



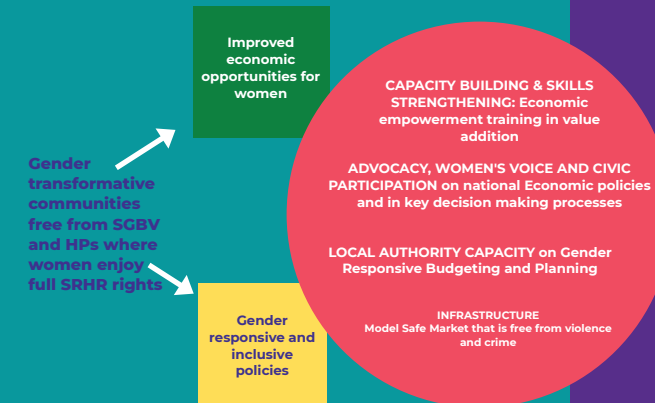
THE SAFE MARKETS PROJECT

UN Women is partnering with Katswe Sistahood and the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development on a Safe Cities – Safe Public Spaces – Safe Markets Flagship Programme which seeks to bring transformative change towards SGBV in public spaces and its impact. The project is being piloted in Epworth, Chipinge and Umzingwane districts. The project commenced in December 2019 and will run for an initial period of 15 months with a possible extension of two years.

Rationale

Violence Against Women (VAW) undermines opportunities for women and denies them the ability to fully enjoy their basic human rights in public spaces particularly security and freedom of movement. Violence against women in these market spaces remains, a largely unaddressed issue. Failure to address the safety concerns of women has hindered their access to resources and life changing opportunities and limits their participation in the development of the country.

4. **Advocacy for the inclusion of women's voice** in policymaking as well as local governance and markets' management.



Project Strategy

The project is made up of four pillars,

- 1. Gender Sensitive Market Infrastructure** to ensure safety of women. The market will ideally be made up of 5 components, i.e. vegetable market shed, flea market stalls and shell shops and a family support centre for SGBV prevention and response, ablution facilities with a baby changing area, a children's play ground and a police post.
- 2. Policy advice and support for inclusive policies:** this includes support for development and revision of gender responsive policies, mainstreaming gender in budgeting and physical planning and promoting inclusive policymaking, as well as advice on how to integrate SGBV mitigation strategies in local governance.
- 3. Capacity Building** of female vendors will be funded and linked to a comprehensive support on economic recovery that enables them to invest and develop income generating activities.

Achievements

In the first 18 months of the project and amid a global pandemic, several successes have been observed.

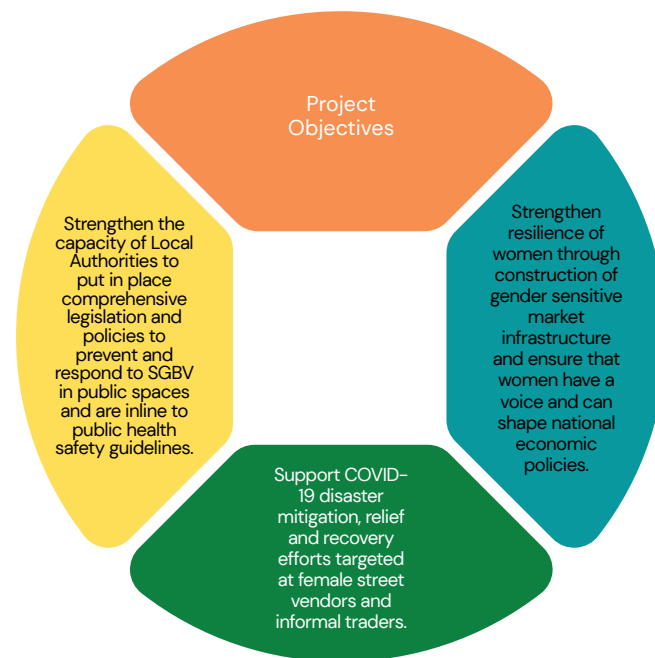
Pillar 1: Infrastructure Development



Figure 1. Children's Play Centre



Figure 2. Epworth Market billboard



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- Construction of the **Epworth Safe Market** shed was completed in the first year of the project. Two market sheds with the capacity of accommodating 96 vendors, 8 hygiene stations and lighting to ensure security at night.

- The Epworth market has a play area for children, that will enable women to work while taking care of their children in safe and clean environment.

- To address the water and sanitation needs at the market, a solar powered pumping system was installed, skip bins were procured for the handling of solid waste and the toilet was refurbished with plans to construct additional ablution facilities currently under way.



Figure 3. Old market stalls



Figure 4. New Market

- Whilst no construction has begun at **Jopa Safe Market**, the vendors have constituted a water and sanitation committee that is responsible for the maintenance of good hygiene at the market. The committee also collects and manages a small fund that caters for borehole repairs, purchase of handwashing soap and sanitisers at the market. UNOPS is currently working on designs for the market.



Figure 5. Jopa Market handwashing point

- A site for the construction of the **Umzingwane Safe Market** has been identified at Habane Extension shopping Centre and construction will begin in the second phase of the project.

Pillar 2: Skills Training for Female Vendors

- **Epworth Safe Market:** Through support from Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, 94 female vendors were trained in Basic Business Management and Entrepreneurship. Thirty-six fresh produce vendors received training in value addition and food processing. Through partnership with ILO, a further 50 women received training in entrepreneurship.



Figure 6. Food processing and value addition training



Figure 7. Masaujam



Figure 8. Pre-cooperative training with Jopa women

- **Jopa Safe Market:** Thirty-three members of the Jopa Cooperative were trained in value addition and food processing. The training was facilitated by Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development.

- **Umzingwane:** Forty-seven from women at Emsehleni market received training in Basic Business Management and Entrepreneurship. Fifty women were trained in value addition and food processing. Four ward coordinators were also trained as part of cascading the trainings to other wards in the district.

Pillar 3: Advocacy for Women's Participation

- **Epworth Safe Market:** 72 women were organised into 6 ISIL groups. The groups also form an organised structure not only for gaining access to micro finance but also for engaging in local decision making and market management in the future.

- **Jopa Safe Market:** Forty-eight women and 7 men received Pre-cooperative training and support with registering the Jopa Cooperative. Chipinge RDC has donated land for the construction of the safe market to the cooperative meaning the women will be responsible for management of the market. As members of a registered entity the women at Jopa will have a voice in local decision making.

- **Habane Extension Safe Market:** In the coming phase of the project 40 vendors at Habane extension will receive training and will be registered as an association.



Figure 9. Consultations with women

Pillar 4: Local authority policy support

- A **gender analysis** of the various bylaws governing local authorities was conducted. It identified various gaps in the laws that made it difficult for women to sell their goods in a safe and secure environment.

- The **handbook on Safe Cities** was developed, this formed the basis of capacity strengthening for local authorities. A tracking tool was developed and will form part of the performance monitoring for local authorities.

- **Local authority capacity to respond to the Covid19** virus was also strengthened through procurement of PPEs and hygiene products that were used at markets.

- Twenty-one local authorities' stakeholders from the three districts received **training in gender responsive policymaking, budgeting and infrastructural development.**

- Chipinge RDC requested support with finalising their **Gender Policy** and Epworth Local Board requested support with developing an implementation plan for their Gender Action Plan. Epworth Local Board received an award by Gender Links for the most **improved local authority on gender responsiveness for 2020.**

Safe Markets in Numbers



- ▶ Market shed accommodating 96 women constructed.
- ▶ Rehabilitation of one ablution facility.
- ▶ Construction of a children's play area to accommodate about 50 children.
- ▶ 141 women trained in basic business management and entrepreneurship,
- ▶ 133 trained in food processing and value addition.
- ▶ 21 local authorities trained in gender responsive policy making and budgeting.
- ▶ 55 women organized into the Jopa Market Cooperative in Chipinge and are in the process of purchasing land for the construction of a safe market.
- ▶ 72 women organized into 6 internal savings and loan club in Epworth.

Budget: \$150,000.00

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