



## *Save a Girl* Sewing Centers

More than 20 million adolescent girls drop out of school every year because they cannot manage their period. It is probably the greatest *preventable* loss of human potential in the world.

The Global Uplift Project's *Save a Girl* Project addresses this problem by providing girls with washable, reusable, cloth sanitary pads. A *Save a Girl* "kit" costs about \$6 to make, but they are given free of charge to the girls.

The kits are made at TGUP Associate Sewing Centers and Affiliate Sewing Centers in developing world countries. Both types of Centers are independently owned and operated but use TGUP technology, which is provided at no cost. They employ local seamstresses in well-paying, meaningful work helping girls in their own community.



This brochure explains what a Sewing Center is and how it works. It details the difference between Associate and Affiliate Centers. It shows the process for setting up a Center, and an economic model. It is our hope that this will help developing world NGOs decide if they want to become a TGUP Sewing Center Partner.

## *Save a Girl* Sewing Centers

The Global Uplift Project works with Associate Sewing Centers in Kenya and Nepal. We are in the process of setting up Affiliate Centers in Mozambique, Uganda, and other countries. Both types of Sewing Centers are supported throughout the set-up period. Both types of centers receive:

- TGUP Proprietary Patterns.
- Detailed bill of materials of fabrics and tools needed.
- An economic model for calculating fixed and variable costs for setting up a center, and for making kits.
- Detailed kit assembly instruction manual.
- Training and full support from TGUP's Program Director via zoom, phone, email, or in person.



- Flip chart for giving education to the recipient girls on female biology, feminine hygiene, kit care, self-defense and dispelling myths and misconceptions of menstruation.

## Types of Sewing Centers

TGUP sponsors two types of Sewing Centers: **Associate** Sewing Centers; and **Affiliate** Sewing Centers.

There are many similarities between the two types of sewing centers:

- Both are locally owned and operated.
- Both have the right to use the TGUP and *Save a Girl* names in local promotions.
- Both have the right to use the TGUP educational materials when kits are distributed.
- Both are included in TGUP worldwide publicity.
- Both are encouraged to sew and sell other products (such as school uniforms) so that they can be self-sustaining.
- Annual recertification helps maintain high kit quality.

There are differences, as well:

- Associate Centers receive financial assistance in setting up the Sewing Center.
- Associates receive funding to help pay for kit production.
- TGUP may support other Associate Center projects.
- Associate Centers are required to report on kit production; Affiliates are requested to do so.
- Associates Centers report on specifics of kit distributions. This is optional for Affiliates.

## TGUP and Partner Interaction

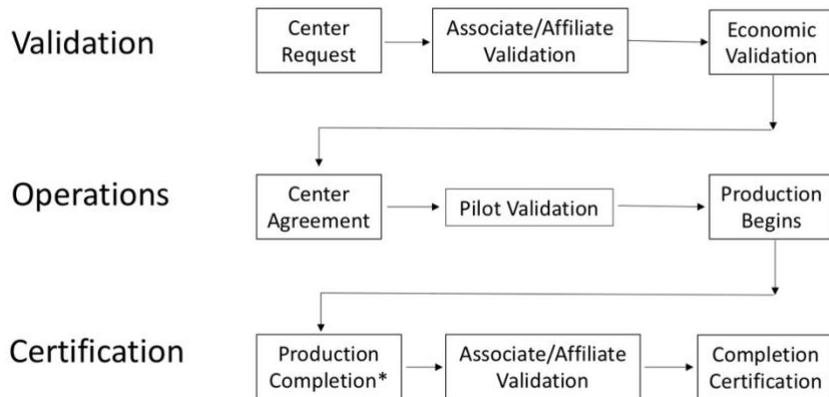
There is a well-defined process for an NGO in developing countries to become a TGUP *Save a Girl* Sewing Center. Whether an **Associate Center** or an **Affiliate Center**, there are three phases of the process.

In the **Validation Phase**, TGUP and the NGO exchange documentation establishing that the prospective Partner is a nonprofit organization, with a record of operations and financial stability. This may take from weeks to months.

In the **Operations Phase**, TGUP transfers its *Save a Girl* technology to the Partner, and helps the Partner achieve operations status. This includes prototype production through quality control and training in education and distribution.

In the **Certification Phase**, the Partner documents both the production and distribution of kits according to TGUP standards. This is optional for Affiliate partners, though it helps TGUP support the partner through its worldwide marketing efforts.

### TGUP Partner *Save a Girl* Management Process



\* Associate Centers only



These Phases can be seen in the above diagram. Once certification is completed, the Partner Center makes the kits, distributes them, and provides documentation for the entire process.

These reports become part of the TGUP marketing archive and are used to help promote the Partner's activities, both within its own country, and around the world. To the extent that Affiliate Centers also share distribution data, TGUP is also able to help them in their marketing efforts.

## Economic Factors

Affordability is essential to **Save a Girl** kit availability. TGUP works closely with both types of 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 Associate Centers in covering these costs. All of these elements are critical in producing a **Save a Girl** kit that is at once high-quality, durable, 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>
<b>Labor</b>				
Assembly by KISI seamstress	1	200	1	200
Labor cost per unit, USD				<b>\$2.00</b>
<b>Total cost to produce 1 kit</b>				<b>\$5.80</b>

## Summary



By helping adolescent girls stay in school, TGUP's **Save a Girl** kits provide one of the highest returns on human development spending in the world. This is possible because of the combination of high-quality, durability, and low cost per kit — currently around \$6. It is TGUP's Sewing Center Associate Partners and Affiliate Partners who make this possible. They are providing an invaluable service to their communities, indeed, to humanity.

Both types of partners help local girls while allowing local seamstresses to earn a dignified income, typically above the national average. This is often the first such income the seamstresses have ever received. TGUP is committed to the success of both types of its Partners, and to improving educational opportunities for adolescent girls in the developing world. We welcome inquiries by interested, qualified NGOs in developing world countries.