

BUILDING A MOVEMENT OF GRASSROOTS WOMEN AND GIRLS

WELCOME TO THE MOVEMENT

As we embark on this journey through the pages of another edition, we reflect with immense pride on the remarkable milestones from commemorating Rural Women's Day and GROOTS Kenya @28 to actively participating in global initiatives like Women Deliver, Global Landscapes Forum, Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy Conference, among others. Our commitment to amplifying the voices of grassroots women remains unwavering, as we firmly believe that true empowerment stems from within the community itself, recognizing the transformative power embedded in the collective voice of grassroots women. This quarter, we stand tall, celebrating not just events but the resilience, wisdom, and agency of the incredible grassroots women and girls.

Read more about what has been going on!

International Day of Rural Women

On October 16th, in Laikipia County, Marmanet Ward, we gathered over 200 grassroots women and girls alongside the county government to commemorate Rural Women's Day, World Food Day, and GROOTS Kenya @28. During the event, we planted approximately 500 fruit trees in alignment with the president's directive to plant 15 billion trees by 2032. Operating under the theme 'Financing for Rural Women's Empowerment,' The grassroots women called on the government to take action, urging them to join hands in empowering them by investing in initiatives that foster growth and equality. They expressed that this collective aim was to bridge the gap and create lasting change, drawing on their intimate understanding of the challenges and solutions within their communities.

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The County Government leaders present echoed this call, urging the government to support the ongoing efforts led by rural women who already had on-going projects. County Secretary Mr. Koinange Wahome emphasized, ***"Rural women have the desire to be part of the change that they want to see, but often lack of government support fails to complement the efforts made by rural women."***

PHOTO BREAK



KEY PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

Rural Women Cultivating Change (RWCC)

Under the Agro-ecological pillar of the project; we Collaborated with The Seed Savers' Network to conduct a weeks-long seed harvesting training engaging 61 farmers from Nanyuki and Segera Wards.



• Baraka Farmers Women Group

As a result of the training, we have seen a replication of the techniques taught such as the setup of vertical gardens, sunken beds, raised beds, and swales by grassroots women in Laikipia and Kitui. One such group is Baraka Farmers Women Group, composed of 20 women who replicated the demo sites in their homes. Together, we are rewriting the narrative and forging a path toward a more equitable and vibrant society where grassroots women are at the forefront of sustainable development.



KEY PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

Determining the trade-offs between long and short horticulture value Chains in Kenya

Between Sept 27th -28th we conducted an inception workshop for the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture funded project in collaboration with the International Centre for Evaluation and Development (ICED) and JKUAT.



The 3.5-year project focuses on employing research methodologies to examine the nutritional, economic, and social impacts along short and long value chains. It also aims to evaluate the incorporation and benefits/impacts of ICTs. The study concentrates on three produce categories: traditional/indigenous vegetables (cowpea, Africa Nightshade), tropical fruits (banana, mango), and exotic vegetables (tomatoes and kales). Investigations will take place in 11 targeted counties with high production volumes, including Murang'a, Meru, Vihiga, Kirinyaga, Kajiado, Kisii, Makeni, Kilifi.

Regenerative Seascapes for Planet, Nature and People (ReSea) Project Launch



On 24th October, in Kilifi County, We launched the ReSea Project in Dabsao Primary School, Watamu. The 3 year, \$30 million project (\$7 million of which goes to Kenya), implemented by Mission Inclusion in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and National Partner - GROOTS Kenya, made possible with the support of Global Affairs Canada. ReSea aims to enhance the climate and socio-economic resilience of 350,000 people in coastal communities across Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Comoros, and Madagascar.



The project focuses on strengthening the conservation of marine protected areas, implementing nature-based solutions for climate adaptation, and empowering women economically in blue economy value chains.

In Kenya, the project will be implemented in three counties in Kilifi County, Kilifi North, Malindi, and Magarini. Approximately 80,000 people living in these areas will benefit directly from project interventions.



International Land Coalition (ILC)

We hosted the Global Council of the International Land Coalition for an unforgettable field day. Our collaboration with the ILC is a beacon of hope for change on a global scale.

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NETWORKING EVENTS

Women Deliver Conference



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African Climate Summit

We had our grassroots women and girls from rural, arid and semi-arid Kenya, farmers, pastoralists and conservationists attended the Women Deliver Conference in Kigali, Rwanda. Hosted for the first time in Africa, it had 6,000+ delegates from 127 countries attending in person.

From 4th - 6th September we attended the African Climate Summit under the theme "Driving Green Growth & Climate Finance Solutions for Africa and the World" and during the week had the honour of attending The Ocean Climate Innovation Networking event hosted by Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOP), Africa in partnership with Oceans Africa, Advancing Earth and Space Sciences (AGU), IUCN and Mission inclusion.

The networking event aimed at fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among ocean-climate innovators, entrepreneurs, state and non-state actors.



NETWORKING EVENTS AND OTHER NEWS

Global LandScapes Forum (GLF)

On 13th October, we had our resilience champions; Jamila Ghachana and Julia Nyambura Speaking at GLFNairobi Stand for Her Land side event "Why Women's Land Control Matters in Restoration." exploring the nexus between land restoration, women's land rights, and climate action, in collaboration with United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification , and ILC Africa

Accelerating Agricultural Adaptation in Africa



Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy

We hosted our thematic session "A Feminist Foreign Policy Inspired by Grassroots Perspectives" at the Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy Conference 2023 that happened from 1st - 2nd November in Netherlands in collaboration with Stand for Her Land , International Development Law Organization - IDLO and UN Women .



We attended the First conference on Accelerating Agricultural Adaptation in Africa, Abuja, Nigeria by the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and participated in the Land and Natural Resources Tenure, Land Use Planning and Resilience panel discussion, as we spoke on building the resilience of grassroots women to the impacts of climate change by accelerating security of tenure.



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