

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROPOSAL

Project Title: Restore the livelihoods of 400 slum women and girls in Liberia

Location: Monrovia

Targeted Groups: Vulnerable young women and out of school street-girls in Monrovia and its Environs

Duration: Six Months (March 2020 – September 2020)

Project Cost: US\$44,940.00

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Background:

The grave allegations of widespread sexual exploitation and abuse of girls and young women in Liberia lives in a very fragile environment tense with risks and problems which make them extremely vulnerable. The combination of an unstable family environment, poverty, a high level of physical and sexual violence, cultural acceptance of abusive practices like transactional sex, and the fact that many girls are mothers themselves, are in an extremely dangerous condition which puts girls and young women in a very vulnerable position. These have contributed towards girls' and young women's ability to participate in community engagement action and leadership project. Acknowledging the important challenge that this problem has presents to the entire society in Liberia, the need for providing a sustainable life-skills training for empowerment toward alleviating the effects of poverty, as well as sexual exploitation & abuse, including gender-based violence against women. The YPDP's will recruit experts in various fields of disciplines to prepare the beneficiaries for the task self-sustainability, as well as rehabilitating and providing counseling for the less fortune women and girls in Monrovia.

The Context:

In Liberia conflict and displacement inevitably corrode has weaken many of the social policies these risks are partly caused, and their consequences intensified by the lack of traditionally protective, political structures are contributing factors for healthy youth development, usually available in society, but missing in Liberia's post-conflict context. Family, social networks, community social infrastructure, and services for youth are some of them. However, for a number of reasons, families are at present more a source of risk than a source of protection for girls and young women. Absence of one or two biological parents, large household sizes, poor housing conditions, and economic need

which pushes girls and young women to work (and family members to encourage risky behaviours like transactional sex as a source of income) is some of the risk factors that girls and young women find in their family environment. Also, the absence of community solidarity, lack of trust youth organizing activity make extended social networks unavailable to girls and young women in Liberia. In addition to this, due to the increase wave of disunity, and the multiple demands of the early renewal, support services for the youth are almost non-existent, except for a few NGO-run centres. Overall, girls' and young women's potential formal and informal sources of support in case of need are extremely limited. Similarly, supportive factors for healthy development (through caring adults, role models, etc.) are also lacking.

The absence of protective factors for girls and young women implies that the project will need to invest in creating some of them. A strong soft services component to complement mainstream training and labor market activities will be key to the success of the project. This will help minimize the threats and to increase provides protection for vulnerable girls' and young women's in Liberia for their personal and socio-demographic background. Activities under this project may range from soft skills training, psycho-social counselling to institutional strengthening of girls' groups, to recreation and healthy life style related activities. The project will make ferity efforts to create an environment where sexual exploitation and abuse, the high level poverty for girls and young women are not tolerated. This is especially necessary given the following features of social economic development gaps:

- a) The lack of economic opportunities for people may result in commercial and exploitative sex being one of the few options for income generation to meet basic needs;
- b) Beneficiary communities have often come from an environment of gender-based violence with which community structures collude. Unless proper safeguards are put in place, the same patterns can continue or even be exacerbated in a camp or settlement environment.
- c) The usual social protections are not in place or are no longer functioning. Levels of protection and security are generally poor; justice and policing frequently do not exist in the environment.
- d) Lack of productive and soft skills is the main problem to girls and young women vulnerability.
- e) Lack of entrepreneurial skills is the contributing problem to girls and young women being used as sex slaves.
- f) Bad character of potential employees (stealing, rough talk, lack of punctuality, etc.) plays also an important part in girls' and young women's inability to keep their jobs.
- g) Sexual harassment from employers is also an important problem to keep a job.
- h) In addition, lack of communications skills, boyfriends' opposition (out of jealousy); and girls' and young women's worries about children are other problems, although less important, which come in the way of finding and keeping a job.

The main problems that girls and young women find to start and stay in business:

- Lack of starting capital (money or materials) is the main problem when starting a new business.
- Lack of contacts is the second most important issue coming in the way of starting its own business.
- Lack of business skills is the most important impediment to remain in business.
- In addition, the following factors are identified as potential problems to start and stay in business, but not ranked among the most important: (i) regulations, referred to the fact that 16 years olds cannot sell legally in the street; (ii) lack of market information; (iii) lack of customers given that there is high competition among businesses; (iv) boyfriends' opposition (out of jealousy); and (v) girls' and young women's worries about children.

With all the above factors, it can be crystally seen here that most of the girls and young women in Monrovia continue to sufferer from the lack of opportunity in order to meet their daily needs due to the above analysis provided. It is from this benchmark that the Young Professionals Development Program is seeking funding to provide for such individuals assistance in terms of life-skill training in soap-making, tie-& dye, pastry making, sewing, tailoring, computer skill training as well as attending business class to be able to empower them for self-sustainability.

“Sexual exploitation” is any abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust for sexual purposes; this includes profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another;

Gender and power: Unequal power relationships provide the basis for sexual exploitation and abuse. Due to their unequal status, women and girls are particularly at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. However, it is important to recognize that boys are also vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse.

Economic environment:

The resource environment, particularly the lack of adequate food and services, contributes to the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. Particular issues such as breaks in food pipelines are exacerbating factors that need to be addressed by all in a manner that reduces risk. Greater efforts must be made to provide alternative income generation opportunities, particularly for women.

The Young Professional Development Program recognizes that most girls in Monrovia do find it difficult to make ends meet on a daily basis, and therefore result to making themselves available on the one had for sexual exploitation & abuse, while on the other,

development and humanitarians workers including teacher, government officials among others take advantage of such situation under review to abuse them.

To help affect the change and alleviate the effects of poverty, as well as sexual exploitation & abuse, including gender-based violence; and at the same time provide life-skills training for empowerment in terms of income generation, the YPDP's will recruit experts in various field of disciplines to prepare the beneficiaries for the task self-sustainability, as well as rehabilitating and counseling them from the nigh mires.

General Objective:

The objective of the women entrepreneurs for sustainable development project is to recruit up to 400 vulnerable girls and young women within Monrovia and its environs so as to reduce the unemployment risks and improve women action in self-sustainability for community development. This is gearing toward making girls and young women potential beneficiaries. It will also seek to limit vulnerability, provides awareness for women participation in community engagement actions and leadership projects, as well as income generation.

Methodology:

The Young Professional Development Program will recruits, trained and mentored about 500 girls and young women between the age of 15 to 35 years within Monrovia and its environs who are considered as vulnerable youths in society that are doing little or nothing in life for self-sustainability. The YPDP's will establish a training hub where the project activities will be taking place. The program will aimed at connecting the development and empowering Liberian youths especially the girls and young women on whom the future of Liberia depends on sustainable action for entrepreneurs' development. In achieving this, we will meet up with the Ministry of Gender & Development, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health for technical support.

Activities:

1. Mobilization and Recruitment of key Beneficiaries:

The YPDP will go into the various communities to identify and select the key beneficiaries (400 vulnerable women/girls) for the program.

2. Training:

The YPDP will organize three training centers within Monrovia and its environs where the program will be conducted on a schedule basis. The training will take

into consideration life-skills in (soap-making, sewing, tie & dye, pastry-making, tailoring, computer literacy training as well as career mentorship coaching).

Inputs:

1. The Donor will provide the funding and help in the monitoring and evaluation process
2. The Stella's Girls and YPDP's will implement, monitor coordinate and right both narrative and financial reports for the project
3. Government agencies to concern with the project will provide technical support, monitor and evaluate the project
4. Experts recruited will provide the required training and mentorship to the beneficiaries
5. Beneficiaries will make themselves available for the training exercises

Outputs:

1. Vulnerable women/girls will be trained and empowered to be self-sustainable within Monrovia and its environs
2. Social barriers will be discouraged to give way to women/girls for a better living; and
3. Positive attitudes being encouraged, including the reduction of the stigma on beneficiaries as a result of such acts within their communities.

Impact:

- Trained women/girls now doing business to sustain themselves
- Other girls going back to school
- More vulnerable girls wanting to be adsorbed in the program
- Communities appreciating the program

Budget:

Budgetary Details

No.	Descriptions	Unit	Cost	Quantity	Amount (USD)
Training Centers:					
1	Housing	6months	\$500	3venues	\$9,000.00
Sub-total					\$9,000.00
Furniture:					
1	Tables	10 pcs	\$35.00	3venues	\$1,050.00
2	Conference Table	3 pcs	\$50.00	3venues	\$450.00
3	Chairs	20 pcs	\$20.00	3venues	\$1,200.00
4	Desks	3 pcs	\$40.00	3venues	\$360.00
5	Shelves	3pcs	\$10.00	3venues	\$90.00
6	Benches	6 pcs	\$50.00	3venues	\$900.00
Sub-total					\$4,050.00
Equipment/Materials:					
1	Computers	10 pcs	\$300.00	3venues	\$9,000.00
2	Stationeries	6months	\$400.00	3venues	\$1,200.00
3	Buckets	4pcs	\$10.00	3venues	\$120.00
4	Dustbins	4pcs	\$10.00	3venues	\$120.00
Sub-total					\$10,440.00
Mental/Clinical Sessions:					
1	Care-takers	3 persons	\$200.00	3venues	\$1,800.00
Sub-total					\$1,800.00
Skills Training:					
1	Soap-making	1plc	600.00	3venues	\$600.00
2	Tie & dye	1plc	550.00	3venues	\$550.00
3	Catering/pastry	1plc	500.00	3venues	\$500.00
4	Tailoring	1plc	900.00	3venues	\$900.00
5	Computer literacy	1plc	600.00	3venues	\$900.00
Sub-total					\$3,450.00
Civic Education/Counseling and Mentorship:					
1	Training for Facilitators	1plc	900.00	3venues	\$2,700.00
2	Lecture Forum	6months	300.00	3venues	\$900.00
Sub-total					\$3,600.00
Stipend:					
1	3 Center Caretakers	6months	900.00	3venues	\$2,700.00
2	3 Securities	6months	1,500.00	3venues	\$4,500.00
3	3 Coordinators	6months	1,800.00	3venues	\$5,400.00
Sub-total					\$12,600.00
Grant Total					\$44,940.00