

GOOD PRACTICE TITLE:

- Community Awareness and Education on Economic Women Empowerment



DESCRIPTION OF THE GOOD PRACTICE AND MOTIVATION

- ❖ Awareness education on economic women empowerment training activities were organized and people drawn from different communities in Traditional Authority Mazengera, Tsabango and Chiseka in Lilongwe where OSF is working.
- ❖ The beneficiaries included widows and girls that have left school due to various reasons and men.
- ❖ It was discovered that women have a lot of challenges such as interpretation of policies, involvement on policy formulation, limited loans access from the banks, exclusion on financial assistance at household level.
- ❖ It was noted that most of the women and girls seem to have no capacity to repay back loans because most women and girls have no permanent jobs or sources of income at household level and also have limited knowledge on business management.
- ❖ Most women especially unmarried ones become vulnerable because as they look for money as start up for small businesses, sometimes they are forced to engage in sexual activities to get the money



CONTRIBUTING TO PROTOCOL TARGETS

- ❖ Policy analysis results/findings- Involve District Agricultural managers in the central region.
- ❖ Traditional leaders-T/A Mazengera, Senior Santhe, and their subjects; Women and girls were sensitized and were able to give recommendations which were given to Agricultural managers (access to productive resources e.g. land, FISP, Food for work - Public Works Programme)
- ❖ Empowerment to start small businesses
- ❖ Traditional leaders saw that the gap can be bridged noting that there were almost few agriculture officers at community level –
- ❖ Village Savings and loans



OBJECTIVES:

- ❖ Enhancing participation of Women and Girls in Economic activities and decision making at household level
- ❖ Empower women and girls in the areas of Social Economic Development, self-reliance and improve their livelihood status at household level.



PROBLEMS AND CONTEXT

- ❖ Low levels of knowledge on economic rights and women's rights in general among women, girls and communities at large.
- ❖ Minimal participation of women and girls on issues affecting them especially on productive resources at household level such as land ownership, access to agricultural inputs through Farm Input Subsidy Programme.



TARGETS

Primary Targets

- ❖ Women, Including Widows
- ❖ Girls-school Dropouts

Secondary

- ❖ Agricultural Managers,
- ❖ Traditional Leaders



STEPS/ACTIVITIES:

- ❖ Identification of target group.
 - ❖ Group discussions,
 - ❖ Consolidation of issues/recommendations
 - ❖ Presentation,
 - ❖ Interaction and feedback.
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- ✓ Training of women and girls.
 - ✓ Awareness meetings-access to productive resources, Women's economic rights, Entrepreneurship,
 - ✓ Interactive/lobbying and advocacy meeting with District Agriculture officials and Traditional leaders



OUTPUT

- ❖ 15 Women- (including 5 girls) and 10 men trained in social economic development and all started small scale businesses e.g. selling of tomatoes, young girl -Piggery farming, buying and selling maize husks,
- ❖ Targeted group started their own Village Savings and Loans Group in order to generate income to support their businesses
- ❖ Reports and newsletter produced



ATTACHMENTS:



Lisa Kapazila Phiri, Area 44, Masambabise Lilongwe.

“After the training I started piggery. I learned how to best improve my business and how I can be economically sound. I am looking forward to becoming economically strong and help support my family as my mother is HIV Positive”



[Newsletter Testimonial](#)



MAIN OUTCOMES:

- ❖ Increased awareness on business management, women's economic rights and women empowerment
- ❖ Enhanced Participation of women and girls in demanding services from duty bearers
- ❖ Improved economic status of trained women, girls and men as they are engaging in small scale businesses
- ❖ Increased access to information on gender and women empowerment



CHALLENGES:

- ❖ Inadequate resources to implement activities. This challenge was addressed by decreasing the number of participants who attended the trainings and they (trainings) were conducted at a low cost venue to maximise resource use while not compromising quality



LESSONS LEARNT

- ❖ We learnt that it is good to mix participants in issues of women empowerment because this gives room of responsibilities to both men and women.
 - ❖ We also learnt that there is need for such activities to combine people from the urban and rural to share experiences in economic empowerment.
 - ❖ We learnt that having role models in during the trainings gives an extra motivation to participants on how this particular individual has improved her/his life.
- We will make sure that the noted grey areas are improved in future activities



SUSTAINABILITY AND REPLICATION:

- ❖ Those that were trained are applying the knowledge and owning the project-For example, VSL groups are managed by themselves
- ❖ OSF is based in the area and continues to follow up to ensure progress even when the project's lifespan comes to an end



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