Title:

Empowering Young Single Mothers through Sustainable Livelihoods and Eco-Friendly Micro-Enterprises in Nakivale Refugee Settlement

Summary

Uplift Her Hub is an innovative project based in Nakivale Refugee Settlement, Uganda, that seeks to empower 100 young single mothers by providing them with sustainable livelihood skills and fostering eco-friendly micro-enterprises. These beneficiaries, currently grappling with extreme poverty and limited access to employment opportunities, will be trained in key skills like soap making, candle production, chalk production, and tailoring, all while promoting environmental sustainability.

Challenges:

Young single mothers in Nakivale Refugee Settlement face significant barriers to economic independence. The settlement, one of the largest refugee camps in Uganda, is home to over 120,000 refugees from different African countries, many of whom have fled conflict and persecution. According to recent reports, 95% of the women in Nakivale are unemployed, and more than 60% of them live below the poverty line. The lack of income-generating activities, limited skills training, and dependence on aid are the primary contributors to these statistics.

Past Interventions:

Various organizations have attempted to address these issues through skills development programs. The UNHCR and Windle International have launched educational initiatives to provide vocational training and economic empowerment. While these initiatives have yielded positive results in terms of skill acquisition, many young mothers remain unable to establish sustainable businesses due to a lack of market access, mentorship, and financial support. Additionally, previous projects often fail to emphasize environmental sustainability in their economic models.

While many programs focus on vocational skills training, the gap lies in the lack of holistic support that combines skills development, business management, mentorship, and access to markets. This is where Uplift Her Hub differentiates itself. By not only providing training but also establishing micro-enterprises, mentoring, and access to marketplaces, **we ensure that the participants are equipped with everything they need to succeed long-term.** Furthermore, we integrate eco-friendly practices into every step of the process, from using recycled materials to employing sustainable production methods, which will **contribute to both economic independence and environmental conservation.**

This model is scalable and self-sustaining, ensuring that young mothers can continue to thrive beyond the grant's lifespan. By addressing the root causes of economic challenges and introducing sustainable livelihood solutions, Uplift Her Hub will create lasting economic empowerment for young mothers in Nakivale.

Brief History of the Organisation

Uplift Her Hub is a community-based organization located within the Nakivale Refugee Settlement, focused on empowering young single mothers through skills development, capacity building, and entrepreneurial initiatives. The organization was founded in 2024, with a primary goal of helping young mothers transition from dependence on aid to self-sufficiency. Uplift Her Hub operates under a group-based livelihood model, where beneficiaries are involved in various micro-enterprises such as soap making, candle production, and tailoring. The organization works closely with local and international partners to provide training, mentorship, and market access to its beneficiaries.

Brief Description of the Situation

Young single mothers in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement face high levels of poverty, unemployment, and dependency on aid. The settlement, home to refugees from various African countries, lacks sufficient employment opportunities, especially for women. Most young mothers struggle to support their families and often lack the skills or resources needed to start a business or become financially independent. The need for sustainable income sources and eco-friendly production methods is critical in a region where environmental degradation and economic challenges persist.

Despite these challenges, there are untapped opportunities for economic growth, particularly in small-scale businesses that focus on sustainable products. By providing these young mothers with the necessary skills and tools, Uplift Her Hub seeks to change their economic trajectory, creating a self-sustaining model that empowers individuals and improves community resilience.

Project Objectives

- To empower 200 young single mothers by providing them with essential technical and entrepreneurial skills in eco-friendly micro-enterprises such as soap making, candle production, chalk production, and tailoring.
- To establish 5 micro-enterprises within Uplift Her Hub that will produce sustainable products and provide a steady income for beneficiaries.
- To promote environmental sustainability by utilizing recycled materials and employing eco-friendly production methods.
- To increase financial literacy and business management skills among participants to ensure the sustainability of their businesses beyond the project's duration.
- To create market access for the products both locally and internationally, enabling beneficiaries to sell their products and generate income.

Project Results

- 200 young single mothers will acquire practical skills in production, entrepreneurship, and financial management.
- 5 sustainable micro-enterprises will be established and running, producing eco-friendly products such as soap, candles, and chalk.
- 100% of beneficiaries will receive ongoing mentorship and support, increasing their chances of running sustainable businesses.
- The project will lead to a measurable increase in the income and financial independence of young mothers in the settlement.
- Environmental impact: The project will contribute to reducing waste by using recycled materials and promoting sustainable practices in production.

Project Description and Action Plan

Phase 1: Training and Capacity Building (Months 1-4)

Goal: Provide foundational skills in technical production (soap making, candle making, etc.) and business management.

Activities:

- Hire trainers to conduct workshops.
- Distribute training materials.
- Begin hands-on learning and practice sessions.
- Conduct basic financial literacy and entrepreneurship workshops.

Phase 2: Micro-Enterprise Setup (Months 5-8)

Goal: Establish sustainable micro-enterprises for the production of eco-friendly products.

Activities:

- Set up production units using eco-friendly equipment.
- Source materials locally, focusing on sustainability and recycled resources.
- Begin production of soap, candles, and chalk.
- Introduce quality control measures and packaging.

Phase 3: Marketing and Market Access (Months 9-12)

Goal: Help beneficiaries access markets and sell their products.

Activities:

- Develop branding and marketing materials.
- Launch an online platform for product sales.
- Set up local sales points and partnerships with nearby stores or markets.
- Train beneficiaries in sales techniques and customer service.

Phase 4: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Expansion (Months 13-24)

Goal: Ensure sustainability and assess project impact.

Activities:

- **Continuous monitoring and evaluation through regular surveys and feedback from beneficiaries.**
- **Reinvest profits to expand and scale the businesses.**
- **Train more beneficiaries and integrate them into new business groups.**

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring:

- Monthly progress reports will be submitted by trainers and mentors.
- Regular check-ins with beneficiaries to assess skills acquisition, business development, and challenges faced.
- Performance indicators will track the number of products produced, income generated, and businesses established.

Evaluation:

- At the end of each phase, the project will conduct evaluations to assess effectiveness, sustainability, and alignment with project goals.
- Impact assessments will evaluate economic outcomes, skill levels, and environmental practices.
- Beneficiary surveys and focus group discussions will provide qualitative data on the project's impact.

Implementation Timeline / Schedule

Activity Timeline

Phase 1: Training and Capacity Building	August – December 2025
Phase 2: Micro-Enterprise Setup	January – March 2026
Phase 3: Marketing and Market Access	April – July 2026
Phase 4: Monitoring and Evaluation	August 2026 – September 2027
Final Report & Project Closeout	September 2027

Budget

Item	Estimated Cost (USD)	Description
1. Training and Capacity Building	5,000	Training materials, facilitators' fees, and workshops for young single mothers in entrepreneurship, technical skills (soap making, tailoring, etc.), and financial literacy.
2. Equipment and Supplies	7,000	Purchase of raw materials (soap ingredients, candle-making supplies, chalk production materials, fabric, etc.) and tools for production (molds, sewing machines, etc.).
3. Eco-friendly Infrastructure	3,500	Setup of eco-friendly production units, including solar panels for energy, recycled packaging materials, and storage facilities.
4. Mentorship and Support Services	4,000	Hiring mentors and advisors to guide the beneficiaries in their business setup, marketing, and management over the 2-year project duration.
5. Marketing and Branding	3,000	Developing marketing materials, branding for products, and establishing an online presence (website, social media campaigns, etc.) to access markets.
6. Monitoring and Evaluation	2,000	Monitoring project progress and evaluating impact (including surveys, reports, and community feedback).
7. Operational and Administrative Costs	5,000	Rent for project space, utilities, staff salaries, and other operational expenses.

8. Miscellaneous	2,500	Contingency fund for unexpected expenses.

Total Requested Funding: USD 30,000

This proposal outlines the comprehensive approach for empowering young single mothers and providing them with the tools needed for sustainable livelihoods. Uplift Her Hub is committed to ensuring long-term success through community-driven and eco-friendly solutions.