



# TGUP SEWING CENTER

## *Save a Girl Project*

### Concept and Sample Budget

#### **Background**

UNICEF estimates that as many as 20 million girls are at risk of dropping out of school when they reach puberty due to lack of access to menstrual supplies. TGUP supplies washable, reusable sanitary products free of charge to girls through its ***Save a Girl (SaG)*** project. Each ***SaG*** kit contains 2 shields, 8 pads, 1 colorful bag to carry the supplies, 1 'Ziploc' type plastic bag and depending on the country, panties, and soap. When properly cared for, the kits last three years, enabling a girl to stay in school that much longer.

#### **Project Concept**

Create a sewing center to produce washable, reusable sanitary supplies to help girls stay in school. TGUP currently operates two such sewing centers, one in Nepal and one in Kenya. Previously, TGUP had purchased the sanitary supplies through a third-party at \$9-\$15 per kit. Our centers have reduced the cost of a kit to under \$6, essentially doubling or tripling the number of kits we can distribute for the same amount of money. The sewing centers provide dignified, well-paid employment to local women. They are staffed and operated by established TGUP NGO partners.



#### **Supervision, Monitoring and Reporting**

TGUP's ***SaG*** Program Director is Brenda Birrell. Ms. Birrell has been instrumental in overseeing the setup and design of the two sewing centers that TGUP operates in Kenya and Nepal. She has visited the center in Kenya twice and provided expertise to reduce costs and increase efficiency. She has also consulted with the center in Nepal to help streamline their procedures. She is now engaged in opening Affiliate Centers in Mozambique, Uganda, and other countries.

## Project Cost Breakdown

### Assumptions:

- NGO provides the facility to house the sewing center
- Fixed costs are the only costs required to setup a center
- NGO agrees to hire, train and manage local seamstresses
- Production environment and wages meet or exceed local labor standards
- Transparent accounting and management
- All kits are donated free of charge to girls
- Menstrual health education provided at each kit distribution

### Economic Factors

Affordability is essential to *Save a Girl* kit availability. TGUP works closely with both Associate Sewing Centers and Affiliate Sewing Centers to estimate and manage costs so as to keep the kits as affordable as possible.

Important elements of costs include fixed costs, such as sewing machines, and variable costs. Variable costs include both materials and labor. TGUP provides assistance to Partner Centers in covering these costs. All these elements are critical in producing a *Save a Girl* kit that is both high-quality and low cost.

### Kenya Costing Example KES/\$ = 100

Item	Qty	KES per	US\$ per	US\$ Total
Sewing Machine	2	25,000	\$250	\$500
Setup/cutting table	1	15,000	\$150	\$150
Serger	1	15,000	\$150	\$150
Iron and board	1	10,000	\$100	\$100
Misc. tools (scissors, etc.)	1	5,000	\$50	\$50
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$950</b>

Materials	Cost / unit	Cost / piece	Pieces / kit	Cost / kit
Cotton for liners (meter)	300	19.875	8	159
Cotton for bags (meter)	300	123.00	1	123
PUL for shields (meter)	425	31.00	2	62
Cotton for shields (meter)	250	17.00	1	17
Other (ribbon, snaps, etc.)	5	19.00	1	19
Material cost per unit, KES				380
Material cost per unit, USD				<b>\$3.80</b>

Labor	Qty	Cost / unit	Cost / kit
Assembly by KISI seamstress	1	200	200
Labor cost per unit, USD			<b>\$2.00</b>

<b>Total cost to produce 1 kit</b>	<b>\$5.80</b>
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