

## T-MARC Tanzania Launches Hakuna Wasichoweza Girls Empowerment Project



The Guest of Honour and Project Ambassador of the Hakuna Wasichoweza Girls Empowerment Project, Mama Tunu Pinda hands over a gift of sanitary pads to a school girl representative at the project launch. Flanking her are (left to right) - the Head of Vodacom Foundation - Yessaya Mwakifulefule, the USAID Gender Advisor - Ludovicka Tarimo, the District Commissioner for Masasi District - Farida Mgoni and the Managing Director of T-MARC - Diana Kisaka.



Girls from Misufini and Chikongola Primary Schools in Mtwara region perform a song at the launch of the Hakuna Wasichoweza Girls Empowerment Project. The overall goal of the Girls' Empowerment Project (*Hakuna Wasichoweza*) is to improve the education standard of young girls in Tanzania.



Hakuna Wasichoweza Project Ambassadors, Mama Beatrice Makani popularly known as *Mama Ushauri* (left) and, Salum Njwete aka Samjet (right) who was the winner of Dume Challenge 2012 follow proceedings at the launch of the Hakuna Wasichoweza Project. The Project includes an advocacy component that will raise public profile and awareness at all levels on challenges faced by young girls in menstrual management.



Artists from the Mundu Arts Group in Mtwara were at hand to entertain the guests with traditional dances that had themes on the challenges faced by young girls in the area and the project goals of reaching 10,000 girls with low cost sanitary pads and health education in Lindi and Mtwara regions.

Primary school girls perch on top of desks to get a vantage point of proceedings at the launch of the Hakuna Wasichoweza Project.

The National Adolescent Reproductive Health Strategy (2010-2015) indicates that up to 50% of Tanzanian girls aged 19 years and below are already pregnant or mothers -. The Hakuna Wasichoweza Project will provide behaviour change communication messages to reduce risky sexual behavior among adolescents and delay the onset of sexual debut as a means to reduce schoolgirl pregnancies, school drop outs and sexually transmitted diseases like HIV.



Invited guests and some of the girls who will benefit from the Hakuna Wasichoweza Project pose for a group photo. There is a shortage of 3,844 pit latrines for school girls in Mtwara and a shortage of 2,471 pit latrines for girls in Lindi. As a result, girls suffer discomfiture and embarrassment, start lagging behind boys and eventually drop out of school. Hakuna Wasichoweza Project will Address the problem of inadequate water and sanitation facilities (WASH) in the targeted schools