



**Case Studies
from Kenya
for the year
2010**

CASE STUDIES FROM KENYA FOR THE YEAR 2010

Case study 1: 'SHGs celebrate the 2010 International Women's day!'

The International women Day is a UN annual event observed by all UN member states in honour of Women every 8th day of March. This year's theme was "Equal Rights, Equal opportunities, Progress for all". Kenya has been holding the event annually since 1988 usually at the provincial or district Headquarters.

The Colourful Kitui Event

In Kitui, the International women's day celebrations 2010 was sponsored by Kitui Development Centre (KDC) and was held at Chuluni hosted by the area District Commissioner -Nzambani and all provincial administration officers. An organizing committee comprising the District Social Development Officer (DSDO) Kitui, Catholic Diocese and other government Officers, from Kitui Central and Nzambani districts, KDC and other local organizations coordinated the event rated as the most successful in terms of Resource Mobilization, attendance, and presentations. Over five hundred (500) people attended. Those who made the day successful by their generous financial contributions included; SASOL Foundation, African Development Group Charlottesville, Irish support through Janet Hinchion among others. The Redeemed gospel church chuluni provided the venue as their in kind contribution.

The event started with a procession by participants dancing and singing from the Nzambani District Commissioner's Office. The women who were adorned with lessos from KDC looked like one big family. It was a spectacular scene to behold. Commuters, Business Community and passers by came out to witness and partake in the event declaring the might and cause of a woman.

Once every body was comfortably seated, it was time for presentations. Eleven (11) groups came forth with songs, poems and skits all their own compositions declaring how the Fumbua Uwezo Project of Kitui Development Centre (KDC) had empowered them economically and socially. The key themes in these presentations centered around the impact of their weekly table banking – how it has enabled them to pay school fees for their children, build good houses, and do small scale and medium sized business. In addition, they discovered the enhancement of their leadership capacities and how their spouses have given them more freedom to attend the meetings after realizing the enormous benefits.



A procession of participants from the District Commissioner's offices to the venue at Redeemed Gospel Church ground - Chuluni

The Chief Guest speaker, Madam Sharon Davie, PH.D. who is a KDC partner and Director of Women's Center, University of Virginia, USA thrilled the crowds with her dancing, humour and powerful speech, candidly, she painted the road to a world with no limits to one's dreams and achievements in her own words. "Today, on International Women's Day we are celebrating all women—those who are helping to build a better world and those who suffer because of the way the world is right now. We know that when women are empowered, there is progress for all". She then enlisted the major obstacles to women's empowerment viz poverty, lack/low education, very few in leadership positions and violence against women. In order to overcome these obstacles, her advice was "Women across the world have reached out to each other and formed groups. The power of women in groups can be amazing in unleashing women's potential as change agents and leaders. She lifted all participants' morale when she noted that the groups were doing exceptionally good: "of all the women's group I have visited in Kenya over the last 5 years, the women's empowerment Groups in rural villages, organized by the Kitui Development Centre under the leadership of Janet Mumo, are the best I have ever seen.. These women are empowered. Their potential for leadership has been unleashed. Their courage, their intelligence, their persistence, are riches beyond measure...., Kitui is giving us – by us I mean the wider world a model for building a better world for women, with progress for all"



Some of the SHGs making their presentations at the event

Case Study 2: 'SHGs fighting illiteracy'

High levels of illiteracy especially that of women in Athwana location in Meru North District, has led to slow development of the area characterized by poverty, overpopulation and disease. One SHG called Kamathi has taken initiative to train its members on how to read and write. "Those interested on how to read and write come 1 hour before the meeting time since I have committed myself to teach them on how to read and write." Rose the book writer explains. "This will enable us reduce the levels of illiteracy since every member in the group will be able to read and write and also encourage our children to attend school." With a lot of excitement Margaret, a



group member who has benefited from this initiative says "I am proud now that I can be able to append my signature in the mother book just like other members of the group and also able to read the amount of savings, loans and repayments in my passbook." As a group they have also managed to link with a nurse who trained them on family planning methods since they have realized many of the members have many children thus catering for their basic need is cumbersome. Through this group and with the help of local administration, the members were educated on the constitution by the civic educators. "We hope and believe our lives will change for better," Florence one of the members declares.

Case Study 3: 'Hardworking SHG member a model for her community'

Helen Ngei is a mother aged 42 years. She is married to Ngei Mwangangi who is 46 years. They have five children (2 boys and 3 girls) who are currently attending school regularly. Helen is among those who joined the SHGs in 2006, she joined Uwo (Truth) SHG which has 20 members. The group meets once every week (Tuesday), save Kshs 20 in every meeting and does every thing else done in an SHG. Before joining the SHG, Helen was a housewife while her husband is a carpenter and does casual jobs in Kitui town. The family lacked enough to adequately address basic needs such as food, clothing and access to health facilities. All her children had stopped going to school due to lack of basic education needs. Malnutrition was evidenced due to poor feeding. After joining the group Helen was very active, so few months later her group started issuing small loans to its active members. Helen now could afford to buy petty items for the family instead of borrowing. Through these loans she managed to reinstate her children to school and started small business of buying and selling of vegetables and fruits within the area. The family can also afford 2-3 quality meals per day and access health services. Last year, Helen and her husband agreed to raise a three roomed permanent house for the family and move from the current grass thatched mud walled house (see picture above) The construction has been in phases based on loan repayment. Helen is determined that by the end of this year the family will occupy the new house. Two years ago Helen was selected as a community facilitator (CF) in-charge of new SHGs formed in a new area called Kavasya. She was selected by members from eight SHGs from Ngiluni area where Helen is a member in one of these SHGs. She qualified for the position because of her hard work and determination especially in her group. The entire family is extremely happy and eager to occupy the new building by the end of this year.



Case Study 4: 'German Ambassador visits the SHGs in Mtwapa!'

The German Ambassador to Kenya Mrs Margit Hellwig-Boette accompanied by her husband Mr. Gerd-Josef Boette visited the Pact Kenya SHG project in Mtwapa on 25th June 2010. Over 1,000 SHG members were present to receive her. Also present were the area MP, Hon Ben Gunda, Councilors and other leaders from the area. The 6 Cluster-level Associations (CLAs) in the area spear-headed all the preparations for the visit including planning, resource mobilization and publicizing the occasion to fellow SHG members and community members. They also identified one of their own to be the Master of Ceremony for the event – a role she executed successfully. The SHG members used the occasion to elaborate their social, economical and political achievements. Highlights of the achievement included: some SHG members being elected as community representatives in various committees. One of their own is now the Assistant Chief and she was present at the event to represent the Government. Through insistence of the CLAs the local MP has allocated Ksh. 1,000,000 from the CDF kitty to construct more classes at the local primary school and has facilitated the connection of



The Crowning ceremony

piped water to one part of the community that has had limited access to clean drinking water.

In honour of the Ambassador's visit to their community, the SHG members crowned her a Mijikenda woman by dressing her in a traditional attire known as 'hando' that is worn by respectable women in the community. The women also dressed the Ambassador's husband in a kikoi and gave him a fly whisk symbolizing that he was also an elder in the community. She requested the Ambassador to become 'an ambassador of the SHG approach' in the country.

In her Speech, Her Excellency Mrs. Margit Boette appreciated the SHG approach as exemplary. In her own words "I have seen many types of groups but this one is the best because it empowers women in many ways and does not leave out the rest of the community". She appreciated being crowned an Ambassador of SHG because she could identify with it as a woman and appreciated the real change the approach had brought to the community. She promised to do all that she could in this important role to raise awareness and support for this life-changing approach in Kenya. She promised to make a follow-up visit in future and also promised to consider Pact Kenya's proposal to up-scale the approach in the area from the Embassy's Small Grants Facility.

Case Study 5: 'SHG Member able to construct better housing'

Kanze Mramba is a member of Lamukani SHG in Kata village in Malindi. Before joining SHG in July 2009, She lived in a poor and very temporary structure (hut) in her home. She had lived in that hut for more than 15 yrs. Being a single woman who was divorced by her husband 15 yrs ago, she could not manage to construct a reasonable structure for herself due to poverty. When she joined Lamukani SHG in July 2009, she informed her fellow SHG members about her housing condition. Lamukani SHG members promised to help her construct a reasonable structure when she becomes ready to do so. In December 2009, she started taking some loans from the SHG. She started with a loan of Ksh 500.00 , Ksh 1,000 and then Ksh 2,000 in February 2010. She used the early loans to start a business of buying and selling of charcoal from her village (Kata) to Marafa Township. When her business was doing well, she thought of solving the housing problem once and for all. She started buying some iron sheets in every month.

After four months she had accumulated enough to construct a two bed roomed house. When the family members realized her efforts they decided to assist her construct the two bed roomed house with poles and also acquired roofing timber for her. In June 2010, the house was roofed with iron sheets. Kanze reported this to her fellow SHG members who came to assist her making the mud walls. Kanze is now living happily in her new house which she says she got it from Lamukani SHG. See photos below:



The Ambassador in her new attire



The Sub Chief (an SHG member) addresses the crowd



This is Kanze Mramba a member of Lamukani SHG outside her hut. After joining SHG in July 2009 Kanze's vision was to construct a reasonable house for herself.

Case study 6: 'CLAs raising awareness on disability'

The CLAs in Kisikii division (Catholic Diocese of Machakos project area) have been actively involved in raising awareness on disability in their communities. They have also identified a number of disabled children and are in the process of setting up a small home at Kisiiki primary school to cater for these children. In addition, the CLA members have been mobilizing community members to make bricks to build a dormitory for the children some of who have to travel long distances to make it to the school. They have also approached the area MP and ministry of Education for assistance. Already the ministry has seconded 3 teachers to cater for these children and they have pledged to provide more support to them in future.



This is Kanze Mramba outside her new house which she managed to construct after taking loans from Lamukani SHG and engaged herself into business ventures which enabled her purchase iron sheets for this house.

Case Study 7: 'Courageous SHG taking action on gender-based violence and child abuse'

Al-Noor SHG that is based in Pumwani, Nairobi is known for its vigilance on issues concerning GBV and child abuse. Recently the group confronted the local Chief on the issue of insecurity which they felt was not being addressed effectively. People were constantly mugged in the neighbourhood and cases of children being defiled were common. After their meeting with the Chief, action was taken and security was beefed up resulting in reduced cases of mugging and defilement. In a related case, one of the SHG member's child was defiled and the assailant was set free after bribing his way out. The women demonstrated against this and the man was re-arrested. The women have been working closely with a Human rights group in the area called Kamunkunji Human Rights Defenders (KHRD) to ensure that justice is served.

Case Study 8: 'SHG Member able to return her child to school'

Sidi Karisa is a member of Lamukani SHG in Malindi. She has seven children; four out of the seven are still in school. Among those who are in school, Fatuma Karisa is the youngest. She is eight (8) years old. At her age she is supposed to be in class 3. However due to lack of school fees at Nursery school she has been dropping out of school for sometimes and as a result, Fatuma is still in KG 3. When her mother joined SHG in July 2009, her main problem was Fatuma who had dropped from Nursery School due to school fees and uniform. In November 2009, Sidi Karisa (mother) took a loan of ksh 1,000 to pay the outstanding school fees of Ksh 600 for Fatuma. The balance of Ksh 400 she used it to buy fish and sell within the village. In April 2010, she took another loan of Ksh 1,000 to buy school uniforms for Fatuma. Fatuma Karisa is now continuing well in her KG 3 class and it is expected that she will join standard one class next year 2011.



This is Sidi Karisa, a member of Lamukani SHG from Kata Village with her daughter- Fatuma Karisa in her new school uniform within the school compound. Sidi Karisa took a loan to pay fees for Fatuma and buy her school uniform. Fatuma had stayed at home for one year without going to school due to lack of fees.