



COVID 19 Project Launched in two Districts of Mashonaland Central



Tavirai Marega, Programmes Coordinator Manager, presenting during the inception meeting.

Through funding support from the Japanese Government working with UN Women, Lower GURUVE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (LGDA) Launched a project titled 'Prevention of COVID-19 infection among vulnerable women and girls in drought-affected districts of (Guruve and Mbire) of Mashonaland Central Province in Zimbabwe' focused on COVID- 19 Prevention. This is on the background that testing, and vaccination measures have been marred by vaccine hesitancy, gender and social norms affecting uptake of vaccines and limited availability of COVID-19 prevention and infection control supplies such as PCR test kits.

COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in both public health and humanitarian crisis, affecting disproportionately the lives, health, and livelihoods of many people in both districts of Guruve and Mbire. The government of Zimbabwe introduced a series of containment measures. While restrictions have currently been eased and vaccination continued steadily across the country, the impacts of COVID19 coupled with other crises such as HIV/AIDS, climate change and drought continue to be experienced in the districts.

As a follow up to the Launch, the project Provincial inception was conducted in Bindura on 7 June 2022. The purpose of the programme inception meeting was to acquaint provincial level stakeholders and LGDA staff on project expectations, operational guidelines and expected outputs. The Launch was officiated by Ms. Lucia Jenami the Secretary for Provincial Affairs and Devolution representative. “The programme will help address supply and logistic challenges, vaccine hesitancy as well as capacitating women and girls through the production of face masks and liquid soap”, said Tavirai Marega, Programmes Coordinator.

Innocent Katsande UN Women Communications Officer speaking on behalf of UN Women stressed the need to focus on long-term infection prevention as a priority hence the need for stronger and sustained interventions. He further called for a multi-sectorial approach in the fight against the pandemic and reiterated United Nation’s commitment to gender equality.

The Secretary for Provincial Affairs and Devolution welcomed the project and appreciated the Japanese Government and UN Women for supporting the Government of Zimbabwe in the fight against COVID-19 infection in Guruve and Mbire Districts in particular and highlighted how development of any society rests on the shoulders of healthy people.