WAG logo

**PROJECT DOCUMENT**

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| **COUNTRY** | ZIMBABWE |
| **ORGANISATION** | WOMEN’S ACTION GROUP |
| **PROJECT TITLE** | Access to SRHR services for disabled women, girls |
| **SECTOR** | Women and girls |
| **TOTAL BUDGET** | US$55,000 |
| **PROJECT DURATION** | January 2018 - December 2018 |
| **ORGANISATION DETAILS** | 11 LINCOLN ROAD, AVONDALE, HARARE |
| **CONTACT PERSON** | EDINAH MASIYIWA |
| **CONTACT DETAILS** | [edinah@wag.org.zw](mailto:edinah@wag.org.zw), +263 4 339161, +263 77 227 2422 |

1. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project will create an enabling environment for disabled women and girls in Zimbabwe to access Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) services. Challenges are that women and girls living with disability experience violation of their human rights and they have no access to information and services. Families hide disabled women and girls in their homes because of negative community perceptions on disability. The women and girls experience sexual abuse, fall pregnant and contract STIs due to lack of SRHR information and service. The project will ensure access to SRHR services through engaging with community members, SRHR service providers and policy makers.

The project will create an enabling environment by addressing the issue of access as well as community perceptions around disability through the following objectives:

1. Build capacity building of women and girls (15-49) with disability in SRHR and advocacy
2. Mobilize community to address negative social and cultural norms around disability
3. Advocate for gender/disability-sensitive service delivery as a human right.
4. BACKGROUND

Prevalence of disability in Zimbabwe is estimated to be 7% equivalent to over 900 000 individuals according to 2013 survey on Living Conditions among Persons with disabilities. Many people with disabilities do not have equal access to health care, education, and employment opportunities, do not receive the disability-related services that they require, and experience exclusion from everyday life activities. Following the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), disability is increasingly understood as a human rights issue. One of Zimbabwe’s pieces of legislation, the Disabled Persons Act Chapter 17:01 of 1992, clearly spells out the need to socially include persons with disabilities (PWD) in admission into public premises, provision of services and to treat them fairly in employment opportunities without discrimination. Section 83 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe (2013) provides a constitutional commitment to advance the rights of PWDs who have endured severe marginalization for a long time in Zimbabwe.

Despite having the policy and legal framework in place, most women are still facing challenges in accessing adequate SRH services due to stigma and discrimination at health facilities as they are often considered not capable of child bearing. As a result women with disabilities end up delivering at home on their own. This also implies lack of access to health information as they fail to access places or platform for information sharing. From previous interventions by WAG, women and girls with mental disability faced challenges accessing health services as they were considered to be mentally challenged and hence were regarded as ignorant to what they were suffering from hence were denied their right to access any medical treatment. Besides attitudes at facility level, negative community perceptions around disability are also some of the challenges that they encounter. This results in failure to enjoy their freedoms and rights such as access to education, family planning, justice, health information and participation in community awareness activities. Human rights violations also take place through sexual violence which results in unwanted pregnancies and STIs as they fail to access emergency medical treatment. In view of these challenges, WAG will implement a project that will address some of the gaps in policy implementation through advocacy and empowerment of women and girls to understand and exercise their rights.

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

WAG will provide information on SRHR to women and girls with disabilities in Harare, Guruve and Mbire Districts through training in SRHR and advocacy. WAG will also conduct community awareness on the rights of women and girls for gender transformation through community dialogues. Women and girls will be supported and referred for long term family planning services. Pregnant women will be supported and referred to health centers for management and ante-natal care and will also be encouraged to make use of maternity waiting mother’s shelter. Cases of sexual abuse will be referred for emergency medical treatment and the justice system and WAG will support women and girls with disability to access these services through provision of transport and other basic provisions. Disabled women and girls will be supported with wheelchairs and other assistive devices including sanitary pads. WAG will also engage service providers at local and national level in advocacy initiatives.

1. JUSTIFICATION

WAG has implemented a project targeting women and girls with disability before. The challenge encountered was that the project focused on policy advocacy, capacity building and community mobilization for social transformation. However, the component of service provision was not really addressed in the previous project which was a gap in terms of addressing other socio-economic issues affecting women and girls with disability. The project made effort to encourage income generating projects, however there was a gap in supporting access to SRHR and justice services and commodities. Therefore, this project will ensure women and girls with disability are supported and empowered with both SRHR information and services so as to be able to make an impact in their lives by creating an enabling environment that respects their SRH rights. In as much as access to information is key, it is also imperative to compliment that with actual service provision through providing the necessary support and commodities such as sanitary pads, assistive devices, long-term family planning methods, referrals, transport fees to access emergency health services and justice system.

5. PROJECT COSTS

The total costs of the project including direct project costs and administration costs will be US$55 000.

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| **BUDGET SUMMARY** | **1 YEAR** |
| **Administration**: | 2, 750.00 |
| **Programme**: | 52, 250.00 |
| **Total budget** (US$) | 55, 000.00 |

6. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

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| **Activity** | **J** | **F** | **M** | **A** | **M** | **J** | **J** | **A** | **S** | **O** | **N** | **D** |
| 1.Project planning and meeting |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.Assistive devices needs assessments |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3.Procurement of commodities (sanitary pads, assistive devices) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.Advocacy material production |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5.Training of women and girls in SRHR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5.Community dialogues and follow-up dialogues |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. Refer and support disabled women with family planning services (jadelle) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7.Identify disabled pregnant women and assist with Ante-natal care and baby packs in Harare, Guruve, Mbire |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8.Provide basic supplies (sanitary packs, food) for disabled women in maternity waiting shelters |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9.Emergency medical treatment and justice support for disabled women and girls rape survivors (transport to court/hospital, food) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10.Advocacy meetings in Harare, Guruve and Mbire with service providers |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11. National advocacy and policy dialogue |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

7. PROJECT IMPACT

The project’s overall goal is to create an enabling environment for women and girls living with disabilities in Zimbabwe to access SRHR services. The project will target 3,000 community members on disability and gender transformative issues and 200 disabled women and girls with SRHR information and services. The project will result in improved access to SRHR services by disabled women and girls including access to emergency treatment for rape survivors. There will be a reduction in abuse and neglect for women and girls with disabilities and changes in attitudes among caregivers and service providers. Abused women will have improved access to justice through the referral system.