Harmony

Global Charity Network

**Project Proposal**

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# Problem

Our world is a wonderful place as we know it. Unfortunately for most of the human population it is a challenging place to live by. According to the statistics (Shah, 2013),

* More than 80%of the world’s population are suffering from income differential
* At least 80% of people lives below the poverty line which is $10 per day
* Nearly a billion is lack of literacy
* 1.1 billion people do not have adequate access to water
* Etc

In Sri Lanka 25% of the country is living under the poverty line and more than 40% are farmers in rural areas (International Fund for Agricultural Development, 2005).

Currently there many projects carried out to support these cases at a global level by local governments, Non-Government Organizations, communities, other small organization units and even families. However, there is a huge disconnection across these various efforts as they are owned and implemented by different parties with no proper visibility over the preparations, budget and execution. This is a key reason why even generous people are reluctant to donate to the charity events. According to my understanding we all go through following thought process when it comes to contribution.

1. How badly would they need my help?
2. What proof do I have to verify the incident?
3. Is there any middle person?
4. How much help has it been there so far?
5. How do I know if my contribution would be effectively used?

The main problem area for this project is around the above questions. Main purpose will be to provide a solution that will help overcome these hurdles while creating an infrastructure to fulfill needs of people more than we have ever done before.

# Solution



Solution provided by this project is to build an infrastructure to carry out following activities.

* Identify and report Needs of unprivileged people and locations
* Create Projects by selecting a case of interest
* Collaborate online to organize the project
* Manage contribution and participation
* Complete the project and share the experience with others

The infrastructure is primarily a website that enabled online collaboration where as a Mobile application would help in capturing proof of Needs and fulfillments and other notifications.

# Primary Functionality

Main workflow enabled by this system is as follows.

1. Explore and report Needs
2. Create a Project
3. Collaborate with others
4. Implement
5. Accomplish

## Registration

Site membership can be of Individual and Group nature.

* **Individual**

Any user can register with a valid email.

* **Group**

Any Individual can create a Group and be associated with multiple Groups. A Group can be under a company name, a society or community club, school batch or even an unofficial gathering of a family and friends.

## Explore and Report Needs

Exploring refers to the activity of reporting incidents of unprivileged people or locations as we witness them. This can be when **Individuals** are travelling across rural areas, meeting poor families, visiting religious places which are disfigured and under-facilitated and etc. Reporting a Need does not make the reporter an obligated party to initiate or participate a potential charity event. Reported Need can later be selected by some other individuals to associate with a project. Following sub functionalities are involved during this phase.

1. Create a new **Need** regarding some aspect that is scarce to a household or location
2. Add Description
3. Add Address Coordinates to the location
4. Upload photos and any other supporting proof
5. Tag keywords to get listed in a potential personalized search for cases. E.g.
   1. Educational
   2. Food
   3. Water
   4. Clothes
   5. Construction
   6. Medication
   7. Organs
   8. Blood

Etc

Few examples of **Needs** are listed below.

* Rural school with extremely low supplement
* Rural students with no books and materials
* Religious place with disfigured facilities
* Area affected by drought
* Area affected by flood
* Basic vaccination for infants

## Search Cases and Create a Project

A **Project** is a collaboration of **Individuals** from a single or multiple **Groups** in order to eventually fulfill a **Need.** Which means multiple Groups can work together under a single Project. An individual can search through the reported Needs and create a new **Project** while associating one or more Needs. Search can be via Tag names or going through the total listing.

Before initiating a project, user can review the past projects (if any) that have taken place around the same Need. This is because some Needs can be of recurring form and having the ability to review them would be beneficial for both suffering and helping parties. For example educational equipment for a rural school would need to be supplied in a recurring manner through different projects depending on the budget of the project.

Project should have a description and a series of Needs that are expected to be overcome.

Apart from initiating users can also take part in an existing Project. This can be done in following ways.

* Join a Group which is already contributing to a Project
* Bring your own Group
* Join the Project as an Individual

## Collaborate

Individuals working for a project can take 3 forms inclusively.

* **Donor** who makes a donation out of his belongings
* **Volunteer** who takes the ownership of an action item
* **Coordinator** who leads and coordinates the project work (privileged role)

A Project can be marked as active by the coordinator where at this point it will be open for other individuals to join the project under above roles. The creator of the project inherently becomes the **Coordinator** of the project whereas they can approve any request from another user who applies for a coordinator role. However the founding coordinator will always be recognized as the creator of the project.

During the collaboration phase following activities are to be carried out.

1. **Creating an Agenda**

Agenda is the program plan which will be created by coordinators while others can observer and comment. This can get detailed into indicating precise timing and dependencies.

1. **Define Tasks**

Most granular levels of the Agenda will become the Tasks that can be owned by Individual(s). This can be transportation, loading, unloading, food handling, distribution and etc.

1. **Create transportation plan**

Most of the Needs will require project members to travel to the site during the implementation. This will require a transportation plan where people can interact and decide on traveling aspects.

1. **Plan budget**

Budget planning has to be precise and transparent. All expenses should be associated with an image of receipts. There has to be a clear separation between the project expenses and donations.

1. **Contributions**
   1. **Donations**

Contributions can be of monetary, assets or bodily organs.

* 1. **Bear expenses**

Contributors can also contribute to project expenses and other tangible requirements

* 1. **Volunteering for a Task**

Individuals can volunteer for Task(s) defined in the Agenda and work plan. Optionally coordinator can request for backup volunteers on the critical tasks which could cause a single point of failure.

1. **Declare physical participation**
   1. **Tentative**

Giving the option of the committing a tentative participation can increase the project participation.

* 1. **Confirmed**

Individuals can confirm their participation which makes it easier for the coordinators to plan the program flow.

## Implementation

Project implementation is where the project participants physically travel to the site and work on the assigned Tasks.

During this phase system will allow following functions.

1. Mark the project as **Work at Site**
2. Upload photos (web/mobile)
3. Update Tasks (web/mobile)
4. Record expenses
5. Make announcements

## Accomplish

This stage of the project follows up after the implementation where coordinators will conclude the project activities and budgets. Following functions are supported by the system.

1. Mark as **Accomplished**
2. Upload photos
3. Share **Raves** while recognizing and appreciating great efforts
4. Publish balance sheet
5. Upload receipts

**Raves** are publically visible admiration notes that are posted upon an individual by others in recognition of their great service/contribution during the project implementation. These Raves will be visible on the personal portfolio of an individual.

# Secondary Functionality

## Registration

Any user with a valid email ID is able to register with the system. Users are also required to agree on the Terms and Conditions on the system usage and project activities.

## Login

User will have to sign in to the system with their username and password which are provided during the registration.

## Create a Group

Users can create new Groups under any given name. However, users are expected to declare that they are not trying to impersonate a known name of a commercial or non-commercial organization.

## Navigate

Users can navigate and look through reported Needs and ongoing Projects without joining a project. However active interactions and project participation will require users to become a member of the Project.

## Geo Chart

Main attraction of the website will be from the Geo Chart which will indicate a heat map on the geographical map with the reported Needs. Users can drilldown into this map and find out needs that require more attention and are in reachable distance.

## Report Fraud

Users can report fraudulent activities of following aspects.

* Individuals
* Needs
* Groups
* Projects

## Retrospect

Once the project is accomplished, all information will become read only and will be available for users to review. These projects will be linked to the portfolio pages of the individuals who took part in the project.

## Personal Portfolio

Portfolio of an Individual will help them earn reputation within the community. It will also act as a retrospective page where one can look back and be blissful about their past efforts.

This page will consist of following aspects.

1. Personal Information
2. Raves
3. Past Projects
4. Badges
   1. **Donator** badge with following indications
      1. Number of donations
      2. Number of projects
   2. **Participant** badge with following indications
      1. Number of Projects
      2. Number of Raves
   3. **Explorer** badge with following indications
      1. Number of Needs reported
      2. Number of Needs accomplished
   4. **Coordinator** badge with following indications
      1. Number of total projects coordinated
      2. Number of accomplished projects

# References

International Fund for Agricultural Development. (2005). *Rural poverty in Sri Lanka*. Retrieved October 12, 2014, from Rural Poverty Portal: http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org/country/home/tags/sri\_lanka

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