



JOSHUA'S HOMES OF HOPE



MOTHER AND CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM. EAST AFRICA (KENYA)

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SUPPORT FOR YOUNG MOTHER AND CHILD IN EAST AFRICA.

1. PREAMBLE

MOTHER and CHILD HOMES OF HOPE, a project which targets to provide support to the young / teenage mothers from vulnerable backgrounds. Most governments' in Africa have a policy in place which guarantees at least a basic education to its citizenry. However, some societal and economic challenges hinder the implementation of this policy. The girl child is particularly more vulnerable due to unplanned pregnancies and early marriages which shutter their dreams. The instability in some of the countries in our region such as Ethiopia, Southern Sudan and Eritrea has seen many girls' education cut short as they find themselves in refugee camps. These children have been traumatized by not only the inhuman conditions but also rape and/or forced into early marriages. Other socio-cultural norms which stigmatize single mothers in Africa also interfere with the re-absorption of girls into the school system and community as a whole.

1.1 Challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected both the economic powers and the poor globally. It has increased the risks of the vulnerable population in communities whose livelihood was already shaky while the leading economic blocks have lost their valuable assets due to the global lock downs. World leading Economies have shuttered, organized societies have disintegrated, economic blocks broken down, businesses crumbled, learning institutions closed, Churches all over the world lost hope and families were scattered.

The results of the pandemic have had far reaching effects in society in diverse magnitudes for example.

1. Learning institutions were closed early 2020 forcing all the learners and teachers to stay at home with some private owned institutions closing permanently.
2. Areas of worship too were closed as well as social places which supported a number of vulnerable people, places of work closed laying off employees. All these had serious repercussion.
3. Young school going children found themselves at home under difficult conditions. There resulting in an increase in the number of school dropouts which have lifelong

consequences for them and the society in general. The young boys left home for casual labor while girls were taken advantage of in many ways. The biggest casualty was the increase in early pregnancy among adolescents and young girls aged between 12-17 years as they engaged in transactional sex in order to gain not only access to the essential needs but also to support their families who have lost their livelihoods. Preliminary media reports show that approximately 4000 adolescents and young adults had unplanned pregnancies in Kenya alone. Research conducted by Plan International for January to May 2020 found that 98% of pregnant girls were not in school, and 59 % of the pregnancies among girls aged 15-19 years were unintended while more than half (54%) of sexually active adolescent girls in Kenya did not intend to get pregnant.

4. These young mothers who are children themselves have had their life completely shattered and will need a lot of psycho-social support and economic empowerment to re-integrate them into schools and society without stigmatization.

Whereas the governments have the capacity to recollect themselves and rebuild the broken down economic bases. Organizations like schools, Churches, Charitable organizations, businesses are rebuilding themselves once more, the young mothers and child have a lot to deal with which include stigmatization, trauma and the burden of bringing up the babies without a father.

1.2 Closure of Refugee Camps:

Kenya has been hosts for refugees since 1960s. These have been increasing as more countries in the region underwent political instability. The refugees come from Uganda, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and Somalia who total to about 600,000 people making it host to the largest refugee population. The largest number is from Somalia who occupy the largest camp in Daadab which host about 300,000 people. This has given rise to many economic, security and environmental Impacts. In 2016, the government of Kenya decided to close the camps and disbanded the Department of Refugee Affairs, which worked with humanitarian organizations for the welfare of the refugees. The COVID 19 pandemic fast-tracked the closure process especially for Daadab which saw displacement of 300, 000 refugees of Somali descent without any support program for the vulnerable young and aged. Many old people committed suicide to escape from the realities of life while young girls were forced into early marriages or sexual transactions to survive giving rise to unwanted pregnancies and loss of hope. The school going children had their learning stopped as their informal learning centers were closed. This complicated the issues as some of the children found themselves stateless having been born in Kenya during the 2-3 decades in the camps. This has forced the young girls to enter early marriages as a form of security, once expectant they find themselves fending for themselves and the children without any economic empowerment skill or support.

2. PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS FOR THE NEW GENERATION OF MOTHER AND CHILD:

There has been an increase in a new generation of young mothers due to the political and economic displacements coupled by the COVID-19 pandemic. If this generation is left out, then it will be difficult to mend. It is time that the society come up and support them so that they can be rehabilitated and accepted into society as meaningful contributors. Once supported and empowered it is expected that they will be ambassadors of reaching out to others who we may not have accessed. The Joshua's Homes of Hope will rescue the situation by giving a basis for empowering the young mothers through offering facilities for accommodation of mother and child and training.

MOTHER AND CHILD HOMES OF HOPE have come up with a paradigm intervention to encourage the world to support the Mother and Child. The world must own up to its responsibility and accept the realities of life that the young Mothers were precariously positioned and as a result, they now mothers and children have been born.

The proposed intervention through the Joshua's Homes of Hope will focus on the mother and child will be two fold focused on young mothers and community. It will target the support to young mothers' re-entry into school/ skills development and support to start economic activities and on community sensitization to reduce stigmatization and increase acceptance of the rehabilitated mothers as Ambassadors of Christ in their communities. .

The teen-mothers interested in re-joining school to complete the formal education will be supported with counselling, tuition fees and books. Those who wish to undertake vocational training will be provided with skills which will ensure that the girls can start livelihoods. Upon completion they will be provided with equipment to start and a minimum start-up capital on revolving loan basis.

The empowered girls will not only be able to support themselves and their children but will also be missionaries in their communities. They will spread the good news and support the other girls who have fallen through the cracks and hidden in desperation among their community.

2.2. Establishment of Mother and child Homes of Hope cum-Education Centres for teenage and young mothers.

The home will provide shelter for the mother and child as the first intervention. Relocating the mothers and their children from their homes will provide a ray of hope and comfort to the entire family. Families will encourage their daughters to take advantage of the opportunity being offered under Mother and Child Home of Hope. The homes shall be located in strategic places to cater for mothers and children from those areas.

The Centers will provide counselling services for the pregnant and teen mothers and they will be assessed on the readiness to re-join school/ vocational skill-based training to support their lives.

The Core Focus of Mother and Child Homes of Hope will involve the following interventions:

2.3 Establishment of education Centers

This will involve expanding the facilities at the existing Centers to accommodate the mother and child and expectant girls as they pursue their training/ informal school. Where there are none we will affiliate to existing institutions (churches and informal learning centers) in the affected areas; the communities may also provide land. We target 10 Centres country-wide centre. The teens will be provided with the informal learning facilities which can accommodate the teen and teen mothers. The day care center to enable the mother undertakes their skills training as well as care for their children.

2.3.1 Skills Training

The young mothers will be trained on technical skills. This will include; tailoring, embroidery, hair dressing and beauty, welding, and farming/ dairy methods, food processing, cleaning detergent-making, candle -making and many other skills that shall empower the young mothers to make a living and to support their children.

2.3.2 Support in start up for small scale business

They will be provided with tailoring and other basic machines/ equipment to set up small-scale business for those who complete their studies as a revolving fund basis.

2.3.3 School re-entry- the target is to support the adolescence and young adults back to school where possible. Those not willing to join former schools due to stigmatization may be offered learning at these centers which will be equipped with facilities which can accommodate both to allow the mother and child such day- care centre and lactating stations.

2.3.4 Advocacy and Missionary work- the girls will also be sensitized on their rights under the Constitution so that they can have the confidence they require to do their business and advocacy for other vulnerable children.

A model home of hope has been designed to include simple structure with dormitories, a kitchen block and a training block which will accommodate both formal school curriculum and approved ATVET approved vocational training.

2.4 Community sensitization

We target to reach out to vulnerable communities which have been negatively affected by high school dropout (refugees and informal settlements) and culturally practice early child marriages. The psycho-social support is very key to acceptance and re-integration of the girls into society where stigmatization is real. A sensitized community will provide the girls with moral support and care for the young ones thus facilitate smooth integration and acceptance of the young mothers among community members.

2.5 Training the young Mothers to become Missionaries

The rehabilitated mothers will be trained on outreach skills so that they become ambassadors of hope in their communities once they are re-integrated into society.

3.0 Project Funding and sustainability

The seed capital will be used to expand the training facility in the existing centre at Nairobi by procuring the additional training machines and construction of accommodation facility as the land is available. The sustainability component is necessarily so that the intervention can have a ripple effect on many more even without injecting more funding. The detailed budget and cash-flow is herein attached as **Annex 1** and the sustainability component is detailed in **Annex 2**.

ANNEX I PROPOSED INVESTMENTS BUDGET FOR MOTHER AND CHILD PROJECT (KENYA CHAPTER- NAIROBI).

The project target groups are the young mothers below the age of 20 years from vulnerable background. This is a group that has been forced into responsibility of Motherhood without any prior preparation. They are victims of circumstances and the cruel traditions and norms of society that has no place for young mothers no matter the circumstances under which conception took place. It is therefore a delicate situation of training the young mothers to become responsible at an early age.

While some of the young Mothers may get support from their families, some may not be lucky to get any support. It is therefore the responsibility of our centre to provide for the young mothers with skills and start-up support until they settle down.

The Promoters of the proposed initiative of supporting the Mother and Child have worked out an initial start up investable budget under the following sub-headings:

A. Total Investments required:

The total budgeted expenditure to enable the proposed first center to take off is **USD 89,000 (Eighty Nine thousand United States Dollars)**. The detailed breakdown is summarized in Table 1:

Table 1: Detailed Estimated Cost Items

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Estimated amount In USD</i>	<i>Contribution From Donors</i>	<i>Contribution from Promoters</i>
1	Construction of Dormitory	20,000	15,000	5,000
2	Construction of Workshop/hall	18,000	18,000	
3	Purchase of Machinery	15,000	15,000	
4	Preliminary Costs	7,000	5,000	2,000
5	Operational Costs (6 months)	12,000	10,000	2,000
6	Direct support to beneficiaries	17,000	10,000	7,000
	Total Estimated Initial			

	cost.	89,000	73,000	16,000
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EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Construction of Dormitory: USD 20,000.

This will be utilized to construct a simple prefabricated structure that will accommodate a maximum of 25 mothers plus their children during training. The promoters have acquired land on which to put up the accommodation next to the existing training facility to cut down the costs of transportation and to enable the mothers nurse their young ones during training. The estimated cost has been worked out by the local engineers with reference to international costs on constructing such a structure. The community is in full support of the initiative. The initial expenditure of the construction which includes getting the necessary paperwork from the local authorities, community mobilization and sensitization amounting to **USD 5,000** shall be paid by the promoters of the project. At the beginning, operational equipment like beds, tables, bathrooms and Kitchen have to be fully functional and to the standard required.

2. Construction of a training workshop/hall. USD 18,000

There exist 2 small workshops which hold three heavy duty machines and 6 students at a time. The workshops have been approved by the government through **National Industrial Training Authority (NITA)** . Young school leavers are usually assigned to a professional for a training period of between six months and one year and then released to the industry or set up their own businesses. The demand for textile products continues to increase with demands from schools as school uniforms, factory workers, farm workers and mining industries.

To increase the number of trainees to the desired target, there is a need to expand this workshop space to cover an area of approximately **1000sqm** . The workshop will also double up as an assembly hall where the Mothers and other participants will also participate in the advocacy sensitization and other extra curriculum activities. The hall will also accommodate the administrative offices.

The estimated cost of **USD 18,000** includes the basic furniture such as working benches and chairs, installation of electricity and water drainage systems as well as the ablution facilities necessary for the functioning of the workshops.

3. *Purchase of Machinery for training and production:*

This module of supporting the Mother and Child has two main area namely; the

i) phase 1-Textile related courses and post training support

ii) Phase 2- Sanitary product development :

Phase 1: Training of the Mothers in textile related courses.

In Kenya, the structure of education does not include technical skills. The promoters have been in the textile industry for the last 15 years. Textile training is therefore, the first choice of training for the young mothers as it is easy for the mothers to make use of the skills immediately upon completion of the course. Our focus will be utilize the experience and expertise of over 15 years to train the young mothers on total sewing skills starting from simple dress making to computerized production of high quality garments and embroidery products. The machines that have proposed for procurement range from the 20 simple manually operated machines, to 4 fully computerized machines for training. Additional simple sewing machines have been factored for those training who have graduated and need machine as a start up support on revolving fund basis.

Phase 2: Training mothers in courses related to production of sanitary materials.

Detergents, toilet soaps, cleaning materials and other related products are used on daily basis. The market for such products is ever increasing. It is therefore one of the courses that the promoters of Mother and Child Program have included as the next alternative to textile training.

The young mothers will be encouraged to train on the process of production of the detergents and related products. This will give the young Mothers an opportunity to access the market and start earning a living to support their families.

The machines and products that are used for the training have been factored in the cost of Machinery.

4. *Preliminary Costs of the project: USD 4,000.*

For a project to take off the following areas will need to be undertaken at the preliminary stage:

- Getting approvals from relevant authorities.
- Getting engineers drawings and mapping of the area.
- Paying for lease documents/occupation fees.
- Applying for licenses to operate and offer training.
- Insuring all the premises and Machinery.
- Mobilizing and engaging staff at all levels.
- Security arrangements for the centre.

- Provision of utilities including water and electricity.
- Administration expenses including engagement of full time office secretary and clerk.

Preliminary work requires team work and a dedicated team. However, there will be need facilitate the team members to undertake the tasks such as transportation, meetings and other overheads and meetings.

5 ***Operational Costs (6 months) USD 16,000.***

The crucial operational costs factored include community sensitization, scouting and relocating of the mother and child from their homes and provide them with accommodation, food, all necessary basic materials for both mothers and child.

The cost of the technical and support staff to train and care for the child respectively as well as those of the counseling services for the young mothers too have been factored. The project will run with an initial population of about 10 staff in order to ensure all sections of the program are functional.

The preliminary costs are usually the most expensive and that we have projected an expenditure of six months before our trainees are in a position to produce products for the market.

The operational costs that have been captured under this preliminary expenditure include:

- Feeding expenses for six months.
- Sanitary and related expenses-materials for the Mothers and Children.
- Clothing and other wares for the Children.
- Support staff to the Mothers and Children.
- Travelling expenses for the Mothers and their children to visit their homes.
- Medical expenses and personal out of pocket for the Mothers and staff.

6. ***Direct Support to beneficiaries USD 17,000.***

The direct support will be for the young mothers in form of start-up support and machines to enable them settle as well as support for their children early childhood schooling before they pick-up, settle and assume full responsibility. From past experience, if the victims of the past misfortune are not given hope for survival, they quickly recline to their old lifestyle. Our module of program is to support the Mothers and their Children to settle. After training, there will be a period of monitoring and training on market skills.

After a period of one year, we shall review our operations and introduce other courses that are suitable for the young Mothers and Children.

ANNEX 2 SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT:

The promoters of the program have considered all the factors of sustainability before making the appeal for promotion of the project. The projected cash flows indicate a healthy level of operation through sale of manufactured garments, offering embroidery services and income from training.

The summary of the projected operations is as in **Table 2**:

Table 2 Projected income from the project for the first six months. (USD)

S/ No	Description	Projected input(in USD)	Projected output (in USD)	Projected gross income (USD)
1	Sale of school uniforms	2,000	3,000	1,000
2	Sale of other garments	1,000	3,000	2,000
3	Income from Embroidery Services	2,000	4,000	2,000
4	Income from sale of sanitary products	1,000	3,000	2,000
5	Income from training services	800	1,200	400
6	Income from hire of event equipments	500	1,000	500
	Total estimated Income	7,300	15,200	7,900

Self sustainability from the operations of the program will ensure continuity of the same and more Mothers and Children will benefit. Some of the sustainability projections include:

- **Revolving Kitty for machines:** The young mothers supported with the sewing machines will be required to pay some nominal amounts after a grace period into a revolving fund set up to ensure that the machine kitty is able to procure more machines for new graduates.
- **Sale of Products:** The centre shall also engage in manufacturing of sanitary products like; soap, sanitizers, sanitary towels, toilets soaps and many other products. These products earmarked for production have a ready market, owing to the fact that the project is located within a populous area within the city centre. The income from the sale of sanitary products will support the Mothers and the children within the training camp.
- **Savings on labour:** the young mothers' contribution towards production. A small percentage from the sales will be credited to the mothers' accounts for support as a startup capital upon completion.

