

LIFEAGAIN

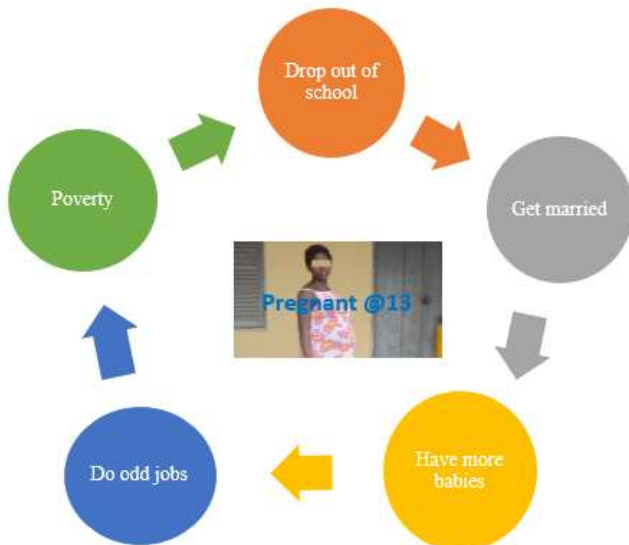
CONCEPT NOTE

SUPPORTING 100 TEENAGE MOTHERS IN 2021

Statement of Need

Teenage pregnancy is a global problem that affects the growth and development of girls. According to the World Health Organization, 17 million teenage girls give birth every year globally with about 95% from low and middle-income countries. Also, according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 20,000 teenage girls give birth every day in developing countries, translating to 7.3 million teenage births in a year.

In Northern Ghana, when a girl becomes pregnant, she is forced to go through a vicious cycle that puts her health, education, earning potential and her entire future in jeopardy. She is forced to drop out of school to marry the man responsible for her pregnancy to take away the “shame” she brought to her family for becoming pregnant. After giving birth, she does not get the chance to go back to school or do anything meaningful with her life; she rather stays at home, does house chores, have more babies and frequently get abused by her partner. This eventually traps her in a lifetime of poverty, exclusion and powerlessness. The unfortunate thing is, this cycle does not end with that girl but can be extended to her daughters since research indicates that the daughters of teenage mothers are more likely to become teenage mothers themselves if nothing is done thus teenage pregnancy does not only affect a teenage girl but can affect her entire generation of girls. The diagram below shows the current cycle a teenage mother goes through.



Organizational Overview

LifeAgain is an initiative that seeks to give hope, purpose and empowerment to vulnerable teenage mothers through career development. We do this by identifying teenage mothers from remote communities in Northern Ghana who are likely to be married off and provide them with mentoring, sex education and financial aid to either go back to school to attain higher education or to learn a vocation of their choice from which they can build careers from and become financially independent women. The ultimate goal of LifeAgain is to ensure that teenage mothers are empowered to be able to empower their children especially their daughters to stop generational teenage pregnancy, ensuring that teenage pregnancy ends with that girl.

Mission

Our mission is to end child marriage by empowering teenage mothers to build careers and transition smoothly into adulthood.

Vision

Our vision is to create a world in which teenage pregnancy is no hindrance to a girl's empowerment

Project Idea

Last year due to the Covid 19 pandemic resulting in closure of schools as a measure to stop the spread of the virus, lots of school going girls especially in the rural areas where LifeAgain operates have become pregnant and if nothing is done immediately to send them back to school, they would be married off and have their lives destroyed. It is in light of this that we are carrying out this project to support 100 teenage mothers this year as our response to the damage caused in girls' education by Covid 19. LifeAgain intends to provide financial aid to these girls by providing them with items such as school uniforms, school bags, shoes, books, sewing machines, weaving machines among others to enable them pursue their dreams of either going back to school or learning a vocation. We would also provide them with comprehensive sex education to enlighten them on safe sex to avoid subsequent unwanted pregnancies. In addition, we would assign them to mentors who would advise, counsel and guide them through the journey. Finally, and most importantly, we would enter into contracts with their guardians which prohibits them from marrying off the girls per the practice in these communities.

Key Objectives

The main objectives of this project include;

- End child marriages by ensuring that teenage mothers are not married off.
- Assist teenage mothers to acquire employable skills to be able to secure decent and well-paid jobs
- Assist teenage mothers to attain higher education from which they can build careers and earn a living from.
- End teenage pregnancy by ensuring that teenage pregnancy stops with that teenage mother.

Key Results

By the end of the project, we would have succeeded in;

- Saving 100 teenage mothers from forced/early marriages
- Building the relationship between the teenage mothers and their guardians

- Enrolling 30 teenage mothers into skills training and by the end of 3 years when their training is complete, they would become masters of their own and can work to earn a living to be able to take care of themselves and children
- Enrolling 70 teenage mothers back to school to complete their basic level education and proceed to the next level to acquire employable skills and qualifications to secure decent and well-paid jobs.

Monitoring & Evaluation

To measure the progress of the project we have set Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which we will continuously monitor and evaluate to ensure the success of the project. Some of the KPIs include;

1. Number of teenage mothers selected onto the program
2. Number of teenage mothers enrolled in school
3. Number of teenage mothers enrolled onto a vocation
4. Number of teenage mothers who received sex education
5. Number of teenage mothers on contraceptives
6. Number of teenage mothers who completed basic level education
7. Number of teenage mothers who successfully passed the vocation training
8. Number of mentors selected on to the program

Monitoring Activities

The following include the various ways the project will be monitored;

1. Periodically visiting schools to check on beneficiaries in school and enquiring about their performance from their teachers
2. Periodically visiting the work places of beneficiaries in vocation training and enquiring about their performance from their masters/mistress
3. Having mentors write and present a quarterly report of their engagements with their assigned mentees to ascertain the growth of beneficiaries through the mentoring program