

GROOTS Kenya January Bulletin

Women in Technology



On January 7-8 GROOTS Kenya in Collaboration with Development Media Africa and Mobile Journalism Africa trained 30 Grassroots Women Leaders on how to use the media to advocate for their rights at Ngong Hills Hotel, Nairobi Kenya. The training was supported by the Global Fund for Women via the Rural Women-Tech Academy project, an initiative that supports women and girls to advocate for their rights and fight against abuses and all forms of discrimination against women.

The objective of the event was to empower grassroots women with tools to do effective advocacy online and offline .At the end of this training , at least 20 of the women had created videos during the workshop and some had moved on to create at least two videos promoting their work on sustainable energy and agriculture . More to the training the women learnt on how to do interviews on the media and interact with journalists, on how to create content for digital media and how to use digital media to promote advocacy and for personal work.



Swedish Parliamentarians Visit to Nairobi



On 9th and 10th January, GROOTS Kenya in partnership with We Effect East Africa and ADSOCK had the privilege of hosting Parliamentarians from the Swedish Parliament at the WE effect offices in Nairobi. The Swedish Parliamentarians met with our Kenyan law makers in a vibrant session of experience sharing and peer –peer exchanges of life as a parliamentarian and the differences between women parliamentarians in Sweden and in Kenya. In attendance was M.P Wanjiku WaKibe(Gatundu North) M.P Edith Nyenze(Kitui West) ,M.P. Denitta

Ghati(Migori),MCA Veronicah,MCA.Wachuka,MCA Catherine Nyawira(Laikipia) M.C.A Gladys Mukhongolo, MCA Ann Malikhu ,MCA Godliver, MCA Elemina Llanziva, MCA. Leylah Muhandale (Kakamega) MCA.Betty(Meru) MCA.Susan ,M.C.A Maru (Nakuru), M.C.A Jackie Nungari (Kiambu) thank you for having us at Kiambu County Assembly. Also present were grassroots leaders, Winrose Nyaguthi, Alice Isoyi and Wairimu kanyiri from Laikipia, Kakamega and Nakuru respectively



As part of their visit, the Parliamentarians were also hosted by champions from the greater Kiambu at the home of Mary Kiarie. The aim of the visit was to share climate resilience practices that farmers have employed to secure their livelihood, as well as to share the successes and challenges that the champions for transformative leaders have faced in supporting women in decision making spaces



2020 Annual Planning



On 13th and 14th January, GROOTS Kenya facilitated 2020 planning meeting in Laikipia County to plan for 2020 key activities and strategies. In Attendance was 20 grassroots women from different counties including; Nakuru, Kakamega, Busia Kiambu, Muranga, Kilifi, Kitui, Gatundu Laikipia and Molo. During the two days GROOTS Kenya was able to Identify key activities that the grassroots women want to do in the year, and

identify changes and improvements on the existing activities, informed the grassroots women on

the incoming projects and status of the ongoing projects from the other year and support the grassroots women in appointing grassroots leaders to be in charge of the ongoing projects.

Money Power



on 18th to 20th January, in partnership with HORIZONT3000 through funding from the European Union, we held an introductory meeting of the money power project with Laikipia Deputy Governor. This project is to be implemented for 3 years in Laikipia and Muranga to Enhance grassroots women, youth marginalized and indigenous people's voice and influence on public budget and fiscal policy at county level through Strengthening the solidarity movement of women, youth, marginalized and indigenous people, Enhancing knowledge of women, youth, marginalized and indigenous people in Public Finance Management (PFM) and in political advocacy, Capacity building of county government to deliver effective public participation and improve public expenditure management and Strengthen networking with the mainstream and social media.

The meeting was facilitated by the county director of public participation of Laikipia County and brought together 144 people including, chiefs, ward and sub County administrators, community leaders and grassroots women from Laikipia North, Laikipia East, and Laikipia West ward with an aim of Introducing the Money –power project to the Laikipia County officials and train the county government staff on gender, youth and socially inclusive public budgeting. The mainly government officers are the duty bearers responsible for mobilizing, coordinating and ensuring that there is effective community engagement in public participation. As such, they were the right target to ensure that all sectors of the community are involved in public participation

Information Services and Resilience Strategies to Respond to Climate Change

On 21st to 25th January, we facilitated and trained 22 data enumerators and 4 supervisors to collect quantitative baseline data on climate smart agricultural practices which targets 720 households in Busia, Laikipia and Nakuru Counties. The quantitative baseline is to collect information and survey farmer's knowledge on the use of climate smart agricultural technologies before the intervention of video based technologies.



Success Stories



Jessica Nakhumicha Kwete, Is a Women rights activists from Bunyala-West Ward, Bunyala Sub-County in Busia County. For 18 years now, Jessica has been at the forefront in championing for women's rights in her community. In her capacity she represents the rural women and girls voices and advocates for issues affecting them. She is passionate about women land rights and women's economic

empowerment.

“Being part of GROOTS Kenya grassroots women leaders has enabled me to represent and advocate for the rights of rural women in my community. In my group now all the champions have been empowered to know about their land rights, we have our own merry go round that has uplifted the lives of most women, who can now even take loans from bank and invest in their businesses. GROOTS Kenya has stood with us and supported us in lobbying for women to get into the leadership positions. In my group now I have a MCA, 3 women in school boards and with time I know we will have more women in these positions from my group.”



Lucy Njoki Macharia is a community home-based care and a community land watchdog from Laikipia. Lucy joined GROOTS Kenya in 2000 a time where HIV/AIDS pandemic was very rampant and survivors stigmatized.

Njoki together with other caregivers Volunteered in serving the survivors by linking them to health practitioners for medication enrollment and also they took an active part in counseling the survivors together with their

families as a way of giving strength to the survivors and eradicating stigma from the family and the community.

During the same time in 2002, Njoki also become a community land watchdog member after realizing that most widows, survivors were being disinherited from their land after the death of their husbands. Njoki took the initiative to advocate for widows land rights in support of GROOTS Kenya in ensuring no woman was denied her land rights as a result of harsh patriarchal cultural beliefs.