school just to play around. The second day she came to my school looking for me to say hi and thank me. I felt very good. I think she shared the story with her peers, because this year, almost every student that enrolled in Form one also joined the Fema Club. We know have 190 students in the club.

Apart from that, students have changed in a certain way. They are now disciplined as a result of talking to them in-depth during Fema Club sessions. Academically, their performance has increased by measuring various internal and external examination results. The students have also become entrepreneurs, I think they will practice that after their studies.



Hamza Said Matana, Teacher, Fema Club Mentor: Kwilamba Secondary School (Mara Region)

My history with Fema Clubs started when I was in secondary school at Forest Hill, Morogoro. I was a member, but I joined late as we were about to finish Form six so I didn't get a chance to actively participate in the club's activities. After being employed as a teacher, our head of school appointed me to be a club mentor because I was responsible for sports and entertainment at the school. I got a chance to attend a seminar done by Femina Hip to Fema Club mentors, up to date, I am a mentor.

I was raised by my mother after my father passed away when I was young. My mother brought me up by teaching me a lot of things like cooking. I grew up knowing that the mother is everything and doing domestic chores is 'what it is'. I got a job in Mara, where I found things are different, women in Mara are not valued and are disdained. I started to adopt that behavior, it is normal to find a girl beaten and you join to beat her. When we are with peers, we were talking about women as 'nothing' and men as 'everything'.

After I joined the Fema Club and started reading Fema magazine, I realized that my perception of women was wrong, instead what my mother was doing is what made me who I am today. It started to click in my mind that women can be even better than men, I contextualized it with the communities in Mara and found out that women work harder than men. It is normal for a man to wake up in the morning only to go out to play cards or, chase or just chit-chat up to the evening when some of them go fishing in the lake. Women carry the greater burden of farming and care of the families. I even learned what happens very close to me, my landlord has the same habit, when he gets money, he either spends it on other women or buys new clothes instead of catering for his family. His wife is the one responsible for food and other needs.

I was even more inspired by gender equality after the seminar and participating in various events organized by club mentors. I went to one in Mbeya; the topics



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delivered by people from Femina Hip about gender equality enlightened me further. I learned by example from female club mentors who have active clubs, they run entrepreneurial projects. I completely changed and I now believe in gender equality.

Students are slowly changing, some of them whose parents have pieces of land or farms engage in farming, some bring their products like vegetables or chickens to sell to the teachers at school, that helps them, especially girls who need money for needs like sanitary pads. Parents, especially fathers, hardly pay attention to needs like sanitary pads. That is alongside increased academic performance.





HEADS OF SCHOOLS

Daudi Fredi Kassenga, Head of School: Malela Secondary School (Dar es Salaam Region)

I first heard about the Fema Club when I was in Changanyikeni Secondary School. When I came here to Malela Secondary in 2019, I found the Fema Club. Fema has enabled behavioral change in students, especially in self-awareness. The students come from different backgrounds. Some are driven by their communities' traditions and customs. In some traditional initiations, children are taught to start having sex early but when they come to Fema Clubs, they get different lessons, they change. In Fema, children are first taught how to abstain from sex. Fema is also clear about the effects of FGM, how one should stand up against it. They learn to talk to the community and become an agent of change.

Another change I witnessed is in confidence. The Fema Club has built confidence in many students. I see some children who have no confidence, but after being part of the Fema Club you can tell that this child can now stand in front of other peers and share their ideas including avoiding relationships and sex at their age, avoiding teenage pregnancies, and being good people in their community and families.

Through the Fema Club and magazines, children become self-aware and start to become good examples to other children. Apart from that, the students benefit from various projects like our vegetable garden. The school provided a place for the project, some seeds, and a rope fence to help them to succeed. It was established at the beginning of 2020, but due to the school closures due to Coronavirus, the project stopped. However, the children carried the knowledge and continued to grow vegetables at home. So, it is true, my children are learning good things.

I read the Fema magazine often, and every time it comes, I ask for one copy. Its content is focused on preparing a good future nation. In short, Fema helps our nation prepare our children to be good citizens and leaders in our society in the future.



Muhamed Ally, Deputy Head: Chamazi Secondary School (Dar es Salaam Region)

My name is Muhamed Ally (43). I am a Deputy Head of Chamazi Secondary School in Dar es Salaam. I often read the Fema magazines. I read them thoroughly because I am a teacher and I need to read and understand what I have read, then I can speak to the community about it. I get involved in Fema through the club mentors because I believe Fema Club mentors participate in various seminars. Mentors bring good feedback on what they have learned at the seminars that is why we want to strengthen this club here at school so that these children can know who they are, where they are, and what they are doing. If a child is not self-aware it is difficult to figure out academic values, enabling him/her to achieve goals.

To me, Fema Club is a club dedicated to youth development because most of the discussions are about youth development. Many of these young Fema youths are thirteen years and above. At this adolescent age, many students, boys and girls, change their behaviours, such as engaging in sex.

The presence of the Fema Club in my school has benefited us when we receive new children, for example, this year we have received 900 Form one students, and it means all of them should get a Fema education. It is normal for a Fema student to educate his or her colleagues. There was a Fema clubber who graduated last year, he was trying to educate his colleagues especially about self-awareness. Now, when the current Fema clubbers are well educated with Fema knowledge, there is an opportunity to educate their colleagues and basically, when they are offered enough time to show what they have, they will do well. In my school, this club meets on Thursday which is a day with a time set for clubs. When a child is given Fema knowledge it is important to work on it. Classroom education isn't enough. Therefore, children still need to get Fema education.



Abdallah Migila, Regional Education Officer

I understand Femina Hip is an organisation whilst a Fema Club is a forum that brings young people together to discuss various issues and challenges they face, to exchange ideas, build self-reliance, generate income through entrepreneurship activities, self-awareness, and provide comprehensive sexuality knowledge. In many secondary schools there are young people who have entered adolescent age, it is an age that can build a young person's future, where they are in a position of being independent mentally, socially, and even in either making their life decisions or destroy them. Fema Clubs provide a safe space and connect youth to discuss their issues and challenges, build their confidence and provide information. Fema Clubs are helpful to us, youth, and students because they reduce the rate of unexpected pregnancies to girls as we know adolescent youth is a high-risk group.

Fema Clubs also encourage young people to work hard in their studies, and it also builds their confidence in reporting challenges they face in everyday life. Students from our schools have acquired life skills that enable them to make good decisions, avoid various temptations, and understand things that may be harmful to their life. These Fema Clubs, which are in our schools within all eight districts in Dodoma region, have developed our students and been able to abstain from sex.

Pregnancy statistics have decreased due to students' self-awareness. As you know many of our schools, especially in urban areas, are in a more tempting environment for girls, so it seems there is a difference between Fema Club members and non-Fema Club students.

The Fema Clubs do not operate in primary schools. When we observe the number of girls in primary schools who completed primary education and those who become pregnant, it is higher in primary school compared to secondary schools with Fema Clubs. For example, in 2020 the pregnancy situation was very bad in grade seven compared to Form four students, Fema Clubs have empowered girls and boys to have a platonic relationship.



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The precarious environment in school is influenced by students' sexual relationships. A decrease in the number of students in sexual relationships in schools is due to Fema Clubs, and this is a positive result for us. Fema Club members can express themselves easily and they perform well in their studies. I have been going through Fema magazine. There are famous people who inspire our students. They acquire entrepreneurship skills like gardening and leadership skills. I have once seen Fema magazine on leadership with celebrities like Maria Sarungji; Fema magazine is a good magazine.

Amani Mfaume, Head of School: Dodoma Secondary School (Dodoma Region)

My name is Amani Mfaume (39) Head of School at Dodoma Secondary School. I have known Femina Hip for a long time now. From 2002 until now, I have seen Fema Clubs operating at school and I have been supporting them based on my position as Head of School. We give students time to participate with other students from different schools and within the school in all the programmes organised by the Fema Club and Fema Club Networks.

Also, I have attended two trainings organised by Femina Hip. I have seen Fema Club members within my school and from other schools producing sanitary pads and waste incinerators, which are used to dispose of, and burn used sanitary towels. I have given permission to Fema Club teacher/mentors to attend 'Active Learning' trainings organised and conducted by Femina Hip. The school administration has been collaborating with Fema Clubs during the Form IV graduation and seeing Fema clubbers being awarded membership certificates, receiving T-shirts from Femina staff who visit us. In all the schools I have visited I have seen Fema Clubs being active because they are well mentored. Fema Clubs have done a wonderful job of raising awareness amongst clubbers to know their responsibilities as students, know and identify their challenges and come up with solutions to those challenges. For example, female students are empowered to request and use



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emergency pads produced by Fema Clubs, in case they start to menstruate whilst at school without being prepared for it. This creates a good learning environment for female students, especially those who come from poor families and manage to stay in school for studying, instead of dropping out due to menstruation.

We always receive Fema magazine on time which is used to impart knowledge and skills to Fema clubbers and gives clubbers space to learn from other characters in the magazine. I always like to go through the magazine and read about students' creativity stories, together with challenges and the solutions to those challenges young people face. I compare the challenges with what my students face and apply the solution to the same challenges I have read from Fema magazine to help solve my students' challenges. Fema magazine is indeed a very useful tool for learning.

Francis Tumaini, High School Principal (Dodoma Region)

My name is Francis Tumaini (41), Head of School at Mtumba High School in Dodoma. I know the Fema Club because it is a famous club in our school. Young people like it because it touches their lives directly by equipping them with skills that they can use even after completing their education. Some of the activities that Fema clubbers do at school are environmental. There are so many beautiful flowers trees and vegetables being grown at our school.

The Fema Club mentor is active and creative and has close relationships with students. This makes the club members active. They encourage other students to join, and it has contributed a lot to school development.

I have observed that Fema clubbers have a high level of discipline, they are attentive, and they listen to information given to them from their mentor, they are hard working and creative students.

If you look in our school gardens designed by Fema clubbers you will find there are different kinds of designs. There are many types of flowers, students have painted the national flag, they have made hills, they have named their teachers; all these



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are creative activities they have done at school. Clubbers are very active compared to non-clubbers. We are thinking of enrolling all students in the Fema Club so that they can be empowered with life skills. Clubbers have to improve their school discipline and performance but also, they can use those acquired skills, even after completing their education.

Fema clubbers are very active. They can take the skills they have learned in the club to the classroom. For example, in biology, Fema clubbers practice those things every day outside the classroom, like knowledge on SRHR, agriculture so their understanding in biology is much greater than non-clubbers. If you pass behind the teacher's office, you will see a map of Africa that has been drawn by Fema clubbers. It is a good map which shows deserts, islands, the Nile River, Lake Victoria. This is geography which we teach in formal classes That's why Fema clubbers are performing well in their studies compared to non-clubbers. I always read Fema magazine, and I love it. It's an important tool at school and it has content that motivates young people. It shows people's histories, successes, plans and pictures of various programmes that have been carried out in different regions and their success.

The school administration supports the Fema Club by giving them space, time, and the resources they need to execute club activities, like seeds for planting trees and vegetables. Fema clubbers do it without any supervision This is very useful for our students as they experiment with entrepreneurship and acquire practical skills.

The Fema Club has a huge responsibility to empower young people at school with different skills so that when they graduate, they can start their own business and be productive in their community.



Mecky Alex, Head of School: Mnadani Secondary School (Dodoma Region)

My name is Mecky Alex Mhepwa, (39) Head of School at Mnadani Secondary School. I have known about Fema Clubs through reading Fema magazine and the way I see students in our school engaging with the Fema Club. It is one of the active clubs at school that helps youth to recognize themselves. When you come to my office you will see a Fema Club file, this is how much I monitor Fema Club work. I also appreciate Femina Hip for its continuous support by regularly sending Fema magazine to our school. It helps students to set their goals, plan their lives, empowers them with reading techniques, and teaches them to abstain from sex while at school so that they will not drop out due to unwanted pregnancies.

Fema clubbers have really changed in terms of their behaviour, they are very disciplined. My school is one of the schools with high discipline. If you ask any person at Dodoma Council, they will tell you Mnadani Secondary School is leading in discipline issues. This has been contributed to by the presence of the Fema Club at school with good, dedicated mentors who have become role models to students.

Our Fema Club has a sanitary pad project. The students use Tanzanian fabrics and cotton. They have an exhibition at school on how to produce local sanitary pads by using the available materials in their localities. The club also sews extra skirts for girls in case they get their periods and dirty their skirt. They can then use the extra skirts and continue with their studies, instead of going home and missing their classes. All these good practices came through the “Red Agenda” project. The Fema Club mentor was trained by Femina Hip on gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights, economic empowerment child protection and how to establish, manage and sustain a Fema Club in a school setting.

The Fema Club has contributed to student academic performance based on the knowledge and skills they acquire in club meetings, by reading Fema magazine and Fema Club network festivals. In one way or another there are benefits that the



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school receives, by reducing truancy caused by menstruation and improved academic performance to students, especially girls.

Fema magazine is one of the best magazines. Apart from targeting students based on their age group, any person can read Fema magazine despite their age. The content in Fema articles is good, especially for young people, as it makes them know who they are and empowers them with different skills, together with the importance of education.

I often go through Fema magazine, especially the cartoon stories, so I can share knowledge from Fema magazine with young people to inspire them and ask them to behave well. We also use Fema magazine content to talk with our students and children. I always carry the magazine home and my son loves it a lot.

Noel Mark, Deputy Head: Sechelela Secondary School (Dodoma Region)

My name is Noel Mark Maffa (37), Deputy Head of School at Sechelela Secondary School. Our Fema Club is a good club and supports both male and female students. It has also brought great support to our school, especially for girls. Previously girls were embarrassed to ask for emergency sanitary pads that are available at school, but through Femina Hip's Red Agenda project, now girls have been able to do many things, including participating in Fema Club festivals and sharing knowledge on MHM with their peers.

We implemented a "Red Agenda" project which has helped to reduce truancy at school. Previously girls who were menstruating during school days were afraid to come to school and decided to stay at home until they finished their monthly menses. After receiving knowledge on menstruation from the Red Agenda project, nowadays those menstruating girls come to school. When they need sanitary pads, they can go and get them and proceed with their studies.

The emergency sanitary pads have been produced by Fema clubbers through the Red Agenda project. The school administration has decided to buy extra pads to



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enable girls to stay at school and study instead of missing some days in a week due to menstruation challenges.

Before the Red Agenda project and the establishment of the Fema Club in our school, menstruation was taken as a scary and taboo issue. It was a big challenge. Students were scared and some of them saw menstruation as a disease. Nowadays even the group of boys who used to laugh at girls when they wet their skirt during menstruation, no longer do it. Those boys have changed and now they see menstruation as a normal change that girls go through. That is a good change, it is a great benefit.

In school we have a schedule. Thursday is Fema Club Day and students go to groups and sometimes ask for permission to go out of school for Fema Club network festivals. We recognise the importance of the Fema Club and sometimes we give them permission to engage with club activities, even though it is time for formal classes.

I love Fema magazine, which is distributed every three months at school. I always read it and I love the style of using famous people and their stories on how they succeeded. It motivates and encourages students to work hard in their studies and be able to do better, like those famous people. I also like the questions and answers, Uncle Pesa and Auntie Cos sessions. Fema magazine content is good, and it's relevant to young people, especially students.

Rojazi Justinian, Head of School: Zuguni High School (Dodoma Region)

My name is Rojazi Justinian (47), Head of School at Zuguni High School. I have known the Fema Club through the Fema magazines that we receive at school. I love the cartoon stories and youth stories in the magazine. Also, Fema magazine content on youth relationships, puberty, knowledge of keeping girls in school so that they can graduate and avoid unwanted pregnancies and early marriage.



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The Fema Club has helped to equip youth with skills to express themselves, to identify and find ways of solving their challenges. Through Fema magazine I have learnt a lot of youth related issues. I have seen Fema Clubs from nearby schools and from my school, work jointly to share peer knowledge with other youth at the community level.

I desire to see adolescents and youth at school join the Fema Club because it helps to nurture youth talent, improves academic performance, and equips youth with skills to express themselves in public.

A Fema clubber can express himself or herself better than a non-clubber. Apart from that a clubber can identify and find ways to solve those changes which is not common for non-clubbers.

Academically the Fema Club has helped students to perform well in their exams. Students become confident and know the importance of education. The school administration provides space and support to the Fema Club, so that both students and administration can benefit. For example. the Fema Club has helped the school to build an incinerator to burn menstruation waste and provides emergency sanitary pads to girls in need.

Victor Salisali , Head of School: Chinangali Secondary School (Dodoma Region)

My name is Victor Salisali (39), Head of School at Chinangali Secondary School. I have known Fema Clubs for a long time now. It is not only at my school, but I have seen it operating in other secondary schools within the region. Fema Clubs involve young people sharing their views on different issues pertaining their lives, economic issues, gender-based violence knowledge and puberty knowledge.

The Fema Club provides a space for young people to express themselves and empowers youth with lifelong skills. When they graduate from school and club, they



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can still use those skills in their life to make a living and become productive youth in their community.

Fema magazine is also read by people out of school. They also get knowledge based on Fema magazine content and know youth issues and how to address them.

There is a big difference between Fema clubbers and non-clubbers. Fema clubbers can express themselves well without any problem, and volunteer to do things at school.

Girls can express their issues through the Fema Club platform freely, like GBV, menstruation and come up with ways to protect and stay away from GBV perpetrators. They also discuss issues concerning their academic subjects, entrepreneurship and become empowered with learning and entrepreneurship skills. Through the Fema Club, students get the opportunity to tour within their region, learning new things.

Fema magazine, which is used as a centre of discussion at the Fema Club is very attractive with beautiful pictures, beautiful artwork, entertaining articles and stories, and organised with the highest level of professionalism and expertise. It gives education to girls, and they learn the skills for keeping them at school so that they can fulfil their dreams and graduate.



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District Officials

Mr. Dickson, District Secondary Education Materials and Statistics Officer (Dodoma Region)

My name is Rahel Dickson Balegele (51), Bahi District Secondary Education Materials and Statistics Officer at Dodoma Region. I know Fema Clubs because they have been supporting adolescents and youth to know their body changes during puberty and to equip them with skills to fulfill their dreams.

In Fema Club meetings they are trained to be confident, defend themselves, to express themselves, learn entrepreneurship, be disciplined and not to associate themselves with bad company.

We want Fema Clubs and distribution of Fema magazine to continue at Bahi District because we have been receiving different Fema magazine issues with stories that teach and empower youth with skills on entrepreneurship, environmental conservation, good discipline and to abstain from sex by avoiding all sexual relationships that may lead to STIs including HIV/AIDS.

Students learn to live in unity because unity is power. If there is an activity that they want to do, like cleaning the school environment, they sit in a group, organize themselves, distribute tasks amongst the team and they work together and see areas that need to be improved. Fema Club members receive knowledge on environmental conservation, entrepreneurship, and create a platform for students to protect their environment, learn how to cook, start businesses, and provide a space for people to talk about their issues and get skills on how to start livestock projects in their schools.

There is a big difference between clubbers and non-clubbers. Fema Club members have great ability in the way they express themselves, their confidence and on sharing different ideas.



Peter Etit, Dodoma City Sports and Culture Officer (Dodoma Region)

My name is Peter Etit (38), Sports and Culture Officer at Dodoma Council. I have known Fema Club for a long time because I was a secondary school teacher and Fema Club mentor at Chinang'ari Secondary School for eight years.

Fema has produced positive results in Dodoma City Council in collaboration with district officials and even those at the regional level. We have regularly sent young people to conferences that were organised by Fema mentors. Youth learnt a lot from those conferences, they became useful in the community by volunteering.

When students donate blood and become blood donors, if any of their family member needs blood it will be very easy to get it after showing their blood donation cards. Sports activities organised by Fema Clubs have helped to improve our health and refresh minds. We also have singing competitions. Those activities also nurture young people's talents, which may provide ideas for future employment.

We really appreciate that Fema Clubs have helped to reduce truancy at school. Whenever Fema Clubs organised Fema festivals at school, all students will come to attend those events, even those who sometimes miss school. It really helps to reduce absenteeism at school.

Adolescent girls and boys are happy to receive knowledge on reproductive health from Fema Clubs. They have realised that having sexual relationships at a young age, while at school will make them lose focus on their studies and risk becoming pregnant and dropping out of school. There is a decrease in the number of unwanted pregnancies at school because of Fema Club awareness interventions to youth at school.

Fema Club festivals have also helped to reduce truancy at school. It has taught students to be creative and equip young people with life skills.