

## **Emerge Global Interim Progress Report 1**

March 2017 Update

### **1. Please provide the following information:**

- a. Organization Name: Emerge Global
- b. Program Title: Empowering Sri Lankan teen survivors of rape with Skills for self-sufficiency
- c. Grant Amount: \$20,000 X 3 years
- d. Contact Person: Mumtaz Aroos Faleel, Country Manager-Sri Lanka  
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- e. Address: No. 39/1, Colombage Mawatha, Nawala, Sri Lanka.

### **2. Recap briefly what outcomes the program was designed to achieve.**

- Bring Emerge programs to 60 girls per year across two shelters
- Provide 48 Beads-to-Business workshops and 48 Life Skills workshops per year to each home
- Sell all jewelry produced through programs
- Open a bank account for each participant
- Provide ongoing advice and support to program alumnae

### **3. Has funding changed for this program? For example, have you received unexpected funding from another source?**

No changes in the funding for this programme.

### **4. Is your organization or program situation different than presented in the approved proposal? For example, new executive director, significant program staffing changes or NGO affiliation, loss of large funding, or other significant changes?**

Yes. There have been several staffing changes. Two staff vacated their posts. Those posts were that of Communications & Reporting Officer, and the Social Enterprise Development Officer (SEDO). Extensive training and development had been invested in these two positions, which were critical to Emerge's knowledge management, reporting, jewelry sales, and fundraising — activities which were all affected. No impact in relation to programmes were experienced as a result, and all programme activities were implemented as planned.

The Organizational Structure was changed to incorporate three Leads – Programmes, Operations, and Reintegration — each of whom oversee a team. The Programmes lead will focus on continual programme improvement and effective delivery in shelters. Part of the responsibilities allocated

to the Social Enterprise Development Officer and the Communications & Reporting Officer was assigned to Lead Programmes.

During this period, we also opened our own Reintegration Centre, which provides transitional support to girls who are exiting shelters and transitioning into the community. We are thrilled to be able to offer this as a resource to our participants.

The Emerge Centre provides a trauma-informed residential empowerment programme for 16 young women at a time. It is a creative, experimental, and healing space that inspires self-discovery, cultivates a growth mindset, and equips participants with tools needed for independence.

The Government Department of Probation and Child Care Services also experience turnover with new officers taking over senior positions of the departments. With these appointments, the officials also brought in several new protocols and paperwork, which had to be submitted for the continuation of Emerge programmes. We've submitted two out of the three requirements and have received approval to continue the programmes with high praise for the programmes and the team. We've also collaborated more closely with the government for various activities such as supporting them in organizing special international dedicated days that celebrate children and women, special events, and have become a close partner.

The Government will reach out to all our donors once the final documents have been submitted for general verification purposes.

**5. What challenges are you facing as you move forward with this project? How are you approaching these challenges?**

1) Continued changes in the government

With the new administration change in the country and changes in relevant government departments that directly affect our work, we anticipate that our relationship with the government will need to continue to be a priority. Though Emerge has followed all necessary protocols to gain permission to work within the shelters which fall directly under the Probation Department, the lengthy procedures and bureaucratic red tape has often led us waiting for permissions that we previously had. This is the biggest challenge faced in continuing work without any interruption to our planned schedules in the shelters. This is a recurring priority and an especially challenging task given that we are very understaffed at the moment.

2) Shelter restrictions

Visits to the project sites have further been restricted, even for Emerge team members who are not the regular weekly trainers. Shelters require special permissions prior to visits and sometimes these requests are denied. The thinking behind such restrictions are not communicated to the organization and has challenged us with showcasing our work to donors and supporters. We will

continue to make our relationships with shelters a priority and to place requests for visits as far in advance as possible.

3.) Participant turnover.

We continue to grapple with is high participant turnover due to girls being moved to new shelters or the courts sending them home. We will continue focusing on relevant and self-paced education as much as possible to accommodate speeds and durations in the shelters.

4.) Opening bank accounts

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka implemented a mandatory rule that requires Birth Certificates to open bank accounts for minors. This is a challenge for Emerge as many of our participants do not have a birth certificate. Emerge held many meetings with three local banks to agree on an exception and one bank agreed to open bank accounts with special permissions from the shelters. We have now commenced processing the documents and will continue to make this a priority.

**6. Have you revised your original objectives since the project began? If so, why? What are your new objectives?**

No significant changes made to any of the mentioned objectives.

**7. What progress have you made towards achieving your objectives? Please address each stated objective.**

Stated Objectives	Progress made March 2016-February 2017	Notes
<b>Bring Emerge programs to 60 girls per year across two shelters.</b>	Shelter A: 77 girls Shelter B: 76 girls TOTAL: 153 girls	The total number is higher than the expected/ anticipated number as the turnover is very high in the shelters.
<b>Provide 48 Beads-to-Business workshops and 48 Life Skills workshops per year to each home.</b>	# B2B Workshops: Shelter A: 31 workshops Shelter B: 27 workshops  # Life Skills Lessons: Shelter A: 20 lessons Shelter B: 14 lessons	The number of workshops held is less in shelters due to holidays, shelter events, Emerge events and Emerge Annual plan at the beginning of the year. And in shelter A due to Grade 11 Government Certified examination

		study leave. While shelter B was affected due to less participants, high turnover and towards latter part due to decision of the Government probation department to pause the programmes due to this challenge.
<b>Sell all jewelry produced through programs.</b>	<p>Jewelry Created: Shelter A: 1294 pieces of jewelry Shelter B:436 pieces of jewelry</p> <p>Savings Generated: Shelter A: LKR. 919,075/- Shelter B: LKR. 265,900/-</p> <p>Jewelry Sold: Sales for Mar 2016- FEB 2017 - 2,341,505.00 (for all of Emerge Lanka, not only these two shelters)</p>	
<b>Open a bank account for each participant.</b>	<p># of Accounts Opened: Shelter A: 23 initial Bank forms are being processed. Shelter B: 16 Bank books are pending.</p> <p>Central Bank of Sri Lanka implemented a mandatory rule for Birth Certificates to open bank accounts for minors – children below the age of 18 years. Emerge held many meetings with three local banks to agree on an exception and one bank agreed to open bank accounts with special permissions from the shelters.</p>	<p>Shelter A administration has initially handed over 23 applications to be processed. The balance is being followed by the shelter administration as they are the authority who have the necessary documentation to open Bank Books.</p> <p>In shelter B we were challenged with massive turnover of girls who fully went through our B2B programme who were trained enough to create jewelry through the curricula and also were faced with the challenge of the rest of the girls not having their Birth Certificates in</p>

		order to open a Bank savings book.
<b>Provide ongoing advice and support to program alumnae.</b>	<p>On average, we receive 65 calls each month from past participants. Whenever possible, we find ways to support alumnae needs. We also connect them to other professional organizations with relevant expertise and/or services.</p> <p>In the past year, we also hosted 1 reunion for Emerge alumnae in December 2016.</p>	

**8. Do you anticipate any difficulties in completing your project in the timeframe outlined in your proposal?**

No.

**Attachments:**

- a) Several High Resolution Photographs – **IMPORTANT: PLEASE DO NOT POST IN PUBLIC / ONLINE PLATFORMS**













**b) Any message you would like us to convey to the membership**

We are tremendously grateful for the ongoing support of Emerge. The support Dining For Women has provided has truly made a life changing difference to the young women we serve.

In addition to our programme progress, we are excited to share that we launched our Emerge Centre for Reintegration. Since its launch the Emerge Centre for Reintegration has hosted 2 batches of participants. The Emerge Centre provides trauma –informed residential empowerment programme for up to 16 girls at a time. It is a creative, experiential, and healing space that inspires self-discovery, cultivates growth mindsets and equips participants with tools needed for independence. The Emerge Centre supports young survivors of sexual abuse as they transition from shelters and step into adulthood. During their time at the Centre for Reintegration, these young women often need additional support while finding their first places to live, learning to travel on their own, and interviewing for their first jobs. The Emerge Centre was established to fix this problem.

We wish we could invite each of you to meet the young women we serve and see our work first hand. To protect participant confidentiality, however, we never share names or photos with faces. We are also finding that our partner organizations are increasing their regulations on who can visit the shelters. Several shelters have also asked that no photos are taken (even if they do not reveal identities). We appreciate your understanding of the sensitivity of this issue.

**c) Detailed list of all expenses**

Attached.