

**Project Title**: Empowering Vulnerable Girls and Women with Vocational Skills and Education to Overcome Poverty and the Impacts of Covid-19 in Rural Liberia

**Project Objectiv**es:

1. To mobilize, engage and increase women economic empowerment through planned programs and activities
2. To provide vocational skills training opportunities for rural women and girls
3. To Empower Rural Women and Girls with Income Generation skills to Overcome Inequality and Extreme Poverty
4. To Equip Rural Women and Girls with Marketable Skills to Boost Economic Empowerment
5. To Design Job Creation and Self-employment Platforms through Skills Training and Education for rural Women and Girls
6. To Break the Barriers to Higher Education by Providing Scholarship Opportunities to Selected Girls and Young men
7. To Equip Rural Women and Girls with Alternative Means of Income Generation to Escape Extreme Poverty and Gender-Based Violence
8. To Equip rural Women and Girls with Leadership Abilities and Financial Management Skills for Fruitful and Improved Livelihood
9. To Equip rural Women and Girls with Vocational and Leadership Abilities
10. Poverty and Inequality Reduced Among Rural Women and Girls

**Project Location**: Nimba and Bong Counties, rural Liberia

**Project Duration**: 12 Months

**Project Start Date**: March 1, 2023

**Project End Date**: February 27, 2024

**Project Direct Beneficiaries**: 137 rural Women and Girls from Low-income Backgrounds for Skills Training, and 180 Vulnerable Girls and 20 impoverished Kids for Scholarships

**Brief History of the Organization**

          Founded in 2010, Give Them Hope, Inc is a registered non-profit organization in Liberia. Give Them Hope, Inc aims to educate, empower, and equip rural women and girls with education, vocational skills, and small business knowledge and management so that rural women and girls overcome multi-dimensional generational poverty, abuse, and inequality. Give Them Hope, Inc provides enabling social, educational, economic, and livelihood environments for rural women and girls to reach their full potential. Give Them Hope, Inc carries out educational services providing KG-12th grade school programs for vulnerable girls and kids, vocational skills training opportunities for rural school dropped-out girls and vulnerable women; Give Them Hope, Inc also carries out community health education and FM radio programs, and advocacy for kids, girls and the elderly.

**Brief Description of the Situation**
Liberia went through 15 years of civil conflict that destroyed lives and properties and displaced the entire population internally and externally. As the nation began to recover, a terrible and devastating Ebola pandemic hit and paralyzed and destroyed every aspect of life.
As we tried to recover from the destruction and impact of the Ebola pandemic, the Coronavirus hit and finally nailed the iron and cut off the food chain and supply, restricted traveling, broke down every business and means of income generation, and completely deprived the already vulnerable rural girls and women of income, food and basic daily needs.
The economic and social impacts of the pandemic and years of war have deprived rural girls and women of access to cash as their markets and businesses have broken down because of multiple restrictions and lockdowns, traveling restrictions, and border closures.  Rural girls and women are unable to provide for their households, pay fees at schools and clinics, buy daily needs and supplies, and provide for daily meals; They lack the economic power for continual education and even to purchase a daily meal as their lives deteriorate and their vulnerability escalates with no cash, no meal, no education, no future, no skills, and no daily needs.

What can these vulnerable girls, women, and single mothers do to overcome the devastating economic and social impacts of the years of war and pandemics as life continues to be unbearable for these already impoverished and vulnerable rural women and girls that face multi-dimensional poverty, inequality, and neglect?

**Project Results**

The project will achieve the following results:

a.   Vocational training center providing training for women and girls

b.   A number of training centers completed

c.    A number of vocational skills courses provided

d.   A number of rural women and girls strengthen through economic empowerment and vocational skills training

e.   A number of women and girls with an established source of income

f.      A number of women and girls receiving skills materials and start-up materials

g.    Women and girls trained in tailoring, making soap, making bread, raising goats, raising cows, making agricultural gardening, etc.

h.   % of women and girls expressing confidence in their abilities to sustain themselves

i.      Women and girls have established businesses

j.         A Number of girls graduating from high schools, # of girls completing courses in specialized areas

k.    Rural women and girls play an active role in leadership and sharing ideas with men

l.      Decrease in violence against women

m.                         A number of women independently control their own businesses

n.   Men respect rural women

o.   Women and girls participate in decision-making

p.    A number of rural women and girls running their own soap-making businesses, bread-making businesses, raising goats, raising cows, making pepper farms, making peanut farms, etc.

**Project Description and Action Plan**

Our innovation will provide these very vulnerable girls, women, and single mothers with a set of self-employment skills and a new mindset to overcome the terrible hardship and economic challenges posed by the pandemic.
The project will provide skills that can be translated into a small local business initiative to create income platforms for these vulnerable girls, women, and single mothers.
The project will further provide small business training and financial management skills for these 150 very vulnerable women, girls, and single mothers from 10 communities in Nimba County and 4 communities in Bong County.
The project will identify and equip 150 vulnerable girls, women, and single mothers with skills for self-employment in the following areas:

a.    Washing soap making with 46 beneficiaries

b.    Bread making with 45 beneficiaries

c.    Hairdressing with 17 beneficiaries

d.   Raising Goats with 10 beneficiaries

e.   Raising Cows with 5 beneficiaries

f.      Gardening skills:

1.   Cabbage production with 5 beneficiaries

2.   Peanut production with 5 beneficiaries

3.   Pepper production with 5 beneficiaries

4.   Bitter ball production with 5 beneficiaries

5.   Tailoring with 7 beneficiaries

The project will train 137 women and girls in one year breaking the training into two separate cycles with each cycle going for six months. The beneficiaries will further receive training in leadership, financial management skills, and how to translate an acquired skill into small local businesses.

The project will further provide feeding during training, and present tools and materials worth 100 USD at graduation to all the beneficiaries except those raising cows, goats, and tailoring whose tools and materials cost will be higher.
The beneficiaries will develop a new mindset; translate acquired skills into self-employment or small business setup for income generation to provide for the needs of their households. These vulnerable girls and women will possess the needed skills for self-employment and income generation to overcome the devastating impacts of Covid-19 on rural impoverished girls and women.  These women and girls will overcome the vulnerability and low economic status created by Covid-19 and the years of war and neglect; the beneficiary women and girls will overcome inequality and establish their own small-income generation schemes based on their acquired skills and knowledge.

The project will further identify 180 determined and courageous girls 20 young boys and children from low-income backgrounds that have aggressively fought hard and broken the barriers to education and have managed to remain in school but are exhausted financially and socially without a push.

The project will identify, select and provide these vulnerable girls and boys with scholarships at the Give Them Hope Bridge of Hope School. The scholarship will include tuition fees and copy books.

**The UN Women current report on Liberia states the following**:

1. That Liberia has a population of 5.05 million people.
2. 64% of Liberians live below the poverty line
3. 1.3 million Liberians live in extreme poverty
4. UNICEF also states that 85% of the youth population are unemployed because they either lack skills or college education
5. 42% of the female population are unable to find job because they do not have any skills or educational qualification
6. Gender equality is a prerequisite for poverty reduction, sustainable development, and women empowerment. The female populations of rural Liberia are placed in multi-dimensional extreme generational poverty and are yet to experience gender equality all because of the lack of quality educational opportunities and vocational skills provision. This is the gap that Give Them Hope, Inc is planning to close with funding and support for this project.
7. Give Them Hope, Inc proposes to step into the gap to provide 150 vulnerable rural women and girls with marketable vocational skills training opportunities for the next twelve months, each half year or six months providing vocational skills for seventy-five rural women and girls. The vocational skills training will serve as self-employment and economic improvement platforms for these underserved women and girls.
8. Give Them Hope, Inc will also provide 180 vulnerable, but bright and courageous rural girls and 20 kids with scholarships to enter and complete an academic year from K1-12 grade for the next academic year commencing in June or August.
9. **Monitoring and evaluation**
10. Give Them Hope, Inc has a monitoring and evaluation scheme that will be applied in this project including Project Director’s field visits, workshops, and training reports, activity and progress reports and photos, M & E person field report, workshops attendance list, and photos, graduation photos, and reports. Give Them Hope, Inc will engage the beneficiaries during and after the project.

**Implementation timeline and Action Plan**

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| Activity | Expected Outcome | Implementation Schedule | Carry Out By |
| Mobilization of Project Beneficiaries, communities and Stakeholders | Communities, Beneficiaries and Stakeholders mobilized and set and ready for project | March 1-15, 2023 | Project Administration |
| List and Break skills Beneficiaries by cycle | Project Skills Training Beneficiaries listed by cycle of two of six months each | March 16-21 | Project Administration |
| Identify, Recruit and List 180 girls & 20 boys and kids for Scholarship  | 180 girls and 20 boys/kids Scholarship recipients identified, Recruited and listed | March 21-June 30 | Project Administration and key Stakeholders |
| Skills centers and training areas set up | Skills training centers set up and ready for training | March 1-25 | Project Administration  |
| Identify and recruit project trainers | Three female expert trainers recruited and ready for skills training | March 16-31 | Project Administration |
| List skills beneficiaries by skills, counties and communities | Skills beneficiaries listed by skills, counties and communities and ready for skills training | April 2-10 | Project Administration and Trainers |
| Purchase training materials for starting of skills training | Skills materials purchased and set for training | April 10-20 | Project Administration and Trainers |
| Launch Vocational Skills Training  | Vocational Skills Training launched in Nimba and Bong Counties in two selectedCommunities | April 22-27 | Project Administration , Trainers, Beneficiaries, Beneficiaries’ Communities, Stakeholders |
| Conduct Vocational Skills Training at Training Center and further Coordinate Training activities at 5 Community Centers | Vocational Skills Training Conducted in ten skills areas benefiting 150 beneficiaries women and girls for 12 months into two cycles of six months each | April 28, 2023-February 15 , 2024 | Project Administration, Trainers |
| Project Demonstration and Exhibition | Project Beneficiaries Demonstrate Competence of Skills  | January1-15, 2024 | Project Administration and Trainers |
| Project Job Training | Job Training carried out and completed  | **January 16-February16, 2024** | **Project Administration and Trainers** |
| Purchase Start-up materials and tools | Start-up materials purchased and ready for graduation | **February 1-15, 2024** | **Project Administration and Trainers** |
| Graduation and Distribution of Start-up Tools and Materials  | 150 rural women and girls graduated; start-up tools and materials distributed on all 150 beneficiaries  | **February 19-27, 2024** | **All Stakeholders** |

**Project Schedule**

Project Start Date: March 1, 2023

Project End Date: February 27, 2024

**Total Budget: $69,560 USD**

**Our Contribution in-kind: $4800 USD**

**Budget Amount Seeking: $64, 760USD**

**Our References**

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