

## CHIDFEA WOMEN: RESTARTING A BUSINESS POST COVID 19 LOCKDOWN

### Case story: Kyosimire Medius

The outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic in Uganda resulted into a total lock down of the country for over 3 months. During this time, the majority of the Ugandan's income was greatly affected.

Among these, were the CHIDFEA women who had been supported by Mirembe Foundation to boost their businesses. During the lockdown, the women were forced to eat all the profits and the capital which had accumulated because they were not earning and had nothing to feed their families on. They became bankrupt and helpless. Mirembe Foundation supported them with funds to buy food and cash. This was a great relief which helped them to survive the lock down.

As if the lock down crisis was not enough, the water levels in Lake Victoria rose beyond normal, this resulted into the destruction of the markets where most of these women operated from and other working places plus their residential homes. Most of these women were displaced and their businesses perished.

Presently the women are trying here and there for their families' survival doing any possible job to earn a living . In case they get capital, they are ready to start their businesses afresh.

Here is Ms. Kyosimire Medius who is one of the CHIDFEA women whose business was ruined to zero.



Kyosimire says that ever since the lock down, her business has been on stand still. First of all, she used all her savings to cater for her family, as the Lock down was extended from time to time, she played her last card when she consumed all the capital. On top of that, she was among the women who were much affected by the water from the

lake.

She had to relocate her residence yet she did not have any money. She was only blessed when Mirembe Foundation assisted the CHIDFEA women and gave them some money plus other items like food stuff.

Kyosimire says that after the total lock down, she started moving to different people from home to home offering hand washing laundry services so as to earn a living. After saving some little money, she is now trying to deal in millet flour. She goes around door to door carrying her flour in search of customers.

However, Kyosimire says that the little money she earns from her small business is used to cater for the day to day running of her family, so she cannot save anything. She further says that if she gets more capital, she wants to make a stall so that customers find her in one place. She says it's tiresome to move around with her merchandise on the head.