

MOBILE EDUCATION FOR LIFE INTERNATIONAL (MELI)

Knowledge for Sustainable Development



P.O. Box 14805-00800, Delta Corner Tower, 6th floor,
Chiromo Road, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: (+254) (0) 731999223

Email: mobileducation4life@gmail.com /
info@melinternational.org

Website: www.melinternational.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 marked a momentous point of departure in the country's governance structure. The Constitution provides, inter alia, for two levels of government – National Government and 47 County Governments with the Fourth Schedule delineating the functions of the two levels of Governments. To give effect to the devolution and the relationship between the two levels of government, the County Government Act, 2012, Intergovernmental Relations Act, 2012 and Coordination of National Government Act, 2013 were enacted.

Kakamega County is one of the devolved administrative units that came in to effect following the adoption of devolution as a strategy for development in Kenya. It's situated in the western Region of Kenya with a population of approximately 1,660,651 people (Census 2009). Kakamega County is the second most populous county in Kenya. The population continued to rise steadily to 1,929,401 and 2,028,324 by 2015 and 2017 respectively, the county covers 3,033.8kmsq. The county is further divided into twelve(12) administrative units known as sub-counties which include Butere, Ikolomani, Likuyani, Lugari, Lurambi, Khwisero, Malava, Matungu, Mumias East, Mumias West, Navakholo, and Shinyalu.

Kakamega economy revolves around agriculture and fishing and it is the nerve centre of sugar production in Kenya. Kakamega is also famous for its bull fighting which is one of the sports that attracts tourists in the region.

Mobile Education for Life International has embarked on a project that aims to target a total population of 49694 comprising young mothers, adolescent girls and individuals in the surrounding

communities in Kakamega County and seeks to train **100 young mothers** to serve as community champions in advocating for teenage pregnancy prevention. They will be trained on vocational skills on bakery.

In this proposal, MELI plans to build upon the experiences of its development partners to develop a new, consolidated initiative for young mothers and adolescent girls' reproductive health and rights as a strategy for curbing dropout rates and maintaining vulnerable girls in schools in Kakamega County. The initiative will be implemented in Shinyalu, Ikolomani Likuyani, Lugari, Lurambi, Khwisero, Malava, Matungu, Mumias East, Mumias West, Navakholo, and Butere sub-counties. For the purpose of demonstration to the communities, MELI will focus on Matungu sub-county.

MELI will contribute to this program under the sponsorship of like-minded partners with the goal of expanding the reach of this program to each ward in every sub-county. MELI will build upon the County Government of Kakamega Oparanya -Care Programme prior experience in managing maternal health and maturation for adolescent girls as a strategy for increasing retention of girls in schools. Additionally, MELI will also use these sub-counties as community facilitators for the future replication of the consolidated model in their respective wards and communities. The respective department will fund their participation from its core funding or with specific support from other partners interested in this area.

The proposed initiative is planned for 3 years. The expected outcome of the project is that by **2020, 28,894 young mothers and 10,800 adolescent girls** from **the 12 Sub-counties** and close to **10,000 individuals** in surrounding communities and community facilitators will have improved knowledge and skills about adolescent girls' reproductive health, better access to reliable information and services on reproduction and hygiene including maternal care for the young mothers as well as have bakery skills for income generation. The fact that this number of young women and girls will acquire skills will be a major achievement towards the Sustainable Development Goals -SDGs and the Kenya Vision 2030.

This proposed programme goes beyond simply providing IEC materials on RHR to young mothers and adolescent girls. It also seeks to retain the girls in school and to advocate for vocational training for the young mothers . More importantly, it seeks to bring about attitude and behaviour transformation regarding young mothers and girls' reproductive well-being, both at community and at policy levels. This is an involved process and requires adequate expertise and resources in order to yield the expected results. Also, **at least 100 young mothers will** be trained on vocational skills on bakery, targeting each sub-county in the future.

In summary, the proposed project will use education and advocacy to implement a package of interventions that will protect the reproductive health and rights of young mothers and the adolescent girls by equipping them with skills to recognize and exercise their right to healthy lives and gainful livelihoods. The interventions will enable them to access age-appropriate information and services that meet their needs and fulfill their right as enshrined in the constitution of Kenya 2010.

BACKGROUND

Mobile Education for Life International (MELI) is development focused organization which through collaborations and partnership, draws on the wealth of knowledge and networks of like-minded professionals to help uplift the lives of people through education and capacity building. MELI's mission is to facilitate and enhance the building of knowledge in sustainable development through education, capacity building on good governance, entrepreneurship, and food security, access to clean water, and health. It envisions a society where knowledge for sustainable development is readily available and utilized for the transformation of people's lives in communities and in the sub-Saharan Africa at large. It was established in 2003 with a goal of promoting all-inclusive development initiatives.

It is in the development of gender-responsive development approaches and demonstrative interventions in order to transform communities and make them more conducive for children, especially girls and young women. Through the sub-counties which are the implementing arm of the County Government of Kakamega, MELI uses gender-responsive programmes and best practices to influence policy change and

encourage the adoption of the programmes by other stakeholders in the sector. This has resulted in notable increases in programmes that empower youth, adolescent girls and young mothers.

CONTEXT

Maternal and under fives, morbidity and mortality including malnutrition are the major factors affecting the health outcomes in Kakamega county. Kakamega county maternal mortality is about 860/100,000 per live births, under-five's mortality rate is 74/1000 and approximately 200/1000 under five children die of malnutrition (KDHS 2008-2009). From this report it is observed that Kakamega county maternal mortality rate is higher than the national level of 488/100,000.

MELI seeks to ensure the poor pregnant mothers access quality maternal and child health care during antenatal, delivery and postnatal period. In order to make this project remain in the hearts and minds of many families, MELI seeks to empower them on income generation activities. MELI also seeks to impact the lives of adolescent girls on quality health, reproductive health and hygiene, as research has shown that school dropout rates are closely linked to reproductive health issues and to the consequences of corrupting the integrity of adolescent girls through pregnancy, HIV/AIDs and other STDs, female genital mutilation, forced or early marriage or rape. These two approaches; education and economic empowerment represent a window of hope for these young mothers and girls, since economic empowerment and schooling can help prevent many of the reproductive health issues mentioned above, while equipping girls with knowledge and competencies to take hold of their reproductive health, and preparing them for a better future. This is why we must ensure through the **100 trained champions**; that many girls enter and remain in school. Girls' educational attainment correlates positively with individual empowerment and several socio-economic development indicators, including:

- Reduction in the incidence of poverty, fertility and child/maternal mortality;
- Improved family health and ability to prevent diseases such as HIV and AIDS and other STDs
- Greater economic opportunities and civic participation; and
- The intergenerational effect of ensuring that their children also attain the same or a better level of education, the benefits of which trickles down to families and communities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Goal, Objectives and Expected Outcome

The goal of the proposed project is to use income generating activities education and advocacy to implement a package of interventions that protect the reproductive health and rights of young mothers and adolescent girls by keeping them in vocational colleges and schools respectively enabling them to access age-appropriate information and services that meet their needs and fulfill their right to healthy lifestyles

The objectives of the proposed project are to:

Train 100 young mothers in vocational skills to serve as champions and ensure MELI;

1. Empower 28,894 young mothers from 12 sub-counties with income generating activities
2. Empower 10,800¹ adolescent girls in schools and surrounding communities in 12 Sub-Counties with knowledge about reproductive health and rights (RHR) by educating them and enabling their access to information and services.
3. Train 400 community facilitators and 9600 parents/leaders on adolescent reproductive health and rights to increase their skills in managing girls' "growing up" issues in order to eliminate girls' dropout from school due to reproductive health-related reasons.
4. Advocate for favorable policy measures that will integrate gender responsive budgets that would sustain the intervention for both boys and girls RHR to ensure girls' improved class attendance, participation and retention.
5. Share experiences and document innovative strategies for enhancing the reproductive health and rights of adolescent girls through targeted investments in their education.

The expected outcome of the project is that by 2020, **28,894 young mothers and 10,800 adolescent girls from the 12 Sub-counties** and close to **10,000 individuals** will have improved knowledge and ability to handle effectively girls' reproductive health, and as a result, girls' right to obtain reliable information and services is protected and increased experience sharing on income generating activities

Project Implementation Strategies

MELI requests support to undertake a cluster of synergistic activities through a network of sub-counties. These activities involve a blend of direct interventions in the form of training, scholarships, mentoring, empowerment of young mothers and adolescent girls, capacity building of community facilitators, as well as advocacy targeted towards various actors at policy and community levels.

The main objective is to address this cluster of factors systemically over a three-year period in order to create a lasting impact by first training 100 young mothers to serve as champions

This multi-sub-county project will build upon approaches developed by MELI, which it will consolidate and harmonize to design one comprehensive model that will be implemented by all the participating sub-counties, while giving room for each sub-county to integrate features that address the specificities of their individual context. The added-value of this approach is to cut back on the lead time for initiating key interventions such as the development of training guides and to tap into a pool of skilled human resources with expertise in the respective line-ministry or departments and prior experience in this area. To effectively and efficiently achieve the above project objectives, the following strategies will be deployed:

- 1. Capacity Building:** The project will focus on building the capacities of young mothers and women groups in income generating activities and community facilitators so that they can empower the adolescent girls and boys to engage in healthy practices that promote girls' participation in education. MELI also intends to work with communities' leaders and parents to impart knowledge and skills that will enable them to re-examine existing norms and promote new ones that value adolescent girls' reproductive health. Capacity building initiatives will include training workshops, awareness creation on girls' reproductive health and rights (RHR) establishing or strengthening existing community structures to support girls who are at high risk.
- 2. Partnership:** MELI will work very closely with like minded partners, respective line ministries to transform participating groups to promote gender-responsive interventions. MELI will also seek additional funding partners to expand the project to other wards in the near future.
- 3. Networking and collaboration:** MELI intends to work very closely within its network especially of the participating sub-counties to develop common approaches, frameworks and tools such as checklists and guidelines. This will enable the project to use and build on existing knowledge, practices, materials and information to enhance project delivery. Deliberate efforts will also be made to establish and strengthen

existing and new linkages with other organizations and networks working on girls and women Reproductive Health and Rights for capacity enhancement and advocacy.

4. **Shared learning and documentation:** MELI intends to hold workshops at both County and sub-county levels to create a forum for exchanging ideas, sharing experiences, lesson learnt and successful strategies. Successful innovative strategies, experiences and lesson learnt in this project will be documented, published and shared with relevant stakeholders through workshops, print, and electronic media for replication and policy influencing.
5. **Policy advocacy:** MELI will leverage its unique and direct links with the office of the Governor, respective line -Ministries of health, Education, gender and youth to create a supportive policy environment to ensure that the impact of the intervention will be system-wide. This will also demonstrate the added-value of government- private sector- civil society collaboration in this delicate area of gender integration in policies and practices.

Outputs	Indicators	Activities	Responsible	Means of verification	Timeline												
					Year 1 -2018				Year 2-2019				Year 3-2020				
					1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
			Provide grant to parents of beneficiaries for viable income generating activities and to implement the comprehensive scholarship package of 3600 girls	MELI	grant disbursement records ward admin reports and records	x				x				x			
3.2	Mechanisms to support girls on scholarship is established at community level	# and type of mechanisms established by communities Type of change engendered due to community actions	MELI at Ward level to support the establishment of community mechanism for safeguarding the health and reproductive rights of adolescent girls. Committees will be set up to oversee the management of the scholarships and ensure that scholarship beneficiaries remain in school.	MELI	meeting minutes Committee members testimony			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3.3	Re-usable and affordable sanitary wear is produced by project beneficiaries	# of stakeholders trained, by role, and sub-county # of stakeholders engaged in the production of sanitary ware	Conduct workshops on how to produce re-usable and affordable sanitary pads. Workshops will target project beneficiaries, community members administrators and mothers' groups.	MELI	Sanitary pad prototype Workshop reports			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
		# of girls benefiting from the sanitary wear # of sanitary ware produced by sub-county and community Amount of seed grants provided	Provide start-up capital to support the production of reusable sanitary materials at community level	MELI	revenue records			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Outcome 4: Innovative strategies for managing reproductive health programmes are documented & shared with county line department and other partners																	
4.1	Successful innovative strategies documented & published	# of successful practices documented and published	Document and publish successful innovative strategies for RHR education	MELI	Publication											x	x

Outputs	Indicators	Activities	Responsible	Means of verification	Timeline																
					Year 1 -2018				Year 2-2019				Year 3-2020								
					1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4					
4.2	Successful innovative strategies disseminated	# of published good practices disseminated # of dissemination events organized	Disseminate published good practices and organize dissemination events at county levels.	MELI	Workshop reports													x			
4.3	Advocacy campaign organized	# of sub-counties that have RHR integrated into their programmes. # of policy makers influenced through campaign or consultative meetings to integrate RHR into development programmes	Organize advocacy and campaign activities championed by the 100 young mothers trained in MELI's vocational programmes so that adolescent reproductive health is integrated in community planning	MELI	Campaign materials Media coverage											x	x	x	x	x	x
Outcome 5: Project is effectively coordinated, monitored and evaluated																					
5.1	Project is effectively coordinated and monitored	# of sub-county and MELI status reports # of field visits # of review meetings	Hold review meetings Draft status reports Conduct field visits		Project plans Status reports Filed and workshop reports	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
5.2	Project is evaluated	# of evaluation reports	Evaluate project in the 12 participating sub-counties		Evaluation report															x	x

People, groups and geographic area the project will serve

The core project activities will entail **100 trained young mothers serving at the fore as advocacy champions** and it will be implemented in surrounding communities in **twelve (12)** sub-counties in Kakamega County in Kenya. The project will target community facilitators; both female and male, who will be trained as trainers, **360 Peer Educators** and **360 Community Facilitators** in the initial year. These will spearhead sub-county community-based trainings and sensitization on adolescent girls reproductive health and rights (RHR). The total estimated number of ***direct and indirect beneficiaries*** is **50,000**.

Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

The Programme Coordination Officer will coordinate across 12 sub counties and will work closely with the assigned programme officers to offer technical support to the ward administrators during the entire implementation period. Members of this team will conduct bi-annual monitoring visits, organize regular consultative and progress review meetings with ward administrators and hold face-to-face meetings during the monitoring site visits. This will ensure that data collected from the sub-counties are reviewed and that necessary decisions or feedback are made in a timely manner. Consolidated financial and implementation progress reports will be produced by MELI and submitted to the funding partner on an annual basis. MELI will also coordinate the end of project evaluation to assess the outcome and more immediate impact of the project. Successful innovative strategies will be documented for learning and sharing within MELI network for replication purposes.

MELI will facilitate the project implementation at the sub-county level. It will undertake advocacy activities, provide activity grants, monitor programmed activities and oversee the management of grant funds in the participating communities.

Each community will develop a more detailed proposal drawn from this overall proposal on the basis of which they will receive grants from MELI to implement planned activities. These grants will allow MELI to organize TOT and monitoring activities, provide scholarships to at-risk girls, and sub-grant to participating community groups to conduct community-based activities.

MELI will closely follow up on the progress of the project implementation, conduct site visits and hold review meetings on a quarterly basis. This will ensure timely and regular collection and reporting of data. The respective community administrators will submit quarterly project progress reports to MELI.

Budget

The total initial budget required to train the 100 young mothers in vocational baking skills is USD **5,000**.

	Activity Description	Rate (USD)	Total (USD)
1	Mobilization and recruitment of 100 young mothers in Matungu		
1.1	Stipends for 2 mobilizes in each Sub County	10	20
1.2	Stipends for Three project trainers for selection and invitation of young mothers for training	100	300
2	Training of 100 young mothers		
2.1	Travel and accommodation for project trainers	100	300
2.2	Three project trainers for 12 weeks of training	600	1800
2.3	Tuition for 100 young mothers on Baking skills	(50)	(5000)
3	Travel		
3.1	Project staff Travel	10	30
4	Communication		
4.1	Internet and Telephone costs	100	100
5	Demonstrative inventions		
5.1	Purchase of baking materials and ingredients for 100 young mothers	18	1800
6	Printing of Publicity Material		
6.1	Printing of publicity material	650	650
	Total Cost		5,000