

**PROPOSAL FOR**  
**Giving 157 Vulnerable Teenage Single mothers skill**  
**(TEENAGE MOTHERS)**  
**BAMENDA**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In line with the Millennium Developments Goals with special focus on the first three (i.e. Poverty and Hunger Eradication, Achieving Universal Education and Gender Equality), Goodwill Sisters Foundation(GSF) is working round the clock to ensure that the fundamentals needs of our vulnerable and disadvantaged teenage mothers and their children are addressed.

Poor distribution of resources, lack of accountability of these resources, poor governance and corruption has led to increase in poverty levels with widening gap between the rich and the poor. This has also led to an increase in teenage pregnancies, poor or no access to primary/non formal education, poor sanitation and poor housing conditions, environmental degradation and very low standards of living.

According to the recent survey done by a community based organization dealing with orphans and vulnerable children. Most homes are run by women most of whom are single mothers and young mothers.

Because of this situation, survival is a daily battle for the single mothers and their Children against the backdrop of diseases, crime, prostitution and lawlessness. Due to the poverty caused by societal malpractices and poor governance, most community household are living on less than a dollar a day.

The issue of teenage motherhood is increasingly becoming a serious subject matter basically due to the social ills affecting the vulnerable poor families. It is highly prevalent in the slum settings of our cities towns and marginal areas. Current statistics for 2015 indicates that 3 in 10 school going girls between the ages of 13 years to 18 years get pregnant and drop out of school due to teenage pregnancy.

Goodwill Sisters Foundation(GSF) was formed to make a difference in the lives and livelihoods of the teenage single mothers and their children. We offer skills for life training, non-formal education, counseling, micro-financing training and entrepreneurship but there is still need to offer short term support such as Medicare, food, clothing and shelter.

We are therefore seeking for well wishers, partnership with private and public institutions, Governments intervention to enable us achieve our dream for our sisters and their families which we believe will go a long way towards their socio-economic development.

#### Problem statement

Teenage pregnancies are attributed to the social economic hardships experienced by the vulnerable groups in the slum settings and marginalized communities. Pregnant young girls attending school end up terminating classes due to stigma from peers, neighbors and close family members. The stigmatization negatively impacts on the psychological well-being of the teenage girl, leading to denial in the family, poverty and helplessness. The affected teenage girls end up leaving their family home opting to stay alone and or staying with relevant groups in the streets or slum dwellings whereby they are involved in various kinds of illegal activities which includes drug abuse, joining illegal sect groups , prostitution and substance abuse.

World over the number of women has out numbered that of men. This has made many women vulnerable to men as such some women have had a low bargaining power and inability to resist men's advances.

If something is not done to improve the status of women cases of domestic violence, child neglect and negligence will continue to be in the increase just last year a single mother was almost beaten to death within Bamenda II Municipality on allegation of having multiple lovers. The reason for her action was to make ends meet to provide for her son.

Most single and young mothers have had it overwhelming providing for their families with an income of less than a dollar a day and hence increase in unwanted pregnancies, abandoned children and general crime rates.

They find themselves in unfamiliar world of parenting with no skills to enable them join the difficult job market and this leaves them hopeless and vulnerable.

The country lacks an institution that takes care of teenage mothers , their children and other vulnerable girls so that they can grow into responsible citizens.

#### PROJECT Goals

Rehabilitate, build capacity and improve the standards of living of teenage mothers and their children within our society.

#### Brief History about Goodwill Sisters Foundation

GSF was registered as a Non Governmental Organization in the year 2014 and with Head Office in Bamenda. The organization's main objective is to empower the vulnerable teenage mothers through self sustainable skills, non formal education, and HIV/AIDS support for the affected and infected. The organization has Come in contact with 157 teenage mothers from around the Northwest Region,Cameroon.

GSF offices is situated at Mile 2 Nkwen,Bamenda III. 2<sup>th</sup> floor NEXTEL building new road junction. We have 12 staff that assists in running the office and the projects. Our focus beneficiaries are teenage mothers and their children from all communities in the NorthWest Region of Cameroon. The Executive Director of GSF is based at the GSF's secretariat, and she reports to the Board and the founder.She is assisted by two community social workers, a project accountant and a project administrator to run the projects.

#### Our vision

We place special emphasis on investing on kids, women and the underprivileged who don't have the means to achieve their own dreams.

“Goodwill Sisters Foundation” therefore finds investing on kids, women and the underprivileged as guarantee for a better and fulfilling future for

all.

## Mission

Creating lasting solutions to poverty, hunger and social injustice in Cameroon

## Justifications

The Daily world newspaper voanews dated March 14, 2017 , published an article on a Teen Pregnancies Create Health Challenges and **Teenage Pregnancies Hinder Girl Education** in Cameroon as young girl became a single mother with no one to support Her and leaving her with no option than to drop out of school at age 15 and with a poor family background in which Her mother was the sole bread winner after her husband died of HIV/AIDS. The article noted that there are over 15,000 teenage mothers country-wide who need assistance of various categories as they cannot cope up with circumstances and responsibilities of raising their children all alone.

## Objective

To open a center of excellence that transforms ordinary schools into institution for social-economic empowerment for vulnerable teenage mothers.

## Methodology

The proposed centre will be in Bamenda and it surrounding communities

The project will be a unique one as it will be the centre of training, health institution, food production, day care centre and accommodation for the very poor vulnerable teenage mothers who have nowhere to go.

The vetting process will be watertight in order to only cater for the very needy and vulnerable girls. The social workers, church leaders, opinion leaders and the Centers Management team will form a committee to select the beneficiaries.

The beneficiaries shall be enrolled into various project activities of their choice so that they can attain life-long skills that will enable them live better lives and in turn support their children. This will be quite transformational for their future generations. The agricultural component is crucial due to the fact that food will be produced to feed the big number of the teenage mothers while the surplus food crops will be sold to generate extra income for both the centre and some percentage of the income will go to the support of the community around as it will be supporting the project for example in the field to produce the food crops.

The health facility will be useful to diagnose and treat the affected beneficiaries, their children and the neighboring communities will utilize it at subsidized rates. A VCT centre will also be incorporated to help curb the spread of HIV virus.

### **Project Budget**

We intend to phase out the project in 2017 / 2018. The following are estimated costs:-

Project Estimated Cost /Budget	USD(\$)
(1) Getting a place for the training	1200
(2) Getting Machines and equipment for tailoring and fashion designs trainees	
(3) Getting Professionals with skills	3800
(4) Health Care/Special assistance for Trainees and their children	
(5) Getting Material Hair dressing	1000
(6) Getting Material Beats making	2000
(7) Garden Farming	1300
	1100
	1150
<b>Total Project cost</b>	<b>11550</b>

PS: these are approximate figures but proper bills of quantities and plans will in provided.

## **PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

This project will be monitored by a number of stake holders like the executive committee, project coordinator , social workers and district officials. Monitoring will be done through spot checking monthly site meeting and monthly activity reports.

The spot checks will be used in verifying the extent of work in progress. The staff will make monthly activity reports and submit it to the executive committee.

There will be monthly financial reports submitted to the donor to show the progress of the work, and levels of achievement.

<b>WHO</b>	<b>HOW</b>	<b>WHEN</b>
Executive committee GSF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reports</li><li>• Spot checks</li><li>• Meetings</li></ul>	Quarterly
Project coordinator GSF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spot checking</li><li>• Reports</li><li>• Site meetings</li></ul>	Monthly
Development /social workers GSF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Field visits</li><li>• Spot checks</li><li>• Reports</li><li>• Meeting</li></ul>	Weekly

## **Project evaluation**

The project will be evaluated by the donor together with SAFE PLAN Uganda to assess the impact of the project or attainment of the project objectives.

The method to be used will either be mid-term project evaluation or ex-post evaluation this will depend on Goodwill Sisters Foundation and the donor guidelines.

Meanwhile the project coordinator development and social workers will equally participate in the exercise.

### **Past achievements**

***Hairdressing*** - The most popular activity among the teenage mothers is the training on hairdressing with 15 of the trainees having set up their own saloon businesses after six months of training at the recommended school of hair dressing. Most of the trainees feel that they have achieved a life-long skill that can now contribute to their self esteem and independence.

***Community support*** - Creative World Inc has supported GSF with a free Graphics design training staff at the Bamenda that will help teach some of the teenage mothers how to be graphics designer. Over 50 individuals both male and female have benefited.

***Making of Sanitary Pad*** - Over 40 teenage mothers (Training of Trainers) have learnt how to make recyclable sanitary pads and are training other women in the slums within the country on how make them.

***Vocational training*** –Over 70 teenage mothers have been trained on life skills i.e. knitting, dress making for a period of 1 year since 2014. The young mothers are now self employed with small businesses of tailoring and dress making while some of them are working with the Export Processing Zone (EPZ).

### **Anticipated Results**

ü We anticipate that after the end of the training, at least every single mother will have graduated with a recognized School certificate or a recognizable skills training and will become marketable or even start up a small business that will bring job creations and livelihood.

ü It is also anticipated that percentage number of dependency will decrease at family and l level in the targeted areas of slums and there will be poverty reduction.

- ü The number of crimes, HIV/AIDs infection, drugs abuse and the rate of prostitution will also decrease in the targeted areas.
- ü The standard of living will greatly improve for our beneficiaries and the communities living around the Excellence Centre.
- ü Transformation of lives and giving dignity and hope to the vulnerable and disadvantaged.
- ü The project will be replicated in the other parts of the country.

#### Sustainability

- ü The local community owns Goodwill Sisters Foundation (GSF) projects.
- ü Teenage mothers are recruited through fair but thorough selection by the set committees and beneficiaries are allowed to design and plan their relevant projects based on their talents and capabilities.
- ü The non formal class to include enabled teenage mothers within the country who can afford to pay school fees to enable project sustainability.
- ü The agricultural produce will supplement the running costs of the Centre.
- ü Due to the projects' success, perhaps more Government involvement, partners and generous donor funding.

#### Project Replicability

Particular sets of solutions will emerge from the empowerment of Teenage Mothers through the marginal extension of alternative learning under the program. The success in providing access to knowledge and self esteem to over 95% of the beneficiaries will be a reality check. This is particularly impressive in a setting that has different perceptions on teenage motherhood who are neglected yet they constitute a very big percentage of the population. The program will be hailed as a unique case in the empowerment and development of girl child in the slum areas and other parts of the country. The fundamental problem of access to alternative education will be tackled. It will focus on one of the 'solutions' that has emerged in response to this problem, in specific that is adopted by developed world, which has also proven to be an extremely successful education model, stemming from the organization's desires to (a) promote development and poverty alleviation of girl child and (b) increase skills and improve the standard of living to the urban poor teenage mother.

#### Conclusion

The project is well in line with the social-economic development. Its target beneficiaries are the very vulnerable and neglected members of our society who constitute a substantial percentage of the population. If their plight is not checked, the poverty levels, crime and substance abuse, child mortality, prostitution, poor sanitation and health facilities will cripple the individual, community. The project's success will be dependent of the governance structures, donor and government support and emphasizes on the sustainability and replication in all the other parts of the country.

***Together we believe we can give back the vulnerable and disadvantaged teenage mothers a smile and the confidence they have lost through stigmatization.***

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