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| **Name of project** | **GIRLS’ EDUCATION SUPPORT PROJECT (GESP)- Liberia** |
| **Project Location** | **Montserrado** |
| **Contact Person and full Detail** | **Florence M. Dorley- Konneh**  **Zinnah Hill Junction, GSA Rd. Paynesville/ Monrovia, Liberia.**  **. +231886618218/+231776618218**  [**flozeezee@gmail.com**](mailto:flozeezee@gmail.com)  [**oweliberia@gmail.com**](mailto:oweliberia@gmail.com)  **Skype: Florence.dorley1** |
| **Project Duration** | **Five years – January 2018- December 31, 2021** |
| **Total Cost of Project** | Project Contribution: $ 492,500.00  Own Contribution : $ 80,500.00  Total Project Cost : **$ 573,000.00** |
| **Date of Submission** | **October 18, 2017** |
| **Project submitted By** | **Organization for Women Empowerment (OWE)** |

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# **Project Description**

This project response to a critical need as observed and felt over the past years since the end of the Liberian civil war.Liberia remains a challenged state when it comes to girl’s education and development in all aspects especially younger girls growing up in single parent’s homes. Though series of governmental and non-government programs exist that support the Liberian youth industry, there are many needs and untouched potentials yet to be explored and sustainably used at the advantage of the many young women especially adolescent girls who have proven that if given the opportunity, they can thrive more. With a youthful population of more than 49 per cent, NGOs and private people suggests that youth unemployment and youth poverty is alarming and having serious challenges for Liberia’s development. Liberian girls and vulnerable women especially widows with little education have got several challenges and issues affecting them both in urban and rural communities including teenage pregnancy, early marriages, rape and hunger. For many girls who are attending school subsequently end up dropping out due to a number of social challenges. In most instances, girls who faced these challenges perform less in class and are most often exposed to the Sex for Grades abuse in schools. In slums communities in Monrovia for instance, the overcrowding is often caused by teenage pregnancies thereby contributing to huge dropouts. Moreover, and due to prevalent cultural, economic and social barriers in Liberia, there is a critical need to create safe and protective environments and setting to improve the situation for vulnerable women and girls within the communities as a whole and within school settings especially for windows and their children to access quality and relevant education, and a secured home. For example, in 2011, Action Aid Liberia Office conducted a survey in three universities in Liberia around Sex for grades which is an abuse and sexual violence committed against university girls and young women in Liberia. The survey reveals that about 85% of the female students had been sexually harassed or involved in what the research referred to as Transactional Sex during their university education. While this data limited itself amongst the universities, it is important to note that of the many primary school dropouts, there are firmly held believes that many are caused by instances perpetrated by male teachers against female students. In many instances, girls growing up in single parents homes especially widows and very poor homes who live below poverty line are the ones feeling the blunt of this social challenges.

In view of the above challenges, this project will support 500 women and their children at risk mainly girls whose prevalent situation proves that without an external support, their education will stop. This intervention is planned to take place in slums communities in and around Montserrado. Major activities planned will include micro finance, business skills training and ongoing mentoring and coaching for windows at risk living in around Montserrado especially slums communities. The Project will also target and train 50 girls annually as change ambassadors for other girls in creating preventive measures against sexual abusesin schools located in these slums communities. At national level, the project will target key policy makers and promote social dialogue on women and girls social protection targeting three such dialogues annually. This project is built on existing activities of OWE and will expand over the coming years based on resource availability. The micro finance activities serves as a sustainability backup plan while the scholarship will be an immediate response to retain vulnerable girls in school for each academic year. Every year, successful mothers in business will be encouraged to take full responsibility of their girl child education while new mothers will be recruited. The Social dialogues will support policy and regulatory frameworks by showcasing evidences and possibilities as well as potentials in creating social welfare programs that support vulnerable communities and homes. At the school level, gender based violence trainings will serve as a social safeguard and a preventive measure to protect vulnerable girls through female teachers or male teachers who will serve as male champions.

# **Overall Objective**

Reduce Vulnerability amongst Slums Women and girls for dignified living and school retention through income generation and live skills support in Montserrado.

# **Expected Outcomes**

1. Establish and maintain 100 women businesses annually through Micro-finance support
2. Recruit and Retain 50 vulnerable girls to stay in school annually in selected slum schools who are at the risk of dropping
3. Conduct three (3) Dialogues annually to promote and advance social protection and welfare of vulnerable women and advocate for women and children social welfare and protection through the Ministry of Gender, children and social protection, other line ministries and international organizations
4. Promote awareness amongst girls in Slums schools on Gender Based Violence and school related abuses
5. Promote social interaction in selected schools by supporting social clubs in selected schools annually

# **Implementation Plan**

**Activities**

This project will be a progressive and incremental project targeting vulnerable women and girls on a five years period. Annually, the project will target women and girls as shown in the table below based on the following activities.

1. Annual Training of 100 slum women in Business skills
2. Annual Establishment and support to 100 women through Micro-Finance
3. Annual Training of 50 girls in Gender Based Violence and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in slum schools
4. Conduct three (3) Policy dialogues on women social protection and welfare
5. Establish girls safety network through Girls club in 5 selected schools annually

Annnual Work Plan

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activities** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **Responsible person** |
| Project team setup and volunteer placement |  |  |  |  |  | OWE Project Team |
| Development of M&E Plans |  |  |  |  |  | Patrick with project team support |
| Assessment and data collection for Intervention, Community entry and engagement |  |  |  |  |  | OWE M&E Focal person & project team |
| Training of slum women in Business skills |  |  |  |  |  | Alvin Kowah |
| Inception Report |  |  |  |  |  | Florence, Patrick & project volunteers |
| Establish and support women through Micro-Finance |  |  |  |  |  | Alvin, James & Florence |
| Training girls in Gender Based Violence and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in 5 selected slum schools |  |  |  |  |  | To Be Determined |
| Midterm Report |  |  |  |  |  | Project Team |
| Conduct Policy dialogues on women social protection and welfare |  |  |  |  |  | To Be Determined |
| Establish and support girls safety network through Girls club in 5 selected schools |  |  |  |  |  | To Be Determined |
| Quarterly reports |  |  |  |  |  | Project Coordinator & volunteers |
| Project Closing and final review |  |  |  |  |  | Project Coordinator & volunteers |
| Final Project report |  |  |  |  |  | Project Coordinator & volunteers |

Annual Projection of Activities and plan of action per target

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Total |
| Training of slum women in Business skills | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 500 |
| Establish and support women through Micro-Finance | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 500 |
| Training girls in Gender Based Violence and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in 5 selected slum schools | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 250 |
| Conduct Policy dialogues on women social protection and welfare | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 15 |
| Establish and support girls safety network through Girls club in 5 selected schools | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 25 |
| Provide annual scholarship to girls | 50 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 50 | 400 |
| Trained Change teachers on Gender Based Violence (5 from each school) | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 50 |

# **5. Monitoring Strategy and Project Management Team**

The OWE team have an M&E focal person who with a long standing experience over the years. Once this project is approved, the M&E focal person will develop a Monitoring and Evaluation plan which will include the development of tools and processes to effectively monitor and report on indicators, successes and challenges. The results of this project will serve as a learning for new intervention, annual incremental targets and evidence collection to support advocacy and policy influencing. The measures as already set within OWE is that the project team which comprise of mostly volunteers will ensured accountability and transparency to the maximum.

Below is a table showing key project management team for this intervention and their brief qualification.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Position | Brief detail |
| Florence M.D Konneh | Project Coordinator | BA in Sociology, MA Candidate, seven years job experience |
| Consultant | GBV Trainer and Coach | To Be Determined |
| Alvin Kowah | Business Skills Trainer and Coach | BA, Management & Sociology with four years of practical experience |
| Patrick Stepney | M&E officer | BSC in Demography & Social Statistics with four years practical experience in M&E |
| James R. Teplah | Finance Officer | BBA Accounting & Management with five years Job experience |
| Wiltoria Lisa Sheldon | Communication and Advocacy officer | Graduating Senior BA, Sociology and Mass Communication with three years practical experience in advocacy |

# **Project Beneficiaries**

This project is entirely female focus. During dialogues, it is foreseen that males will attend as invitees but most discussions will be led by females.

**Direct:** 500 Women for both Microfinance training and support, 400 girls for scholarship, 250 girls as change agents, 50 teachers trained as champions for girls protection and 1500 participants for social dialogues (2700)

**Indirect:** 25 Schools (estimated population of 500 students totaling 12,500)

**Grand Total Beneficiaries:** 15,200.

# **Gender Marker**

This project targets vulnerable women especially widows with school going girls at the risk of dropping out of school. This project will target all levels of education though more focus will be on Primary, Junior and Senior High education. To extreme cases, University could be involved where there seem to be an urgent need.

# **Budget**

Please find attached for both the Project Cost and the own contribution by OWE. OWE raises additional funds which often goes towards funding Volunteers and other unforeseen needs which are not met by the project including advocacy actions.