

GRASSROOTS WOMEN BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN THE WESTERN REGION OF KENYA

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BACKGROUND

- ◉ Western Kenya is a key Agriculture Zone .
- ◉ Most households rely on farming for their livelihood and food especially the grassroots women.
- ◉ This region was also hit with HIV and grassroots Women also assumed the responsibility of caring for families affected with HIV.
- ◉ So food and nutrition was critical in the lives of grassroots women .



GRASSROOTS WOMEN ORGANIZING

- ◉ In the year 2003 to 2005 grassroots Women realized a big shift in the climate pattern.
- ◉ There was a longer drought season than usual and when the rains came they were so heavy ,floods and did not help in farming.
- ◉ Crops were destroyed by drought .
- ◉ Grassroots Women conducted a mapping process to assess households vulnerability ,get ideas on alternative solutions

MAPPING LEADS TO ACTION

- ◉ The women organized themselves in collective farming groups and piloted drought resistant crops.
- ◉ They established community demonstration plots as learning centers for community members.
- ◉ Grassroots women started water harvesting during rainfall to use during drought.
- ◉ The women organized dialogues with local government institutions to share practices and challenges .
- ◉ 6 of the women groups have been able to access government resources like njaa marafuku Kenya(stop hunger in Kenya),poverty eradication fund etc to strengthen their work.
- ◉ The groups have been able to seek technical support from government.
- ◉ 12 grassroots women have been elected to various decision making committees as community representatives.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS

- ◉ Dissemination of government policies through the Women groups to community.
- ◉ Developing plans together and setting events with government to show case proper farming methods like the 10% trees on every position of land extended to schools by women.
- ◉ Forest conservation awareness.
- ◉ Creation of network of communities and local leaders in environment and Agriculture.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◉ 1. Formalize grassroots women's roles in planning, operationalizing and monitoring development programs around disaster and climate change.
- ◉ 2. Develop capacity building programs that draw upon the knowledge and expertise of grassroots women's organizations, and nurture innovation and grassroots-led transfers of innovation within and across countries.
- ◉ 3. Create policy and program incentives that encourage local and national governments to collaborate effectively with grassroots women's organizations to scale up effective.
- ◉ 4. Ensure that grassroots women are represented in decision-making forums at local, national, regional and global.
- ◉ 5. Set clear targets and earmark financial resources to grassroots women's organizations building resilience communities.