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EIN: 81-3680165

PROGRESS REPORT CONTENT

1. Please provide the following information:
 - a. **Organization Name:** Global Pearls Inc.
 - b. **Project Title:** Child Rape Prevention Camps
 - c. **Grant Amount:** \$30,000
 - d. **Contact Person:** Lisa R. Spader
 - e. **Address:** P.O. Box 67080, Albuquerque, NM 87114

2. Recap briefly what outcomes the project was designed to achieve.

The child rape prevention camps were designed to fight against child rape in our communities. They aim at empowering and building the capacities of 400 children (200 children per year) between the ages of 5-15 years of age, within two years (2021 – 2022) in Kumba. The project was designed to achieve the following outcomes:

- i. **Children will gain basic knowledge on rape and how to avoid and survive it:** This particular outcome was achieved as 200 children were educated on their private and public body parts, safe and unsafe touch, building their safety network, breaking the silence on rape, children's rights, importance of story-telling in advocacy against rape, and of course rekindling aged-old African traditional sports and games (to put them at ease and have some fun so they would be more receptive to the difficult teachings).
- ii. **Changing cultural attitudes on rape:** We intended to use the media to reach as many as 50,000 indirect beneficiaries in order to demystify the discussions around rape and also educate men on the dangers of rape. So far, we have made appearances on two major private TV stations – they broadcast us on their major news hours and also as a TV program. A total of about one hour per TV station was dedicated to our program. We currently have a weekly radio program in one of the local radio stations in Kumba which allows listeners to call-in with contributions or questions. This program runs once every week for 30 minutes. We have been featured in 5 English Speaking news papers in Cameroon in relation with our child rape prevention camps. More to this, REWOCAM has received, handled and referred 31 cases of rape in the past 6 months. Most of these cases are cases of women who found their voices to share their stories of rapes that happened several years ago but they never told anyone. We also had 7 children who told us their rape stories during the camp and we have been working to counsel them. Perhaps even more encouraging, we are noticing that the police are taking child rape cases seriously for the first time and community members are shaming rapists rather than condoning their actions. This is a big cultural shift for Cameroon.
- iii. **Creation of Girls Against Rape (GAR) Clubs in Schools:** We have successfully launched and created ten (10) GAR clubs in ten (10) schools within Kumba 1, Kumba 2 and Kumba

3 subdivisions. These clubs are holding quarterly meetings and the focus is to bring the message that we delivered during our child rape prevention camps to a wider population.

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

Funding for the child rape camps did not change but we were privileged to received funds from Rise Portola Valley Chapter women to expand our work and this money was used to organize 4 child rape prevention workshops for parents with 258 women within Kumba titled “Mothers in the Fight Against Rape (MoFAR) 2021. These workshops were intended to educate women on child rape and to enable them to accompany their children in the fight against rape. During these conferences, some mothers broke the silence on rape that happened to them as children and they took the commitment to stand with children in the fight against rape. Note: before we accepted the funds from the Portola Chapter, they assured us that they were going to give their standard donations to Rise that month and that the direct donations to us would be above and beyond their normal Rise giving.

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

No, it is still the same. We only moved the start of the camps from August to July. We had to start early because the academic year was readjusted because of Covid-19.

5. Have the number of beneficiaries changed? To report this please refer to the original numbers in your grant proposal under Number of women and girls Directly Impacted and population Indirectly Impacted.

No, the number of beneficiaries did not change. For year one, we met the number of beneficiaries objective which was 200 children (150 girls and 50 boys).

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

The support given by TOGETHER WOMEN RISE helped us to go a long way. However, we encountered the following challenges which we are currently working towards mitigating:

- i. **The need to also educate parents:** We have come to believe that educating parents is as important as educating the children. Most parents we work with:
 - a. Believe they should stay silent if their daughter is raped or no one will marry her.
 - b. Feel the child is at fault if she is raped because she must have dressed or acted in a way that aroused the man.
 - c. Will often beat their daughters if they try to implement what we teach them. We tell the girls, for example, they should not go out alone at night to hawk wares. But if they protest when their parents tell them to go, they are beaten.
 - d. The parenting style in Cameroon is too often very punitive, so children are afraid to tell their parents when they are raped. We even worked with a 3-year-old child

this past year who was afraid to tell her parents she was raped despite injuries so severe that she had to be hospitalized!

- e. Parents don't know the proper steps to take when their child does tell them she was raped.
- f. Mothers very often were victims of child rape themselves and still carry emotional scars.

This has made us realize that workshops with parents are vitally important if we want to effectively address the issue of child rape. Fortunately, with the extra money we received from the Portola Chapter we were able to put on 4 one-day MoFAR workshops. We registered 50 mothers for each workshop in the hopes of reaching 200 women. 50 women did show up the first day, but when they went home and spoke to neighbors and friends, more women wanted to come. So, 64 women showed up the 2nd day, 70 showed up the 3rd day, and 74 the 4th day even though many of them had not registered for the workshops. Altogether 258 women attended a MoFAR workshop, and we intend to make this a permanent addition to our child rape program.

- ii. **Trouble with our pre/post surveys:** Child rape statistics are effectively non-existent in Cameroon, so we were hoping to gain some insights into the prevalence of child rape using our pre and post surveys for participants. Even after attending the camps however, we are finding that most girls are still too scared to admit that they were raped – even when we know the girls were raped, they claimed they weren't on the surveys. This was disappointing, but we decided to change the survey questions to focus instead on helping us better understand their reluctance to speak out. We are hoping to use that information moving forward to address some of the issues that keep girls from getting help when they are raped. We will use the new surveys with the 2022 camps.
- iii. **The exclusion of children with disabilities:** During the registration process, we identified several children with physical, hearing, speech and mental impairments but we could not get them registered for the program because there was no provision for inclusive learning and assistive devices to facilitate the comprehension of these children. With the help of the Washington Short Group of Questions (WSGQ), which we used during pre-survey, it came to our notice that there are a lot of children with disabilities in our communities and they needed this knowledge as well, because they suffer from double vulnerability as far as rape is concerned (vulnerable both because of their sex and their disability). But the fact that these assistive learning devices and experts were not mentioned in the project proposal and considering how expensive they are to afford, we were left with no other choice but to exclude them from the project. This has left us feeling guilty of leaving out an important part of our population. Nevertheless, we had a few of these children with disabilities who attended the camp but this is not satisfactory because we did not meet the 15% prescription as outlined by the international convention on the rights of persons with

- disabilities. We need to have a more inclusive program so that no one will be left behind. Next time, we would think about them from the conception to the M/E of a project.
- iv. **Current anglophone crisis:** The current anglophone crisis which has left the English part of Cameroon in uncertainty, we battled with the fear for calls for impromptu ghost towns, lock-downs and random shootings. To this effect, we had to make extra effort to ensure the safety and security of the children on a day-to-day basis.

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

No, we have not.

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

We achieved the following objectives:

- i. **Help protect girls from rape by teaching them how to avoid dangerous situations and what to do if they are faced with a potential rape:** To address this, 150 girls were equipped with knowledge on how to fight rape and 50 boys were educated on how to be a #He4She (#He4She is a movement where boys are advocating for girls rights).
- ii. **Bring healing to child rape victims by removing their shame and giving them a chance to talk with someone about their experiences:** During the camp, 7 children were able to break the silence on rape that happened to them and we engaged them in a series of counseling sessions to heal them from trauma.
- iii. **Impact a much larger group of girls/women by extending the messages to the broader community through media coverage:** We have had a number of TV, radio appearances and newspaper articles on our activities. This has increased our indirect reach to over 50,000 people.
- iv. **Begin a transformation of the culture by openly discussing rape and calling it the crime that it is:** We are gradually kicking out the culture of silence which usually leaves women with long periods of trauma and PTSD. Many women and girls are now breaking the silence and reporting on rape. Police are starting to take child rape cases seriously. Community members are starting to shame child rapists rather than condoning their actions.
- v. **Extend our reach through the creation of Girls Against Rape Clubs in secondary schools:** We have successfully created and launched 10 GAR Clubs in ten different schools in Kumba.

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

Not at this point. If things go well, with no escalation of violent conflicts as the case used to be in Anglophone Cameroon, we would finish our project for year 2 (2022) on time.