



CARE PROMOTION AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION INITIATIVE (CPAI)

Organisation Details

Project Title	Girl Inspire Project
Organization Name	CARE PROMOTION AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION INITIATIVE (CPAI)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Child marriage is a human rights violation and a practice that undermines efforts to promote sustainable development. And this remains a major challenge in Uganda. In 2015, a research was carried out in 9 districts and it was found out that the practice of child marriages affect 60% of the young girls in Uganda of which 15% are married by age of 15 and 49% by the age of 18. Teenage pregnancies remain high(24%) although statistics show a declining trend. This implies that a number of adolescent girls and boys are denied their childhood and their rights to exploit the expanded education opportunities. This inhibits girls' and boys' general personal capability and career development. Many are trapped in a cycle of poverty due the limited opportunities for employment. The needs of children who are already married must not be overlooked. To mitigate the increased health, economic, and educational risks posed by child marriage, the project aims to train equip and empower these young girls through mushroom growing and production to enhance their incomes

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Care Promotion and Poverty Alleviation Initiative is a registered grass root community-based organization (CBO) with District RegNo3950 and RegNo3489/18 of Uganda Registration Services Bureau serving less privileged communities in Mbarara focusing on health care support, agriculture extension services, gender and leadership, conservation of environment, Climate change mitigation and Economic empowerment. Our focus and programs address global concerns of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) so as to achieve sustainable community development. We mentor and empower girls and youth to attain socio-economic transformation through their own participation. Our Vision is to have a leading community equipped with skills in which people have opportunities to work their way out of poverty and respond to health-related issues.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Child marriage is defined by UNICEF as “a formal marriage or informal union before age 18” and occurs throughout the worldⁱⁱ. Being forced into marriage before one is able to give consent violates the basic human rights of boys and girls. Most married youth are girls

The right to free and full consent to a marriage is recognized in numerous international conventions and declarations including the Universal Declaration of Human Rightsⁱⁱⁱ, the Convention on Consent to Marriage, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with the understanding that consent cannot be “free and full” when one of the parties is not mature enough to make an informed decision about a life partner. Despite efforts in these and other conventions to discourage child marriage, national legal frameworks sometimes violate international norms by treating females and males differently.

Cultural and socioeconomic conditions, poverty, and lack of access to education also influence whether a girl is married early; child marriage is most common in Uganda especially among the poorest households with girls living in poor households twice as likely to marry before the age of 18 as girls from wealthier families.

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The consequences of child marriage are severe. National and international indicators on maternal health^{iv}, education, food security, poverty eradication, HIV/AIDS, and gender equality are all negatively correlated with high child marriage rates. Child brides are under great pressure to prove their fertility, which often results in pregnancies when their bodies are not yet ready, resulting in greater maternal and newborn morbidity. Married girls under 15 are five times more likely to die in childbirth than married girls in their 20s.

They are also more likely to experience complications of childbirth including obstetric fistula and hemorrhaging. Child brides are also at greater risk for contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases due to their inability to reject unsafe sexual practices.

Research indicates a causal link between early marriage and child labor, as household poverty often necessitates children being overworked at home, which can encourage young girls to marry early to escape harsh conditions.

Girls are often forced to terminate their education; this, along with limited mobility, limited access to social networks, the burden of household responsibilities, and the obligation to care for other children in the household prevent girls from reaping the benefits of good education and economic programs. Once out of school, early marriage and pregnancy are often the only economic pathways forward for girls, thus perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

Child marriage also has a complex relationship to human trafficking^v. Trafficking and forced marriage intersect when marriage is used both in conjunction with force, fraud, coercion, or abuse of power, and as a means to subject wives to conditions of slavery, often in the form of domestic or sexual servitude. Children are trafficked for the purpose of forced marriage, fueling a lucrative trade in girls in some regions.

Early marriage also increases the vulnerability of children to being trafficked or re-trafficked. In some cases, girls and boys in child marriages are forced into prostitution or exploitative labor situations by their spouse or spouse's family, while in other cases children may become easy prey for traffickers when they attempt to flee their marital home as a result of abuse.

Ending child marriage is not only the right thing to do; it can also pay enormous dividends for development. Delaying marriage and childbearing can improve the health of a mother and her child. For one, the risk of malnutrition in children born to mothers over the age of 18 is smaller.

Improved nutrition in infants leads to increased schooling and cognitive ability, which contributes to an increase in lifetime savings^{vi}.

Increasing the age of first marriage reduces girls' risk for physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse. Delaying marriage can also increase girls' decision-making power. Keeping girls in school and delaying marriage increases incomes for individuals and advances economic development for a nation.

A single year of primary school increases girls' wages later in life from 10% to 20%, while the boost from female secondary education is 15% to 25^{vii}%. The families of girls who have married later also benefit from their added income and are more likely to invest in their

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families and children^{viii}. When girls stay in school, communities and families reap health benefits, such as decreased risk of HIV and reduced infant mortality^{ix}.

In one study, girls in 32 countries who remained in school after primary school were five times more likely to know basic facts about HIV than illiterate girls. The challenges of child early marriages in our communities are not any different as stated according to different reports which calls for urgent action of many disciplines. We therefore tend to empower those who have fallen victims of child early marriages and also encourage those who are not yet victims to keep in schools.

PURPOSE

To implement “**Girl Inspire Project**” that aims at building the capacity of 20 young vulnerable girls that are victims of child early marriages to enhance their incomes through mushroom growing and production. This is to be achieved by empowering these girls with skills and knowledge in mushroom growing and production through provision of information. In addition, mushroom growing implements are to be purchased and provided to the 20 girls formed into 2 groups. These are to include drums, wheelbarrows, and tarpaulins, weighing scales, sealing machines, spawns, lime, timber, nails, gauze wire and cotton waste. A revolving fund is to be initiated to encourage these girls to develop a culture of saving so as to become self-reliant and attain economic freedom.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 20 girls equipped with skills and knowledge of sustainable mushroom growing approaches for mushroom production to earn better incomes by Dec 2020;
- Having the capacity of these girls strengthened to acquire better techniques of value addition to produce high quality dried mushrooms to attract local, national and international market that leads to better prices and increased incomes by Dec 2020;
- Economically empowered girls able to resist exploitation and advocate for their rights by Dec 2020.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Girls take up mushroom growing rather than being exploited and used for cheap labour in people’s gardens where at times they are denied their pay.
- Girls gain employment and become self-reliant as well as start owning property notably land, houses and equipment.
- Girls become confident and assertive to confront effects of child early marriages.
- Empowered girls able to demand for their rights and dignity
- Job creation by girls
- Skilled and knowledgeable girls capable of growing high quality mushrooms
- More girls engaged in income generating ventures for self-reliance and economic freedom
- Saving culture initiated and adopted by the beneficiaries.

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BENEFITS TO THE GIRLS

- Skills and knowledge acquisition in mushroom growing, production and value addition
- Economic freedom and self-reliance with capacity to initiate and run income generating projects
- Unity and team work amongst the girls in their endeavors to attain economic independence.
- Become case studies and role models to other girls in the same with similar challenges.
- Become an encouragement to fellow girls who are still living under deprived Conditions to step up and change their status by embracing mushroom
- Growing and group work.
- Protection of girls from exploitation at sub-county and district levels.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Mushrooms are a delicacy among almost all members of society in Uganda and therefore have ready market from restaurants, hotels, homes, schools, churches, hospitals and supermarkets. Mushroom growing does not require land ownership, which makes it very interesting for these vulnerable girls working in stone quarries. In addition, production of mushrooms takes a very short period and brings financial returns in a short time. Required raw materials and equipment are locally available and affordable to acquire and maintain. The health and economic benefits obtained from mushrooms are to become a milestone in redeeming girls from abject poverty.

Therefore, a financial return obtained from sale of mushrooms is to ensure sustainability of the project by the beneficiaries. Good financial management procedures are to be emphasized to ensure proper utilization and re-investment of income from the sale of mushrooms into the project by the beneficiaries while maintaining credit and saving systems

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BUDGET

Category	Unit	Unit Cost	Qty	Amount (UGX)	USD Equiv.
2 days Training in Mushroom growing & production involving 20 girls formed in 2 groups					
Trainer's fees	2 days		1		
Stationery (notebooks, pens, flip charts, markers)	Items		20		
Sub-total					
Provision of mushroom growing implements to 2 groups					
Wheelbarrows (1 wheel barrows per group)	Items		2		
Tarpaulins (1 piece per group)	Items		2		
Drums (1 drum per group)	Items		2		
Weighing scales (1 piece per group)	Items		2		
Sealing machines (1 piece per group)	Items		2		
Nails (3 kilograms per group)	Kgs		6		
Timber (40 pieces per group)	Pcs		40		
Gauze wire (1 roll per group)	Roll		2		
Polythene bags (black) (2 bundles per group)	Bundles		4		
Spawns (mushroom seeds) (3 bags per group)	Bags		6		
Cotton waste (ingredient) (2 bags per group)	Bags		4		
Lime (Ingredient) (5 bags per group)	Bags		10		
Transportation of equipment (1 trip)	Trips		1		
Sub-total					
GRAND TOTAL					
SUMMARY	Ex. rate: USD		UGS		USD
Project Total Cost					
Amount Requested					
Community Contribution					

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ⁱ Unicef final report on ending child marriage and teenage pregnancies-December 2015

ⁱⁱ Child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse, UNICEF,

http://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58008.html

ⁱⁱⁱ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml>; Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages,

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/convention.htm>; Convention on the Rights of the Child

^{iv} <http://www.icrw.org/child-marriage-facts-and-figures>; Maternal mortality update, UNFPA and the University of Aberdeen

^v The 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report, <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/142980.pdf>

^{vi} Jere Behrman, Harold Alderman, and John Hoddinott, Hunger and Malnutrition, in Global Crises, Global Solutions, ed. Bjorn Lomborg (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2004)

^{vii} George Psacharopoulos and Harry Anthony Patrinos, Returns to Investment in Education: A Further Update, Policy Research Working Paper 2881 (Washington, DC: The World Bank, 2002),

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/>,

^{viii} Cynthia B. Lloyd, Schooling and Adolescent Reproductive Behavior in Developing Countries (Paris: UN, 2005), www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/CBLloyd-final.pdf, on Jan. 22, 2011; World Bank, Moving Forward With Girls' Education in the

World Bank: The Changing Context and What It Means for the Future (Washington, DC: World Bank, 2007).

^{ix} Melanne Verveer, Targeting Girls in the Name of Tradition: Child Marriage (July 2010),

www.state.gov/s/gwi/rls/rem/2010/144989.htm

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