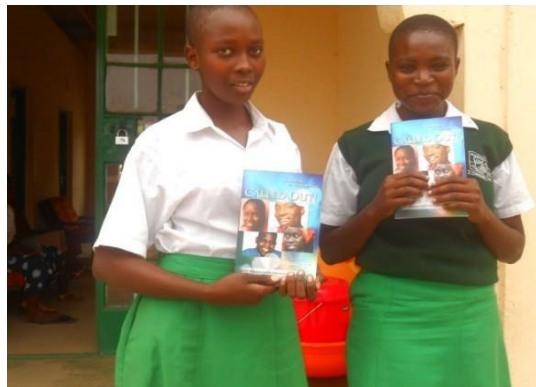




*INSTITUTE FOR FAITH
AND GENDER EMPOWERMENT*

HOPEAGAIN PROJECT



CONCEPT NOTE

SUPPORTING 100
TEENAGE MOTHERS

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 Siaya County, Kenya, 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 children. 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.



Overview

HopeAgain is an IFAGE 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 Siaya County 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 HopeAgain 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.



Project Idea

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic resulting in closure of schools in 2020 as a measure to stop the spread of the virus, from the public hospital records, 310 young girls aged between 10 –14 years got pregnant and a further 3,286 girls aged between 15 to 19 conceived within the five months (January to May). Some may not have been accounted for because they may not have gone to the hospital. Majority end up terminating their education due to stigma and shame while those who go back face emotional, financial, social and economic challenges that predispose them to possibilities of another pregnancy, poor educational performance or low retention/frequent absenteeism because of the need to take care of the child. \

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. HopeAgain intends to provide financial aid to these girls 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 who completed basic level education
6. Number of teenage mothers who successfully passed the vocation training
7. Number of mentors selected on to the program consequence

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 workplaces of beneficiaries in vocation training and enquiring about their performance
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

Cost for the Program = \$3000