

LETTER OF INQUIRY

TITLE: Women and girls empowerment through skills development training to alleviate poverty and violence against women

IMPLEMENTER: TORORO WOMEN AND DISABLED PERSON DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

BACKGROUND

Our survey found 90% of women and girls are very poor and living in bad conditions, not valued in community, 95% do not own land leaving them dependants on men, hence difficult for women to support girl children in school, 86% of 14 year girls get married at that age and get pregnant putting life at risk.

The project is to serve women and youths, the majority of about 94% are not educated beyond Primary level because men see it as a waste to educate a girl that they are supposed to get ready for marriage that is why at 14 years a girl is forcefully sent to marriage after a man pay the dowry. It is hard in the villages to find 10 girls having completed a secondary level of education.

Poverty in the community has greatly affected the local people; it has limited many people dreaming of a future of good life especially people with disabilities, women and girls seeing the poor living conditions in which they are and have accepted living in it.

Women find hard times to buy soap and candles, are forced to remain dependent upon men for survival, which force them to endure severe abuse and Domestic violence due to increased poverty.

The target population

We operate on a local basis because we noted that our focus is centered on women and youths in various rural local communities because women there are suffering so much, seriously abused. Target women and youth from rural areas, Groups formed basing on village levels. Stakeholders are at the centre; Women and youths are powerful agents of change, thus included in planning and implementing project, empowering women and youths are important goals to create a sustainable future.

How this need has been determined

During the meetings conducted among the community members within their group meetings in the local setting discussed issues concerning the best way to come out the pit of poverty, being agriculturalist they have tried it and are still poor, some disclosed that because they grow crops on land that belong to men during harvest the husbands take all the harvest and women remain with no say and agriculture is determined by weather conditions.

The women came up with an idea of making soap and candles which require limited space, time and not determined by weather and discussed that they can have full ownership of finances from such project, the debate went to villages we work with and averagely 97% supported it, once put in place the project can change their living standards because the demand for soap and candles increases every day, the market is available, they also disclosed that they spend much money on such items making them will help them to save the money and use it for other basic needs.

The purpose of the project

The project is participatory in a sense that it enables the community to identify their problems as well as look for solutions by using resources from their own locality, involves the community during the planning, and implementation to bring the project ownership and ensure the sustainability of the project.

The project is centered on training the beneficiaries how to make candles and soap for domestic use and sell, this is so because the demand and market for the two products is available, the people willing to learn are also available, the material needed for making the two products can be accessed, the project require little space, it takes little time to produce, the skills once learnt the person can start producing and start to make business.

The project has no season affecting production once the materials needed for production are available together with the person with the skills any time is time for production, the factor of forming groups to supervise the production per group and working as a team is also instrumental in project sustainability.

Undertake a soap and candle making to transform community stricken by poverty, illiteracy, poor sanitation and environmentally destructed. Provide an environment for all stakeholders to participate fully in human capital development and employment promotion to attain high rates of economic growth.

Soap and candle making is one of the opportunities for employment creation for the poor people in the communities, especially women and youths services the project products have market and beneficiaries definitely will be motivated by getting employment and generate income for their livelihoods. Increase of family income, improve health and sanitation, it is a commercial activity by making new products out of project material, Easy to manage and create employment

The goals and objectives of the project

- Empowering the people with knowledge that will make them productive and create jobs themselves
- Increase income and drive poverty out of the communities by selling their produce.
- Harnessing Employment Opportunities for Rural Women and girls in rural Communities
- Collaborative Effort in Prevention of early marriages and Teenage Pregnancy for Rural Girls
- Improving the health, economic opportunities and empowerment projects for women, youth's people with disabilities
- Use the project and empower women to support their children with education facilities.
- Empower people with disabilities with skills to make them productive and earn income for their survival
- Use the beneficiary groups as models for training other people to also jump out of poverty
- Build capacity of the community by developing knowledge and skills to improve their quality of life.
- Create sustainable income generation activities and decent employment opportunities for the rural communities, women and youths in particular leading to poverty reduction.

Project sustainability

Project funds realized from the products sold by group members will be used to ensure productivity expansion of projects, which results in verifiable benefits and poverty reduction among the poor. The demand for soap and candles is ever increasing with increased population, this make the project needed each day that comes, therefore continuous production greatly benefits the beneficiaries in homes.

The project is set to establish a training demonstration training centre that is used as a platform to train the beneficiaries and other community members, knowledge learnt will be used for productive purposes.

Long term plans for this project

The project is expected to make an important positive contribution to community income generation reducing the impact of the lack of incomes generating activities on people's livelihoods. The project will make important contributions to providing incomes to beneficiaries as a poverty alleviation strategy and provide for an important opportunity for the beneficiaries to gainfully participate in community development.

The potential for replication and continuation of the project is considered to be high. Due to the innovative approach in which skill development training is closely linked to current poverty levels and incomes, the project encompasses groups in various communities.

Specific benefits include; alleviate poverty, health and sanitation, increase the capacity of the community to address causes of socio-economic problems including poverty and poor hygiene standards.

A full-fledged participation plan to engage all stakeholders in a dialogue and provide them with a platform for interaction, planning, and decision-making in view of skill development training and poverty in the project area will be carried out.

The project focuses on promotion of poor rural people especially women, youth and disabled so that they have increased access to gainful and fulfilling employment to benefit from strong growth in this project. Assist the community, particularly poor and disadvantaged, to engage in soap and candle making to increase production for improved income and increased productivity.

The facilitators will teach and give learners a hands-on learning experience, Learn the art and science of making their own candles and soaps while having fun and meeting new people. The beneficiaries will be given an in-depth, complete learning experience for each of the training for soap and candle making project.

Collaboration and Participation

The project is to serve several groups of people with special emphasis on women and girls between the age of 12 years and 34 years, the majority of about 94% are not educated beyond Primary level because parents (fathers) see it as a waste to educate a girl that they are supposed to get ready for marriage. It is hard in the villages to find 10 girls having completed a secondary level of education.

Stakeholders are at the centre; included in planning and implementing project, empowering women and youth groups are important goals to create a sustainable future. Community members came up with project idea suiting their situation; 97% selected making soap and candles to change their lives positively.

Beneficiaries will form project groups; choose group leaders, each leader will be part of project team, trained to become trainers to train others, form project marketing committee to link members to good markets for improved incomes.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is performed by group leaders, organization's staff and project team who will routinely gather information during project field visits to make sure the implementation is going on track, reports prepared upon each visit conducted. We shall undertake routine collection of information for the purpose of tracking achievements, ensuring accountability of the resources used and results obtained, and facilitating decision-making. Through monitoring, we shall document project results, processes, and experiences throughout the entire project implementation period.

Periodic reports prepared to find from field visit findings, the project team will meet regularly with groups and their leaders to share field findings to improve project operations, measure project impact on community and assess whether project is achieving the targets set, basing on income from the products and make project adjustments needed.

Outcome and Activities

Outcome	Activities
<p>By the end of the project there will be Creation of Employment Opportunities and Sustainable Community Development through empowerment and livelihood as a result of the project.</p> <p>By the end of the project there will be improvement in Hygiene and Sanitation among women and girls homes as result of the project because some families spend a month without a bar of soap.</p> <p>By the end of the project there will be Improvement of household incomes among rural people as a result of making and selling candles and soap. Promote income generating practice by getting incomes out selling soap and candles.</p> <p>The project will contribute to increased enrollment of girls in school resulting from incomes realized from the project; this will greatly reduce forced marriages of young girls and early pregnancies which help the organization to establish a foundation of respectable and responsible future people.</p> <p>Development of adult literacy and numeracy education for members to have the capacity to read and write for record keeping as result of the project</p> <p>Reduce their expenditure by using those made in their homes</p> <p>Profitable and reliable as business, Candle and soap Sellers will be in business</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training making liquid soap and making bar soap 2. Training making candles. 3. Promote girls education and stop early marriages 4. Establishing market committee to help groups market their products 5. Facilitate project groups and Individual implementation 6. Establishment project demonstration training center 7. Empower women to own land using income from project. 8. Train group leaders as trainers to train fellow group 9. Supervise all the project practitioners. 10. Conducting Literacy Courses and numeracy to illiterate because project progress needs record keeping. 11. Use the project income to keep girls in schools 12. Empower women to stop early marriages and pregnancies. 13. Availing training materials and conduct Project debates 14. Establishing group market committee to market products. 15. Availing group with Translated project readable materials 16. Increasing earning power through skill development.

SOAP & CANDLE MAKING PROJECT BUDGET

ITEM	DESCRPTION	AMOUNT IN US \$
Tools and equipments	Overall/ Overcoat	100.00
	Safety shoes and gloves	100.00
	Soap Double Boiler/ Mixer	100.00
	Soap Plodder Simplex	200.00
	Candle wax double boiler	200.00
	Candle moldings machine	100.00
	Wax Melting tin and Candle wicks	100.00
	Chopstick and Strong dowel	100.00
	Candle Dryer	100.00
	Soap Racks – soap drying platform	120.00
Materials for making soap (Liquid, bar and bathing soap)	Fats and Oils	
	Caustic Soda (Sodium Hydroxide)	100.00
	Borax, ammonia, kerosene, naptha and rosin	100.00
	Sodium Silicate (Bonding Agent/ filler)	100.00
	Solvent (Oil Soluble Colour) and Perfume (Scent)	
Materials for making candles	Candle materials Colour	
	Perfumes	110.00
	Wax	100.00
Staff and Professional Services	Training of trainers (Group leaders)	100.00
	Soap making Facilitators allowance	100.00
	Candle making Facilitators allowance	100.00
	Marketing and business management facilitators	100.00
Transportation	Facilitators transport allowance	120.00
	Transporting project materials	140.00
Project trainings	Establishment of project demonstration training center	900.00
	Trainings of beneficiaries in soap making	200.00
	Trainings of beneficiaries in candle making	200.00
	Training of beneficiaries in packaging, marketing, and	100.00
Participant Support Costs	Formation and Electing of group leaders	
	facilitate school & women project groups	100.00
	Facilitation of project marketing committee	100.00
Administration	Charges for project activities.	100.00
	Stationary	100.00
	Communication	100.00
Monitoring and Evaluation	Supervise all the project practitioners by team.	160.00
	Project reports and documentation	100.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST		5,000.00