



**WEEK OF COMPASSION SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT  
REPORT**

**For Global Ministries**

*Please type or print clearly. Return electronically to Week of  
Compassion.*

**SECTION 1: Basic Information**

<b>Area Office</b>	<i>Africa</i>
<b>Date of Proposal Submission</b>	Spring 2021
<b>Project Title</b>	<i>Daughters of Dignity and Destiny</i>
<b>Project Period</b>	May 2021 – March 2022
<b>Name of Local Partner</b>	<i>Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC)</i>
<b>Location- City/State/Country</b>	<i>West Ugenya Ward, Siaya County, Kenya</i>
<b>Total Amount Received from WoC</b>	\$10,000
<b>Person Completing Report</b>	Global Ministries Resource Development Office
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## SECTION 2: Project Summary

### Project Goal

*Referring back to your original proposal, what is the overall goal of the project? If your plans have changed from the original proposal, please describe.*

The West Ugenya Ward is one of the 30 wards in Siaya County. It is a predominantly rural community. Although the majority of the population practices agriculture as the major source of livelihood, many people still grapple with the challenge of poverty. Moreover, the challenge of teenage pregnancy is so widespread that it compounds the problem even further.

For this reason, the Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC) started a program named “Daughters of Dignity and Destiny (DDD)” in the Ward to address the challenge of teenage pregnancy through the approach of socio-economic empowerment.

Although it is reasonable to argue that a variety of factors is attributed to teenage pregnancy, poverty still stands out as one of the key factors credited to this challenge. If not strategically addressed, the challenge of teenage pregnancy also plays a pivotal role in creating vicious cycles of poverty within families and the society overall that linger on for decades.

As such, DDD seeks to empower the vulnerable teenage girls and school-aged teenage mothers, by initiating kitchen gardens and poultry farming projects for them to enhance their economic capacity. This will enable them to bridge the economic gaps that could act as a hindrance to them actualizing their full potential.

The goal of this project has been to address gender-based violence with the approach of the Swahili word, *Ujamaa*, which means *an extended family responsibility*. The project seeks to begin re-establishing mutual respect within the community, and to address gender-based violence and teen pregnancy at the causation level. Solutions would not be to address the victims alone, but to include the entire community. This requires a community support system that involves the family, the school, the church, and mentors.

## Primary Activities Implemented

*Describe administrative and programmatic activities implemented in your request for funding.*

**Activity #1:** Official launch of the Daughters of Destiny and Dignity. The DDD Program was launched in West Ugenya Ward on October 23, 2021 by the OAIC. The launch saw the program start off with 22 vulnerable teenage girls earmarked from a cohort of 11 families. The target group consisted of school-aged teenage mothers as well as vulnerable teenage girls whose economic situation could expose them to teenage motherhood. The launch of the project saw the girls' parents, community members as well as administrators drawn from different sectors of National Government, County Government as well as NGOs converge. The community response was quite positive, with many people calling for the expansion of the program. The community, administrators, and leaders pledged to offer their full support for the program.



**Activity #2:** Training course for the girls. The DDD beneficiaries and their parents completed their first training on November 20, 2021. They were taken through agricultural production processes on kitchen garden farming and poultry farming.



**Activity #3:** During the planting season of Spring 2022, various vegetables have been planted and eleven kitchen gardens have been fenced so far. The development of eleven chicken coops will begin following the planting of vegetables in the kitchen gardens.



## **Challenges and Actions Steps Taken to Resolve**

*Summarize what organizational and environmental (political, social, infrastructural, etc.) challenges arose during this past year that hindered the project achievement of its goals. Also, include how the project/program addressed them.*

The team members of the DDD project have discovered some of the various challenges that the teenage girls face. While some may seem minor, these challenges are lethal obstacles to the project's success. The following challenges have been identified for young girls in the project and are in process of being addressed individually:

- a) Inadequate lighting systems at beneficiary homes, which hamper the girls' ability to study from home.
- b) Cases of the girls' infants/babies suffering malnutrition. The team came across a child of one of the beneficiaries suffering stunted growth at three years old.
- c) Family feuds/conflicts are destabilizing some of the girls. Some teenage mothers are viewed as a burden by their families, thus facing hostility from some of their family members.
- d) Some orphans living among complete families facing discrimination.
- e) There are cases of some teenage mothers living with HIV/AIDS who lack proper awareness/education on how to handle the situation.

While the DDD Program anticipates many long-term, measurable improvements will take place for participants in the program, many lives already have started to take a positive turn.

## SECTION 3: Project Results

### **Client/Participant Success Story or Details of a Program Achievement**

*Please share a client success story or a program achievement from this project. The success story or the program achievement should be related to program activities implemented and should convey the need or impact of the project. If using a client/participant success story, please keep client confidentiality in mind. If available, include pictures as attachments to your report.*

While the program is in the early stages of reaching measurable milestones for long-term change, there are several stories of success and impact to share.

#### **Girls going back to school**

There are cases of teenage girls who decided to go back to school on their own volition before the project was even started once they were informed that they had been earmarked for the program.

Eighteen-year-old Cynthia was nine months pregnant when the team visited her home. She had dropped out of school. She did not have any idea of how she was going to make ends meet for herself and her child. Her world had come crumbling down and her future was thrown into oblivion. However, she shared, “When the team visited our home, I got fresh hope and zeal to go back to school. Immediately, I started making these arrangements. By the time the child was 2 months old, I went to school myself and directly appealed to the principal to admit me. I was not going to let the second chance God gave me through this project slide by. It is thanks to this project that my dream of completing my education was rekindled, and I know that a better future awaits me ahead.”

#### **Strong motivation for the girls**

*Yvonne*

When the team met Yvonne, she was not performing very well in school. Her schooling was threatened on various occasions because she was sent home for owing school fees, and therefore, she missed many lessons in the process. Although she is not yet a mother, Yvonne is an orphan who grapples with the challenge of poverty.

When Yvonne confided in one of the team members about her situation prior to the project being introduced, the OAIC team member talked to the principal about allowing her to stay in school and paying her school fees in small amounts. Following her introduction and participation in the DDD program, Yvonne’s grades shot up drastically. She attributes this shift to the hope this program has built in her. Yvonne reminisces on the moment she was informed

that she would benefit from the program as having felt a “glorious feeling, where beyond the pangs of darkness and disillusionment came light”.

### *Benter*

Benter, a teenage mother of one, thanks her mother for insisting that she go back to school after giving birth. She shares, “If it were not for my mother’s insistence, I would have missed out on the DDD program. Since I have been given this opportunity, I promise to work so hard so as to improve my future and that of my family”.

Benter’s mother, a widow, was so delighted by the program and felt that her efforts on her girl did not go in vain. They organized their kitchen garden farm in a record one day as compared to others.

### **Assistance/intervention by other stakeholders**

When visiting the homes of the target beneficiaries, one of the DDD team members found Rachel sent home for not paying school fees. She had stayed at home for two weeks with no hope of going back to school. The death of Rachel’s grandfather a month earlier threw her into a condition of dismay, frustration, and hopelessness. Apparently, he was the one who struggled to ensure her school fees were paid. Rachel in her dismay stated, “After all, people who are disabled like me cannot do anything meaningful in the society. Even if I will never be able to go back to school, it does not make a difference. The challenges I face prove that a bright future is not meant for the disabled.”

The DDD team paid her school fees to make sure she could return to school. Rachel’s hope has been re-born. She feels that DDD Program gave her a new sense of hope and identity, and she shares, “If they believed in me, who am I not to believe in myself?”



***Team visiting Cynthia’s home and Rachel’s home***

### **Mentorship on Reproductive Health**

Additionally, one of the DDD team members connected the DDD girls to another program dubbed “DREAMS” by CHS (Center for Health Solutions). This program targets to offer the teenage girls mentorship programs on reproductive health.



### Short and Long-Term Results

*Realistically link program activities to the difference they are making. Describe how the project's activities are making a difference in the short and long-term for both the client and the community.*

Many of these short-term results have been illustrated in the stories above. Simply by being identified to participate in the Daughters of Dignity and Destiny project has provided hope and motivation for young girls to believe in themselves, prepare for the future, and increase their focus on school. The program, including team members, community members, and school leadership are all committed to continue walking with these young girls toward their personal successes. Through their farming projects, addressing the individual challenges for each woman, and completing their education, the DDD Program plans to continue monitoring and evaluating the long-term results and impacts of this project.

### Best Practices:

*Please Identify and Describe processes or practices that you implemented in this project that were successful, and that you recommend for use in similar situations.*

A few best practices implemented in this project include:

1. Including the participation of community members – church leaders and volunteers as mentors, school principals, government staff, and staff members of the OAIC. Their participation and involvement creates a holistic approach to the challenges of teen pregnancy and breaking the cycles of poverty within families and society.
2. Training on kitchen gardens and poultry farming. These activities will enable each woman to bridge economic gaps that act as a hindrance to reach their full potential. These activities are also long-term in nature, providing participants with anticipation and a purpose to continue engaging daily in activities that will provide a brighter future.

- One-on-one mentorship program. This best practice ensures each teenage girl has a psycho-social support system for their personal success.

### Quantitative Results

Provide “numeric indicators” of your work in serving people and implementing project activities.

<b>PEOPLE Served</b> <i>Avoid Duplicate Counts between Categories</i>	<b># of People Served</b>	<b>Comments or Description</b>
<b>Women age 18+</b>	11	11 mothers of the 22 teenage girls in the project are actively involved in the training and nurturing of kitchen gardens and poultry farming
<b>Men age 18+</b>		
<b>Youth age 13-18</b>	22	Teenage girls actively participating in the project
<b>Children age 0-13</b>		
<b>Families/Households</b>	22	
<b>Disabled</b>	1	
<b>Other:</b> <i>specify such as employed, unemployed, immigrants, etc.</i>		



<b>ACTIVITIES Implemented</b> <i>-Specify Activities-</i>	<b># of Activities or Service Units</b>	<b># of Participants or Beneficiaries</b> <i>If applicable</i>	<b>Comments or Description</b>
<b>Example:</b> <i>Food Distribution</i>	3	3500	<i>Participants were provided with grain and rice</i>
Training on kitchen gardens and poultry farming	1	33	Teenage girls and their mothers participated in on-going training on kitchen gardening and poultry farming
Development of kitchen gardens	11	33	Kitchen gardens have been fenced and planting of vegetables have taken place in the planting season of Spring 2022
Development of chicken coops	11	33	Following the development of the kitchen gardens, participants are working to develop chicken coops

*Examples of Activity Descriptions: food distribution, legal assistance, trainings, workshops, clinical services, TB screening, intakes, pigs raised, wells dug, school supplies provided (units), etc.*

## SECTION 4: Financial Management

### **Required Attachment: How was funding used?**

*Provide a financial report of how gifts were put to use in support of your project. A template for this financial report is attached for your reference. Any report that does not follow this template will not be considered a completed report and not eligible for applying for WOC Sustainable Development grant.*

A financial report including the budgeted costs and actual costs is attached.

### **If expenses differ from the original proposal, please explain variances here:**

Variances in actual expenses compared to budgeted expenses is included in the financial report. Several activities of the project are on-going and have not been implemented at the time of this report. Once completed, it is anticipated all funds will be used as budgeted in the original proposal.