

**BOLDLINE**

**Accelerator Program for Public-Private**

**Partnerships Challenge Proposal**

Name of Project: ***“Champions of Humanity” -- Innovative Solutions***

Implementation Organization: **GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE PARTNTERSHIPS (GSP)**, 501(c)3

9101 1st Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Location: Africa/Worldwide

Development Sectors: WATER, HEALTH, HYGIENE, SANITATION, EDUCATION &TRAINING

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Submitted by

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**Problem Statement**(250 words max): *Describe the problem you are trying to solve and any relevant background information. Address the impact and innovation potential of your idea given the status quo.*

Women face the biggest brunt of socio-economic challenges due to international transitions and the effects of the economic recession in their respective countries. As a result, a disproportionate number of women from all social classes are currently unemployed or under-employed and need to acquire or enhance their skills to improve their employability prospects and income to take care of their families.  Although great strides have been made to promote women’s rights and their equal participation in all socio-political spheres, there is still a need to give women the tools/skills needed to help them with their existing business to increase production, access new, higher paying markets, selling, business supply chain, startup businesses, community development, working in the local municipality to promote the rights of women and youth, etc., to function at leadership and executive decision-making levels that give them opportunities to become entrepreneurs and increase their income. This requires adopting concerted efforts to expose African women (women in developing countries) to leadership styles that are gender and culturally sensitive. Therefore, I’m trying to solve the problem by creating an on-line knowledge sharing platform to help women in Africa (women worldwide) who face these challenges in their respective countries, by leading a grass-roots movement to give women access to a network of exceptional professionals, entrepreneurs and corporate partners aka “Champions of Humanity,” seeking to support the women in the communities where they do business and beyond.

**Idea** (250 words max): *What is the core concept for the partnership?  How will working in a partnership obtain the outcome that is required?*  *How does this align to U.S. interests?*

The core concept for the partnership is an on-line knowledge sharing platform aimed to bring together women entrepreneurs/NGOs from their respective countries and match them with “Champions of Humanity” (e.g. business owners/entrepreneurs NGO’s, Academia, UN agencies and government employees), who want to donate their skills and share best practices to accelerate these women to relevant platforms for intervention/solutions/impact.  How the on-line sharing platform works: Companies who are doing business in the respective countries/around the world are asked to invite their employees/partners who want to share their respective expertise (e.g. leadership, advocacy, public speaking, marketing, communications, finance, strategy, technology, etc.) to sign up as an advisor/mentor. They commit to 30 minutes of their time per month for a year to mentor a women. These investments by our “Champions of Humanity” will help women promote economic and social development, which is needed to change the short and long-term well-being of their families and communities. Women who have additional income are more likely to spend it on their families and their future, which increases the rates of their children staying in school (especially boys), literacy, improved health and better nutrition. Thus, reducing poverty and keeping their kids in school -- eliminating the root causes of "idle hands are the devil's workshop," which opens the door for ISIS, Al-Shabaab, Al Queada, to recruit teenage boys/young men! This Collective wisdom and networks are brought to bear to identify and implement the most effective solution that is good for business, building resilience and development.

**Resource Requirements** (250 words max): *Describe what is needed to implement your idea (resources, stakeholder buy-in, legal requirements, etc.). Address the feasibility of your idea.*

Identify and create a network of passionate experts from corporations, business owners/entrepreneurs, NGO’s, Grassroots’ movements, Academia, Businesses, UN agencies and government employees. Set up an on-line portal (including SMS, Whatsapp, Skype) for communication where the women are required to write up a brief description of their needs, submit those needs (e.g. marketing, communications, Board building, fundraising, selling, business supply chain, etc.,). The experts/employees who sign up for the program write a brief description of their expertise, experiences and how they can help. They in turn, select an expert from the list of participants that best fit their needs. The women will select an expert from the list of participants that best fits their needs. Once the women select an expert(s), a preliminary call/skype call is scheduled. If there is an agreement to move forward, each person can select times on their shared calendar to set up subsequent meetings. If the women does not think it’s a good match, they are encouraged to reach out to other experts in that field. This helps with making sure the women are paired with experts who they feel comfortable with and are gender and culturally sensitive, therefore, building trust. By empowering and giving them access to tools to give them confidence to build their businesses and more access to an international audience/economy, they are more likely to shift from job seekers, to business owner, to employment creators that benefit their families and their communities.

**Best Potential Partners** (250 words max): *Describe ideal partners (from 2-10) or types of partners that would make for a successful partnership.*

Idea partners are passionate experts from corporations, business owners/entrepreneurs, NGO’s, Grassroots’ movements, Academia, Businesses, UN agencies and government employees, Entertainers, Sports figures, African Women/Men who believe that investing in the acquisition of certain skills for these women, will maximize their investment(s) and increase impact through increased incomes, thus taking charge of their families future, which will help their communities flourish and in turn, these women will help their corporate partners reach their corporate social responsibility priorities and build community presence. Together, their success will enable an emerging group of organized women entrepreneurs to thrive in a market that has rarely provided a space for women to voice their thoughts/opinions and to promote their social and economic inclusion in their communities and internationally.