Towards equality, empowerment and health for school children (9-14 years)

WHAT’S GOING ON
Eastern and Southern Africa count 158 million young people between 10 and 24 years old – expected to rise to 281 million by 2050. That is a booming potential of young people on their way to contribute to family, local and national welfare and economic development. But along the way, they encounter many challenges related to their sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR): early and unintended pregnancy, HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), gender-based violence, and child marriage. These seriously undermine education opportunities, especially for girls, and affect future health and opportunities.

WHAT WE DO ABOUT IT
The answer to these challenges is (early) comprehensive sexuality education (CSE). In many developing countries schools and training centers do not provide that. We believe in an inclusive approach in which we involve both girls and boys in our gender programs. Edukans together with Rutgers developed a tested curriculum for CSE for children at primary schools (age 9-14 years): My World My Life. The curriculum contains interactive lessons on relationships, children’s rights, sexuality and love, prevention of HIV, STI’s and unintended pregnancy, and harmful traditional practices like early marriage. To enhance the effect of CSE in schools, we add components of parenting and referral to youth friendly health services. We train teachers and teacher-trainers to enlarge our impact and to sustainably root the curriculum in the education system. When CSE is not part of the national curriculum, the lessons can be taught as an extracurricular method. We have proven results with My World My Life Clubs. Edukans aims at increasing the empowerment of young people to make healthy and informed decisions on their SRHR.

OUR GOAL
By 2020, our ambition is to:
• Have 400 schools with increased pass rates for girls and better transition from primary to secondary education.
• Reduce school-related gender-based violence at school and decrease harmful cultural practices in the surrounding communities.
• Reach 75,000 students to enjoy gender-responsive education and receive comprehensive sexuality education.
WHY EDUKANS?
With over 15 years of experience, Edukans is an expert in quality education in developing countries. We look beyond education access and establish quality education that contributes to the welfare and economic development of individuals, communities and countries. Our comprehensive and unique approach ensures stakeholders are well-equipped, by focusing on improving didactic and pedagogic skills. Our ‘train-the-trainer’ approach creates sustainable results with a broad impact.
We develop our evidence-based approach in close partnership with our network of universities and knowledge centres like Rutgers, the University of Amsterdam, MasterCard, EU and Unicef.

FOR WHOM
Teachers in primary schools, teacher-training centres, governments, partner-NGOs.

ABOUT EDUKANS
Edukans is an international NGO with headquarters based in the Netherlands and country offices in Malawi, Kenya, Ethiopia and Ghana. We specialise in providing marginalised children and youngsters around the world with basic education and vocational training. We focus on four key themes: quality primary education, youth at work, education in emergencies and equal opportunities for boys and girls.

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