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## **Sample Project Proposal for Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth**

## Executive Summary

We all know that poverty is a curse as it stops the growth of the country as a whole and which is increasing in some parts of our region. Poverty is not only where there is a lack of basic resources but also where people are not ready to fight against it and also where they don't stand against its eradication. Poverty is more than lack of resources as it is the state of insecurity where poor remains poor because they are unsecured and depressed with worries all around. We should not think only of economic poverty: Anthropological poverty, which involves losing faith in oneself, can have dire consequences. It is our belief that just as poverty is multidimensional and immense, we should also be sorry for eradicating it. Poverty should be fought with adequate and appropriate means.

The biggest population of the youth and women practice crude but small scale or subsistence farming / enterprises in XXXXX district. They constitute XX% but still live in very poor conditions. These women and youth grow maize, rice, cassava, bananas and coffee both as food crops and cash crops to improve on the house hold incomes. They are also engaged in small businesses and simple trading.

However, women dealing in these enterprises have not yet benefited from the enterprise because it fetches very low market prices which are in most cases unstable, thus leaving their incomes very low coupled with low standards of living.

The causes for lower incomes by most women enterprises have been due to: – low participation of the women in the value chain activities and agricultural marketing groups which increase the bargaining power of farmers in the markets. Selling unvalued added unprocessed maize products which are of poor quality brought about by poor storage and post-harvest handling practices, limited access to value adding equipments, and poor linkages between production and marketing, and access to credit facilities still a problem have all hampered development.

Many people from villages in xxxxxx are striving to have small scale loans with little or no success. Such loans and guidance are available to individuals who have securities and better placed in communities. The poor, vulnerable women and youth of xxxxxx have not adequately benefited from financial services.

The poor state of education facilities and the cost of the social services are posing a great danger for the rural youth and women.

To ensure youth and women and enterprises complete favourably through the current stiffer competition in agricultural and business sectors, there is need to help the local people identify their potential. A lot of mobilization of all stakeholders is needed. Tools for development must be put in place successes to be realized. This will enable the women in farming to play a more active role in the value chain for increased farm productivity, quality improvement and standardization and household incomes.

### **Project Goal**

The main goal of this proposed project is to improve the household income in active youth and women of xxxxxx and the surrounding areas through the provision of start-up capital.

### **Project Objectives**

In view of the above overall goal, this project has below objectives as follows:

- To reduce vulnerability of poor women and youth by improving their disposal house hold incomes in xxxxxx area.
- To improve entrepreneurship skills among rural youth and women of xxxxxx area.
- To strengthen small scale projects inside and outside the sub county owned by women and youth.
- To arrange an entrepreneurship training to educate the youth and women on income generating activities

### **Project Beneficiaries**

The projected beneficiaries of this project are the rural and poor women and youth of xxxxx.

Total estimated number of beneficiaries: #####

### **Expected Project Outputs**

- Increased projects owned by women and youth in the sub county.

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- Viable and sustainable marketing system of enterprises established.
- Household Incomes for the Rural Youth and Women improved.
- Strong and viable Women and Youth farmer groups established.
- Quality improvement and standardization as a result of training in value chain addition
- Improved home stead disposable income.
- Improved socio-economic wellbeing of the rural Youth and Women

### **Project Sustainability Plan**

- The project will build the capacity of the Women and Youth groups to enable them develop business plans. This will make the Women and Youth group more focused and enable it sell its developmental proposals to other development organizations
- Co-funding will be encouraged overtime in project activities by encouraging Women and Youth to contribute to their group and this will create a sense of ownership and self-reliable to enable them carry their own educational programs
- The project will ensure that there is increased membership to enable them carry out their own financial obligation.
- Basic business management skills will be shared among the women and youth which will help them in tracking progress of their business.

## Project Estimate Budget:

Item/activity	Quantity	Cost	Amount in Dollars (\$)
Procurement of office stationery		-----	-----
Selection of beneficiaries-Survey etc		-----	-----
Promotional /awareness Programme/IEC		-----	-----
Orientation of local leadership		-----	-----
Establishment of a demonstration site		-----	-----
Funds for micro-credit finance/stratup fund		-----	-----
Project Personnel Cost		-----	-----
Training Cost		-----	-----
Transport Costs & utilities		-----	-----
Project Administrative cost		-----	-----
Miscellaneous		-----	-----
<b>TOTAL</b>		-----	-----

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