

*Interview with Gladwell Wachira, GHRM*

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Interview conducted by Maggie Imperiale

Transcript by Drew Broadbent

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> Alright so, I'll just get started on the questions. This is kind of just a general question:

> What projects has the organization been most focused on recently?

The school, we have been really working on developing the school, because it's our main focus to make sure that we educate those young girls and boys on what they should do in their lives, and what they should say no to.

> What are some of the biggest obstacles Girl's Hope Rescue Mission faces in accomplishing your projects?

From the side of the kids, it's the culture. The culture is interfering with what we are doing, and another obstacle is [that] we have so many cases. And we are not able to work with the government officials, so they always bring us this idea of being the obstacles in everything we do.

> What's your favorite success story of this past year?

It's the rescues, seeing the rescue girls, as young as nine years, and putting them through schools, and that part of them saying no to [...]. Because for us, it's kind of an achievement for them to say no, as it's something that does not happen. So when they say no and we see them say no, it's a success.

> What are a few ways that donations have improved the lives of the girls?

One is we have been able to rescue triple the number that we use to rescue before. We have also been able to build a school that has more than 500 kids at the moment. And also we have been able to get so many learning materials in the way of teaching the whole community about different beings, in a very easy way.

> We've heard that your next big project that you're focusing on is building a clinic, what inspired you to want to build a clinic?



It's a funny story, I'm a rescuer and I became a midwife, and I never had any training. So, that part of me, helping with deliveries in the middle of the forest [...], that's what has been pushing me to want to clinic. Because I have seen small babies delivered and they die because of something that we could have done in a different way.

> Where will the clinic be located?

Near the rescue center, near the school, because our main focus is to help our girls and the kids in the school.

> So I know you mentioned about delivering babies, but what other kinds of services will the clinic be providing?

The clinic will [for] one help us deal the with gender based violence cases, because they need counseling, they need a safe space, so they can [...] the rescue center. We will also deal with the community; there are so many cases like malaria where people die because of not getting the right treatment at the right time. And also the maternity part of it, we need to see those babies come out in the most healthiest way possible.

> So in what ways will the clinic impact the girls in the community?

Access to treatment and care, because the nearest hospital is very far. And also the community will benefit because they won't have to go very far to seek medical attention, they will have a nearby clinic.

> Will this clinic be independent from other health organizations or do you plan on pairing up with health organizations to support this clinic

We want to do it under the Girls Hope Rescue Mission, but I believe that there are some sectors we will have to work with others.

> Who are you planning on staffing the clinic?

We will have nurses, we are also working on training our girls on nursing assistant courses, so they can always work in the clinic and also the social workers. Yeah, so it's whole combination of *team*, a team that understands what the community needs.

> Do you have any long-term strategies to ensure the clinic is lasting and successful?



We have some strategies, because we are coming up with a plan on how to have the community pay for some of the things, some of the treatment, so that we see planning without so much difficulties.

> Do you have any plans of maybe expanding the clinic at all?

Yeah, that's the next face we go after starting the clinic. Because I think my main focus is maternity because that is the challenge I am facing in the gender based violence cases, but I believe we have also some men and boys going through some challenges too.

> Okay well, that's all my questions. Thank you so much for joining and agreeing for this interview.

Okay thank you so much, and I really appreciate whatever you are doing to help us and being part of us. And also try to come and visit us in Kenya!

> Yeah, of course, thank you!

Thank you so much, okay bye.