

Soroptimist International
Women inspiring action, transforming lives

This month I thought I would take a look at the wider world with regard to our work.

This year sees the start of a new four year project for our Federation – (which includes GB Ireland and most of the old commonwealth countries).

At our recent Conference in Glasgow S.I. Canterbury won the vote for us to accept their Garden Project helping women in Meru Kenya.

The project will support some of the poorest women-led households in Kenya and focus on

providing opportunities for women and girls who may never otherwise be given the chance to earn an income, and gives them status within their community.

It fully embraces the three key areas at the heart of SIGBI's Programme Focus Goals – **Educate, Empower and Enable.**

Improved food production and education will support women and girls to transform their lives and those of others through a process of cascade learning and mentoring thereby reducing poverty, improving health and increasing employment



District Meru is in Tigania East with a population of 136,000. 90% live in rural areas with HIV/AIDs prevalent in the region.

The legacy of this project cannot be overestimated:

- women will be valued for recognising and reducing the plight of others who live in poverty
- women and girls will have a greater chance of survival, safety and status in their community
- the number of beneficiaries will continue to grow through the cascade system of passing on knowledge and understanding
- **women will become role models for others without conventional academic skills**
- **improved access to education for girls will enhance their prospects for the future**
- the project is sustainable and easily replicable
- more women and girls will live above the poverty line with improved life chances, and be able to care for their dependants more effectively

The Meru Women's Garden Project will truly 'Deliver the Difference'.

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