



Report for Bay Area Rotary Clubs Belmont, Livermore, Palo Alto, San Ramon New *Save a Girl™* Sewing Center Loibor-Siret, Tanzania December 21, 2022

OVERVIEW

Save a Girl™ (SaG) is one of The Global Uplift Project's most important programs. TGUP operates *SaG* Sewing Centers in Kenya and Nepal. They sew *SaG* sanitary kits for distribution to girls in surrounding areas. These Centers also sew school uniforms, baby clothes, commercial linens, and other items for sale in their local markets. These activities provide highly remunerative employment to local seamstresses (almost always women).

In the summer of 2022, four Bay Area Rotary clubs contributed \$16,000 to build a new *Save a Girl™* Sewing Center in Loibor-Siret, Tanzania. The clubs were the Belmont, Livermore, Palo Alto, and San Ramon clubs. The funds were sufficient to also make 500 *Save a Girl™* kits as the first run of production in the new center.

Construction was overseen by TGUP's Tanzanian partner, Humanity for Children. Work began in early September. It is now complete as show in the photo, above.



BACKGROUND



When girls begin menstruation, they typically begin missing several days of school per month. Most of the girls in Tanzania cannot afford commercially available products to help manage their periods. They resort to traditional means, including dried leaves, corn husks, dried animal dung, used rags, etc. These are not nearly effective enough to enable girls to be able to attend school. Eventually, many fall so far behind they are forced to drop out. At that point, their options are bleak, and worse.

Without caring adults around to protect them, the girls become prey to sexual predators. Some take work as domestic servants or in the fields. Some are forced to become child brides. Others

are sold into the sex trade. All of these alternatives are abominable. TGUP's **SaG** helps girls to finish their schooling so they can better realize their human potential.

Each **Save a Girl** kit includes two waterproof shields, eight absorbent, interchangeable pads, a discreet carrying bag, a large bar of soap, and a waterproof pouch to hold used pads until they can be washed, dried, and reused. Properly cared for, a **SaG** kit lasts for three years. A kit costs approximately \$6.00 to make (\$5.87) but is provided free of charge to the girls.

THE PROJECT

The land for the Center was donated by the Loibor-Siret Village Council and the Women's Work Collective. The design specified a one-story, 30' x 30' building made of bricks and set on a re-bar reinforced foundation. Internal areas include one large room for sewing, and three smaller rooms, including rooms for retail shops for local women's businesses.



Construction employed many local unskilled workers (digging foundation footings, carrying materials, etc.) and many skilled tradesmen, in the fields of concrete, masonry (for the brickwork), iron working (for windows and doors), electrical (for the solar electrical system), and sheet metal (for the roof). All local and national standards for design, workmanship, and safety were honored and kept. The finished building (prior page) is as fine a structure as can be found for 50 miles around. It is estimated it will last for 40 years.

SUMMARY



Save a Girl™ is the only explicit menstrual training and provisioning service for more than a 100-mile radius. Already, more than 1,000 SaG kits have been made and distributed to Tanzanian girls. These will make a profound, literally, life-changing impact in the lives of the girls. TGUP's **SaG** curriculum is administered to every recipient girl, ensuring they know how to care for their kit and better know the particulars of female biology and menstruation.

We are grateful for the support by the Rotary clubs and their members which has made this Sewing Center a reality. It is impossible to overstate the difference that being able to stay in school makes in the life chances of an adolescent girl, especially in the developing world. It is profound, endures for the girl's entire life, and is passed on in the care she is able to provide to her children. It literally ripples into eternity. **Thank you Rotary members. The world is a better place because of you.** (For a visual chronicle of the project's progress, go to: <https://tgup.org/RotaryTZSewingCenter>)