Why is it important to empower women in developing countries?
Why did we choose this as our project?

”When you educate a boy, you educate one individual, when you educate a girl you educate a nation” - Larry Summers

Aid programs that provide women opportunities to better their health, education and wellbeing have effects far beyond a single individual - USAID

”Education is a human right and an essential tool for achieving the goal of equality, development and peace” – Beijing Platform for Action
**Millennium Development Goals**

What are the MDG’s?

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/Aids, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development
WHAT IS GENDER EQUALITY AND WHY IS IT CRUCIAL?

- Gender equality is a prerequisite for women’s empowerment
- Gender disparities occur in different spheres of society. They occur in the;
  - Educational sphere
  - Economic and work sphere
  - Political sphere
The gender gap in secondary and tertiary education is crucial for the empowerment of girls. Of 65 developing countries; 50% achieved gender parity in primary education, compared to 20% in secondary education and 8% in higher education.

Gender inequality in the economic sector is manifested by:
- Occupational segregation
- Gender-based wage gaps
- Women's disproportionate representation in informal employment, unpaid work and higher unemployment rates

Out of the 550 million working poor in the world, an estimated 330 million are women.
The reasons to why women aren’t politically active in their countries are because of:

• The type of electoral system in place in a country
• Women's social and economic status
• Socio-cultural traditions and beliefs about a woman's place in the family and society
WHAT IS EMPOWERMENT?

- Women’s empowerment entails increasing the economic, social and political strength of women
- Women’s Empowerment has one prerequisite – gender equality
- Women’s empowerment can be divided into three stages
Political empowerment

Economic empowerment

Educational empowerment
How are women empowered?

- By decreasing the gender disparities in all education
- By decreasing the inequalities between men and women in aspects of economics, political and social life
- Educating girls and women

What statistics indicate women’s empowerment?

- Ratio of girl to boys in education
- Ratio of literate females to males 15-24 years of age
- Share of women in paid employment in non-agricultural sector
- Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments
CURRENT SITUATION

Educational Situation:
- Girls and women do not have the same access to primary, secondary and tertiary school
- Over 100 million children of primary-school age are not attending school
- Between 1999 and 2008 the number of out of school children decreased from 106 to 69 million
- The majority of children, 31 million, live in Sub-Saharan Africa
- The dissemination of girls out of school varies by region
- Only in Sub-Saharan Africa, 24 million girls can’t afford going to school
Economic Situation;

• Average distance to the moon?
• Girls (age 15 – 24) are approximately half of the youth population in developing countries
• Women contribute less than their potential to the economy
• Average wage gap – 17% (2008)
• Discrimination when applying for credits
• Limited property rights – hampering their economic status and opportunities to overcome poverty
• 75% of agricultural work
• Ownership of land and property empowers women and provides income and security
Political situation:
- Women’s participation in politics is relatively limited
- By July 2006, women accounted approximately 17% of parliamentarians worldwide.
- At a local level, women account for less than 1 in 10 of the world’s mayors
- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
- Women need 30% of legislative seats to have a real influence in parliaments
- Encouraging trends
- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia
- “Everybody could see women were key players” – Odette Nyiramilimo
- Current annual rate of growth in proportions of women members in parliaments it is about 0.5%
ZAMBIA 2012

• “Often parents think of their girls as an liability instead of an asset. If girls were getting the same chance to enroll in school, the world would probably look different” – Clarabell, 17, Zambia

• “At school I understood that I can make a change. No matter how big or small it is, once I’m educated, I can make a change” – Girl, 16, Zambia

• “I don’t see the problem – women are in the way for themselves, they are not motivated enough for anything and they quite school” – Boy, 16, Zambia
QUESTIONS

1. What action do you think is more beneficial in the long run for a poor village; providing them with water or educating young girls?
2. In what ways do you think poverty is linked to gender equality?
3. Women are often looked upon as the inferior gender. Do you think women have contributed to that view? If yes, in what way?
4. How can governments and organizations help to empower women?
5. What are some of the causes for the disempowerment of women?
Why is it Important?

- The benefits of empowering women are not exclusive for the women
- Women’s education go beyond higher productivity for 50% of the of the population
- Poverty, economic growth and gender inequalities are intimately correlated to women’s education
- An increase of 1 per cent in the number of girls who have completed secondary education boosts annual per capita income growth – the rate at which the whole country’s economy is growing – by 0.3%. So if we educate girls, entire countries can raise themselves out of poverty more quickly.
- Sum-up: Empowering women is a pathway for achieving all of the millennium goals
- An extra year of education boosts a girl’s future wages by 10 to 20 percent, while an extra year of secondary school boosts them by 15 to 25 per cent
SOURCES

- UN Women
- OXFAM
- UNICEF
- USAID
- SIDA
- UNFPA
- WHO
I AM POWERFUL