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Growing Leaders From Every Soil

Concept Note: Empowering Vulnerable Children through Education and Holistic Development

Submitted to: We One Action Network (WOAN)

Submitted by: Sunflower Trust

Submission Date: 10th December, 2024

Executive Summary

Sunflower Trust is a Kenya-based nonprofit organization dedicated to providing holistic educational support to vulnerable children and young women. Founded in 2017, our mission is to empower underserved communities by fostering literacy, life skills, and leadership development through tailored programs.

Our flagship programs include:

1. **SEED (Sunflower Early Education & Development):** A literacy and play-based preschool program that prepares children aged 2–6 for primary school by fostering early literacy, numeracy, and social skills in a safe, nurturing environment.
2. **PALE (Pathways to Alternative Learning & Education):** An alternative learning program designed for vulnerable girls at risk of dropping out. PALE emphasizes mentorship, life skills, reproductive health education, and academic support, preparing girls for secondary education and leadership roles.

Sunflower Trust serves as a beacon of hope in informal settlements, addressing systemic challenges in education and ensuring that no child is left behind.

Gap Identification

Sunflower Trust has identified two critical gaps in its programs that impede the goal of providing equitable and quality education:

1. **Financial Barriers for Girls in PALE:** Many girls in the PALE program face significant challenges in paying school fees, risking interruptions in their education.
2. **Learning Environment for SEED:** The SEED classrooms require urgent repairs, including painting, to create a child-friendly, safe, and engaging environment for early learners.

Target Audience

1. **15 Vulnerable Girls:** Enrolled in the PALE program, at risk of discontinuing education due to financial challenges.
2. **850 Children (Aged 2–6):** Beneficiaries of the SEED program who rely on a conducive learning environment for foundational education.

Project Goals

1. **Scholarship Support:** Provide scholarships for 15 girls in the PALE program to ensure uninterrupted education and promote self-reliance.
2. **Classroom Repairs and Maintenance:** Revitalize SEED classrooms through painting and minor repairs to enhance the learning experience for young children.

Expected Outcomes

1. **For PALE Program:**
 - 15 girls will complete the school year without the risk of dropout due to financial barriers.
 - Improved academic performance and engagement through financial stability.
2. **For SEED Program:**
 - Enhanced classroom aesthetics and functionality, fostering creativity and focus among young learners.

- Increased enrollment and retention of children due to a welcoming and well-maintained learning environment.

Tracking Mechanism

1. Scholarship Tracking:

- Maintain attendance and academic records for the 15 scholarship recipients to monitor retention and performance.
- Regular progress reports submitted to WOAN.

2. Repairs and Maintenance Monitoring:

- Photographic documentation of classroom conditions before and after repairs.
- Periodic updates to WOAN on the impact of the improvements.

Conclusion

This initiative will significantly improve the educational experiences of vulnerable children and young women in Sunflower Trust's SEED and PALE programs. By addressing financial and infrastructural gaps, we can create a stronger foundation for lifelong learning and empowerment. Sunflower Trust is grateful for this opportunity and looks forward to the continued collaborating with WOAN to foster youth education and development.

Rukia Sebit

Executive Director, Sunflower Trust