Vocational Skills Project Proposal

Need for the project

Bulambuli is a deprived rural area of eastern Uganda. Some 80% of its population (total around 150,000) are subsistence farmers who live beneath the poverty line. We have identified that there is a need to address School Drop-Outs, and Unemployed Youths living within the villages of Bulambuli District, with a Vocational Training Scheme.

The programme plans to enhance the employability of 100 recent school drop-outs (aged 16-22) and unemployed youths (22-30) – both male and female, within the first one year period.

Why funds are needed

- There are high rates of unemployment within Bulambuli among people aged 24-35.
- Average Learning Achievement of the students is not satisfied. There is rampant school dropout among school going children and many students fail to obtain the necessary results to continue with further study – therefore these students should not be left to ‘fail’.
- AVS is aware that there are several formally accredited Vocational Training Institutions however those who AVS support may be unable to attend due to financial constraints, lacking papers and issues of transportation and accommodation.
- Careers support and advice is severely lacking in schools, students are often not aware of vocational learning opportunities and believe that if they have failed to succeed in the education system they have fewer options for employment.
- School drop-outs and youths lose hope and end up loitering, becoming irresponsible in the community and often find themselves engaging themselves in misconduct of all kinds like alcohol & drug addictions, gambling, prostitution, robbery among others – therefore enabling them to acquire a skill to support themselves we hope will prevent this.

Objectives of the Project

1. To provide vocational training to unemployed youths and recent school-dropouts to enhance employability and provide a skilled foundation to build a career – therefore reducing levels of unemployment in those aged 21-30.
2. To empower young people to believe in their dreams and to enable the acquisition of income (through formal and informal job prospects) so that they can support their household and families.
3. Foster a change in community attitudes whereby everybody is given the opportunity to succeed.

How funds will be used

**Pilot Programme**
Initially the programme will be piloted from March 2018 with 8-12 attendees from 7 villages enrolled on a Tailoring programme - delivered by a local tailor Mon-Fri for two months. During this period, a teaching programme/course will be developed, feedback sought from attendees, and a comprehensive budget developed to support the development of the programme to enable effective roll-out.

**Proposed Programme for Roll-out May 2018**
An initial one year period is thought to be realistic and it is assumed that following the Pilot Programme, the full programme and supplementary budget will be in place to continue with each project from May 2018 onwards for 1 year.

**Proposed Vocational Training Courses**
The following courses have been proposed and would be targeted at recent school drop-outs and youths – except for Computer Literacy which could also be attended by professionals (public servants);

- Tailoring
- Hair Dressing and Beauty
- Catering
- Computer Literacy
- Carpentry and Joinery
- Brick laying and Construction
- Plumbing
- Electrical Wiring and Fittings
Management of the Programme

- Identify the formally accredited Vocational Training Institutions that AVS can work with and agree the programme.
- Build course structure; Duration, Tuition, Associated Costs – Both to Beneficiary and to AVS, Course Syllabus’, Criteria for Completion and Attaining Certificate
- Identify 100 young people distributed fairly between school drop-outs and unemployed youths.
- Plan the budget.
- Help the students to purchase recommended materials and equipment for the course.
- In-house training at the AVS Community Centre by the hired tutors.
- Monitor and photograph the students, capturing the new skills and evaluate the success of the project ready to develop and extend for the future.

Expected Outcomes of the Programme

- Within the 1st year (May-May), 100 young people distributed fairly between school drop-outs and unemployed youths will participate in an AVS Vocational Training Programme – with the initial goal of 50% of beneficiaries to be engaged within income-generating activities formally or informally following receipt of training.
- Beneficiaries will become self-reliant and strongly resilient in addressing their challenges through newly acquired skills and learning.
- Beneficiaries will be able to use the acquired skills to enhance their careers and employment prospects.
- Beneficiaries will be able to use course completion certifications provided by AVS to add value to their curriculum vitae and enable wider career opportunities.

Budget required for the pilot project: £800

Budget required for one year programme: £5,000

Total budget required to fulfil this project: £7,200 (including administration).

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