

NARRATIVE AND PICTORIAL REPORT OF CHIDEFEA WOMEN GROUP ON RELIEF GRANT RECEIVED ON
30TH OCTOBER 2020 FROM MIREMBE FOUNDATION.

28th /01/2021

The outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic in Uganda resulted into a total lock down for over 3 months. During this time, the majority of the Ugandans' income was greatly affected. Many lost their jobs, businesses, lives, to mention but a few.

Among these, were the CHIDEFEA women who had been supported by Mirembe Foundation to boost their small businesses. During the lockdown, the women were forced to eat all the profits and the capital which had accumulated. Their small businesses deteriorated until the time they were no more.

During the total lock down, the water levels in most of the water bodies rose beyond normal, this resulted into the destruction of the markets where most of these women operated from and other working places plus residential areas. Most of these women were displaced and their businesses perished.

The problems above were addressed to Mirembe Foundation. Mirembe got concerned and decided to help these ladies to reinstate their businesses through the intervention of Tusaidiane Uganda.

Mirembe supported the women with food relief items (maize flour, beans, sugar among others) and cash money (worth UGX 28.000.000) to help the women deal with this difficult situation of hunger and starvation in their families. The money indeed helped some women to relocate.

In late October 2020 CHIDEFEA received Uganda Shillings 22,500,000/= from Mirembe Foundation through Tusaidiane Uganda, to boost the women's businesses which had been affected by COVID 19.

The leaders at CHIDEFEA visited each woman for assessing the situation they were in especially for those who had relocated, discuss the way forward for business and get a project proposal for restarting business from the women. We also informed them about the organized training for the women before loans could be advanced to them.

It should be noted that we were and we are still advised by the Ministry of Health to be aware of the virus and to observe all the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). For this reason, we never gathered these women in a big number of 45. They had to form new groups of five since they were all starting afresh. We met them in small groups which they had organized together with their group leaders. However, we made sure that we met all of them but on different days though in the same place because they had to go through some training and counselling before receiving their loans. We organized and met three groups of 15 women) at ago. Through their group leaders, this was successfully done.

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This is one of the three groups of the CHIDFEA women that we trained before giving out the loans

For the ladies who had relocated their places of residence, with the help of their group leaders, we successfully visited their new homes. After all this process, the women received their money in the last days of November. Since all of them were starting afresh, they were all given equal opportunities;

(i) Every lady received 500,000 Shillings: (ii) They were all given a grace period of 6 months to start paying back their loans. This implies that they will start servicing their loans from the end of May 2021

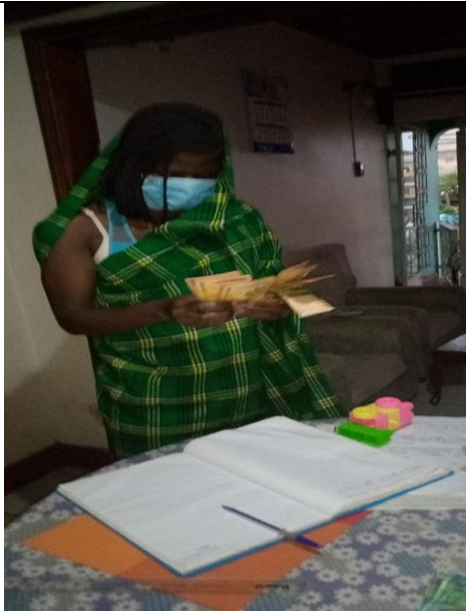
Nyangoma Daphine signing for her loan



Daphine receiving money from Lydia and Betty



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Nankya Agnes receives her money



Betty helps Nankya Agnes to sign for her loan.

Katushabe Christine receiving the money

Rebecca Nabawanuka receiving her loan from



Lydia and Betty

When we had just issued out the loans, the women were disturbed by the political campaigns and elections therefore, most of the businesses slowed down. Many people went to the villages either to vote their desired candidates or in fear of the electoral aftermaths. Most traders who remained in the city centers decided to keep their money out of business in preparation for any eventualities. Therefore, there was very little money in circulation hence low purchasing power. However, as I report now, people in city centers have resumed work normally.

Currently I am glad to report that despite of the above challenges, the women have started working seriously. Their businesses are showing some progress and their lives are positively changing gradually.

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The above pictures are for some of the CHIDEFEA ladies in their new businesses. From left is Arinaitwe Sumayiya who deals in smoked fish, the second one is Nakamya Joanita who roasts food like cassava, sweet potatoes, plantains, and maize. The third is Nakazibwe Sylvia who cooks and sells local food. The fourth lady is Katushabe Christine who sells charcoal.

Before the lock down the women had started practicing urban farming applying the knowledge they had acquired previously. However, due to the many problems which resulted from COVID 19 and the rising of the water levels, these plants are no more. Most of them were washed away by the water. Hopefully the ladies will resume slowly as they consolidate themselves in their new places of residence.

Lastly but not least, on behalf of CHIDEFEA women group and on our own behalf, we wish to thank Miremba Foundation once again for the continuous support towards the ladies.

Greetings

LYDIA MATOVU