

Women leadership Network bridging gaps during COVID-19 Pandemic



By Ngumbo Njoroge

Women leaders in cooperatives in Kenya are bridging gaps in accessing personal protective equipment for the less privileged while addressing gender balance in Savings and Credit Cooperatives leadership.

Under the auspices of the Global Women Leadership Network, a platform dedicated to addressing gender balance in leadership, the women are helping impact on health regulations by the Ministry of Health. The Network recently donated 4000 facemasks to Family Hope Center, a Children's home in the outskirts of Kenya's capital Nairobi, as part of an ongoing initiative to show concern for the community.

"To see children in such homes sharing masks touched my heart. I decided to buy the masks through funds generated from the sale of scarfs," said Ms Scholastica Odhiambo, the Network's Interim Chairperson. Ms Odhiambo, who is also a Director of Cooperative Bank and Hazina SACCO, says the Network hopes to raise funds to provide washing stations and hand sanitisers to community and women groups in the Lake Region of Western Kenya.



In 2019, the Women Network conducted a similar visit to the Busia Compassionate Centre, an orphanage facility funded by the global Credit Union movement to offer hope to orphans and foster children who face extreme poverty and limited resources. The Kenyan chapter of the Global Women Leadership Network (GWLN) is open to all women and men in the Credit Union movement and active participation in GWLN activities is strongly encouraged.

The network provides women in the country with unlimited access to the network's international community of Credit Unions, through in-person events and online. Currently, there are 81 chapters of the Global women group, making Kenya's chapter the 82nd to



join the network. In Africa, only Uganda and Malawi have launched such chapters. GWLN is supported by the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU), a global trade association and development platform for Credit Unions.