

GROOTS KENYA NEWSLETTER



30 Years Strong: Grassroots Women Driving Justice, Safety, and Systems Change In Kenya





Advancing dignity, equality, and transformative leadership

In 2025, GROOTS Kenya marked 30 years of grassroots women organizing and this quarter showed exactly why that legacy matters.

Three decades on, the movement is not slowing down; it is sharpening its impact. The final quarter of 2025 demonstrated what sustained investment in women's leadership delivers: communities that act, systems that respond, and policies that begin to bend toward justice.

Across counties, climate zones, and political spaces, grassroots women did not merely participate they convened, confronted, and reshaped. From ending gender-based violence in homes and digital spaces, to advancing climate justice, unpaid care work recognition, clean air advocacy, and women's economic resilience, this quarter reflected a movement operating at both community and policy levels simultaneously.

What stands out in Q4 is scale with depth. Hundreds of women, men, youth, duty-bearers, and institutions were engaged not through one-off events, but through coordinated, community-led action that strengthened referral systems, shifted harmful norms, and elevated grassroots evidence into decision-making spaces.

These stories are not isolated successes. They are the outcome of 30 years of trust-building, leadership development, and feminist organizing rooted in lived realities. They show that resilience is not reactive it is built deliberately, over time, by women who organize before crises erupt and remain long after headlines fade.

As you read this issue, we invite you to see more than moments, see momentum. This is what long-term investment in grassroots women looks like. This is what systems change, led from the ground up, delivers.

OUR MILESTONES & IMPACT

Grassroots Women Claiming Decision-Making Spaces

This quarter marked significant progress in advancing women's leadership across governance, land, climate, and data spaces.

From Community Realities to National Policy: Grassroots Women Reclaim Land Governance

International Rural Women's Day National Convening | 8–9 October 2025

15 Grassroots women leaders from 12 counties (Kakamega, Kilifi, Murang'a, Busia, Nairobi, Kitui, Kiambu, Nakuru, Nyandarua, Laikipia, Tana River, and Baringo) took their place at the national table during the International Rural Women's Day Convening, amplifying lived realities in conversations on land governance.

The convening brought together policymakers, legislators, civil society, and development partners to assess progress, confront gaps, and reimagine land systems that work for women.

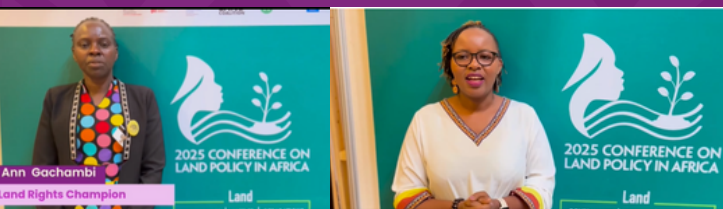
With women comprising 89% of Kenya's agricultural labour force yet owning only 2% of registered land, the message was clear and collective: *without women's land rights, there can be no food security, gender equality, or climate justice.*

By centering grassroots voices, the convening strengthened alignment between policy commitments and community realities.

Collective call: Secure women's land rights – not as charity, but as justice.



Taking Community Wisdom to Continental Platforms



(CLPA)



Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA) 2025

At CLPA 2025, Ann Gachambi, grassroots land rights champion and Eunice Mwangi, Acting Executive Director, represented GROOTS Kenya bringing decades of organizing, mobilization, and accompaniment of women claiming their rights.

Their presence reaffirmed that land policy must be shaped not only by institutions, but by the lived experiences of women defending land and natural resources daily.

Why it matters: Policy gains hold when rooted in community wisdom.

OUR MILESTONES & IMPACT

Community-Led Development in Action: Baringo Champions Host Global Partners



In Baringo County, GROOTS Kenya champions demonstrated what community-led development looks like when ownership is real. During a four-day field visit with Diakonia and the Embassy of Sweden, champions independently organized and facilitated engagements showcasing paralegal work, women's land rights advocacy, GBV response, climate-smart technologies, beekeeping, and beadwork enterprises.

Partners witnessed how grassroots-led value chains are strengthening livelihoods, resilience, and accountability. The champions' confidence in presenting progress and challenges reflected years of investment in leadership, skills, and collective power.

Bold Voices, Shared Struggles: Grassroots Women Reimagining Africa's Food Future

Africa Women in Agroecology Exchange Learning & Expo 2025 | Nairobi

Women leaders from 10 African countries gathered to affirm what communities already know, women sustain Africa's food systems, yet remain excluded from governance and resources.

GROOTS Kenya champion Jane Wangeci shared grassroots realities, while Acting Executive Director Eunice Mwangi issued a bold call to secure women's land rights at scale, invest in women-led agroecology, and resource movements beyond project cycles.

Bottom line: If Africa wants resilient food systems, it must finance the women who already sustain them.



4th Indigenous Seeds, Culture & Food Harvest Fair | Laikipia

GROOTS Kenya played a central role in the planning and execution of the 4th Indigenous Seeds, Culture and Food Harvest Fair, in partnership with ISFAA and the Laikipia County Government.

The Fair convened over 600 grassroots farmers from the GROOTS Kenya movement, the county leaders, technical partners, and agroecology practitioners.

Women farmers showcased indigenous seeds that have nourished generations living symbols of resilience, biodiversity, and community-led food systems in the face of climate change.



Economic Empowerment & Justice

Launch of the Unpaid Domestic & Care Work Report 2025



Three GROOTS Kenya champions; Pamela Egira, Pacifica Ongecha, and Edward Macharia represented the movement at the launch of the Economic Value of Unpaid Domestic and Care Work Report 2025 by Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS).

The report presents official statistics on unpaid domestic and care work, underscoring the importance of recognizing and valuing this labor as a critical step toward achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women, in line with Kenya's Vision 2030 and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2030).

The Unpaid Care Work Report revealed that **unpaid domestic and care work contributed 23.1% of Kenya's GDP in 2021, second only to agriculture yet remains largely invisible and undervalued.**

Grassroots Voices at COP30



GROOTS Kenya was represented at COP30 by Happy Mwinyi, a grassroots champion amplifying coastal women's leadership on the global climate stage. As Chairlady of Kudzacha Women Group and Secretary of the Shella Beach Management Unit, Happy leads women-led fisheries, marine conservation, and inclusive ocean governance in Malindi.

Her presence at COP30 underscored the power of grassroots women-led climate solutions rooted in lived experience.

"Grassroots women are already leading climate solutions. When our voices are heard, our communities and oceans thrive." Happy Mwinyi

Widow Champion

GROOTS Kenya attended the Kenya premiere of Widow Champion, a powerful documentary honoring the courage of Rodah Nafula, whose lived experience ignites a nationwide rally for widows' land and inheritance rights. The film amplified the urgent call to pass the Widowed Persons' Bill 2025, a critical step toward protecting widows from dispossession and violence.



Rural Women Rising: 30 Years of Grassroots Power in Action



As we marked the International Day of Rural Women 2025 in Baringo County, we did so at a defining moment for our movement, GROOTS Kenya at 30. Three decades after grassroots women organized following the Beijing Conference to claim voice, land, and leadership, rural women continue to anchor community resilience across Kenya.

The commemoration brought together over 300 participants, including 250 grassroots women leaders and key stakeholders, demonstrating the scale and sustainability of GROOTS Kenya's investment in women-led, community-driven development. These women are not beneficiaries, they are organizers, data collectors, budget advocates, climate actors, and governance leaders, shaping solutions rooted in lived experience.

For 30 years, GROOTS Kenya has channeled resources into long-term capacity building, enabling rural women to strengthen food systems, advance climate adaptation, influence local and national governance, and protect women's land and inheritance rights. The impact shared in Baringo reflects what sustained funding makes possible: women-led institutions that outlast project cycles and respond to complex, interconnected challenges.

This moment reaffirmed a core lesson for development partners: when funding prioritizes grassroots women's leadership, the returns multiply from improved household food security and climate resilience, to stronger accountability in public systems and safer communities for women and girls.

As we celebrate rural women and 30 years of the GROOTS Kenya movement, we invite partners to continue investing in what works: **locally rooted women's leadership, patient capital, and movement infrastructure that delivers lasting change.**

Nothing About Us, Without Us: Grassroots Voices Shaping Nairobi's Clean Air Future



GROOTS Kenya grassroots champions from Nairobi and Kibra actively participated in the Public Participation Forum on the Draft Nairobi City County Air Quality (Ambient) Regulations, 2025, held on 9th October at Green Park Terminus ensuring that community voices shaped decisions that directly affect their lives.

By showing up and speaking out, champions brought grassroots perspectives into critical policy conversations on climate justice, public health, and sustainable urban living.

Their participation reaffirmed a core GROOTS Kenya belief: **inclusive policies are strongest when they are informed by those most affected.**

OUR MILESTONES & IMPACT

Sixteen Days. One Movement. Countless Acts of Courage.



During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, GROOTS Kenya's grassroots women did what they have done for nearly 30 years, they showed up, led boldly, and transformed public spaces into platforms for justice.

Across 14 counties (Garissa, Tana River, Bungoma, Busia, Nakuru, Kitui, Laikipia, Kakamega, Nairobi, Kiambu, Nyandarua, Murang'a and Kilifi) grassroots champions mobilized women, men, youth, faith leaders, health workers, paralegals, administrators, and justice actors to confront the realities of gender-based violence both offline and online. From community walks and barazas to school forums, sports dialogues and media engagements, the message was clear: **violence is not normal, silence is not safety, and justice must reach the grassroots.**

Women Leading Change from the Ground Up

Grassroots women leaders anchored the campaign facilitating dialogues on sexual violence, domestic abuse, FGM, emotional and economic violence, and the growing threat of digital GBV. Survivors' voices were centered, referral pathways were shared, and communities were reminded that reporting violence is a collective responsibility.

Paralegals and community advocates played a critical role, demystifying justice processes, guiding survivors to services, and challenging harmful practices such as informal settlements of serious crimes. In spaces where fear and stigma often prevail, women leaders created safe, trusted entry points to justice.



Engaging Men and Boys: Shifting Norms, Not Just Messages



Recognizing that ending GBV requires everyone, we convened **72** men from **28** women-led groups for Men and Boys Dialogues across coastal and inland communities. Fishermen, boda boda riders, religious leaders, youth, and local officials engaged in honest conversations that surfaced difficult truths, including exploitative practices such as sex-for-fish and the growing prevalence of online harassment and cyberbullying.

These dialogues marked a critical shift, men moving from bystanders to allies to actively challenging harmful norms and committing to protect women and girls in homes, digital spaces, and across livelihoods.

Why This Matters

The 16 Days of Activism was not a moment, it was a movement in action. It demonstrated what sustained investment in grassroots women delivers:

- Prevention rooted in trust
- Survivors supported with dignity
- Communities informed and mobilized
- Systems challenged and strengthened

Marking 30 years of GROOTS Kenya, this campaign reaffirmed what our movement has proven time and again: **when grassroots women lead, change is not only possible, it is inevitable.**



GROOTS Kenya in the NEWS



[WATCH VIDEO](#)



[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Widows who refuse to surrender: Rural women reclaim their land rights

Thursday, October 16, 2025



[READ STORY](#)



[WATCH VIDEO](#)



Women wielding placards denouncing GBV outside the Kyoani Resource Centre in Ikutha sub county in Kitui South on Wednesday during an occasion to mark the end of 16 days of activism against GBV/Musembi Nzengu.

[READ STORY](#)



[WATCH VIDEO](#)



[WATCH VIDEO](#)



Human rights defenders from Garissa holding a procession in the town./STEPHEN ASTARIKO

[READ STORY](#)



[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Newsletter by : Vivian Wangari
Email : Communication@grootskenya.org

CLICK ICONS



@GROOTSKenya

#Grassrootsmovement

#GROOTSKenyaAt30 #Beijing30

