**Global Hand**

**Application Submitted by Girl Child Network Uganda**

**Contact Information**

Name of Group: Girl Child Network Uganda (GCN)

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Name of Contact Person: Memory Bandera

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**Organizational Information:**

1. **Give brief background of the group:**

GCN envisions a society where girls are empowered and enjoy their rights with support from whole communities so as to walk in the fullness of their potential. GCN mobilizes whole communities to eradicate patriarchal structures that dominate homes, schools, and the communities in order to support and develop an enabling environment to promote and protect the rights of the girl child. GCN ensures girls at risk and most vulnerable to abuse are rescued and empowered to speak out and through provision of safe shelter and strong referral to legal and medical aid stand up to defend their rights. GCN also supports girls to be in school and advocates for violent free school environments so that girls get maximum benefits from education. GCN also has a vocational training, savings and loans program for teenage mothers and school drop outs.

1. **Who started the group?**

GCN Zimbabwe was founded in Zimbabwe by Betty Makoni together with 10 High School Students. Memory Bandera was among the 10 students and became the first President of the organization. As GCN Zimbabwe celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2009, Memory Bandera took it to Uganda in the hope that GCN’s tenth anniversary will not only create renewed impetus synergy to push our agenda forward, but also provide an opportunity for sustainable partnerships with other stakeholders in addressing the issues affecting the girl child in Uganda.

1. **When was the group started?**

GCN Uganda was founded in 2009

1. **Why was the group started?**

During her work with Youth Action International in Uganda, Memory Bandera, got very frustrated every time she met girls who were victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence and could not do much to help. Her work exposed her to hundreds of girls who were abducted and raped (at times gang-raped) during the conflict in the north and those that were sexually abused in slum areas in the capita city, Kampala. Most of these girls got pregnant in their teenage years and never went back to school. It is against this background that we decided to start GCN in Uganda to help thousands of girls who are suffering in silence with no one to help them.

1. **Give a brief description of your program:**

**CASE:** In a small village in Masaka, since 2004 there has not only been a primary school, but a secondary school too. However, it is a long and sometimes dangerous way to school, especially for girls when they go alone. At this school, cases of pre-marital pregnancies are common; male teachers and other powerful people in the school vicinity are particularly responsible. Most parents are interested in quickly marrying off, disowning or expelling such girls from their homes and the young girls do not get the opportunity to go back to school. In rare circumstances, some parents go to the local government to complain about the circumstances of the school. For the most part the local government argues that they should be thankful for having any school for their children. Parents become afraid and decide not to access justice keeping the girl child away from school. There are thousands of girls in such situations across Uganda whom GCN is working with to ensure that they have a positive future by advocating for their rights, providing preventative information, holding perpetrators legally responsible and reinstating girls into formal education or vocational training.

In addition to sexual abuses, other challenges for girls that GCN work with include lack of school fees and uniforms; low self esteem; lack of information on issues affecting girls; lack of income; and exclusion from the main decision groups. GCN’s needs assessment indicated that sexual harassment was a key area that affects girls. Girls were found to be particularly more vulnerable since they are prone to abuse by the male teachers, boys in the school and other men in the community. Girls disclosed that they were charged with the responsibility of taking care of the family which forced them to drop out of school to get employment and some engage in commercial sex work. Others said, “*after school their children especially girls go straight to the bars to help their parents with the preparation and serving of the brew [local beer]. This is done to as late as 11:00 pm and in the process, these girls helping their parents are exposed to vulgar language and experience sexual harassment by drunken customers.”* GCN’s approach addresses these issues both in and out of school.

Having realized that there are girls who are in GCN’s Empowerment Clubs who are in risk situations, GCN devised the Girls At Risk Support Program (GARSU) to respond to the needs of such girls and also capacitate communities to respond to their predicament during difficult situations. **This program** institutes the survivor protection and support strategy; counseling; and a referral system (to access medical and legal services) that seeks to urgently address the concerns and the plight of girls at risk, particularly sexually abused girls and sex workers.

**The GARSU program;**

The proposed activities are set forth below:

1. **Provision of legal and medical aid for girls** 
   1. Establish the first free hotline in Uganda
   2. Develop a network of volunteer/paid medical and legal experts to help provide services with the girls’ cases
   3. Provide support and regular follow up to victims of sexual abuse
   4. Follow up on cases and hold responsible authorities accountable
2. **Empowering victims and potential victims of child abuse**
   1. Enroll girls in GCN’s counseling and rehabilitation program
   2. Encourage girls to stay in school and assist school dropouts to go back to school
   3. Provide vocational skills trainings and start-up loans (with funding already received from Defence for Children International-Canada)
   4. Conduct workshops, trainings and street theatre to raise awareness on child abuse
3. **Empowering the community to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation**
   1. Produce and disseminate information on child abuse and children’s rights
   2. Carryout campaigns against child abuse in 4 districts in Uganda
   3. Conduct a nationwide media advocacy campaign to raise awareness on child abuse
   4. Advocate for access to justice and enforcement of children’s rights in Uganda

Specific measurable outcomes include the following:

1. Established hotline and the number of calls received from girls and the case handled by GCN
2. Follow up on all cases initiated by GCN to ensure justice is served and produce bi-annual newsletters
3. A network of relevant stakeholders to provide complimentary services to girls created
4. Conduct trainings, workshops, campaigns and media advocacy and reach out to 600 girls directly and 2,000 community members over 1 year
5. Provide counseling services, school fees, vocational training, start-up loans to at least 600 girls

Another GARSU’s priority is to serve the financing needs of girls, since a staggering 70 percent of all those living in extreme poverty are female according to World Bank statistics. Women are often excluded from education, the workplace, owning property and equal participation in politics. They produce one half of the world’s food, but own just one percent of its farmland. When women improve their circumstances, they also improve the lives of their children. By investing in nutrition and education, they help to create a better future for their children and their communities. Despite the success of life-transforming microfinance services, the World Bank says that the industry is not close to meeting the demand. Five hundred million people living in poverty could benefit from a small business loan and only one-third of the world’s population has access to any kind of bank account. In sub-Saharan Africa’s poorest countries, less than 10 percent of the population has an account with a financial institution. The vocational skills and micro-loans that GCN offer to its members are geared towards giving girls a second chance in their lives.

GCN’s goal is to serve the particular needs of girls as it is critical for the empowerment of girls because it gives them confidence and support to realize their fullest potentials and become responsible and contributing citizens who will help in the overall development of the country. Girls cannot contribute to the nation’s development if they are hurting because they were abused and never got justice, counseling, rehabilitation and/or reinstated back into school.

1. **What are your goals?**

GCN’s overall goal is to empower girls (victims and potential victims of abuse) through provision of legal and medical services; sensitize girls and communities on girls’ rights; give girls a chance to go back to school or get a life skill; and provide micro-loans.

**Mission**

GCN Uganda is an organization that supports and empowers girls through education empowerment, child rights prevention, rehabilitation of abused girls and promoting girls’ talents.

**Vision**

We envision a country where girls are empowered and enjoy their social, economic and political rights and walk in the fullness of their potential.

The GARSU program aims to transform girls from perceived victims into leaders by instilling, facilitating and providing the means for them to deal with obstacles they face so that they can reach their full potential. The most critical moment for any victim of sexual abuse is soon after they have been raped. At that moment, they are in pain, confused, angry and ashamed and might not make the right decisions if they do not get instant help. GARSU enables girls who fall victims to sexual abuse to 1) call GCN 24 hours to be rescued from sexual abuse; 2) call GCN soon after an incident so as to get to the hospital and police before the evidence is washed away; 3) call upon GCN to access medical treatment; 4) call upon GCN to get legal assistance; 5) call upon GCN to receive professional counseling; and 6) get financial empowerment through vocational training and/or micro-loans.

1. **Is your group community based?**

Yes. Our work is in 4 districts in Uganda and the activities are carried out by girls in their communities with the support of GCN staff.

1. **Who are the beneficiaries?**

This program directly benefits victims of sexual abuse, potential victims of sexual abuse and sex workers. It also benefits the community indirectly by sensitizing them on girls’ rights as well as sexual reproductive health. Our programs are open to all our members and all ‘girls at risk’ including sexual minorities.

**Structure of the Organization**

**9. How are decisions made?**

Decisions about clubs are made by girls themselves through their clubs. They decide on the kind of activities they want to carryout and they spearhead the implementation of such activities. Each has its own leadership consisting of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Mobilizer. They also receive guidance from a Club Coordinator (GCN volunteers who live in the same communities as the club members). GCN staff provide overall guidance and assistance as and when the need arises.

9.1 Does your group have Staff, a Borad, Advisors or Volunteers?

GCN has a very small staff of 4 people due to the limited resources. However, we work with volunteers and interns.

Board:

GCN has a board of Directors which consist of four (4) members. They provide guidance and oversee the operation of the organization. One of the board members is a signatory to the bank account to ensure transparency.

Advisor(s):

GCN has ‘friends of GCN’ who from time to time provide advice and resources.

Volunteers:

GCN’s work relies a lot on volunteers and interns. We work with volunteers who have expertise in specific areas e.g. counseling for the benefit of our girls.

**10. Who are your contacts/who know you- Give some references?**

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Country Representative

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**11. Who are other funders that you have approached?**

Defence for Children International-Canada

Global Fund for Women

**12. How much have you secured?**

$10,000 from the Defence for Children International-Canada towards this program

**13. How much have you been promised?**

None

13.1 Request:

How much are you requesting? Provide a detailed budget and explanation of the project you are applying for

This is a budget for 12 months

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PROPOSED PROJECT BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION** | | |  |
| **Line Description** | **Requested from Pitseng** | **Other Funding** | **Justification / Notes** |
| **Salaries, Stipends and Fees (including consultants)** |  |  |  |
| Allowance for 1 project staff | $ 1,920.00 | $ 1,920.00 | Pitseng will only cover a small portion of the monthly allowance at $160 per month |
| Honorarium fees for consultants (TOT for GCN staff) | $ 200.00 | $ - | Since GCN doesn't have the expertise, we will rely on getting an external consultant to conduct training and develop our training materials to be used in clubs |
| **Trainings/Meetings/Supplies** |  |  |  |
| Training for 6 GCN staff (printing training materials) | $ 60.00 | $ - | These are training materials and facilitator's guide that staff will use to train girls in clubs |
| Stationery for 6 GCN staff | $ 12.50 | $ - |  |
| Lunch for 6 GCN staff | $ 37.50 | $ - | Staff will get lunch to avoid interruptions |
| Training for 20 Club Coordinators (printing materials) | $ 125.00 | $ - | Manuals on counseling, running clubs & sexual reproductive health will be created to help them provide guidance to their clubs |
| Stationery for 20 Club Coordinators | $ 41.67 | $ - |  |
| Lunch for 20 Club Coordinators | $ 125.00 |  |  |
| Transport reimbursements for 20 Club Coordinators | $ 166.67 | $ - | The training will be convened in Kampala & the coordinators will need transport money to attend |
| 600 girls trained on sexual reproductive health (stationery, venue & refreshments) | $ 1,250.00 | $ - | We need to provide stationery and refreshments during these trainings |
| 600 girls attend workshops on sexual abuse (stationery, venue & refreshments) | $ 1,250.00 | $ - | We need to provide stationery and refreshments during these trainings |
| 150 girls trained in income-generation skills; savings & business management skills (stationery, venue & refreshments) | $ - | $ 1,850.00 | GCN will train girls using money from the DCI grant |
| 600 girls receive counseling (transport for referrals) | $ 300.00 | $ - | This is a lumpsum amount for the whole year for girls who need transport |
| 150 girls receive legal and medical services | $ 250.00 | $ 500.00 | This amount is for all emergency referrals including taking girls to hospitals & pro bono lawyers & referring them other NGOs |
| 20 clubs receive start-up kits and/or micro-loans | $ - | $ 2,000.00 | This amount will be given to girls that will have undergone business skills & savings trainings and have good practical business proposals |
| **Project Related Materials/Supplies** |  |  |  |
| Brochures and flyers for community sensitization (2,000 people) | $ 1,583.33 | $ - | These will be distributed during community sensitization activities |
| Internet charges | $ 230.00 | $ 230.00 | Internet charges will be shared equally since this is the most cost effective way of communication with our stakeholders and partners |
| **Local Travel** |  |  |  |
| 600 girls trained on sexual reproductive health | $ 300.00 | $ - | Transport for GCN staff to travel to clubs and train girls. |
| 600 girls attend workshops on sexual abuse | $ 300.00 |  | Transport for GCN staff to travel to clubs and train girls |
| 600 girls receive counseling | $ 300.00 | $ - | Transport for GCN Counselor to provide counseling in clubs |
| 150 girls receive legal and medical services through our referral system | $ 300.00 | $ - | Transport allowance for GCN staff to take the girls when needed |
| 150 girls trained in various income-generation skills; savings & business management skills | $ - | $ 300.00 | Transport for GCN staff to travel to clubs and train girls |
| 20 clubs receive start-up kits and/or micro-loans | $ - | $ 300.00 | Transport for GCN Loan Officer to monitor clubs and recover loans |
| 2,000 community members sensitized on various issues concerning girls | $ 300.00 | $ 400.00 | Transport for GCN staff to organize and facilitate sensitization activities |
| Space Rental and Related Costs | $ - | $ 2,500.00 | GCN will cover these costs through local fundraisings |
| **Total Direct Costs** | **$ 9,051.67** | **$ 10,000.00** |  |
| **Indirect Costs** | **$ 905.17** | **$ -** | Indirect costs are calculated at 10% |
| **Total for Each Source** | **$ 9,956.83** | **$ 10,000.00** |  |
| **TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET** |  |  | **$ 19,956.83** |