

## **Kortoe Woloquelli Project Proposal Summary**

During the fourteen (14) years of civil unrest, many Liberian women became vulnerable through direct or indirect abandonment by their husbands. Their homes and businesses were damaged. Now that the war is over and job availability is a serious issue in post-war Liberia, these women are finding it very difficult to make their living because they are unable to provide support to their homes. Despite government effort to engage these issues, persistent poverty still remains with more than three quarters of the population surviving on less than \$1.00 United States Dollars per day; while 80% of the Liberian populace lacks access to formal employment. Having carefully followed this situation (found in all sectors of the Liberian Communities), the need to empower these females in micro-financing and business development and/or expansion is a priority.

**Project Goal** - To economically empower the poor and marginalized people of Liberia, especially women, with a focus in three regions (Bong, Lofa and Nimba counties, Liberia) so that they can have a dignified and meaningful life to live. They will be reached through micro-financing, capacity building (leadership and development training) and business literacy programs.

### **Project Design:**

- Recruit and train rural women in credit union methodology
- Indoctrinate saving habits in the rural women
- Inculcate the culture of borrowing and repayment of loans
- Empower vulnerable women through Micro-loans extension and capacity building/trainings on how to manage these loans and developed the habit of savings.

This will be accomplished through Micro-loan Extensions, Trainings/Capacity Building Workshops, and Savings Mobilization. Trust Savings Credit Union Women's Group will serve One hundred and fifty (150) low-income entrepreneurs, with demand-driven Micro-Loan service for the first year of the pilot project. The loan will be served as a revolving fund for the period of eleven (11) months; training in the area of small business development will be offered to Sixty (60) participants for current and future entrepreneurship as a means of increasing our clients' base for expansion. There are set targets for becoming profitable in two years' time, but need a significant capital base funding and some operating subsidies in its early year. TSCU will provide micro-finance and technical services to women entrepreneurs with various small businesses or economic engagements. Through the help of small skill business training which will be offered, the clients will grow their businesses without any assistance from their male counterparts, providing them with economic independence and increased decision-making power.