

Priority Issues and Challenges for Rural
Women in the context of Women's Land
and Property Rights
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Representing

GROOTS KENYA
and
Huairou Commission



"Let Us Be Masters of our Own Development"


A GLIMPSE OF A RURAL WOMAN

- Comprise the majority of rural population
- Forms majority of the poor
- Is the backbone of the rural economy
- Provides 80-90 % of labour in subsistence farming and 70 % in cash crop production
- An innovator, co-concreter, knowledge holder and resilient to changing trends
- Disproportionately shoulders the burden to sustain households and communities through unpaid care work when basic needs lack/fail



SITUATION OF RURAL WOMEN ON LAND & PROPERTY: KENYA CASE

The Kenyan Laws Exposed Huge Gender Disparities in Access and Control to Land for Rural Women for years

- Less than 5 % of Women have Land Registered with their Names in the country
 - Majority of Rural women access land through men (fathers, husbands, brothers or sons)
 - Land and Asset stripping is rampant, a situation aggravated by HIV AIDS Pandemic
 - Access to justice is complex, expensive and often unavailable for Rural Women
 - Have no control over land, produce and other valuable assets
 - The Succession Act and Customary Law are conflicting in protecting women's rights to **Secure** and **Control** land
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GRASSROOTS WOMEN LED INTERVENTIONS TO RESPOND SAFEGUARD ACCESS TO LAND AND PROPERTY

- Establishment of Informal Justice Mechanism to monitor and halt asst stripping Watch Dog Group Model



TAKING ACTION

Community Guide on
**Women's Property and
Inheritance Rights in Kenya**

GRASSROOTS WOMEN LED INTERVENTIONS TO RESPOND SAFEGUARD ACCESS TO LAND AND PROPERTY

- Community paralegalism that is led by grassroots women towards access on legal knowledge
- Convening local dialogues with duty bearers to drive demand for accountability
- Economic and Social Safety nets - grassroots women collectives to Secure and control Assets
- Grassroots women directly participate in decisions and champions transformative leadership thus influencing governance and accountability on administration and management of land and property
- Grassroots women promote peers learning and exchanges to promote innovations across ethnic and national boundaries to scale up women access to land and property



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Rural Women
promote
collective
farming
groups to
strengthen
their power to
access land
rights. The
women use
the demo
plots as
farming
learning
centers.



GAPS IN REALIZING WOMEN LAND/PROPERTY RIGHTS

- Inadequate legal standards and implementation of laws that address discrimination in Rural Communities .
- Lack of measures to disseminate information on CEDAW and even policies that at the Rural level.

Failure in acknowledging the relationship between Women land rights and other developmental challenges like food security HIV.and poverty among Rural Women

Rural Women not being involved in monitoring of policies that promote Women land rights.



OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVANCE RURAL WOMEN LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

- Countries undergoing reforms on land and laws – should put more emphasis on regulatory framework for Rural Women land rights .
- Rural Women should be empowered to monitor policies that govern land rights .
- As Rural Women it is a high time we represent ourselves in all structures at all levels related to land laws .
- Successful interventions that we have put in place that have been supporting us as Rural Women to access justice should be put to scale ,strengthen and adopted in our legal



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.Some of the initiatives are like the famous Community Land and property watch dog groups.

That have been expanded to many countries in AFRICA through WILLA(women Land Link Africa) in 11 Countries of Africa.



THANK YOU

