NEW PROJECT ON CLIMATE CHANGE EXCITES MACHINGA WOMEN

Center for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR) has ventured in a Women Empowerment Initiative which aims at fostering active role of women in gender and erratic climate change mitigation. Through its pilot project “Empowering smallholder women farmers in climate-smart agricultural practices to mitigate the impact of climate change” which is being implemented in Machinga District with support from NEPAD, CHRR focuses on Capacity building of women and smallholder farmers in agriculture so that they cope with diverse alarms of climatic challenges that Machinga faces.

The project further looks at training women in production technologies which can be used to modernize and easily incur changes of production within their households. Speaking to Senior Advocacy and Resource Mobilization Coordinator, Michael Kaiyatsa, said the project was very significant to women following the challenges that women face in addressing climatic woes in the district. “The project is very vital as it will work in accordance with the community interventions on climate in order to achieve the best outcomes and we are excited that following the training we held with women, a revolving fund was established that will help them in running their affairs which is a positive step the project is taking” said Kaiyatsa.

Concurring with Kaiyatsa, Traditional Authority Nsanama and women beneficiaries expressed enthusiasm with the coming of the project as it is their hope that the project will address the gender and climatic challenges they have been facing in the district. Through the project, 30 women have been trained in entrepreneurship skills. The project has since launched their activity implementation plans which were reviewed at a ceremony that was attended by Traditional Authority Chiefs, Ward Councilors, Extension workers from different departments and Area Development Committees (ADC) members.

The project which runs for six months is expected to end in May 2019. 500 households within the district are expected to benefit. CHRR is among the leading institutions which have other projects running concurrently in the district including “YES I DO” which is addressing Sexual Reproductive Health issues and child marriages among adolescent youths in the district. It is being championed by the Head of Civic Education, Thandizo Mphwiyo.