**Empowered Parents, Inclusive Communities for Deaf Children Project (EPIC – Deaf Project)**

**Background**

The National Association for Parents of Deaf Children of Uganda (NAPADEC) is a non-governmental organization founded in 2009 with a goal of promoting and advocating for the rights of deaf Children in Uganda. NAPADEC is duly registered under the Laws of the Republic of Uganda under the Uganda Non- Governmental Organizations Registrations statute of 1989 **No. S.5914/9188.** The head office of NAPADEC is located at Block 170, Plot 164 Takajjunge, Mukono – Kayunga Road in Mukono District.

With support from Deaf Child World Wide (DCW), NAPADEC has registered a number of achievements: we have been able to have a functional secretariat, with office space, 5 paid staff at the secretariat and 6 deaf role models who are based in the districts where we work. We have a motorcycle, 3 Laptop computers, a projector, training materials (Parent Sign Language books with pictures, sign language training curriculum) We have a functional Board of directors and a number of policies are now in place.

In their groups, parents share experiences, peer mentoring, learn about deafness and 259 parents of deaf children have registered to learn how to communicate in sign language. We provide trainings on psycho-social support, child protection issues, sexual and reproductive health and rights. We have also been training our district parent’s groups on leadership and group dynamics, management and governance of self-help groups (SHGs), table banking and fundraising.

The parent support groups are supported to start their own saving and loan schemes in a bid to improve on their household incomes. They are forming their own saving and loan schemes through their district parent support groups and trainings are ongoing.

NAPADEC has been providing free training to parents on Uganda Sign Language and Deafness in general. This is to ensure parents are able to communicate with their deaf children at home as well as break the stereotypes around deafness and disability.

**The Challenge**

NAPADEC is working is areas where communities hold negative beliefs about deaf children. Many parents cannot afford payment of school fees to sustain the deaf child in education. There is little involvement of fathers in the upbringing of their deaf children and most cannot communicate effectively with them. This project aims to improve the economic capacity of 180 mothers of deaf children (30 from each of the 6 district parent support groups) and engage 100 fathers in order to improve the livelihoods of their deaf children in 6 districts in Uganda (Masaka, Mukono, Jinja, Iganga, Luuka and Buduuda). The proposed project will also challenge culture and promote practices which are inclusive and friendly to the deaf children.

**Summary**

We will train and provide start up loans to 180 mothers of deaf children who are unemployed in rural Uganda. They will be able start small businesses including goat rearing, vegetable growing, chicken rearing, mushroom growing, tailoring and small scale shop. The training will include: Business skills, Planning, Market Research, and value added production. By learning a marketable skill the mothers will generate income and lift themselves out of poverty to sustain their deaf children in education.

This project will support training and start up business activities for 180 unemployed women who are parents of deaf children. The women have chosen activities according to location as follows: 40 women will rear goats (Goats will provide milk, kids for sale and home consumption); 60 women will rear chicken for eggs); 80 women will do tailoring for business. All women will grow vegetables in addition. The sustainable incomes will support deaf child education and improve inclusive families.

We shall also mobilise fathers of deaf children and train them on the rights of deaf children and sign language. By learning more about deafness, rights of children and how to communicate with their children, fathers will support inclusive family environments for their children. The parent’s attitude towards their deaf children will improve, children will be able to stay in school and enjoy school when they have the school requirements.

**Solution**

The project will support 180 women who are mothers of deaf children with training and a supported start up business activity. Each parent will be supported at household level. These parents will be able to generate income to enable them support their deaf child education and contribute to family well-being. The women will be trained to produce quality goods in order to compete for the markets. Those who have chosen agriculture will be encouraged and trained to produce organic products for health.

This project will involve lots of training of the various groups of parents. We shall construct a training centre to provide space for training and space for a shop for marketing the women’s’ products at the NAPADEC headquarters. The training centre will also serve as cafeteria for income generation for NAPADEC.

**Long-Term Impact**

More parent economic empowerment will increase the number of deaf children who access and sustain education leading to better opportunities and improved livelihoods for deaf children and young people in future. More parent participation will improve early identification, communication improvement and experience sharing and this will improve the attitude of parents and families towards deaf children. Mothers will have vegetables for healthier children and better incomes for family support.

NAPADEC will have more skilled members of staff to execute functions, more parents who pay membership fees, an equipped training unit which will save NAPADEC spending on rent of training venue all of which will lead the institution to sustainable growth. By the end of the project NAPADEC will have established a sustainable IGA to support her programs and deliver her mandate to her target community.

**TOTAL BUDGET FOR TWO YEARS = 27940**

**Budget for NAPADEC “Empowered Parents, Inclusive Communities Project (EPIC Project)”**

**Exchange rate 3750=1USD**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No**  | **Activity**  | **Unit cost** | **Quantity**  | **Total UShs** | **Total USD** |
|   |
|  | Purchase 40 hybrid goats for 40 women in Buduuda and Luuka districts | 250,000 ($80)  | 40 | 12,000,000 | 3200 |
|  | Purchase 50 Local chicken per mother for 60 mothers in Masaka and Mukono  | 1875 ($0.5) | 3000 | 5,625,000 | 1500 |
|  | Purchase start up chicken feeds (70kg each) up to stage of laying eggs for the 60 mothers in Masaka and Mukono | 90000($24) | 60 | 5,400,000 | 1440 |
|  | Purchase one tailoring machine to 80 mothers who chose to make dressing materials out of fabrics | 562500($150) | 80 | 45,000,000 | 12,000 |
|  | Purchase vegetable seeds | 37500($10) | 180 | 6,750,000 | 1800 |
|  | Provide training session technical support and supervision for the mothers at a cost of 100000uganda shillings to include food, accommodation, materials and home visiting  | 100000($27) | 180 | 18,000,000 | 4800 |
|  | Construct a training centre to provide space for training and a shop for marketing the women’s’ products at the NAPADEC headquarters.The training centre will also serve as cafeteria for income generation for NAPADEC |
| Materials (bricks, sand, cement, roofing materials, glass, doors, paint, windows, locks, furniture)  | 12,000,000 | 1 | 12,000,000 | 3200 |
| **8** | **Total** |  |  |  | **27940** |