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FLEP Coop Mentee Name: Tabitha Waithira Njeri

Co-operative / Organisation: Student at CUK School of cooperatives and Community Development.

Residence: Nairobi County



Female Leaders Mentorship Programme for Co-operatives
(FLEP-COOP Initiative)

In collaboration with



Who I am: My name is **Tabitha Waithira Njeri**. I am **25 years**. I hail from Nyeri County. I am currently a student at the Cooperative University of Kenya taking Bachelors of Cooperatives and Community Development. I chose this field of study because I believe in the power of cooperatives to bring about positive change. My goal is to leverage my education to become a catalyst for positive change in the communities. I am dedicated and passionate about the potential of cooperatives to build stronger and more resilient communities.

At the end of the my FLEP Coop mentorship this is what I wish to have achieved:

- Deepen my understanding of cooperative governance and strategic management
- Gain insights into best practices for member engagement, financial sustainability and innovative business models that can be applied in cooperatives
- I aspire to develop a robust strategic plan that can guide cooperatives towards sustainable growth and gender member involvement
- Build a network of peers and mentors within the cooperative sector enhanced leadership skills

My leadership aspirations in the co-operative sector are:

My leadership aspirations in the cooperative sector are deeply rooted in my committed to promoting community-driven economic development. I am particularly excited about the potential for cooperatives to address current challenges such as economic inequality and environmental sustainability. I plan to lead initiatives that increase accessibility and efficiency while maintaining the core principles of the cooperative movement.

These are my most prevailing challenges I experience in co-operatives:

- Gender inequality (in leadership positions)
- Nepotism (where people are employed based on how best they bribe their way in over skills)
- Maintaining financial sustainability
- Navigating regulatory complexities
- Member inclusion (especially with the new system of delegates in the Saccos)

This is why I want to be a leader in the co-operative space:

With a background in cooperatives and community development, I envision the cooperative sector as one with sustainable growth, where cooperatives are at the forefront of innovation and social responsibility. I aim to lead initiatives that enhance member involvement, improve operational efficiencies and expand our reach to underserved communities. By focussing on these areas, I believe we can create a more resilient and inclusive movement.

