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**PROPOSAL FOR**

**MULTIPURPOSE CENTRE FOR VUNERABLE GIRLS**

**(TEENAGE MOTHERS)**

**KAJIADO COUNTY**

**GILFILLAN HOUSE, 6TH FLOOR SUITE 613**

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**Contact Person: Lucy Ndungu**

**Position: Executive Director**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In line with the Millennium Developments Goals with special focus on the first three (i.e. Poverty and Hunger Eradication, Achieving Universal Education and Gender Equality), Hope for Teenage Mothers (HTM) is working round the clock to ensure that the fundamentals needs of our vulnerable and disadvantages teenage mothers and their children are addressed.

Poor distribution of resources, lack of accountability of these resources, poor governance and corruption has led to increase in poverty levels with widening gap between the rich and the poor. This has also led to teenage pregnancies, poor or no access to primary/non formal education, poor sanitation and poor housing conditions, environmental degradation and very low standards of living.

Kenya houses some of the largest slums mainly in Nairobi. Examples include Kibera off Mbagathi Highway, Mathare off Thika and Outering Roads, Mukuru Kwa Njenga off Mombasa Road and Mukuru Kwa Reuben off Mombasa road just to name a few.

*Facts about Kibera* ; There are approx 2.5 million slum dwellers in about 200 settlements in Nairobi representing 60% of the Nairobi population, occupying just 6% of the land. Kibera houses almost 1 Million of these people. Kibera is the biggest slum in Africa and one of the biggest in the world.

*Facts about Mathare*: Mathare Slum is one of the oldest and the worst slums in Africa. Situated three miles east of Nairobi city’s central business district, Mathare slum is home to over 700,000 people occupying an area of two miles long by one mile wide. Because of congestion, survival is a daily battle for the resident’s against the backdrop of diseases, crime, prostitution and lawlessness. These areas are very populous with the citizens living below a dollar a day.

The issue of teenage motherhood is increasingly becoming a serious subject matter basically due to the social ills affecting the vulnerable poor families. It is highly prevalent in the slum settings of our cities towns and marginal areas. Current statistics for 2012 indicates that 3 in 10 school going girls between the ages of 13 years to 18 years get pregnant and drop out of school due to teenage pregnancy.

Hope for Teenage Mothers (HTM) was formed to make a difference in the lives and livelihoods of the teenage single mothers and their children. We offer skills for life training, non-formal education, counseling, micro-financing training and entrepreneurship but there is still need to offer short term support such as Medicare, food, clothing and shelter.

We are therefore seeking for well wishers, partnership with private and public institutions, Governments intervention to enable us achieve our dream for our sisters and their families which we believe will go a long way towards their socio-economic development and that of Kenya as a whole.

Problem statement

Teenage pregnancies are attributed to the social economic hardships experienced by the vulnerable groups in the slum settings and marginalized communities that has kept their cultural traditions . Pregnant young girls attending school end up terminating classes due to stigma from peers, neighbors and close family members. The stigmatization negatively impacts on the psychological wellbeing of the teenage girl, leading to denial in the family, poverty and helplessness. The affected teenage girls end up leaving their family home opting to going it alone and or staying with relevant groups in the streets or slum dwellings whereby they are involved in various kinds of illegal activities which includes drug abuse, joining illegal sect groups , prostitution and substance abuse. They find themselves in unfamiliar world of parenting with no skills to enable them join the difficult job market and this leaves them hopeless and vulnerable.

The country lacks an institution that takes care of teenage mothers , their children and other vulnerable girls so that they can grow into responsible citizens.

Goals

Rehabilitate, build capacity and improve the standards of living of teenage mothers and their children within our society.

Brief History about Hope for Teenage Mothers

HTM was registered as a Non Governmental Organization in the year 2005 and works in Mukuru Kwa Reuben slum off Mombasa Road in Nairobi and Dagoretti . The organization’s main objective is to empower the vulnerable teenage mothers through self sustainable skills, non formal education, and HIV/AIDS support for the affected and infected. The organization has rehabilitated 350 teenage mothers from the Mukuru Kwa Reuben slum and from Dagoretti. Currently our projects are based in the Mukuru Kwa Reuben Centre primary school and the Restoration Centre church at Lenana – Dagoretti . The Reuben Centre has offered a classroom for vocational training and a day care room to keep the children as their mothers carries on with their studies.

HTM offices are situated in Gilfillan House 6th floor in Nairobi. We have four staff that assists in running the office and the projects. Our focus beneficiaries are teenage mothers and their children from all communities in Kenya. The Executive Director, the founder of HTM is based at the HTM’s secretariat, and she reports to the Board .She is assisted by two community social workers, a project accountant and a project administrator to run the projects.

Our vision

Give hope to a girl child who is helpless and vulnerable but has huge untapped potential and unexploited talent.

Mission

Work with stakeholders, partners ,well wishes, donors and the government of Kenya to seek to improve the quality of life for stigmatized and marginalized teenage mothers, their children, families and communities through capacity building, counseling, nutritional support ,non-formal training, legal representation and human rights upholding.

Justifications

The Daily Nation newspaper dated 5th January, 2012, published an article on a teenage mother who got pregnant at age 16 and whose poor family background in which their mother was the sole bread winner after her husband died of HIV/AIDS. The article noted that there are over 13,000 teenage mothers country-wide who need assistance of various categories as they cannot cope up with circumstances and responsibilities of raising their children.

Objective

To construct a centre of excellence that transforms ordinary schools into institution for social-economic empowerment for vulnerable teenage mothers.

Methodology

The proposed centre will be in Kajiado County on a 10ha piece of land. Initially we shall construct a 4 floor storey building to serve as administration block, classrooms and boarding facilities, staff quarters and a health facility/research centre to cater for the needs of the target beneficiaries, the communities surrounding us and visiting research scholars. Part of the land will be used for agricultural produce (green houses) to supplement the budget of running and nutritional support for the children in the Centre and the surplus will be sold to the public.

The project will be a unique one as it will be the centre of training, health institution, food production, day care centre and accommodation for the very poor vulnerable teenage mothers who have nowhere to go.

The vetting process will be water tight in order to only cater for the very needy and vulnerable girls. The social workers, church leaders, opinion leaders and the Centers Management team will form a committee to select the beneficiaries.

The beneficiaries shall be enrolled into various project activities of their choice so that they can attain life-long skills that will enable them live better lives and in turn support their children. This will be quite transformational for their future generations. The agricultural component is crucial due to the fact that food will be produced to feed the big number of the teenage mothers while the surplus food crops will be sold to generate extra income for both the centre and some percentage of the income will go to the support of the community around as it will be supporting the project for example in the field to produce the food crops.

A borehole for water shall be necessary for water supply to the centre as well as the surrounding communities.

The health facility will be useful to diagnose and treat the affected beneficiaries, their children and the neighboring communities will utilize it at subsidized rates. A VCT centre will also be incorporated to help curb the spread of HIV virus.

**Project Budget**

We intend to phase out the project in 2013 / 2014. The following are estimated costs:-

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| --- | --- |
| Project Estimated Cost /Budget   1. Construction Costs -4 storey block class rooms (15 classrooms) & Administration 2. Boarding block 3. Early Childhood Centre 4. Health Clinic 5. Library   (6) Bore hole | Ksh  5M  3M  2M  3M  3M  1M |
| **Total Project cost** | 17M |
|  |  |

PS: these are approximate figures but proper bills of quantities and plans will in provided.

**Past achievements**

***Hairdressing*** - The most popular activity among the teenage mothers is the training on hairdressing with 15 of the trainees having set up their own saloon businesses after six months of training at the Mukuru Kwa Reuben slums school of hair dressing. Most of the trainees feel that they have achieved a life-long skill that can now contribute to their self esteem and independence.

***Community support -***  Afya Foundation have supported HTM with a free medical camps at the Mukuru Kwa Reuben slum.200 individuals both male and female have benefited.

Hope for Teenage Mothers has supported over 1500 primary school children in Mukuru Kwa Reuben and Ahero Kisumu with school uniforms made by the teen mums .

***Making of Sanitary Pad*** - Over 40 teenage mothers (Training of Trainers) have learnt how to make recyclable sanitary pads and are training other women in the slums within the country on how make them.

***Vocational training –***Over 200teenage mothers have trained on life skills i.e. knitting, dress making for a period of 1 year since 2008. The young mothers are now self employed with small businesses of tailoring and dress making while some of them are working with the Export Processing Zone (EPZ).

***Microfinance and entrepreneurship –***Over 150teenage mothers from Mukuru slums and Dagoretti have graduated in small business Management course since 2010.

Anticipated Results

* We anticipate that after the end of the training, at least every single mother will have graduated with a recognized Kenya School certificate or a recognizable skills training and will become marketable or even start up a small business that will bring job creations and livelihood.
* It is also anticipated that percentage number of dependency will decrease at family and l level in the targeted areas of slums and there will be poverty reduction.
* The number of crimes, HIV/AIDs infection, drugs abuse and the rate of prostitution will also decrease in the targeted areas.
* The standard of living will greatly improve for our beneficiaries and the communities living around the Excellence Centre.
* Transformation of lives and giving dignity and hope to the vulnerable and disadvantaged.
* The project will be replicated in the other parts of the country.

Sustainability

* The local community owns Hope for Teenage mothers (HTM) projects.
* Teenage mothers are recruited through fair but thorough selection by the set committees and beneficiaries are allowed to design and plan their relevant projects based on their talents and capabilities.
* The non formal class to include enabled teenage mothers within the country who can afford to pay school fees to enable project sustainability.
* The agricultural produce will supplement the running costs of the Centre.
* Due to the projects’ success, more Government involvement, partners and generous donor funding.

Project Replicability

Particular sets of solutions will emerge from the empowerment of Teenage Mothers through the marginal extension of alternative learning under the program. The success in providing access to knowledge and self esteem to over 95% of the beneficiaries will be a reality check. This is particularly impressive in a setting that has different perceptions on teenage motherhood who are neglected yet they constitute a very big percentage of the population. The program will be hailed as a unique case in the empowerment and development of girl child in the slum areas and other parts of the country. The fundamental problem of access to alternative education will be tackled. It will focus on one of the ‘solutions’ that has emerged in response to this problem, in specific that is adopted by developed world, which has also proven to be an extremely successful education model, stemming from the organization’s desires to (a) promote development and poverty alleviation of girl child and (b) increase skills and improve the standard of living to the urban poor teenage mother.

Conclusion

The project is well in line with the social-economic development. Its target beneficiaries are the very vulnerable and neglected members of our society who constitute a substantial percentage of the population. If their plight is not checked, the poverty levels, crime and substance abuse, child mortality, prostitution, poor sanitation and health facilities will cripple the individual, community and the overall country’s development and eventually the crippling of the Vision 2030.The project’s success will be dependant of the governance structures, donor and government support and emphasizes on the sustainability and replication in all the other parts of the country.

***Together we believe we can give back the vulnerable and disadvantaged teenage mothers a smile and the confidence they have lost through stigmatization.***