



**GENDER RESPONSIVE ALTERNATIVES FOR ADAPTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

## GENDER RESPONSIVE ALTERNATIVES FOR ADAPTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT AT A GLANCE.

ActionAid Kenya (AAK) is a non-partisan, non-religious development organisation that has been working in Kenya since 1972 to end poverty and injustices. ActionAid Kenya is among the leading anti-poverty agencies in Kenya having presence in 16 counties working directly with over one million people living in poverty and exclusion. We are un-apologetic in advancing Women's Rights and ensuring that Women Living in Poverty and Exclusion are at the centre of our work. AAK commits to working with women, children and youth living in poverty and exclusion to claim and realise their constitutional rights through three main pillars of Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA); empowerment, solidarity and campaigning.

ActionAid Kenya in partnership with ActionAid Australia has been implementing the Gender Responsive Alternatives for Adaptation to Climate Change. Funded by the DFAT Gender Action Platform and Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) in Baringo County, Tangelbei local rights Programme since 2017 now in the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase. The project is being implemented in Kenya, Vanuatu and Cambodia and included ActionAid in all these countries, AA International, Huairou Commission and Monash University Gender Peace and Security Unit. Research conducted by Monash University developed a Gender Responsive framework to guide the project's implementation with four main pillars.

### VALUE WOMEN'S KNOWLEDGE.

Many studies show a small but consistent gender gap in environmental views and climate change opinions. Typically, women are more likely than men to be concerned about the environment and have stronger pro-climate opinions and beliefs. Specialists have recommended several explanations for this gender gap, including differences in gender socialization and resulting value systems (e.g. altruism, compassion).

### SUPPORT WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION.

Women's meaningful and equal participation at different levels, from climate policy making to implementing community adaptation initiatives, has shown to yield more effective results for the climate, poverty and inequality reduction and is essential for gender responsive policies that reflect the priorities of women themselves.

### RECOGNISE WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE ACTION.

Women should adapt to current and future climate change hazards like floods, drought, unreliability of rainfall, pests and diseases, strong winds etc, such changes can disrupt the continuance of the systems of responsibilities that their communities rely on self consciously for living lives closely connected to mother earth. Within this realm of change, women should take seriously the responsibilities that they may perceive they have collectively as members of their communities. For the women who have such outlooks, responsibilities that they assume in their communities expose them to harms stemming from climate change impacts and other environmental changes. Yet at the same time, their commitment to these responsibilities motivates them to take on leadership positions in efforts at climate change adaptation and mitigation.

## WORK TO ADDRESS UNEQUAL GENDER NORMS.

Transforming negative gender norms: Emerging research indicates that vulnerabilities related to climate change and its impacts on communities are gendered (Babugura, 2010; Dankelman et al., 2008) Yet, nearly all policies aimed at developing and strengthening the adaptive capacity of local communities, fail to recognize the gendered nature of everyday realities and experiences (Alston, 2013; Terry, 2009), hence either completely overlook or incorrectly formulate gender issues in policy development (Arora-Jonsson, 2014). They typically portray women as vulnerable, weak, poor and socially isolated, rather than seeing them as negotiating and dealing regularly with different kinds of change in their lives (Okali & Naess, 2013). Men are virtually invisible from much of this discourse, and if at all mentioned, their absence from the locality is only seen as enhancing women's vulnerability to risks and stresses.

The project is aimed at strengthening women's capacity in resilience building, strengthening women led protection mechanisms, modelling community climate resilient livelihood systems and engaging duty bearers on the sectors mentioned above with Baringo County Government and the national government.

Objectives of the project;

- Women and institutions have enhanced capacity and systems for sustainable livelihoods and climate change adaptation including the recognition and documentation of their own knowledge.
- Women and their organisations obtain resources, make decisions and claim spaces by transforming institutions including protection plans.
- Women take collective action to influence policy and planning at local, national and global levels.



On 8th March, 2022 the GRACC project facilitated and supported 800 women in commemorating the International Women's Day. Reiterating the fundamental inalienable human rights to spread the message of gender equality and work together in making a better society where there is no gender bias. The theme for the year was - Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow.

Recognizing that climate Change is a cross cutting development issue that has great impacts on women, girls and people living with disability on various perspectives including but not limited to agriculture (crop and livestock), water, health social protection, environment, education peace and security. The impacts of climate change impacts are visible and felt by everyone and to greater extent for people living in poverty and exclusion. In Baringo County, Kenya.

The celebrations aimed to create awareness on climate change and demand for accountability on climate change demand charter on actions by the government to cushion communities from the adverse effects of climate change.

Data across the globe demonstrates that we cannot separate climate change, social equity without gender equality. Women and girls are at the edge of climate crisis. This has magnified existing gender inequalities and puts women's livelihoods at a greater risk. Diminishing natural resources that provide food, water and fuel for cooking.

Acknowledging that women and girls bear the burden of climate impacts, they are at the forefront leading and driving change in climate adaption, mitigation and solutions. For a sustainable planet and a gender equal world tomorrow will be realized.



*Marking the International Women's Day*

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*Quotes by the women of tangulbei*

*My name is anastacia plilan  
A tangulbei resident  
I am a mom and i am married  
I have 11 children in my home  
I gave birth to 8 and adopted 3  
all of them are in school  
I am a climate change activist  
We have participated in climate change  
dialogues  
Actionaid has facilitated us to dialogue with  
our county government  
And tabled to them our grievances for them to  
care about climate change  
Because it affects the whole world  
But some places are affected more than  
others  
In baringo county, especially in tiaty,  
We are affected the most  
Because we are pastoralists  
And insecurity happens here the most  
When you research, these insecurities  
Are caused by climate change*

*My name is cheman totuan  
I am 30 years old  
I have eight children  
I have been depressed for a while now  
After losing all my belongings  
And suffering from uncertainties after  
displacement  
Due to clashes  
Climate change has impacted our farming  
negatively  
Because there is a sharp increase in pests and  
diseases  
There is also inadequate rainfall,  
that results to poor harvests  
I used to be a productive farmer in mukutani  
Now i just take odd jobs and stay idle when  
there are no jobs  
I am not the only survivor of climate change  
The whole community here in tangulbei has  
been adversely affected  
All the other displaced women were  
productive farmers too*



*Now all of us can barely put food on the table*

*My name is mary kiptur  
I am 42 years old  
We have experienced inadequate rainfall here  
We planted our seeds but none of them  
sprouted  
Others barely grew  
Now we do not have food  
We have been adversely affected  
Even when i try to fetch water, i can barely  
carry a big jerrycan  
Even when others request for firewood,  
i cannot carry such a load too  
I can barely do much because of my leg  
Sometimes i go to the market to make  
chapatis  
But because there is no money, people do not  
even buy those chapatis  
Then i stay home and sleep, even on market  
days  
That is why i save even 100 when i get it  
Other days i have nothing  
Other days i lack money even to buy chapati  
ingredients.*

*My name is jane cheruto kolel  
As a person with disability,  
this persistent drought has adversely affected  
my life  
It has been difficult to put food on my table  
Because of my limited movements  
I cannot walk for long distances  
To fend for myself like other people  
Before i was trained by actionaid,  
i would stay home and babysit my siblings'  
children  
In return, they would buy food and clothes for  
me  
Having disabilities during draught is  
extremely challenging  
For example, during clashes,  
my relatives and friends leave me behind and  
run away to safety  
Leaving me behind  
They only remember me and come back when  
the war subsides*



*Just because of my limited mobility  
I am treated as an afterthought even in  
adversities  
I pay people to fetch firewood and water for  
me  
The little money that is left,  
i cater for my daily bread*

*My name is josephine kapkoyo  
A tangulbei resident  
I have 8 children  
3 boys and 5 girls  
I am a businesswoman  
Right now, i am dressmaking, repairs,  
when i get materials, i design clothes.  
I have vast experience in this line of work  
We have not experienced consistent rainfall  
For almost three years  
When we plant, our plants dry,  
our animals die  
We now have a drought and hunger  
challenge  
We planted a large shamba and everything  
dried,  
then the rain trickled in for a short while  
Women from far and wide come here to beg  
on the corridors  
They will come in a few hours to beg  
Our animals are so thin, we can barely sell  
them  
We gathered as women and organized a walk  
So that we can be helped  
The district commissioner was not around,  
then he came  
And we picketed to get even a meal as women  
for our families*

*I joined actionaid properly in 2020  
In the past, i would just see women going and  
never understand  
After a few seminars in different locations  
Actionaid propelled my knowledge  
We were taught many things we did not know  
before  
When we learned, we would teach other  
women  
We would call others to come with us for*



*more seminars  
We have learned a lot of things  
Most of the women we have introduced to  
these seminars  
Were stuck in fgm,  
but now they are enlightened and their homes  
are now organized  
We learned how to plant our shambas and  
own beehives  
And rare chicken  
We sell our eggs, when our chickens are  
many, we sell them  
We harvest our honey  
We sell it, and get income  
Even our children have good uniforms  
We do not lack food,  
even when our children need basic things  
We do not wait on our husbands  
When the village saving loan association,  
(vslo) came,  
We became rich.  
We started saving,  
actionaid taught us how to save  
In our group, we save from ksh 200-ksh 1000  
Depending on a woman's ability.  
We save and get loans to farm, to buy  
animals,  
to pay fees, when our children are kicked out  
of school,  
we get ksh 20,000 as loan, pay fees and relax  
as we pay slowly.  
When you are done paying, you can get  
another loan.  
We now have small kitchen gardens and food,  
we are not too stressed out.*

*My name is abigael limaruk  
From tangulbei  
Since i started going for actionaid seminars, i  
have gone very far.  
I am grateful because there is a time we went  
to tanzania  
Last year in november 2021  
To learn about resource mobilization  
We learned how we can use the resources we  
have,  
without outsourcing, to benefit ourselves*







# TANGULBEI

## BARINGO COUNTY

### WEATHER PATTERNS ARE NOT PREDICTABLE ANYMORE.

Chepnarewo Lokiryal, 54 From Tangulbei In Takaryakales Village.

Understanding, predicting and anticipating changes in weather and other climatic variables is very important for rural pastoral communities, whose livelihoods rely directly on weather and climate conditions. Consistent weather is not a luxury any Baringo County resident has enjoyed, with drought overtaking the months that would rain and sometimes flood.

In order to cope and adapt to weather changes, Chepnarewo Lokiryal, a 54-year-old, from Tangulbei in Baringo County, notes how her ancestors would predict the weather in olden days, a practice she benefited from in the past, but now has it turned into a tale.

“I had mastered all weather signs in the past, predicting when the rainy season would start around March, but nowadays, predicting the weather is not possible because there is no rain at all in our area,” narrates Chepnarewo, who acknowledges that in the past months, there have been adverse weather changes that have led to the death of her livestock and people during resource conflict in Baringo county.

In the past, Chepnarewo’s indigenous weather forecasting would help her and her community know when to plant and to harvest, successfully feeding their families and caring for their animals and a pastoralist community. Now, with the persistent dry season, she has lost her animals, remaining with just five from a total of forty goats. She also planted all her seeds in the hope of a bumper harvest but the rainy season never came as predicted, leading her to incur heavy losses. Chepnarewo notes that she has not received any help from the county or central government, in form of aid or food for her and her children.

“We are confused! We expected the rain to come, but then rain comes in the months when there used to be no rain. So right now, we are predicting that the drought will go on for a long time, but we are also not sure,” laments Chepnarewo.

She has learned a lot from the GRACC project implemented by ActionAid, who, through their interventions challenged her to transform her source of livelihood from brewing and selling local alcohol and to focus on planting vegetables and feeding her family. “I just have my children, a lot of education from ActionAid and hope that it will rain soon so that I can go back to farming, taking good care of my family and fending for my eight children,” says Chepnarewo.

Through the GRACC project she acquired education and knowledge that has cushioned her from the adverse effects of climate change that have seen extended dry and barren spells. Regardless of the challenges that are evident, there is hope and a bright future that Chepnarewo believes in, thanks to ActionAid.



A woman with dark skin and braided hair is sitting on the ground in a dry, rocky landscape. She is wearing a white t-shirt with a red 'GUCCI' logo and a colorful patterned skirt. She has a sad expression on her face. The background shows dry vegetation and hills.

# CHEMAN TOTWAN

RESIDENT KITAILEM

## THE CLASHES DEPRESSED ME.

Chemán Totwán.

In the outskirts of Tanguibe, a mother is in distress. There is a look of fear and desperation on her face, her occasional smile notwithstanding. She had to abandon her home after a series of attacks by bandits in Mukutani, in Baringo County rendered her and her neighbors homeless and in solitude.

Chemán Totwán, 33, a mother of 8 children, 4 boys and 4 girls can barely gather her thoughts as she crouches on the bare land in Napeikore, the new location she calls home. She is desperate for someone to listen to her story.

“My thoughts are sinking me, I feel Depressed,” narrates Chemán, as she remembers all the property, she had lost in Mukutani. But ActionAid, through the Gender Responsive Alternatives to Climate Change Project funded by Australian Aid has given her a chance to recover slowly from this darkness and appreciates that the sun is gradually shining on her, as she can rebuild back better and leave what she had lost in the past. Chemán was a member of the Village Saving Loans Association in her previous abode, but the clashes scattered her and her group members, leaving them disoriented. She, however, regrouped and quickly joined ActionAid’s interventions where she has learned how to plant and maintain her small kitchen garden in partnership with her new neighbors. However, that too, was soon trampled over by the persistent drought that has engulfed this locality for nearly three years.

“Climate change has affected our farms in the same magnitude as the clashes. The rain barely came and the animals ravaged our farms,” she narrates. She has lost a lot of livestock to clashes and the remaining are starving, due to drought, and lack of water.

Chemán recounts how in the past, rain would come without fail, but now life had turned sour with not even a drop for months at a time. “Life is now hard! In Mukutani before the clashes, there was maize in our shamba, which was our bread basket, I was a farmer, but now I just sit at home consumed by my thoughts especially at night,” narrates Chemán as she buries her head in her hands. She has attempted to sell what remains of her herd but lack of grass and vegetation has led her animals to be lean, with the cows she used to sell for Ksh 20,000 now retailing at a meager Ksh 5,000, and a goat barely fetching Ksh. 1,000.

However, Chemán has a lot to be thankful for. She is excited about the peace she now enjoys.

I was trained on early warning signs, “as a woman, I have learned to look for a peaceful place for my children and I and to avoid conflict, so that I can fight for my own personal development,” narrates Chemán, as she remembers how ActionAid has educated her on how to spot a good location to build a home, away from rolling stones, predators and floods.

Chemán has united with her new neighbors in Tanguibe and planted beans and Kale, despite persistent water challenges leveraging on agroecology designs.

I am grateful for the peace I have got living in this place where there are no clashes and now all I have to recover from, are the thoughts and the fear that was instilled in me during the clashes.



# ABIGAIL LIMARUK

R E S I D E N T   T A N G U L B E I



## YOU DO NOT WISH TO BE HERE WITH NO RAIN.

Abigail Limaruk, 29 Years.

Like many young women in her age bracket in Kenya, Abigail Limaruk successfully finished her studies in community development and failed to secure a job. For a long period of time, the mother of two biological and three adopted children was desperate to put her knowledge to the test away from being a housewife. Her curiosity would land her in a VSLA group in 2021 with women from all walks of life.

She was shocked to learn that she could cultivate maize even in the harsh semiarid conditions and actually get a good harvest. She also learned to collect and preserve seeds and propagate seedlings from fruits such as pawpaw that her family consumed at home that supplemented their diet. Her mature pawpaw trees are visible at different corners of her home with a kitchen garden thriving at a corner on the left of her home, safely protected from the livestock that roams her homestead.

“When the dry season starts, all the trees shed their leaves and you do not wish to live here as the scorching sun batters the landscape. We fetch water very far and everything is dirty because there is no water. Even our children have no clean water to drink. We do not even wish to host our friends because of the level of disorder and desperation we have from lack of water,” says Abigail, who quickly walks away to prepare tea in her kitchen. She is eager to transform her traditional Jiko to an energy saving, eco-friendly jiko, after ActionAid taught her about the adverse effects of smoke on her eyesight, disadvantages of smoke on her respiratory track and dangers of open fires and her hands in old age. “Our traditional jikos have too much smoke that ruins our eyesight. It also gives us women allergies, or when we are older our hands become too dry because of this smoke,” says Abigail.

Abigail has also been lucky to be a part of a team of women that traveled to Tanzania to learn about resource mobilization. She now appreciates and repurposes what she already has at home to better her sustainable agricultural practices in her garden. “We also learned how to form groups, write a proposals and search for funds and grants to push for our preferred agenda, which would elevate us women away from desperation to independence,” states Abigail.

Abigail and other women from Tangulbei, acknowledge the unwarranted suffering they endure during adverse climatic conditions, but are slowly learning about proper water harvesting when it rains, so that the water can help them during the lengthy dry seasons. “The lucky ones have water tanks, because they can harvest the water and save it for the dry season. We will get there too one day,” says Abigail.





**MY EDUCATED CHILDREN ARE LEARNING FROM MY KITCHEN GARDEN.**

Martha James, Karyon Village, 50 Years, 8 Children, 2 Girls And 6 Boys.

Martha James, is slowly gravitating away from depending solely on livestock as her source of her livelihood. She has fenced a small piece of land away from her homestead under that scorching sun, but protected by the trees she has taken care of for a few years and planted a kitchen garden. The mother of 8 is not shy to give her visitors a tour of her leafy farm, that she embraced after an informative learning visit to a food forest gained from ActionAid through the GRACC project together with other women from her locality.

“The ActionAid trip was very informative in teaching us how to use animal manure. I was very excited that when I came back, I taught 25 members of our Village Saving Loan Association how to farm like I had seen,” states Martha, as she vividly recounts her journey and her experiences in a farm that was self-sufficient in an area that was as arid as her home area in Tangelbei.

“Long before ActionAid enlightened us, we would use chemicals in our shamba in order for us to get more yields, but since we got this education, we no longer rely on those dangerous chemicals in our shambas,” said Martha.

She takes her time to teach her sons and daughters proper farming methods noting that despite their higher levels of education, compared to her, they did not have this informative knowledge to tackle weather changes. “I depend on my children when they come from school to help me plough this land and water the plants with me, but when they are away, I work in this shamba by myself.” Martha says, acknowledging her happiness when she sees her community change as a result of her education. More people in her area have embraced her newly found sustainable farming techniques, despite extreme water shortages.

Martha’s shamba has a constant supply of green vegetables that she enjoys with her family, she however faces extreme water shortages, resulting to buying a few jerrycans of water daily and rationally watering her plants. She has innovatively recycled used water bottles as a drip irrigation method to avoid wasting too much water ensuring a constant supply of vegetables at her kitchen garden. Previously I would irrigate my vegetables daily. Now I only refill the water bottles once every three weeks hence have time to focus on other things. All the plants with the bottles never wither unlike the plants on dry soil.

“My prayers are that ActionAid never tires from educating women like me on how to make our lives better, because they are already impacting us in more ways than we could ever imagine. If there is any well-wisher who would help us get a good source of water or storage tanks to water our plants, we would be grateful,” says Martha.





WOMEN IN NAPEIKORE, BARINGO COUNTY





# CHEPTEI KAMBI

R E S I D E N T   T A N G U L B E I

## MY FARM IS MY IDENTITY.

By Cheptei Kambi, 27 Years Old From Komolyon, A Mother Of 4 Girls, And 1 Boy.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, I did not have a regular job to feed my family. I would occasionally sell sugar and flour, but this business was not profitable due to several other women doing the same business, so I stopped. In 2020, in the heat of the pandemic, I was targeted for an ActionAid training, where we learned on how to run a successful kitchen garden through agroecology techniques. After evaluating my failed business, I decided to take a leap of faith and put my newly acquired skills to the test, by starting a small kitchen garden. I ploughed a small piece of land and planted kale for my own consumption. I would water my small garden using buckets and cans. The yields were astonishing and now I desperately desired to expand.

I had so much hope, that I borrowed a loan of Kshs. 5000 from my brother, used Kshs. 3000 to clear a large section of land and saved Kshs. 2000 to buy seeds. I also borrowed a generator from my friend, who had seen how determined I was, and now I have piping and a generator that I use to water my plants until I can buy my own.

When I wake up in the morning, I start by watering my plants, sometimes we spend most of our time chasing away wild the animals, but it is worth it, because we have enough vegetables to consume at home and a lot to sell. We sell Ksh. 600 per day and on good days as high as Ksh. 800. Our greatest challenge is the high fuel prices because of how much the generator consumes. That is where most of our profits go. My plants are not watered right now and they are slightly weathered because I do not have money to buy fuel for the generator, but I am hopeful to water them tomorrow or the day after.

The second challenge is the monkeys and hippos that feed on my vegetables at night, but that does not deter me from farming. I spend my days here and my husband watches the farm at night. I am however lucky because I have water from the lake and a lot of education from ActionAid. We were taught how to prepare a seedbed, and dig holes to avoid water wastage, how to water our seedbeds for three weeks and transplant them to our farms.

When I make money, I save it in the VSLA group where I am a member. Many women come and marvel on my shamba, they want to start, at least six have started and are now bordering my shamba after learning from me and I am proud to see them start and succeed. A few other members want to farm as a group a few, miles away from me. I am determined to grow my own food forest like we saw during the learning visit that does not have any chemicals or fertilizers. I would love to have my farm full of food at all times, even in the dry season like we are experiencing right now.

My biggest challenge is that I might lose this generator because it does not belong to me. If I would get a helping hand to buy a generator, I would be happy to keep on farming relentlessly. We would appreciate if ActionAid kept on teaching us until we learn how to farm on larger tracks of land and how to get water to those farms. My dream is to have a large successful farm because this farm is all I have and this is where I want to be because it is my new identity.





# CHEPKALES KAMBI

RESIDENT CHURO

## I HAVE HAPPILY EMBRACED RECYCLING AND REAFFORESTATION.

Chepkales Kambi.

A walk through Chepkales Kambi's home presents anyone with a site to behold. She has consistently planted trees throughout her home and welcomes the ActionAid team for a tour. She remembers vividly her first ActionAid meeting in Tangelbei and the consecutive capacity building sessions she attended, where she grasped the many lessons, they were taught. She started planting trees in her compound with no water source in sight. She used her water in jerrycans sparingly to care for her seedlings in a quest for a cool breeze that she now enjoys.

"I realized trees were beneficial and my family started planting trees slowly. People soon saw the changes that were happening in my home and started sourcing for seedlings from me," recalls Chepkales, a mother of 11 children from Churo. Now when the drought is persistent in Tangelbei, she has learned that one of its main causes is deforestation, so she continues to plant more and more trees in the hope that they will pull more rain for future generations in her village.

Chepkales remembers her recent learning experience courtesy of ActionAid, in company of other women from Tangelbei, that has inspired her to preserve her seeds after harvest in preparation for a good planting season without buying from the agrovet. "We were also taught to shun fertilizers and chemicals on our farms and to embrace animal manure for our plants which is readily available here," recounts Chepkales, who has learned and appreciated the food forest she saw and now wishes to start and run her own.

Due to the high cost of plastic bags, Chepkales was determined to repurpose all the plastic bottles and plant her seedlings in them. "When I learned from ActionAid and realized I did not have plastic bags or money to buy to propagate my seedlings, my brain was rejuvenated and I collected bottles that were aimlessly damped and reused them instead of plastic bags," recalls Chepkales, who now collects bottles on the road and takes them home to recycle. She has successfully reaped from the benefits of reforestation and selling the surplus seedlings to her friends for Ksh.50 each.

Chepkales has taught five of her friends on how to plant more trees but is targeting to teach more women on the importance of reforestation. "I want to teach them on how to preserve their seeds and appreciate their soils as a giver of life," says Chepkales, who acknowledges that long time ago, the weather was a little different and consistent in her village. When her children were younger, there was a lot of rainfall. She would even plant potatoes and maize and sometimes rain would even be too much, causing erosion. Now there is no rain at all.

She has, however, endeavored to collect pebbles, arranged them on her farm in anticipation for long rains, so that when it rains, her farm will not be eroded anymore.

"I would just appreciate if we got a close source and storage of water especially in the dry season to water our plants, because this would change my life forever," she says.

Water is not the only challenge she faces. She has also lost sections of her plants to wild animals, consequently repurposing old utensils to make noise when it is windy and keep the hyenas and underground moles away. She has also planted Marigolds around her farm, that bloom, producing orange flowers that act as a repellent for pests and insects that would otherwise devour her kitchen garden.





# MARY KIPTUR

P W D ,  
RESIDENT MURNYANG'AI

## PERSPECTIVES OF A WOMAN WITH DISABILITY IN THE WAKE OF CLIMATE CHANGE – DROUGHT ACCOUNT

By Mary Kiptur, 42 Years, 5 Children, 3 Girls And 2 Boys (PWD) From Murnyang'ai Village.

Pastoralist societies in Kenya are increasingly excluded and vulnerable as a result of climate change and conflict. In these already marginalized societies, such as Baringo, pastoralist women with disabilities are further excluded, leading to increased vulnerability, inequality and dependency. Mary Kiptur, a 42-year-old mother of five, recounts her experiences since the drought started.

My biggest challenge as a woman with disability is my inability to carry a load of firewood for sale or even carry a jerrycan of water to my house. I have to pay people to do that for me. Because of my limitations, I have become accustomed to skipping meals, staying hopeful for dinner but even that is not guaranteed. I hear there are moneys intended for women like me, as an allocation in the county government but I have never received any money from any government.

ActionAid, however, has taught me for approximately three years but these great lessons have been deterred by these harsh climatic conditions, and my physical inability to execute them. They even took it a step further and took us for a learning visit, learning how to preserve our seeds. I enjoyed all these lessons and appreciated the idea of a kitchen garden the most but then how do I start it in this drought when I can hardly draw water and carry it on my back to water our plants? All in all, I appreciate every effort ActionAid is investing in women like me because I can see changes in my life. I am so confident when I talk in front of people nowadays, because I have learned how to advocate for myself.

I have also enjoyed the VSLA and embraced saving, but then I have nothing to save right now, because I am just a small-scale cook, who waits for market days to cook chapatis. During harsh conditions, no one eats the chapatis because people do not have money to spend, so I stay home, there is no money in circulation and I can feel the effects.

To this end, I would appreciate an alternative method that would help people with disability like me with ways to adhere and adapt to extreme climatic conditions.

Someone needs to listen to us as we present our grievances about this calamity. We would appreciate projects that adapt to pastoralists like me, such as livestock and chicken, although they also suffer when the conditions are this harsh.

We need as much knowhow as we can get on how to save, invest and spend better in preparation for harsh times like these. And envision a better future by cultivating better practices that protect global climate.





**JANE  
CHERUTO  
KOLEL**

**P W D ,  
RESIDENT NANG'ARWA**

## **I AM INDEPENDENT THANKS TO THE GRACC PROJECT.**

*By Jane Cheruto Kolel.*

As a woman with disability, I face more challenges especially in adverse weather conditions. That was very limiting in the past, but now I am more independent when I make a little money from selling my vegetables.

I used to be a caregiver for my brothers' children who would give me food and clothes in return. That was very confining but not the greatest challenge I have experienced. My biggest challenge, as a woman with disability, came during the recurrent clashes when my family abandoned me in the heat of the attacks due to my inability to run. They were gone for a long while, only coming back to check on me when the war subsided. All these clashes are as a result of extreme weather changes, and as a pastoral community, we are bound to disagree on the limited pasture for our animals.

ActionAid has given me a chance to be independent and I am grateful for that.

We had a great chance to travel for a learning visit and learn about food forests, favorable farming methods for semi-arid areas. The one special thing I learned from all these experiences in the diversity of trainings we have attended is that as a person with disability, I can be independent too and earn a living without waiting upon my relatives and friends.

I learnt about women leadership, and the roles our elected leaders play in society. I learnt to ask for accountability without fear since it is my right. I appreciate that I gained skills on how women can unite and air our grievances to the immediate chain of command in our locality starting from our area Member of County Assembly or even our ward administrator.

Through this education and as a VSLA village agent trainer, I have impacted other 15 women, including five people with disabilities like me. I have taught members from my village in Nang'arwa, who have been empowered enough to start their own kitchen gardens and run small businesses.

ActionAid through the GRACC project has changed my life because I have learned to stop using fertilizers and chemicals on my farm and to use our kitchen waste on my shamba for healthier and organic produce. I am excited to reuse my kitchen water on my farm because I do not have to pay anyone in order for me to reuse my water, it saves the environment and contributes towards saving our planet.



*In our farming, we learned that we can  
prepare our shambas  
And have a kitchen garden to plant and we  
can eventually save them  
We learned about energy saving jiko.  
We learned that any time when we use an  
ordinary jiko  
We consume too much firewood and the  
smoke billows too much!  
I have not modified my jiko yet, but i am on  
the process  
Our traditional jikos have too much smoke  
that ruins our eyesight  
It also gives us women allergies,  
or when we are older our hands become too  
dry  
Because of this smoke  
So, we have benefited very much as women  
from these seminars as women*

*My name is chepkales kambi  
I have 11 children, 5 girls and 6 boys  
I went for an actionaid seminar a while back  
in tangulbei  
We grasped what they taught us faithfully.  
I realized it was beneficial and we started  
planting trees slowly  
Some people have benefited from our  
seedlings  
They take the seedlings and plant them  
We were taught not to put fertilizer and  
chemicals on our farms  
To embrace animal manure for our plants  
When i learned from actionaid  
And realized i did not have plastic bags or  
money to buy  
To propagate my seedlings  
My brain was rejuvenated and i collected  
bottles  
That were aimlessly damped  
And reused them instead of plastic bags  
I used them and my seedlings grew  
They have grown all the seedlings you have  
seen  
In the shamba  
I have used these plastic bottles for long  
I have realized they are good*

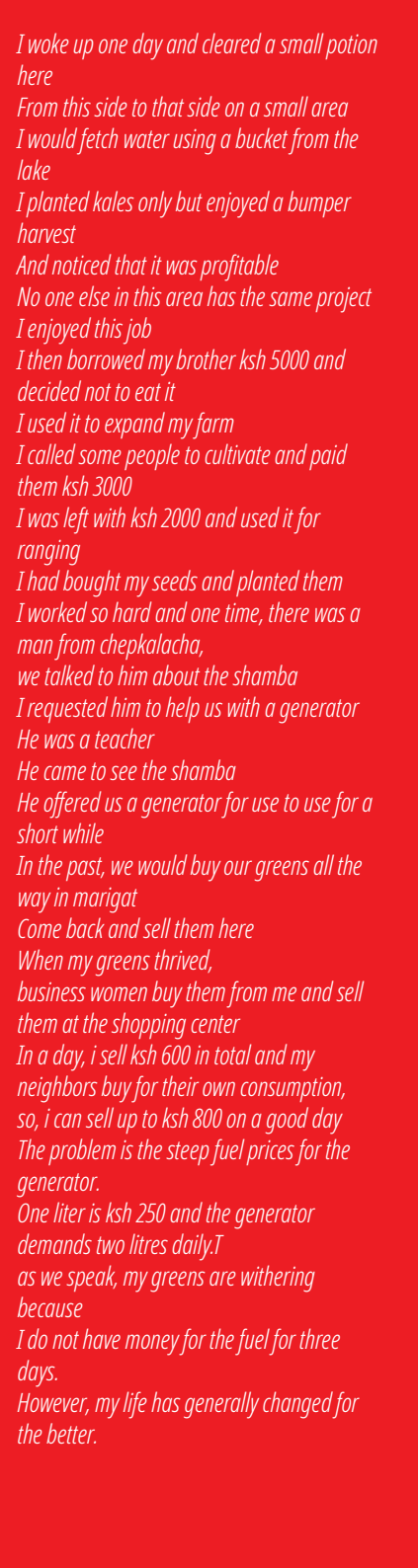


*So, when i see them on the road, i collect them  
And bring them home to plant my trees with  
them  
My name is dorkas lesirkoi  
I am 35 years old  
I have six children  
Va of our vsla group  
We were targeted by the actionaid team to  
train us on saving as individuals  
For example, if you have a small business  
You can save a little money weekly  
We have trained each other in the group  
Everyone saves according to our individual  
abilities.  
We save and give each other loans  
One member of the group takes home our  
savings this week,  
they use the money to uplift their businesses  
The next week another member takes home  
the savings  
We have developed and the group has  
uplifted us as women  
I personally used to save ksh 200 to ksh 600  
Some days when i push myself, i save ksh  
1000 and hid it in the group  
At the end of the year when we divided the  
money,  
I had saved a total of ksh 61, 000 which  
helped me a lot.  
For this reason, i am eternally grateful to  
actionaid*

*My name is cheptei kambi,  
i am 27 years old  
I did not have a regular job.  
I would sell sugar and flour, here and there.  
But many people were also selling the same  
We were called for an actionaid seminar  
And went to tangulbei where we were taught  
vigorously  
We went back to learn some more in  
september  
About kitchen gardens and how to get  
something to eat  
I decided to start a small kitchen garden  
That can provide me with greens to feed my  
family*



*I woke up one day and cleared a small portion  
here  
From this side to that side on a small area  
I would fetch water using a bucket from the  
lake  
I planted kales only but enjoyed a bumper  
harvest  
And noticed that it was profitable  
No one else in this area has the same project  
I enjoyed this job  
I then borrowed my brother ksh 5000 and  
decided not to eat it  
I used it to expand my farm  
I called some people to cultivate and paid  
them ksh 3000  
I was left with ksh 2000 and used it for  
ranging  
I had bought my seeds and planted them  
I worked so hard and one time, there was a  
man from chepkalacha,  
we talked to him about the shamba  
I requested him to help us with a generator  
He was a teacher  
He came to see the shamba  
He offered us a generator for use to use for a  
short while  
In the past, we would buy our greens all the  
way in marigat  
Come back and sell them here  
When my greens thrived,  
business women buy them from me and sell  
them at the shopping center  
In a day, i sell ksh 600 in total and my  
neighbors buy for their own consumption,  
so, i can sell up to ksh 800 on a good day  
The problem is the steep fuel prices for the  
generator.  
One liter is ksh 250 and the generator  
demands two litres daily.T  
as we speak, my greens are withering  
because  
I do not have money for the fuel for three  
days.  
However, my life has generally changed for  
the better.*

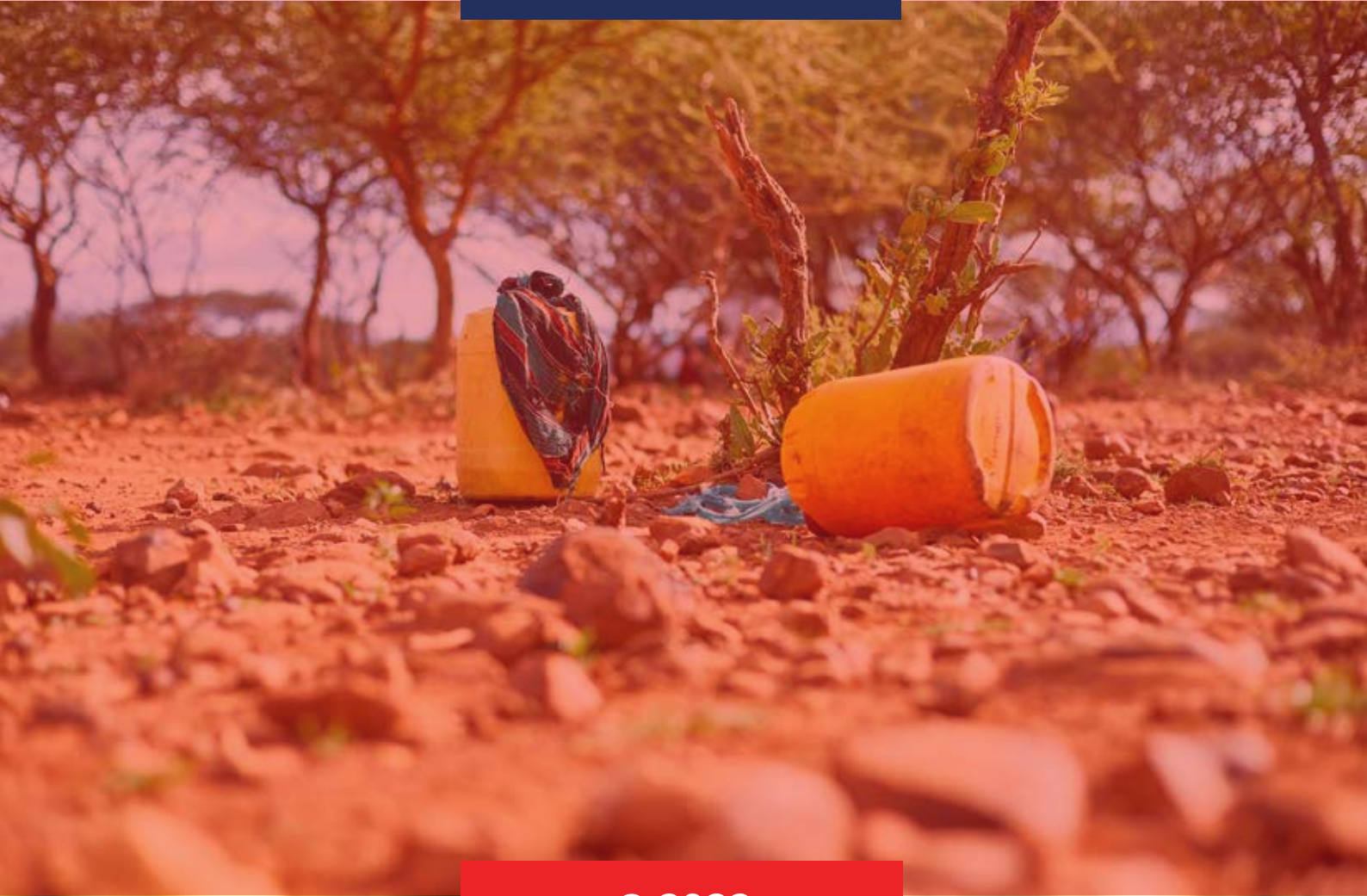


*Because I can sell my greens and buy flour  
and sugar and save some money  
And eat some greens at home  
I do not lack basic meals right now like in the  
past*





**Australian  
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