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| Title of the action: | Entrepreneurial women of Manzini |
| Location(s) of the action: | SWAZILAND - MANZINI |
| Name of the applicant | REMAR SWAZILAND |

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| **Postal address:** | Plot 70 Lagusha Str, Trelwaney Park, Manzini. |
| **Telephone number:** (fixed and mobile) Country code + city code + number | Cell: +268 76117817 |
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| **Contact person for this action:** | Luis FILIPE |
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| **Website of the Organisation:** | www.remar.org |

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| Title of the action: | Entrepreneurial women of Manzini |
| Location(s) of the action: - *specify country(ies), region(s) that will benefit from the action* | Plot 70, Lagusha Street, Trelwaney Park, in the city of Manzini. |
| Total duration of the action (*months*): | 12 months |
| Amount of requested contribution | 80.000,00 |
| Objectives of the action | <*Overall objective(s)*> To improve the quality of life of the women of Swaziland.<*Specific objective(s)*> To ensure financial autonomy for the underprivileged women of Manzini, through the creation of micro-businesses that generate income. |
| Target group(s)[[1]](#footnote-0) | 250 underprivileged women. |
| Final beneficiaries[[2]](#footnote-1) | 2,500 people: children, men and women. |
| Estimated results | R1: Land has been prepared for the creation of a wheat plantation and the construction of a semi-modern bakery and a design & printing workshop in Manzini.R2: The women have been trained in the running of the bakery and the design & printing workshop.R3: The women have been trained in the techniques of business management. |
| Main activities | R1 :A1- Acquisition of 2 hectares of land in Manzini.A2- Preparation of the land.A3- Construction of a semi-modern bakery.A4- Creation of a design & printing workshop.R2:A1- Organization of the beneficiaries into work groups.A2- Training of the women in basic work techniques.A3- Organization of courses about the handling of the machinery and the supplies in the bakery.A4- Courses on food hygiene and the making of bread and pastries.A5- Training in business security measures.R3: A1- Courses on administrative management.A2- Courses on financial management.A3- Courses on commercial management.A4- Organization of the sale of the products. |

**2.- Relevance of the action**

#### Relevance to the objectives/sectors/themes

#### The key matters addressed by this Project are, on the one hand, the achievement of a decent kind of life for the women of the Remar Manzini centres, and on the other hand, an advance in the fight against poverty in the town, particularly amongst women. The group from the Remar Manzini centres are women with the capacity to earn a living but, due to a lack of support and of personal finance, they find themselves in a situation of complete helplessness. With no one to help them, and many of them with children to care for, they fall an easy prey to several phenomena:

- the loss of hope of a better life for themselves and their offspring,

- the fear of a devastating future for their children,

- the psychosis of ending their lives in wretched conditions,

- the obsession that their children will become sick, or will end up living on the streets, due to a lack of the care needed for their healthy development.

The children´s future is their chief worry, and they do not want to feel themselves to blame for the misfortunes of their offspring. This anxiety causes them great stress and affects them both physically and mentally. The situation of other women in the town is not much better, either. Manzini is well known as the most densely populated town of Swaziland, and it is also a meeting point for various different groups suffering from financial need. Remar Swaziland, with its community homes, aims to begin to tackle this problem of poverty which characterizes the women of Manzini, but more is needed in order to bring a final and satisfactory solution.

Through this Project, Remar Swaziland hopes to broaden the scope of its activities and increase the number of beneficiaries, by acquiring support for the creation of microbusinesses managed directly by the women. The aim is to bring them out of poverty and to substantially improve their living conditions. This Project will dignify the lives of the beneficiaries, enabling them to set up their own business, earn some money and take care of themselves, thus reducing the levels of unemployment and of poverty in the area.

#### Relevance to the particular needs and constraints of the target country/countries, region(s) and/or relevant sectors

Swaziland is experiencing a difficult economic situation, due to a strong dependence upon her South African neighbour. Indeed, 90% of her imports come from South Africa, and are to the value of 1,000 million dollars, whilst the exports have a value of only 900 million dollars. And so the commercial balance has a deficit of some 100 million dollars. There are two major problems that undermine the Swazi economy.

* + The high percentage of unemployment: More than 40% of the population is unemployed. Within this group, women and young people are the most badly affected.
	+ The high level of poverty: More than 70% of the population live below the poverty line, i.e. with less than $1 per day. Whereas 10% of the population own 50% of the country´s wealth. Once again, it is the women and young people who suffer most from this unfair distribution of income.

The production is predominantly agricultural. The primary sector employs 80% of the active workers, but represents only 16.4% of the GDP. The country cultivates sugar cane, cotton, tobacco, rice and maize. Since the 1980s, the industrial sector has developed, particularly in the areas of food products and textiles, now providing more than 40% of the GDP. Efforts by the government to change the situation can be summed up in public expenses representing approximately one third of the annual GDP which is 6,231 million dollars.

Analysts point out that corruption is widespread and that the economic reforms have not taken root due to resistance and the influence of more conservative sectors. The financial sector is extremely weak, and subject to frequent political interference and to badly defined reglementation. The government has forecast a boost in economic growth and the provision of infrastructure for the poverty-stricken communities in order to achieve a greater input from them into the economy.

With this outlook, 44% of the budget for 2010 has been allocated to expenses in social services, health and education, as well as to the improvement of the various infrastructures and the attracting of foreign investment. The public authorities are committed to the fight against social problems and so the current Project, which shares the same objectives, is sure to benefit from their support and positive reception.

#### Describe and define the target groups and final beneficiaries, their needs and constraints and how the action will address these needs

These are essentially unemployed women who are socially marginalised and extremely insecure. They also include a great number of single mothers with no material resources, but who survive thanks to the social work of Remar Swaziland.

Nearly all of them have a low level of education with no qualifications.

These women have no way of covering their basic needs, and they live in a situation of advanced poverty, vulnerable to all kinds of disease, and particularly to HIV/AIDS, which affects 39% of the population.

The group of direct beneficiaries are selected by Remar Swaziland, basing the choice on principles which respect equality and non-discrimination. However, the cases of the most extreme vulnerability are given priority.

Within the framework of this project we have identified 250 women, the majority of them from the Remar Swaziland centres. Other women from different sources also take part. The selection criteria are based specifically on the degree of socio-economic vulnerability and the level of poverty of the women. Young women, single mothers, mothers of large families, widows and those who have very young children are favoured. We also take into account their entrepreneurial potential and their availability to take part in the project.

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The involvement of the beneficiaries will consist, firstly, in attending the compulsory training courses and, secondly, in taking care of the wheat plantation, and the running of the bakery and the design & printing workshop, in the areas of their commercial and financial management. The women will constitute the driving force of these microbusinesses.

The indirect beneficiaries are the relatives (parents, children, brothers and sisters) of all those who will take part in the Project. On average, each woman has at least 5 relatives to care for. A portion of the production from the wheat plantation and the bakery will be used in the free meals centres run by Remar Swaziland, which serve meals daily to more than 180 underprivileged people (children and their relatives, and also prisoners).

Also, in the longer term, the neighbouring community will be seen to benefit, from the widening of initiatives and the creation of new jobs (a rise in the standard of living), the local administration (tax income), and the people of Manzini will benefit from a reduction in poverty and other related problems. This will coincide with the strategic objectives planned for by the project. One estimates there will be some 2,500 indirect beneficiaries of this project, which embodies the hopes of these people.

The problems that this project hopes to solve are those of malnutrition, endemic diseases, failure in social integration, low or deteriorated self-esteem, and family breakdown due to the high level of poverty and to unemployment.

#### Particular added-value elements

The NGO REMAR was established in Swaziland in the year 2000, and ever since that date has become involved, with the provision of much support, in the social and economic life of the country, seeking to improve the conditions of the most vulnerable groups. The work of Remar Swaziland focuses upon the rehabilitation of underprivileged and socially marginalised people. The following are some of its programmes:

* Child care programme: The care focuses upon covering the primary needs of the infant population, both in nutrition and in basic healthcare and education, through the provision of community homes, free schools, health clinics.
* Youth Care Programme: The aim is to train young people in at-risk situations, developing projects of social integration and apprenticeship in a trade so that they can become incorporated into the working society. This is achieved through different workshops: welding, carpentry, and audiovisual media.
* Community home programme for mothers and families: women and their children who are destitute and abandoned. This programme provides protection and aid to help restore broken families affected by social marginalization, financial crisis, drug addiction or delinquency.
* Programme for Detox, Rehabilitation, Treatment and Social Reinsertion of Drug addicts: Remar Swaziland cares for individuals addicted to narcotic substances, using a programme of detox, rehabilitation and social reinsertion which is run within the Remar centres.
* Free Meals Programme on the streets and in the prisons: Remar Swaziland covers the basic needs of the poorest sector of the population, through free meals centres where a total of approximately 180 people (children and their relatives, and also prisoners) are fed daily.
* The creation of supportive micro-businesses: a factory for cleaning products, and clothes shops: The aim is to promote the creation of microbusinesses, such as second-hand shops, a disinfectants factory, a mop factory, etc., for the financial support of the centres and the promotion of activities that generate income for the beneficiaries.
* It should be noted that all these projects benefit from the official support of the central and local authorities, as well as of other public bodies, which contribute with donations of all kinds (land, equipment, clothing, etc.

### Description of the action

Through this project one hopes to create in Manzini a multi-sector microbusiness with the following areas: a wheat plantation, a bakery and a design & printing workshop.

The microbusiness is expected to incorporate 250 beneficiaries, women suffering from extreme poverty, with the aim of helping them to become integrated into the labour market and to improve their quality of life in general. In Manzini, the most densely populated town of Swaziland, where there exist very few possibilities for self-advancement, women find themselves in a situation of profound and underlying vulnerability

Those who are not financially dependent upon their husbands have to find some means of earning a little money and providing for their families. The project hopes to improve the living conditions of the women of Manzini, with special attention to those in the Remar centres (care and rehabilitation community homes for socially-marginalized and poverty-stricken women). The project consists in offering to these women, and to others with a similar background, the possibility of becoming micro entrepreneurs. This gives them the opportunity to come out of their present situation of extreme poverty and guarantees a better future for both themselves and their families

As well as being the beneficiaries of the project, these women will be its chief hosts. They will be responsible for the creation of the wheat plantation, and also for the promotion and commercial management of the products they themselves prepare in the bakery and in the design & printing workshop. A small portion of the food production from the wheat plantation and the bakery will be used in the free meals centres run by Remar Swaziland in the town and in the prisons. The profit from sales will be used for the running and maintenance of the installations at the bakery and the design & printing workshop.

The project is an initiative launched by Remar Swaziland, which has been active in the country since 1993, caring for children off the streets, destitute young people and single mothers. As a fruit of its work it has achieved social recognition and the support of both the local authorities and also the local population itself for the creation of this microbusiness, which is sure to change the lives of thousands of people.

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)