



Amplifying the rights, voice and agency of indigenous pastoralist women

www.pastoralwomenscouncil.org



Outline of Presentation

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About Pastoral Women's Council

www.pastoralwomen.org



Who we are

- Pastoral Women's Council (PWC) is a women-led, proximate, membership organisation with solidarity at its core, consisting of over 6,500 indigenous women from three districts of northern Tanzania.
- 25 years ago, ten Maasai women met under a sacred *Osiki* tree in a remote village in Ngorongoro district. They wanted the next generation of Maasai women to have control over their lives and to influence community advancement.
- They also wanted to provide a platform for indigenous women to openly discuss challenges facing them and identify solutions to transform the deeply ingrained patriarchal culture that fosters multiple layers of marginalization of indigenous pastoralist women and girls.



The problem

Challenges faced by indigenous pastoralist communities



Indigenous Pastoralists in northern Tanzania face **historical and present challenges** resulting in lack of basic services, high levels of poverty, and exclusion from policy and decision making

Climate change has had significant impact in the northern semi-arid and arid districts of Tanzania which are inhabited by indigenous, pastoralist, agro-pastoralist, and hunter-gatherer communities

Climate change presents **threats to the pastoralist way of life** and food security. Rangelands on which pastoralists are dependent are threatened by agricultural expansion, charcoal making, mining activities, wildlife and tourism initiatives

Additionally, there are **other challenges** including high levels of poverty; limited access to essential services such as health care, quality education, electricity, roads, clean water and sanitation.

The challenges for indigenous pastoralist women



Pastoralist women and girls face the same challenges as other members of their community, and more...

The patriarchal norms deny women basic rights such as education, and foster dependence on the men

They have limited access to productive resources and limited opportunities to engage in alternative climate resilient livelihood activities

Women are traditionally not included in decision making on key issues in their homes and communities

Social norms and practices such as - early and forced marriage, and unequal care burden make the lives of pastoralist women and girls ones of hardship and toil



Our solution



Our solution

- For the past 25 years, PWC has supported pastoralist women and girls in northern Tanzania to:
 - Claim their rights
 - Have economic autonomy
 - Access quality and inclusive education
 - Improve their health
 - Access clean drinking water
 - Build their resilience and adaptation to climate change

Our focus



Our **women's rights and leadership initiatives** focus on enhancing women's ability to define and act on goals, make decisions that matter to them, participate in the economy and decision making

Our **economic empowerment initiatives** enable women to become self-reliant and to take control over their own development through participation in income generating activities

Our **education initiatives** enhance access to safe, quality, inclusive education for pastoralist girls

Our **health initiatives** facilitate access to essential reproductive health services and improved hygiene and sanitation

Our **water initiatives** facilitate access to clean water for community and livestock thus reducing the burden on women and girls

Our **climate change initiatives** support communities to put in place action plans to enhance their resilience and ability to adapt to the effects of climate change



Enhancing Indigenous pastoralist women's leadership in community climate action

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Women's leadership in climate action

- PWC supports pastoralist women to enhance their leadership qualities in WRLFs and enables them to participate in local decision making forums. These platforms empower women by helping them to identify problems and seek solutions and implement them.
- Their engagement in the WRLFs enhances their ability to claim their rights and achieve equality as decision-makers within pastoralist societies.
- We build the capacity of the women's right and leadership forums link them to the local decision making platforms, village councils including the water committees, land use committees and climate action planning committees
- We support women to form savings and microfinance groups and explore climate resilient alternative income generating activities



Evidence of impact

Women's economic empowerment

- We currently have 710 **active womens microfinance & savings groups** known as VICOBA
- Formal establishment of Engishon Microfinance which provides accessible loans for businesses
- Extensive awareness raising on climate-smart income-generating opportunities
- Established **6 Women Solidarity Bomas** with a total of 1140 livestock supporting 581 women in 6 villages
- Established **48 adult literacy classes** benefiting enabling 1291 pastoralist women to acquire basic literacy to run their business



Climate change resilience and adaptation

- 27 pastoralist villages developed **action plans** and submitted them to the District government to increase responsiveness towards citizens' priorities
- 22 Deep water boreholes and dams
- 40 women trained on making of **energy saving cooking stoves**
- Emanyata schools thriving farm provides **nutritious food** for students teachers and the surrounding community
- Installation of 45 Rain water harvest tanks
- Support women in the development of grass seed banks, for land restoration and for income generation activities



Climate change resilience and adaptation – Grass Seed Bank Intervention



Climate change resilience and adaptation





APPROACHES

- The approaches applied was innovative, especially on the construction of saving energy stoves since the material used for the construction were locally available (stones, sand. cow dung,) and enable every one on the ground to make use of it.
- The approaches we used were adoptive, especially on the Rain water harvest techniques (eg installation of Rain water harvest tanks)
- Unique climate change intervention – Grass seed bank, that women can do land restoration and earn income from it, through selling of grass seeds.



This award

- We thank you GCA for this award, which will strengthen indigenous pastoralist women's leadership capabilities, ensure that more women are included in community action planning committees to support efforts to manage the adverse effects of climate change.
- PWC will provide leadership training to 50 climate change adaptation women champions, train 5 women's groups on establishment of grass seed beds and rain water harvesting techniques



To learn more about our work and impact

Email: pwctanzania@gmail.com

Our socials:

- LinkedIn:
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/pastoralwomenscouncil>
- Facebook: @pastoralwomenscouncil
- YouTube: Pastoral Women's Council Tanzania
- Twitter: @PWCTanzania



Ashe Naleng!
Thank you