

### **Description:**

For 36 years, MATCH International Centre has been partnering with women of all races, nations, and ages to help them gain a voice in the world of international development. By working with its allies in Africa, Asia, Caribbean and South America, MATCH International is making strides politically, economically, socially and culturally in promoting and establishing basic human rights and freedoms for women, their children, their families, and their communities. MATCH International Centre is a Canadian women's international organization guided by a feminist vision of sustainable development which recognizes the diverse realities of women and respects their efforts for self-determination. MATCH also undertakes public education in Canada on development and women's issues; and works to build and strengthen the women's movement nationally and internationally

### **Highlighted Projects:**

#### ***Africa-Pan-Africa-Cameroon and Malawi – (Health project)***

##### *Society for Women and Aids in Africa (SWAA)*

MATCH International works in partnership with SWAA through two projects of “Reducing Gender based barriers that render women and girls vulnerable to HIV in Cameroon” and of “Reducing Women and Girls Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS Pandemic in Malawi”. SWAA seeks to develop the knowledge capacity of girls and women on their health rights in particular related to HIV/AIDS. They seek to raise the awareness among targeted populations on the impact of harmful traditional practices and risky behaviours that promote the spread of HIV and encourage women and youth to be advocates and be defenders of their own health.

#### ***Caribbean-Jamaica – (Agricultural project)***

##### *St. Thomas Women's Agricultural Initiatives (STWAI)*

STWAI is a sustainable farming initiative run by women that addresses the issue of poverty and rural women. Located on 30 acres in the south-eastern part of Jamaica in the parish of St. Thomas, the farm is run by a core group of women. The women farmers maintain a steady crop of easy to manage cassava, plantains and sweet potatoes to sell to suppliers.

#### ***South America -Paraguay – (Fighting violence against women project)***

##### *Colectivo de Mujeres 25 de Noviembre*

This organization works on gender issues, organizes campaigns such as the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25<sup>th</sup> and March 8<sup>th</sup>. The strength of the Collective is its capacity to extend its campaign to the rural areas and build networks with peasant women and workers.

#### ***Asia- Sri Lanka – (Peace building and Education project)***

##### *Women's Education and Research Centre (WERC)*

This organization has been working against a background of violence that underlines almost all actions in every sphere of life. Within this context WERC is currently working on a project to “Enhance and Develop Women's Capacities” by reducing structural gender inequalities at the social/political/cultural and legal levels.