

2022

# Economic Strengthening Report



*Out of School Adolescents receiving tool kits after training from ACYP*

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group formation workshops and financial literacy training were conducted to empower members.

*Testimonial: "Being part of the village savings group has changed my life. I was able to take a loan to start a small poultry farm, and now I have a steady income. The support and encouragement from the group have been amazing." - Eseza*

### **3. Vocational and Apprentice Training**

- **Vocational Training Programs:** We trained 8 out-of-school adolescents in various vocational skills, including carpentry, tailoring, and hairdressing. These programs were designed to equip participants with practical skills that are in demand in the local job market. After training, these received materials and equipment as kits to ensure start-up of income generating activities.
- **Apprenticeship Placements:** We placed 10 adolescents in apprenticeship programs with local artisans. These artisans provided hands-on experience and mentorship, helping participants transition into full-time employment.

### **4. Skills Training for Young Girls**

- We continued to conduct skills training workshops for 6 young girls, focusing on tailoring, hairdressing, and computer literacy. These workshops aimed to empower young girls with marketable skills and boost their confidence. We secure tailoring materials, hairdressing kits, and laptops for computer literacy.
- **Economic Empowerment:** The girls who participated in the workshops have started their own small businesses or found employment in local enterprises, contributing to their families' economic stability.

### **5. Microfinance Services**

- Through VSLA and saving, 4 families were linked to financial institutions to get loans. These loans were used to start or expand their small stall, bakery kiosks, or road side markets/stalls.

## **Impact Assessment**

The sponsored families now enjoy far greater financial security as a result of the programs. Revenue for businesses has increased by 30%, and the village saving and loan associations have promoted a saving and budgeting culture. Microfinance services have allowed families to invest in their futures, while vocational training has given teenagers employable skills.

## **Challenges and Lessons Learned**

### **Challenges:**

- **Resource Limitations:** It was difficult to expand our programs to serve more families due to a lack of funds and resources.
- **Market Fluctuations:** Adaptive tactics were needed since fluctuating market conditions had an impact on some organisations' profitability.
- **Cultural Barriers:** In certain areas, early opposition to new financial procedures and career training initiatives was noted.

### **Lessons Learned:**

- **Community Engagement:** Gaining the trust and acceptance of our programs was made easier by including community leaders and members early on.
- **Flexibility and Adaptability:** The success of our projects depended on our ability to modify our plans in response to shifting community demands and market conditions.
- **Ongoing Training:** Giving beneficiaries continual training and assistance guaranteed long-term growth and impact.

## Future Goals

In 2023, we aim to:

- Increase the number of families we assist by fifty.
- Expand the number of apprentice placements for adolescents who are not enrolled in school.
- Improve monitoring and assessment procedures to more accurately gauge impact.

## Conclusion

We appreciate the help from our funders, which has been crucial to reaching our objectives. We're excited to work together going forward to empower more families and promote long-term economic development in our neighbourhood.

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