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PREMIUM



**Proposal to support Orphans and Vulnerable
Children in Uganda by providing Education,
BasicFood, and Medicine Facilities**

Project Background

Republic of Uganda is a landlocked country in East Africa. The country is bordered to the East by Kenya, to the North by South Sudan, to the west by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to the south-west by Rwanda, and to the south by Tanzania. The Southern part of the country includes a substantial portion of Lake Victoria, shared with Kenya and Tanzania. Uganda is in the African Great Lakes region. Uganda also lies within the Nile basin and has a varied but generally a modified equatorial climate.

The 1995 constitution of Republic of Uganda defines a child as someone below the age of 18 years. The National Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Policy (NOP-2004) defines an orphan as someone below age of 18 years who has lost one or both parents. The National Strategic Programme Plan of Interventions for Orphaned and Other Vulnerable Children (NSPPI) defines a vulnerable child as one who is suffering and/or is likely to suffer any form of abuse or deprivation and is therefore in need of care and protection. According to the Social Development Sector Strategic Investment Plan (SDIP) vulnerability relates to lack of security, susceptibility to risk and/or exploitation. Vulnerability refers to the risk of falling into poverty and perpetually living in a condition of impoverishment (NDP). As in most African societies, Uganda's extended families have assumed the major Responsibility for the care of orphans and vulnerable children.

The Ugandan government has played a minimal role in the care of orphans and vulnerable children. This leaves the burden to families, households, and communities, all of which are being stretched to the breaking point. Whether households caring for orphans and vulnerable children will be able to meet their basic needs depends largely on the family income. The pressure of caring for increasing numbers of children can challenge families when considering whether they have the capacity to absorb and care for more children.

Ugandan communities have traditionally absorbed orphans within the extended family system. One in four households in Uganda fosters at least one orphan by providing for health, shelter, nutrition, education and other needs. However, many of these care-givers are overburdened and often lack the socio-economic capacity to provide adequate care and support for these children. Community organisations,

religious bodies and other civil society members have stepped in by providing information, vocational skills training, basic education, medical care, and counselling and micro-credit services.

These groups too, often lack the human and financial resources to adequately respond to the problem.

Many children who are orphaned are forced to live on the streets or under exploitative conditions of labour, sexual abuse, prostitution and other forms of abuse. Many live in child-headed households where they have to fend for themselves and support their younger siblings. Some of these children are infected with HIV either through mother-to-child transmission or through defilement.

Uganda has shown its commitment to the welfare of children through adoption and implementation of both national and international policy and legal instruments that concern children. Two key legal instruments in this regard are the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995) and the Children's Act (2003).

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995) is the overriding national legal framework for ensuring that the rights of children and the general population are protected. The Constitution provides special protection to children in general and vulnerable children in particular⁶. It makes specific mention of the rights of children to know and to be cared for by their parents or guardians, access medical treatment, and be protected from all forms of exploitation and abuse.

The Children's Act (2003) operationalise constitutional issues concerning children in Uganda. Other relevant legislations include the National Council for Children Statute (1996), the National Youth Council Act (2003), the Penal Code Act (Cap.160), the Local Governments Act (1997), and the Succession Act (1964).

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The United Nations Children's Fund (2003) stresses extended families may not have the capacity to meet the increasing demands of caring for additional children. The report also suggested that the greater the number of orphans in a household, the more likely it is that the household will become poorer. Families may be unable to meet a child's most basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, education, and medical care.

Denying children access to food, healthcare and quality education increases their vulnerability to abuse, Exploitation and disease. As HIV/AIDS impoverishes more families and produces new generations of orphans, its impact on children's rights to education is only likely to intensify. Investing in children's education and health is important to avoid the greater long-term costs of losing and not educating children and leaving them vulnerable. The benefits of educating and providing healthcare to orphan and vulnerable children are enormous. So why are so many children left without access to public education and health? The answer may be a combination of poorly enacted government policies, and a lack of public and private resources. ROEA has recognized the importance of educating children.

The complexity of the problem of child poverty in Uganda is large and growing, and cannot be ignored when designing national development and poverty reduction strategies. Unfortunately, children especially orphans continue to be marginalized irrespective of interventions where by assumptions are made that interventions that address adult and household needs are also good for all children, including boys and girls of school-going and non-school-going ages. This partly explains why child poverty is underrepresented in most studies on poverty in Uganda (Save the Children UK, 2003)

Problem Statement

Rural parts of Uganda have got large number of orphans than urban areas because of disease. The age of orphans, however, is fairly consistent across parts of the country. Sadly, as it seems but true out of 100 children enrolled in primary section only 25 children finish and 75 percent become victims. This coupled up with a number that doesn't enrol at all due to several underlying reasons but mainly due to chronic poverty and living below the poverty line and this category constitutes 46 percent of the Uganda population. But despite of the efforts to improve the lives of the children, social indicators continue to show a decline in social and economic welfare of children.

Also, low levels of education, hunger and poor healthcare among the whole population of the community has also been attributed to the increasing number of Orphan children as a result of HIV and AIDS scourge, poverty and poor health conditions. Worst of all, the child-headed household trend in Uganda is such that rural areas have 79.9%, of which 49.6% are male-headed and 30.3% are female-headed. The trend in urban areas is that of the 20% child-headed households, 10.5% are male-headed whereas 9.6% are female-headed (Uganda Bureau of Statistics UBOS, 2000). While there seems to be national consensus among donors, the public sector and civil society that the government has made commendable progress in implementing NDP (National Development Plan) as flexibly as possible, it's evolving nature, due to the participatory and consultative reviews it undergoes regularly, does not address many of the development challenges disadvantaged children face today. It would take lobbying and advocacy interventions to ensure that the education and health needs and demands of children in abject poverty are met.

The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (2007) contends that serious barriers to enrollment include the direct cost to households, which is not just school fees but textbooks, school supplies, and compulsory uniforms. Other barriers may include the distance to school, overage children, pastoralist children, and school dropouts, long gaps in attendance, gender inequality, working children, poor children, orphans, and children affected by HIV/AIDS. Deveruex (2002) suggests that poor people use incremental income to satisfy basic needs first and then invest in human capital such as education and health care. NeddyMatshalage

and Greg Powell (2002) assert that extended families see school fees as a major factor in deciding not to take on additional children who are orphaned. This may be the reason for the low number of orphans and vulnerable children who are enrolled in school while others die without Medicare. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (2006) orphans are even less likely to be in school and more likely to fall behind or drop out, limiting their abilities and prospects for a better life.

Current Situation

The implementing organization ABC NGO seeks to provide service to children ranging from accommodation, Medicare, education to moderately and critically vulnerable children in xxxxxxxx region of districtxxxxxxx of the republic of Uganda, Currently there is a large number of children who have lost hope of school due to chronic poverty, orphan hood which has struck them to the core more so others die because there is no one to stand a need, the most worsening factor is some have been turned to be bread winners for their families due to this many have fallen out of school because of those responsibilities they have.

ABC NGO believes and has the capacity to change the trend, therefore we seek funds to help us change these lives and make them responsible citizen and professional leaders of tomorrow. The ever-worsening situation of these children has led ABC NGO to launch this initiative, which will work closely with local village council, school heads, religious leaders and community chiefs in jointly addressing this menace while trying better the situation through various schemes and approaches that are going to contribute to Education and healthcare as alternatives to mitigate the current situation.

This initiative is a proof to awaken efforts by both the government and international bodies or NGOs that consider that providing healthcare, accommodation and educating orphans and vulnerable children to enjoy their right as other children is a pre-requisite task and long overdue. While this is commendable, it is worth noting that such an initiative can only succeed where the organization has a firm and mutual commitment to vigorously address this menace. In this case, ABC NGO has shown some level of commitment, which is noticeable.

However, the absence of critical commitment from the government and agencies does not prevent ABC NGO and others wellwishers from executing their primary goal of changing lives of orphans and vulnerable children in xxxxxxxxRegion, xxxxxxxx district by providing them with food, accommodation, healthcare, education and psycho social support. As an organization, ABC NGO is committed to implement this initiative successful no matter what it takes, accessing basic needs is an obligation and a right to every child and if we want to build future generation successful this the way we ought to go. Rationale of the project.

The rationale for ABC NGO to venture into this work is prompted by its constitutional objective, which stipulates that the organization shall engage in promotion of education and healthcare of orphans and vulnerable children. This objective urges the organization to render support to voiceless children in all our area of intervention. Ugandan children are the future of the country and the continent at large. Health and Education is development. It creates choices and opportunities for children, reducing poverty and diseases, and gives them a voice in society. The benefits of healthcare and education in a developing country are widely known. They include increasing workforce productivity, contributing to increased incomes, enhancing political participation, and reducing social inequality.

For nations, education helps to create a workforce that can compete globally, opening doors to economic and social prosperity. Providing health care and Educating orphan children is an important component in the social well-being of these children and in reducing poverty. Muhammad Yunus (2003) Nobel Peace Prize winner and founder of the Grameen Bank, believes that education is one of the primary components for moving the poor out of poverty. The advocacy group Human Rights Watch (2006) issued a strong statement concerning education and its influence in breaking the cycle of poverty: Education breaks generational cycles of poverty by enabling children to gain skills and knowledge for better jobs. Education is strongly linked to concrete improvements in health and nutrition, improving children's very chances for survival.

Education empowers children to be full and active participants in society, able to exercise their rights and engage in civil and political life. It is well-documented that increasing girls' access to education has benefits for development, particularly

maternal and children's health, economic growth, sustainable family size, and democracy. For example, an additional year of girls' education can reduce infant mortality by 5-10 percent. Education is also a powerful protection factor: children who are in school are less likely to come in conflict with the law and much less vulnerable to rampant forms of child exploitation, including child labor, trafficking, and recruitment into armed groups.

Education is vital for the children's psychosocial development as well as for their future economic productivity. Bhargave (2005) suggests that school participation enhances children's wellbeing apart from imparting the necessary skills for them to be successful. School can provide children with a safe, structured environment and the emotional support of other adults in the community. Children who are in school have opportunities to interact with other children and develop social networks. Schools are vital in protecting children and supporting their emotional and social development by giving them comfort, security and opportunity.

Education can change lives. Care International, one of the largest humanitarian organizations in the world, maintains that education of marginalized children can change their lives in the following ways:

- Young women's earnings will be 10-20% higher for every year of school completed.
- An extra year of a woman's education has been shown to reduce the risk that her child will die in infancy by 5-10%.
- Girls' education is the best single policy for reducing fertility and therefore achieving smaller and more sustainable families.
- Education is a powerful vaccine against HIV and AIDS. Several million cases of HIV/AIDS could be prevented in the next decade if every child received an education.
- A child born to a literate mother is 50% more likely to survive past the age of 5.
- Children with educated mothers are twice as likely to go to school and are less Malnourished.

It is important that governments, communities, relief and development organizations, and civil society groups support and educate the world's most vulnerable citizens. The priority should be to achieve access to basic needs for all children. That's why

ABC believes that in educating children we can reduce poverty, improve gender equality, improve health and nutrition, reduce infant and child fatality, and lower the prevalence of HIV/AIDS transmission. By giving children in Uganda the opportunity to healthcare and to attend school we hope to change not only their lives but the lives of their families and the community members as well.

The Project Intervention

The project main goal is to promote and improve healthcare and education of orphans and vulnerable children in the last mile. ABC NGO plans to undertake a 2 year project within this slum community to help and improve the lives of orphans and vulnerable children through access to basic needs and make them understand their challenges, causes and effects of challenges posed by this analysis.

The project will actively pursue and address issues of education, healthcare and accommodation with the aim of contributing towards poverty eradication and national development. Guided by the logic that healthcare and education is development and development is education and healthcare, the project will strive to improve the education and healthcare arena of orphans and vulnerable children through access to basic needs and carrying out advocacy on the same.

The project will strive to bring to the forefront orphans and vulnerable children's concerns to Governmental and Regional bodies with the hope of influencing policies that mainstream basic needs. The project has institutionalized a Partners Education Forum, comprising of religious leaders, local council heads, community chiefs, head teachers and other stakeholders within these areas in order to engage and identify truly moderate and critical vulnerable children outside the home in order to reach the intended objective. This will also help the project to be owned by the community.

Target:

The project will work with orphans and vulnerable children living within xxxxxxxx district and neighboring communities sharing the same challenges.

Strategies:

The ABC NGO will adopt the following strategies in implementing the orphan and vulnerable children education project.

Facilitation:

In line with the overall objective of ABC NGO, the project will facilitate implementing partners. These partners shall include the religious leaders, village leaders and head teachers.

The objective of facilitation as a strategy is that it guarantees ownership by the community and sustainability of development work. This approach helps local communities and other development stakeholders to practice participatory methodologies to development building, building education and Medicare on the community's knowledge systems and structures. It is an approach that cannot be easily penetrated by politicians eager to derail education and health progress at the community level.

Through facilitation process the communities will be called upon to identify the problems leading to great number of orphans and vulnerable children, suggest solutions and implement recommendations at their level. The project will work through a process where interested partners are made to sign an agreement, before implementing an activity.

The partner shall be required to develop terms of the reference, to account for funds provided and provide proof of actual activities carried out and give an assessment of the achievement, in any of the activity carried out.

Direct implementation:

Most of the activities shall be implemented by Project staff, due to the need for more specialized facilitation. Monitoring and evaluation to enable the tracking on the project progress and to sustainability.

Training and capacity building:

The project will seek to train local community facilitators as a means of empowering local education structures to be able to analyze and take appropriate education and health care strategies etc

Sustainability:

The project seeks to establish a vocational institution as a way to sustain this project after the funding of the donor agencies and also to train vulnerable children and youth professional skills to be able to compete in this ever changing.

Overall Project Objective

The overall objective of the Project will be to contribute and promote sustainable accommodation, education and health care of orphans and vulnerable children in xxxxxxxx district of Uganda.

Specific Objectives

- To liaise with head teachers to provide quality education to Orphan and vulnerable children.
- Provision of school fees and scholastic materials to all school going of orphans and vulnerable children.
- To make access of education to orphans and vulnerable groups of children with special education needs such as the disabled lame, deaf and dumb and the blind so that they can also have an opportunity to shine as other children.
- Change future destinies of families through provision of basic needs to underprivileged children.
- Provide Medicare, moral support, Psycho-social support and food while at school to provide a good learning environment.

Outcome or Results of Project

The results of this particular project are cross cutting in the way that it doesn't only help children acquire education and healthcare but it also transforms communities where those children reside. At the lapse of the implementation of this project we will have Improved the standards of living of OVCs and built a generation full of hope to compete and be responsible citizens. Created forum fully doing its mandate, Generation cycles of poverty will be halted courtesy of this very project, illiteracy will be highly mitigated by educating OVCs, competent workforce will be created which can compete in a global village which will have opened a door to economic and social prosperity. Child headed homes will drastically be reduced. Hunger will be

mitigated and food security will be in place to sustain the people at the end of the project, disease will be mitigated due to continuous Medicare and this in turn will reduce the mortality rate, orphans and vulnerable children outside the home will be integrated into the home after the expansion of the premises, created choices and opportunities for children, reducing social inequality of children living with disability and HIV/AIDS as vehicle to social and economic prosperity, improvement in children's health, nutrition and their very chances of survival, children's psycho-social development will be enhanced, Children living with both disabilities and HIV/AIDS fully integrated in the society without segregation. Psycho social and holistic development of children will be enhanced. Community economic status quo will be changed due to the project. Most of the activities and the results have been reflected on the logical frame work. Please refer to it.

Monitoring and evaluation of the project

Monitoring; the organization will monitor all the activities throughout the year and make sure that the funds have not been misused. Evaluation; the organization will always make sure that it carryout all necessary statistical analysis in all activities and supporters will audit all books and records at every end of the project.

Human resource and administration of the project

ABC NGO has got a professional and dedicated staff which is fully equipped to carry out the intended outcome successfully. There is no doubt; the project is in good hands of people who are yarning to cause a change of lives among our areas of operations. We will implement the activities as well have a very good tracking plan to enable the monitoring and evaluation teams perform the intended expectations.

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