

**KAKAMEGA COUNTY WIDOWS EMPOWERMENT PROJECT**

**P.O BOX 354-50100 KAKAMEGA**

**CELL: 0724863770, 0715213819 Email- kcwepkenya@gmail.com**

**ESTABLISHMENT**

Kakamega county Widows Empowerment Project is a not for profit making organization that is operational in the seven sub counties of kakamega county namely; Malava, Mumias East, Mumias West Navakholo,Lurambi,Ikolomani,Butere and Shinyalu The organization was founded by Mwanzi Gerry in 2016 and got registered in March 2017 with the government of Kenya under the ministry of social services. Registration no is: **KAK/CCSD/CBO/005/2017.**

**MISSION**

TO ADVANCE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT TO THE LESS FORTUNATE IN THE SOCIETY (WIDOWS, PLWDS, OVC and Girls)

**OUR VISION**

A SOCIETY THAT EMBRACES THE RIGHTS OF THE LESS FORTUNATE AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

**OBJECTIVES**

The main objective for the establishment of this organization is to reduce the entire social

Maladies that vulnerable groups mainly both young and elderly widows, orphaned and

Vulnerable children, people living with disabilities and women living with HIV/AIDS

undergo, ranging from rejection, stigmatization and discrimination by community members, poverty, sexual and gender based violence and domestic violence. In order to address these social problems and achieve this main objective KCWEP has prioritized the following

objectives:

1 To advocate for the rights of widows.

2 To promote the wellbeing orphans and vulnerable children in the community.

3 To create a channel where the less fortunate can air out their issues

4 To reduce stigma in the society for people who are living with HIV/AIDS.

5 To advance the reproductive health and advocacy for women and girls

6 To invest in farming for food security and for women economic empowerment (WEE)

KCWEP has a board of management comprised of 6members(4 Women and 2men).They are responsible of making crucial matters of the organization including discussing the budget line for the activities or projects. Their roles are summarized as follows

They allocate different projects to clusters.

They monitor and evaluate every activity and project of the

They allocate funds to different projects in clusters.

They provide strategic plan for the organization.

They pass crucial matters pertaining the organization.

They also ensure sustainability of the organization.

The second level comprises of the project team headed by the project director and departmental heads. This team ensures the daily running of the activities of the organization and ensuring Monitoring and evaluation is done and projects reported .Kcwep has 13 full time staffs.5 volunteers and 2 interns, The following are their roles

They implement major projects in the organization.

They are accountable to the board and ensure timely reports are submitted pertaining the project.

They ensure all other staffs work according to the work plans and are able to reach out to target groups.

**ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS**

KCWEP is currently actively involved in projects aiming at poverty reduction, social welfare and economic Empowerment. These projects include:

**ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

Kcwep provides assistance to children from vulnerable families especially those brought up by widows (orphans) and those from most poor families.Kcwep has been mobilizing local support to such children ranging from provision of food, shelter and education. One of the challenges though has been the jiggers that have highly infested in many poor families in Kakamega County. Currently almost every school in kakamega county have children who are suffering from jiggers, and for every child infested by jiggers there is a family member who is also suffering from the same thus crippling the economy of the family and increasing poverty levels in the county. Kcwep is helping by reaching out to such families and children in their schools and creating awareness of the disease which is categorized by the poor. The organization is always conducting fundraising campaigns in order to lock out the jigger effects that are crippling the economy thus making families poor



1. **SOLAR LANTERN PROJECT**

KCWEP is involved in an innovation for solar lantern where we train women in their groups to assemble and refurbish the traditional kerosene lamps into workable and portable solar lamps. This project is turning the lives of the most vulnerable families who cannot afford installation of electricity to have an alternative lighting which not only cut the cost of using paraffin but also improve their health and performance of school going children from those families. Since 2018 Kcwep has reached 2450 vulnerable households with the solar lantern project in Kakamega county





2. **VILLAGE SAVINGS @LOANING ASSOCIATIONS**

At group level KCWEP makes the women engage themselves in the table banking initiative. This Initiative has born fruits in most of the groups because 80% of the women who participate in this initiative have testified of getting small amounts of money in form of loans from table banking at a very small interest with no property attached as security for the loan to enhance their livelihood activities hence reducing poverty. Most women in this groups are not financially stable hence they are not able to access funds from loaning institutions. With this initiative they are able to access credit because they guarantee each other to get this money which in turn helps them solve small issues like buying school uniforms for their children and solving petty financial issue this initiative has also instilled the culture of saving among the group members. Currently Kcwep has 278 SELF HELP GROUPS that are part of the

**3.Climate resilience agriculture project (agro-ecology).**

Due to unpredictable climatic conditions brought about by deforestation, global warming and other human activities, most members have been affected not leaving behind children too. Kakamega being one of these regions and kabras at large, it’s for these reason that KCWEP is conducting a pilot project on Agro ecology farming in Malava Sub County. Through conservative agriculture we expect to have a holistic system approach to food feed and fiber production balancing environmental, social and economic issues, our focus on diversification ensures improved nutrition at household level and availability of food at household level throughout the year. The integration of climate adaptive farming techniques and social aspects increase resilience towards climate change and natural disasters. The beneficiary groups implementing the project are in Kabras west and south grouped in 38 women solidarity groups which are food insecure hence the most vulnerable with less than 2 acres of land, impoverished PLWDs and with little access to some land .These groups adopt common activities such as common labour in groups which lessen burden for farmers, contribute to knowledge and skills transfer and increase social cohesion This project is ongoing and its main objectives are:

1 To invest in sustainable farming for food security.

2 To create income generating activities for economic empowerment.

3 To reduce cases of chronic illnesses in the community such as cancer, hypertension and 4.ulcers which are mainly caused by use of heavy chemicals to produce agricultural food that we take.

4 To reduce on the cost used for purchase of synthetic fertilizers for farming with compost and farmyard manure.

5 To revive the natural fertility of the top soil.

**IMPACT TO THE COMMUNITY**

Agro ecology (Conservation agriculture) has a lot of benefits to the individuals and the environment at large, the benefits includes the following;

**CATEGORY SPECIFIC BENEFITS**

Social :

Food and nutrition, shelter, medicinal herbs,

Economic Sales of timber, fruits, poles and vegetables. Environmental Soil fertility, crop and livestock productivity, firewood, Biodiversity, climate change adaptation and mitigation



**ADVOCACY ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

Western Kenya records the second highest in GBV at a rate of 49.6% with Sexual violence and physical violence against women at 25.3%. Access to Justice Report, conducted by UN Women in 2015 indicate 72.6 % of survivors were unwilling to pursue justice; while only five percent of the survivors seen in facilities in 2014 were willing to go to court owing to insensitivity of law enforcers. Moreover, disability is a curse and a disgrace to the family in such cases resulting to PWDs being neglected, mistreated and isolated, used for witchcraft, denied access to health services thus contributing to low proportion of HIV/AIDS and TB awareness, access to information, knowledge and HIV testing compared with other provinces (KNSPWD, 2008). KCWEP project design is using strategies for primary prevention of violence against women and girls, that is, strategies that will lead towards stopping violence from occurring altogether in the first place.

Examples include: community or working with men and boys on changing gender norms and the acceptability of violence, among various others. Secondly, the design is ensuring Girls and women living with disabilities access to quality health and other services and support. Thirdly, women are empowered to understand and claim their rights and mobilizing communities on ‘zero tolerance’ through legal literacy about international, national and local laws and policies, as well as through socio economic opportunities for women and girls to break out of the cycle of violence.

**Gas cylinder project(Organizational sustainable project)**

Over a long time, people in the rural areas believe that gas cylinders used for cooking are only found in urban areas and used by urban residents because they are quite expensive to purchase. KCWEP is the first, to kill this notion because it is providing and helping women in groups in rural areas access gas cylinders. This project aims at environmental conservation because once the women begin using liquefied petroleum gas for cooking, once again they will not largely depend on cutting down trees for firewood and this will intern preserve our trees and forest hence reducing global warming and sudden climatic changes. The women are enrolled in the project and they pay deposit and the rest are distributed in equal monthly instalments for 3 months in a row.

**GET US THROUGH THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION CHANNELS**

***WEBSITE:https://www.kcwep.com,Facebook:@kcwepkenya,Email:kcwepkenya@gmail.com***