



LINK
EDUCATION

Madalitso's Story

Supporting out-of-school girls in Malawi

When Madalitso was 15 years old she had never been to school but with the support of the TEAM Girl Malawi project she was enrolled in a Learning Centre. Here, she was carefully supported to gain the basic skills and confidence that she needed to work and live more independently and safely.



Through the TEAM Girl Malawi project, Madalitso learned to read, write and gain numeracy skills. She received guidance and knowledge about sexual and reproductive health and rights. She now has opportunities and choices about how she wants to live her life.

At 15 years old, Madalitso was an orphan with three younger siblings for whom she was responsible. She had never been to school earned money to support her family by working at a bar, usually late at night. Madalitso had little knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and was at risk of various forms of abuse.

Madalitso joined the TEAM Girl Malawi project and was enrolled in a Learning Centre. Here, the Facilitators – trained secondary school graduates from the local community – deliver an accelerated literacy, numeracy and livelihoods curriculum. Madalitso attended classes for two hours on four days each week.

The TEAM Girl Malawi project supported 6,000 girls and 1,200 boys to study reading, writing and maths and go onto new opportunities such as further study or setting up their own business. Many of the girls had never been to school or had dropped out early because of early motherhood or poverty.

Madalitso had difficulty concentrating but she had a teacher who understood this. She allowed her to take extra breaks and repeated key concepts using different techniques to help her learn. Madalitso also attended a Girls' Club once a week which provided comprehensive sex education in a safe space.

After participating in the project for one year, Madalitso made great progress in her learning and is starting to plan for her future. She is reading and writing and uses her numeracy skills to check her wages and to get the best prices at the market.

Madalitso has become more confident and now volunteers to lead activities in class as well as ask questions. When Madalitso graduates from the Learning Centre, she can choose to learn sewing skills and will have a local market for the products she makes. Alternatively, she can choose to enrol in primary school or become a trainee in another business with the support of local teachers, government staff, and business owners.

Read more about the [TEAM Girl Malawi Project](#)

Link Education removes barriers to education across Uganda, Ethiopia and Malawi, especially for girls.