



GO GIRL

multi country project

Engaging communities in prevention of teenage pregnancies



THE CONSTELLATION

Introduction

Dear partner,

Thank you for reading this dossier.

We are The Constellation.

Every day, we serve a worldwide network of individuals, groups, communities and organisations. When a community asks for support, the network is mobilized. Making use of a learning cycle process (CLCP) and applying an approach called SALT, we support people who want to take ownership of their own situation and the situation of those around them, be it with regard to health, sustainable development, education or living together peacefully.

We encourage people to find their own solutions to address their own challenges for their own future.

Therefore, a partnership with us means much more than the provision of money. It means your engagement in being involved in a process of social responsibility.

We do not bring solutions; we want to make communities conscious of the depth of their experience. We invite you to take some time and engage with your organisation on local action and responses to build the society we all want to live in, here and everywhere.

PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS ARE TEMPORARY, OWNERSHIP IS SUSTAINABLE: ONCE IT IS IN PLACE, IT STAYS FOREVER WITH JUST A BIT OF CARE.

By reading this dossier you will know a little better our organization and our new project **GO GIRL**. You will discover how, being part of it, you will encourage and equip communities around the world to take ownership of their challenges.

Warm regards,

Marlou de Rouw

Board Committee Member, The Constellation

Who are we

The Constellation, a non-for-profit organisation registered in Belgium, was founded at the end 2004 to address the AIDS crisis. Our vision then: AIDS competence should spread faster than the virus. Local communities who mobilise themselves to address their own concerns form the stars and illuminate each other for more effective responses. Facilitators from The Constellation stimulate and connect local responses.

The Constellation is now connecting a worldwide network of individuals, groups, communities and organisations. The Constellation connects those groups to learn and share about local experience, and for mutual support.

What we do

Members and partners of The Constellation have co-created and continue to develop the strength-based support process that leads to local ownership of problems and solutions. SALT is the acronym for **S**upport, **A**ppreciate, **L**earn and **T**ransfer – our way of working. Those values, combined with the learning and action cycle called the Community Life Competence Process, form a strong combination in support of people who want to take ownership of their own situation and the situation of those around them, be it with regard to health, sustainable development or living together peacefully. We facilitate strength-based processes that help communities throughout the world to again become aware of their capacity to deal with their challenges and to pursue their common dream.

Our Experience

Since 2005, The Constellation has successfully facilitated local responses through over 100 partnerships with governments, international and national organisations but also small groups of people who have found in SALT-CLCP an inspiring and effective methodology to advance in their projects.



... list of themes (competences) the process has been applied to over the years:

Agriculture, aquatic agriculture, food justice, forest governance, disaster risk reduction, environment protection, fire, business, entrepreneurship in rural areas, impact evaluation, knowledge management, network strengthening, organisational planning, strategy development, health, child health, maternal health, nutrition, cholera, diabetes, Ebola, HIV/AIDS, malaria, poliomyelitis, water, sanitation and hygiene, palliative care, preparedness to pandemics, gender, sexual and reproductive health, drugs, suicide prevention, community development, neighbourhood or village life, eco-housing, family, aging with dignity, people living with disabilities, youth, school life and education, governance, social audit, participatory, action research, human rights, human trafficking, migration, dialogue between religions, peace.

Why the 'Go Girl' Project

Partners and facilitators of The Constellation in Cameroon, Ghana, India, Indonesia and Kenya, through their community engagement, have signaled a growth in (unwanted) teenage pregnancy in the second half of 2020. The same phenomenon is happening in several places in the world, possibly as a result of school closures and other lockdown measures in response to the covid-19 pandemic.

In those locations girls drop out of school and their (and their children's) health, livelihood and safety is at risk. A cultural sensitive intervention is needed in order to help girls in those communities to flourish, in spite of the current circumstances. This will need adapted behaviour and action from the community as a whole.

What is the 'Go Girl' Project

In this project we will engage with youth and communities in sites in five countries where the above problem is signaled. Through local partners of The Constellation we will reach out in 11 villages in Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, India and Indonesia.

The intervention we propose is a strength based learning process that facilitates community conversations, activities and learning. With The Constellation's SALT-CLCP methodology:

- Local facilitators will build trust with the youth in the intervention villages and empower them to break taboos and make the issue a topic of conversation in the larger community.
- The intimate trust-based conversations will give insights in the root causes of teenage pregnancy and school drop-out.
- Individual community members discover their own strengths and talents, and explore how they can make them useful for progress of the community
- Youth is stimulated to find their own solutions to prevent teenage pregnancies and school drop-out. They implement them with the resources they have at hand.
- Facilitators will link the youth to resources that can help them strengthen and complement their own actions.
- The learning process will allow for reflections on which improvements can be made after each activity.

Starting the community engagement process in several places in Africa and Asia will allow for mutual learning and encourage progress in all places. The Constellation's global team will:

- 1) **Train** (where necessary) local facilitation teams in SALT-CLCP, a proven methodology to build community ownership of problems and solutions, in this case teenage pregnancy. The training will be given by experienced coaches with online and offline programmes.
- 2) **Support** (online) the local facilitation process, individually.
- 3) **Link and connect** both facilitators and youth from the different locations with each other, with the purpose to share inspiration and good practices, and to build common knowledge.
- 4) **Link the participating communities** to (technical) solutions and to service providers that can complement what communities are doing with their own resources.
- 5) **Support the monitoring and evaluation process**, carried out by the communities.

Baseline and endline surveys will be carried out in each location. In addition, a **simple monitoring system** will be set up with process indicators identified based on our previous interventions.

Project Period:

April 2021 - September 2022

Participating communities

An overview

Cameroon

Local partner: Cho Nagafor Foundation: <https://cnfoundation.ch/>. The foundation is active on the themes of health, education and livelihood. SALT-CLCP is new for the organisation as an approach to community actions. The Constellation will train and accompany a team of three local facilitators as well as the CEO of the organisation online with the Online SALT Programme. Given travel restrictions for Covid and safety, one international coach will give intensified online support to the team in training.

Community: Mbengwi / Bamenda North West Province

Contact person: Doreen Bieri

Ghana

Local partner: Go Girl Ghana: <https://www.gogirlghana.org/>. In 2018 The Constellation and Go Girl Ghana partnered in creating supporting communities around girls so that they can enjoy education. Now, Go Girl Ghana gives name to this international project and is happy that their work with girls and their communities in Ghana is inspiring groups in other countries as well. Go Girl Ghana is currently collecting data about the increasing number of teenage girls and school drop-out. As soon as travel is possible The Constellation will train a group of new facilitators.

Community: Awutu-Senya district

Contact person: Leonie Heppener

Kenya

Local Partner: Kenya Competence Team and Dorcus beads. Kenya Competence Team is one of the oldest local SALT teams of The Constellation. It gained a wealth of experience in the area of community ownership of HIV/AIDS. The team will now accompany youth in three villages towards sexual health and improved access to education. One of them is Town Centre of Sultan Hamud with over 8,718 dwellers, pivotal for long drive truck drivers, a hub for business and transits. High vulnerability for social vices against women.

Community: Nguuni A and Kasikeu in Kasikeu and Town Centre of Sultan Hamud.

Contact person: Meble Birengo

India

Local Partner:

Faith Foundation: <https://faithfoundationshillong.org/>. The foundation is working with 3 villages in the State of Meghalaya. The project is about improving the sexual and reproductive health and nutrition of adolescents to bring about behaviour change to reduce the numbers of teenage pregnancies and marriages and to also work with young mothers in creating access to sexual reproductive health services needed by them. The project will also address the well being of Adolescent girls and the taboos around sexuality. An experienced

coach of The Constellation based in New Delhi is training the local facilitators from a distance. When travel is possible she will bring two support visits to strengthen the process and to elicit the learning.

Community: Sylleiular, Umsawriang and Umktieh Lawsiatsniang, Bhoirymbong Block in Ri Bhoi District in the State of Meghalaya.

Contact person: Shannon Massar

Indonesia

Local partner: IndoCompetence - The Constellation team in Indonesia will facilitate the SALT-CLCP process with three villages on Java. The team is linked with those communities through the government's Family Planning programme. IndoCompetence will make sure local champions in the villages will be able to foster the community response, while experienced facilitators guide the process during visits as well as virtual follow-up.

Community: 1. Kampung KB "Kimas Jaya" Dukuh Tengah Village 2. Kedungwungu Village 3. Bandung: Kampung KB Ngahiji

Contact person: Wiwin Winardi.

Budget

Currently we are looking for financial assistance for the following four activities that are required to achieve the desired goal: *Girls live their full potential, thanks to reduced teenage pregnancies and improved access to education.*

Total budget needed: 50'000 Euro

Funds raised on 1 May 2021: 25'000 Euro

Thanks to our local partners, Triodos Foundation, Trust for Local Response and individual members of The Constellation!

Additional funds needed: 25'000 Euro.

The budget covers:

1) Facilitation of the **local community engagement process in five countries**, with 1900 participants. In each place local facilitators will be trained, with online and offline programmes, in the community engagement process. They will engage with youth in the selected communities, who take ownership in:

- Stimulating inclusive and open conversations, where stigma and taboos are broken.
- Creating local solutions for actions and behavior change that lead to less teenage pregnancies and access to education.

2) **Virtual SALT visits:** Organisation and coordination of an online "Learn & Share" format to facilitate cross-culture knowledge acquisition and sharing of good practice examples, between facilitators and community-members. Lessons learned will be shared beyond the participating sites through the network of partners and members of The Constellation. The participating communities will also send each other physical packages which represent their local solution.

The first virtual SALT visit brought us to Singapore. We learned from Babes how people around the pregnant girl can be involved in the support.

3) **Project Management:** This includes organisation of the training programme for the five sites, bi-monthly evaluation with focal persons of the host-organisations, linking participants and communities to resources and information, communication with stakeholders and funders, human resource and financial management of the project, bank costs etc..

4) **Monitoring and evaluation:** Baseline and endline surveys will be carried out in each location. These surveys will allow to evaluate the performances of the SALT-CLCP interventions and in particular their impact on the day-to-day life of the young women. In addition, a **simple monitoring system** will be set up with process indicators identified based on our previous interventions. Data collection will be done **every three months** at field level by the facilitators or/and some identified community members. That regular monitoring will be performed with active participation of the communities.

Partnership possibilities

Why fund Go Girl

- You will be engaged with youth and communities in sites in five countries
- You will contribute to build community ownership of problems and solutions, in teenage pregnancy issues.
- You will start to address one of the COVID 19 pandemic-related consequences

Why fund The Constellation

- The Constellation does not receive any public subsidy.
- We do sustain ourselves through private contributions and partnerships.
- We receive a high demand for support from communities in a low-income context

- With no offices and a large network of paid staff and volunteers our overhead costs are minimum

What?

How can you take ownership of the society we want?

We will gladly investigate with you the form in which we shape our partnership further. And we leave all options open, some examples of what we can give back if you support our work with Go Girl:

- An inspirational event at your office or online: a screening session of one of the community documentaries developed by The Constellation followed by panel discussion.
- A SALT workshop for your staff.
- Your logo on our website,
or ... **maybe we discover other paths together?**

Credits

We thank the facilitators and community members in the five participating countries in the Go Girl project. Their experience and eagerness to learn and share inspire us, both in our professional and personal lives.

Contact us

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More information about The Constellation:

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