

INNOVATIVE MARKET PLACE ON WOMEN'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN AFRICA

CATALOGUE OF EXHIBITORS



Produced by the Knowledge Management and Research Unit of UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office

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Disclaimer

The contents of the catalogue do not necessarily reflect the views of UN Women, its executive board or its member states.

Catalogue of Selected Initiatives on Women's Socio-Economic Empowerment in Africa Showcased at the Timeless Conference

**Royal Orchid Hotel, Nairobi - Kenya
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Executive Summary

UN Women in collaboration with Timeless Conference organized a Market Place at the Timeless Conference 2016. This booklet is a collation of case studies, good practices and innovations by diverse organizations/ agencies demonstrating good practices in operationalizing normative framework on Women's Socio-Economic Empowerment. The initiatives documented form part of the Market Place at the Timeless Conference and are innovative and cutting edge examples of interventions/ programmes that could be replicated elsewhere and scaled up for impact to increase socio-economic impacts on women and girls in Africa. They demonstrate evidence on how organizations/ agencies work on women's socio-economic empowerment and have contributed to improving women's social and economic empowerment in Africa. The main purpose of the market place is to create a culture of innovative business models and initiatives that guarantee wealth and job creation while implementing ideas that create socio-economic transformation in the lives of women in Africa.

In the booklet, initiatives around cross border trade have been shared. In this regard, TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) shares their work in addressing the gender-based constraints that prevent women from participating in regional and international trade.

Initiatives around energy and environment have also been documented. The National Environment Trust Fund showcases their support to rural households in the upscaling of innovative and cost effective interventions to expand the off-grid access of rural households to electricity through mini-hydroelectricity generation. Green Energy Africa has showcased their work on increasing the use of solar energy as an alternative form of energy in Kenya.

Innovative models of entrepreneurial initiatives targeting women entrepreneurs were also documented. While Small and Medium Entrepreneurial Resource Centre-SME offers information, assistance and empowerment in entrepreneurship to women entrepreneurs, Etiquette Xllent provides professional etiquette skills development to women entrepreneurs.

Women's engagement in the male dominated sectors like the construction industry has also been showcased by the Timeless Women of Wonder Foundation.

Agricultural and environmental innovations have been showcased including that of KPMC which provides comprehensive inputs and packages to farmers. In the category, The Hive Ltd also showcases an integrated Apibusiness model of The Hive Beekeepers Kits which aims to economically empower women by introducing them to Apibusiness.

Another initiative by Christian Aid Malawi which delivers positive and sustainable change in the lives of 9000 Malawian small holder farmers through increasing productivity and incomes whilst creating an environment that promotes growth of pigeon peas value chain has also been documented.

Botanic Treasures Ltd has shown how they transform lives through nutrition- working with over 500 small holder farmers to cultivate highly nutritious, drought resistant Moringa tree and processing the plant into marketable health food products that are marketed nationally and internationally.

Finally, a regional innovation focusing on women in the extractive industries has also been showcased in the booklet. The initiative, hosted by UN Women Eastern and Southern Regional Office in collaboration with the African Union, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and various partners focused on the overarching theme of Building on Good Practices while offering an inspiration for sharing knowledge and experiences, establishing partnerships and developing solutions to stimulate interest and collaborative efforts in engendering the extractive industries in Africa. It also generated concrete business linkages to women in the extractive industries.

It is our hope that the documented initiatives are replicated to increase and expand impact on women's lives in our countries and communities. At its core, the Market Place functions through gallery dialogues, knowledge mapping and sharing, and production of knowledge products exhibiting selected initiatives on women's socio-economic empowerment.

This is also premised on the fact that South-South (S-S) cooperation has been on the radar screen for several years now. Finding mechanisms to make it work is a challenge for all stakeholders who believe S-S cooperation can significantly support development. The Market Place offers a sustainable solution to South- South Corporation besides offering a platform for regional linkages

Introduction

In 2015 Timeless Conference focused on “HEALING HEELS” ... transforming mindsets, attitudes and destroying limiting belief patterns to move into a limitless thought pattern with a positive mindset and attitude for optimization of potential and resources for women.

In 2016, Timeless Conference will take the conversation higher as it dialogues on what we must now DO if Africa is going to achieve exponential socio-economic growth. The theme “TAKING THE STEP” will challenge the women of Africa to take a step to shift the status quo and begin to realize tangible impact in all areas pertinent to social and economic transformation of Africa. The conference looks at the key drivers of social and economic changes and discuss the roles of various stakeholders in building sustainable change.

The 2016 Timeless Women's Conference has been used as an opportunity to share great initiatives/ innovations interventions and programmes that create social and economic impacts in the lives of women in Africa. These initiatives are replicable and shared on a wider scale. These have been shared in a market place at the conference with regional participants who include business leaders, development partners, governments, civil society, the private sector players and other players in the economy. They are initiatives with evidenced impact in the countries of operations. The market place provides a space for all selected interventions to be profiled by way of a knowledge product and a booth to share what has worked or what is working and why. Three best initiatives shall be selected for awards and oral presentation at the market place. This is an opportunity for the region to link to potential partners, governments, donors and development agencies and convince them that we do real initiatives that are replicable in certain contexts.

Objectives of the Market Place



Each organization/agency is expected to present only one best practice/innovation but they are encouraged to share various knowledge products that they have produced through their booths at the market place.

Initiatives

Eastern African Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI) TradeMark East Africa, TMEA

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Initiative

This is an initiative of TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) that aims to address gender-based constraints that prevent women from participating in regional and international trade. Specifically TMEA has been working with the Eastern African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI) to increase knowledge and understanding of EAC cross-border trading requirements, business and trade/export procedures among women, and improve their access to markets and trading information. TMEA has also been working with the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) to ensure that benefits of the National Electronic Single Window (NESW) are accessible to both men and women.

Objective

The overall objective of the programme is to increase incomes and improved livelihoods for women traders and women-owned enterprises. This is done by creating a more enabling environment of women traders by increasing their use of formal trading channel and ensuring trading procedures and requirements are sensitive to the specific needs of women traders.

Methodology

EASSI has worked at 10 different border crossings in the region. EASSI conducted training workshops for women CBTs on formal trading procedures and business development skills and simplified the information available on the EAC Customs Union and Common Market Protocol (and specifically about how these related to the trading circumstances of CBTs) and distributed this information among CBTs. They also provided gender sensitization workshops for Customs and Migration officers.

Innovation in the Initiative

One of the innovative approaches of the project has been working proactively with a government agency to ensure gender considerations are mainstreamed within its policies and procedures. The success of gender mainstreaming within the Uganda National Electronic Single Window project could be extended to ensure gender is mainstreamed within the design and implementation of wider national policies and strategies, regarding trade, exports and entrepreneurship. The other innovation has been the establishment of 10 Resource Centers (RC) at each of the main border crossings, that disseminate information, provide legal support to women CBTs, and act as a forum for discussing CBT issues (including between border officials and CBTs). EASSI has also been very successful in establishing co-operatives linking the traders to formal financial institutions.

Initiative Result

Following the gender analysis the Ugandan Revenue Authority 1) adopted a requirement that at least 30% (about 900) of trained learning the electronic single window system must be women 2) at least 30% of final users of the system should be women 3) changed the messages alert system for the NESW to include telephone text messages, increasing women's access to the system.

Socio-economic Impact of the Initiative

By working with both government and traders TMEA was able to increase their access to opportunities created by regional integration in the East African Community, allowing them to trade in larger volumes and ultimately increase their income.



The TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) initiative aims to address gender-based constraints that prevent women from participating in regional and international trade by creating a more enabling environment of women traders

National Environment Trust Fund (NETFUND)

Magiro Hydroelectric Initiative

Innovator - John Magiro, johnmagiro@gmail **Contacts: anitamureithi@netfund.go.ke**

Initiative

The initiative supports the upscaling of innovative and cost effective interventions to expand the off-grid access of rural households to electricity through mini- hydroelectricity generation.

Objective

The main objective of the initiative is to promote sustainable socio-economic development by accelerating the pace of rural electrification and to adopt innovative and cost effective interventions to expand the off-grid access of rural households to electricity. Specifically it promotes access to hydro power of rural households in Murang'a County and to lay down infrastructure for electricity connection to rural households through mini hydro power generation.

Methodology

Magiro hydroelectric is an example of a successful mini hydro innovation in Kenya that uses cheaply modified equipment including bicycle parts to generate electricity. This innovation has been piloted in parts of Central Kenya-Murang'a and has shown potential in producing over 250KW of electricity. The initiative achieves its objectives through the laying down of infrastructure i.e. power lines for the mini hydro-electricity generation. So far 75 homes have been connected to Magiro's mini hydro power plant. A large number of these homes are women headed households (WHH).

Innovation in the Initiative

The technology made from old bicycle parts and simple motors is low cost and requires a small waterfall hence can be replicated along several streams across Kenya. The generated electricity is cheaper compared to electricity derived from fossil fuels which means that the local community especially women will also benefit.

Initiative Result

The initiative has shown the potential of producing 250KW of electricity, which has powered 75 homes. Main target beneficiaries include women and girls who fetch firewood to use for cooking and lighting. They will also benefit from cost savings of purchasing fuel wood providing money for other household needs.

Socio-economic Impact of the Initiative

Magiro started by powering his mother's home and soon villagers trooped to his home to have their mobile phones charged. When Magiro enhanced his invention he started connecting more users and has so far powered 75 households, direct beneficiaries are estimated at 300 people of which 200 are women. Target beneficiaries include women and girls who fetch firewood for cooking and lighting. Financial impact from the initiative is that families on Magiro's grid now have more disposable income for their use as they pay Magiro KES 200 per month an improved reduction from the KES 2,400 spent monthly on kerosene.



Magiro hydroelectric initiative aims to promote sustainable socio-economic development by accelerating the pace of rural electrification and to adopt innovative and cost effective interventions to expand the off-grid access of rural households to electricity.

Green Energy Africa

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Initiative

The Women Entrepreneurship in Renewable Energy Project- WEREP Project aims at increasing the use of solar energy as an alternative form of energy and at the same time improving income levels of women and youth thereby reducing poverty levels in Kenya. It bridges the gap in information and knowledge on utilization of renewable sources of energy and addresses the problem of lack of access to alternative clean energy.

Objective

The initiative aims to enhance knowledge and practices on utilization of renewable energy among communities in Kajiado and Makueni counties while providing alternative energy through provision of an expandable and replicable business models for off-grid service delivery.

Methodology

The initiative started by holding stakeholders' introductory meetings to introduce the project to the community. The stakeholders included heads of women groups, administrators, chiefs and county officials. It also developed women owned solar energy enterprises and supported rural women to establish micro enterprises that would provide solar energy services and generate income.

Innovation in the Initiative

GEA has established end user shops where the people can easily access the solar products at cost effective prices in relation to the solar product market thus ensuring continuity in the supply of solar products in the rural areas. It is easy to replicate as most rural areas have women groups, training the women groups in renewable energy and business and then setting up shop in solar products is the main methodology.

Initiative Result

10 solar energy business enterprises established and operational (8 women and 2 youth groups provided with seed capital – KES 80,000/group - to establish business enterprises).

Socio-economic Impact of the Initiative

Business model developed whereby the women get loans from other women groups depending on their savings. 600 Households using solar lamps in Makueni and Kajiado Counties (400 solar lanterns to 400 HHs – and 200 more Households accessed lantern lamps from the shops). Each household saving Kes. 140/week from kerosene costs and average shop has an income of about Kes 15,000/month. Money is channeled towards groups' activities e.g water tanks for each group member.



The Women Entrepreneurship in Renewable Energy Project- WEREP Project aims at increasing the use of solar energy as an alternative form of energy and at the same time improving income levels of women and youth thereby reducing poverty levels in Kenya.

Regional Sharefair on Gender Equality in the Extractive Industries: Building on Good Practices

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Initiative

UN Women Eastern and Southern Regional Office in collaboration with key partners held a Regional Sharefair on Gender Equality in the Extractive Industries from 13–15 October 2015 at the United Nations Complex in Nairobi, Kenya. Focusing on the overarching theme of Building on Good Practices, the three-day Sharefair served as an inspiring platform for sharing knowledge and experience, establishing partnerships, and developing solutions to stimulate interest and collaborative efforts in engendering the extractive industries in Africa. Over 400 participants including researchers, policymakers, development agencies, United Nations agencies, regional economic commissions, the African Union, civil society organizations, women in the extractive industries, business leaders, investors, private sector representatives and practitioners gathered at the Sharefair to discuss innovations, best practices, evidence from research and documented data, and legal frameworks and policies.

Objective

The initiative created a platform for networking, knowledge exchange and multi-stakeholder dialogue with government, civil society, and private sector to raise awareness on how to benefit from gender equality in the EI. It also expanded on the evidence base towards a gender-inclusive extractive sector while offering solution oriented south-south collaboration: sharing best practices for creating a gender-inclusive EI.

Methodology

The initiative was convened by UN Women, African Union Commission and UNECA. Stakeholders in the extractive industries sector were involved in all aspects of technical planning. It formed a technical committee who were the collaborating partners. There was a 3 day exhibition forum for all stakeholders to showcase their work in the extractive industries. In the end, The Sharefair concluded with the development of an outcome document for gender equality and women's empowerment solutions in the extractive industries – a culmination of lessons learnt and discussions held over three days and a call to action.

Innovation in the Initiative

The first of its kind which employed a series of plenary and interactive group discussions to identify challenges, solutions and opportunities for gender equality and women's empowerment in the extractive industries. Trends in the sector were discussed, and feasible interventions to amplify

the impact of gender equality in the extractive industries were identified. Diverse opportunities for knowledge sharing and networking were provided via the Sharefair exhibition booths. These featured over 50 organizations and women in the extractive industries exhibiting their products and services – affording a novel way of connecting participants and industry players.

Initiative Result

The Sharefair was an inspiring platform for sharing knowledge and experience, establishing partnerships, and developing solutions to stimulate interest and collaborative efforts in engendering the EIs in Africa. There were two main knowledge products, "Outcome Document" and 2015 Sharefair Report' for gender equality and women's empowerment solutions in the EIs.

Socio-economic Impact of the Initiative

The Sharefair provided opportunities for networking, advocacy and capacity-building in support of women in the extractive industries while enhancing business linkages with National Oil Company offering to link women in the extractive industries to business opportunities.



The Sharefair was an inspiring platform for sharing knowledge and experience, establishing partnerships, and developing solutions to stimulate interest and collaborative efforts in engendering the EIs in Africa.

Transforming Livelihoods through Nutrition

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Initiative

The initiative works with over 500 small holder farmers to cultivate the highly nutritious, drought resistant Moringa tree. By leveraging on science, traditional knowledge and farming techniques of smallholder farmers to grow the Moringa oleifera tree. We process the plant into marketable health food products that are marketed nationally and internationally. From the leaves and fruits we produce and sell health nutritious foods for combating malnutrition, degenerative diseases, support food security and uplift the economic living standards of small holder farmers.

Objective

The main objectives of the initiative are to improving nutrition, promote the value chain of Moringa for profit advocate for agroforestry for increased forest cover, increase land use to expand agricultural production for women and girls and promote maternal health to reduce maternal deaths. It also links to research on indigenous foods that have been orphaned, advocate and train on growing of medicinal plants.

Methodology

Botanic treasures works with over 500 farmers of which 60% are women. In partnership with Karlo and MOA it conducts training and workshops on nutrition, safe agricultural practices, and agroforestry and share seeds among small holders. It encourages farmers to keep 10% of the produce for domestic use. We collaborate with the farmers to build collection and processing centers' where we produce high quality nutritional supplements and fortified foods that are distributed in over 50 chain stores locally and exported.

Innovation in the Initiative

The initiative has leveraged on traditional knowledge and science to develop unique nutritious foods that utilize crops that do well in less productive areas like cassava, amaranth, millet, and Moringa oleifera which is rich in many nutrients, vitamins, proteins and recommended by WHO as a sustainable tool to fight malnutrition. This has Increasing land use, improved nutrition, empowered women and expanded agricultural export. By focusing on key points in the nutritional value chain connecting soil, agriculture, food and people, the initiative has created a business system that improves the vitality of people and the natural ecosystems.

Initiative Result

The initiative has created jobs and supported income generation for over 1000 people along the value chain from land preparation to marketing while also increasing land yield from Ksh 40,000 per acre to over Ksh 100,000 per acre. Purchase of moringa oleifera has increased by 100% every year.

Socio-economic Impact of the Initiative

The initiative generates income for smallholder farmers and their families. It also empowers women since it works with 80% female employees and 60% female farmers. It has improved maternal and child health by encouraging growers to keep 10% of Moringa for personal consumption, and by providing access to nutritional training. Moringa sanitized water reduces deaths of under-fives due to diarrhea and related infections. There has been economic empowerment of village communities by encouraging the creation of local social-environmental enterprises leading to cash income and increased purchasing power.



The Moringa initiative aims to improve nutrition, promote the value chain of Moringa for profit, advocate for agroforestry for increased forest cover, increase land use to expand agricultural production for women and girls and promote maternal health to reduce maternal deaths.

Small and Medium Entrepreneurial Resource Centre-SME

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Initiative

The initiative works with aspiring start-ups, established women and youth group organizations that are looking for information, assistance and empowerment in entrepreneurship. Most women and youth groups have a difficult time to access financial assistance as to fulfill their dreams. Lack of knowledge is a major problem in terms of investment in women who tend to find it difficult in book/record keeping.

Objective

SME business club is a networking platform for startups and entrepreneurs which offers business management skills. Women and youth groups can get financial assistance through financial partners by getting loans to increase their business. Kilimo biashara is an agribusiness project by SME resource centre that enables income generating business opportunities.

Methodology

The initiative uses site visits for farmers and interested startups business owners. Trainings are also offered to the start-up farmers and this helps in moulding them to be able to handle their projects and implementing the right procedures. The initiative has reached 2,350 women in Kenya. Most of the women have taken interest in poultry keeping and green house management. It has increased women's security and individualism offering them a sense of belonging to entrepreneurship.

Innovation in the Initiative

The new technology that the initiative has invested in are the manufacturing machines that have improved women's engagement in entrepreneurship. New products include machines like the wall plastering, ice cream making machines making it easier for business ideas. Services from the initiative include transportation such as 3 wheelers, tuktuks and motorbikes sometimes be converted into business Centre points.

Initiative Result

As a result of having our SME business club membership programme it has increased its members from 850 to 2600 in a span of 1 year. Their agribusiness production has also doubled in the SME membership club. It has also given women the access to credit facilities through the SME linkages to the financial institutions.

Socio-economic Impact of the Initiative

Women interactions in the market linkages made it easier for knowledge sharing and experiences. In the same aspect of knowledge empowerment most women have gained and put into practice the skills acquired to increase production. Many have been able to identify their strengths and positively manage businesses and also mentor upcoming women entrepreneurs.



The SME is an initiative that works with aspiring start-ups, established women and youth group organizations that are looking for information, assistance and empowerment in entrepreneurship. It is a networking platform for startups and entrepreneurs which offers business management skills.

Etiquette Xllent Company Ltd

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Initiative

A CEO said: He allows 3-4 minutes for a sales person to establish credibility using Appearance, Communication Skills, Value of Service – in that order. If the first two minutes is a poor pitch, the sale is lost because he stops listening!

The initiative is a Business Etiquette Training and Executive Coaching facility. It provides Professional Etiquette Skills Development to Women Entrepreneurs; to help them stand out in a highly competitive market and build a culture of professionalism & excellence, help them conquer intimidation by making a powerful first impression. It builds self-esteem to position women entrepreneurs at a distinct competitive advantage; and pave the way for unsurpassed growth and profitability.

Objective

Premised on the fact that raw talent, education, experience, competency are no longer enough to get a contract, keep a job or advance in business. Nor is it enough to have the right product or service to court a client or land a big contract, the initiative supports women entrepreneurs to establish comfort, trust & rapport so that they do business with ease and to equip them with smart networking skills and know how to turn CONTACTS into CONTRACTS. This is built around the fact that success comes with ability to put others at ease and ability to get along with people of all levels and value of building meaningful relationships in a business environment.

Methodology

The initiative believes that confidence building is a journey. Therefore, to realize full value, it gets into partnership with organizations to ensure there is immense benefit from the trainings, align trainings to individual organization's vision and objectives. It also conducts surveys using questionnaires to identify client needs, then design bespoke trainings to meet the needs of women entrepreneurs. Training packages include the hidden value and priceless potential of Personal branding; Power of Professional Presence; Dress for Impact; Public Speaking; Business Meal Etiquette; Negotiation Skills, Networking with Confidence among others to make a difference in both their personal lives and in business. It also offers Executive Coaching services to reinforce learning with training Evaluation assessments and post training plans.

Innovation in the Initiative

Over 90% of entrepreneurship support is mostly driven by generic knowledge base, financial support and technical skills. In Africa, we do not have the luxury of having Finishing Schools. Therefore, Xllent's professional etiquette skills development is a unique product touching on soft skill areas that no one learnt in school, providing significant impact on overall business performance.

Socio-economic Impact of the Initiative

The initiative enhances confidence and self-esteem of women entrepreneurs in any business setting to conquer intimidation, deliver with precision and style, master the art of networking and building client relationships, promote a winning image of women entrepreneurs to have a polished image that gives them a competitive advantage, increasing performance and bottom line.



Etiquette Xllent initiative is a Business Etiquette Training and Executive Coaching facility that provides Professional Etiquette Skills Development to Women Entrepreneurs to help them build self-confidence, professionalism and excellence in a highly competitive market.

The Kuza-Uza Cereals Initiative KPMC Holdings

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Initiative

KPMC cereals grower's program dubbed Kuza –Uza targets smallholder cereal. The program contracts farmers who register through their mobile phone via safaricom 21266. To enable women and youths to participate in contract farming, the program provides a comprehensive inputs package at the beginning of the season that will be checked off from the produce sold by the farmer. The inputs kit includes: hybrid seeds, fertilizer (including soil testing), pesticides & fungicides, hermetic (airtight) storage bags and crop insurance. KPMC leverages the crop insurance to help farmers' access financial services. KPMC's Grain Storage Bag is a multilayer hermetic (airtight) storage bag for the safe, chemical free preservation of dry cereals. By availing the storage bag, farmers are able to store their grain safely and sell when prevailing market prices are higher. The storage bags also enhance household food security, increase the ability of smallholder farmers to invest their money in increased production.

Objective

The initiative's objective is to resolve the challenges of access to finance for production activities, suffering multiple crop losses owing to climate change and inability to access crop insurance, growing crops without a market in mind and subsequently approaching markets as individuals which makes them vulnerable to brokers who offer low prices. The initiative does these through availing inputs like credit schemes that is tied to delivery contracts with risks fully covered by APA insurance.

Methodology

The initiative works with partners like Christian Aid to mobilize farmers to produce sorghum for East African Breweries Limited and New Kenya Co-operative Creameries dairy farmers. It secures markets on behalf of the contracted farmers and supports them with extension to produce high quality grains. It acts as a value chain connector, bringing together all the actors to avail education, technology and market information and support the post-harvest management to enhance quality for women and girls.

Innovation in the Initiative

The initiative avails a comprehensive long-term service to the farmer increasing their productivity; enhancing quality; managing post-harvest losses; enhancing household food security and increasing access to financial services including insurance.

Initiative Result

KPMC has trained 23,000 smallholder farmers in 5 counties on the KUZA-UZA program, readying them to invest 1 acre of sorghum production each with a target to supply 25,000mt grain to EABL market while the surplus lower quality grain will be used for animal feed for New KCC dairy farmers.

Socio-economic Impact of the Initiative

Contracted farmers earn Kshs 37,500 from one acre of sorghum intercropped with green grams produced under the KUZA-UZA program. The farmers access credit of Kshs. 9,000 each. The farmers receive three KPMC Grain storage bags which enhances their household food security, saving them Kshs. 8,100 in expensive off-season food purchases. 60% of all project beneficiaries are women under the age of 40. The contracted farmers open a bank account increasing their ability to save. All project beneficiaries have accessed crop insurance for the first time through the program. The program is creating alternative markets for sorghum increasing value chain sustainability.



The Kuza- Uza cereals initiative avails comprehensive long-term service to farmers thus increasing their productivity; enhancing quality; managing post-harvest losses; enhancing household food security and increasing access to financial services including insurance.

The Hive Limited

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Initiative

The integrated Apibusiness model of The Hive Beekeepers Kits is a holistic approach that is all inclusive in one package to minimize chances of failure. It involves a package of the real needed tools for successful startup, with minimum physical effort guided by practical trainings, field visits and market for the end products.

Objective

The initiative aims to economically empower women by introducing them in the Apibusiness. Through The Hive Beekeepers kit, the women are able to generate sustainable income especially with the ready market for the bee products. Enhance food security and improved livelihoods especially through improved crops pollination and selling of beekeeping products and forest seedling nurseries.

Methodology

Women groups are provided with The Hive Beekeepers Starter kits where each kit is composed of the following components; 10 CAB Hives (Latest Version of Langstroth Model for the African bee), Bees wax foundation sheets for the 100 frames of the CAB hive, 2 Bee Suits (The Hive Brand), 2 pairs of gloves, 1 Smoker (The Hive brand), 1 Hive tool, 1 Stainless steel Extractor (Hive Brand), 1 Bee Brush (Hive brand), 1 Uncapping forks, Pair of strainers for sieving extracted honey, 1 Beekeeping practical guide, Practical training and field visits, Market for the honey, wax and pollen.

Innovation in the Initiative

The CAB hives differ from the traditional hives in the sense that they are designed in such a way that is easy to fit all the need accessories for production of different products from bees activities. The approach is replicable as it only involves adding only CAB hives after acquisition of The Hive Beekeepers Starter Kit.

Initiative Result

A single CAB hive produces an average of 60kgs of honey annually and therefore the 10 CAB hives inside The Hive beekeepers Kit produce a minimum average of 600Kgs translating to USD 1,800 per annum.

Socio-economic Impact of the Initiative

Already 15000+ women are beneficiaries in the following African Countries: Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Malawi, Chad, Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan, Rwanda and Zambia. The innovation works in all different types of Climatic conditions with measurable and profitable sustainable success.



Through The Hive Beekeepers kit, women are able to generate sustainable income, enhance food security and improved livelihoods especially through improved crops pollination and selling of beekeeping products and forest seedling nurseries.

Timeless Women of Wonder Foundation

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Initiative

The initiative trains women in Future Industries – Construction. There are very few women workers in this sector yet the sector is continuously growing. Through partnerships with government, business and development sectors, the initiative endeavored to increase the number of women working in the construction sector through trainings and assimilations to increase opportunities for wealth and job creation for women.

Objective

The objective of this initiative is to increase the wealth and job creation opportunities for women in the construction sector. The construction sector is rapidly growing and presenting opportunities for growth. Women accessing technical skills increases the value of their services and enables them to increase the wage that they earn resulting in additional disposable income which allows them to improve the quality of their lives and those of their households.

Methodology

Through this project 320 women were trained and graduated. This was through strategic partnerships, multi sectoral collaboration between TWOW, government, development and business. The training was deployed over a 5 month period in a phased out approach to allow absorption and practice of the skills and tools Learnt. The combination of theory and technical skills provided a practical approach to demystifying the fear of women embracing construction work. An adult learning model was used to empower the participants to engage effectively with the content of the trainings.

Innovation in the Initiative

The initiative is innovative since it introduces women to a male dominated sector- construction sector. It also uses a model of training that prioritizes imparting identity before imparting skills.

Initiative Result

The initiative trained 320 women and enabled women from Kibera slums to obtain education credentials and certification from the National Construction Authority (NCA) that enables them to get jobs in the construction sector anywhere in the Kenya.

Socio-economic Impact of the Initiative

The initiative has been able to install technical skills on women in the construction industry. Women are certified in various technical Areas and can now take up opportunities in construction anywhere in the country. The initiative has linked over 60% women trainees to join the National Youth Service in Kenya and the other 40% of the women trained shall be linked to various private sector agencies where they earn an income as they are engaged in various construction tasks.



The initiative trains women in Future Industries – Construction. Women accessing technical skills increases the value of their services and enables them to increase the wage that they earn resulting in additional disposable income which allows them to improve the quality of their lives and those of their households.

Small Holder Farmers Earning Forex from Pigeon Peas in Malawi

Contacts: Christian Aid Malawi, PKatenga@christian-aid.org

Initiative

Pigeon peas in Malawi have always been used as a food crop. Christian Aid in partnership with Imani consultants did a thorough gap analysis and market mapping and learnt that pigeon peas have a strong yield and great market potential. This is what primarily the initiative has supported small scale farmers exploit by building their capacities to commercialize it as a cash crop. This has resulted to sustainable source of income for the small holder farmers and revenue boost from exports to Malawian economy. Marketing strategies adopted have opened international markets in Asia, India and South Africa beyond supply margin a farmer luring situation that motivates them to produce more. The initiative also embarked on training conservation farming and this led to the fridge benefit of opening farmers' eyes to proposed value addition initiatives e.g. processing the pigeon peas, Bee keeping and wine making. Marketing associations were the greatest strength in getting farmers linked to finance and warehouse receipt systems in addressing farming capital and storage of pigeon peas.

Objective

The initiative invests to effectively deliver positive and sustainable change in the lives of 9000 Malawian small holder farmers. This is through increasing productivity and incomes of target small holder farmers tentatively 65% women, enhancing access to profitable and/or secure markets for Small Holder farmers and their Marketing Associations, improving enabling environment that supports and promotes growth of the pigeon peas value chain.

The participatory market systems approach brings with it the inclusivity of the small holder farmers and addressing the value chain challenges from the root, giving farmers a voice and financial linkages gives the means.

Innovation in the Initiative

The logic of change in participatory approach is outstandingly sustainable in that, after mapping all challenges and designing interventions, the art of grouping and empowering the farmers in various capacities leaves them fully functional in their context aspect of the farming practice and no room for dependency. This is replicable despite value chain or location.

Initiative Result

Notably is the registration of Nandolo association an organized group that can trade better, an annual production of at least 300MT from 78MT of pigeon peas, Government of Malawi support for contract farming, assuring market serves as a great incentive, identified upcoming markets in Asia. Other results include: adoption of improved production technologies and techniques by women to deliver productivity increases though improved extension services and increased production using appropriate seed varieties to capture market needs.

Socio-economic Impact of the Initiative

Inarguably, the contribution to resilience in terms of nutrition, food security and stable income is immense. The commercialization of the value chain increases the scale of the practice leading to employment of an appreciable percentage of the unemployed. The government of Malawi initiatives to make 200 million dollars per annum from all legumes of which pigeon peas take the big share is another impact of the initiative. Gender mainstreaming is a driver of the initiative and lays its emphasis on empowering women in the value chain hence the increase of women chain actors in the sector. Hypothetically speaking, pigeon peas' farming contributes positively towards combating climate change.



Christian Aid in partnership with Imani consultants are supporting pigeon pea farmers to increase their yield and commercialize pigeon peas as a cash crop to take advantage of the great market demand. This has resulted to sustainable source of income for the small holder farmers, most of who are women, and a revenue boost from exports to Malawian economy.

Annexes

Annex 1: Application form for Development and Submission of Initiatives/ Innovations on Women's Socio-Economic Empowerment in Africa for the UN Women Market Place at The Timeless Conference

February 8th – 10th 2016 – Royal Orchid Hotel, Nairobi - Kenya

Please submit your Initiatives/ Innovations in the following manner;

- Initiatives/ Innovations Definition- Clearly describe the project rationale and the specific problem that it has addressed (150 words)
- Objectives- Clearly and specifically state the initiatives/ innovations' objective(s). It should be linked to the socio-economic empowerment and indicate the primary targeted beneficiary group for which the initiatives/ innovations target (100 words)
- Methodology- Describe clearly and in detail the methods used to achieve the initiatives/ innovations objectives, including measurements and indicators. Provide an estimate of the number of women reached during initiatives/ innovations implementation (100 words)
- Innovation and replicability- Innovation is a major differentiating element for the Market Place. Innovation includes new technologies, new products, new arrangements or services, among others. Please describe how your initiative/ innovation differs from existing approaches and how it can be replicable (50 words)
- Results- Describe the results of the initiatives/ innovations including qualitative and quantitative information (50 words)
- Socio-Economic Development Impact- Describe the socio-economic impact of the initiatives/ innovations so far. Include the number of women beneficiaries if possible. Indicators should be clear, discrete and measurable (100 words)

- Contact Details

Name of Innovator

Country

Email

Mobile Number

Attachment - Please attach relevant photos showcasing your initiative/ innovation. These could include photos from your field work or generated from your beneficiaries and staff working in the intervention. We seek for photos showing real socio economic impact in the lives of women and girls in Africa.

Annex 2: Guidelines for Development and Submission of Initiatives/Innovations on Women's Socio-Economic Empowerment in Africa for the UN Women Market Place at The Timeless Conference

Introduction

In 2015 Timeless Conference focused on "HEALING HEELS" ... transforming mindsets, attitudes and destroying limiting belief patterns to move into a limitless thought pattern with a positive mindset and attitude for optimization of potential and resources for women.

In 2016, Timeless Conference will take the conversation higher as it dialogues on what we must now DO if Africa is going to achieve exponential socio-economic growth. The theme "TAKING THE STEP" will challenge the women of Africa to take a step to shift the status quo and begin to realize tangible impact in all areas pertinent to social and economic transformation of Africa. The conference will look at the key drivers of social and economic changes and discuss the roles of various stakeholders in building sustainable change.

2016 Timeless Women's Conference shall be used as an opportunity to share great initiatives/ innovations/ interventions and programmes that create social and economic impacts in the lives of women in Africa. These initiatives should be replicable and shared on a wider scale. These will be shared in a market place at the conference with global participants who shall include business leaders, development partners, governments, civil society, the private sector players and other players in the economy. They shall be initiatives with evidenced impact in the countries of operations. The market place shall provide a space for all selected interventions to be profiled by way of a knowledge product and a booth to share what has worked or what is working and why. Three best initiatives shall be selected for awards and oral presentation at the market place. This is an opportunity for the region to link to potential partners, governments, donors and development agencies and convince them that we do real initiatives that are replicable in certain contexts.

Purpose of the Market Place

The main purpose of the market place is to create a culture of innovative business models & initiatives that guarantee wealth and job creation while implementing ideas that create socio-economic transformation in the lives of women in Africa.

Objectives of the Market Place

- To showcase one key country and regional initiatives, best practices and/ or innovation in socio-economic interventions in Eastern and Southern Africa.
- The market place seeks to showcase programmes on social and economic empowerment as well as provide evidence information on the impact of these programmes at various levels including policies, institutions and in the lives of women.

- To document the best practices/innovations and produce a knowledge product of Socio-economic empowerment of women Market Place and share with development partners who could contact organizations showcasing at their own levels.

Each organization/ agency is expected to present only one best practice/innovation but they are encouraged to share various knowledge products that they have produced through their booths at the market place.

Eligibility Criteria

Who can apply?

- African-based based public or private, governmental or non-governmental, research and development organizations and academic institutions.
- Individuals representing an African-based public or private, governmental or non-governmental, research and development organizations and academic institutions.
- Organizations/ Individuals must possess the required competencies to support innovation within the institution. showcasing the initiatives and award the top three best rated innovations.
- Initiatives shall sponsor themselves to the event but UN Women will sponsor the booths for showcasing the initiatives and award the top three best rated innovations.

Initiative/Innovation General Guidelines

- The initiatives/ innovations must be related to socio-economic interventions only.
- Initiatives/ innovations must be implemented in Africa or other areas but to the benefit of African women.
- Initiatives/ innovations addressing highly sensitive issues such as tests involving human subjects will undergo additional scrutiny.
- Initiatives/ innovations must be written in English and in accordance with these guidelines in order to receive full consideration.
- The initiatives/ innovations must be submitted in word or pdf and accompanying photos submitted in JPG, TIF, PNG, or GIF submitted both within the document and as separate attachments- an application form is available for this purpose.

UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights humanitarian action, and peace and security. Placing women's rights at the centre of all its efforts, UN Women leads and coordinates United Nations system efforts to ensure that commitments on gender equality and gender mainstreaming translate into action throughout the world. It provides strong and coherent leadership in support on Member States' priorities and efforts, building effective partnership with civil society and other relevant actors.

Timeless Women of Wonder Foundation vision is to positively influence the transformation of key drivers of the social and economic development of Africa through various innovative platforms.



UN WOMEN - EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION OFFICE

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