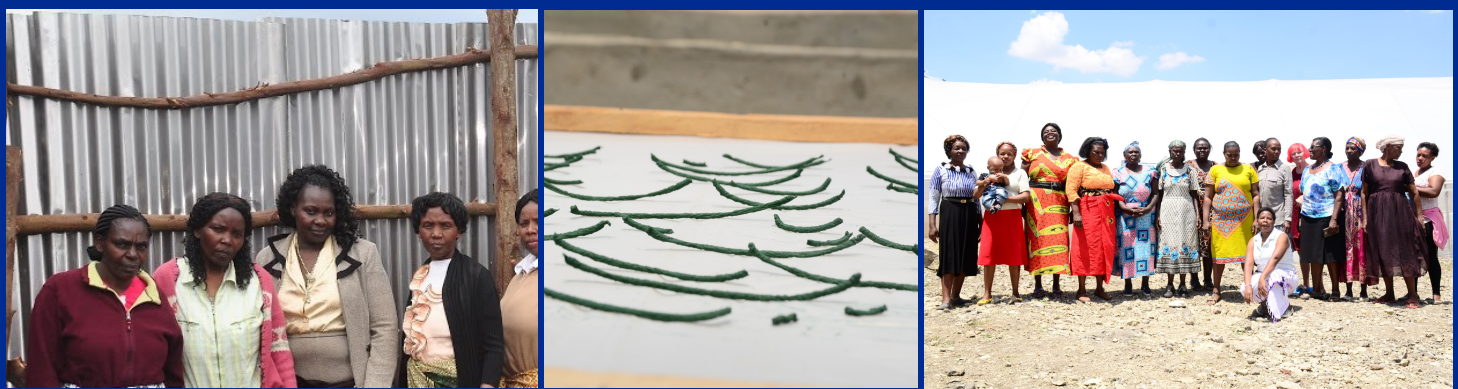




# Entwicklungsprojekte für Frauen

## MARIE-SCHLEI-VEREIN e.V.



### Women's Economic Empowerment Project in Kenya

#### RUCISO (Rural & Urban Community Initiative Support Organization)

In the Soweto slum of Nairobi, there is a non-profit NGO RUCISO contributing to important community development work. 50 women organise different activities and started 2019 to produce spirulina. They were successful and earned money until 2020. Then COVID-19 killed the project. But spirulina helped them to keep up during the crisis in view to their economic and health situation. The women have increased self-confidence and are willing to stand up. The project was only revitalized in August 2022. The women plan to produce four kilograms of spirulina per week.

50 women master the techniques and cultivation of spirulina, the marketing and managing of spirulina powder. They even got the official registration, earned money until 2020 when COVID-19 started. The Government ordered a curfew. So the women had to stay in their houses and had no income. The project was interrupted.

Since August 2022 the women restarted their production by renovating the green houses, the ponds and the technical equipments. They had learned since 2019 to use the techniques and the use of microscope, thermometer and PH meter to monitor Spirulina production conditions. The confidence among the members increased. Impressive results were achieved and the project was moving to a sustainable future. COVID-19 interrupted the project. But spirulina powder contributed to the health of the group and also of the slum inhabitants. There was no income. But all women survived. Nowadays 50 women are participating in the restart of the project since the end of August. They plan to produce four kilograms of Spirulina per week.



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### Who we are and what we do: Feminist Development Cooperation

The Marie-Schlei-Association promotes women in developing countries and enforces their right to education. Education of women and girls is a key to sustainable development. Through access to education and training, women realise their value. They discover that their person and their work are important for the development of their family, their village and even their country. They develop a different self-confidence and self-esteem. Most of the women are willing to work hard for this. They want to shape their lives. They want to use their talents and abilities. Without their achievements, hunger, poverty, ignorance and violence will not be overcome. Partnership relations are established with women's groups in the respective countries, self-help projects by women for women, e.g. with micro-credits. The projects are as different as their locations. What they all have in common is that they are developed and implemented by local women's organisations. Our partners decide on "their" project themselves. They manage the necessary funds themselves. This is how a cooperation based on partnership and equality comes about. The Marie-Schlei-Association has supported over a 1000 self-help projects by women for women so far. These training projects contribute to the fight against poverty and underdevelopment and to an equal society. Because: Without women, there is no way.

The Marie Schlei Association provides information about the situation of women in Africa, Asia and Latin America in seminars, conferences and information stands with the aim of promoting international understanding and solidarity. The focus is on economic and ecological contexts, global challenges, the active participation of women in government development programmes and the opportunities for women to use globalisation for their own benefit.

The Marie Schlei Association was founded in 1984 in memory of the former development aid minister Marie Schlei. The statutory objectives of the non-profit association are "to promote cooperation with poor women, groups of women and women's organisations in towns and in the countryside, to promote the education and training of women, to inform people about the backgrounds of hardship and injustice, to promote equality between men and women, to promote international understanding, to disseminate information that establishes and deepens understanding of the situation of women in order to increase co-responsibility and willingness to help women and thus the people in developing countries."

Prof. Dr. h.c. Christa Randzio-Plath

*President of Marie-Schlei-Association,  
former member of the European Parliament*

