

## **PROJECT FOR ECONOMIC RESCUE OF 1000 VULNERABLE WOMEN IN IGANGA DISTRICT**

### **SUMMARY**

Women and children especially those in urban and peri urban areas have been the most affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. In a bid to curb the spread of the corona virus, the government imposed a four months lockdown without any form of preparedness by the national and local governments to safe guard the livelihoods of the most vulnerable categories. These women who depended on vending and micro business ventures of between \$30 to \$300 as capital have been left without any source of income since they ate all the capital and their savings during the period.

They were exposed to all forms of associated challenges including, access to health care, (so many can no longer afford transport and costs to the health centres for safe delivery and other medical services), Gender Based Violence from equally economically stressed men, and extreme stress having the burden of feeding their families. In 2019 police registered 13,639 cases of GBV and the emergency of COVID 19 pandemic caused it to double and therefore more violence and mayhem.

Through your support we will be able to reach over 1000 women with very affordable loans (4% interest) given through their Harambee saving schemes and Harambee clubs for them to start earning, feeding and caring for themselves and their families.

We will also engage government and other stakeholders on absorbing women mainly those who lost their jobs and livelihoods, Create awareness on women's rights, policy frameworks on gender equality, empower women economically and advocacy for gender equality and reduced marginalization during this unprecedented times.

### **CHALLENGE**

The Covid 19 situation being unprecedented has posed a lot of issues to the enjoyment of human rights for the women, coupled with increasing levels of gender based violence locally and nationally.

Many lost their sources of income and livelihoods due to prolonged lockdown that's caused loss of jobs and eating of capital. There has been an increase in cases of Gender Based violence since the lock down kept women and tormentors under the same shelter and according to MGLSD 3,280 cases of GBV were reported to police in April alone. Mothers lost lives as Health Ministry reported 115 deaths of pregnant women by April due to limited access to health facilities.

Inadequate supplies for the families as bread winners are home threatening life of wage workers, those with strict jobs, women who operate on a hand to mouth basis and women who lost businesses as capital was eaten off during lock down living them with no hope.

## **SOLUTION**

The proposed project aims at promoting women's engagement in economic discourse and decision making. It works towards reducing violence, exploitation and abuse against the women and girls in Iganga district and will greatly support lessening of the marginalization of these people. The project will involve use of participatory approaches for advocacy, involving communities.

Advocacy campaigns will be conducted mainly on service delivery, women economic empowerment and better conflict resolutions to educate and raise awareness about key issues such as women's rights, and existing national, local laws, policies, action plans and legislation in the government which promotes equality and women's rights. Hence Exploitation and violence against women will be eliminated.

## **LONG-TERM IMPACT**

Increased incomes and secure livelihoods for women, awareness on women's rights, responsibility and GBV in development, victims increased knowledge about existing national, local laws, policies and action plans on domestic violence and women's rights, advocacy groups and networks developed within the community for reduced exploitation and violence against women and girls, pursuing their rights to access productive resources, increased number of women engaged in income generating enterprises for economic empowerment and development.