

SDG Mashinani



The Gender Equality Monitoring Framework is a tool that was developed in consultation with and for the grassroots SDG advocates to track gender equality implementation at the local and National. The tool aligns with the SDG gender targets and indicators prioritized by grassroots women and has been used to collect real time community data in five counties, including Kitui, Nakuru, Laikipia, Kiambu and Kakamega Through engaging the grassroots women in the SDG implementation and monitoring, GROOTS Kenya is creating pathways for communities to monitor progress towards the SDGs at both a local and global level. This in turn ensures that the Government is accountable to its people, particularly the women, children and youth in the most disadvantaged and vulnerable communities by ensuring that they remain a priority. This would be done by creating

pathways for them to help hold leaders accountable on what's pledged in New York to translate into action at the national and county level.

One of the bottle necks around the issue of data, is what to do with the data once it is produced. Community generated data, tells the story of grassroots women, as the SGA Advocates have done so to carry out evidence based advocacy. Through this, advocates have been able to not only present the case for a climate change policy in Laikipia County, but they have also been able to lobby for the allocation of resources towards clean cooking energy in Kitui County.

On 25TH January 2019, GROOTS Kenya joining with with Equal Measure 2030(EM2030) and The African Women Communication and Development Network (FEMNET), launched the :Data Driving Change :introducing the SDG Index Kenya . On 7th June 2019, GROOTS Kenya together joined hands with other Equal Measure partners in their launch for: 'Harnessing the Power of Data' Global SDG Gender Index at a side event (a parallel event?) during the Women Deliver Conference at Vancouver Canada .

Improved Democratic Governance through Effective public Participation in Kakamega

Citizen engagement within the counties in their governing processes contributes significantly to the legitimacy of local governments and their ability to provide improved services across multiple sectors. Despite this, citizens participation in the democratic process has been lack lustre at best, and non existent at worst.

One of the key hindrances to the community's ability and level of engagement in public participation is a lack of information on where, when and how to participate. In fact, in a community rapid assessment carried out under the **Improved Democratic Governance through Effective Public Participation** project implemented by GROOTS Kenya, results showed that most citizens were not aware of the fact that it is their civic duty and obligation to take part in public participatory forums.

Thus, the project implemented in Kakamega County aimed at raising the quality and effectiveness of public participation from being a tick box , rubber stamp but a process that can bring about transformative leadership in the communities, especially for its grassroots women. Through **local-to-local organizing, knowledge transfer and public/mass education** the project

aimed at bridging the existing gap between what was anticipated by law on public participation and its actual practice.

By educating the public and especially women on their civic rights & responsibilities as well as providing a platform on which to communicate in a timely and productive manner with County Government officials, women who are traditionally and routinely left behind were not only involved in the governance process but were able to influence decision making. Most importantly, the women champions were able to influence budget allocations towards



Group Discussion during the capacity building

community needs.

GROOTS Kenya is in the process of replicating this project in all its counties, as we firmly believe power lies within the community to bring about transformative change for themselves.

Strengthening the SDGs Kenya Forum as an Accountability Platform for Gender and Development

Anchored in SDG goal 5, the project implemented in partnership with the SDGs Kenya is being implemented in Nakuru County. The project aims at sensitizing the community on SDG goal 5: Gender Equality. The project will sensitize Nakuru community members on gender responsive budgeting and interrogate County financing towards achieving SDG 5 and subsequently Gender equality. The project will equip community members to be able to engage with decision-makers.

Global evidence shows that investment in gender equality and women empowerment positively correlates with growth in wealth and rapid economic development. Yet globally, gender equality is significantly underfunded with only less than 10% of official development assistance (ODA) targeting women and even lesser proportion reaching farthest and hard-to-reach women and girls. At county and community levels, gender

equality and women empowerment related policies, legislations, programs, and emergency programs targeting women remain unfunded through domestic resources.

‘When women understand the budget making processes and basic principles of government funding on development priorities, they will be better informed on the impact of each intervention on women and men, girls and boys. ‘



Strengthening the SDGs Kenya Forum induction meeting

Citizen Hearing Report

The universal Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) brought forth an era of greater citizen involvement. One of the aspects in the Millennium Development Goals that was sorely missing was the monitoring and measurements of progress. SDGs and its clear targets and indicators provide opportunities for citizens to be involved in processes of monitoring and measuring government progress towards achieving the targets by 2030.

For the last six months, GROOTS Kenya has been implementing the Citizen Hearing Report project with an aim of promoting the *the monitoring and review of SDG implementation through citizen-generated data*. Data is then collected on the status of women and youth in three wards and three different Counties in Kenya namely: Mabatini ward in Nairobi, Mwiki in Kiambu and Rombo in Kajiado Counties.

GROOTS Kenya youth champions from Mathare, Mwiki and Rombo collected data on five SDGs specifically geared around women and youth:

- SDG 1: No Poverty
- SDG 4: Quality education
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 16: Peace Justice and strong Institutions



On 20th June 2019, GROOTS Kenya youth and women participated in [the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) Parliament Open Day 2019](#), which brought together Members of Parliament, key agencies of the United Nations in Nairobi and Development Partners to critically examine the important role of Parliamentarians for the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

GROOTs Kenya champions used the opportunity to interact and share their views with different members of the Parliament sharing their experience and understanding of SDGs at the grassroots. Gaps were discussed that were to be addressed at the grassroots level



Citizen hearing Mwiki and Mathare

Climate Change



On the occasion of **World Wetland Day** held on 2nd February 2019, GROOTS Kenya received an award from the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Hon. Keriako Tobiko and NEMA for spearheading climate change initiatives and environmental conservation efforts in Laikipia County.

In this regard, GROOTS Kenya supported Laikipia grassroots champion(s?) to conduct a community mapping exercise.

Additionally, GROOTS Kenya, Heinrich Boll Stiftung and Laikipia County Department of



Water, Environment and natural resources co-hosted a high-level political dialogue drafting the climate change policy. The climate change policy was formulated through public and stakeholders' consultations and peer review from climate change experts. These achievements have been a result of advocacy initiatives by grassroots women and men and local partners in Laikipia. Gender equality as an important precondition for successful climate change adaptation, mitigation and equitable social development has been underscored.

Rural Women Economic Empowerment (REEP)

Nyandarua and Muranga continue to be some of the counties experiencing difficulties related to gender-based violence. The lack of inclusion of women in land ownership, social inclusion and youth employment are some other challenges?.

The Rural Women Economic Empowerment project seeks to socially and economically empower rural women farmers through agri-business and rural development in Muranga and Nyandarua Counties with an overall objective to contribute to reduce poverty and injustice. When the projects started in 2018, it was noted that 68% of the mapped participants had low income levels (less than Kshs.5000 per month) and lived in mud walled houses. To ensure financial inclusion which is one of the project outcomes,

GROOTS Kenya trained 40 TOTs from 19 groups in Murang'a 35 TOTs from 17 groups in Nyandarua on Group Savings and Loaning (GS&L). As a result, the farmers shifted from a merry-go-round to group savings and loaning process? (GSL). Also known as table banking, here each farmer saves at least 200 shillings? per month to be able to provide loans to each other at an agreed interest over an agreed period of time. This further resulted to farmers taking up poultry farming for faster income to meet their short-term needs.

GROOTS Kenya has established linkages between sub-county and ward level agricultural extension officers for the farmer groups. As a result, the



Photo: Mary Gaitho a banana farmer who now keeps poultry

agricultural officers visited farmers in Muranga and collected data on farming production, and developed and tested a banana curriculum. They are currently training farmers through demonstration plots with majority of the farmers slowly adapting to more resilient practices.



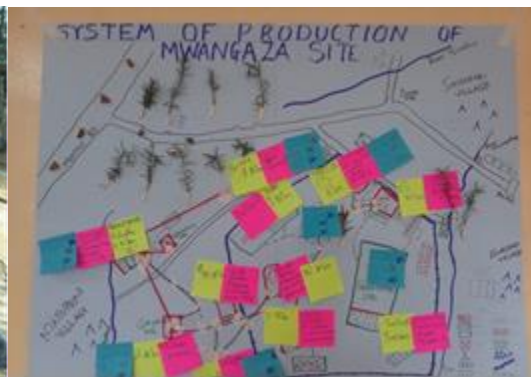
Photo: Agricultural extension Officer demonstrates how to plant a banana

CLEAN COOKING /ENERGY

GROOTS Kenya in partnership with SNV Netherlands has been implementing a clean cooking project as part of the renewable energy response under SNV'S Voice for Change Program since 2016. The long term goal of the project is to contribute to improved service provision by government and private sector through inclusive policies and budgets. The focus for the year 2019 has been to support Kitui County its formation of the energy master plan, collaborating with Kiambu County in its formation of the Climate Change policy and with Kilifi County to undertake a context analysis on the status of clean cooking. In addition, GROOTS Kenya has mapped and identified women entrepreneurs in clean cooking technologies. They include both artisans and promoters of various improved cook stoves and fuels. The women have participated in various expos and exhibitions to showcase their technologies, including the devolution conference.

EPRM-Responsible Kenya Gold Project.

This project is implemented in Kakamega with a focus on gold mining in collaboration with Fair Trade Foundation, Fair Trade Africa and Impact Facility. One of the projects goals remained to support ASMOs to become investment ready and access third party investment finance to improve their mining operations. This year, four out of five mining sites were taken through a series of training on efficient gold extraction. Participants were enlightened learning how to prevent loses during gold processing (e.g. by using the modern sluicing clothes, managing risks, proper record keeping and improving internal controls). The mines have also introduced a set of monitoring tools. They are able to record their productions, share outs, expenditures, incomes, maintenance costs among others on daily basis.



Awards, International Conference and Meetings

DIAR-AWARDS



GROOTS Kenya was nominated for DIAR –AWARDS 2019 and awarded 2nd (Runner up) position on a Diversity and Inclusion award for Best NGO Program on Gender Equality. This award majorly focused at the center of our programs which are diverse. **Diversity is the range of human differences including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, age, social class, physical ability or attributes, religious or ethical values system, national origin and political beliefs.**

The 33rd Gender is My Agenda Campaign

Winrose Mwangi a grassroots women leader who represented GROOTS Kenya at the 33rd **Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) Consultative Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender Equality in the African Union and Member States** that took place on the 3rd – 4th February, 2019 at the United Nations Economic



Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia themed: 'Towards Gender Responsive Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement.'

Mwangi from Laikipia county shared her experience as a community grassroots women leader in identifying lasting solutions for women and girls who are forcibly displaced by conflict, natural disasters, economic reasons or other causes, in Laikipia.

DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE

On 4th-8th march 2019 GROOTS Kenya supported 12 grassroots women from Laikipia, Kitui and Kiambu county to attend the 6th Annual Devolution Conference in Kirinyaga County - Kirinyaga University from March 4th -8th, 2019. This platform provided grassroots women from the three counties a chance to review performance of their county governments and reflect on the

devolution journeys and milestone achieved over the last five years. They charted with their local governments on how to make devolution successful with grassroots people at the center of their agenda. The theme for the 6th Annual devolution conference was 'Delivering. Transform. Measure' with a clarion call of 'Remaining Accountable' and was anchored on the "Big Four Agenda". These sectors include; Trade; Agriculture; Health; Affordable Housing and Infrastructure.



Mary Mbole from Kitui hosting guest at GK booth during the devolution conference

Tunis gender forum on Gender

Our Executive Director, Fridah Githuku took part in the Tunis Gender Forum on Gender Equality on 12th April 2019 that saw a large convenement of women, youth, champions of gender equality from all corners of the world to discuss progress made on women's rights, leading up to the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

During the meeting, our ED joined other feminist from around the world to write a press statement <https://grootskenya.org/statement-of-feminist-activists-at-the-forum/> of Feminist activists at the forum.

European Development Days -Chagua Mama going Global



18th-19th (of April?) 2019 GROOTS Kenya took Chagua Mama global and shared our experience in enhancing the capacity of grassroots women in leadership at the 13th edition of European Development Days that brought together the European Union's commitment to address inequalities with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The theme for the two-day conference was: **‘Addressing inequalities: building a world which leaves no one behind.’**

Women deliver conference 2019

On 6th -9th June 2019, GROOTS Kenya supported two grassroots women leaders at the The Women Deliver 2019 Conference, the **largest conference on gender equality and the health, rights, and wellbeing of girls and women.** During the conference, GROOTS Kenya hosted a parallel event on the ‘Power of Community: Grassroots Advocates’ with a panel ‘Measuring what is hidden: Amplifying community voices by closing Digital Gender Gaps.’ This



panel discussion looked on how community-generated data improves public service delivery; how big data provides insight into gender-based violence and women's digital inclusion; how data can be collected on hidden experiences like abortion. <https://youtu.be/k7AGrnUXLMY>



Open government partnership global; summit 2019

Jenifer Mutinda from Kitui County represented GROOTS Kenya at the open Government partnership (partnered?) Global Summit 2019 on May 29-31 in Ottawa, Canada. This brought together 79 member countries, Kenya being one, and 20 local governments to share knowledge and solutions together for more open and transparent governments around the globe.

Jenifer was among the panelists, discussing the power of using community generated data in community developments projects. She discussed how this has enabled grassroots women? from Kitui to fully participate and involved in local governance.

LANDac Annual International Conference 2019



Fridah Githuku attended the LANDac Annual International Conference that was held on 4-5th July 2019. The 2019 Conference provided an interactive space for researchers, practitioners and private sector representatives in land governance for equitable and sustainable development, centered around land governance through the lens of transformations- what are the long-term dynamics around land, water and food production? How is land governance itself transformed, as it seeks to respond to changing circumstances? And how is learning and knowledge building about these dynamics developing? What are promising concepts and tools?

<https://www.landcoalition.org/en/regions/global/news/statement-feminist-land-platform>

other conferences and seminars

World Justice Forum - <https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/engagement/events/world-justice-forum>

INDABA - <https://www.miningindaba.com/Home>