Edition #01 2023





## HESED AFRICA NEWSLETTER



Unveiling the Essence of HESED Africa! → OUR STORIES OF RESILENCE AND WINNING



#### **WHO WE ARE**

#### OUR MISSION

A SOCIETY WITH ACCESS TO ALL BASIC RIGHTS; AN EMPOWERED COMMUNITY IN CHARGE OF THEIR OWN DESTINY.

**OUR VISION** 

TO ENHANCE LIVELIHOODS OF VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR HEALTH, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES.

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#### **READ MORE**



#### **READ MORE**

Embark on an extraordinary journey with HESED Africa as we proudly unveil our inaugural newsletter, an affirmation of our unwavering commitment to positive change across the continent. Within these virtual pages, discover the vibrant tapestry of our impactful programs, each strand intricately woven to address vital pillars - Health, Social Protection and Support, Environment and Climate Change, Livelihoods and Empowerment. Our spotlight shines brightly on Capacity Building, nurturing the growth of both health staff and community resource persons.

AT HESED AFRICA, OUR COMPASS IS SET BY THREE FOUNDATIONAL VALUES: RESPECT FOR ALL, ELEVATING THE DIGNITY OF EVERY PERSON; PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY-OWNED INITIATIVES, EMPOWERING LOCAL VOICES; AND TRANSPARENCY WITH ACCOUNTABILITY, ENSURING HONESTY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN ALL ENDEAVORS. THESE PRINCIPLES FORM THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR MISSION, SHAPING A PURPOSE-DRIVEN NARRATIVE THAT CHAMPIONS LASTING IMPACT AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT.



### OUR VOICES



# THE TEAM



The Dynamo Behind HESED Africa: Our Remarkable Team



**BORN FROM OUR VISIONARY LEADER, HESED PASSIONATELY ENVISIONS POSITIVE CHANGE** IN AFRICA THROUGH HEALTH, COMMUNITY **EMPOWERMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL** STEWARDSHIP. GUIDED BY HER INSPIRING VISION, HESED HAS BECOME A BEACON OF TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT, DRIVEN BY **INNOVATION AND A COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE** 



#### **READ MORE**

Meet the driving force propelling HESED Africa's impactful initiatives – a dedicated team whose passion and expertise form the bedrock of our transformative work. From seasoned healthcare professionals to community advocates, our diverse ensemble brings a wealth of experience and a shared commitment to positive change. United by the vision of a healthier, more empowered Africa, our team members embody the spirit of collaboration and innovation.

#### **READ MORE**

In the realm of health and well-being, our dynamic health staff is at the forefront, delivering compassionate care and implementing cutting-edge strategies. Simultaneously, our community resource persons, armed with local insights, play a pivotal role in steering initiatives that resonate with the pulse of the communities we serve. This collective synergy is the heartbeat of HESED Africa, where each team member is a vital instrument harmonizing the notes of progress and impact.



**VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS ARE VITAL CONTRIBUTORS** TO OUR TEAM, PLAYING AN INTEGRAL ROLE IN SUPPORTING AND ADVANCING OUR PROJECTS. THEIR **DEDICATION AND PASSION BRING VALUABLE** PERSPECTIVES AND ENERGY TO THE HEART OF OUR MISSION, MAKING THEM AN INDISPENSABLE PART OF THE IMPACTFUL WORK WE DO. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THEIR COMMITMENT AND THE POSITIVE IMPACT THEY BRING TO HESED AFRICA. \*\* #TEAMWORK **#VOLUNTEERAPPRECIATION** 

# **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

My Journey as a Community Health Promoter - Mary Mwihaki



HESED and Farmamundi remain steadfast in their commitment to advancing the skills and capabilities of health promoters in healthcare services at Level One. Through ongoing support and training initiatives, we empower our health promoters to deliver quality care, ensuring that communities receive the best possible health services. Together, we strive to enhance the impact and effectiveness of healthcare at the grassroots level. #HealthcareAdvancement #EmpoweringPromoters

Hello, I'm Mary Mwikali, seconded to HESED as a Community Health Promoter by Kamukunji Sub County. I embraced this role in 2010, inspired by the care and compassion I received from a Community Health Volunteer during a challenging time in my health. Their support motivated me to pay it forward and assist others in need. Thanks to the CHV, I accessed medication, food, and school fees for my son.

In my current role, I oversee the well-being of 100 households, connecting them with essential services. I contribute to the community desk, assist in triage, and maintain cleanliness at the Health facility. Through HESED and Farmamundi's support, I raise awareness through community dialogues, campaigns, action days, and distribute non-food items. My passion lies in helping young mothers, and together with HESED, I conduct sessions on GBV, Sexual Reproductive Health, Healthy Relationships, Human rights, and Mental Health for adolescents and young adults.

I'm grateful to HESED and Farmamundi for their continuous support to Community Health Promoters. The monthly meetings facilitate sharing targets, experiences, and planning for the following month. The monthly stipend acknowledges the volunteer work we do. Community Health Promoters play a vital role in achieving Universal Health Care and are an integral part of HESED Africa's community work. We appreciate their selfless dedication.



#### **FUN IS PART OF THE WORK!**



# LIVELIHOOD/EMPOWERMENT

OUR STORIES OF RESILENCE AND WINNING - A ROSE FLOWER BLOOMS THROUGH THE **THORNS** 



#### **WE SHARE OUR SUCCESSES**





#### **READ MORE**

Esther is 22-year-old and previously engaged in casual work. Laundry and selling boiled maize. Her income was insufficient to meet the household's basic needs and a source of intimate partner violence. Through self-reliance index (SRI) Esther was identified as unstable and in need of support. Enrolled in Group therapy and Livelihoods. Trained in mat making, tailoring and benefited from a safety net cash transfer to cushion her business and meet other social

#### **READ MORE**

With savings from the safety net kitty and financial management skills training Esther has established a multi-income. She bought two pigs, chicken, rabbits and is selling boiled maize. Esther's plan is for the animals to reproduce to add to her stock and grow her animal farm and open a tailoring business. Esther is now more selfaware with increased self-confidence. She is very grateful to HESED Africa and Farmamundi. She reported during the business monitoring review that "she feels more in control of her money. The increase in income has made her able to improve her situation. family well-being and is able to better care for her sick mother".



## **WE CHANGED THE NARRATIVE**

ONE RESCUE AT A TIME



#### ESTHER'S STORY CONTD....

Esther's story is that of the 80 GBV women survivors enrolled in the programme in 2023. "They can't go back and change the beginning, but they can start where they are and change the ending". One of the plans for the IGA programme is for the GBV women survivors to venture into non-traditional income generating activities. Esther's story has been very inspiring to other group members through the peer to peer learning.

# ESTHERS STORY

From Boiled Maize to Empowered Entrepreneur: Esther's Inspiring Journey of Triumph Over GBV



#### **ESTHER'S STORY CONTD...**

Esther's resilience and success have become a source of inspiration within the group, illuminating a path of empowerment through peer-to-peer learning—a testament to the transformative power of lighting one candle of hope, one victim at a time.

#### **GRADUATION AND ISSUANCE OF BUSINESS KITS TO COHORT 3**



#### **OUR FOCUS:**

- STRENGTHENING HEALTH FACILITIES
- PROVISION OF MEDICINE AND LAB SUPPLIES
- CONSTRUCTION OF UNITS THAT SUPPORT RMNCH AND GBV INDICATORS
- PROVISION OF NUTRITION SUPPLEMENTATION COMMODITIES
- HEALTH TALKS –
   COMMUNITY, IN
   SCHOOL AND OUT OF
   SCHOOL

### HEALTH

#### NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING PROGRAM :> 6

Our commitment to accessibility and quality stands as the cornerstone of this program, aiming to bridge nutritional gaps within the community. By prioritizing the provision of vital elements for health, we envision a future where everyone can thrive, fostering resilience and vitality for a healthier, more empowered society. Join us on this holistic path to well-being!

IMAM CLINIC & FOOD DISTRIBUTION promote optimal complementary feeding to children under 5 for good nutritional status

#### **HEALTH IS WEALTH**

Under the nurturing guidance of HESED Africa, children experiencing moderate malnutrition undergo a remarkable journey towards restored health. Our specialized nutritional deliver essential programs nourishment, utilizing provisions such as corn soya blend (CSB) within our supplementary feeding program. This targeted approach witnesses these young lives regaining strength and vitality. Through meticulously tailored interventions. we observe transformative power of health restoration, with each success story serving as a testament to the impactful outcomes achieved through collective efforts. These endeavors reflect our commitment to forging a brighter and healthier future for all.

#### NUTRITION



### **HEALTH CONTD...**

#### STRENGTHENING HEALTH FACILITIES

- PROVISION OF MEDICINE AND LAB SUPPLIES
- CONSTRUCTION OF UNITS THAT SUPPORT RMNCH AND GBV INDICATORS
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- HEALTH TALKS –
   COMMUNITY, IN
   SCHOOL AND OUT OF
   SCHOOLSEXUAL AND
   REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
   RIGHTS
- HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS
- GBV
- LIFE SKILLS
- METHODOLOGY: AT LEAST 5 SESSIONS PER SCHOOL WITH THE TOPICS, SESSIONS BY OUR NURSES AND SOCIAL WORK TEAMS

#### **SENSITISATION FOR ALL**

HESED Africa staunchly acknowledges that sexual health is not a singular concern but an inclusive, cross-gender issue that demands the engagement of all. In our relentless pursuit of well-being, we champion inclusivity through sensitization programs that transcend gender boundaries. By recognizing the shared responsibility we all hold, HESED Africa strives to create a unified front where everyone, irrespective of gender, is actively involved in fostering awareness and understanding. Our commitment is unwavering, driven by the belief that collective empowerment is the key to addressing and resolving sexual health issues, paving the way for a healthier and more informed community.

# EMPOWERING EQUALITY

At HESED Africa, we drive societal transformation through robust gender sensitization. Committed to dismantling stereotypes and fostering empathy, we champion equality, create safe spaces, and empower individuals. Our unwavering dedication extends to workplaces and communities, envisioning a future where diversity is celebrated, and every voice, irrespective of gender, resounds with equal strength.

#### CHAT-MEN IN A SESSION OF "SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH"



- STRENGTHENING HEALTH FACILITIES
- PROVISION OF MEDICINE AND LAB SUPPLIES
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#### **HEALTH CONTD...**

### ESSENTIAL AID: HESED AFRICA'S "HUNGER RELIEF"-FOOD DISTRIBUTION PACKAGES



#### PRIORITIZED CLEAN WATER FOR LIFE

HESED Africa, supported by Farmamundi, distributed over 450 WASH kits. In response to the Cholera Awareness Campaign, a collaborative endeavor with Community Health Promoters and Nairobi County Sub County, engaged in a proactive door-to-door intervention. This initiative entailed distributing aqua tabs, conducting on-the-spot demonstrations on the safe treatment of drinking water, and disseminating informative IEC materials on Cholera.

#### OUR RESPONSE TO CHOLERA OUTBREAK



#### **OUR FOCUS:**

- OFFER CASE
   MANAGEMENT TO GBV
   SURVIVORS
- WORK CLOSELY WITH GENDER DEFENDERS TO OFFER HEALTH TALKS.
- REFER POCS TO PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS FOR SPECIFIC AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE.
- CONDUCT
   COMMUNITY
   DIALOGUES AND
   SUPPORT COMMUNITY
   HEALTH COMMITTEE
   (CHC) MEETINGS.
- CREATE AWARENESS
   ON GBV, GENDER AND
   HUMAN RIGHTS TO
   REFUGEES AND HOST
   COMMUNITY
- OFFER CASE
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- WORK CLOSELY WITH GENDER DEFENDERS TO OFFER HEALTH TALKS.
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   (CHC) MEETINGS.

### **SOCIAL PROTECTION**

#### **GBV VOICES**

On 31 August 2023 HESED Africa in partnership with Key Stakeholders led by the Nairobi City County Health, National Gender & Equity Commission, Department of Refugee Services, National Police Service, Office of the Director of Public Prosecution- SGBV and human trafficking division, National Association of women judges and Human Rights Watch and of women judges and Human Rights Watch and other key stakeholders participated in the SWOT Analysis Workshop to amplify the voices of GBV survivors on SRR Referral Pathway and ensure it is survivor centred. Meaningful Engagement for GBV survivors and access to timely justice is two of the advocacy action plans that HESED Africa commits to and advocate for. This year HESED Africa engaged four (4) GBV survivors who have undergone therapy sessions, gained skills as trainers of trainers for other women in the project. In partnership with (IAWJ) - International Association of Women Judges, Hesed Africa seconded two staff for the SGBV Court Users Committee (CUC) training. held on 1st of December 2023 at Safari Park Hotel



#### **SGBV VOICES - THE IMPACT**

HESED Africa stands unwavering in its support for survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), amplifying their voices to spotlight the pervasive impact of such acts. Through advocacy and awareness, we aim to break the silence surrounding SGBV, fostering empowerment and a collective commitment to building a future free from violence and stigma.

# PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AND COUNSELLING

PROVISION OF
INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP
COUNSELING TO
SURVIVORS OF SGBV
AND MOST AT-RISK
PERSONS; TO MAKE
THEIR OWN SOUND
CHOICES, REACH THEIR
OWN DECISIONS AND
ACT ON NEW-FOUND
FEELINGS FOR THEIR
OWN BENEFI

### **SOCIAL PROTECTION CONTD - 2**

#### **GENDER CUP: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES**

n the transformative year of 2022, HESED Africa proudly inaugurated the Gender Equity Cup, an exhilarating football tournament generously sponsored by Partner Organization, Farmamundi, and the Nairobi City Council. This spirited competition, showcasing community teams from Kasarani Sub County, not only involved the thrill of the game but also carried a powerful message. Football kits and soccer balls were thoughtfully adorned with impactful Gender Equity messages, turning the event into a beacon of awareness.

This annual spectacle serves as more than just a tournament; it is a catalyst for change. Beyond the competitive spirit, the Gender Equity Cup aims to enhance male involvement and cultivate robust community engagement. Alongside the tournament, HESED Africa orchestrated a harmonious blend of impactful initiatives. Regular out-of-school sessions, the distribution of informative IEC materials, and action-packed community days became integral components of this holistic approach.

These initiatives strategically focused on educating both adolescent boys and girls, imparting valuable insights into Gender-Based Violence, promoting healthy relationships, and instilling a deep understanding of human rights. As a testament to our commitment, HESED Africa joined forces with Bashosho, a local community-based organization, to introduce "The Men We Want" mentorship program. This collaborative effort specifically targets boys within the community, fostering positive growth and impactful change at the grassroots level. In every aspect, the Gender Equity Cup and its associated programs epitomize HESED Africa's dedication to creating a future where awareness, equality, and empowerment flourish harmoniously.

### GENDER CUP TOURNAMENT TOWARDS 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM



# PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AND COUNSELLING

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### **SOCIAL PROTECTION CONTD - 2**

### TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES AND SOCIETIES

Within the dynamic framework of HESED Africa, our commitment to driving societal transformation is deeply rooted in robust gender sensitization initiatives. Unyielding in our dedication, we strive to dismantle ingrained stereotypes while cultivating empathy and understanding. This commitment extends across diverse arenas – from workplaces to communities – as we envision a future characterized by the celebration of diversity and equality.

In our pursuit of gender sensitization, HESED Africa actively champions the cause of equality, creating safe spaces where individuals can thrive irrespective of gender. Our multifaceted approach encompasses comprehensive programs that not only raise awareness but also foster tangible empowerment. Through educational initiatives, advocacy campaigns, and community engagement, we actively contribute to dismantling barriers that impede true gender equality.

### SENSITISATION SESSION WITH THE BOYS -'THE MEN WE WANT'



As staunch proponents of inclusivity, we recognize the intrinsic value of every voice. HESED Africa envisions a future where gender-based discrimination is obsolete, and every individual, regardless of gender, resonates with equal strength and significance. Our unwavering dedication is not just a pledge but a dynamic force propelling us towards a transformative future where diversity is not merely acknowledged but genuinely celebrated. In workplaces and communities alike, we persist in cultivating an environment that reflects our core values, where individuals can flourish and contribute to a harmonious society built on the principles of equality, respect, and shared empowerment.

#### **OUR FOCUS:**

- . WE PROMOTE THE PRODUCTION OF BIO-DEGRADABLE MENSTRUAL HYGIENE KITS
- TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGNS
  AND REHABILITATION OF
  WATER CATCHMENT AREAS.
- ORGANIZE AND
  PARTICIPATE IN
  COMMUNITY CLEAN UPS
  WITH SCHOOL HEALTH
  CLUBS

### **ENVIRONMENT/CLIMATE**

#### **RE-USABLE PADS**

IPromoting Eco-Friendly Menstrual Hygiene: In our commitment to sustainability, HESED Africa advocates for the production and use of biodegradable menstrual hygiene kits. By encouraging eco-friendly alternatives, we aim to reduce environmental impact and promote a healthier planet.

# DISTRIBUTION OF HYGIENE KITS



## TREES FOR LIFE

Tree Planting Campaigns and Water Catchment Area Rehabilitation: At HESED Africa, environmental stewardship is paramount. Through tree planting campaigns and the rehabilitation of water catchment areas, we actively contribute to biodiversity conservation, combat climate change, and ensure the sustainable management of vital water resources.



### OUR CLEAN UP INITIATIVE

"Transforming Communities, One Clean-up at a Time. 
#CleanUpChallenge #CommunityImpact"



### **HESED IN PICTURES**

## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

16 Days of Activism: From Nov 25 to Dec 10, HESED Africa stands against gender-based violence, uniting for a world where equality triumphs. #EndGBV #HESEDAfricalnAction



## WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

HESED Africa believes in the transformative power education, and our partnerships are at the heart of this commitment. Collaborating with educational institutions, we aim to create impactful programs nurture the holistic that development of students. From health and hygiene initiatives to environmental education, school partnerships strive to empower the next generation with knowledge, skills, and a sense of community responsibility. Together, we're building brighter future where education is a catalyst for positive change.



# MEANINGFUL AWARDS AND PARTNERSHIPS

#### **AWARDS**

Kasarani Health Centre were awarded two awards during Health Service Delivery Awards.1st Runner Up Overall Best Level 2 Facility and Runner up Most improved Facility in Quality Improvement Kasarani Health Centre is one of the facilities that HESED Africa supports since 2021 in partnership with Faramundi among others with provision of drugs, lab reagents, capacity building of Health Care Workers, Data Review meetings, Continuous Medical Education, In-reaches, medical outreaches and Patient & Health Satisfaction Survey. In 2023 HESED launched a Youth Friendly Services Centre that increased targeted services to adolescents and young adults aged between 18-24 years. In 2023 more than 600 accessed services at the YFC since it was launched in June 2023.

WE
CLAPPED
AS WE
RECEIVED
OUR
AWARDS!



#### SGBV PARTNERSHIPS

In the unwavering commitment of HESED Africa to combat Gender-Based Violence (GBV), strategic partnerships play a pivotal role. By aligning forces with governmental entities, NGOs, and local communities, HESED Africa amplifies its impact in the fight against GBV. These alliances are instrumental in leveraging diverse strengths, resources, and expertise, allowing for the creation of comprehensive strategies, robust support systems, and impactful awareness campaigns. Through collaborative efforts, HESED Africa solidifies its commitment to eradicating GBV and fostering a society where safety, equity, and respect prevail. In unity, we stand resolute against GBV, understanding that our collective commitment is the catalyst for enduring change.

### SUMMARY BOARD

COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAYS

WORD MENTAL HEALTH DAY MALEZI BORA

**WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK** 

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM WORLD REFUGEE DAY

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITY

**WORLD HIV & AIDS** 

**SUICIDE AWARNESS DAY** 

CAPACITY BUILDING IN 2023

1.GOOD PRACTICES
SPONSORED BY
FARMAMUNDI FACILITATED
BY SAN ART

2.MONITORING & EVALUATION BY DRC (DANIDA)

3.RESOURCE
MOBILIZATION BY DRC
(DANIDA)

- 4. TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH VOLUNTEERS
- 5. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP WORKSHOPS
- 6. PARENTING OF SINGLE YOUNG MOTHERS

MEMORABLE QUOTES BY
STUDENTS FROM
MENSTRUAL HYGIENE &
SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE
RIGHTS IN PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

Ø MY ADOLESCENT RIGHTS ALLOW ME TO SEEK HEALTH SERVICE AT ANY PUBLIC FACILITY FOR FREE AND WITHOUT FEAR OF JUDGMENT OR VICTIMIZATION.

Ø CERVICAL CANCER IS ONE OF THE MAJOR KILLER
CANCERS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS AND THE HPV VACCINE IS
MEANT TO PREVENT ME FROM CONTRACTING THE SAME.

Ø I WILL ASK MY PARENTS TO COME TO SCHOOL AND DISCUSS WITH THE TEACHER FOR THEM TO ALLOW ME TO GET THE HPV VACCINE.

Ø I WILL CARRY MY CARD NEXT TIME TO RECEIVE A SECOND DOSE OF HPV VACCINE.

Ø HAVING LEARNED THAT EVERY GIRL GETS HER
MENSTRUAL FLOW AT THEIR OWN PACE AND IT'S NOT DIRTY
OR SOMETHING TO BE SHAMEFUL ABOUT, I WILL NOT MISS
CLASSES. I WILL IMPROVE ON MY HYGIENE SO THAT I CAN
ALWAYS BE COMFORTABLE IN CLASS" SAID ONE STUDENT

Ø I WILL BE KEEN TO NOTICE ANYONE AT HOME OR SCHOOL WHO WANTS TO VIOLATE ME SEXUALLY AND I WILL REPORT TO A RELEVANT PERSON AROUND ME.

Ø I'M NOT ONLY SPEAKING ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE THAT I'M DIRECTLY AFFECTED TO BUT IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO ALSO SPEAK OUT FOR ANYONE AROUND ME WHO MIGHT BE A VICTIM OF THE SAME.

Ø I AM A CHILD UNTIL I'M 18 YEARS OLD.

Ø DEFILEMENT IS AN OFFENSE AND I SHOULD REPORT ANYONE THAT TRIES TO HAVE SEX WITH ME AS "ATTEMPTED DEFILEMENT", WHICH IS ILLEGAL AND SHOULD BE REPORTED.

"MAY HESED AFRICA
NEVER END. IT HAS
HELPED GIRLS WHO
HAVE HAD SIMILAR
EXPERIENCES TO MINE.
THEY HAVE HELPED ME
ACCEPT MYSELF AND MY
CHILDREN. MY LIFE HAS
CHANGED. MAY GOD
BLESS HESED
AFRICA"..HALIMA.

### **OUR PARTNERS**

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing volunteers, staff, and all who make it happen at **HESED Africa!** Your dedication is the force behind our impact, transforming lives and fostering change. We appreciate each one of you for being the heartbeat of HESED! #ThankYou #HESEDAfrica Heroes

















enplegua, gizarte inklusioa eta berdintasuna sustatzeko saila departamento de empleo, inclusión social e igualdad







EL DESARROLLO









MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK Danida

