REPORT ON FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD ASSESSMENT:

INTRODUCTION:

Children and Women Hope Organization (CWHO) was founded early 2019 by committed, prominent, proactive, Innovative South Sudanese Nationals who are ready to educate and impart knowledge into Children and Women who are the majority vulnerable group in South Sudan. The decades of civil wars in South Sudan have created an imaginable gap and many organizations have tried to curb the suffering of children and women but not avail. Many NGOs are working hard to see to it that, the suffering of children and women are brought to an end. As matter of fact, South Sudan requires hard working, proactive and development oriented people like the founders of this organization who looked in in-depth contemporary issues which must be tackled with both hands. To copy up with developmental issues and meet world standard of living, children and women must be put at forefront and concerted efforts are required.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT:

Since 2016, a prolonged macro-economic crisis continues to impact food insecurity as market prices are high, and the region will depend on markets for food supply during the peak of the 2020 lean season.

Due to years of conflict, South Sudan is unable to produce enough food products to support its population and currently imports half of its food needs from the neighbouring countries. Recent improvements in the security situation since the 2018 peace agreement and the expected positive impact on agricultural production have been overshadowed by localized drought and presence of fall armyworm in early 2019 followed by widespread catastrophic flooding due to heavy seasonal rains.

Women and men have been seen breaking stone around Jebel, Rock-city, Hai Lokwilili and Gudele respectively for more years. Nobody felt the concern for these vulnerable individuals to carry out a survey in order to understand the problem and health complication this might have on the business groups.

As such, children and women hope organization on June 12, 2020 carried out an assessment on Food Security and Livelihoods in Lokwilili, Rock-city and Jebel residence areas in Juba, targeting
most women and men who are involved in stone breaking business as source of income which is not the kind of work women are supposed to do but due high living standard as life demands they resorted into this business. Lokwilili, Rock-city and Jebel areas was chosen for this pilot Project because it seems to have more number of women and men involved in this business (stone breaking).

**WHY THIS SURVEY:**

Children and women hope organization took the initiative to do this survey because women, children and men are the most affected categories by the conflict. Women’s participation in social, economic and political decision is limited. Also, access to basic services including livelihood activities is low compare to men. Women participation in decision making at households is always neglected on the basis of gender.

According to United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), only 17% of women in South Sudan know how to read and write. This percent place women at high risk of gender based violence, gender inequality and low participation in public and private sectors. Lack of employment and low wages are among issues affecting women in South Sudan. stone breaking business seems to be very heavy and risky work for women, yet there is increasing number of women in this particular business. Therefore, Children and Women Hope Organization took the initiative to carry out this survey to understand the phenomena and risks associated with this types of business.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE SURVEY:**

The survey intends to find out the following details;

- Why these people do this business.
- The Challenges and risk involved.
- If they have alternative businesses in mind for which they can be helped with some capital to venture in rather than stone breaking.

**METHODS USED TO COLLECT DATA:**
The methods used were designed questionnaires to collect quantity and qualitative data in order to capture the problems the women and men are facing in their business of stone breaking. A one to one interviews were conducted using the questionnaires. A total of 54 questionnaires were administers with 54 individuals as they do their business.

**KEY FINDINGS:**

As these women suffer under the hot sun to cater for their families through stone breaking as result of lack of job opportunity and most of them are uneducated therefore, they (women) are ready to change the form of their business into another type of business if they are supported and the alternative business they proposed to venture to includes; Food Stuff include, Vegetables include, Restaurant include Charcoal, Clothes and Shoes and others.

1. Food Stuff include: Sugar, Cooking oil, Rice, Beans, Salt, bread and Flour.
2. Vegetables include: Tomatoes, Onions, Irish potato, and Green Pepper.
3. Restaurant include: Tea making, Juice making, and food.
4. Charcoal
5. Clothes and Shoes
6. Others include: Soap selling, cigarettes selling, Tailoring and alcohol selling
KEY CHALLENGES:

This section entails the challenges encountered by women who are deeply involved in stone breaking business to sustain their families and pay their children to school.

- Wind, rain and shine
- Injuries
- No market
- Tools and modern equipment
- General body pain
- Heart complication
- Blindness and body rushes

Consequences on Human Health:

According to the respondents, they mentioned some health complication associated with the type and nature of the business they are involved in.

The graphic below highlights the most complication they anticipate in their long run.
RECOMMENDATIONS:

From our findings, most of these people entered into this business because they had no other option. All are ready to embrace other businesses. But if they cannot be helped to do other businesses, they need to be provided with the following items:

I. Umbrella for shade
II. Tools like harmer and pick axe
III. Gum boots and gloves
IV. Something to protect their eyes (spectacles)

CONCLUSION:

Knowing the fact that, women are the most affected at all level but mostly those who strive for their families, we recommend that, a quick and urgent respond to be made to the cry of these vulnerable women who struggles to get bread for their children in a day to save them further health complications as some of them testified the bad experience they have gone through in the process of stone breaking.

The finding of this assessment shall be shared with other donors for possible consideration and funding so that alternative business can explorer by the women and men rather than depending on this particular one which in the future will have negative consequences on their health.
Assessment Pictures:
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