**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION:** EMPOWER 300 RURAL GIRLS/WOMEN IN NIGERIA

1. **Descriptive Project Name:** To achieve lasting improvement in the quality of life of the rural women and their deprived children especially the girl child through sensitization, capacity building, skill acquisition and economic empowerment thereby add value to their lives as well bring them to equality with other sex (gender equality) and encourage women participation in politics.
2. **Location of Proposed Project:**

**City/village:** Aba La Ohazu Community

**District:** Aba South L.G.A

**State:** Abia State

**Country:** Nigeria

1. **Name of applicant organization/group:** African Association for Prevention of Elders and Child Abuse (AAPECA)

**Contact person:** Rev. Leonard Romanus

**Title/function:** President/Director General

**Address:** 36C St Michael’s Road Aba,

Abia State Nigeria.

**Phone:** +2348099881855

**Fax:**

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**Organisation website (if any): ­­­­**www.aapecainternational.org

1. **Brief description of the applicant organization/group**: AAPECA is a non-governmental organization, founded in 2010 as an act of solidarity with the abandoned and mistreated elders and children in African society. We stand at the front line of growing the main stream awareness and work towards preventions and treatment of all forms of elder and child abuse, exploitation and neglects. Currently we are developing projects and centers that will offer socio-economic relieve to the impoverished elders, children and their families. We advocate the right of vulnerable especially the aged, children and women
2. **Type of organization/group: *Please check one type.***

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Local non-governmental, community and not-for-profit organizations,

**PROJECT NARRATIVE:**

1. **Explanation of the project**:

* Our main problem is that girls/young women in Aba la ohazu community are forced into child marriage or commercial sex work because of economic hardship/unemployment and their children end up being abused too.

The Causes:

1. High rate of unemployment of girls/young women in this community is as a result of girls/young women having lower formal education, technical training or skill acquisition than boys which is a result of gender stereotype.
2. Girls/young women have fewer or non economic opportunities due to perception surrounding women’s reproductive/productive role which incapacitate them from participating in making decision that affect them because they lack financial muscle and moral courage to participate in politics rather they will be force to marry as a child or tricked to use their body as economic means (prostitution) thereby fall prey to all sorts of gender violence including sexual abuse, intimidation, stigmatization by the community and often harassed even by the police due to lack of awareness of their right especially right to protection.
3. **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

* (a) Through this project we aim to tackle both the root causes of inequality between sexes in the community such as gender stereotype as well as the symptoms such as girls/young women being force into child marriage or being tricked into commercial sex work; High prevalence of STIs and HIV/AIDs, Teen/unwanted pregnancies even unskilled abortions.

(b) The areas of empowerment through short term business trainings, capacity building, skill acquisition e.g. (production of soap, toiletries, body spray; Fashion designing, hair styling etc), and trainings on mechanized farming and local productions of agro-allied products etc will be key concern.

**8. PROJECT STRATEGY**

* (1) We will take rights-based approach to gender inequality through intensive sensitization programs and awareness campaigns in the community on gender equality policies of united nation.

(2) We believe that the girls/young women have inalienable right to protection from harm (including all forms of abuse or gender violence) and to participate in making decisions that will affect them and their children; therefore we will be advocating for implementation of gender equality policies at the community level as well as create awareness on women participation in politics.

(3) We will provide the trained in our short term training programs with start up capital(s) in form of interest free loan which they will be paying back on weekly or monthly bases to enable us continue the process of training other batches since the project will continue on self sustain resources.

(4) We will partner with the traditional rulers (the Eze and his council of chiefs) to facilitate support for creation and development of laws or policies that will abolish harmful traditional/cultural practice (including child marriage) in the community.

(5) We will reduce STIs, HIV/AIDs, Teen/unwanted pregnancies as well as unskilled abortions by providing contraceptives, testing kit for HIV/AIDs, STIs and raise more awareness on the risk and will support those infected to access proper treatment.

**9. PROJECT GOALS**

* (a) The result will be that the girls/young women will be able to earn a living in a safe, sustainable way and have control over their own resources as well to negotiate safer sex.

(b) The young mothers among will have support to raise their children and their children will be happier, healthier, and better protected.

(c) The girls/young women in Aba La Ohazu community will be armed with knowledge of their right to protection, gender equality, and the courage to initiate legal action when their right is violated as well as the moral/economic stamina to participate in politics where they can partake in making decision that will affect them.

(d) The idea of forcing girls/young women to marry as a child will be history.

**10. PROJECT DURATION**.

* The project will be implemented over a period of six (6) Months on the short term and ten (10) years in a long term.

**11. ANTICIPATED RISK AND HOW TO REDUCE THEM**

* The risk is that some individual may deliberately embezzle their start up capital which is the interest free loan given to the trained applicant (the girls/young women) thereby making it difficult to continue empowerment circle.

How to reduce it:

We will set up control mechanisms:- (a) Supervision on weekly bases of the activities of individual recipients. (b) Monitoring their growth and challenges while we will help them with technical assistance to overcome the challenges thereby make them to continue in their business.

(c) Feedback policy, the recipients will be giving weekly reports to our project monitoring community thereby making it easier for mentoring them while they will be on constant touch. These measures will reduce the risk by 85%.

**12. PROJECT CONTINUATION**

* The continuation of the project for 10 years in empowerment and capacity building of girls/young women in the community will be of immeasurable benefits.
* (1) The community will have better sexual and reproductive health as the numbers of sex workers will be reduced drastically

(2) The local and national authorities will understand the importance of protecting the rights of these girls/young women and will have laws & systems in place to do so.

1. **Origin and Context: of the Community**

Aba La Ohazu community in Aba South L.G.A of Abia State is the fourth larger and populous community in Aba South L.G.A with high influx of non indigene because of its location in the central nerve of Aba Urban town.. It is situated at the entering gate of Aba city metropolis hence the community play host to many visitors who come to Aba town. A home to over 48,000 peoples which 53 percents are girls/young women. The community has high rate of youth unemployment especially girls/women which makes it a home of commercial sex workers and prostitute with high level of HIV/AIDS prevalence hence the need for the project and the request for assistance

1. **Beneficiaries and Participants:**

* The girls/young women and their children in Aba La Ohazu community will be the beneficiaries.

The proposed funding will be channelled in community sensitization programs and training of 300 (three hundred ) of these girls/young women on short term technical and skill acquisition programs to enable them find employment or start up a trade; and provision of start up capital to enable them to be established on their own.

**BENEFICIARIES** **PARTICIPATION**

* The beneficiaries will serve as advocators in the community as well as trainers to other batches of trainees in diverse areas in which they were trained in.

**CONTINUETY OF THE EMPOWERMENT PROJECT**

* When the circle of the project continuity has been completed, all the beneficiaries will join the local project committee member and must likely continue the empowerment training and advocacy on gender equality, women participation in politics advocacy to other rural communities around Aba La Ohazu.

**14. PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE**

* (1) Rev. Leonard Romanus—President/Director General

(2) Dr. John Iheoma—Director of Grants

(3) Mrs. Vivian Onyema—Executive Secretary

(4) Mr. Innocent Amadi—Empowerment Co-ordinator

(5) Princess Onuoha (Mrs)—Project Coordinator

(6) Comrade Harrison Kalu—Director of Media/Publicity

**15. DELEGATION OF PROJECT ASSIGNMENT**

* (1) Rev. Leanard Romanus—will be responsible for general supervision of the project implementation.

(2) Mrs. Princess Onuoha—will be responsible for coordination of the project, ranging from admission of the trainees i.e. (the beneficiaries) to consultation with the trainers.

(3) Dr. John Iheoma—will be in charge of equal distribution of start up capital as well as careful intake of the girls/young women in other to avoid partiality.

(4) Mrs. Vivian Onyema—will be in charge of records.

**16. PROJECT COMMUNITY IMPACT**

Its positive impact on girls/young women of the community will be commendable, laudable and on the boys/men in the community it will be challenging as the girls/women right and gender equality will come to lime light while overall impact will benefit the entire people of the community

**17**.**Summary Project Budget: ­­­** 14,229**US$**—5.25m NAIRA

Proposed budget

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (Type of activity) | (Contribution by :) | | | | | | |
| Donors |  | Recipient(s) |  | Others\* |  | Total |
| Services | 1,356. |  | 31 |  | — |  | N 500,000 |
| Training | 1,626 |  | 300 |  | — |  | N 600,000 |
| Equipment | 1,490. |  | 17 |  | — |  | N 550,000 |
| Construction | 813 |  | 10 |  | — |  | N 300,000 |
| Administration expenses | 2,168. |  | — |  | — |  | N800,000 |
| Others (Start-up capital) | 6,776. |  | 100 |  | (N 25,000each) |  | N 2,500.000 |
| Total | USD1 4,229 |  |  |  | N 25,000 each |  | N 5,250,000 |

\* Specify source of, and reason for, other contributions.

**18.Past Experience**:

2016 Mgboko Community Empowerment Project AAPECA in partnership with Niger Delta Abia Empowerment Co operative Society trained 150 youths from Mgboko Autonomous Community in Obingwa L.G.A of Abia State on Agro-allied production. The youth were trained on production of local poultry feed mash and over 100 youths benefited from the project as their received 50,000 naira start up capital while 30 others received free equipment.

The project was funded by Niger Delta Commission Abia State.

The project was a huge success as many youth through the exercise were gainfully employed and production of poultry feed mash is in high supply from the community to local farmers.

It was a four weeks training program with adequate awareness creation on the need for youth to learn professional handwork as means of wealth creation as well as a form of employments.

**Proposal Prepared by:**

Name: Rev. Leonard Romanus

Position: President/Director General.



Signature:

Date: 07-08-2017