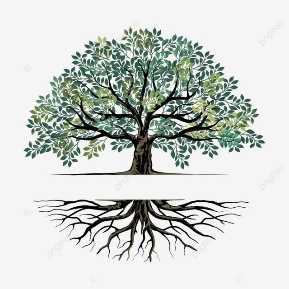
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**PROJECT PROPOSAL**

**Educational, Nutrition and Health support program for Vulnerable Children at Tree of Life Children’s Home Rusinga Island.**

***"Sponsorship Program for Abandoned, Vulnerable, and Poor Children"***

**Submitted to:***[Name of Funding Organization]  
[Organization Address]  
[Contact Email/Phone]*

**Submitted By:**

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**Date Of Submission:**

*XX/XX/XXXX*

**Project Duration:**

*Ongoing (Indefinite support for the lifetime of the Children’s Center)*

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**Project Proposal: Tree of Life Children’s Center Rusinga Island**

Empowering Vulnerable and Abandoned Children Through Education, Nutrition, and Healthcare.

**1. Introduction**

Organization: Tree of Life Children’s Center

Location: Rusinga Island, Kenya

Target Beneficiaries: Vulnerable and abandoned children (ages 3-18)

Primary Focus Areas: Education, Feeding Program, Healthcare

**Background and Context**

Rusinga Island faces significant challenges with child abandonment, poverty, and limited access to education and healthcare. Many children are left without guardians due to economic hardships, HIV/AIDS, and other social issues. The Tree of Life Children’s Center project seeks to rescue, nurture, and empower these children by providing holistic care—ensuring they receive education, nutritious meals, and medical attention.

**Problem Statement**

1. Overview of the Crisis

Rusinga Island, a small fishing community Island in Lake Victoria, Kenya, faces a growing humanitarian crisis characterized by child abandonment, extreme poverty, malnutrition, and limited access to education and healthcare. Vulnerable children are left without guardians due to:

* Economic Hardship – High unemployment (over 30%) forces parents to migrate for work, leaving children behind.
* HIV/AIDS & Disease – Prevalence of HIV (15% in Homa Bay County) leads to orphaned children.
* Cultural Practices – Witchcraft accusations, teen pregnancies, and gender discrimination contribute to abandonment.
* Alcoholism & Domestic Violence – Broken families often neglect or abuse children.

2. Key Challenges Facing Vulnerable Children

A. Lack of Shelter & Protection

* Street Children – Dozens of children sleep outdoors, exposed to violence, trafficking, and exploitation.
* No Child Rescue Centers – Only 1 underfunded children’s home serves the entire island.

B. Education Barriers

* High Dropout Rates – 40% of children miss school due to fees, hunger, or child labor (fishing, sand harvesting).
* No Early Childhood Education (ECD) – Most kids lack preschool access, starting primary school at a disadvantage.

C. Malnutrition & Poor Health

* Stunting & wasting – 30% of children under 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition (KDHS 2022).
* No Access to Clinics – Nearest hospital is 2+ hours away; families can’t afford transport or treatment.
* Malaria & Waterborne Diseases – Lack of mosquito nets and clean water leads to preventable deaths.

D. Psychological Trauma

* Abuse & Neglect – Many rescued children show signs of PTSD, depression, and attachment disorders.
* No Counseling Services – Mental health support is nonexistent on the island.

3. Systemic & Community-Level Issues

A. Weak Child Protection Systems

* No Social Workers – Cases of abuse go unreported due to lack of government presence.
* Cultural Stigma – Abandoned children are often labeled "cursed" and shunned.

B. Extreme Poverty & Unemployment

* Fishing Decline – Overfishing and pollution reduce income for 80% of households.
* No Alternative Jobs – Youth turn to drugs, crime, or early pregnancies.

C. Gender Inequality

* Girls at Higher Risk – Teen mothers (as young as 14) are abandoned by families.
* Limited Menstrual Health Access – Girls miss school due to lack of sanitary pads.

**2. Project Objectives**

1. Immediate Rescue & Protection

* Identify, rescue, and provide temporary shelter for abandoned, orphaned, and at-risk children.
* Collaborate with local authorities and social services for legal guardianship and child protection.

2. Holistic Education & Skill Development

* Ensure 100% school enrollment for rescued children (primary, secondary, and vocational training).
* Provide after-school tutoring to bridge learning gaps.
* Introduce digital literacy programs (basic computer skills).
* Offer vocational training (tailoring, farming, carpentry) for self-reliance.

3. Nutrition & Food Security

* Provide daily balanced meals to combat malnutrition.
* Establish a sustainable kitchen garden to supplement food supplies.
* Train caregivers in nutritious meal preparation on a budget.

4. Healthcare & Well-being

* Ensure regular medical check-ups, vaccinations, and emergency care.
* Provide deworming and vitamin supplementation programs.
* Partner with clinics/hospitals for free or subsidized healthcare.
* Conduct hygiene and sanitation workshops (handwashing, menstrual health).

5. Psychosocial Support & Emotional Healing

* Offer trauma counseling for abused and abandoned children.
* Implement mentorship programs with positive role models.
* Organize recreational activities (sports, arts) for emotional well-being.

6. Family & Community Reintegration (Where Possible)

* Trace and reunite children with willing and capable relatives.
* Provide family counseling and economic support to prevent re-abandonment.
* Conduct community awareness programs on child rights and protection.

7. Economic Empowerment for Sustainability

* Train older youth in income-generating skills (agribusiness, crafts).
* Develop small-scale projects (poultry, beekeeping) to fund the initiative.
* Establish a sponsorship program for long-term child support.

8. Advocacy & Policy Influence

* Partner with child welfare organizations to strengthen protection laws.
* Document and report cases of child neglect to local authorities.
* Raise awareness on child abandonment prevention through media campaigns.

**3. Methodology/Project Activities**

1. Identification & Rescue Operations
   * Collaborate with local leaders, police, and social workers to locate abandoned/abused children.
   * Establish a 24/7 emergency helpline for reporting child neglect cases.
2. Safe Shelter & Temporary Housing
   * Provide short-term foster care while tracing families.
   * Equip shelters with beds, sanitation, and security.
3. Legal & Documentation Support
   * Assist in obtaining birth certificates and legal guardianship.
   * Work with Kenya’s Children’s Department for custody arrangements.

B. Education & Skill Development

1. Formal Education Support
   * Pay school fees, uniforms, and supplies (books, bags, stationery).
   * Partner with local schools for scholarships and inclusive education.
2. Remedial & Tutoring Programs
   * Run after-school classes for slow learners.
   * Recruit volunteer teachers for literacy/numeracy boot camps.
3. Vocational Training
   * Offer tailoring, carpentry, and farming workshops.
   * Link older youth to apprenticeships with local artisans.
4. Digital Literacy
   * Set up a computer lab with basic IT training.
   * Teach coding fundamentals (in partnership with W3 Schools).

C. Nutrition & Food Security

1. Daily Feeding Program
   * Provide 3 nutritious meals per day (breakfast, lunch, dinner).
   * Include protein-rich foods (eggs, beans, fish) and vitamins.
2. Sustainable Farming Initiatives
   * Start a vegetable garden (kale, spinach, tomatoes).
   * Introduce poultry farming for eggs and meat.
3. Nutrition Workshops

* Train caregivers on affordable balanced diets.
* Monitor child growth via monthly BMI checks.

D. Healthcare & Well-being

1. Medical Care

* Conduct monthly health camps (deworming, vaccinations).
* Partner with clinics for free malaria/HIV testing.

1. Mental Health Support

* Provide trauma counseling with licensed therapists.
* Organize group therapy sessions for emotional healing.

1. Hygiene & Sanitation

* Distribute sanitary pads and teach menstrual hygiene.
* Install handwashing stations and teach proper hygiene.

E. Community & Family Engagement

1. Family Reunification

* Trace relatives and assess home safety before reintegration.
* Offer parenting workshops to prevent re-abandonment.

1. Economic Empowerment

* Train mothers in small businesses (soap-making, beadwork).
* Provide seed grants for income-generating activities.

1. Awareness Campaigns

* Hold town hall meetings on child rights.
* Use radio dramas to fight stigma against abandoned kids.

F. Sustainability & Growth

1. Income-Generating Projects

* Sell farm produce (eggs, vegetables) to fund the program.
* Make and market handicrafts (baskets, jewelry).

1. Sponsorship & Donor Partnerships

* Launch a "Sponsor a Child" education program.
* Seek CSR partnerships with Kenyan businesses.

**4.** **Expected Outcomes** **& Impact**

1. Child Rescue & Protection

* 50+ vulnerable children rescued, documented, and placed in safe care within the first year.
* 100% of rescued children provided with legal identity (birth certificates, medical records).
* Reduction in street children by 30% on Rusinga Island within 3 years.

2. Education & Empowerment

* 100% school enrollment for all children under care (primary/secondary/vocational).
* 85% pass rate in national exams (KCPE/KCSE) through tutoring support.
* 20+ youth annually gain employable skills (tailoring, farming, IT).
* 10+ digital literacy graduates yearly, equipped with basic computer skills.

3. Nutrition & Health Improvements

* Zero severe malnutrition cases among enrolled children within 2 years.
* 30% improvement in children’s BMI (Body Mass Index) after 1 year of feeding program.
* 100% vaccination coverage for preventable diseases (measles, polio, tetanus).
* 50% reduction in malaria and waterborne diseases via mosquito nets and clean water access.

4. Mental & Emotional Well-being

* 90% of traumatized children show improved psychosocial health after counseling.
* Weekly group therapy sessions reduce PTSD symptoms in 70% of participants.
* Annual sports/arts festivals boost self-esteem and social integration.

5. Family & Community Impact

* 40% of reintegrated children remain with stable families after 2 years.
* 200+ parents/caregivers trained in child protection and positive parenting.
* 10+ community-led child protection committees established to monitor abuse cases.

6. Sustainability & Economic Growth

* 30% of project funding covered by income-generating activities (farming, crafts) by Year 3.
* 5+ local partnerships secured (schools, clinics, businesses) for long-term support.
* "Sponsor a Child" program sustains education for 20+ children annually.

7. Advocacy & Systemic Change

* 2+ policy dialogues held yearly with county government on child welfare.
* Media campaigns reach 10,000+ people, reducing stigma against abandoned children.
* National recognition as a model for community-based child rescue.

**5. Project Timeline**

**Objective:** Ensure structured implementation of child sponsorships.

| **Phase** | **Activities** | **Duration** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Identification** | • Community outreach & needs assessment • Selection of beneficiaries (abandoned/vulnerable children) | Month 1–2 |
| **Sponsorship Matching** | • Donor recruitment & child-donor pairing • Background checks (for child safety) | Month 3 |
| **Program Launch** | • School enrollment/uniforms/supplies • Monthly stipends for caregivers (if applicable) | Month 4–6 |
| **Ongoing Support** | • Quarterly progress reports (academic/health) • Annual donor-child meetups (virtual/in-person) | Month 7–12 |

**6. Budget and Justification**

1. Education Program

Providing access to quality education for rescued children:

* School Tuition & Fees – Covers school enrollment, examination fees, and other academic charges.
* Books & Stationery – Textbooks, exercise books, pens, and other learning materials.
* Uniforms & Clothing – School uniforms, shoes, and essential clothing for children.
* Teacher Support & Training – Salaries or stipends for educators, plus capacity-building workshops.

2. Feeding Program

Ensuring children receive nutritious meals daily to support their health and learning:

* Daily Meals & Snacks – Balanced diet including grains, proteins, vegetables, and fruits.
* Kitchen Supplies – Cooking equipment, utensils, and food storage facilities.
* Water & Hygiene – Safe drinking water, sanitation essentials, and hygiene products.

3. Medical Care & Wellness

Addressing the healthcare needs of the children:

* Medical Checkups & Treatment – Routine checkups, vaccinations, emergency care, and specialized treatments.
* Medication & Supplies – Provision of essential drugs, first aid kits, and healthcare equipment.
* Mental Health & Counseling Services – Support for emotional well-being, trauma recovery, and psychological counseling.

4. Shelter & Infrastructure

Providing a safe and nurturing environment for rescued children:

* Housing & Accommodation – Construction or renovation of living spaces, dormitories, or foster homes.
* Furniture & Essentials – Beds, mattresses, clothing storage, and other basic home necessities.
* Security & Safety Measures – Installation of secure fencing, proper lighting, and safety systems.

5. Operational & Administrative Costs

Ensuring smooth running of the project for long-term sustainability:

* Staff Salaries & Training – Compensation for caregivers, teachers, cooks, and support staff.
* Transportation & Logistics – Costs related to moving children, supplies, and field operations.
* Project Monitoring & Reporting – Regular evaluations, impact assessments, and documentation for donor transparency.

6. Community Engagement & Sustainability

Empowering the local community to actively participate and sustain the project:

* Local Partnerships & Capacity Building – Collaborating with local organizations and training caregivers.
* Awareness & Advocacy Programs – Educational outreach to promote child welfare and rights.
* Income-Generating Initiatives – Exploring farming, vocational training, or small businesses to support sustainability.

**(A detailed budget breakdown can be provided upon request.)**

**7. Sustainability Plan**

1. Income-Generating Activities (IGAs)

To reduce donor dependency, we will establish revenue streams that fund operations while empowering the local economy.

A. Agricultural Projects

* Organic Vegetable Farming
  + Utilize project land to grow high-demand crops (kale, tomatoes, onions).
  + Sell surplus produce to local markets and schools.
* Poultry & Fish Farming
  + Raise chickens for eggs and meat (sold to hotels and households).
  + Use Lake Victoria’s resources for tilapia farming.

B. Vocational Production Units

* Tailoring & Crafts Workshop
  + Train older children in making school uniforms, bags, and beads.
  + Sell products to tourists and via e-commerce (Jumia, Facebook Marketplace).
* Bakery & Snack Production
  + Use farm produce to bake bread, mandazi, and peanut butter.
  + Supply nearby shops and schools.

C. Eco-Tourism & Donor Experiences

* "Visit & Volunteer" Program
  + Host international volunteers who pay a fee for accommodation.
  + Offer cultural tours of Rusinga Island (fishing, traditional dances).

2. Strategic Partnerships

A. Local Partnerships

* Schools & Hospitals – Barter services (e.g., free medical check-ups for farm produce).
* Churches & NGOs – Joint fundraising drives (harvest festivals, charity runs).
* County Government – Advocate for child welfare budget allocations.

B. Corporate Sponsorships

* CSR Partnerships – Partner with Kenyan companies (Safaricom, Equity Bank) for:
  + Child education sponsorships.
  + Infrastructure donations (water tanks, solar panels).
* Adopt-a-Project – Businesses fund specific needs (e.g., "Equity Bank Kitchen Garden").

3. Community Ownership & Capacity Building

A. Training Caregivers & Parents

* Farming Cooperatives – Teach sustainable agriculture to families.
* Business Skills – Train mothers in petty trade (haircare, soap-making).

B. Youth Leadership Program

* Older beneficiaries (18+) return as mentors or junior staff.
* Vocational graduates contribute 5% of earnings back to the project.

4. Financial Sustainability Mechanisms

A. Child Sponsorship Program

* "Sponsor a Child" Campaign ($30/month covers education, food, and healthcare).
* Transparent reporting with progress updates for sponsors.

B. Social Enterprise Fund

* Reinvest 30% of IGA profits into project expansion.
* Set up a revolving loan fund for caregivers’ small businesses.

C. Grant Diversification

* Apply for government & international grants (UNICEF, Global Giving).
* Pitch to foundations (Mastercard, Ford Foundation) for multi-year funding.

5. Environmental Sustainability

* Solar Energy – Install panels to cut electricity costs.
* Rainwater Harvesting – Reduce water expenses.
* Waste Recycling – Compost organic waste for farming.

6. Exit Strategy (5-Year Plan)

Year Goal

1–2 20% self-funded via IGAs.

3 50% self-funded; expand vocational units.

4–5 70% self-sufficient; replicate model in neighboring regions.

1. **Organizational Capacity**  
   *Tree of Life Children’s Center* has a proven 3-year track record serving vulnerable children in Rusinga Island. Our team includes 5 full-time social workers, a licensed child psychologist, and partnerships with 6 local schools. In 2023 alone, we sponsored 36 children, achieving a 65% school retention rate.
2. **Track Record**
   * Since 2022, we’ve enrolled 76 children in schools, provided 3 meals, and reunited 16 children with foster families.
3. **Team Expertise**
   * **Leadership:** Samwel Okudo, Program Director (4 years in child welfare advocacy)
   * **Field Staff:** Social workers – Geoffrey Onyango trained personnel through NYS in Kenya, community liaisons – Caren Achieng an expertise who studied Community Development.
   * **Partners:** Collaborations with schools like Wanyama, Temo, Nyamuga and Agiro Primary schools to waive tuition fee. Partnered with NGO’s like YISA to raise to raise funds used for healthcare.
4. **Operational Infrastructure**
   * Safeguarding policies - All staff undergo child protection training and background checks.
   * Financial accountability -Annual audits by Nexia Kenya [Independent Firm]
5. **Local Presence**

* Deeply embedded in the Lwanda Rombo community for four years, we have established strong ties with local leaders and families, earning their trust.

**9. Conclusion and Next Step**

The **Tree of Life Children’s Center** project urgently needs your help to rescue, educate, and nurture Rusinga Island’s most vulnerable children. With your support, we can provide:

* **Safe shelter** for abandoned children
* **Daily meals** to combat malnutrition
* **Quality education** and vocational training
* **Healthcare & counseling** for a brighter future
* **Spiritual to** raise children who are believers

**Your donation will save lives.** Together, we can break the cycle of poverty and give these children hope.

**Join us today!**  
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*"Every child deserves protection, love, and a chance to thrive."*