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**PROJECT TITLE:** The Girl Education Project

### **STATEMENT OF NEED**

Low education attainment especially among girls is a major concern for the Children's Hope organization and the community as a whole. The major cause for low education attainment is the prevalence of culture practices that inhibit learning and lead to teen pregnancies and early marriages among girls. These practices lead to high school absenteeism and drop out rates among girls. For example, young girls are made to go through cultural initiation ceremonies that would prepare them for their future role as wives. In a typical village home, girls would be doing household chores while the boys play or attend school.

### **PROJECT GOAL**

To help transform the lives of young grade school girls from a state of being exposed to deadly cultural practices of village life to a state of being exposed to a broader education based life enhancing activities within one year.

### **POPULATION SERVED**

The project aims to target young girls ranging from ages 9 through 13 drawn from the participating 50 village of Children's Hope catchment area. Each of the 50 villages is headed by a chief or village headman. The fifty villages are further divide into 7 zones with almost 7 villages per zone. Each Zone has its own management structure headed by a management committee including 7 chiefs and members drawn from the seven villages. Decisions for selecting vulnerable girls in their respective zones is made by the zone management committee in collaboration with the village membership at zone level. Children's Hope respects the decisions made at zone level and incorporates that into action plan. The board reviews the selection procedure and endorses the selected girls.

### **EXPERTISE OF STAFF**

Children's Hope will hire an experienced project coordinator with a degree in community development and more than 5 years of experience in project management. Our Board, which is composed of experts in their field of expertise related to Children's Hope mission, is very committed and will participate in the monitoring of the project to ensure that target goals are achieved. The project will also hire part time certified teachers from area schools, one for each

of the seven center to conduct the day to day activities of the programs which will run after school hours from 2 to 6 pm Monday through Friday and special activities for Saturday from 8 am through 4 pm. Volunteers will participate in this program and may require minimal training.

### **CAPACITY BUILDING**

We closely model our agenda with UN’s sustainable Global Goals to strategically reduce dependence on direct aid over time. Our current staff is comprised of highly specialized experts in their respective fields. However, we'd like for this grant to support the development of an internal program to support our existing staff and project managers to oversee sustainable training initiatives to recruit and train new staff with an innovative and creative vision. This level of sustainability will make us more competitive in future grants simply by having a framework in place to recruit, retain and provide continual training for our staff beyond their areas of expertise. It would enable us to work more closely with and strengthen partnerships with Malawi government (specifically, Ministries of Health, Education and Gender), other NGOs and development aid agencies (DIGNITAS, PEPFAR, USAID, and UNAIDS) and thus create a sustainable platform for retention of staff and programs.

### **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The project strategy will use a result based oriented monitoring system and will include a midyear and final evaluation. The project results will be reported on monthly basis to project management, quarterly to key stakeholders including donors, the board, chiefs, and annually to all other stakeholders. The project development will recruit 7 community field monitors who will work with communities, and village sub- committees. They will record and collect information on a monthly basis and submit this information to the Project Coordinator who will compile monthly reports as part of project records. Positive indicators will be change in attitude towards education as measured by declined drop-out rates or absenteeism during the first month of project implementation. The village development committee and chiefs will be briefed about progress through their quarterly meetings. The midterm and final evaluation will be undertaken by external evaluates and will then be reported to key stakeholders.

### **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT IN USD \$</b>
Sensitization and Mobilization	transporting officials to sensitize community, printing leaflets and brochures. hire generators, visual aids, pay facilitators, fuel for generators	200
Infrastructure and Venues	Repair and prepare venue buildings, village paths and footbridge for a safe crossing especially during the rainy season. Repair water points and sanitation	500

Materials and Supplies	Equip 7 learning centers with one year's school materials and supplies for teachers and students and support groups, classroom refurbishment, replacement of desks and chairs etc.	7000
Income Generating Activities	Investing in income generating activities for women support groups for future project sustainability, for example sewing sanitary pads for girls, baking and uniform sewing activities	750
Repair and Maintenance	Engine Replacement for 2009 Toyota Voxy to support health and education staff and student mobilization	1500
Provision and supplies	School kit (paper, pads, stationary, shoes, uniform and school bag) for 50 girls	2250
Staff salaries and Stipends	<p>\$150 stipend for 10 existing school teachers for further training</p> <p>\$275 salary per month for community nurse/health counsellor</p> <p>\$300 per month salary for education and program coordinator</p>	11700
Community donation	Cost for up to 50 fuel efficient stove burners for families of selected students (intended to reduce burden of young girls to collect firewood for cooking instead of studying)	3000
Participant Support Costs	Men, women, boys and girls from the community who will be involved in the project in one way or another to support sensitization and community mobilization.	500
Monitoring and Evaluation	cost of monitoring and evaluation tools, printing and mailing of data collected by field workers, cost of transportation for the seven evaluators	300