



ACTIVITY REPORT

Education Rescue Initiative – Mazabuka District (2024)

Implementing Organization: Garden House Youth Multi–Purpose Co-operative Society

Funding Partner: The AJA Foundation

Grant Amount: USD 30,000

Project Duration: January – December 2024

1. Project Overview

In 2024, Garden House Youth Multi–Purpose Co-operative Society implemented the Education Rescue Initiative in **Mazabuka District**, targeting adolescent girls and young women affected by forced and early marriages. The project aimed to provide **rescue, protection, education, and economic empowerment pathways** for survivors of gender-based violence.

2. Objectives

- Rescue girls trapped in forced and abusive marriages
 - Facilitate access to vocational and formal education
 - Provide safe accommodation and psychosocial support
 - Promote economic independence among beneficiaries
 - Strengthen community awareness and referral systems
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3. Key Activities Implemented

a) Community Engagement & Identification

- Conducted 12 community sensitization meetings with local leaders and families
- Established referral networks with community volunteers and local stakeholders
- Identified high-risk cases of forced marriage

b) Rescue & Case Management

- Successfully rescued 15 young women from forced and abusive marriages
- Conducted risk assessments and developed individualized reintegration plans

c) Education & Skills Training

- Enrolled beneficiaries into partner tertiary institutions and trade schools
- Programs included tailoring, agriculture, catering, and business skills
- Provided tuition support using project funds

d) Safe Shelter & Psychosocial Support

- Placed beneficiaries in safe boarding facilities at partner institutions
- Delivered ongoing counseling and trauma support services

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e) Economic Reintegration Support

- Provided starter kits (e.g., sewing machines, tools) to selected graduates
 - Linked beneficiaries to local markets and income opportunities
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4. Key Results Achieved

- **15 survivors rescued and reintegrated into education**
 - **12 young women enrolled in vocational skills training** (including at-risk individuals)
 - Improved psychosocial wellbeing among beneficiaries
 - Increased income generation among graduates
 - Strengthened community reporting and response mechanisms
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5. Financial Utilization Summary (USD 30,000)

- Tuition & Training Support: \$12,000
- Safe Accommodation & Welfare: \$6,500
- Counseling & Case Management: \$3,500
- Starter Kits & Reintegration Support: \$4,000
- Community Engagement & Outreach: \$2,000

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- Administration & Monitoring: \$2,000
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6. Challenges & Lessons Learned

- Cultural resistance required continuous engagement with traditional leaders
 - Demand exceeded available resources, highlighting need for scale
 - Integrated education + shelter model proved highly effective
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The Mazabuka intervention demonstrated that **combining rescue, education, and economic empowerment is a highly effective model** for addressing forced marriage. The initiative delivered measurable impact and provides a scalable framework for expansion to other districts.

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