

**3<sup>RD</sup> PHASE OF SOLVATTEN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION BY SOROPTIMIST  
INTERNATIONAL LIRA WITH SUPPORT FROM SOROPTIMIST  
INTERNATIONAL SWEDEN**

**PROJECT LOCATION- OLILIM SUB COUNTY IN OTUKE DISTRICT**

**1.0 Introduction**

On 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Soroptimist International distributed Solvatten to Women of Olilim subcounty in Otuke district. There was a lot of excitement from the community and a warm welcome to SI Lira team. The distribution program which was coordinated by Ms. Josephine Alobo Coordinator of SI Lira and Ms. Christine Nisi, a Member of SI Lira attracted a lot of attention from the Community. The local area Chairman 1 of the village appreciated the good gesture of SI Lira and SI Sweden for the choice of Olilim as project site. The SI Lira was received a presentation of cultural songs of praise by the beneficiaries of the Solvatten Project.

**1.2 Demonstration of how Solvatten works**

The Coordinator of SI Lira taught beneficiaries about the Solvatten equipment, how it works, and maintainence. A total of 70 Solvatten was distributed to the young women in Olilim. The turn up was big, both men and women turned up to take a glimpse of what was happening. Below is a photo of a Solvatten being filled with water.







The Photo below shows a picture of the Coordinators carrying out a head count of the beneficiaries to ensure the rightful beneficiaries identified at project inception are the ones who have received the Solvatten.







### **1.3 Reactions from the beneficiaries**

One of the women beneficiaries, also being a leader of the women group appreciated the Solvatten and its uses. She said that the Solvatten will go a long way to reduce on the need for firewood and will help the beneficiaries preserve the environment through reduced cutting of trees for fire wood and charcoal.

They also informed the SI Lira team that most of their fellow women have been raped by Karamojong warriors/cattle rustlers who roam the villages in search of water during the dry season. They do not only look for water, they are also violent and involved in cattle theft as well as violence against the affected communities especially women when they bump into them in the bushes while the women are searching fire for wood.

The women reported that women have suffered domestic violence in the hands of their husbands given the patriarchal nature of society where women are suppressed and have no voice in decision making. This affects individual households as well where the woman is the care giver and yet expected to deliver everything on time. Lack of firewood and the process of collecting as women have got to walk long distances to look for firewood poses a delay to prepare meals and bathing water for men in time. This has resulted into violence against women and the girl child. Often violence against a mother in a home affects the girlchild in the home as both are the care givers in the home.

They also reported that they are facing a lot of domestic violence as well as Gender base violence because the men after coming back from the garden together with women, they want you to be served quickly be it tea or food. They are hopeful that the rate of domestic violence will reduce because as they will be able to provide clean water and tea in time because they will leave the Solvaten when going to the garden and on coming back, water will be ready for tea and bathing children.

The women also reported that they are now fully protected from common diseases rising from drinking dirty and contaminated water because the Solvaten will be used to filter and boil water for drinking. They are optimistic that the money they have been using to buy medicine to treat the ailments from drinking contaminated water will become a savings and will be used for other pressing family needs.

#### **1.4 Request from the women**

The women are in a district blessed with shea nut seeds and shea nut have very many products, locally and internationally. Example shea nut oil, shea nut herbal medicine, shea nut fertilizer, it can also be used for making soap, smearing oil and it is a very good shade.

The women in the quest for income generation to support their families requested for machines for processing shea nut products especially oil to enable them generate. They reasoned that if women can be able to generate income, they can be able to pay school fees for their children as well as developing themselves economically, hence reducing the

need to depend financially on men for financial provision. It will also give them opportunity to have a voice in making decisions which affect them as women.

The women emphasized that said that they and their households depended on keeping cattle and goats as a major income generating activity in addition to subsistence agriculture, which is now grossly affected by climate change, where crops are failing year in year out. The situation has been aggravated by the loss of their animals to cattle raiders which has left the families struggling for survival economically. This has left them with not many options but turn to shea nuts which are natural trees dominating the area, and it is high value with value addition.

### **1.5 Conclusion**

These women appreciated the hands that have given to them in kind, the Solvaten and they asked God the Almighty to richly bless all the women of SI Sweden for their generous giving.