**the civil society fund**

**Small-scale intervention**

Capacity building for Widows and communities’ towards Economic Empowerment in Kibera informal settlement, Nairobi Kenya.

1. **Objective and relevance**

**What do you want to achieve through the intervention?**

The proposed action is based on needs identified by the project partners and potential beneficiaries, and is designed to dovetail with the country’s poverty reduction strategies. Despite widespread poverty and precarious living conditions, the slum population continues to increase at an exponential rate. Data shows that subgroups of younger women, women without formal education and widows are being consistently disadvantaged. Additionally, slum residents especially widows remain generally disadvantaged in comparison to the rest of Nairobi and Kenya.

The project seeks to build the capacity of a group of 15 widows and cascade to other vulnerable women (WVW) in Kibera and potentially reach the entire informal dwellers in Kibera Kenya. The aim is to empower them through technical capacity building to develop successful small businesses and contribute more towards improved family livelihoods and general community development. Likewise, creating sustainable income, reduction of the grinding poverty and hopelessness. Furthermore, with the novel Coronavirus pandemic these women and slum dwellers generally are the most vulnerable in terms of lack of access to food, healthcare, water and even affording the recommended health guidelines such as social distancing because of one roomed structures they live in. Covid-19 promises to be devastating to people who live in the slums with poor infrastructure and lack of basic social amenities. It is, further, exacerbated by lack of daily chores which they depend on for survival.

This action’s main approach proposes training of 15 widows to participate in income generating small scale businesses as the direct beneficiaries while cascading to potential indirect beneficiaries. This is to bridge the “gap” between communities and poverty reduction mechanisms commonly attributed to the low capacity of communities to identify, participate and make informed decisions on their own gainful opportunities. Likewise, missed opportunities for government policies to prioritize small businesses and increased investments in business development and incubation.

The action will be delivered through two approaches*.*

1. Capacity building: Strengthening the capacity of the target group to develop small innovative enterprises and engage with and respond to the needs faced by the community members. Strategies include technical support, training and mentorship on the development of small business, entrepreneurship and improved business information management systems and marketing and further address the major underlying causes of poverty and gender inequality.
2. Lobbying and advocacy for public policy change: The project will use the evidence from the lessons learnt to inform the necessary policy changes focusing on vulnerable women. This action provides unique opportunities for learning and sharing lessons across communities in Kibera but also across different parts of Kenya that face similar challenges.

***Specific Objectives.***

1. To build the capacity of the target group of widows in small business enterprises to enhance self-development, economic independence and improve family livelihoods.
2. To cultivate and build strong partnership through lobbying and advocacy between the state and non-state actors in public policy focusing on women empowerment.

**Relevance**: In Kenya about 51% of the people live in absolute poverty this is further exacerbated by the HIV epidemic that has driven more people especially women and their dependants to poverty. The Kenyan HIV epidemic is highly feminized: In Kenya, a person’s gender strongly impacts on their vulnerability to HIV and AIDS. Prevalence among women is nearly twice as high as among men (8% compared to 4.3%).These disparities are even more pronounced among young people, with women aged 15–24 years having a risk of infection of over four times that of their male contemporaries, National Gender and Equality Commission Kenya (2013). The subordinate status of women in Kenyan society means that many face substantial barriers to accessing education and paid employment. Furthermore, many women have limited control over productive resources such as land, and low decision-making power concerning household resources. Their socio-economic disadvantage and dependency affect their ability to make free and informed choices concerning their sexual and reproductive health and participation in economic processes.

In order to achieve the objectives, this action aims at empowering a group of marginalised widows and develop community-based approaches. To improve knowledge, awareness and seek to build the capacity of the target group on locally relevant business enterprises. The project further, seeks to improve understanding of vulnerable groups’ rights, entitlements and the corresponding responsibilities & government structures. The action expects to see significant results of increase in quality of life and the enjoyment of rights. Working in collaboration with the local authorities the project aims at ensuring sustainability and cascading the programme to other marginalised groups.

Furthermore, in the context of high gender inequality and discrimination, the strategy will include partnering with a national umbrella HIV/AIDS network National Empowerment Network of people living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya (NEPHAK).To promote women’s and girl’s rights, challenge negative socio-cultural norms and increase male involvement in addressing societal inequalities. Further, the main focus of the project will be on **improving the capacity** of marginalised widows in small business entrepreneurship. The project will also encourage participation in decision-making processes and development planning within the devolved structures facilitating **interaction between state and non-state actors (AWE and NEPHAK)**. It will leverage on NEPHAK’s links with government and networks to support lobbying and advocacy for increased support to widows and other vulnerable group’s visibility. Most importantly, the action aims to develop, test and evaluate **innovative model small enterprises** adapting to the needs, environment and lifestyles of the target group and ensure scale-up to the other members of the community.

* **Why is the intervention important?**

The number of women becoming widows mainly through AIDS related deaths has been increasing exponentially in the last two decades. As a result of such deaths, the women face insurmountable challenges within the, the family and the society at large and these greatly affect them psychologically, socio-economically and spiritually (Miruka, Aloo, Nathan, & Ong'injo, 2015). It is estimated that in 2015, there were approximately 38,261,345 million widows worldwide and it’s estimated that 14.8% of all widows, live in extreme poverty where basic needs go unmet.

In sub-Sahara Africa, the impact of marital death and divorce falls more heavily on women, who are mostly are excluded socially and lose their home and property after end of marriage. It is also documented that one in ten African women above the age of 14 is widowed (The World Bank, 2018). According to Human Right Watch, (2010) many widows in Kenya suffer a lot of economic hardships, after the death of the husband, who are mostly the sole bread winners. This results in a situation where the grieving partner begins to live a lonely life in an unfamiliar and solitary state of widowhood.

Unfortunately, there is limited data and research to support the development or adoption of government policies to adequately protect and insulate the widows from social and economic shocks. This issue speaks further to the gender inequality as it is common in Africa for women to only enjoy access to social and economic rights when married (The World Bank, 2018) and where land is involved they may only have use right and not the power to dispose it of if need be. Further, in Kenya widows also tend to be shut out of labour markets, have fewer productive assets, bear greater responsibility for the care of children and the elderly in their communities with no resources and decision-making rights. Thus, compromising the quality of life of widows and a serious public issue of concern.

* **Describe the context of the intervention, i.e. the conditions prevailing in the intervention area which are expected to shape the intervention (e.g. social, economic, political, climate and environmental conditions, and whether it will take place in a stable or fragile context).**

Kenya is a lower middle-income country with a growth rate of 5.7% per annum. However, major disparities in economic and social mobility exist within the gender divide. The country’s gender inequality index is at 0.549 ranking Kenya at 137 out of 160 countries globally as at 2018 showing that women are underrepresented in both political and economic activities despite being the majority at 51% of the population. According to a study by Institute of Security Studies 2015, Kenya was ranked sixth among top 10 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa with large populations living in extreme poverty. The project will target beneficiaries from Kibera slums in Nairobi based on poverty levels and extreme lack of critical social amenities. Kibera is the largest slum in Nairobi, and the largest urban slum in Africa. Kibera has estimated population of about 250, 000.The project will target widows in Kibera in Nairobi metropolitan. The government owns all the land in Kibera, with the housing average size in this area is 12ft x 12ft built with mud walls, a corrugated tin roof with a dirt or concrete floor. The cost is about KES 700 per Month (£6). These shacks often house up to 8 or more with many sleeping on the floor.

Kibera slum is characterized by abject poverty, overcrowding, lack of access to water, as well as exposure to HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Thus, addressing the needs of slum residents will be at the center of reducing poverty and improving overall living conditions in the city, African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), 2014. Wherein lack of jobs, proper housing and affordable water supplies are the most important needs. The existing educational disparity between slum residents and non-slum residents persisted, with slum residents being at a disadvantage relative to their non-slum Nairobi counterparts. In Kibera there are no government clinics or hospitals**. Unemployment** and under employment in Kibera is disproportionally very high up to 50% of the available workforce are employed (usually in fairly unskilled jobs). However, there is still an unemployment rate of over 50%. This is why the training and teaching of skills is very important and is at the core of this proposed project.

In spite of the progress made, high illiteracy rates among women of all ages attest to the high vulnerability of women, with high illiteracy rate, the burden of their upkeep may fall on their offspring or spouses, this, therefore, means that widows are particularly more exposed to serious poverty compared to other segments of the slum dwellers, and are more likely to engage in prostitution. According to APHRC 2014, relative to women resident elsewhere in Nairobi or Kenya, married women in the slums of Nairobi were more likely to have multiple sexual partnerships. Similarly, unmarried slum residents were more than twice as likely to have multiple sexual partners as their non-slum counterparts living in Nairobi; they were also about five times as likely to have multiple sexual partners as women living elsewhere in Kenya.

1. **Partnership/partners**
* **What is your organisation’s role, and what will you contribute in pursuit of the intervention’s objective?**

AWE Centre Nairobi (Association for World Education and Humanity), has over 15 years of work experience focusing on rescue, re-socialisation, rehabilitation and reintegration of street/poor children to the community and schools and Economic Empowerment for widows especially those affected by HIV/AIDS through micro loans. AWE has been enriching the lives of 30 children. We are deeply rooted in the belief that education and humanity are the most useful tools for enhancing individual’s capacity and the possibility to overcome poverty through self-reliance.

Awe will work in close partnership with NEPHAK, the organization was selected based on its national network of people living with HIV/AIDS, it has a demonstrated track record of experience working with SHG and networks. NEPHAK, align well with our target group, work closely with their members in the area. AWE hopes to build a strong long-term partnership and collaboration on more projects with NEPHAK. AWE will enhancesignificantly working remotely as part of decentralized global team in Denmark requiring strong communication, virtual collaboration and self-initiated workflows through virtual meeting techniques to strengthen the partnership. NEPHAK will provide overall project leadership and management oversight while AWE will offer technical advice on implementation of the project to ensure the project adheres to the contractual agreement.

One member of AWE will be directly involved in the project implementation including needs assessment and community consultations to inform the project design. This will be important for partnership strengthening as well as learning from one another. As the Originator of the proposal, AWE will be part of conducting of needs assessment and community consultations to inform the project design. AWE will also be responsible for financial support, progress reporting. Jointly develop the proposal, work-plan and budget with NEPHAK. Further, NEPHAK will lead on project implementation, supervision of staff, coordination of local partners/associates. NEPHAK will lead in the development of training manuals, together with beneficiaries develop novel small businesses and responsible for tracking and ensuring delivery of the project outcomes through monitoring and evaluation and continuous quality improvement. Awe will also collaborate with both county and national governments relevant departments. All partners involved in the project will be guided by an MoU. The project will use existing staff whose roles and responsibilities will be aligned with the project. The project will also use existing structures of project management within the two organizations. Finally, jointly conduct the monitoring and evaluation for the project to ensure it is on track to achieve set targets and programmatic milestones. AWE will also ensure accountability, transparency, value for money and adherence to donor regulation.

* **With whom will you cooperate on the intervention, and what will they contribute in pursuit of the intervention’s objective?**

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| **Types of stakeholders** |
| **Type/role** | **Examples** | **Interest/role** |
| NEPHAK | PLHIV and widow groups under NEPHAK and who have relevant experiences in the provision of psychosocial support to widows | Take lead and management of the project, Identification and mobilization of the beneficiaries, lead in lobbying and advocacy of gender related issues, support capacity building, communication and social mobilization of widows and other stakeholders, linkage with the government, participate in development of training manuals and tools, provide oversight to the community volunteers, report on the assigned activities and part of the project planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation team. |
| County Government of Nairobi |  Local authorities-Trade, Gender and Health ministries and chiefs  | Quality assure the process, Regulation, Risk management. Policy communication and continuous mentorship of the target group. |
| Others |  Local residents; elders, community volunteers and pastors and experts  |  Expert support, volunteer mentors, lobbying, community mobilization and dialogue, planning, implementation and evaluation. |

* **On what have you previously cooperated with your local partner, and how will those experiences be used in the proposed intervention?**

We have experience working with widows from marginalized communities assisting them to address their special needs to overcome the challenges in order to help them attain as normal life as possible. Specifically, with the County government of Nairobi, AWE has been working with St John’s school in Kibera on ongoing projects supporting the children with school supplies, building the school and micro loans to widows around Nairobi. We implement projects geared towards integrating urban farming and maximization of other natural resources to create sustainable solutions addressing a wide range of recurrent economic problems such as poverty in widowhood. Moving forward, we aim to support grassroots mobilization using the available resources on evidence-based solutions that leveraging on natural resources such as land, can be beneficial if well utilized. The other partner, NEPHAK is a national Network of people living with HIV/AIDS and has been instrumental in developing the capacity and training of members on economic entrepreneurship and livelihoods. Specifically, NEPHAK has also been working in partnership with communities and the line government agencies and has been the lead organization advocate for the rights of its members and supporting the policy environment.

1. **The actual intervention**
	* **How do you intend to implement the intervention? What activities will be carried out, when and with whom?**

AWE and NEPHAK will build the capacity of the target group using data from the needs assessment on small business with the opportunity to have impact at a massive scale and the ability to grow to meet needs and priorities of the communities it serves. The project will run over the course of 8 months targeting an initial total of 15 widows living with HIV/AIDS in Kibera in Nairobi County. The widows will be organized into a functional registered self-help group (SHG). The project will provide the widows with the technical skills and innovative approaches to small businesses. The training will focus on build, create and grow the enterprise, record keeping, formal planning, and cash forecasting, marketing techniques. Further, the training will comprise important skills required for small business owners, (organisation, time management, communication with clients, problem solving and ability to learn from mistakes). ‘Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.’–Winston Churchill. Capacity building will be done in a workshop forum and supported through targeted support mentorship in the community, and peer to peer iterative training.

The group will be selected based on the following criteria- being a resident of Kibera in the last 2 years, widowed occasioned and HIV/AIDS positive, level of poverty, literacy, and currently in small scale business. This will be based on available data on the above criteria. Once identified and trained the group will be encouraged to cascade the training to others in the community as part of their contribution to the project and the project plans to motivate them through a recognition mechanism. (Certification and/or recommendation for government commendations).The project, will have a simplified abridged easy to use manual to be given to the 15 widows for training others. The project will leverage on NEPHAK’s many years of experience working with SHG to ensure peer to peer training. In order to ensure sustainability, the project will also work closely with leaders who will directly affect the intervention such as the area chiefs, pastors and the governor’s office.

**Specifically, the activities will be as follows.**

* **Conducting a needs assessment for the selected beneficiaries:** The project will conduct a needs assessment aimed at identifying the economic gaps, individual capacity building needs, the type of the appropriate training methodology/ techniques to be deployed and also to determine the required skills by the widows to improve their economic independence. In the initial phase the needs assessment will equally focus on the available resources within the community, social acceptability and sustainability approaches. The needs assessment will also assess needs in key technical cadres from local authorities and relevant line ministries including Ministry of trade, gender, Health and Ministry of Agriculture to improve their facilitation of the project. Further, the needs assessment will include a Knowledge Attitudes and Perceptions component to be administered to key community figures to identify key issues that affect women’s roles in their community.
* **Recruitment and Selection of the beneficiaries**: This project has proposed to work with an initial 15 widows living with HIV/AIDS from Kibera informal settlement in Nairobi. These 15 women will also be tasked to cascade their knowledge and skills to their peers in their community and trigger a ripple effect of mutual growth, economic empowerment and improved social recognition and influence. This will involve the application of a context specific and fit to purpose mentorship model co-created by the project team and target population. The project will mainly focus on members currently working with AWE partner NEPHAK. However, the project intends to deploy a fair methodology that would be above board in the recruitment and selection of the beneficiaries. We will also work with the government together with NEPHAK in the development of the selection framework.
* **Preliminary planning and sensitization meeting**. The project will plan a meeting that will bring together all the stakeholders and partners in the project in a planning process and sensitization about the project objectives and the relevance of the project to the target group. The work planning is a key area of project implementation and will ensure that a costed work-plan and the development of the implementation schedule. The project intends to bring on board during planning the representatives from NEPHAK, the 15 widows, the county government representatives from the relevant ministries, During the planning meeting, the implementation plan will be developed and the final activity plan finalised and shared.
* **Identification and Engagement of a Trainer:** for successful outcome the project will purpose to hire a skilled and experienced training facilitator to support the three months vocational training period. The project will ensure a competitive and a transparent process through referrals and or advertisement for the position to ensure a pool of candidates to select from. The project will develop a ToR for the trainer with Key performance deliverables.
* **Capacity building/training the identified widows** will be organized and registered as a self-help group with the government to facilitate a range of collective finance, enterprise and livelihood components on women’s economic, social and psychological empowerment. Specifically, financial management, financial literacy, entrepreneurship and developing group level micro plans, life skills training and business training. They will also be sensitized on the availability of opportunities such as national government’s Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) and the Uwezo Fund both domiciled at the national government and also their access to appropriate inputs, technologies and services and to the extent possible with banks and other financial institutions. These will have a compounding effect of improving organization planning and coordination of activities. The objective is to improve the group’s capacity to plan, implement and evaluate interventions which can effectively promote socio-economic security, protection of the rights for vulnerable populations and overall wellbeing.
* **Face to face forums with the local authorities, relevant line ministries and promotion of partnership networking between state and non-state actors:** AWE has been collaborating with the Nairobi County relevant ministries gender, trade and Health and community volunteers. This project will hold face to face consultations to provide project information and strengthen collaboration with these local authorities and ensure sustainability.
* **Support widows’ community participation**. The project will support peer to peer training to promote transformation; promote access to government schemes, institutional credit and microfinance institutions. The project will use the peer to peer training by the 15 widows to cascade the entrepreneurial literacy to other community vulnerable groups.
* **Sensitize group on rights and entitlements of widows’ and disadvantaged groups:** SHG members will receive rights-based sensitization that will encompass a gender and social analysis of their situation both at household and at community levels and provides them with opportunities for reflection and confidence building to be able to address instances of violations and discrimination. Awareness programmes on laws and entitlements will help widows to identify and act upon issues that are of utmost importance to them and to access institutions of justice.
* **Support continuous community dialogues on perception on the roles of women in the society including decision making to change male perspectives on women entrepreneurship.** This will entail open forum led by community volunteers during their monthly household visits to hold dialogue sessions targeting men and women to help alter their perceived roles of women in their societies as prescribed by their socio-cultural beliefs and instead support them to pursue entrepreneurship to generate their income and contribute towards the well-being of the family and decision making. In Kenyan societies and indeed most around the world, women are viewed as home makers and are not encouraged by society to pursue entrepreneurial exploits unlike men and ownership of assets such as land is restricted. They therefore lack the support of most people in society and face stigmatization in some cases. Further, household roles are predominantly left to women leaving them severely time poor and unable to get involved in any entrepreneurial ventures.
* **Project monitoring and Evaluation-**This action will continuously collect routine monitoring information to inform the implementation process and help the action to know whether the action’s objectives are being met, tracking progress, promotes learning and accountability This will be done from the beginning to the end. The project will carry out end of the project evaluation to ascertain whether the project is effective and has **created any impact** to the community or target group.

**Which groups will benefit from the intervention? How many persons are these groups composed of? How will they participate in the intervention? *The project targets the following groups in Kibera in Nairobi County.***

* **70 Persons (15 Widows and dependents)**- The group of widows targeted for this intervention consists of 15 women with an average of 4 members per family and they will be organized into a self-help group with a leadership structure and accountability mechanism to improve accountability, transparency and sustainability. This provides the group with the opportunity to grow and eventually become self-sustaining.
* **100 Community volunteers –** The project will leverage on the exiting CHVs. The group will be provided with information and the training manual to support widows and the entire community and their dependants with specific information on entrepreneurship and support in monitoring community business activities including helping widows build business plans that are context specific and scalable through their government supervisors.
* **6 Nairobi County government line ministries:** Linkages with officers of the line Ministries and we will select 2 members from Gender, Trade, and Health ministries to support with their technical expertise and ensure business sustainability.

**Appendixes**

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| Proposed Project Activities |  |  | Implementation Period (Month) |
| Proposed start date | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan |
| Conducting a needs assessment for the selected beneficiaries | XX |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Recruitment and Selection of the beneficiaries | xx | XX |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Preliminary planning and sensitization meeting with all project stakeholders |  | Xx |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  Identification and Engagement of a Trainer |  | xx |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Capacity building/training the identified widows |  |  | xx | XX | XX |  |  |  |
| Support widows’ community participation, self-development, facilitating transformation |  |  |  |  | XX |  |  |  |
| Face to face forums with the local authorities, relevant ministries and promotion of partnership networking between state and non-state actors  |  |  |  |  |  | XX |  |  |
| Sensitize group on rights and entitlements of widows’ and disadvantaged groups |  |  |  |  |  | XX | XX |  |
| Support community dialogues on perception on the roles of women in the society including decision making to change male perspectives on women entrepreneurship |  |  |  |  |  |  | XX | XX |
| Monitering and Evaluation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | xx |