

Enable 250 women to help themselves get out of poverty

Summary

BERUDA will give training on raising and selling chickens to 250 poor women and landless widows. And the project will give 20 chickens as start - up capital to begin a viable self employed business scheme. This will become a sustainable alternative source of income that will help them buy food for their families, send their children to school and pay hospital bills. It is hope that this will help protect them from the temptation of prostitution and other forms of abuse that is common to women in the lower economic ladder.

What is the issue or Challenge

The biggest challenge facing women in the tribal land of Kom in Cameroon is poverty compounded due mainly to illiteracy leading to dependency.

For women 40 years and above in the Kom tribe in Cameroon going to school and getting an education was not an option for them as they were prepared for early marriage. Marriages that were often to a man the age of their father as a second wife. No education means women face life with limited job opportunities and great dependency on their male counterpart for income. They depend on their husband and male relatives not just for money but even to read their private letters, newspapers.

In addition, women are not allowed to own land due to customs and traditions that are biased towards women. In the event of the death of their husbands widows tend to suffer most as the brother to the husband gets total control of the land. This in an economy that relies on agricultural spells leave the women in a situation with very little opportunity for survival without dependence.

How will this project Solve it.

BERUDA will provide training in raising and selling chickens.

Donate 20 vaccinated chickens, feed and chicken shelter to each of the women as one time start- up capital. This will give each woman a viable self employed business that will help her generate her own income.

This will further enable each woman to take charge of her life without having to depend on her male relatives to meet her basic needs. She will be able to buy food for the family, support her kids including girl children at school and can enroll on an adult literacy classes in the village.

Potential Long Term Impact

The project will produce a sense of self reliance in the women as they take charge of their financial life. As part of the process, the women are required to buy more chickens after sale of the first round. They will be able to invest profits in other businesses, provide further education for their children, good health care & other basic necessities. These activities help prevent their children from engaging in illicit activities, crime or vandalism in the case of academic failure-thus also impacting the community. Sending their girl children to school this will ensure that they face life with equal opportunities as their male counterparts.

Item	Unit cost	Number of units	Total cost
training	50\$	4	200\$
Vaccinated 3 weeks old chickens	1\$	5000	5000\$
Feed	0.76\$	5000	3,800\$
transportation	0.4\$	250	100\$
Chicken shelter	2.4\$	250	600\$
Follow up by field expert	1.2\$	250	300\$
Grand total			10,000\$

Project Message

This is going to help me pay the school fees for my children and those of later sister that are staying with me. This is good. I feel good.

Esther Ayeah , *Project Beneficiary*