

PROJECT LORAI CONCEPT NOTE



a project by





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Overview

Project Lorai stands as a significant initiative within the framework of 'Give Bangladesh Foundation'. This endeavor originated in collaboration with 'Pothchola', which is also a project led by GBF that works with the children of sex workers to help them realize their potential and integrate with mainstream society. Over the course of this project, a notable observation was made: when shelter homes accommodated the children of sex workers, it became evident that, over time, mothers would often reclaim their children. In the case of girls, they would follow in their mother's footsteps, and if the child was a boy, he would typically be engaged in professions such as rickshaw driving, van driving, or assisting on buses. Recognizing that the root of the issue needed to be addressed, the GBF recognized the necessity for an alternative approach. Essentially, the project acknowledged that if sex workers were not provided with opportunities to transition to different livelihoods, their children would inevitably face the same fate. Hence, Project Lorai embarked on a journey to provide alternative livelihoods for marginalized communities, including sex workers. Following this, Project Lorai expanded its outreach to include a new initiative called 'Bagh-Bidhoba,' which focuses on addressing the needs of widows affected by tiger attacks in the Sundarbans region. Additionally, the project continued its efforts by providing training to unskilled birth attendants, with a clear vision of improving maternal healthcare and ensuring safe childbirth in urban areas.

Purbo-Poschim:

The Purbo-Poschim program focuses on facilitating the transition of sex workers from their previous occupations to a new way of life. This is achieved through comprehensive sewing training and the provision of essential tools. Recognizing their inherent human potential, individuals are empowered to prepare for a fresh start. Upon successful

completion of the training, participants receive certificates, and those with valuable skills are connected with job opportunities in various factories. During the training, trainees had comprehensive health support includes essential services such as menstrual hygiene support, regular HIV testing, and medical camps. One of the distinguishing aspects of this initiative is the continued support provided even after the training is completed. Team Lorai maintain regular follow-ups with the trainees at their workplaces, diligently working to secure better placements based on feedback from their managers or owners.

Bagh Bidhoba:

Bagh Bidhoba represents a distinctive campaign led by Project Loai, which is dedicated to addressing the needs of the widowed by tiger attacks in the Sundarbans region, often referred to as "tiger widows.". Due to superstitious beliefs, these widows are often ostracized and isolated within their community. With limited means of livelihood, they struggle to sustain themselves. To alleviate their plight, the GB Foundation offers alternative living arrangements, such as establishing small shops, to enable them to meet their essential expenses through self-sustained businesses. These businesses are carefully chosen to align with the skills and interests of the women involved, ensuring that they can earn a living and support themselves and their families. Beyond the economic aspect, the 'Bagh Bidhoba' campaign also addresses the social stigma and isolation that these widows often face. By providing them with opportunities for financial independence, the campaign helps these women regain their self-esteem and confidence while reintegrating them into their communities.

Gorbhodharini:

The Gorbhodharini campaign is an initiative designed to address the shortage of skilled midwives in rural areas of Bangladesh. It acknowledges that pregnant women in these regions often face difficulties due to the lack of qualified midwives, leading to childbirth complications and higher rates of maternal and infant mortality. The campaign's primary objective is to provide training to unskilled birth attendant, equipping them with the latest techniques and practices for safe and effective childbirth. By doing so, it aims to enhance maternal and infant health outcomes and improve the overall quality of life for women in rural communities. The campaign also has a broader vision of creating a sustainable model for midwife training that can be implemented in other parts of the country. It is believed that this project has the potential to bring about a significant positive impact on the lives of numerous women and their families.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

1

Providing vocational training to sex workers to enable financial independence

2

Ensuring long-term sustainable means of earning for sex workers through creating employment connect

3

Offering essential training to unskilled midwives to uplift their skills and progress and reduce health risks for child labor

4

Elevating the lives of tiger widows and their families through financial aid and necessary equipment for shelter and income generation

Key Stakeholders

Target Population and Beneficiaries

The target population of Project Lorai is vulnerable women communities across Bangladesh. Floating sex workers, Unskilled Birth Attendants and Tiger-widows are primary beneficiaries and key stakeholder of the project, whereas the family member of the said groups are the secondary beneficiaries.



Partners

a. Kolyanmoyee Nari Sangha (KNS)

This is an organization led by Rina Begum, a prostitute turned activist, who possess international recognition by Sex Workers Network, An INGO working for the upgradation of living standard and upholding the rights of sex workers across the Globe. KNS

b. Kamrunnesa Khatun Foundation (KKF)

KKF was involved as a financial partner from the 1st-10th Batch of Purbo-Poshchim Campaign as well as the first cohort of Gorbhodharini Campaign. KKF is a Dhaka-based NGO which operates in the development sector.

c. Manob Kollan Unit (MKU)

MKU is an youth-led community based based on Khulna's Koyra Upazila. MKU was the implementation partner in Tiger-widow campaign, where they facilitated the primary survey, shortlisting and execution of business set-ups.

b. Gono Unnayan Sangstha (GUS)

This local NGO is responsible for supporting in the execution phase of Gorbhodharini campaign. GUS as an organization having lots of experiences working with international donors under their belt.

OUTCOMES

80 floating sex workers were provided with basic sewing training, 11th batch is currently in progress.

69 Floating sex workers connected with employment in garment factories and tailoring shops

15 unskilled birth attendants trained

8 tiger-widows financially enabled

PROJECT PHASES

Purbo-Poshchim

This campaign has been successfully piloted and is awaiting scaling up. Project lorai has training center and trainers equipped to train 16 trainees in a batch. Detailed budget can be provided upon requirement.

Bagh-Bidhoba

List of 20+ tiger-widows are ready along with contextual and relevant solutions needed to be offered to them. Provided that the funding is secured, lorai can delve into execution phase.

Gorbhodharini

Upon the monitoring report of performances of the trainees of the first batch, adjustments has been brought to the initial plan and it has been revised accordingly. GBF is documenting the proposal of 2nd batch for potential sponsors.

Contribution Options

PURBO-POSHCHIM	140000 BDT	PER 8-PERSON BATCH
GORBHODHARINI	500000 BDT	PER 15-PERSON BATCH
BAGH-BIDHOBA	60000 BDT	PER PERSON ON AVERAGE

YOU CAN BE A MONTHLY DONOR

1000 BDT
OR MORE PER MONTH

SNEAK PEEK

