



Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development (FORWARD)

Project Title:

Make Child Mothers Count in Tanzania

A Concept Project Proposal

February 2018

1. Introduction

FORWARD is an African-led women's rights organisation. We champion equality and dignity for African women and girls in the UK and Africa. Our work is driven and informed by our in-depth understanding of African women and affected communities and our reputation as experts in our field. We tackle multiple forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG), including female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage, sexual and physical violence and related maternal health issues.

FORWARD is submitting a concept proposal in respect of a sponsorship of \$50000 to provide funding to our project which focuses on supporting rights and empowerment of child mothers in Tanzania.

1.1. Organisational background

FORWARD was set up in 1985 in response to the emerging issues around FGM and the need to build capacity of key health professionals to meet needs of affected women. FORWARD is a UK based registered charity with a vision that African women and girls live in dignity, are healthy and have choices and enjoy equal rights. We work to enable community members, key professionals and policymakers to bring about social and policy change through strategic networks and partnerships. This allows us to amplify the impact of our work in multiple spaces. This is done through public education and training to shift understanding and practice; lobby action to influence and shape policy and generate evidence, information and resources to support key actors to transform practice. We provide leadership development skills and facilitate access to support programmes for women and girls at local level.

FORWARD's strategic goals and targets for 2017-2020 focus on the following:

- Shaping the VAWG agenda and expanding our influence in the UK and Africa;
- Cascading evidence-based interventions and innovations;
- Nurturing resilient young women leaders;
- Educating and empowering professionals and young people;
- Strengthening and honing our capacity and organisational brand.

Over the past 30 years FORWARD has been at the cutting edge of FGM work in the UK, influencing policy, practice and programmes nationally and helped shape global initiatives on FGM and child, early and forced marriage. FORWARD provides a resource hub on FGM including policy briefs, evidence and case work. FORWARD's premier research on FGM prevalence and community attitudes was used extensively by the government to inform current policies. FORWARD provides expert advice to the UK government and Local Authorities and European institutions including the Council of Europe.

We are an accredited training centre - training over 2,500 professionals annually including: statutory professionals, safeguarding boards and local authorities nationally. Since 2013, our multi-award-winning FGM Schools based Programme has reached over 25,000 students and trained over 4,200 staff in 250 schools,

In Africa we work in seven countries in East and West Africa providing technical expertise, guidance and mentoring through our partner organisations. In the past 3 years we reached over 12,500 women and girls from marginalised communities and policy makers in our Africa programmes. Our flagship programme on young women's leadership seeks to equip young women with skills to become resilient advocates for change in their communities.

2. Project background

FORWARD is currently engaged in interventions in Tanzania working with three local partners on interventions tackling child marriage, FGM and early motherhood, and reaching girls and young women in rural and resource poor communities in Mara, Mwanza and Dodoma Regions. These projects are currently funded by Comic Relief with match funding from DFID and Sigrid Rausing Trust and come to an end this year.

Early and unintended pregnancy is a growing major public health and social concern in Tanzania. A high proportion of pregnancies among adolescent girls aged 15- 19 years are unintended. In the 2015 Demographic Health Survey Report is found that more than one in four adolescents aged 15-19 have begun childbearing – at 27 percent this figure is higher than that reported in the 2010 TDHS (23 percent). This figure is 32 percent among those in rural areas, making this a major concern for rural and marginalized communities. In many communities, early pregnancy is directly linked to child marriage, female genital mutilation as well as sexual violence and poverty. Majority of girls also lack basic sexuality information.

Early pregnancies and related motherhood is associated with multiple health and social consequences, including unsafe abortion, maternal death, and huge loss of educational opportunities. Existing policies on re-entry and support for teenage pregnant girls and child mothers are punitive and mirror prevailing social norms, stigma and gender inequality. Current policies of banning girls with babies from returning to education fails to provide alternatives for vulnerable girls and their children further putting them at risk of poverty.

The new global Sustainable Development Goals provide new opportunities and momentum for investing efforts to ensure that rights of girls and young women especially those most vulnerable due to age, location, marital status and poverty are effectively addressed. Most

importantly there is new global commitment to address needs of girls left behind.

3. Project description and approach

FORWARD is proposing to undertake a project which will focus specifically on child mothers and girls at risk in Mpwapwa District in Dodoma Region in Tanzania. This action will be done in collaboration with Children Dignity Forum (CDF), a child rights organisation with expertise in child participation and girl's rights and empowerment. The project will run from September 2018- August 2019 and will target over 100 girls and young women.

3.1. Specific aims, objectives and expected results

This project will empower child mothers and girls at risk to fulfil their right to development, livelihood and education.

The main objectives of the project will focus on the following:

- providing leadership development training and mentoring support
- Establishing young women's networks, activism and outreach to their peers
- Supporting child mothers entrepreneurship development
- mobilizing policy makers at national and local levels to provide an enabling environment including prevention and response strategies
- Facilitating organisational development and management capacity of local partner.

The project seeks to catalyse actions that will enable child mothers and those at risk of early and unintended pregnancies to fulfil their right to education, health and wellbeing and attain their potential in life. The ultimate goal is to ensure that more girls complete their education and enjoy their basic human rights. The specific changes from the collaborative action will include the following:

- Young women are empowered as leaders who are able to influence and shape decisions about their rights and entitlements
- Child mothers have safe spaces that enables them to build life skills and assets and access related entitlements
- Child mothers have improved life options and greater economic independence including opportunities to return to education.
- Governments and development partners are more accountable and committed to protect and respond to girls and young women's right to education and development
- Local Partners have improved organizational capacity and are effective in delivering programmes that develop child mothers and those at risk.

3.2. Key beneficiaries and targets

The project will engage child mothers and young women at risk between 12–25 years in Mwapwa district in Dodoma Region in Tanzania. We intend to reach 50 child mothers and girls at risk directly through the leadership training and economic entrepreneurship. An additional 50 young women will be reached through the outreach and peer to peer actions. This will focus on those in rural areas and those living in urban poor areas including young

women at risk and affected by harmful Traditional practices (HTPs) particularly FGM and child marriage, teenage pregnancies as well as child mothers. It will also target key decision makers and development partners at district, regional and national levels.

4. Why Should Donors Fund this Project?

Taking a long term approach- Donors should fund this project, firstly because, FORWARD takes a long term approach in addressing the issue. FORWARD's style of working with local project partners in Africa and the UK is about establishing a long term engagement and collaboration through mentoring, capacity development and equipping local partners with tools to also build capability and motivate young women through leadership training- investing in building potential and creating opportunities for young women. This forms part of FORWARD's new strategic plan and provides a long term vision to transform lives of programme beneficiaries. Our focus on partnerships at local and global level seeks to amplify actions and to sustain change for women and girls.

Adding value and maximising benefit for the end beneficiary- FORWARD has a history of working with partners as collaboration and partnerships forms a core value of the organisation. We seek to ensure partnership working at national and global levels and currently engaged with global partnerships on child marriage and FGM and include a mix of civil society and private sector development partners. FORWARD will bring on board learning and lessons from existing partnerships including Girls not Brides, The Girl Generation and END FGM European Network. At the national level we work with 5 local partners in the UK and 8 partners in Africa providing technical support, sub granting and enabling local partnership working to join up actions and amplify efforts building on their different skills, expertise and resources for provide more holistic programmes for beneficiaries.

The project targets young women including those in rural and deprived areas in Africa addressing the needs of marginalised and at risk young women. Young women represent an untapped resource and have huge potential in supporting development in rural economies and generating independent incomes to ultimately support wellbeing of their children and families. Therefore, working with young women to address barriers to their development will have good investment return and help meet the Sustainable Development Goal target on gender equality and women's empowerment in the long-term.

More importantly, the project intervention has cascading and multiplayer effects at every stage of project intervention. Thus, the learning and capacity generated at individual and organization level create a wealth of expertise within our partnership countries.

Adopting models of good practice: The project action is based on evidence of what works and lessons learnt from past projects as well as other development programmes. The adoption a combined ecological and empowerment model in our programmes is because it provides a theory of change for targeting multiple factors and actors that affect the rights of young women at different levels. Leadership training enables girls and young women to understand power, gender and social barriers and provides them capabilities as individuals and access to networks to build relationships to maximise the potential of young women to become change agents at local and national levels. This approach also ensures that wider

actors at community level men, families and community leaders are engaged due to their role in shaping social norms that perpetuate VAWG and create opportunities to impact their behaviour and attitudes towards multiple forms of GBV including FGM and child marriage. Using multiple communication forms of social media and tools particularly digital technology including mobile phones is increasingly recognized as effective mode of accessing young people and raising the profile of issues. Targeting governments (local and national) who have responsibility as duty bearers to develop and implement policies and laws can help transform the structures to prevent, protect and provide services on VAWG. Young women as leaders will have the confidence and tools to engage and lobby policy makers, local authorities to honour their commitments to girls and young women. The project will also strengthen CSOs capacity and coordination, particularly in promoting and ensuring accountability, participation and inclusion of child mothers in national programmes.

5. Project management and monitoring and evaluation

This work will be implemented by FORWARD in collaboration with CDF in Tanzania, working in Mpwapwa district in Dodoma Region through their local offices. CDF will engage local networks and local authorities working with key sectors such as health, social welfare and education to ensure that girls at risk are better supported and efforts are coordinated better. The project approach is based on organisational development, collaboration and creating awareness to sustain actions beyond the project's timeframe.

FORWARD will provide oversight, guidance and lead on resource development, financial monitoring and reporting. FORWARD will coordinate the technical support and overall project monitoring, evaluation and reporting. FORWARD will provide templates and guides for tracking progress of the core project activities. We will work with the local partner to ensure that the project beneficiaries engage in assessing progress through feed-back sessions. We will support documentation of progress and share learning at district and national level and facilitate wider replication within partner organisation's programmes, schools, and the sector using our websites, annual reports and conferences. FORWARD and CDF will seek to build the evidence base for supporting the development and rights of child mothers and ensure that data on child mothers is collated regularly for this purpose. FORWARD will be responsible for reporting directly to the funders on project activities and ensure that the emphasis is on providing timely reports.

We will develop a monitoring and evaluation framework that will enable us to follow up and assess progress based on agreed indicators and outcomes. The project will also refine further the theory of change that will give direction on how change will happen. We will ensure that participatory approaches are adopted to include representative of all the project beneficiaries and partners. In using this methods we will make sure that acceptable ethical guidelines and considerations including DO NO harm principles are adhered to. Additionally, we will have learning questions that will examine the project theory of change and what worked best. The learning from the project will be used internally to improve the project decision making and strategy.

6. Budget

The project budget is provided below. We anticipate that the sponsorship of \$50,000 will target directly the four core areas of the project- child mother's leadership training, child mothers' network development, outreach and entrepreneurship training and provision of start-up capital and the high level roundtable with government officials in Dar es Salaam.

Activity (with description)	Year 1
Young women leadership training Accommodation for 25 x 6 days Child care support Transport costs Venue, resources and feeding Facilitation and staff travel and accommodation Follow up meeting on leadership training & national conference with young women	\$3,500.00 \$2,162.00 \$1,200.00 \$2,400.00 \$2,000.00 \$3,000.00
Network development Running costs for network Outreach costs	\$1,500.00 \$2,000.00
Entrepreneurship development Training for 25 young women- venue and transport Facilitation and resource Start-up capital for 25 @ £100	\$2,200.00 \$1,000.00 \$3,479.73
Partnership meetings and consultations Venue costs Transport and allowances for participants	\$1,300.00 \$1,500.00
Technical Support costs Travel costs for FORWARD staff Production of resources Monitoring and evaluation Communication and coordination costs- CDF Contribution to technical support- FORWARD Contribution to indirect project costs	\$2,435.81 \$1,000.67 \$2,000.00 \$6,500.00 \$8,820.00 \$2,000.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$49,998.21