

PROJECT PROPOSAL TITLED: 'ENHANCING 10000 WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' CAPACITY TO STAND UP IN FIGHTING AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE' IN DOWA DISTRICT, MALAWI.

SUBMITTED TO: GLOBAL GIVING

FROM



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## 1. ORGANISATION DETAILS

NAME OF THE ORGANISATION	FOUNTAIN OF HOPE(FOHOP)
NAME OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT	ENHANCING 10000 WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' CAPACITY TO STAND UP IN FIGHTING AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE
DURATION OF THE PROJECT	July 2017 TO June 2018 ( 12 months)
CONTACT' DETAILS	<p>Fountain of Hope Organisation</p> <p>Main office: Off M1 Road, 2 Kilometers to the North of Mponela Trading Center. Dowa, Central Region of Malawi.</p> <p>P.O.BOX 1194, Lilongwe.</p> <p>Email address: fouhope@yahoo.com</p> <p>Sub office: Along M1 Road at Ken Trading Centre in Malinda Building. P.O.BOX 2021, BLANTYRE.</p> <p>CELL:+265 (0) 999637447</p>
CONTACT PERSON	<p>1. The Head of Programs, Shora Kauluka Cell: 0888637445 <a href="mailto:shorakauluka@yahoo.com">shorakauluka@yahoo.com</a>/ <a href="mailto:shora.fohop@gmail.com">shora.fohop@gmail.com</a></p> <p>2. The Project Coordinator Khumbolayine Yona Email: <a href="mailto:khumbolayona@gmail.com">khumbolayona@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:mandambwekhumbo@yahoo.com">mandambwekhumbo@yahoo.com</a></p>
Total budget	USD 47500

## 2. INTRODUCTION

Fountain of Hope (FOHOP) organization which was established in 2011 but got registered with the government of Malawi in 2014, is a Local non governmental, non racial and non profit making organization whose among other objectives is to create a society where every individual enjoys freedom and rights so that every citizen is able to contribute to the development of the country which also complements Sustainable development goal number **Goal 16**: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Other objectives of Fountain of Hope organisation include:

1. To empower the community members in fighting against food Insecurity which has resulted into vulnerability of marginalization of the poor.
2. To promote social and economic development in rural areas of Malawi by implementing development projects in the areas of Securing livelihood (through agriculture, Social Welfare, production) and climate change. Other areas of interest compatible with the principal objectives of the organisation may be carried out by the organisation as well.
3. To bring an improved life for the under privileged and the most needy part of the community.

Therefore, Fountain of Hope (FOHOP) is intending to implement a project called *'Enhancing 10000 women's and girls' capacity to stand up in fighting against gender based violence' in Traditional Authority Nsakambewa in Dowa district, central region of Malawi.*

The overall objective of this project is to enhance 10000 women's and girls' capacity to prevent and respond to Gender Based Violence (GBV) accordingly. The following are Specific Objectives

- 1) To increase awareness, responsibility, and accountability among target communities in Dowa district in regards to girls' and women's violations; physical, psychological, or economical
- 2) To improve women's knowledge on types and extent of gender based violence and its consequences.
- 3) To improve access for women and girls to essential, safe and adequate multi-sectoral services to end Violence Against Women and Girls. (VAWG)
- 4) To make Individuals including local leaders to have improved attitudes and behaviours with regard to women's and girls' legal/human rights and take action to prevent VAW/G.

In this case, the project is in line with the following United Nations' Sustainable Development goals

**Goal 4**: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all **Goal 5**: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

### **3. STAFF COMPOSITION AND CAPACITY**

#### **3.1 Staff composition**

The project staff is composed as follows:

At the main project management unit office there is Dr Peter Qeko Jere who is the executive Director with PHD Degree in Theological studies, bachelors degree in education with vast experience in *Education and Social Research, Theology, development & Ethics, Church History and Apologetic, Political Theology & Ethics, Culture & development, Religion, State and Politics, Anti corruption, legal and Human rights, State, Church and Poverty Alleviation, advocacy and lobbying projects.*

*George Chiweza is the associate legal advisor of the organization who is also part of the project team as far as legal project matters are concerned.*

Gabriel Banda is accountant and has a Accounting Technician Diploma. Currently he is studying a Bachelors Degree of Applied Accounting, Audit and Information Systems **(BAA-AIS)**. He has 9 years experience in the financial accounting field.

Shora kauluka is the head of programs with 15 years experience in community development and worked in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

In the field, there is the Project Coordinator, Mrs Khumbolayine Yona a holder of Bachelors degree in Agriculture with 7 years experience in community development and is responsible for organizing and coordinating project activities at district level. Two Community Development Facilitators include Mercy Kachikopa who is a holder of diploma in Community Development and Jenala Taonga who has Honours degree in media development and English with 11 years experience in advocacy. Both female staff and are responsible for community mobilization and ensuring community engagement in ending violence against women and girls. The project has 25 volunteers who work hand in hand with the project staff to help the victims and prevent more GBV cases from occurring.

#### **3.2 Organisation capacity**

FOHOP has enough capacity and technical expertise in this field.

For instance, among other achievements is the successful project of 'Ending Violence against Vulnerable Women, Girls and children' which was carried out in Blantyre district and Dowa district with 20,000 direct beneficiaries. Some of the activities included: Advocating for vulnerable women, girls and children on human rights issues. Awareness campaigns on consequences of violating Women, girls and children rights, mobilizing women, girls, children, men and boys to be reporting to police for any violence seen in the community, influencing policy and change of practices at the grassroots in the area. Assist victims of GBV to seek redress, Counseling, especially for women and girls in

Crisis Situations, Address child labour issues in Domestic Work, Training of couples through Stepping Stones, Premarital counseling and family therapy, Provide material support (e.g. flour, farm inputs and bicycle ambulances).

#### 4. PROJECT OVERVIEW

##### 4.1 Why is the project needed? (Problem statement).

Gender equality in Malawi is still a hot topic which is not yet reached to the majority of the Malawian population especially in the rural areas. This has retard community development among women and girls who are still not considered as equally valued citizens in many rural communities.

This situation has made Malawian women to lack behind in terms of decision-making power, education, employment opportunities and access to health, economical and productive resources such as land. HIV/AIDS which affects women and girls disproportionately, also contribute to violence against women. In 2012, 4.5% of females aged 15-24 were living with HIV, while for men was 2.7%. (The World Bank Country Data. "Prevalence of HIV", 2012)

These challenges impede on women's abilities to increase their livelihoods, place them at a lower socioeconomic status, and make them especially vulnerable to the exposure of gender-based violence; sexual, physical, psychological, and economical. HIV/AIDS which affects women and girls disproportionately, is also a major contributor to violence against women.

Many of these challenges, stem from deeply embedded social norms and cultural beliefs practiced in Malawi. Traditionally, women are believed to be socially and economically subordinate to men. It is therefore common for women and girls to be forced into traditional roles such as bearing children at an early age, doing all domestic work, working on the fields, and catering to their husbands. These pre-decided roles have limited opportunities for girls to reach their full potential in social, economic, and political affairs.

In Dowa district, which is a tobacco growing area women face five forms of violence namely **Physical violence** where husbands hurt their wives upon differences ending up causing physical injury women's body. **Sexual violence: Girls are forced into early marriages dropping out from school because they are regarded as supporters of their husbands and not the bread winners. This** abuses, humiliates, degrades or otherwise violates the dignity of girls and women.

**Economic abuse: Men** do not involve their wives in financial decision making hence controls the finances and businesses of even their spouses. For example, after selling of farm produce especially tobacco, men leave their homes for other far places where they either marry new wives or get prostitutes and live with them until the money finishes. By this time, wife and children are suffering without food and basic needs in their homes. This is very common in Dowa district.

**Social abuse:** Some men are so jealousy over their wives such that they deny their wives the freedom to see other people. The abuser does this to possess the partner

entirely, so that the partner becomes dependent on the abuser. Normally, this occurs when the man is a polygamist.

**Psychological violence:** Men are seen hurting a partner mentally and emotionally through insults, use of abusive and threatening words and shaming their wives in public.

Therefore, women are deprived of their rights through the five forms of violence while girls are sexually abused by men after being either offered little money or forced to marriage. These girls are influenced by poverty and their concentration in education drops. There are also cases where paid boys propose girls on behalf of adult men. This normally happens when a man has got a job so he becomes the future hope of the girl.

Maltreatment of widows and old women exist in the district where men take advantage of the situation for sexual harassment. Old women are highly accused of witch craft and are discriminated by fellow community members in some community developments.

The proposed project will work towards empowering 10,000 women and girls by creating an enabling violence free environment in schools, work, community and homes by sensitising all stakeholders and community members on the consequences of violating women and girls' rights.

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#### **4.2. What change is the project trying to bring about?**

The four expected outcomes are: 1) Increased awareness, responsibility, and accountability among target communities in Dowa district in regards to girls' and women's violations; physical, psychological, or economical.

The targeted communities should understand the implications of Violence Against Girl and Women and see it as a contributing factor to poverty at the household and national level at large.

- 2) Improved 10000 women's and girls' knowledge on types and extent of gender based violence, reporting structures and its consequences.

The women are empowered to fight against gender based violence through imparting knowledge in them so that are able to sensitise fellow women, girls, children and men in the community. These women are also trained how to report different GBV cases to relevant authorities or offices thereby reducing GBV cases.

- 3) Improved access for women and girls to essential, safe and adequate multi-sectoral services to end Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Lobbying for Women and girls to be considered in multi- sectoral services is one way of making the community to realize the potential of women and girls in the community development.

- 4) To have improved Individuals and local leaders attitudes and behaviours with regard to women's and girls' legal/human rights and take action to prevent VAW/G. This will end violence against women and girls since men and local leaders who are the agents of GBV are the main targeted groups.

#### 4.3 Description of the activities that will be working on during this project.

Activities: **a)** Introductory meetings to Dowa District Executive Committee **b)** Introductory meetings to Dowa Civil Society organization Network **c)** Orientation meetings local leaders, **d)** Training of 25 girls and women as paralegals in support of victims of gender violence and human rights as peer educators.

**e)** training of 25 girls and women in basic human rights and sexual Reproductive health and Rights(SRHR) **f)** Establishment of 25 women groups aiming at the prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. **g)** Provision of start up inputs for at least 25 victims of GBV.

**h)** Payment of secondary school fees for at least 10 identified victimized girls for two years. **i)** Media advocacy on girls and women rights to access Sexual Reproductive Health services, **j)** Mass awareness campaign for providing information and effecting behavior change. **k)** Production of video documentaries and case studies

**l)** Introduction of social media platform to allow victims of gender-based violence anonymously narrate their encounters.

#### 5. PROJECT STRATEGIES/METHODOLOGIES.

The strategy will be through: Establishing of 25 clubs called 'Stop Violence Against Women and Girls' where each club will have 25 members of combined women and girls and in total there will be 625 women and girls in clubs which will be headed by 5 committee members who will ensure that the planned activities are carried out accordingly. 25 community volunteers who are trained in paralegals and basic human rights are in charge of each established club.

Two development facilitators work together with 25 community volunteers and 25 clubs committee members in organising community events by mobilising the community members to participate in any activity of the project, identifying men, boys, local leaders and other stakeholders to work jointly with the project and making reports to relevant offices as well as to the project coordinator before reaching the Project Management Unit(PMU) office. The strategy will help in sustaining the fight of Violence against women and girls since these clubs members will be trained in different areas of violence related issues, policy making, workshops, seminars, field visits, rights, leadership, group dynamics, business management just to mention a few.

In this case the project will adopt a two-pronged approach in addressing the problems of violence against women and girls in the community.

The first will be **individual approach** through the door-to-door visitation of all targeted households, carrying out counseling and support to victims. These home visits will enable the project staff to check beneficiaries' welfare, provide psycho- social support to victims and their family

members. The victim will be mobilized to utilize the Violence Against Women and Girls Clubs (SVAWGCS) where they will support each other in critical issues

The second approach is the **group approach** which the project hired staff and relevant stakeholders, will use in delivering services and support to the community in common or public by conducting awareness campaigns on VAW/G.

The catchment area will be divided into two geographical areas of 5000 direct beneficiaries each as a “Division Area”, which is organized in a twelve months campaign so that , each and every person systematically gets knowledge and readiness to take control of all aspects concerning Violence against women and girls.

### **Conduct advocacy and awareness campaigns on Violence against women and Girls**

The project will utilize the existing structures in carrying out campaigns in strategic areas.

The strategy will be open days, Public Announcement System, posters, radio talk shows , organizing soccer and netball games just to mention a few.

**Capacity building of Violence Against Women and Girls Clubs (SVAWGCS)** will enable the 10000 women and girls understand their human rights and how to protect and defend their rights from traitors.

The project also identified the strategy of using peer educators as very successful tool in mobilizing community members, ensuring trust, sustainability, and easy monitoring. In addition, the use of peer educators is a proven cost effective tools as individuals are already living in target communities. Peer educators have also been able to gather and document information which community members might feel hesitant to share with project officers not known to them.

A challenge found in the previous project proves that the involvements of Community Based Organisations (CBO's) are crucial in capacity building trainings and workshops. These CBO have shown resistance in the past as a result of not being involved enough in project activities. These CBO are generally useful in identifying vulnerable groups and can ensure sustainability of projected results, especially in cases where trained community members leave the support groups or move away, CBO will be trained and can continue facilitating even once the project phases out.

Therefore, the project strategy builds the capacity of citizens and local structures for them to ensure that community activities reflect the needs of all including excluded groups.

## **6. BENEFICIARIES FROM THIS PROJECT**

The project targets women and girls who are vulnerable to domestic violence perpetrated by men.

The targeted women are those who are facing different forms of violence in the area while as for girls are those under 18 years most of them at school -going age but sometimes fail to complete their education due to forced marriages, defilement and early pregnancies leading them to unsafe abortion .These girls are both in adolescence and of reproductive age who are culturally forced to marry off to the rich men due to poverty affecting their families; These girls include those living with disabilities, marginalised groups etc who are always left on the margin of any social development activity by the local authorities .

The project has 10000 women and girls as direct beneficiaries with 30000 as indirect beneficiaries.

The 10000 direct beneficiaries are reached with capacity building and project activities including information on basic human rights and their entitlements through radio programming. The project uses a participatory approach to ensure community engagement and empowerment.

## **7. ANTICIPATED RISKS**

The project anticipates a risk of resistance to modifying some cultural norms under which girls fall victims of gender based violence which will slow pace of community change of attitude about women's rights as human rights. This is so because both men and women may hide each other due to gender relations.

In addition, some women are used to some gender based violence because they take them as Normal cultural practice that is unquestionable.

However the project is aware that changing attitudes is a process and preventing gender based violence requires a multi-sectoral approach by different partners hence intensive sensitisation meetings, door to door visits and community awareness event are solutions to the risk.

## **8. INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE TO WORK WITH THE PROJECT**

Based on the previous experience of implementing similar project, the organization has learnt that engaging influential magistrate Courts, District Gender and Social welfare office, Senior and Junior Traditional and community leaders, policy-makers, police under Victim Support Unit, successful women, role model couples are crucial to ensure cooperation, reduce resistance, and form trust to the communities. They are imperative in the fight against harmful practices. Leaders will be trained to serve as channels between

Fountain of Hope (FOHOP) organization and the beneficiaries, promoting community participation with the aim of bringing about positive change. Working with CBOs will enable FOHOP to identify vulnerable groups such as Girls Living HIV /Aids, assess current structures, and increase sustainability of project outcomes. It is evident that there is a strong correlation between HIV/AIDS and VAG. According to statistics, young women are most affected by HIV/AIDS, thus, likely to be exposed to violence. By targeting young women FOHOP hopes to instill knowledge about women's rights and a sense of empowerment at an early stage in order to make lasting impacts. Young individuals are also more susceptible to change and moving away from harmful practices and beliefs.

Furthermore, involving men and boys in ending VAGW is crucial to the success of the project as men/boys are typically the main perpetrators. The theory of change thus anticipates an increase of knowledge amongst men/boys about the adverse effects of VAGW on family and community livelihoods, but also about the implications on economic and social welfare of the nation at large.



## 9. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

The project design and implementation ensures that results continue to have a lasting impact on the lives of women and girls after the project ends.

Overall, the fundamental approach of the project is to train, advocate and equip the participating women and girls to be able to carry on and further what they have achieved during the project period within the framework of the structures & organisation of the Clubs and the government structures of extension services. The project fosters:

**1) sustainable empowerment of women and girls** which remains with each individual and enable each individual and the Clubs to excel and develop further - which after completion of the project will be working hand in hand with the existing structures. **2) Institutional sustainability** by organizing the women and girls and creating ownership of these structures amongst themselves. **Stop Violence Against Women and Girls Clubs (SVAWGCS)** will add value to the existing structures in the community **3) Financial sustainability**: Women and girls through **SVAWGCS** will learn how to identify and run business including managing of Village Savings Loans commonly known as Village banking. Will further learn in planning and budgeting to cater for their ongoing production. A part of the Exit Strategy will be that beneficiaries under supervision of Community Development Facilitators will find their own meeting places or centers when the project phases out. **4) Strengthened partnership**: The project will train and advocate Community based institutions, journalists, government officials, social workers, legal practitioners, Civil society organizations, faith based organizations, employers in stopping and handling cases of Violence against women and girls in the communities. 5) 25 community volunteers will continue working with the clubs and lobbying for the communities to support and defend women and girls human rights.

## 10. PROJECT MONITORING, LEARNING AND EVALUATION

FOHOP has an established project management and information support system that covers three aspects of project management, monitoring and evaluation and these are:

**Groups standards:** minimum requirements for projects with respect to participation, partnership, learning, documentation and dissemination, planning, monitoring and evaluation. **Project tracking:** database for all project information and knowledge outputs will be clearly be saved

**Project support:** guidelines, support materials, background information and training.

. FOHOP will ensure that the key performance indicators specified in the project are tracked periodically and the ensuing results will form the basis for decision making during the course of implementation.

Therefore, FOHOP will ensure that: All activities are carried out as per planned aspect in regards to the number of beneficiaries \* The quality of the activities is of the desired standard as speculated \* The funds will be used only for the intended purposes and as per the donor guidelines and is properly accounted for \* Compliance on all agreements and cooperation with local government and all authorities are adhered to. Monitoring tools to be used: Consistent production of monthly reports from the Head of programs and Project coordinator to the Executive Director (FOHOP Main Office); and the Accountant \* Production of monthly Financial reports from Accounts department and Project coordinator to FOHOP (Executive Director) \* Compliance to standards in carrying out Audits, Mid term Evaluation and End of project Evaluation \* Progress reports will be produced and shared to different partners in accordance to their specific requirements. **Monitoring Weekly and monthly meetings in the clubs:** The Women and girls clusters will be meeting weekly. Challenges will be identified and reported to the Extension officer by the Cluster committee. Every month will make reports on the progress using the provided template. The report will be analyzed by the forum of the Community Volunteers, Community development facilitators and Project coordinator. **Monthly and quarterly evaluation and planning meetings:** The community Volunteers, Extension officers and the Water Technician will meet with the Project Manager for evaluation and planning on monthly basis. Every quarter, compiled reports will be presented to FOHOP Main Office where Monthly and quarterly reviews of particular quarter's planned activities will be carried out. The report will be revealing how community members are involved in the activities, along with other interested parties, how are they using or adapting to new services and what impact has been noticed. Lessons emerging from these reviews will feed into plans for next quarter.

**Action visits by the** FOHOP Main Office **will be conducted every month.** This office makes sure that the plans are being implemented accordingly and that the results are gradually being achieved. In the process the office will be responsible for sending compiled reports to the relevant partners and board of trustees every six months. **Representatives from the Government's line ministries' offices** will every quarter come for field and household visit to monitor the progress. The government statistics will also be reviewed in every year at stakeholders meeting where knowledge survey report of 400 farmers will be presented by farmers' representatives and local stakeholders. **Evaluation Baseline Survey:** a baseline survey based on the key project outcomes that the project seeks to contribute towards will be conducted at the beginning of the project. **Participatory Community Evaluation:** Community Reviews will be conducted every six months and at the end of the Action facilitated by the officers from the government's office together with FOHOP Main office . The findings will be shared with the community.

## **11. DESCRIPTION OF THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES AND CONTROLS THAT ARE IN PLACE.**

Fountain of Hope organisation has a strong minded and experienced staff in handling financial issues. Every financial transaction is made transparent to all board members. In this case, there is a special committee for purchasing of project materials while another committee is for analysing the cost of materials before being approved by the board of directors which consists of Head of programs, head of economy and administration, the Executive director who reports further to the board of trustees. In this way, corruption and irregularity are being prevented since there are different stages.

The project has a project finance officer who is responsible for handling of cash, disbursement and updating the cash book for the project .Is also responsible for any activities at Project management Unit offices as assigned by officers to ensure that required administrative assistance is available to officers and action stakeholders. The cashier reports to accountant.

**A Project accountant** updates the accounting books, making financial reports, compiling budgets, controlling the budgets and conducting the checks on how the funds are being spent. In this case, is responsible for management of project funds. Ensures that funds for activities of the project are available and that requisition and liquidation of funds are done according to standards and regulations of the donor. The accountant compiles monthly financial reports to the main office. Internal auditing is conducted every six months. The accountant also ensures that the project budget is clearly explained about to all project staff line by line in terms of what to use the money for and how to use it effectively and sufficiently so that there should not be over expenditure.

There is annual project auditing by an independent firm identified by the board of trustees.

Therefore, Fountain of Hope has a complete structure for all functions of management, that is staffed with highly experienced staff. We have a sound financial management framework that pays due attention to legal and financial compliance issues in the receipt, application and accountability for the resources we use from development partners. Our Accounts Department is headed by a graduate accountant.