**SLUM WOMEN IN HIGH RISK OF DYING OF HUNGER AND COVID 19**

Humanity, for Months now, has been experiencing what we can say has never happened before. We have been in a state of shock and anxiety regarding the high level of uncertainty about human life and existence that is taking over. No one is sure of what could happen the next moment. This level of uncertainty is creating fear which is growing to a point of despair. Coupled with these fears of hopelessness and safety is hunger that is killing now in Nigeria more than the virus as a result of the lockdown. Millions of Nigerians observing the lockdown lack the food and income for their families to survive. It is worse for disenfranchised women and the homeless who derived their meager income from daily paid jobs, petty trading and alms begging. The lockdown has made it impossible for them to go about their daily activities which thereby left them with nothing to take care of themselves and their children during the lockdown. As a result of this, hunger has killed more than COVID 19 in the slums and villages.

The women are already crying out “let us go out, let COVID 19 kill us. It is better to be killed by COVID 19 than to stay at home and the whole of your family is wiped out as a result of hunger”. They have become so desperate and this has made them to be more vulnerable to the virus. These are the set of people that could not afford a meal per day not to talk of buying mask and sanitizer to be safe from COVID 19.

Women Inspiration Development Center have been working with women and girls in the slums and villages in Nigeria over the last 10 years. We have worked with about 4000 disenfranchised women in 6 states of Nigeria. Women Inspiration Development Center create a safe place for Nigerian women and girls in challenging life circumstances to envision and create new possibilities for their lives, family and communities. We empower women and girls to develop their agency in other to improve their health, economy and social status so that they can emerged confident, strong and make meaningful contributions to their society.

Therefore, when this pandemic started, our organization became a point of call of many women and girls both the one we have worked with before and those that have been hearing of the work we have been doing in the community. The distress calls of hunger, abuse and lack of personal protective equipment has become so much that we are overwhelmed because we lack the resources to assist the women.

Government since the pandemic have tried to reach out to people generally in the community but it has been like using a spoon to fetch water into a tank. However, NGOs and few individuals have been trying to reach out to these vulnerable but the efforts have not been enough at all as the lock down persisted due to increased number of cases of COVID 19 every day in Nigeria. Therefore, more help is needed especially as deaths and domestic violence have been on the increase during the lock down. The women and children that are living with domestic violence have no escape from their abuser. The abusers are worse as a result of the frustrations, hopelessness and anxiety of not having enough during the lockdown.

**HOW WILL OUR WORK FIT OR EXPAND UPON THE EFFORTS ALREADY EXISTING**

This project will not only alleviate the hunger of the women and children but it will also create an alternative avenue of generating income based on the needs in the community at this time. Face Mask, Sanitizer and other protective equipment have become so expensive in Nigeria now that anyone that can make the locally made of these materials that will be less expensive will be generating enough income to feed their families.

Therefore, families are going to be trained during this project on how to make locally hand-made mask and sanitizers from local materials that is accessible to the women. At the end of the training the women will also go home food that will be enough to last their families for at least four weeks before their small business in hand made face mask and sanitizer begin to thrive. And also they will go home with enough materials to start their small business.

We already have 2 trainers in our organization that are training women and girls tailoring and sewing even before Corona Virus. These two trainers already part of our volunteers in our organization will be leading the training.

Our ingredient would be purchased in large volume from a local seller in our community for the trainings.

We already have network of NGOs in our community that are helping women and children facing abuse during the pandemic. The network comprises of our organization, League of Women Voters in Nigeria, Osun State Chapter and the Federation of Women Lawyers in Nigeria. The State Ministry of Women and Children Affairs always there to support us. Even during this pandemic, the Welfare court is always open to deal with cases of abuse of women and children.