

Activity Report: Mapping Women in Informal Economies.



MAPPING WOMEN IN INFORMAL ECONOMIES

A Participatory Approach to Documenting
and Enhancing Women's Economic Growth

SUPPORTED BY:



AFRICAN
WOMEN'S
DEVELOPMENT
FUND



Introduction:

In response to the pressing need to empower and uplift women engaged in informal economic activities in Northern Uganda, Gender Tech Initiative-Uganda embarked on a transformative project titled "Mapping Women's Informal Economies: A Participatory Approach to Documenting and Enhancing Women's Economic Growth." The primary focus of this project was to address three key areas of impact: increasing visibility and recognition of women's informal economic contributions, enhancing economic opportunities and capacity-building for women, and improving policy and decision-making for women engaged in informal economic activities.

Project Outcome:

Through a comprehensive approach that combined surveys, interviews, community meetings, and public events, we successfully raised awareness and recognition of the invaluable contributions made by women in the informal economy. Surveys and interviews were conducted to identify the types of work women were engaged in and the resources they utilized. Community meetings and focus groups were organized to disseminate the findings and engage in meaningful discussions about the economic significance of women's work. Additionally, public events and exhibitions were held to showcase the products and services of women in the community, shedding light on their talents, skills, and entrepreneurial spirit.



Some of our beneficiaries who make and sell Crafts (Mats, Brooms) at the Gulu Main Market. Below are women who work in the Quarry Business.



To enhance economic opportunities for women, our project provided targeted training and capacity-building support. Women were equipped with essential skills in areas such as marketing, financial management, and business development, empowering them to thrive in their respective ventures. Partnerships were established with local businesses and markets to create new avenues for women to sell their products or services, thereby expanding their market reach and increasing their earning potential. Also, microfinance and financing mechanisms were

developed to facilitate access to capital, enabling women to start or scale their businesses with confidence.



Women and young girls involved in the Pottery business showcasing some of their work.



A group with the women involved in the informal economies after the Training.

A critical aspect of our project involved advocating for policy and program development that supports women in the informal economy. We shared the data and insights generated through our mapping exercise with local and national policymakers, and this contributed to informed decision-making processes. We actively lobbied for policies that prioritize the needs of women engaged in informal economic activities, such as access to credit, training opportunities, and supportive regulatory frameworks. Partnerships were forged with local government agencies and organizations to ensure that women's voices were heard and their interests represented in policy discussions and implementation.



(Above)-Meeting with some of the stakeholders during the project implementation: (Below)-Participants building a spaghetti Tower -a team building game



This project has made significant strides in advancing the economic empowerment and social inclusion of women in Northern Uganda. By increasing visibility, enhancing economic opportunities, and influencing policy and decision-making, we have laid the groundwork for sustainable change and prosperity in the lives of countless women. Moving forward, we remain committed to building on these achievements and championing the rights and aspirations of women in the informal economy-especially in Northern Uganda.



