FACTSHEET

Project holder
Djaili Mbock Asbl

LOCATION: Zambia

OBJECTIVES

GENERAL OBJECTIVE
The overall objective of the project was to empower the women of the Sangwapo cooperative.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES
The specific objectives were:

1) To strengthen the leadership skills, self-esteem and self-confidence of 40 women of the Sangwapo cooperative

2) To strengthen the technical and professional capacities of 20 women of the Sangwapo cooperative in the fields of production, transformation, conservation and marketing of agricultural products

3) To strengthen the technical and professional capacities of 20 women of the Sangwapo cooperative in the field of chicken farming (village chickens) and processing.

4) To allow the sharing of perspectives on the effects of the Covid-19 crisis between women of the cooperative and women of the diasporas.

DURATION: 4 months:
March 2021-June 2021

Project cost: 11,158 €
Amount allocated by ADEPT: 208 €
Contribution to SDGs:

PERSONAL, TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE SANGWAPO COOPERATIVE IN ZAMBIA AND PROMOTION OF THEIR EMPOWERMENT

Context

The effects of the global Covid-19 crisis have had a significant impact on the economies of the Global South, where social security coverage is not extensive, and more specifically on women, who were the first to be affected because they mainly work in the sectors most impacted by the crisis: retail, market sales, catering, personal care, education, etc. Moreover, women work mostly in the informal sector, which, in times of crisis, implies a loss of income without any financial compensation. These effects reinforced and exacerbated the discriminations/inequalities that women already had to face, or even created new ones.

In Zambia, like in all other countries in the world, the Covid-19 pandemic had an impact on the country’s economy and health system. Members of the Sangwapo cooperative in the Makeni community complained that the government aid intended to combat the effects of the Covid-19 crisis had not been distributed fairly in the different communities or regions of the country, with some towns or neighborhoods receiving aid and others not receiving it at all.

Based on these observations, in March 2020, Lingeer-Yi (association of Senegalese women and their friends) and Djaili Mbock Asbl, in collaboration with Femmes PluriElles, launched the pan African project #UnMasquePourTous.

Djaili Mbock Asbl financed the production, in Africa, of protective face masks that were made by women, using local materials, in compliance with the scheme provided by the World Health Organization (WHO).

This offered these women an income, while allowing the associations to provide face masks to disadvantaged populations. Djaili Mbock’s #OnMaskForAll activities were carried out in different African countries and cities, including in Lusaka, Zambia, by the members of the Sangwapo cooperative.

After observing the benefits of these activities, the women of the Sangwapo cooperative expressed their desire to benefit from more training activities, which led to the implementation of other development and capacity building projects by Djaili Mbock Asbl.
**Beneficiaries**

1. The women of the Makeni community
2. Women members of the Sangwapo cooperative and their families.

**Partners**

The Zambian Development Agency | ZAD
The Ministry of Commerce
The Cooperative Union | LUD
The District Agriculture Coordinator | DACO
NyamukAfrica.

**Activities**

- Leadership training: a workshop that brought together 40 (forty) women whose objective was to strengthen their personal skills on leadership concepts. In addition, a module of the training also focused on the gender aspect and the participation of women in all responsibilities linked to the cooperative, notably its survival, the daily management of the cooperative, or the search for local partnerships, even if it wasn’t in the initial plan.

- Training on the methods of transformation and conservation of fruits and vegetables, drying, making sauces and jams, etc., in order to consume them and get them to market out of season. The trainers also shared notions of standards and quality required during these different/variable processes.

- Training on the added value and marketing of agricultural products to understand the markets and plan the commercialization of the cooperative’s production, all year long; transmission of tools to understand the production, transformation, and commercialization of agricultural products.

- Training on the improvement of chicken production in order to improve the livelihoods of poor rural and peri-urban households in the Makeni community in Lusaka.

**Feedback**

- The project proved to be realistic and effective in terms of financial empowerment of the women of the Sangwapo cooperative. Indeed, this "helping hand" mission has improved the living conditions of the women of the Sangwapo cooperative (through the increase of their income linked to their activities) and therefore, of the whole community. This improved income strengthens their financial autonomy and will increase the resources of the cooperative, which in turn will allow, among other things, to perpetuate the activities in the long-term and to acquire the equipment or resources that the cooperative currently lacks.

- The knowledge acquired by the women who participated in the training will be transmitted to other members of the cooperative according to the peer-to-peer method, allowing for the knowledge and know-how to be shared in keeping with ancestral traditions of transmission between peers and intergenerational transmission. A first wave of 10 women (5 from each sector) were trained using this method.

- As far as the environmental impact and the preservation of the environment are concerned, the processing and conservation methods will allow for the reduction of waste. The training sessions raised awareness on the use of household food waste, particularly for chicken feed, or the use of corn cobs during smoking to reduce the amount of wood used.

**Outcomes**

**AT THE END/UPON COMPLETION OF THE DIFFERENT TRAININGS:**

- 40 women attended the personal capacity building workshop
- 15 women improved their knowledge in processing and drying techniques
- 15 women obtained their training certificate
- 15 women significantly developed their products
- 15 women significantly increased their income
- 15 women strengthened their knowledge in chicken breeding and smoking techniques
- 15 women started to improve or significantly improved their chicken production unit
- 15 women proceeded to the transformation of the products of the breeding.
ADEPT

Marie-Pierre Natanyi
Project coordinator and in charge of Djall Mbock Asbi:

“The dialogue with the donor ADEPT Platform was constant and constructive. The quality of the listening, as well as the availability and responsiveness of the team helped us adapt to the changes due to the Covid-19 crisis and allowed the project to be carried out successfully.”

Testimonies from participants

Cecilia Chilufya,
Vice Chairperson of the Sangwapo cooperative,
shared with Marie-Pierre Natanyi the following positive results of the mission:

“Wow the smoked [chicken] business has started, yes, it is a very promising business; we are taken very seriously. We have bought 10 chickens and processed them, later sorted them and sold them at 150 kwacha each. So, we have generated an income of about 520. The smoked chickens are demanded.”

(…) “The other training that we did was to see how well we can manage to raise the village chickens. We are very grateful to you for the beautiful support you gave the women with all the trainings.”

(…) “We were invited for a workshop at Zanaco bank to showcase our product.”

Josine Karaki,
Coordinator, Sangwapo:

“I was approached by people from Belgium who were a structure founded by the African Diaspora and they were willing to give some support for/to associations or cooperatives in Africa. (…) From there, I went to my community asking people if they needed support. (…) we were able to work and have support from Belgium.”

Florida Camanga,
Chairperson Sangwapo:

‘Those trainings will help us to generate income, also to empower women. As you know, women are the most powerful people in a home. They are the ones who run around to make sure that children are fed, that the home is kept in an orderly manner; when they don’t run out of food.’

Miriam Namomba,
member of the Sangwapo cooperative:

“I worked very well; I invested a lot in my business and thanks to the help of Sangwapo”