



**Women for Zero Hunger programme**

*Extract of answers provided by a candidate of the programme's first edition*

**[Link to the call for applications available for this year's edition available here](#)**

*N.B. All answers are not provided below to respect the candidate's anonymity.*

### Questions/answers' legend

<b>Bold</b>	<b>Questions</b>
<i>Italics</i>	<i>Answers</i>

#### **Education**

*Advanced degree*

#### **Position**

Founder & CEO

#### **Association Social Impact Description**

*At association X, we put our communities at the heart of every project we implement and we respect each and every individual in our community, welcome all and open to honest discussions which help us incorporate community ideas and perspectives when making informed decisions for the organization.*

*Through us, we set up eco-friendly community demonstration gardens to promote and train communities in sustainable farming practices and we bring together women from our community to work as a group. By working together, they gain more confidence, develop support networks and they help each other overcome their situations of poverty with new skills and knowledge gained in appropriate sustainable urban farming technologies.*

*We believe that self-sustainability through skills training and income generation activities is key to breaking the cycles of poverty and through community gardening a change for sustainability is achieved at the household level.*

#### **Sustainable development goals (SDDs)**

*1 ; 2 ; 5 ; 8.*

#### **Number of current employees**

*15*

#### **Training needs**

*Human Resources; Communication; Partnerships*

#### **Mentoring needs**

*Yes*

### **Your association's activities summary**

*Association x is a social enterprise working at the intersection of agricultural sustainability and women's empowerment.*

### **Industry**

*Agriculture*

### **Sub-industry**

*Women's empowerment and climate change*

### **Numbers of clients so far**

0

### **Problem your association Trying to Solve**

*Climate change puts agricultural productivity and global food systems at risk. Due to gender inequality, in Africa smallholder farmers champion agricultural productivity, and women constitute 76 per cent of agricultural labour. Hence, women play a vital role in the sector. Logically, a higher number should result in higher output, but this is not the case; women's productivity is relatively poor compared to men's. This is because, in addition to the challenges shared by all smallholder farmers, such as the rippling effect of climate change and a lack of access to agricultural resources, the burden faced by women farmers is exacerbated by cultural norms.*

*In many African communities, women are still not allowed to own lands and have less decision-making power. The situation is particularly severe for women in underserved communities who live at the intersection of challenges caused by climate change, social inequality and patriarchal structures. These often face limited access to land to grow crops, high levels of unemployment & domestic violence.*

### **Your Solution to that Problem**

*Having lived with a single mother, I learned about the challenges women face in underserved communities at a young age of 8 while growing up in y. I realized that I needed to do something and change the experience of women, teenage mothers and children living in underserved communities of Africa and I found a solution in vertical farming. Through association X, we conduct trainings for women and youth on building innovative and climate resilient vertical farming units that allow them to grow crops in areas of limited space. To address climate change, we design eco-friendly vertical farms and engage our beneficiaries in waste management. Our organization model allow women to develop supportive networks that enable them to share skills and develop self-sustaining food for their families. We also train community groups and unions and other women empowerment groups on nutrition, gender issue, and entrepreneurship training for income generation.*

### **How is Your Solution Going**

*Food is something that nobody can live without and there is no doubt that once the landless and those experiencing hunger are given better options to grow crops for food and livelihood, they automatically adopt to it. Association X being an impact driven organization, we have built capacity of over 10,000 women & youth and these have been able to use the available resources to sustain themselves and enhance their food security. This is evidenced with growth metrics that we achieved regardless of the COVID 19 situation which made movement restrictions more stringent making it difficult for farmers to bring their produce to market. We started door-to-door and delivered food to 200 families, managed to train over 6500 people in various communities and scaled our impact to other countries like z. We look forward to impacting more communities and training two million women and young girls in vertical farming practice.*

### **Your Expectations**

*As a young leader for a long time, I have always yearned to get international mentorship and training from experienced international mentors and I believe training and mentorship from this great program will be a golden opportunity for me and my impact driven organization if given chance to attain knowledge and skills in various aspects for example leadership skills, communication, building strong partnerships among others. With this knowledge, I will be in position to successfully run my social venture & scale, develop a competent team and build a reputable organization that will run for very many years impacting and developing communities.*

### **Preferred language**

*Other*

### **Other.s language.s**

*English (Fluent)*

### **Percentage of women in management in your association**

*80%*

### **Online presence**

*Yes*

### **Number of followers**

*2 000*

### **Direct beneficiaries - Gender**

*Female*

**Direct beneficiaries - Age**

*15-25 ; 25-35 ; 35-65 years old*

**Number of beneficiaries since you started**

*23 300*

**Number of direct beneficiaries - 2021**

*6 500*

**Number of direct beneficiaries - 2020**

*5 000*

**Number of direct beneficiaries - 2019**

*2 500*

**Number of indirect beneficiaries - 2021**

*4 000*

**Number of indirect beneficiaries – 2020**

*3 500*

**Number of indirect beneficiaries – 2019**

*1 800*

**How did you find us?**

*WIA website*