



## **FUNDING REQUEST: LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES FOR 20 GIRLS IN GHANA**

### **THE CHALLENGE**

Every day, girls in Ghana overcome a myriad of barriers to be able to attend and stay in school. This is especially true for girls living in rural areas. Girls' access and ability to persist in their education is one of the most effective ways to ensure that all girls are able to continue to pursue their goals by gaining skills and knowledge, increase their earning potential, and avoid child marriage or early pregnancy. The Teen Girls Club program exists to ensure girls are able to capitalize on the education they are being provided and overcome the barriers they may face in accessing and staying in school. In addition, the Teen Girls Club program focuses on the social and emotional health of the young women in the program, growing leadership and confidence in participants so they are ready to face life's challenges and continue to pursue their goals.



### **OUR SOLUTION**

As part of this effort to develop leadership skills in young girls, final year Junior High School students in the Teen Girls Club program are coordinating service projects in their communities. The girls are responsible for identifying a challenge their community is facing and potential solutions and then work with their peers and community leaders to carry out a community service project to address the challenge.

### **THE GOAL**

Self-Help International Teen Girls Club is providing support to these young female leaders to help them carry out their projects. Learn more about what young leaders in each community have identified as challenges and solutions to local issues.

**KUKUBUSO:** There are no public latrines in Kukubuso, which leads to unsanitary conditions at households in the village and potentially unsafe circumstances if community members, especially young girls, have to walk in to the forest late at night to use the bathroom. Girls are engaging school officials, local leaders and community members to come together to build a latrine. They have advocated with their government representatives to provide support for their project as well.

**TIMEABU:** There is no central place to dump garbage in Timeabu, which often results in garbage accumulating behind people's houses, resulting in poor sanitary conditions that lead to hygiene related diseases. The girls have worked with community leaders to identify a large pit outside of town that can serve as a dump for community refuse. They have requested garbage bins from their local



representatives that will be placed throughout the community, making it accessible for residents to place their garbage in the bins. Teen Girls Club members are already engaged in sweeping the community, and will now organize to empty the bins as they become full and take them to the community refuse dump.

**BEDAABOUR:** There is a fast-moving stream that cuts across Bedaabour that creates a challenge for students who need to cross the river to attend school. Students must either make the risky trek directly across the unpredictable flow or travel a significant distance to find a safe path to cross. The girls engaged a local wood worker to build a canoe that can carry up to 7 students a time to cross the river, removing a barrier in students, especially young girls, in enrolling in and attending school.



**BEPOS0:** COVID-19 has reminded girls just how important hand-washing and sanitation is to their own health and the well-being of their community. The girls are placing hand-washing buckets throughout their community and providing soap at the stations to encourage hand-washing amongst residents. They are using the local radio station to promote the importance of hand-washing and walk listeners through proper technique.

**NKONTOMIRE:** The final year students in Junior High School would like to work on sanitation in their community. They have requested dust bins from their District Officials to provide the bins for the community and will lead the community in trash pick-up days and educate them on the importance of keeping the community clean and free of garbage.

#### **HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

Self-Help International is providing financial support to the girls to help them complete their projects. \$1500 will fund all community service projects and support the final year students in sharing the lessons and skills gained through this process with their peers and their community. For \$50/young leader you can help girls gain valuable leadership experience while giving back to their community.