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INTRODUCTION WORDS!

Dear reader of our monthly articles, first of all we would like to express our sincere gratitude for taking the time to read our monthly articles from IOP. This month has been a month to recognize the role of women in our societies and the world at large, where we have celebrated International Women's Day. IOP as a major player in promoting women's economic and social movements has been able to celebrate this month with several events. Welcome to learn more about what has happened here at the organization!

DIALOGUE ON DRUGS ABUSE BY THE ILULA ANTI DRUG ABUSE CLUB

In the run-up to International Women's Day, the Anti-Drug Club organized a debate involving



people from different levels of our society to discuss in detail the use of drugs by girls and women and its effects.

In this debate, various people had topics to contribute, especially in looking at the relationship between drugs and their effects to women.

The debate also focused in detail on various issues such as whether many Sober Houses have the infrastructure that is capable of housing women who are victims of drug use. Also, in the debate we were able to focus on reproductive services (maternal and child health) to see if they can make an early diagnosis and provide referrals to mothers who are victims of drug use.

The officer from the gender desk was also able to provide detailed information regarding the priorities given to women victims of drugs and major types of drugs coming from Iringa region where he highlighted that Iringa region has become



a major producer of cannabis and not a major consumer. Iringa is affected by excessive alcohol consumption.

In the discussion we were able to share various methods that will help protect girls and mothers from drugs and thus build a clean society with social cohesion to achieve sustainable development.

The discussion was very important for IOP as a social development stakeholder to recognize the role of women and girls in combating drug use in order to build a good society that is free from drug victims since the biggest victims of this epidemic are parents, especially mothers and female children born to mothers who are drug addicts.



ISDP TRAINING TOWARDS THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IN LUGALO AND KIPADUKA

The ISDP project in collaboration with the project sponsors NCA were able to provide various education in Lugalo and Kipaduka villages. This education aimed to reach women in celebration of International Women's Day and in support of government efforts to reach women, especially those living in rural areas.



The training provided included;

- Legal aid services system where women were reminded of their rights and how the legal aid system is available and how they can benefit from it in combating gender-based violence. In their women were reminded on their rights, how to protect children rights and also human rights in relation to gender equality.
- Economic empowerment of women and girls; women were reminded to have sources of dependent Economy that can save them from economic oppression. Women were reminded to start various productive activities such as livestock, gardening, small businesses

as well as having savings and loan groups with low interest rates to avoid unnecessary debts in their lives. Also, education on entrepreneurship was provided where budgeting was included.

- Last, in our societies, women are the main caregivers of children in the family, so they were



reminded of the proper way to care for children, especially by instilling good African values that will enable children, especially girls, to be more successful in their lives and help them combat gender-based violence that has been generated at the family level. This training was very enlightening for the mothers and girls who attended, as they were able to recognize their responsibilities and how they can use the laws of the country to

combat oppressive traditions.

IOP LADIES' NIGHT (International Women's Day Celebration)

In celebration of International Women's Day, IOP through its community empowerment project organized a gala concert that brought together mothers of various cadres from Kilolo district.



This event was specially celebrated to recognize the role and contribution of women in society.

The slogan of this day was "Justice and Equality for Women and Girls: An Inclusive Foundation to Achieve Vision 2050". And in commemorating this day, the government emphasis through the Minister of Community Development

and Special Groups that education should be provided to women and girls on this day, so through this event IOP was able to provide education to all women who attended this event as follows;

- Oppressive traditions that are passed down from generation to generation and are taken for granted. In this, the facilitator was able to show African traditions that are outdated but

are still practiced by society and urge women to abandon them because they have been very oppressive to women and girls and have made it difficult to take developmental steps forward and thus are very backward in terms of perspective and the way society is going.

- Women were also reminded to ensure that they have productive jobs that will support them economically and when doing these activities, they should remember that they are responsible for raising their families together with the husbands. Because they are the important people in provision of guidance in the family.
- Finally, women on this day were also reminded that they are very valuable in family level, government and community at large they should be a priority because they have been forgetting themselves and thus allowing them to continue to be abused especially when making decisions involving women's resources and health. Also, women should celebrate



themselves whenever they do good because that will encourage them and feel appreciated for the hard work they do.

Various groups of entrepreneurs as well as women who have been able to do various things in society were recognized at the event which also helped them see their great contribution made to our societies.

Awards were also given to women who have done the best in various sectors such as Economy, education, arts, and society.

This event did not have just one goal as it went further where IOP as an organization was also able to bid on various projects owned by the organization, especially development projects such as the High Way Café, our pre-school, primary and secondary schools, as well as bidding on various works carried out by the economic empowerment project, especially for young mothers and youth.

FINAL GREETINGS!

Finally, we thank you again for taking your time and reading this article! Also, as an organization, we have various projects that we are working on, and these projects really need the support of various stakeholders so that they can move forward and ultimately build a good

society with a strong direction. So, in our IPVTC vocational school, we have built a kitchen for students studying the food service industry. The kitchen is not fully renovated and needs funds to complete its renovation. We ask that as our development partner and friend of IOP, you support us in completing the construction of our kitchen so that students can have a better and more beautiful place to do their training. Thank you very much for continuing to be with us!

If you would like more information about projects and/or sponsoring opportunities,

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