

PROGRESS REPORT CONTENT – JULY 2021 FEATURED GRANTEE

GLOBAL PEARLS – CAMEROON CHILD RAPE

1. Please provide the following information:
 - a. **Organization Name:** Global Pearls Inc.
 - b. **Project Title:** Child Rape Prevention Camps
 - c. **Grant Amount:** \$30,000 over two years – 2021 and 2022
 - 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 by educating and empowering 400 children in our child rape camps (200 per year), 1000 children per year in our Girls Against Rape (GAR) Clubs (500 per year), and thousands in the community through our media campaign. Our camps and clubs targeted children between the ages of 5-15 years of age in Kumba, Cameroon. The project was designed to achieve the following outcomes:

- i. **Child Rape Camps:** Children will gain basic knowledge on rape and how to avoid and survive it.
 - ii. **Media Exposure:** Cultural attitudes about rape will change - Women will no longer hide their experiences and men will no longer enjoy impunity.
 - iii. **Girls Against Rape (GAR) Clubs:** Over time, we will reduce the incidence of child rape.
3. **What was accomplished in connection with this project? Please address each stated objective. If any project objectives were changed, please also explain the circumstances leading to the modification of the objectives.**

We achieved the following objectives:

- i. **Child Rape Camps:** We helped protect girls from rape by teaching them how to avoid dangerous situations, what to do if faced with a potential rape, and how to get help if they become survivors of rape. 400 children, 300 girls and 100 boys, attended our camps. They 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 storytelling in advocacy against rape, how to advocate for girls rights, and, of course, rekindling aged-old African traditional sports and games that have

faded out. We helped bring healing to child rape victims by removing their shame and, for those brave enough to come forward publicly, giving them a chance to talk with someone about their experiences. During the camp, 13 children broke the silence on their rapes and we engaged them in a series of counseling sessions to heal them from trauma.

For example, Naomi, 13 years old, used to sell bananas every day before and after school to help raise funds for her education and for the family's upkeep. Her mum was a single mother and she was the only girl. One of her regular customers always asked her to enter his living room and put the banana on the table while he paid. One day, before she could put down the banana, the man started touching her breast and told her to stay calm. He finally raped her and threatened to kill her if she told anyone about the rape. When Naomi got home, she could not walk straight any more. Her mum pressured Naomi to tell her what was going on and she explained what her customer did to her. She said all she and her mother did was cry all day because they could not tell anyone nor confront the perpetrator because he was a top government official and everyone respected and feared him. That is how she lived with the rape until she attended the camp - not telling anyone except her mum, and she did not receive any medical or social treatment. She was 9 years old when she was raped.

There were many other children in the camps that we know had experienced rape, but they were not yet comfortable talking about it so we did not push them.

- ii. **Media exposure: We impacted a much larger group of girls/women by extending the messages to the broader community through radio and tv.** We have had a number of TV appearances, radio shows, and newspaper articles on our activities. By using media our goal was to reach people in the wider community 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 during 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 also have a weekly radio program on 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 newspapers in Cameroon in relation with our child rape prevention camps. These programs increased our indirect reach to over 75,000 people. We are seeing a transformation of the culture as a result of openly discussing rape and calling it the crime it is. We are gradually kicking out the culture of silence which leaves women with long periods of trauma and PTSD. Many women and girls are now breaking the silence and reporting on rape. With each of our weekly 30-minute radio programs, at least 10 people call in during each broadcast – that is over 500 people per year, and more people try to call in but the program ends too soon. Our REWOCAM office has also received over 50 calls from people who heard the media programs asking for referrals for services.

- iii. **GAR Clubs: Our goal to reduce the incidence of rape is a long-term goal, not a short-term goal, so we haven't yet accomplished this objective, but by extending our message to primary and secondary schools we hope a new generation will grow up less tolerant of rape.** We have successfully created, launched and followed up on 10 GAR Clubs in ten different schools in Kumba. These clubs are holding quarterly meetings, and the lessons from our child rape prevention camps are being disseminated to a wider population.
4. **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 Indirectly impacted**

Our goal was to impact 400 children through our camps (200 per year), and this number did not change. 400 children, 300 girls and 100 boys, attended our camps.

Our goal was to have 500 student per year attend the GAR clubs. In the first year, 2,212 students attended the initial presentation and 1,002 students registered for the clubs. In the second year of the clubs, an additional 620 children joined the clubs for a total of 1622 registered children the second year.

Our goal was to reach thousands of people through our media coverage, and we reached 75,000.

When we initially designed the project and presented it to Rise, we weren't planning to conduct parent workshops, but we quickly learned they were greatly needed. We decided to conduct parent workshops for 200 mothers the first year and 350 mothers the second. The demand was great, however, so we squeezed in 258 women the first year and 441 the second year. More than 100 women were turned away each year.

5. **What challenges did you face in connection with this project? How did you address these challenges?**

The support given by TOGETHER WOMEN RISE helped us to go a long way. However, we encountered the following challenges:

- i. **Parents:** We quickly learned that teaching children wasn't enough. At the end of our camps our children were eager to put their new learnings into practice, only to be met by resistance from their parents. For example, we taught girls they should not go out alone at night. When parents told their daughters to go out at night to hawk goods, the girls tried to explain it wasn't safe, but then they were beaten by their parents for not obeying. We realized we needed to teach parents, too, so we started holding workshops for mothers. Now it is a requirement that mothers attend a workshop before we will register a child for camp.

- ii. **Our surveys were inadequate:** We originally designed the surveys to determine if the children were learning the desired information. Though the pre-camp surveys showed a lot of disinformation, the post camp surveys showed that the children had gained perfect understanding. We were glad the teachings had been so successfully imparted, but we didn't feel the surveys gave us information on how to improve. Thus, we redesigned the surveys to focus more on why children stayed silent.
- iii. **Children are still afraid to speak out:** We hoped that by the end of our camps, girls would no longer feel ashamed about their experiences. Yet we found there were many children that still stayed silent. The primary reason according to the surveys we received is fear of the rapist. As long as rapists have impunity and continue to live amongst their victims, our children are going to be afraid to speak out. Though there isn't a quick fix to this issue, we are working with the Division of Social Affairs to try to tackle the systemic systems that hinder justice for rape victims.
- iv. **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. Children with disabilities suffer from double vulnerability as far as rape is concerned, so we felt including them was important, but the needed assistive learning devices and experts are very expensive and we simply didn't have the funding to provide them. One of our volunteer staff members, however, was also disabled, so we funded a small pilot program that she and a small team ran that took our teachings specifically to disabled children. Her tiny project was so successful that she won a \$100K grant from the U.N. to expand her work. Though we still can't include most disabled children in our camps, she has a separate project to focus on the rape of disabled girls.
- v. **Inflation in Cameroon:** Cameroon started experiencing high levels of inflation in 2022 due to the war in Ukraine. As a result, prices of goods and services increased, which affected our purchasing power. We had to make changes and new arrangements in the purchase of goods and services.

6. 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?

There have been no major changes within the Organization but we added two additional staff this year who will help us in the implementation of this project.

7. What were the most important lessons learned?

We learned a lot of important lessons:

- i. That there are more child rape survivors than we ever imagined. Though the children are still very shy about speaking about their own experiences, they told many stories about their friends and neighbors. Adult women, on the other hand, are becoming much bolder as a result of our programs. In the mother's workshops, about 50% of the women shared personal child rape stories, and there may have been others that stayed silent.
- ii. We discovered how difficult and ineffective the handling of rape cases is within the legal system in Cameroon. Two cases of child rape that we took to the Police and Legal departments died a natural death. Despite our follow ups, no progress was made. This birthed a new project idea – a project geared towards changing systems in the management of rape cases. Male lawyers, male police commissioners, and other males in positions of authority don't understand the issues surrounding rape. We have formed a partnership with the Divisional Delegate for Social Affairs. She attended all seven of our parent workshops in 2022. She has the authority to make rape conferences required for government employees, including male lawyers, police, and government officials. At these conferences we can sensitize them on rape case management, how to treat survivors with dignity instead of shaming and stigmatizing them, the importance of punishing perpetrators... If we can find funding, we want very much to implement this needed program.
- iii. For the past three years, parents have been scrambling to have their children be part of the camps. We are usually faced with huge numbers of applicants before and during our camp activities and we simply can't meet the demand. People are thirsty for knowledge on rape even though parents find it difficult to engage in sex talk with their children.

8. What has changed within your Organization as a result of this project?

The Project has helped to build a large network of women and children with whom we can network and share other project ideas. We have a database of women, children, and families within Kumba which we are sharing with other governmental and private organizations that are working within the women empowerment sector.

9. Describe the unexpected events and outcomes, including unexpected benefits.

We had a significant unexpected event this 2022. During the past years, parents have always expressed their interest to be a part of our closing ceremony so as to have to bird's eye view of what their children engage in for one week. As a result, we brought together 200 parents and all 200 children in one big closing ceremony that had the children perform the following:

- i. 4 quiz sessions on the topics covered
- ii. 4 traditional dance performances from the children

- iii. 4 Debate sessions on rape related topics
- iv. Prize and gift awards
- v. Award of excellent performance
- vi. Special gift of chance from the CEO to parents

During this closing ceremony, some female parents were able to stand up and tell their child rape experiences after listening to the rape story of the CEO of REWOCAM. The parents called for more children and parent conferences so as to stem the rampant occurrence of rape.

10. Did you change your strategy as a result of obstacles your encountered? How will you address this challenge in the future?

Key changes included adding workshops for mothers, redesigning our pre-and post-survey, inviting parents to the closing ceremony, initiating a partnership with the Delegate of Social Affairs, and empowering a staff member to start a new program for disabled children and women.

11. Approximately how many lives have been touched, both directly and indirectly, by the project?

The project reached 400 children with the rape camps, 1622 children with the GAR clubs, 699 women with the parent workshops, and 75,000 people through our media campaign.

12. What are the measurements used to monitor success and how was this information measured (e.g. surveys, observation)? Be specific and include measurable results.

Pre and post surveys were used to measure how well the children learned the concepts taught. All children demonstrated they had perfect head-knowledge after completing the camps and clubs, but we were less convinced they would apply the lessons – especially those about the importance of talking to someone in their safety network if they were ever raped. They are still hindered by fear of the rapists. And we found the surveys to be pretty worthless in identifying the incidence of child rape cases, since none of the children were willing to admit being raped on paper, even when they had spoken out verbally in the camps!

Most of our success metrics, therefore, stemmed from observation. The overwhelming demand for the rape camps and for the mothers' workshops tells us the need is great and the participants greatly value the impact. After registering 50 participants per day for our mothers' workshops, for example, the first 50 women talked about their experiences with family, neighbors, in the market... and each day more and more women showed up trying to get in even though they hadn't registered. On the last day of our mothers' workshops in 2022, more than 100 extra women showed up and they literally started fighting with one another trying to get into the workshop!! Women wouldn't be reacting this way if the

workshops weren't having an important impact on participants. Our REWOCAM team has been approached by people non-stop since the program ended wanting to know when the next child camps and mothers' workshops will be held – they don't want to miss their chance again!

13. If the project is ongoing, provide plans and expected results, including projected timeframe.

We have come to the end of the project funded by Rise, but we feel we have barely scratched the surface of the need. We are still seeking funding to keep the projects going indefinitely and even expand into new areas like a program training male lawyers, police officers, and others in authority to improve our justice system around rape.

14. Provide a detailed list of all expenses incurred during the grant cycle which have been paid for with the Together Women Rise grant.

This project incurred the following expenses: Playground, hall, transportation of kids, communication, sports wears/equipments, office running equipment, certificates, prizes, food, snacks, water, stipend and payment to staff, volunteers, security, media, sports trainers, SRHR trainer, nurse, authorization, roll up etc. Reminder: Global Pearls matched the Rise grant to ensure the entire program would be funded.

PROJECT BUDGET FOR GAR/BAR CAMPS 2021

PROJECT EXPENSES 2021	Rise Exp in \$	GP Exp in \$	Total Exp in \$	Exp in CAF
Sports arena, hall, transp, & communication	\$3,000	\$4,195	\$7,195	3,970,000
2 meals/day for 4 weeks	\$4,200	\$4,682	\$8,882	4,901,200
Sports attire & materials	\$2,997	\$0	\$2,997	1,653,500
Trainers	\$2,803	\$8,317	\$11,120	6,136,000
GAR clubs	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	1,103,620
4 mother workshops - Portola Rise Chapter/Global Pearls	\$2,975	\$3,025	\$6,000	3,310,860
Emergency fund for child rape victims - Portola Rise Chapter	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	551,810
TOTAL	\$18,975	\$20,218	\$39,193	21,626,990

PROJECT BUDGET FOR GAR/BAR CAMPS 2022

PROJECT EXPENSES 2022	Rise Exp in \$	GP Exp in \$	Total Exp in \$	Exp in CAF
Sports arena, hall, transp, & communication	\$3,000	\$4,780	\$7,780	4,665,000
2 meals/day for 4 weeks	\$4,200	\$2,761	\$6,961	4,174,200
Sports attire & materials	\$2,997	\$1,275	\$4,272	2,561,500
Trainers	\$4,803	\$5,537	\$10,340	6,200,000
GAR clubs		\$233	\$233	140,000
7 mother workshops		\$11,150	\$11,150	6,685,718
Emergency fund for child rape victims		\$1,000	\$1,000	599,616
TOTAL	\$15,000	\$26,737	\$41,737	25,026,034

Expenditure for 2021 = \$39,193

Expenditure for 2022 = \$41,737

Total expenditure for 2021 & 2022: \$80,930

15. Did this grant and relationship with Together Women Rise assist your Organization in obtaining other funding, partnerships with other Organizations, or public recognition in some capacity?

In 2021 we received extra funding from the Portola Valley Chapter - this enabled us to initiate the mothers' workshops - but we are struggling to get additional funding to keep the program going. We continue to apply for grants, and we recently recruited a former Facebook manager to spearhead our efforts in Cameroon. We continue to remain hopeful, because we believe it is a vitally important project.

We have had greater success forming important partnerships – with schools, churches, social organizations, and, most notably, a strong partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Kumba. They have agreed to intervene in all our rape and social cases and partake in all rape sensitization sessions organized by REWOCAM.

For the past three years, we have used our experiences to train other rape victims in grant writing, project design and management, and reporting. Three of our trainees have received grants to work on their own GBV projects. Two of them received small grants for projects that work with rape survivors and victims of intimate partner violence, including teaching income generating skills to IPV victims to reduce their financial dependence on men. One of our trainees received a \$100K grant from the U.N. to run rape prevention workshops with women and girls with disabilities.









