



**SOLUTIONS TO THE MULTI-LAYERED ISSUES
FACED BY RURAL WOMEN**

SIE FEDERATION PROJECTS

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REDUCING POVERTY, FOOD SECURITY & HEALTH CARE

Project by SI Club of Diekrich, Luxembourg - Location India

Beneficiaries: 500 - 1000 External partner: Dignity asbl

Period: 2016 - 2019

Members of the Club raised €1,950 and have a project budget of €207,000 to be raised through project partner.

This project is a rural development of 50 indigenous villages in Paderu. The aim is to reduce poverty in villages with indigenous population while improving access to basic health care and increasing food security. The project will improve the life conditions of the rural women and girls by:

- ▶ providing new development opportunities
- ▶ reviving the traditions (local subsistence crops, medicinal plants).
- ▶ reinforce the role of women through new responsibilities in both indigenous and Indian society.

A high number of women were able to improve their life conditions in the first year of the project, thanks to an independent remuneration via the sales of agricultural products from the region and the installation of gardens and vegetable gardens. The project also promotes environmentally friendly agricultural practices (no more use of pesticides and mineral fertilizer).

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Project objectives

- **Reinforcing food security in the villages.** The goal is that at least 1,000 families have a sufficient quantity of food for 10 months during the year through small scale and environmentally-friendly agricultural practices over 500 hectares.
- **Sale of the harvest surplus** at weekly markets and shops in Visakhaptnan. To guarantee the competitiveness of “indigenous products”, they will be sold in big port city 100 km from Paderu by producer cooperatives made by village representatives.
- **Tools giving value to the products harvested** such as machines to stone currants, grind cereal and peel Curcuma, and an oven to bake biscuits, allowing to sell them at a better price.
- **The benefits from the cooperatives will:**
 - be distributed between female and male farmers
 - increase the family’s financial security
 - facilitate access to health care
 - guarantee the sustainability of rural development after the end of the project.
- **The promotion of traditional and modern health care.** At least 30 women and men will be trained in phytotherapy and 40 hectares of medicinal plants will be cultivated before the end of the project to give a better access to traditional health care to villagers.



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SAFE WATER, SANITATION & GREEN ENERGY

Project by six clubs within SI Kenya Union - Location Kenya

Beneficiaries: over 5,000 External partner: Women For Water Partnership

Period: 2015-2018

Project implemented in 12 rural communities across 4 counties in Kenya

- Activities include health education in community schools, the construction of 12 toilet blocks and installation of 12 rain water harvesting tanks of 10,000 litres each.
- Given that hygiene and sanitation activities are a continuum from home to school, the project also provides 400 solar lanterns to homes and training on making energy saving stoves and fireless cookers.

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Project target results

- Enhancing access to education of girls due to increased school attendance due to access to safe water and sanitation facilities.
- Access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities, preventing/reducing water related diseases.
- Although project focus is on women and girls, the whole school community benefits from clean water facilities, and the whole household benefits from use of the solar LED lamps and fireless cookers.

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- Over 400 households gain access to a lighting system
- Children able to do their homework in the evenings
- Women with solar lanterns earn respect and prestigious status in village.



- Use of fireless cookers and energy saving stoves increases the time women spend on other activities.
- Less indoor pollution hence reduced respiratory diseases
- More time to engage in economic activity and quality of life

ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

Project by SI Club of Arendal, Norway – Location Tanzania

Projects Name: “Every Drop Counts”

Number of beneficiaries: **11,000 children and their families**

- Members of the Club raised funds continuously over the last 5 years.
- Installed rainwater harvesting tanks of 5,000-litres each in **16 primary schools** in Lushoto, Tanzania.
- Project sought to provide clean drinking and hand washing water for pupils. Project also gave tree seedlings for the students to plant at school and home.
- Project target is to provide access to clean water for sanitation and hygiene purposes, and promote environmental conservation and replenishment through tree seedlings.

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AGRICULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

Project by SI Club of Bergamo & Bolzano, Italy – Location Italy

Projects Title: “Women's agriculture for a sustainable environment”

Number of beneficiaries: 500 women/girls

- Project started by the two aforementioned clubs and expanded by 23 other Soroptimist Clubs in rural Italy.
- Promoting women agriculturalists to produce high quality products which demonstrate great environmental consciousness.
- Encouraging women to move on from selling their products at nearby local markets to larger city markets.
- Soroptimists selected the highest quality and most environmentally friendly products to be promoted, this included bakers, vegetable and livestock farmers, wine and dairy producers
- This group of rural women’s were economically empowered through their exposure to larger markets

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