

## 2022-2023 Moulton Student Global Citizenship Grant

## Recipients: Miss Hall's School (USA) and Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology (Rwanda)





## **Grant Project Summary**

Students at Miss Hall's School (MHS) located in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, USA and Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology (GGAST) in Bugesera, Rwanda are working in collaboration on a project geared towards supporting young woman in the Nyabagendwa community located in the Bugesera district- Eastern province of Rwanda. The project goal is to provide the next generation of girls and young women with tools to be educated and empowered advocates as it relates to sexual/reproductive health.

According to the "Health and Demographic Survey" produced by the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, the number of underage mothers increased from 17,000 in 2017 to 19,832 in 2018 (an 11.7% increase). Since Covid-19 hit, there has been a notable increase in teen pregnancies in Rwanda. Hence, there is a sense of urgency for this project to reach out to young girls and teen mothers.

The project will consist of a series of printed and digital booklets which will cover topics addressing sex education. The first three issues will be about safe sex, consent, and reproductive health. The booklets will be sensitive to different cultures and communities while keeping the information accurate and updated. Each booklet will include medical resources, illustrations, personal stories from young women, current events, and the information related to the booklet's topic. There will also be translated versions of each booklet to the local native languages (Kinyarwanda and/or French). On-site campaigns in the Gashora sector where GGAST is located will also take place.

Additionally, the project will include a website to raise awareness for the challenges facing young girls around sex education and reproductive health and will serve as a hub project donations of tampons, pads, feminine wipes, and contraceptives. This project is intended to be long term and will eventually include additional diverse topics to strengthen leadership skills and improve cultural understanding to this community of young women in Rwanda.