

## **Request for support Teenage Mothers**

Community Focus Group (CFG), Pamela Ateka

### **Initial situation**

7.3 million of the world's births are to girls aged 15 to 19, including two million births to girls under 15. In Kenya, four hundred young girls between the ages of 15 and 19 give birth every day and an estimated seventy thousand are expelled from school each year because of pregnancy.

These groups of teenage mothers, who are forced to drop out of school and are at risk of drifting further into poverty, are being addressed by the Community Focus Group (CFG). CFG is a group of 12 Kenyans from Nairobi with a deep love for their country who have been advocating for marginalised groups and the goals of the 2030 Agenda since its inception in 2000. The 2030 Agenda, the most comprehensive social contract ever concluded by humanity, was signed and launched by all UN member states in 2015.

CFG's form of expression is storytelling, a form anchored in Africa to draw attention to injustices and challenges. The founder and Executive Director of CFG is Pamela Ateka.

### **Vision**

CFG's vision is to build a centre for teenage mothers that supports the young people in their new role as mothers, and to empower the girls and young women to develop their personalities, to take their lives into their own hands and to lead them to independence with an internal training programme (apprenticeships in various professions).

More detailed information on the situation of Teenage Mothers, on Community Focus Group (CFG) and on the founder Pamela Ateka can be requested.

### **First steps to setting up the project**

CFG launched "The 100 Girls Project" in February 2017 with the aim of providing 100 teenage mothers with an education and apprenticeships. To this end, CFG has initiated a crowdfunding campaign. Since they can only use the modest financial means to meet the great demand (already over 50 teenage mothers are on the waiting list) for currently 4 teenage mothers, CFG has decided to found a "small centre" for this great demand as a first step.

*"A journey of 1000 Miles begins with one step. "Lao Tzu*

CFG has the possibility to rent premises. *In the first step*, these will serve as a meeting place for the Teenage Mothers. The premises will be equipped with simple means. It has a table and chairs, an area for baby care with the necessary equipment, a kitchenette with cooker, oven, refrigerator and dishes, two/three sewing machines with fabric and design material, a computer and a laptop, a hairdresser's chair and some hairdressing utensils, information material on child care and training opportunities.

The rooms must first be cleaned, freshly painted and furnished. The Teenage Mothers should already help with this first step to the best of their abilities.

The meeting place is open and supervised throughout the week and has the following goals for a first step towards independence:

- The child mothers receive support in their role as mothers and have the opportunity to care for their children professionally.
- They have a contact point for their questions, worries and needs
- They have the opportunity to place their children in care there in order to complete their school-leaving certificate or an external apprenticeship.
- You have an exchange with like-minded people
- You can prepare a meal for yourself

- Selective further education courses in the fields of child care, design, hairdressing and computer science give them the opportunity to further their education in order to acquire professional and practical life skills.
- The infrastructure in the centre enables them to acquire skills and develop their own ideas on what to produce and sell (the population of Nairobi is big). So there is also a very big market).

This last point in particular is an essential part of the meeting place. Supporting the teenage mothers and giving them opportunities to develop and test their individual life dreams and "business ideas" and thus lead the young women into an independent life.

For this purpose, a system of micro-credit is being set up. This can be used to support small business ideas and initiatives of the Teenage Mothers (e.g. expenses for baking ingredients for the production of sweets that are sold at the market).

A first goal for the Teenage Mother group will be to develop their own activities to safely cover the costs of their children's meals and expenses and already earn some money of their own.

In a *second step*, the professionalisation of what has grown takes place. The infant area is being expanded into a crèche. There, within the care service, training courses as a "nanny" can be completed (which is in great demand in Nairobi), in a larger kitchen, the basics of cooking can be learned (an existing idea is to prepare a daily meal for the poorest people in the community), the basics of pastry making are taught and their products sold at the market or to wedding parties, textile design is expanded and sales markets are sought. In this way, the young women receive the basics for the labour market and the meeting place can already earn its own money.

### **Costs and fundraising**

From the existing spatial and personnel resources, Treffpunkte can be opened immediately. We would like to do the two-year set-up and trial phase via seedfunding and thus give the project a start-up for the first two years.

The one-off investment costs in the room and its facilities amount to around CHF 5000.

The annual fixed costs for wages, rent and maintenance amount to around CHF 25,000 (a detailed budget can be provided later).

For the start up of the first year, funds are needed for the fixed costs of the project. CFG is looking for parts of the investments in space and furnishings together with the Teenage Mothers - this as a first step in the creativity of building up an independent way of life.

For the following years, the aim of fundraising is to obtain funds for wages and room rent. For this purpose, a circle of friends will be established to take over these activities.

The Scuola Vivante association in Buchs is supporting the start-up phase and supervision of this project within the framework of its Agenda 2030 objectives.

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