



UGA-WAK-SPT-P01 Kampala, Uganda
Reporting Period: June – November 2018

Life Skills for Pregnant Teenagers – Kampala, Uganda

Budget: \$16,800. Fully funded. Year 1 of a 3-year project.

The Project:

This project assists marginalised teenage girls aged 10 –18 with crisis pregnancies, usually as a result of rape. The girls, who have been sent away from school, home and their communities, due to the perceived shame it brings on the family, are taken in by our partners where they reside for 2–8 months during their pregnancy. The project provides vocational training skills in candle making, cooking, urban agriculture, tailoring and arts/crafts. These skills help them to secure jobs after they have left the centre or start small businesses to break the cycle of poverty. The new mothers need a means to support themselves and their child.

Progress Against Objectives:

- Three months of comprehensive training took place (from June – September 2018) with Monday-Friday training in cookery, tailoring and arts and crafts (such as candle-making and knitting) in classes running in the centre where the girls reside
- 52 girls received training during this time – 35 teenage pregnant girls aged between 13-20 staying at the centre and 17 other local teenage pregnant girls. In cookery, girls were trained in snacks, soups, African dishes, health drinks and how to keep an outside kitchen clean and tidy
- 26 of the girls received training in candle-making – all to help the girls find a job to support themselves
- Girls also received counselling sessions and other workshops to help them to adjust to their new lives
- There was a sudden closure of the Centre in September due to a change in Ugandan registration rules. This came as a surprise and a shock and the outcome of the registration is still pending as this is written. The girls were sent back home and young pregnant girls from around the town were invited in to continue classes. This included 4 young mothers and 22 teen girls from single-parent families. The Centre has been unable to admit new girls during this period. Plans to negotiate with the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development are underway to rectify this situation and our partners are very hopeful of the outcome which we will report.



Teopista is one of seven children living with her parents in poverty. She completed primary school but had no means to continue study. Teopista started sleeping with men to supplement the family income and became pregnant as a result. Our partners cared for her with counselling, medical care and taught her some vocational skills in cooking which she enjoyed. She has since returned to her family with her new baby. The family, whilst supportive, cannot support another mouth but our partners have provided Teopista with start-up funds to put into play the cooking skills learned with a plan to sell doughnuts to nearby schools. This will help Teopista and her family to improve their lives.

Thank you for standing beside girls such as Teopista to give them some skills and hope for the future.