It has been 3-1/2 years since we started our project of Maasai Harmonial Development and Sustainability.

Since then the political world seems to have gotten crazier.

And the weather weirder.

In addition the rich are getting richer and the poor are becoming poorer.

And countries are deeper in debt, which I think is caused by resource depletion.

The Sierra Club itself has stopped paying attention to the growing numbers of people in many areas -- often overlooking the resultant resource depletion.

But in our project the population pressure has resulted in too many cattle in the conservation area and the officials have threatened to kick people out - with no place to go - if the population size reaches a certain number, which they are fast approaching.

In addition to population pressure, there is drought: in 1997, 2000, 2005, 2009, 2016, 2017, and 2018, drought led to low food supply in the project area. We had to buy maize for 305 women and their families in 2017 and 2018, taking away from our budget to educate girls.

When grasses have dried out, cattle are sometimes allowed to go into the small crater that is the source of the community water, polluting the water, resulting in diseases like cholera.

Use of contraception has increased in our community by more than double, much higher than the Tanzanian average. But there is still a race between a stable population and being kicked out.

US. politics and also politics in Tanzania are starting to interfere with the supply of family planning methods. We may have to start asking for donations for family planning.

And ... there is still a high birth rate because our community has a high number of child brides (under age 18). And child brides don't use contraception .......

Perhaps the population pressure is alleviated somewhat by the fact that men are leaving the community to go into the cities to take jobs such a night watchmen.

But this in turn has brought HIV into our community. And that is not the only vector of the disease, the other being when women go into the city to beg for maize for their family. They get jobs working in farmers fields with small payment, only enough to feed themselves. The other alternative is to sell their bodies.

Once HIV comes to our community, it can quickly be spread by two traditional practices: polygamy
and female genital cutting (FGC/M).

Girls education turns out to be far more important to the world than most people think. The World Bank recently declared that not educating girls affects population growth and costs the global economy $15 to $30 trillion.

But to say not educating girls ‘affects population growth’ is an understatement. A woman in school 12 years will have four to five fewer children than a woman with little or no schooling (Brookings Institution).

When asked what should be done to protect African wildlife, philanthropist Gregory Carr says, “Girls in school” … “It’s the No. 1 thing we will do for this planet.” … New York Times

Drawdown.org claims that Girls Education is just as important as Family Planning - they both have the capability of saving 59.6 gigatons of carbon emissions and thus both affect population growth equally. In fact, Drawdown says they are so intertwined, that they were grouped together to determine the impacts and then each assigned half.

“For every additional year of schooling a girl receives on average, her country’s resilience to climate disasters can be expected to improve BY 3.2 POINTS” (as measured by the ND-GAIN Index, which calculates a country’s vulnerability to climate change in relation to its resilience — on a scale from 1 to 12). … Brookings Institute

With no reduction in child marriage, high fertility rates alone will raise the global number of women married as children to 1.2 billion by 2050.
85 students walking to school at sunrise – 4 miles each way
These children need 2 new classrooms ($16K each) close to their community, and housing for 2 teachers ($25K for a duplex). The government supplies the teachers

Educated girls realize higher wages and greater upward mobility, contributing to economic growth. Their rates of maternal mortality drop, as do mortality rates of their babies. They are less likely to marry as children or against their will. They have lower incidence of HIV/AIDS and malaria.

Preschoolers in their new classroom with their chalkboards - before they got new uniforms. Their number is now 102. They need a second classroom.

But no education is complete without health education. Our health education program includes children’s rights, reproduction and family planning, HIV, FGC, along with the regular health topics
like hygiene, diseases and STDs. Other topics include Early Marriage and Early Pregnancy. Since we started Maasai Harmonial, more girls are being educated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls in School</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>Incentives</th>
<th>Holdups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>New and greatly improved classroom, uniforms, role models, school lunches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early primary</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Uniforms, role models, sponsored girls</td>
<td>Long walk to/from school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Later primary</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Boarding school, two sponsored girls</td>
<td>Missed early incentives in preschool, early primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sponsorship (in 2019 we had 5 girls in high school)</td>
<td>Failure to have learned Swahili in preschool and English in later primary. Missed incentives in preceding grades</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

High school girls in their 3rd year of high school
We would love to sponsor more girls like this. Only about $150 a year for public secondary school

Dr Grace teaches primary students about the perils of FGC. We sponsored Grace in medical school. Health class cost: $200/month

Visit our website at [www.masai-harmonial.org](http://www.masai-harmonial.org)
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Testimonial:  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDLiho_TVy0&t=47s