

# 1. Issues

- People affected by leprosy and disabled by the disease are seen as the most vulnerable and unable to play an active role in society.
- In particular, women with disabilities caused by leprosy are in a more difficult situation.
- Therefore, despite many interventions, women in leadership positions in disability organizations and communities has not been achieved for many years.

# **2. Measures**

## **CAPACITY BUILDING for the future of women with disabilities**

We encouraged to women with disabilities to participate in a range of trainings, including capacity building on empowerment, human rights and leadership etc,. These trainings were practical and enabled women with disabilities to plan for active participation in leadership positions.

## **Forming a SELF-HELP GROUP**

We established self-help groups with the support of GLRA. This was an opportunity for women with disabilities caused by leprosy to support and help each other on their own. (2007-2008).

# 3. Measures

## DONOR MOBILIZATION

- We actively lobbied the GLRA, TLA and district governments to improve the situation and requested their support to enable women with disabilities caused by leprosy to take concrete action.
- In the three years from 2019, activities were expanded to include the development of vegetable gardens, start trading with the provision of motorbikes and other equipment, livestock rearing and sunflower seed harvesting.

2019: 1 million TShs for gardening and bitenge.

2021: 3 million TShs for gardening, including tomatoes, aubergines and okra.

2022: 18 million TShs for seven motorcycles, employing seven young people.

Diversification: rice trade, goat rearing, sunflowers.

# 4. Results and Accomplishments

- As a result, in our organization, we now have three female leaders holding top positions
- They brought more voices from women with disability to the decision making.
- Gained more respect and decrease stigma
- One of the leaders, Ms Fikira is now leading more than 50 persons in various socio economic projects at Chazi-Mvomero district, Morogoro region in Tanzania



# 5. Results and Accomplishments

- The livelihood status of families of people affected by leprosy with disabilities has improved significantly
- Two members have started their education in the university.
- New houses were built or old houses repaired for people with disabilities who had extremely difficult living conditions.
- We were able to create people to represent us in council projects, etc.





# 6. Lessons Learnt

- A range of training and interaction with others will be given to women with disabilities caused by leprosy, giving them the confidence to
- Through training, they were able to access information on their rights. It is important to create a trigger.



# 7. Lessons Learnt

- Advocacy by more groups can open the door to access government fundings
- Even one leader can give a huge impact people surrounding her and community levels.
- By presenting role models, many people will be awakened to their own potential and will take action. It is crucial to create a range of different role models among women with disabilities due to illness.



# 8. Next Steps

- To continue advocating empowerment of disabled women by intentional involvement of women in all levels of planning and decision making, so as to have a large percent of representation.
- Currently, our habitat is former leprosarium owned by the government; and we are working on acquiring land ownership right for members of our community of about 56 person affected by leprosy, who have been in Chazi area for more than 30 years and have established their families
- Modernize our agriculture projects as we are still using hoes which are not friendly to our health situation