Action Project Reference: 70-01

Organisation: Northern Charity Alliance

Action Project Proposal:

"Draft a 3 year business plan"

Who Are The Northern Charity Alliance?

Northern Charity Alliance (NCA) was founded in 2011 and was registered as a charitable trust in December 2012.

The CSI Index collated by Civicus International Civil Society Index project and a paper presented during the International Society for Third Sector and Asia Pacific Week revealed weak relations between Civil Society Organisations and Private Sector Organizations. The Northern area of Fiji including the major island Vanua Levu and islands totaling 133,000 people have not received the same kind of focus as other areas in Fiji. The majority of services are provided in the capital city of Suva which is located in Viti Levu and therefore the north suffers from a number of issues due to its isolation. Many NGO's and CSO's are based in Suva and therefore provide little support to the north due to administration and travelling expenses. There are few NGO's in the north currently executing community activities. There are therefore escalating social problems surrounding education, health and disaster response which are prevalent in the media and national reports.

The establishment of the Northern Charity Alliance aims to bridge the gap between passionate volunteers, engaging communities and corporations. The alliance aims to help northern communities to deal with their own issues and in turn take ownership of their own developments. This will also enable increased candidature in paid volunteer programs, building capacities/training and providing succession planning of NGOs and CSOs in the North.

Mission:

The aim of NCA is to help achieve citizen and Corporate social responsibility in partnership with the public, people and private sectors in Fiji (Mainly in Labasa and Suva) and overseas. We aim to meet the needs of society in accordance with the principles of social justice, equal opportunity, respect for human dignity and social ventures, and enable individuals to lead a satisfying and purposeful life.

Long Term Aims & Vision:

We aim to reach out and assist those that really need help by ensuring that children are in school; people are healthy and have proper housing; communities are equipped for disasters and have a plan in place during and after a disaster; ensuring steps are taken to alleviate poverty.

NCA have 5 main areas of focus:

1. Education
2. Health and Sanitation
3. Housing
4. Disaster Risk Reduction
5. Poverty Alleviation

Current Challenges:

Some barriers or challenges we face include:

- Difficulty finding donors for our projects
- Funding constraints
- Lack of capacity building
- Developing New Programmes

Further Information:

The direction of the NCA is currently quite uncertain because we do not have a proper organisation system in place. We would therefore like you to develop a draft of a 3 year business plan for us. We would like the business plan to cover all 5 of the key thematic areas listed above. A business plan is essential to help guide the direction and operations of an organisation.

Key Research & Discussion Areas:

Plan and deliver ...

- What are the key aims of NCA within the next 3 years? If these have not been decided, what would the best method be to decide these?
  - Where could you find information about these aims?
- What financial, people and physical resources do NCA currently have?
  - How can these be utilised to reach their goals over the next 3 years?
  - Do these resources need to be increased? How would you suggest doing this? Remember you are operating within a limited budget
- What is needed to achieve their 3-year aims and what needs to be developed? What partnerships could be cultivated to help NCA achieve their aims and get advice from?
- What are the key deadlines you need to work towards?
- How much investment (e.g. time, resources) will be needed to develop an effective plan?
- Can you find examples of business plans for other similar organisations (either in Fiji or elsewhere)?
  - What sections do they include?
  - How could this be applied to the needs of NCA?
- How will you make sure that your contribution to this project has a SMART aim? (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, tangible)

Create content ...

- What are the major components of a strategic business plan? Are there any examples you can find online to help you formulate and format a business plan?
- Check out the skills series for more information on business plans and marketing strategies.
- How will you present your business plan?
  - How will you ensure it is clear and easy to follow?

○ Can ensure it can be changed as NCA's resources and goals evolve?

Barriers to success ...

- What are the potential barriers to the development of a business plan? (e.g. financial, lack of information and knowledge, social, physical, practical)
- How can you overcome these barriers?
- How have other organisations overcome similar barriers in the past?

Evaluate ...

- Come back to your original aim - has your plan achieved its purpose?
  ○ How can you improve your plan to ensure all aims are met?
- What steps could be taken to build on your work in the future by the organisation? Could you provide any guidance with this?
- How will you evaluate your contribution to this project?
- How will you present and share your results?

Useful Links:

- Organisation page: https://thinkpacific.com/action-project-northern-charity-alliance/
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Northern-Charity-Alliance-1525516297746742/
- Draft Concept Paper:
- News report about work with youth groups: https://fijisun.com.fj/2015/10/31/alliance-foundation-help-macuata-youths/
- News report about assistance with educational resources: https://fijisun.com.fj/2019/01/24/parents-of-needy-students-thank-charity-group/

Further Questions

Are there any questions you would like to ask the Northern Charity Alliance to assist in completing this project?

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