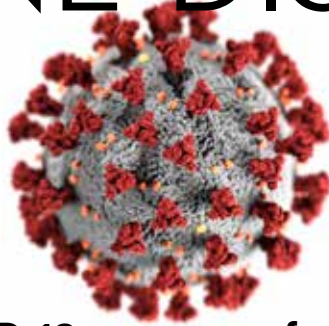


LUPANE DISTRICT



Women leaders COVID-19 response from Lupane grassroots to their communities

Igcikwane leCovid-19 selimemetheka lisuka emadolobheni amakhulu lisehla lisiya emaphandleni elizweni laseZimbabwe. Esabelweni seLupane ukuvalelwa kwabantu kanye lokuvalwa kwezindawo ezithile sekwehlise inani lenzuzo yabantu. Abesifazana abazinkokheli, ndawonye logatsha lukaHulumende olwe Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises, sebeveze ukukhuthalela ukuncedisa ekulwisaneni legcikwane leCovid-19 ngokusebenzelana lamaqembu abomama asezigabeni ekulwisaneni lokugugudeka komnotho ukuze bavikeleke ezigabeni zabo.



Imithetho yokuvalela abantu endlini ngalesisikhathi seCovid 19, inhlupho izinswelo lokukhathazeka okudalwa yisimo somnotho, sekubangele ukuqansa kwamathuba okuhlukuluzana kwabathetheneyo ngemakhaya kugogela lesabelo seLupane.

Omama beLupane basukumele phezulu bathatha inyathelo lokulwisana lesimo somnotho welizwe



esibucayi ngokwabela abaswelayo okulutshwana abalakho okunjenge-mibhida abayilima ezingadini. Bayasebenzisa njalo indlela zokukhulumisana ezifana leWhatsapp ukuthumela imbiko kanye lokuxoxisana labomama lamantombazana abayabe befisa ukuxoxiswa lokuphiwa amacebo ngesikhathi besengozini yokuhlukumezeka kumbe lapho behlukumezekile loba bedinga usekelo loncedo oluvela ngaphandle.

Omama basebenza ndawonye leNtengwe for Community Development logatsha Iwe Ministry of Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises labezempilakahle (Ministry of Health) ukupha ulwazi olulohlonzi kuzakhamizi zeLupane mayelana ngokumemetheka kwegcikwane leCovid kanye lenhlelo ezikhona kukhangelelwe igcikwane leli. Basebenza ndawonye lengatsha lezi ukuthunga izayeke zokuvala umlomo (face masks) lokusebenzisa indlela ezihlanzekileyo zokugeza izandla besebenzisa amagalani lamanzi alesepa (sigubhu giya).

Omama bayaletsa imininingwane yokugezisa izandla ezabelweni zabo, besebenzisa izinto ezitholakala duze labo bathengise bentshintshisa ngokudla ukuze benqabele izindlala emulini zabo okuyimizamo ezama ukwakha ubudlelwano phakathi kuka hulumente labantu bemaphandleni.



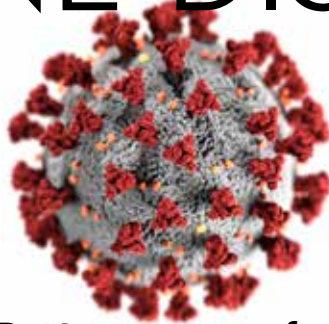


Lobanje iCovid-19 iphambanise inhlelo zokutholiswa kokudla, abesifazana emaphandleni , besizwa luhlelo lwe Pathways to Economic Justice on Women's Land Rights, lona olusekelwa yi African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), basebenzisa umhlaba abalawo ukulima ukuze bathole ukudla lemali njalo bakhone ukwabela abaswelwayo. Amandla okuba ngabanikazi bomhlabathi asehlise amathuba okwesaba lokungahlaliseki kubomama. Ukutholakala kokudla kwandise ukusekelwa kakahulu ngabalimi bemakhaya, okuyikho okwandise ukuvela khona ukudla okunengi. Omama bemaphandleni bayawaswela amathuba okuthengisa izilimo zabo ikanti futhi bayaswela njalo inhlanyelo lokunye okokulimisa okubalulekileyo. Nxa kukhangelwe abanikazi bomhlabathi, kuyadingakala ukuthi bathuthukiswe kwezomnotho ukuze benlise njengabomama ukuthola amalungelo abo kanye lokulinganiswa kwamathuba abesilisa labesifazane.

Ukuthuthukiswa kwabesifazana kwezomnotho kugoqela amandla okwenelisa ukuphatheka kwezokuthengisa lokuthengiselana, ukwenelisa ukufinyelela lokulawula amandla enzuzo kwezomnotho, amandla okulawula isikhathi sabo, lemizimba yabo, ukuba lelizwi elizwakalayo kanye lokuphatheka ngokugcweleyo ekwenzeni izinqumo mayelana ngezomnotho lazo zonke izinqumo jikelele.



LUPANE DISTRICT



Women leaders COVID-19 response from Lupane grassroots to their communities

COVID-19 is now spreading beyond major cities to rural areas in Zimbabwe. In Lupane district, lockdowns and other restrictions are driving down incomes. As public interest in women's leadership in response to COVID-19 grows, Government departments, such as the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises are working in partnership with grassroots women groups, responding to the economic turmoil with an array of social protection. The restrictions of COVID-19 lockdown, together with extreme economic stresses, have led to dramatic jumps in incidences of domestic violence, Lupane is no exception.



Lupane women are already at the forefront of responding to acute humanitarian needs, such as sharing surplus vegetables with the needy. They are also using WhatsApp platforms to send messages and provide counselling services which women and girls can reach out to for advice, if they are at risk of/or experiencing violence, or even seeking psychological support.

Women work as humanitarian responders in partnership with Ntengwe for Community Development and the Ministry of Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises to provide high quality information to keep rural citizens informed of vital public health information about the virus and its spread and available services. They work together designing home-made masks and the hand washing facilities using available resources.



Women bring hand-washing facilities to their communities, using locally available resources, stimulate rural enterprises and food production through barter trading to mitigate disruptions to food supply chains within their own households and mobilize initiatives to foster two-way communication between governments and rural citizens.

Even though COVID-19 has disrupted the food supply chain, rural women, with the support of “The Pathways to Economic Justice on Women’s Land Rights” program, supported by the African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF), use their own acquired land to grow food and share with those in need. Land ownership of these women has prevented fear of uncertainties.





The food system itself critically depends on rural areas, where most food originates; these women need access to markets not only for their outputs, but also for vital inputs and services. For these landowners, economic empowerment is central to realizing women's rights and gender equality.

Women's economic empowerment includes women's ability to participate equally in existing markets; their access to and control over productive resources, control over their own time, lives and bodies; and increased voice, and meaningful participation in economic decision-making at all levels.

