



Workshop Report: Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change among Loima Rural Women Groups in Turkana County



November 2023

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Introduction

Pragmatic Social Action, a non-profit organization dedicated to sustainable development, organized a one-day workshop in Turkana County aimed at addressing the pressing issue of climate change adaptation and resilience building among rural women groups in the Loima region. The workshop aimed to provide a platform for knowledge sharing, capacity building, and fostering community-led initiatives to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. 200 rural women, and girls and the elderly attended.



Objectives

1. To raise awareness about the impacts of climate change on rural communities, particularly women.
2. To facilitate discussions on strategies for building resilience and adapting to climate change.
3. To empower women groups with practical skills and knowledge to implement climate-resilient practices.
4. To foster networking and collaboration among various stakeholders for sustainable development initiatives.

Workshop Agenda

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM: Registration and Welcome

Participants arrived and were registered for the workshop. Welcome remarks were given by the Ms Pauline Simiyu, the executive director, Dan Erot, who represented the Board. The two emphasized the importance of the workshop and the role of women in climate change adaptation.

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM: Ice-breaking Session

An ice-breaking session was conducted by John Ebenyo, who acted as the MC. He aimed at creating a conducive atmosphere for interaction and participation among participants. This session encouraged introductions and sharing of personal experiences related to climate change.

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM: Understanding Climate Change

A presentation on the science of climate change was delivered by Ms Ann Tek, an expert in environmental studies. The session covered topics such as greenhouse gas emissions, global warming, and the local implications of climate change in Turkana County.

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM: Impacts of Climate Change on Rural Communities

Participants engaged in group discussions to identify and prioritize the various impacts of climate change on their communities. Key issues discussed included drought, erratic rainfall patterns, food insecurity, water scarcity, and conflicts over natural resources.



11:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Building Resilience Strategies

Experts in sustainable agriculture, water management, and disaster preparedness shared best practices and strategies for building resilience to climate change. Participants learned about drought-resistant crops, water harvesting techniques, soil conservation methods, and community-based early warning systems.

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM: Lunch Break

A networking lunch was provided, allowing participants to interact with each other and exchange ideas informally.

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM: Practical Skills Training

Hands-on training sessions were conducted on various topics, including organic farming, solar-powered irrigation systems, and small-scale renewable energy technologies. Participants had the opportunity to learn practical skills that they could apply in their communities to adapt to climate change.

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM: Community Action Planning

Participants were divided into groups based on their geographic locations and interests. Each group developed a community action plan outlining specific activities and interventions to address climate change challenges in their respective areas. Emphasis was placed on the importance of community ownership and sustainability of the proposed initiatives.

4:30 PM - 5:00 PM: Closing Ceremony

The workshop concluded with a closing ceremony, during which participants shared their reflections and feedback on the day's activities. Certificates of participation were awarded, and commitments were made to continue working together towards building resilience and adapting to climate change.

Outcomes and Recommendations

The workshop was successful in achieving its objectives of raising awareness, building capacity, and fostering community-led action on climate change adaptation. Participants gained valuable knowledge and skills that they can apply in their daily lives and community development efforts. However, sustaining the momentum generated by the workshop will require ongoing support and collaboration from all stakeholders.

Recommendations for future actions include;

Continued support for women's empowerment and participation in decision-making processes related to climate change adaptation.

Scaling up of successful interventions, such as drought-resistant agriculture and water management practices, through partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, and private sector organizations.

Strengthening of community-based monitoring and early warning systems to improve preparedness and response to climate-related disasters.

Integration of climate change adaptation into local development plans and policies to ensure long-term resilience and sustainability.

Conclusion

The workshop served as a catalyst for collective action towards building resilience and adapting to climate change in Turkana County. By empowering rural women groups with knowledge, skills, and resources, we can create a more sustainable and resilient future for generations to come.



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