**About us**

The Luminara Alliance is a non-profit Community Based Organization (**CBO**) founded in **2023** bya dedicated team of refugees in Kakuma Refugee Community with the mission of empowering various demographics within the Kakuma refugee camp, including **women**, **children**, **adults**, **youths**, **orphans**, and **people with disabilities.** We aim to achieve our goals by providing essential skills and knowledge through various programs, helping people to address social and economic challenges in Kakuma refugee camp.

**Problem-Statements:**

1. **Unequal Business Opportunities for Young Women and Girls in Kakuma:** One of the most pressing issues facing our community is the lack of equitable access to business opportunities for young women and girls. Due to various factors, young females in Kakuma are often excluded from crucial resources, education, and training needed to start and run their own businesses. This disparity results in financial dependence, hinders their confidence and ability to take charge, and ultimately restricts their participation in shaping the future of our community. We need to empower these young women by providing them with the tools and support they need to thrive as entrepreneurs.
2. **Communication Challenges:** Young women and girls in the Kakuma refugee community face amplified negative impacts from language barriers in business. Limited communication restricts their ability to interact with customers and colleagues, hindering their participation in the workforce. Misunderstandings in contracts or technical terms could put them at a disadvantage, and cultural nuances lost in translation make building trust with clients even harder. Since customer service relies heavily on clear communication, language barriers can make it difficult for them to excel in these roles, ultimately limiting their business opportunities and economic empowerment.
3. **Children:** Refugee children in Kakuma face numerous challenges, including limited access to quality education, hindering their ability to reach their full potential. They face limited opportunities to develop creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, which is essential for future success. These limitations restrict their ability to collaborate effectively, engage and learn positively to improve their performance and beyond.
4. **Youth Idleness and Wellbeing Concerns:** Young people facing high unemployment rates are at risk for a negative cycle. With no work to occupy their time, they can become bored and frustrated. This idleness can then lead them down unhealthy paths, potentially engaging in risky behaviours. To counter this, it's important to find ways to encourage young people to make positive choices and develop healthy habits.

**APPROACHES TO THE PROBLEM STATEMENTS**

1. **Women Empowerment Programs:** Business skills training for women: Equipping women with the knowledge and skills to start and manage their own businesses, fostering economic independence. English language courses for women: Providing access to learn English, is a crucial skill for communication and accessing wider opportunities for women. Hygiene and health workshops for women: Promoting healthy practices and knowledge related to personal hygiene, sexual and reproductive health, and disease prevention. Digital literacy training: Equipping women with the skills to navigate the digital world, access information, and connect with opportunities online.
2. **Adult education program:** To address the communication challenges hindering young women and girls in the Kakuma refugee community's business ventures, we can explore several approaches. Language training programs can equip them with the necessary skills to navigate business interactions. Cultural sensitivity workshops can bridge the gap in understanding between them and their clients. Additionally, promoting mentorship programs that connect them with experienced businesswomen who share their language background can provide vital support and guidance. By tackling both language barriers and cultural nuances, these approaches can empower young women and girls to thrive in the workforce.
3. **Children:** Luminara Alliance CBO will address these challenges by providing quality education, focusing on practical skills and critical thinking. We will create spaces for creativity and collaboration through arts, sports, and community projects. We will also implement programs that build problem-solving abilities and leadership skills, empowering refugee children to become active participants in their own development and their community's progress.
4. **Youth Empowerment program:** Recognizing the negative cycle that can arise from high youth unemployment and its potential to lead to risky behaviours, the **Enhancing Health through Sports Science** (**EHSS**) program offers a two-pronged approach.   
   **a). Firstly,** it tackles youth idleness by engaging them in sports and physical activities, promoting both physical and mental well-being.   
   **b).** **Secondly,** the program goes beyond mere exercise, by educating participants on the science behind health and healthy habits. This empowers young people to make informed decisions about their well-being, fostering a positive cycle of self-improvement and reducing the likelihood of engaging in unhealthy behaviours.

**GOALS**

**Overall Goals:**

Our primary goal is to empower women in the Kakuma Refugee Community to achieve social and economic independence, fostering a thriving and inclusive community by promoting gender equality, youth development, and healthy lifestyles. Improve the quality of life for orphans and people with disabilities by ensuring access to basic needs and opportunities. Empower them through education and skill development to achieve self-reliance and social inclusion. Strengthen the capacity of local support systems to provide long-term assistance. Create a more inclusive and equitable society where everyone has the chance to thrive.

**Specific goals:**

1. **Women Empowerment:** Increase women's access to education, employment, and resources. Enhance financial literacy and business management skills among women. Promote mental and physical well-being through health workshops and digital literacy training.
2. **Youth Development:** Reduce youth unemployment rates by equipping them with relevant skills and knowledge. Encourage healthy lifestyles and informed decision-making through sports and health education. Foster positive youth development and responsible community participation.
3. **Orphans and Disabilities programs:** Short Term: Increased access to food, shelter, healthcare, and education. Improved well-being and participation in daily life. Long Term: Enhanced skills, qualifications, and increased employment opportunities. Greater social inclusion and empowered individuals contributing to society.

**Short-Term goals (1-2 years):**

1. Increase access to education and resources by enrolling **400** women in business skills training and English language courses.
2. Organise **30** hygiene and health workshops for women.
3. Provide **450** refugee children with Enhancing Health through Sport Science (**EHSS**) training.
4. Provide **150** orphans and disabilities with skill building.
5. **Improve livelihoods and well-being:** Support women in starting and managing their own businesses.
6. Equip refugee children and youths with knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their health.
7. Reduce unemployment rates among young people.
8. Partner with **5** local **NGOs** in pilot locations. Conduct needs assessments to prioritise resource allocation.
9. Launch immediate support programs for basic needs provision for orphans and disabilities Initiate skill development workshops for in-demand job markets for women.
10. Organise community events to promote awareness and inclusion.

**Long-Term goals (3-10 years):**

Luminara Alliance aims for a future where women are economically empowered, actively participate in community development, and youths are healthy, engaged, and contributing members of society. We plan to:

1. Expand program offerings: Introduce new programs based on community needs and feedback to reach a wider population across different regions. Establish partnerships: Establish strong partnerships with local and international organisations to maximise impact.
2. Become sustainable: We aim to achieve financial sustainability through diversified funding streams and explore income generating initiatives. Support the creation of social enterprises for self-employment opportunities.
3. Luminara Alliance aims to become a leading institution for women and youth empowerment in Kakuma.
4. Create measurable social impact to Increase the number of women participating in community decision-making processes.
5. Empower young people to become active and engaged citizens.
6. Establish mentorship programs connecting successful individuals with disabilities to young beneficiaries. By implementing this comprehensive program, Luminara Alliance can make a significant and lasting difference in the lives of orphans and individuals with disabilities. We believe that everyone deserves the chance to live a fulfilling and empowered life.

**Opportunities:**

Kakuma's diverse population presents an opportunity to learn from and share cultural experiences. Growing interest in digital skills and online opportunities creates a demand for Luminara's services. Potential partnerships with local and international organisations can provide additional support and expertise.

**Vision:**   
We envision a society where every individual, regardless of their circumstances, has access to education, opportunities, and resources, leading to a harmonious and thriving community.

**Mission:**   
We’re on a mission to bring light, knowledge, and positive transformation by illuminating and empowering the refugee community through education, innovation, and collaborative initiatives.

**Values:**

The Luminara Alliance upholds the following core values:

**• Respect**

**• Integrity**

**• Inclusivity**

**• Responsibility**

**• Equality**

**• Punctuality**

**Theory of Change:**

Luminara Alliance believes that by providing women, children and youths with essential skills and knowledge, they can overcome social and economic barriers, become self-reliant, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. This, in turn, strengthens the overall fabric of society.

**Messaging and Communication:**

Utilise culturally, sensitive and inclusive communication to reach diverse audiences. Leverage various communication channels like workshops, community events, social media, and local media to raise awareness and share success stories. Foster two-way communication to understand community needs and tailor programs accordingly.

**Managing Risks:**

Develop a risk management plan to address potential challenges like funding sustainability, staff turnover, and navigating complex community dynamics. Implement monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess program effectiveness and adapt strategies as needed.

**Conclusion:**

Luminara Alliance plays a vital role in empowering women and youths in Kakuma, tackling critical social issues and fostering a brighter future for the community. Through our comprehensive approach, dedication to community engagement, and commitment to sustainability, we contribute to building a more just and equitable society.