

## **Girl Determined Interim Report**

### **Progress Report Content**

1. Please provide the following information:
  - a. Girl Determined
  - b. Colorful Girls Circles
  - c. \$50,000 over two years
  - d. Brooke Zobrist
  
2. Recap briefly what outcomes the program was designed to achieve.

In the first six months of the program, through September 30, 2013, Girl Determined successfully completed the needed steps in the activity plan. As planned beginning in June, the start of the 2013-14 academic year in Burma, Girl Determined initiated Colorful Girls Circles for 1200 girls weekly across Yangon and Mandalay areas. Based on that figure, indirect beneficiaries, including family members and teachers, will be 5200.

In order to initiate these circles several activities were completed beginning April 1, 2013:

1. Negotiation with community leaders – In April and May, Girl Determined visited with community leaders including monks, other religious figures, local government authorities and CBO leaders and school principals to seek acceptance of our weekly Colorful Girls Circles in their community. In order for Girl Determined to come to an agreement with a given community, the community leaders must commit to the program, specifically through preparing and donating the physical space for the activities, organizing the girls and, when needed, working with parents. In total, we successfully came to an agreement with five new communities in Sagaing region (just outside of Mandalay), three new communities in Mandalay Region and three new communities in Yangon Region.
  
2. Staff recruitment – In April and May, we recruited adequate number of community-based and full-time facilitators to handle weekly leadership circles in their respective areas.
  
3. Facilitator Training – In May we carried out a 10-day residential training program for new facilitators.

Training topics included:

- Why adolescent girls?
- History of Girl Determined and Colorful Girls Circles
- Overview of Adolescent Girl development
- Colorful Girls Circles Curriculum (with extensive practice)
- Basic facilitation skills
- Group dynamics
- Basics of sex and gender
- The difference between a teacher and a facilitator
- Reporting and finances

3. Has funding changed for this program? For example, have you received unexpected funding from another source?

Yes, thanks to support from the Australian Embassy Direct Assistance Program, which covered all expenses for Girls' Peacebuilding Summer Camp, Girl Determined has dedicated the total of DFW's funding support towards our key program, Colorful Girls Circles.

4. Is your organization or program situation different than presented in the approved proposal? For example, new executive director, significant program staffing changes or NGO affiliation, loss of large funding, or other significant changes?

Since the submission of the proposal there have been no significant changes in staffing, programming, strategy or funding. We have entered into a new partnership with Standard Chartered Bank and Women Win International, which will begin in early 2014. Standard Chartered Bank and Women Win will provide funding and technical support for the addition of a 'girls' leadership through sports program.' We are thrilled about this new partnership and encouraged for the potential of the girls as well as the possibility of securing future corporate sponsorships.

5. What challenges are you facing as you move forward with this project? How are you approaching these challenges?

Because of the current economic and political transformation underway, we are facing challenges with staffing. With increased opportunities to work in foreign companies and international organizations for significantly higher wages we are facing pressure to increase salaries or possible change the manner in which we work. We have lost two key members of staff in the past year. We have held staff planning sessions to build out a simple and clear human resource plan that we expect will demonstrate the opportunities for upward promotion within the organization as our programs grown and develop.

6. Have you revised your original objectives since the project began? If so, why? What are your new objectives?

We have not revised our original objectives.

7. What progress have you made toward achieving your objectives? Please address each stated objective.

The key objective of Colorful Girls Circles is as follows:

Individual transformation - Adolescent girls will go through some form of personal transformation leading to a change in a girl's understanding of personal power and rights. Shifts will include reduction of shame and fear regarding violence, ability to identify and express situations of discrimination, value of self and education, motivation and skill to actively make decisions about ones future.

As the current project cycle is mid-way and outcome will be directly measured once academic year closes in March 2014, direct achievement has yet to be measured. However, we have anecdotal evidence of changes amongst the Colorful Girls. For example, girls assumed leadership roles in the

preparation and implementation of our Annual Girls Forum in honor of International Day of the Girl. Adolescent girls from our programs developed performances, organize the budgeting, set the program, negotiated with service providers and contacted the media. The event also served as a 'launch' for the Statement of Girls Rights that was developed under Girl Determined oversight of a collaborative effort of 1000 or more girls. This statement is the first such statement develop by-girls and for-girls in Burma/Myanmar. Media coverage of the event was excellent and it was the first time that girls were really covered in a way that demonstrated their abilities and strengths as opposed to their exploitation and weakness.

See one example of an English language article:

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/feature/girl-power-rises-burma.html>

8. Do you anticipate any difficulties in completing your project in the timeframe outlined in your proposal?

We do not anticipate any problems completing our project within the timeframe outlined in the proposal.