

## PROPOSAL

**TITLE: MAASAI WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM**

**TARGET: OLOITOKITOK WOMEN GROUPS**

**DURATION: 6 MONTHS (AUGUST 2012 –JAN 2013)**

**SUBMITTED BY: NKITORIA OLE SAKUDA**

**SIMBA MAASAI OUTREACH ORGANIZATION**

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<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST:</b>	<b>\$7,988</b>	<b>KSH.663,004</b>
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<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED:</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>KSH. 581,000</b>
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<b>COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION</b>	<b>\$988</b>	<b>KSH. 82,004</b>
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## **1. Introduction**

Women and gender issues has carved itself a niche in the global agenda since the Beijing conference of 1995. This has seen tremendous progress in the paradigm shift of policy design and implementation and participation of women in decision making as rights holders in sustainable development. The developed world was steadfast in recognizing the inherent potential of women in development and was quick to integrate them in all spheres of social-economic and political agenda. However, the third world countries and especially Africa, dogged by strong cultural beliefs against the potential of women, disregarded this global movement as extreme feminism propagated by the west.

Women in Africa and specifically in Kenya have relentlessly made incredible advancement academically, politically and socially. Nothing however, has come their way on a silver platter; they have literally fought their way. Using the internationally negotiated instruments as their tools, and with the right partnerships and collaboration with the like-minded individuals, groups and institutions; women are rightfully fighting for their space in modern day Kenya and need to be supported. However, there are still myriad challenges facing women in Kenya and more so in the marginal areas amongst the pastoral indigenous groups.

In acknowledgement to this fact and realizing the strength and potential of women in development, Simba Maasai outreach Organization (SIMOO) has always promoted the full participation of women in all its processes of development projects. Nkitoria Ole sakuda seems to have been alive and sensitive to the plight of women early enough, and while founding SIMOO in the 90's, he ensured the right constitutional provisions to recognize and accommodate women in the running of SIMOO affairs.

## **2. Background Information**

SIMOO was founded in 1994 with the overarching goal of improving the livelihoods of vulnerable groups amongst the Maasai community through integrated development and enhanced socio-economic and political capacity building initiatives. This has severally been realized through initiatives such as;

- i) Diversification of livelihoods through the food security program which encompasses improved livestock husbandry, small- scale dry land agriculture, small enterprise businesses, beekeeping and eco-tourism activities. These have lessened the impact of poverty and reduced dependency syndrome
- ii) Environmental and natural resources management: establishment of Indigenous tree nurseries and massive awareness campaigns on natural resource management especially wildlife and nature conservation has improved the natural resource base and biodiversity.
- iii) SIMOO has sensitized and enlightened the community on their basic fundamental rights such as land rights, women rights, child rights and political rights by undertaking civic education campaigns through workshops, theatre performances and radio programs
- iv) Establishment and enhancement of water sources, SIMOO has rehabilitated the massive Olosho-oibor Earth Dam, sunk seven boreholes and laid water pipes to far villages, schools and dispensaries

- v) SIMOO has been organizing a cultural field day for the last fourteen years. This brings together over 5,000 people for three days every year to display their livestock, farm produce, artistic work and other cultural events.
- vi) SIMOO has been linking up with other partners and like-minded institutions both at the national and International level in order to influence the policies and laws that are pertinent to the well being of the Maasai and Indigenous peoples in general. It has been proactive both at the national processes such as the constitution review process, national land policy among others. At the international level SIMOO has been involved on human rights processes such as the Permanent Forum, Working Group on Draft Declaration, and the CBD among others.
- vii) SIMOO has been supporting bright children from poor families especially girls to undertake their education. It has secured scholarships for over twenty students to Daystar University, 100 in high school and over 200 in elementary school.
- viii) It has successfully constructed a cultural resource center for education purposes. SEUSEU (Self-Education & Understanding for Sound Environmental Utilization) contain a museum and arboretum and is used as an eco-tourism facility which generates income for the community projects.
- ix) It has successfully empowered youth and women on small scale enterprises, where they export handcrafts and beaded jewelry to boost their economic base.

### **3. Problem Statement**

It is a well-known fact that pastoralists and many other indigenous groups including the Maasai have for so long been marginalized for millennia both by the colonial and modern day governments. Relegated to the periphery of hot semi-arid corners of their ecologically fragile frontier districts; strongly bound by their cultural norms and blinded by lack of awareness on national and global affairs, these groups have immensely suffered from economic and political exclusion. Contrary to the belief that such communities are unresponsive and unwilling to change, they indeed are responsive and willing albeit at their own pace and subject to consultation and participation.

However, there are groups within the community that suffers double marginalization; one as part of the entire community and secondly, internal marginalization. One such group is women who have suffered silently for long in the name of cultural gender roles. Women in the Maasai culture have suffered the following consequences;

- i). They do not own property. Women do not inherit any property from their fathers or husbands. They are only allowed to sell milk and manure but the husband still has to decide on how the money should be spent.
- ii). Young women and girls are subjected to FGM which is a prerequisite of early marriage. After the circumcision, the girls are married off usually to an elderly man already married to other wives. This is not only detrimental to their health but also to their self-esteem. This is motivated by the fact that dowry is paid on the bride which is considered as a source of wealth.
- iii). Girls are given the last priority when it comes to education, with preference always given to the boy who is considered to be an asset to the family as opposed to the girl who will most likely go to benefit her husband's family.

- iv). The Maasai being a pastoral community, men always move with cattle leaving the women and children behind and are the first casualties of famine and starvation.
- v). Women are not involved in making decisions that pertains their families and the community at large. Decisions are made and imposed on them including on which candidate to vote for during the elections.
- vi). The fact that women are not economically independent makes them so vulnerable to further oppression and denial of their rights.

#### **4. Proposed intervention**

The ideal intervention is to empower the women both economically and with relevant, useful information regarding their rights. When women are economically empowered they will not only contribute towards the well-being of their families but will also have both social and political voice in the community. The concept of women groups' organizations has been so effective since there is little or no interference and it gives the women latitude to run the groups, make decisions, own property communally and generate income. SIMOO has identified two active women groups in Loitokitok, an area with the least women empowerment programs in Kajiado County. SIMOO intends to build their capacity so as to achieve their objectives which are;

- a) Improve their economic wellbeing by initiating income generating activities as a group.
- b) Enhance the rights of women participation in decision making in the community both socially and politically.
- c) Address the adverse cultural practices meted by the community against women and girl child.
- d) Provide a platform to mentor young girls into responsible persons in the community.
- e) Enhance nutritional value and food security in the households in a bid to reduce poverty.

These will be done through;

- i) Training on entrepreneurship development, management skills and business planning for their small businesses.
- ii) Providing part of the seed capital that one of the groups need for the irrigation projects where they grow crops for sale to the local community and the nearby Loitokitok market.
- iii) Supporting the women's jewelry projects by providing the seed capital for beads and materials. This is a project that one of the groups will be undertaking.
- iv) Identify the markets for their products and further investment opportunities.

#### **5. Reporting schedule**

This project will be implemented and expected to be completed within five months. The first report, both financial and narrative will be made available three months after the projects starts off. The final report will be made within one month after the completion of the project.

## 6. Sustainability of the project

SIMOO shall ensure that the women have been adequately trained in all aspects of project management to ensure that they are able to run independently even after the completion of the project. This will be done through;

- i) Establishing clear leadership and decision making structures amongst the groups to enhance transparency and accountability.
- ii) The groups will undergo project and financial management trainings for proper book keeping and records management.
- iii) SIMOO will help the women identify the markets where they can sell their products even in the future.
- iv) The groups will also be linked to other financiers especially devolved funding through the County and the Ministry of Social Services as well as low interest loans from financial institutions to further develop and expand their businesses.
- v) SIMOO will continue to provide progress monitoring and advisory role for two more years after the completion of the project.

## 7. Budget

LOITOKITOK WOMEN GROUPS EMPOWERMENT PROJECT					
BUDGET: AUGUST - JANUARY 2012					
VOTE HEAD	ACTIVITY	QTY	UNIT COST	TOTAL AMOUNT	
1 Jewelry Project	1.1 Beads	50 kgs	600	30,000	
	1.2 Beading materials		10,000	10,000	
	1.3 Curio shed		75,000	95,000	
	<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>135,000</b>	
2 Irrigation Project	2.1 seeds		10,000	10,000	
	2.2 Fencing		50,000	50,000	
	2.3 Irrigation kits	1/4qtr	45,000	45,000	
	<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>105,000</b>	
3 Training workshops	3.1 food & Acc - 25 persons	2 days	1,000	50,000	
a). Jewelry project	3.2 Materials		10,000	10,000	
	3.2 Facilitation		10,000	20,000	
	3.3 Business plan devt'			20,000	

		3.4 Transport		500	20,000	
	b). Irrigation project	3.1 food & Acc - 25 persons	2 days	1,000	50,000	
		3.2 Materials		10,000	10,000	
		3.2 Facilitation		10,000	20,000	
		3.3 Business plan devt'			20,000	
		3.4 Transport		500	20,000	
		<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>240,000</b>	
4	Adminstration costs	4.1 Comm. & stationery	6 months	5,000	30,000	
		4.2 Transport	"	10,000	60,000	
		4.3 Coordinators' Allowance	„	10,000	60,000	
		<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>150,000</b>	
5	Contingency 5%				33,000	
		<b>GRAND TOTAL (KSh)</b>			<b>663,000</b>	
		<b>USD</b>			<b>7,988</b>	

**Budget notes:**

1. Exchange rate is 1\$/Ksh.83
2. The excess in the budget will be community's contribution both in kind and financially.