

Income Generating Activities Project Proposal

Executive Summary

The Agency for Community Health Empowerment (ACHE) is a community-based organization serving the people of Rukungiri District in Southwestern Uganda. In the face of poverty and social injustice, we believe in the importance of education and skill building to promote women's health and independence.

Previously our group has focused on fundraising and distribution of reusable sanitary pad kits, along with education on hygiene and menstrual health. The women and girls had many questions answered, and consistently reported a decreased sense of shame regarding their menstrual cycles. Headteachers reported an increase in school attendance following this campaign.

Through the pandemic, we became aware that because students could not attend school during lockdowns, many girls became pregnant at a young age. These girls now struggle to provide for their babies and often to find housing, as some are not allowed back into their homes. Currently there are very few resources available to these girls; many in their situation may move to the city to beg.

Our Vision

For our next project, we endeavour to expand our reach in order to equip these young women with skills that will let them earn a steady income in their home villages. We envision a gathering place, hosting both teachers and learners, where girls can build their skill of choice and receive education on health and business skills. We aim to build a project that is self-perpetuating and sustaining, with newly skilled workers giving back to the organization as they begin to earn reliable incomes.

Project Background

In Spring of 2022, Patience and Moses visited some of these girls to learn of their experience and brainstorm ideas on how to help. The girls expressed interest in learning skills to perform locally relevant services. Specifically, they were keen to learn tailoring, hair styling, vegetable growing and livestock (poultry) rearing.

Patience identified some local shop space which can safely welcome people and store equipment. We aim to begin by providing the equipment and hiring teachers for tailoring, then hair styling to follow as funds allow. One woman has a successful vegetable garden and has expressed interest in sharing her knowledge. Some girls are known to our team as needing help, and others may be referred by word of mouth or through invited education and outreach visits.

We also hope to provide ongoing women's health education, so our training centre can be a safe space in which to ask questions and inspire pride and independence. Topics may include menstrual health, HIV awareness, hygiene and women's rights. Patience is a social worker and has been providing this training to date, supported as needed by resources from Days for Girls.

Project Design and Scope

14 girls aged 17-25 have been identified as living precariously and, if funding can be secured, would be our first cohort of students.

One or two trainers (ie. a skilled tailor and if able, a hair stylist) will be hired. The trainer will not pay rent, but rather, will train students and perform their own work out of the shared space when training is not happening. This will extend services to the neighbouring communities, enable the trainer to gain a commission-based income, and help support the training of future students and rent of the facility. By offering services to the local communities, we hope to fill a need while ensuring an income for our trainers and improving sustainability of this project.

Project Evaluation

The following measures will be used to evaluate progress:

1. Number of students trained
2. Number of students earning an income in 6 months after training
3. Questionnaire to gauge student satisfaction and areas for future progress
4. Financial sustainability of program

Projected Budget and Funding

The projected budget for the first year of this program is approximately CAD \$4000. An itemized budget is attached to this email.

Project reports will be written and delivered to funding agencies as requested.

Resource development

Patience, Moses and Alaina work as volunteers and do not receive any personal funds from this endeavour. Fundraising will begin in Canada as we approach various organizations. Word of mouth and social media may also be used to share the project goals and achievements.