Priority Issues and Challenges for Rural Women in the context of Women's Land and Property Rights By: Violet Shivutse

Representing

GROOTS KENYA

and

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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

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 palegalism 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

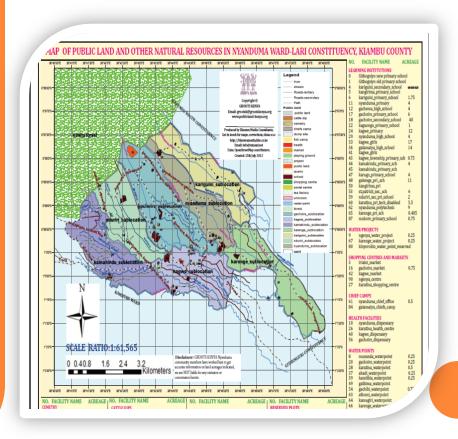
SAFEGUARDING PUBLIC LAND TOWARDS AND RURAL WOMEN 'S ACCESS TO QUALITY AND ADEQUATE BASIC SERVICES

Puplic land grabbing also affects Rural Women Development.

Through the organized groups of Rural Women they map Public land including forests and Water Gatchment areas.

The information is shared by community to ensure the areas are protected from land grabbers often big developers.

A sample of Mapped Public Land by Grassroots women



Gont; 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 implimentation of laws that adress discrimination in Rural Communities .
- Lack of measures to diseminate 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 forRural 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

CONT.

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

