Sex workers in Tanzania have been hit hard by the pandemic with their work coming to a stop coupled with the prevalent stigma and discrimination leading to increased sexual violence and difficulty in accessing health services.
The lack of access to medical essentials due to the course of the pandemic in Tanzania with the closure and inaccessibility of a lot of medical centers, was addressed by innovative measures such as 'help in a bag' to bring medicines and other essentials to their doorstep.
Peer education home visits continued all through the year to address basic sustenance needs and also understand the challenges being faced by them: decline in income, difficulties accessing health services and medicines, police brutality and arbitrary arrests, difficulty accessing legal justice mechanisms, restriction of mobility, etc.
To address this sudden and deep decline in their income, capacities of sex workers were built to enable additional ways of income generation during such crisis situations when sex work gets threatened or comes to a halt.