



Who We Are

Fashion Redefining Justice (FRJ) is a creative international development organization headquartered in Brooklyn, New York, USA, with regional offices planned in select Sub-Saharan African cities.

Our *mission* is to provide livelihood and life skills training in the global fashion industry to adolescent orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) so that they may be socially and economically self-sufficient as adults.



We *envision* the fashion industry as an innovative, sustainable economic development tool that creates self-sufficiency through opportunity, redefining the image of justice for adolescent OVC and for the world.

What We Do

Many organizations that work with OVC often neglect the needs of adolescents in their programming. FRJ fills this problematic gap by providing unique livelihood and life skills training centered on the fashion industry – an approach that supports adolescent OVC on the way to becoming healthy adults, while contributing to the global goal of fighting inequality and injustice, and of ending extreme poverty by 2030.



Why We Do It

OVC, orphans, and other groups of risk-exposed children are the most vulnerable and marginalized members of society. ¹ The HIV/AIDS epidemic, civil conflict, displacement, or poverty induced abandonment are contributors to their plight. Their social and economic needs include school fees, food, clothing, and access to basic healthcare – the lack of which can lead to life on the streets,

¹ "OVC Core Definitions," *OVC Toolkit for SSA*, second edition (August, 2005), <http://tinyurl.com/OVC-Toolkit>, accessed 2016.

abuse, exposure to HIV, and extreme forms of child labor such as slavery, soldiering, or prostitution.²

Of an estimated 150 to 175 million OVC around the globe, adolescents comprise the largest number: nearly 79 million fall between the ages of 12 and 17.³ Furthermore, Sub-Saharan Africa has both the highest number and highest share of OVC in the world: 90% of the world's OVC live in this region.⁴ Without access to training programs, adult mentors, and the chance to build positive relationships, these grim statistics will only increase.

How We Do It

FRJ will implement a holistic, three-tiered program structure for adolescent OVC in Sub-Saharan Africa, beginning in the Gambia. Program support will come from innovative, fashion-centered public private partnerships created between civil society organizations, the government sector, and the corporate (fashion & non-fashion) sector in the United States, Africa, and within the African Diaspora. These Fashion & Development Public Private Partnerships (FDPPPs) will bring an eclectic group of partners together to achieve a single goal:



FRJ Livelihood and Life Skills Training Programs

1. Vocational Training Program: Students build basic skills in multi-faceted fashion industry trades to achieve real world success in life and in the workplace. Future versions of the program will include school-sponsored programs that supplement the academic aspect of the school experience.
2. Mentorship Program: Pairs OVC with mentors through the vocational training experience, and through the crucial stages of building a career after graduation.
3. Job Placement Program: Places graduates from the vocational training program in skill-specific internships, jobs, and college programs.

FRJ firmly believes in responding to the challenges facing adolescent OVC by strengthening the ability of families and communities to provide care, protection, and assistance to meet their basic needs.⁵ Together, we will form reliable social and economic safety networks to help our program participants adequately manage the risks they encounter today, for a brighter tomorrow.

² The Angel Rock Project, "Orphans and Vulnerable Children" (2010), <http://tinyurl.com/angelrock-OVC>, accessed 2016.

³ Kathy Osborn, "Adolescents: Missing from Programs for the World's Orphans and Vulnerable Children," *Advocates for Youth* (May, 2007), <http://tinyurl.com/OsbornOVC>, accessed 2016.

⁴ The Angel Rock Project, "Orphans and Vulnerable Children."

⁵ *Ibid.*