

Empower 50 Visually Impaired Disabled Women in Rural Liberia to become Entrepreneurs

Submitted by Destined Kids Assistance Program

May 28, 2019

1. Executive Summary

Destined Kids Assistance Program (DEKAP) is honored to present this project proposal to Global Giving in accordance with its call for proposal. We seek to raise funds in the amount of US$14,000.00 to empower 50 visually disabled women in small start of business. DEKAP was established in March 2012 and as a registered, child focused and disability support non-governmental organization possessing all legal documents including Article of incorporation and current letter of Accreditation. Its programs include sponsoring vulnerable children in community schools, empowering disable women through small business and fighting SGBV in Liberia.

The project seeks to provide small start of business grant for 50 visually impaired women involved in daily begging of alms on the streets. This project will prioritize 50 of these vulnerable women randomly selected from six communities in rural Montserrado County where persons with visual disabilities are populated: Barnard’s Farm community, Mt. Barclay community, Caldwell Township, Virginia Township, and Brewerville Township.

The project cost is Fourteen Thousand United States Dollars Fifty Cents (US$ 14,000)

1. **Statement of Need**

Since the end of the Liberian civil conflict in 2005 and basic social services restored with the help of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and other international partners, families with disabilities and their children are still roaming the streets begging alms in order to feed and provide accommodation for their families. The plights of these people have not claimed much attention due to the extreme nature of discriminations and negative perceptions against them. In Liberia, families with disabilities are like invisible beings, they are suffering in silence: Lacks employment and livelihood opportunities, they are so poor and vulnerable that many of their children are either school dropped outs or denied access as a result of their parent’s situation. From our many years’ experience working with women and girls with visual disabilities, their vulnerabilities go as far as becoming targets of wicked men who preferred to sexually abused them under the cover of darkness and refused to show up in the day, impregnate them and abandoned their children.

The project target six communities in rural Montserrado County where persons with visual disabilities are populated. The communities include: Barnard’s Farm community, Mt. Barclay community, Caldwell Township, Virginia Township, and Brewerville Township.

DEKAP has a twin approach to its program which includes: Identifying and providing scholarship to children whose futures are at risk as a result accompanying their disabled mothers in the streets to beg alms for daily survival, and provide small business skill training and business startup package for them which in return will have a trickled down effects on the children’s future. This project specifically seeks empowering the disable women by providing a small grant to start business.

1. **Project Description**
2. Visually impaired women entrepreneurial empowerment.

The visually impaired Women Business Empowerment project will be located in rural Montserrado County in six communities including Barnard’s Farm community, Mt. Barclay community, Caldwell Township, Virginia Township, and Brewerville Township and King Gray respectively. These communities are approximately 10 kilometers from the city center where these women accompanied by their children walked to and fro daily to city center to beg for alms.

The project seeks to put fifty (50) visually disabled women into business as a means of livelihood against street begging.

DEKAP will provide three days training workshop on small business management skill after which an empowerment package that includes two hundred United States Dollars (US$200.00) totaling Ten thousand United States dollars (USD$10,000), 50 large umbrellas; 50 medium size tables and 50 selling chairs will be given to each woman to start and manage her own business.

This project when implemented will restore the self-esteem, self-reliance and self-awareness of these disabled women. The project will provide the enabling capacities for these women to leave the streets stay home and sell their markets which will have a trickle down effects on the future of their children, facilitate the school enrollment of the children that accompanied them: pay tuitions and fees conduct school visitations and follow-ups throughout the life of the project.

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A). **Project Benefits**

This visually impaired women business empowerment initiative, which is in response to the needs commonly expressed by visually impaired disable women in suburban rural communities, will significantly contribute to taking visually impaired women from street begging for alms to survive on a daily basis. The initiative when implemented will restrict the women to their communities and selling to earn income to support themselves and their children.

1. **Project Plan**

Phase 1: July-August 2019

* To hold meetings with the six communities in rural Montserrado including Barnard’s Farm community, Mt. Barclay community, Caldwell Township, Virginia Township, and Brewerville Township and King Gray respectively through a participatory focus group discussion method by which the target group will desire how to carry on the small business in their neighborhood.

Phase 2: September 2019

* The visually impaired women in collaboration with community leaders will identify spots where their business will be conducted.

As a monitoring tool, a formal agreement will be signed between beneficiaries and the management of DEKAP Liberia. Under the agreement, DEKAP Liberia will provide the grant while grant beneficiaries owe the institution monthly accountability and business trend reports as a requirement continued grant support.

Phase 3: October-November 2019

* Hold 3 days small business skill training for the visually impaired women targeted under the project.
* Present grant to beneficiaries, signing appropriate forms committing to accountability and transparency reporting.

Phase 4: January-February 2019

* Mid-year project evaluation will conducted in order assess success and challenges of the business

Phase 5: March – July 2020

* Women’s business in full swing supporting themselves and their children.

C) **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Working alongside our partners’ organization and local members of the community, DEKAP Liberia will implements participatory monitoring and evaluation methods for measuring project success and impact on the local community. A monitoring tool inclusive of a formal agreement will be signed between beneficiaries and the management of DEKAP Liberia. Under the agreement, DEKAP Liberia will provide the grant while grant beneficiaries will provide monthly accountability and business trend reports as a requirement for continued grant support.

Monitoring and Evaluation methods will be used to understand the success and impact of the visually impaired women start of business initiative which will include regular monitoring and evaluation and final evaluation at the end of the one year project. Quantitative measurement at both stages will include determining the level of interest in the business, the daily profit, and the relationship between the sellers (visually impaired women) and customers (buyers). Qualitative observation will include minimum support to their children education in the communities and ability mange the business the best way possible for a new life situation that go against street begging.

1. **Project Budget**

The 50 Visually Impaired Disabled Women business empowerment project cost US$14,000.00 inclusive of the small grant, selling tables, selling chairs, large umbrellas and 3 days training for the target women. The following budget in a project duration of one year beginning June 1, 2019-July30, 2020 and 100% of the amount will go towards the project without overhead cost.

Project budget: Empower 50 Visually Impaired Disabled Women in Rural Liberia to become Entrepreneurs

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Item | No. of Items | Unit Cost/USD | Total Amount/USD |
| Visually impaired women | 50 | 200.00 | 10,000.00 |
| Selling Table | 50 | 20.00 | 1000.00 |
| Selling chairs | 50 | 15.00 | 750.00 |
| Large umbrella | 50 | 30.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Skill straining | 50 | 5.00\* 3days | 750.00 |
| Grand Total | 50 women | USD$280.00 | USD$14,000.00 |

1. **About the Destined Kids Assistance Program**
2. **History of DEKAP**

Destined Kids Assistance Program (DEKAP) was established in March 2012 and as a registered humanitarian non-governmental organization possessing all legal documents including Article of incorporation and current letter of Accreditation. DEKAP’s three main program focus include: Children Education Sponsorship; Women Empowerment; Sexual Gender Based Violence against Women and Girls.

1. **The Participatory Development Approach**

DEKAP’s strategic method for its program development relies heavily on the ability to engage targeted community members and residents in open dialogue and create a space for them to identify, prioritize, design and implement their self-described development needs. Under this strategy, DEKAP-Liberia continually implements projects in closed collaboration with targeted communities throughout the project cycle.

1. **Partnership**

DEKAP Liberia’s and partners has over the years worked together in facilitating community engagements, meetings and dialogues, raising funds and supporting the implementation of the projects. These partners include:

1. The United Nation Mission in Liberia Quick Impact Project (UNMIL QUICK IMPACT PROJECT)

2. ALFALIT/Liberia Ghana MISSION

3. Kids education Empowerment Program (KEEP)

1. **Conclusion**

In raising US$14,000.00 DEKAP Liberia will be in the position to keep 50 visually disabled women in their communities, stop them from begging in the streets by providing small business grant for each of them.

With this support, the women will be able to support themselves and their children education. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with Global Giving. We know that together we can make a real difference in the lives of these disabled women as we prepare them for a better future.