



Street Girls Empowerment (SGE)

Proposal on
Street Girls Empowerment in Afghanistan

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Cover letter

Dear All,

I am writing to express my strong interest in applying for a grant to support the empowerment of street girls in Herat, Afghanistan. As you may already know, Afghanistan is a country that has been severely affected by decades of conflict and instability, and girls are particularly vulnerable to the challenges posed by poverty and lack of education. In particular, those who end up on the streets are especially at risk of exploitation.

I am writing to express my interest in applying for a grant to support street girls in Afghanistan. As you are no doubt aware, Afghanistan is a country that continues to face many challenges that threaten the safety and well-being of its citizens, particularly women and girls.

In recent years, the number of girls living on the streets in Afghanistan has increased dramatically, due in large part to poverty, conflict, and lack of access to education and healthcare. These girls are at high risk of exploitation, abuse, and violence. However, there is hope - with your support, we can help transform the lives of these vulnerable young girls through our comprehensive program.

Our program will provide these girls with a safe haven off the streets and away from danger. We will offer educational opportunities, healthcare, nutrition programs, and vocational training to equip them with the skills they need to become independent, self-supporting women. Our team of trained social workers, counsellors, and educators will be there to guide and support them through this journey.

We believe that every girl deserves a bright future, regardless of her circumstances. With your support, we can help these girls build a better life for themselves and their families, and pave the way for a brighter future for Afghanistan.

Thank you for considering our proposal. We look forward to the opportunity to partner with you in this important work.

Sincerely,

Sharifullah Karamat Salar

Executive Summary:

This grant proposal addresses the pressing issue of street girls in Afghanistan and aims to empower them through comprehensive programs and services. The Afghan society has been grappling with the challenges of poverty, gender inequality, and cultural barriers, leading to an alarming number of girls living on the streets. This proposal seeks funding to implement initiatives that empower these girls, enabling them to build a better future for themselves.

The primary objective of this project is to provide street girls with opportunities for education, skill development, and psychosocial support. Through partnerships with local organizations, we will establish safe spaces where these girls can access basic education and vocational training, empowering them with practical skills that will enable them to secure stable employment in the future. Additionally, we will offer trauma-informed counseling and mental health support to help them overcome the psychological challenges they may have experienced.

To ensure the sustainability and long-term impact of this project, community engagement and collaboration will be emphasized. We will work closely with local leaders, parents, and community members to raise awareness about the importance of supporting street girls and eliminating societal biases against female empowerment. By involving the community in this initiative, we aim to change perceptions, promote gender equality, and ultimately create a more inclusive society.

The grant funds will be allocated towards establishing and equipping safe spaces, hiring qualified teachers, trainers, and counselors, developing tailor-made curricula, providing necessary materials and resources, and conducting community awareness campaigns. Rigorous monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be put in place to track the progress of the project and ensure accountability.

By investing in the empowerment of street girls, this project addresses multiple development goals, including gender equality, access to education, poverty eradication, and inclusive economic growth. By providing these girls with education, skills, and psychological support, we aim to break the cycle of poverty and vulnerability, empowering them to lead dignified lives and become agents of change within their communities.

Success will be measured by indicators such as increased enrollment and retention rates in education, improved employment opportunities, enhanced mental well-being, and community attitudinal changes towards female empowerment. Regular progress reports will be shared with stakeholders, including the grant provider, to demonstrate the impact and effectiveness of the project.

This grant proposal envisions a future where street girls in Afghanistan are no longer excluded or marginalized, but rather are empowered, independent, and active

contributors to society. We recognize their potential and resilience, and with the support of this grant, we can make a lasting positive impact on their lives, fostering a more equitable and inclusive society.

Background:

Afghanistan is a country that has been facing numerous challenges, including poverty, gender inequality, and cultural barriers. These issues have had a severe impact on the lives of street girls, who are among the most vulnerable members of society. Street girls in Afghanistan often come from impoverished backgrounds, abandoned by their families or fleeing from domestic violence, forced marriages, or other forms of abuse. Without access to education and support systems, they are exposed to exploitation, violence, and psychological trauma.

The number of street girls in Afghanistan has been a growing concern. Cultural norms, limited educational opportunities, lack of economic prospects, and prevailing gender biases contribute to the marginalization of these girls. They face significant barriers in accessing education, acquiring skills, securing employment, and participating fully in society.

The empowerment and well-being of street girls are crucial for the overall development and stability of Afghanistan. Investing in their education and skills development will not only transform their lives but also contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty and vulnerability within society. Empowered street girls will become agents of change, capable of positively influencing their families, communities, and future generations.

While efforts have been made by various organizations and institutions to address the issue of street girls in Afghanistan, there is a need for a comprehensive, sustainable, and well-funded program that tackles the root causes and provides holistic support. This grant proposal aims to bridge this gap by proposing a project that addresses the educational, vocational, and psychosocial needs of street girls.

It is vital to build partnerships with local organizations, engage community members and leaders, and challenge deep-rooted gender biases to ensure the success of such initiatives. By involving the community, raising awareness, and promoting female empowerment, we can work towards creating an inclusive society that values and supports the rights of street girls.

Through this grant proposal, we seek to implement evidence-based interventions, monitor progress, and evaluate the impact of our efforts. By securing funding, we can establish safe spaces, provide education and vocational training, offer psychosocial support services, and empower street girls with the knowledge and skills necessary for their future success. By investing in their empowerment, we can uplift the lives of street

girls in Afghanistan and contribute to the overall development and prosperity of the nation.

Project Description:

The project proposal seeks funding to implement a comprehensive empowerment program for street girls in Afghanistan. This project aims to address the educational, vocational, and psychosocial needs of these girls, enabling them to break free from the cycle of poverty, vulnerability, and exploitation.

Education and Skill Development: The project will establish safe spaces where street girls can access quality education. Qualified teachers will be hired to provide basic education in subjects such as literacy, numeracy, and life skills. Additionally, vocational training programs will be developed to equip girls with practical skills, such as sewing, handicrafts, computer literacy, and entrepreneurship. This will enable them to gain employable skills and improve their economic prospects.

Psychosocial Support: Recognizing the trauma and psychological challenges faced by street girls, the project will provide comprehensive psychosocial support services. Trained counselors and psychologists will offer trauma-informed care, counseling, and therapeutic activities to help the girls heal from past experiences. This support will promote their emotional well-being and resilience, enabling them to regain confidence and focus on their personal growth.

Community Engagement and Awareness: The project will actively engage local communities, religious leaders, parents, and influential stakeholders to change societal perceptions and attitudes towards street girls. Awareness campaigns, workshops, and community dialogues will be conducted to address deep-rooted gender biases and promote the importance of female empowerment. This engagement will foster a supportive environment for street girls, encouraging their acceptance and inclusion within their communities.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Rigorous monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be put in place to ensure the effectiveness and impact of the project. Data will be collected on enrollment rates, retention in education, skill acquisition, employment opportunities, and psychological well-being. Regular progress reports will be shared with stakeholders, including the grant provider, to demonstrate the outcomes and justify the investment.

Sustainability: To ensure the sustainability of the project, key stakeholders, including the government, local organizations, and communities, will be actively involved in the planning and implementation process. Efforts will be made to build the capacity of local organizations and institutions to continue the project's activities beyond the grant period. Additionally, partnerships with relevant government departments and NGOs will be fostered to create a network of support for street girls' empowerment.

The successful implementation of this project will result in empowered street girls who have access to education, skills, and psychosocial support. These girls will have increased opportunities for economic self-sufficiency, improved mental health, and the ability to positively contribute to their communities. Ultimately, this project aims to create a more inclusive society that values and supports the rights and potential of street girls in Afghanistan.

Need Assessment

Street girls face unique challenges that prevent them from accessing the same opportunities as Title: Empowering Street Girls: A Grant Proposal (from street to university)

This grant proposal aims to address the issue of street girls who are at risk of exploitation, abuse, and violence. The proposal seeks funding for a project that will provide a safe haven for these girls and help them secure a better future.

The project will involve outreach efforts to locate and engage with the street girls, providing them with basic necessities such as food, clothing, education and vocational training. They will also receive counselling and support services to help them overcome their traumas and build self-esteem.

The ultimate goal is to provide these girls with education and vocational training so that they can develop skills and gain employment opportunities and break free from the cycle of poverty and vulnerability.

The proposal lays out a detailed budget that includes costs for staffing, supplies, transportation, and facilities. It also describes clear metrics for measuring success in terms of the number of girls served, their progress through the program, and their eventual success post-program.

Overall, this grant proposal is a comprehensive approach to addressing a Title: Empowering Street Girls (from street to university) through Education and Livelihood Programs.

Here are some reports on street girls in Herat province:

<https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-183391>

<https://unama.unmissions.org/street-children-herat-%E2%80%93-working-life-working-protect-rights>

<https://www.wvi.org/afghanistan/article/life-fullness-%E2%80%93-place-street-children-herat>

<https://en.didpress.com/10000-street-children-herat-local-official/>

Aims:

- To raise the awareness of society members on women's Rights, gender equalities, girl's roles in peacebuilding, girl's education in International and National space.
- To build the capacities of girls and young girls on the education process, leadership, skills improvements, child rights, participating in society activities and decision making:
- To advocate for girl's issues, girl's participation in strategic plans.
- To prevent women and young girls from all types of discrimination and violence within the society and communities:
- To reduce street children in Afghanistan.

Objectives:

- Changing negative attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs of the public that they are the main barriers and making obstacles for girl's education, women's role and girls participation, decision making, development, and girls participation in society.
- Promoting the principle of anti-discrimination and gender equality concepts in governmental and organizations' practices.
- Strengthen girl's groups and organization through capacity building and leadership development to ensure good governance, services, and justice for the exploited, ethnic minorities, and extremely poor people.
- Improve livelihoods and small-scale income-generating activities of vulnerable girls, especially street girls.
- Organize community-based campaign against discrimination and violence towards girls to establish children rights and dignity in the family and society.
- Establish a strong platform with government, non-government and private sectors to promote rights-based approach and ensure the rights, entitlements, and services for young girls especially street girls.
- Advocate and facilitate the local government to ensure women's participation in development, transparency, accountability, and good society.
- Protect street children and young girls from all forms of discrimination and gender based violence.
- Contribute and take positive steps to protect girl's rights, participation in the development process, peacebuilding and enhance access to Justice.
- Prevention and protection of vulnerable women and young girls working from sexual abuse, exploitation, and trafficking

Methodology:

The grant proposal for street girls' empowerment in Afghanistan will employ a comprehensive and participatory approach to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the project. The methodology will involve the following key components:

Needs Assessment: A thorough needs assessment will be conducted to understand the specific challenges faced by street girls in different regions of Afghanistan. This will involve engaging with community members, local organizations, and relevant stakeholders to gather firsthand information and identify the most pressing needs and gaps in services.

Design and Planning: Based on the needs assessment, a detailed project plan will be developed, outlining the specific objectives, activities, and expected outcomes. A team of experts, including education specialists, counselors, and vocational trainers, will be involved in designing tailored interventions that address the education, vocational training, and psychosocial support needs of street girls.

Establishing Safe Spaces: Safe spaces will be established in strategic locations to provide a secure and welcoming environment for street girls. These spaces will be equipped with the necessary infrastructure, including classrooms, vocational training centers, counseling rooms, and recreational areas, to cater to the different aspects of empowerment.

Recruitment and Training: Qualified teachers, vocational trainers, and counselors will be recruited to ensure the delivery of quality education, vocational training, and psychosocial support services. These personnel will undergo specialized training to enhance their skills in working with vulnerable girls and addressing their unique needs.

Educational Support: The project will offer basic education programs tailored to the specific needs of street girls. The curriculum will focus on literacy, numeracy, life skills, and relevant subjects that promote critical thinking and empowerment. Teaching methodologies will be student-centered, interactive, and inclusive, ensuring the active participation and engagement of the girls.

Vocational Training: Vocational training programs will be developed according to the local market needs and the girls' interests. Skills such as sewing, handicrafts, computer literacy, and entrepreneurship will be taught, enabling the girls to acquire practical skills and improve their employability. Internship opportunities and job placement support will also be provided to facilitate their transition into the workforce.

Psychosocial Support: The project will employ trained counselors and psychologists to provide individual and group counseling sessions, therapeutic activities, and trauma-informed care to address the psychological well-being of street girls. These support services will help the girls heal from past traumas, develop coping mechanisms, and build resilience for a brighter future.

Community Engagement: Engagement with the community, parents, religious leaders, and influential stakeholders will be a key component of the project. Awareness campaigns, workshops, and community dialogues will be conducted to challenge gender biases, promote female empowerment, and foster acceptance and support for street girls within their communities.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be established to track the progress and outcomes of the project. Data will be collected regularly to measure indicators such as enrollment rates, retention in education, skill acquisition, employment opportunities, and psychological well-being. The findings will be used to inform program adjustments and demonstrate the impact of the project.

By employing this methodology, the grant proposal aims to ensure a comprehensive, evidence-based, and sustainable approach to the empowerment of street girls in Afghanistan. It recognizes the importance of involving the community, addressing their specific needs, and providing platforms for their active participation and inclusion.

The proposed project will be implemented in partnership with Raha Charity Foundation. The project will involve the following activities:

5.1 Survey

Identification and sensitization of target beneficiaries – street girls in Herat districts and urban areas.

5.2 Elementary Education

Providing intensive primary education for three years and preparing students and giving them an output for secondary education.

5.3 Specific Education

Provide specific training for the capacity building of the students including:

- Life Skills training
- Soft skills training
- Brainstorming games

5.4 PSS Counseling

Provides free short term face to face psychological therapy for the students experiencing mild to moderate mental health concerns, and via telehealth for their parents whenever necessary.

5.5 Health Service

provide health services including:

- Check up
- Medicine
- Cure

5.6 Specific Training

Provide vocational training of tailoring for the students.

5.7 Healthy diet

To provide food for the students in the Raha Charity foundation for the students including:

- Breakfast

- Lunch

5.8 Road fare

Provide students road fare from coming to the foundation and going back to their homes.

5.9 Clothes

Provide specific uniform for the students in the foundation.

5.10 Stationary

Provide necessary stationary for the students according to their trainings.

5.11 Other actives:

In order to instill the value of the students and to raise the self-esteem of the students, conduct activities such as:

- celebrating the birthday of the students
- meeting with the parents of the students and encouraging the girls to come forward to their parents.

Expected Outcomes:

The grant proposal for street girls' empowerment in Afghanistan aims to achieve several key outcomes that will directly contribute to the positive transformation of the lives of these girls and their communities. The expected outcomes of the project include:

Increased Access to Education: One of the main outcomes is to ensure that street girls have increased access to quality education. The project targets improved enrollment rates, reduced drop-out rates, and increased educational opportunities for girls living on the streets. This will empower them with foundational knowledge, critical thinking skills, and a pathway to further education.

Enhanced Vocational Skills and Employment Opportunities: The project aims to equip street girls with practical skills through vocational training programs. The expected outcome is an increased number of girls acquiring marketable skills in areas such as sewing, handicrafts, computer literacy, and entrepreneurship. This will enhance their chances of securing stable employment or starting their own businesses, thereby improving their economic prospects.

Improved Psychosocial Well-being: Through the provision of psychosocial support services, the project aims to improve the mental health and well-being of street girls. The expected outcome is that girls will experience increased resilience, reduced trauma-related symptoms, and improved overall psychological well-being. They will have access to counseling, therapeutic activities, and trauma-informed care to help them heal from past experiences and develop coping mechanisms for a brighter future.

Community Attitudinal Changes: The project seeks to change societal perceptions and attitudes towards street girls and female empowerment. The expected outcome is an increase in community acceptance, support, and inclusion of street girls. Through community engagement activities, awareness campaigns, and dialogue sessions, the project aims to challenge deep-rooted gender biases and promote the value and potential of street girls within their communities.

Increased Agency and Empowerment: As a result of the project interventions, street girls will experience increased agency and empowerment in their lives. They will have the knowledge, skills, and support necessary to make informed decisions, advocate for their rights, and actively participate in shaping their own futures. The expected outcome is that the girls will become agents of change within their communities, inspiring others and contributing to a more equitable and inclusive society.

Long-Term Sustainability: The project aims for long-term sustainability by building the capacity of local organizations and institutions. The expected outcome is the establishment of a network of support that will continue to empower street girls even after the grant period. By fostering partnerships and creating linkages with government entities, NGOs, and community stakeholders, the project will ensure the continuation of programs and services beyond its initial implementation.

These expected outcomes collectively contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty, vulnerability, and exploitation faced by street girls in Afghanistan. By empowering them through education, skills development, psychosocial support, and community engagement, the project aims to create a brighter future for street girls and enable them to become active participants in their society.

Aspect:

We are thinking for a better future for street girls and we are trying to fundamentally reduce the number of street girls in Herat. The perspective of this project will be the following activities after primary education.

- Secondary Education (Raha School)
- University Education (Raha University)
- Job capacity building (REHSO)

However, we can achieve these hundred street girls and change the future of their next generation so that we can have a noble society and away from street children.

Project Plan:

Duration: 12 Months

Objective: To empower street girls in Afghanistan by providing them with education, vocational skills, psychosocial support, and creating a more inclusive society.

Month 1:

Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to gather data on the specific challenges faced by street girls in various regions of Afghanistan.

Engage with local communities, organizations, and stakeholders to understand their perspectives and gather input for project planning.

Month 2-3:

Develop a detailed project plan based on the needs assessment, outlining specific objectives, activities, and expected outcomes.

Identify qualified personnel and organizations for collaboration and partnership.

Month 4-5:

Establish safe spaces for street girls, equipped with classrooms, vocational training centers, counseling rooms, and recreational areas.

Recruit and train project staff, including teachers, vocational trainers, and counselors, ensuring they are equipped to work with vulnerable girls.

Month 6-8:

Implement educational support programs, providing basic education in subjects such as literacy, numeracy, and life skills.

Develop vocational training programs in fields such as sewing, handicrafts, computer literacy, and entrepreneurship.

Engage local businesses and organizations to provide internship opportunities and job placements for girls.

Month 9-10:

Provide psychosocial support services, including individual and group counseling, therapeutic activities, and trauma-informed care.

Conduct regular awareness campaigns, workshops, and community dialogues to challenge gender biases and promote acceptance of street girls within their communities.

Month 11-12:

Monitor and evaluate the progress and impact of the project through data collection, analysis, and reporting.

Share progress reports with stakeholders, including the grant provider, local organizations, and the community, to demonstrate outcomes and justify the investment.

Develop a sustainability plan, including strategies for long-term funding, community involvement, and capacity-building for local organizations and institutions.

Throughout the project:

Maintain regular communication and coordination with project stakeholders and beneficiaries.

Continuously assess and adapt project activities to address emerging needs and challenges. Document and share successful practices and lessons learned for knowledge-sharing and replication.

By following this 12-month project plan, the street girls' empowerment project in Afghanistan will work towards achieving its objectives of providing education, vocational skills, psychosocial support, and fostering a more inclusive society. Regular monitoring and evaluation will ensure the project's effectiveness, while the sustainability plan will enable its continuation beyond the initial funding period.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the grant proposal for street girls' empowerment in Afghanistan presents a comprehensive and holistic approach to address the challenges faced by street girls and empower them to build a better future. By investing in their education, vocational training, and psychosocial support, we aim to break the cycle of poverty, vulnerability, and exploitation. The proposed project leverages partnerships with local organizations, engages the community, and challenges deep-rooted gender biases to create a more inclusive society.

The expected outcomes of the project, including increased access to education, enhanced vocational skills and employment opportunities, improved psychosocial well-being, community attitudinal changes, and increased agency and empowerment, illustrate the transformative impact this project can have not only on the lives of street girls but also on their communities as a whole.

The budget and financial sustainability plan outlined in the proposal ensure effective financial management and long-term viability of the project, minimizing reliance on external funding and exploring income-generating activities and partnerships to sustain the initiatives beyond the grant duration.

By securing the necessary funding, this project can make a significant and lasting impact on the lives of street girls in Afghanistan. It will not only empower them with education, skills, and support, but also foster a more inclusive and gender-equal society that values and supports the rights of these girls.

With the unwavering dedication and support of the grant provider, local organizations, community members, and stakeholders, this grant proposal has the potential to bring about meaningful change and contribute to the empowerment of street girls, ensuring they have the opportunity to thrive, lead dignified lives, and become agents of change in their communities.

Together, let us invest in the future of street girls in Afghanistan and create a society where every girl has the opportunity to reach her full potential, irrespective of her circumstances.