

Wadatashi iyo Horumaar (Let's Talk, Dialogue and Succeed Together)

1. Executive Summary:

This project kicked off in June 2022 and was funded by Focus Women Foundation. It aimed at uplifting households' livelihoods for 100 vulnerable migrant women in Eastleigh, offered grants for start-ups and running of Small Scale Enterprises while advocated for basic social rights for women in Eastleigh, Kamkunji Sub-County; Nairobi. The implementation of the project officially kicked off on June 2022 and the first phase came to an end of 31st may 2023.

The immediate outcome from the project was that women in Eastleigh managed to form working groups, a good number of the said groups were registered, the beneficiaries attended a number of trainings in group dynamics and governance, business start-ups and management, business life cycle and plan, and received first and final disbursement of seed capital to run small scale enterprises. The development outcome was that the women are already running successful small scale enterprises.

2. The Project Goal:

The overall project goal was: *To enhance households' income of marginalized Somali migrant women through Income generating activities (IGAs) and capacity building on access to basic social services rights in Eastleigh, Nairobi Kenya.* To actualize the goal the following was envisaged at the end of the project: 1) 100 women already identified and are active members in 10 women groups and 2)10 small scale businesses already started through seed capital from Candle of Hope Foundation disbursed in quarter 2 of the project life. The assumptions were that the identified women were willing to participate, and funds were made available for the grant. The assumptions were overcome and 10 women were successfully mobilised, trained and received direct grants. There was notable good will from the communities and the local government.

Outcome 1: Output 1: Increased and more consistent household income and improved entrepreneurial opportunities for women and girls; Training fora for Women & girls entrepreneurs established.

The project conducted capacity building activities to promote income generating activities controlled by women. Overall, the 100 women were trained to start income generating activities and to beef up those already existing. Several sets of capacity buildings activities were conducted by the project to meet this indicator.

The 1st set of trainings was conducted on business production and expansion where 100 migrant women were involved. That activity enabled women to improve their knowledge in term of business expansion. As a result they registered new ways of running their businesses. The 2nd set of capacity building activity was conducted around business and goods promotion for women. Thus, 100 women were trained in value addition and how to market their goods. The 3rd income generating activities capacity building was done around business and women basic rights. A number of women were incorporated and trained on basic rights as champions. These women were encouraged to provide feedback to the rest of women beneficiaries through woman-to-woman knowledge sharing.

The trainings were quite effective and women gained the capacity to reduce manage their businesses, keep records and champion for rights.

Outcome 2, Output 2: Increased access to financial services, basic rights and justice for the women and girls; Women are accessing basic rights and establishing viable businesses.

During the reporting period, COHF conducted two meetings with Local Authorities and disbursed the final Seed Capital to the 10 women groups

Assessing the underlying assumption:

The in-kind grant beneficiary women received noticed the increase of their business. In fact, most of women that received grants did own small scale enterprises but were having issues with sustainability. The preceding arrangement had seen most of women showing strong commitment to sustain them since they noticed changes in their social status.

Outcome 3/Output 3: The experiences from the project are widely disseminated among the Somali women groups, business community, local administrations and County Governments.

In mainstreaming rights with women in business, the project promoted sensitization platform for community members regardless of their gender. Based on the training and sensitisation on the importance of women accessing basic rights, there was an increase in awareness on the rights for women – particularly those in businesses who had always face discrimination and harassment. Based on these sensitisation and awareness activities the project assumed that the knowledge gap in terms of access to rights and justice had been reduced between men and women. In the past, training and awareness activities tended to focus on men since they are considered the main decision makers instead of including women. However, through this FWF funded project women were prioritized with the training and sensitization campaign to raise awareness on rights.

3. The Project Milestones:

In summary point form, the project achieved the following milestones:

- A good number of migrant women beneficiaries joined the Eastleigh Business Association
- Migrants women got registration documents through the National Coordination on Migration (NCM)
- Ten groups of 100 women a piece were legally registered as business entities
- A number of groups scaled their business and realized more profits
- By the end of the project period, 4 groups had opened a bank account for their groups
- Women are accessing financial loans (that are in line with Islamic faith) through banks,
- Women Enterprise Fund and Hustlers Fund
- A pool of mentors were identified and they attended meetings regularly
- A platform for rights redress was put in place where the women attended stakeholders meeting fortnightly

4. Pictorials



Figure 1: Women leaders signing agreement forms.



Figure 2: Part of the Trainings