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EMPOWERMENT ORGANISATION**

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A. PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT INFORMATION:

REPORT NAME: Progress Report on the Implementation of S.H.E.H.A and E.N.B.G.D Projects in Magu District, Mwanza region, Tanzania
PROJECTS NAMES: Supporting Her Education for Her Autonomy – S.H.E.H.A and Enriching Neediest Brilliants Girls’ Dreams - E.N.B.G.D Projects
PROJECTS DURATION: 12 months for eac project, running from January 1 to December 31, 2024
PROJECTS REPORT TIME COVERAGE: Six months, from January 1 to June 30, 2024
PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY: Solidarity for Her Education and Empowerment Organisation – SHEEO
PROJECT FUNDED BY: Girls’ Education Collaborative – GEC
DATE OF REPORT PUBLICATION/SHARING: September 2, 2024

B. PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This half year progress report of S.H.E.H.A and E.N.B.G.D projects describe the current status of these projects and the milestones reached in six months (January 1 – June 30, 2024) with the unrestricted fund which we are grateful for from our valuable partner **Girls’ Education Collaborative-G.E.C through AFA Grants**.



The past six months were a pivotal period for these two projects we implement. SHEHA Project provided all the needs to the **60** most poor, rural orphans and vulnerable girls beneficiaries of this project studying at Lumve, Bukandwe, Kiswaga, Bujashi public secondary schools and Kisesa Teachers’ Resource Centre open school all located at Kisesa, Bujora, Bujashi and Bukandwe wards in Sanjo division, Magu district, Mwanza

region to insure they access education, attend their schools, study in a conducive environment and perform well academically and continue with school.

Through **ENBGD Project**, the **6** poor, rural, academically brilliants and talented girls’ beneficiaries of this project got full support to enable them to join and continue accessing a high quality education with all needs provided at Kitenga Girls’ Secondary School located at Rorya district, Mara region, Tanzania.

Under these two projects’ interventions strategies we managed to hold meetings and home visits to sensitize the parents/guardians of these girls on the importance of girls’ education as we aspire to build communities valuing girls’ education and support underprivileged girls determine their futures through education and abolish the culture favouring early marriages and pregnancies.

SHEHA and ENBGD Projects staffs and volunteers in this reporting time organized 8 education mentorship meetings for the beneficiaries in public and open secondary schools and 2 for the Kitenga Girls’ secondary school in order to empower all these girls with life skills, build their self-confidence and nurture their leadership talents.

Investing in the education of underprivileged adolescents’ girls victims of gender-based violence and discrimination favoured by patriarchal systems and practices of traditions, beliefs and culture hindering the value of women and girls and, affected by extreme households’ poverty in rural Tanzania is one among the core reasons of the existence of **Solidarity for Her Education and Empowerment organisation-S.H.E.E.O** as we are determined to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 4 by 2030.

The importance of realizing the **SDG 4** is inevitable due to its importance and connection with other SDGs because we believe that without achieving the SDG 4, all other SDGs will fall behind unfulfilled.

Since 2022, GEC has partnered with SHEEO NGO by funding **Enriching Neediest Brilliants Girls' Dreams - E.N.B.G.D Project (formerly known as Nurturing Talented Girls' Leaders of Tomorrow – NTGLT project)** and **Supporting Her Education for Her Autonomy - S.H.E.H.A Project** since 2023.

Our partnership with **Girls' Education Collaborative - G.E.C** in providing girls' access to education has been extremely fruitful and has restored hope to the girls' beneficiaries as without this support many of them could drop out of schools and jeopardize their development and future. We help these marginalized rural restore their hope for a better future and re-write their own history because the multiple challenges they face set them in a position to fail in their access to education.

E.N.B.G.D Project focuses on sponsoring the education of needy bright girls with high academic performance and leadership talents to pursue quality secondary education in private secondary schools and colleges in order to prepare them to become leaders of tomorrow and compete for high earnings jobs to change their lives and communities while **S.H.E.H.A project** supports the access and successful completion of secondary education for rural underprivileged girls who are studying in rural public secondary schools by tackling the challenges they face which lead thousands of rural girls to drop out of schools.

C. PROJECT HEALTH OVERVIEW:

During this reporting time (January 1 to June 30, 2024), the overall performance for these two projects went really well despite having some challenges with SHEHA Project budget constraints as explained below.

SHEHA Project has a total number of **60 girls' beneficiaries** and the cost for covering the educational needs for one girl per year is **US \$300** which covers **purchases/payments of School Supplies and Other Contributions, subject books based on Tanzania curriculum, extra/remedial lessons, first aid, uniforms, shoes, bag, transport and food.** The direct cost to educate 60 girls beneficiaries of SHEHA Project is **US \$18,000.00** and the costs for implementing education and life skills mentorship meetings to promote girls' right to education and self-esteem in this year is **US \$6,000.** Therefore, in total, to implement SHEHA Project in the year 2024 in the 4 partner public secondary schools where SHEHA Project beneficiaries study costs **US \$24,000.00** only.

For the implementation year 2024, we got an unrestricted grant of **US \$10,000.00** from our valuable partner **Girls' Education Collaborative (GEC)** through **Ally Funder Alliance (AFA) Grants** for the second time to be allocated for our girls' centered program as we got the same amount for this project implementation in the year **2023.** These funds were allocated to support the 60 girls' beneficiaries SHEHA Project in this year 2024.

From October 2023, SHEEO NGO started mobilizing resources to cover the budget deficit for SHEHA Project implementation for the year 2024 but we ended up succeeding to raise **US \$2,500.00** more only in which **SHEEO NGO members** committed to contribute **US \$2,260.00** and the **US \$240** came from **Compasio Global Child Advocates** as a donation from our friend and supporter **Deborah Meyer** from the **USA** who started helping these girls since 2022 by donating that valuable amount every year up to this time.

Thus, the actual funding for the implementation of SHEHA Project in this year 2024 is **US \$12,500.00** only and the deficit to complete all the activities initially planned for the year 2024 is **US \$11,500.00.**

Due to this budget deficit, the SHEHA Project staffs, volunteers and beneficiaries sat down and made some changes on the Project initial plan to fix things with the funds available but with high consideration of the results which the project strives to achieve in the year 2024.

To the side of **ENBGD Project,** our partner **GEC** committed to sponsor the school fees as billed to them by **Kitenga Girls' Secondary School (KGSS)** and added **US \$1,730.00 in the year 2024 funding contract to cover** fully other Contributions and school supplies for the **6 girls' beneficiaries of ENBGD Project** studying at Kitenga Girls' Secondary School. **The GEC sponsorship to these neediest brilliants' girls is totally 100%.**

After the changes made specifically to SHEHA Project initial plan and the grace of the additional funding to the side of ENBGD Project, in this year 2024 these project are implementing the following activities:

C1. ACTIVITIES PLANNED BY S.H.E.H.A PROJECT IN THE YEAR 2024:

Activity 1: Supporting 60 most poor, orphans and vulnerable, rural, public secondary schools and open school's girls with sanitary pads and soap each with 24 packets of disposable pads and 12 bars of soap for

proper menstrual management and hygiene by December 2024;

Activity 2: Supporting 60 most poor, orphans and vulnerable, rural, public secondary schools and open school's girls with scholastic materials each with 15 Counter books of size Quire two, 20 blue pens, 1 pair of school shoes, 1 school skirt, 1 shirt, 1 embroider sweater and 2 pairs of school socks by December 2024;

Activity 3: Offering food support for 6 most poor, orphans, and vulnerable rural girls beneficiaries of SHEHA Project studying at Lumve Secondary School who are candidates for National Examinations and accommodated at a temporary hostel organized by their school for exams preparations by October 2024;

Activity 4: Conducting 16 Girls' Education and life skills mentorship meetings to benefit 60 most poor, orphans and vulnerable rural secondary schools and open school's girls by December 2024;

Activity 5: Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Reporting.

C2. ACTIVITIES PLANNED BY E.N.B.G.D PROJECT IN 2024

Activity 1: Sponsoring 6 neediest brilliant girls' access to education by providing financial support to cover/pay for tuition fees, scholastic materials, transport, sanitary pads, soaps, food and other necessary needs to help these students study in a peaceful and conducive environment for their academic success at Kitenga Girls' Secondary School by December 2024;

Activity 2: Conducting 4 Girls' Education and Leadership Skills mentorship meetings during holidays to benefit 6 neediest bright girls studying at Kitenga Girls' Secondary School by December 2024;

Activity 3: Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Reporting.

The beneficiaries, parents, guardians and various local girls' education stakeholders are so much full of praises and gratefulness for these projects' impacts on girls' future and lives and so far the supported girls are determined to improve their lives, families and communities after completing their studies and access employment opportunities.



We highly acknowledge the kindness, generosity and support from GEC_AFA Grant, our friend and supporter Debora Meyer and SHEEO NGO members for making the implementation of these projects possible. The work of making everlasting impact in the lives of these suffering girls through these projects is indeed moving well.

D. PROJECTS BENEFICIARIES

SHEHA Project Beneficiaries:

- This project benefit directly 60 most poor, orphans and vulnerable girls studying in public rural secondary schools and Open school in Magu district, Mwanza region in Tanzania;
- Indirect beneficiaries of this project are hundreds of parents, guardians and relatives of the supported girls and their communities at large.

ENBGD Project Beneficiaries:

- This project reaches directly 6 needy bright girls studying Kitenga Girls' Secondary School in Rorya district, Mara region in Tanzania;
- Indirect beneficiaries of this project are hundreds of parents, guardians and relatives of the supported girls and their communities at large.

E. PROJECTS OVERALL GOALS

SHEHA Project Overall Goal:

Supporting the access and successful academic completion of secondary education for the most underprivileged rural girls in public secondary schools and Open schools to help them drive changes in their lives and communities using the power of education in Magu district, Mwanza region.

ENBGD Project Overall Goal:

Sponsoring the education of neediest bright rural girls to pursue quality secondary education in private secondary schools in order to prepare them to become leaders of tomorrow and compete for high earnings

jobs to change their lives and communities.

F. PROJECTS' OBJECTIVES:

SHEHA Project Objectives for the implementation year 2024:

- **Objective 1:** Provide education sponsorship, mentorship, accompaniment and life skills empowerment to 60 most underprivileged adolescent' girls in 4 public secondary schools and 1 open school in Magu district;



- **Objective 2:** Increase awareness of school parents' committees, school staffs and students on valuing and promoting girls' education, mutual cooperation, support and respect between adolescents' girls and boys for their better academic performance.

ENBGD Project Objectives for the implementation year 2024:

- **Objective 1:** Sponsor 6 needy bright girls' access to education at Kitenga Girls' Secondary school through payment of their tuition fees and other contributions and provision of school supplies and other necessities in their access to education;

- **Objective 2:** Equip, Mentor, coach and accompany 6 brilliant neediest rural girls studying at Kitenga Girls' Secondary school during holiday seasons in the school calendar 2024 with leadership and life skills necessary to help them make their dreams happen, nurture their leadership talents and lead the change in their lives and communities.

G. PROJECTS PROGRESS STATUS FOR THIS SPECIFIC REPORTING TIME (JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 2024):

Below is the description of S.H.E.H.A and E.N.B.G.D projects' implemented activities and milestones reached in this reporting time as evidenced through projects' implementation monthly reports, projects volunteers' observations and discussions undertaken with direct and indirect project beneficiaries:

S.H.E.H.A PROJECT ACTIVITIES ACCOMPLISHED AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: To support 60 most poor, orphans and vulnerable girls studying at Lumve, Kiswaga, Bujashi and Bukandwe secondary schools and Kisesa TRC Open School with sanitary pads, soap and menstrual health education for proper menstrual management and hygiene.

OUTCOME: In February, April and May 2024, S.H.E.H.A project's staff and volunteers distributed a total of 12 packets of disposable sanitary pads and 6 bars of soap per every girl to all 60 project beneficiaries.

Through observations of S.H.E.H.A project's volunteers, they reported that in these six months, the sanitary pads, soaps and menstrual health education helped to improve supported girls' school attendance and hygiene.

ACTIVITY 2: To support 60 most poor, orphans and vulnerable rural secondary schools girls with scholastic materials.

OUTCOME: In April 2024, S.H.E.H.A project's staff and volunteers distributed a total of 10 counter books of quire 2 sizes, 10 blue pens, 1 pair of school shoes, 1 school skirts, 1 shirt, 1 school sweater and 2 pairs of school socks per every girl to all 60 project beneficiaries.

The project volunteers' observations and academic documents showed that the provided scholastic materials fostered supported girls' enrollment, retention and academic performance rates in schools

ACTIVITY 3: To offer food support for 6 most poor, orphans, and vulnerable rural girls studying at Lumve Secondary School who are candidates for National Examinations and accommodated at a temporary hostel organized by their school for exams preparations.

OUTCOME: In January, February, March, April, May and June 2024, S.H.E.H.A project staff made 6 months payment of food contribution for 6 girls at Lumve secondary school. Living in a school hostel for those 6 girls enhanced their academic performance as it maximized their study time and created an environment conducive for learning. Moreover, beyond academics, it has contributed to their life skills development such as self-esteem, time management and decision-making skills which further enhanced their academic performance and their overall growth and success as well. We believe through this initiative and support provided they will succeed in their national examinations.

ACTIVITY 4: To conduct 8 Girls' Education and life skills mentorship meetings to benefit 60 most poor, orphans and vulnerable rural secondary schools and open school's girls in 5 partner schools.

OUTCOME: In March and May 2024, S.H.E.H.A project staff and volunteers conducted 8 girls' education mentorship meetings and 60 impoverished rural girls at Lumve, Bukandwe, Bujashi, Kiswaga public secondary schools and Kisesa TRC Open School were mentored on the importance of education and impacted with life skills on building self-confidence and sexual and reproductive health education, abilities and expertise that they need to set themselves up for success.

These mentorship meetings increased those girls' commitment to school and studies and ultimately improved their academic performance in the past six months.

ACTIVITY 5: Reporting, Monitoring and evaluation: The S.H.E.H.A Project staff and volunteers are carrying this activity and it has made the project to move out well and on track until today.

E.N.B.G.D PROJECT ACTIVITIES ACCOMPLISHED

Activity 1: To sponsor 6 needy bright girls studying at Kitenga Girls' Secondary School to access education through payment of their tuition fees and other contributions and provision of school supplies and other necessities.

OUTCOME: our partner GEC in this reporting time sponsored the tuition fees, school supplies and other contributions for the 6 girls' beneficiaries of ENBGD Project studying at Kitenga Girls' Secondary School. With this sponsorship the supported girls attended fully the school and performed academically very well based on their academic results presented to the project team. No any challenge was expressed about the school and the sponsorship they get during this reporting time.



ACTIVITY 2: To conduct 2 Girls' Education and life skills mentorship meetings to benefit 6 needy brilliant girls to prepare them for leadership.

OUTCOME: In April and June 2024, we were able to conduct two mentorship meetings and 6 needy brilliant girls studying at Kitenga Girls' Secondary School were impacted on the importance of education and how to build their self-esteem and encourage them on taking leadership roles in their school. Gladly one among two among the six girls got confidence, contested and were elected as dormitories' leaders. This is so important in nurturing their leadership talents.

H. PROJECT TIMELINE AND MILESTONES:

The projects are still moving on well and the implementation of the remained activities and review of the implemented activities is going on since July 2024 as planned and everything is expected to move well up to December, 2024.

I. CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED:

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Challenges or Obstacles:

The implementation of S.H.E.H.A Project in the first half of the year 2024 was mainly challenged by two issues mainly budget constraints and weather conditions heavy rainfall whereby vehicles and motorcycles that we use for various community outreach activities did not allow this Project Implementation Team to reach project sites on the planned time and dates sometimes as roads conditions were very bad.

Mitigation strategy:

S.H.E.H.A project implementation team planned things using phones and messaging and then things were deployed to beneficiaries whenever there is an opportunity i.e if no rain in one side and the roads are checked and reported to be good, the team will immediately postpone other activities at the office and run to meet the beneficiaries in that side reported to be without rain.

J. PROJECTS ACTUAL FINANCIAL STATUS AS AT THIS TIME OF REPORTING:

In this time of reporting, a total amount of **US \$8,000.00** has been used to implement the above five stated activities for S.H.E.H.A Project whereby **US \$1,810.00** among that amount were used to cover the cost to attend proposal writing, resource mobilization, grant management and professional reporting training held in Nairobi, Kenya from June 24 – 28, 2024 in order to build capacities of SHEEO NGO staff.

At this time of reporting, GEC has already covered the tuition fees for the 6 girls paid directly to Kitenga Girls' Secondary School. On top of that, **US \$1,400.00** has already been spent from the GEC funds for school supplies and others contributions to these girls studying at Kitenga Girls' Secondary School.

K. WHAT ARE SHEHA AND ENBD PROJECTS' BENEFICIARIES AND STAKEHOLDERS SAYING?

"I lost my father when I was in my first year of secondary education. Due to family challenges I dropped out of school and, nobody stood up to help me join the school. The idea was to marry me off despite I was still so young and I was not ready. I reported this incident to Tanzania Police and the Social Welfare Office. Gladly SHEEO NGO was contacted and intervenes. I'm grateful to SHEHA project for getting me back to school and more support they give to me. Said Lydia Luhaga, SHEHA project beneficiary at Kisesa TRC Open Secondary School.



"Education is a weapon in breaking poverty cycle in our communities. The futures that S.H.E.H.A project is preparing now for these girls will change the whole history of their lives and their families at large. My call to all parents is to support their daughters to go to school as it is an opportunity to improve their lives opportunities. Many families have problems because the parents are not prioritizing girls' education. Together let us fight poverty and illiteracy to rural girls." Said Mr. Shedrack Meshack, the Headmaster of Bukandwe Secondary School during SHEHA Project and School parents committee meeting on girls' education in May 2024.



On behalf of my school, our sincere gratitude goes to all SHEEO NGO team for your education support which you are offering to our vulnerable girls students in our school under SHEHA Project since 2021. Your support has created a new history in our school this year whereby a total number of 30 girls including all 10 SHEHA project beneficiaries who completed form four studies last year passed their national exams and made it to form five and technical colleges. We are so much grateful for these girls' transition to other education levels. Said Miss Christina Mdoe, S.H.E.H.A project volunteer at Lumve Secondary School during monitoring and evaluation meeting held at Lumve Secondary School in March 2024.

L. ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The small impact we are making today in these girls' education journey is highly appreciated and valued by the reached communities and leaves other schools with a great desire to be reached by these projects as well.

We receive many requests of expanding the scope of these projects and their interventions strategies to other schools because of the current status of girls' education in rural communities in Magu district whereby it is estimated that 20% of girls who pass Primary School Leaving Examination every year do not enroll for secondary education. They are shut out of secondary education because of households' poverty and period

stigma. In addition, teachers mention that rural poor girls' performance is worst every year and without strong measures to help them; they will end up in being trapped in extreme poverty and illiteracy.

Therefore, S.H.E.H.A and E.N.B.G.D projects' beneficiaries, volunteers and stakeholders recommended the priority to be given to all actions that will enable the educational gender gap to be closed in rural Tanzania. SHEEO NGO is working tirelessly to reach various funders and stakeholders around the world to seek their support so that in order to respond to all underprivileged girls' education needs in the community we serve.

However, we would like to anticipate our request to **Girls' Education Collaborative**, as our current donor and, to any other interested partner/donor to help us extending these projects in the year 2025 in order to respond to the pressing demand of the adolescent girls' and community at large expressing their need to have their girls supported by these projects while sustaining the activities in the schools where these projects has reached.

Thank you for your time invested in reading our report and we hope you will join us to make a difference!

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