



Kenya NGO Earth Summit 2002 Forum

WOMEN AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*A REPORT ON CIVIL SOCIETY REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
AGENDA 21 IN KENYA*

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ACRONYMS

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| CEDAW | —Convention of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women |
| CCGG | ___ Consultative Centre for Gender and Governance |
| DFID | ___ Department For International Development |
| FGM | ___ Female Genital Mutilation |
| FIDA | ___ International Federation For Women Lawyers |
| FPAK | ___ Family Planning Association of Kenya |
| FAWE | ___ Forum for African Women Educationists |
| ITDG | ___ Intermediate Technology Development Group |
| KWFT | ___ Kenya Women Finance Trust |
| KMTC | ___ Kenya Medical Training College |
| LRF | ___ Legal Resources Foundation |
| MOH | ___ Ministry of Health |
| MOEST | ___ Ministry of Education Science and Technology |
| NCKK | ___ National Council of Churches of Kenya |
| NCPD | ___ National Council for Population and Development |
| NGOs | ___ Non Governmental Organisations |
| NCWK | ___ National Council Of Women of Kenya |
| NASCOP | ___ National AIDS and STDs Control Programme |
| PFP | ___ Partnership For Productivity |
| PATH | ___ Program on Appropriate Technology in Health |
| SEDI | ___ Small Enterprises Development Agency |
| TOT | ___ Training Of Trainers |
| VDC | ___ Village Development Committee |
| WRAP | ___ Women Rights Awareness Program |
| WEDI | ___ Women Enterprise Development Institute |

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Content

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21: WOMEN INSUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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|---|--|--|---|--|
| <p>Power & Decision Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women make over 50% of national population but are poorly represented in positions of power. • Make majority of voters. • Very few in the judiciary. • Few women are elected as councillors in local authorities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrust more women with power and authority. • Support women for political leadership • Promote and highlight women's leadership capabilities. • Foster unity and greater coordination between women's and government agencies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First woman appointed cabinet in 1995. • In 1999 first appointment Provincial Commissioner. • In 1997, women accounted for 5.7% of the total candidature from 4.6% in 1969 • In 1998, 5 (42%) out of 12 nominated members of parliament were women • Increase in representation in the Judicial Service Commission (25.9% in 1994 to 30.6% in 1998) • Increase in women Permanent Secretaries (4.1% in 1992 to 13.3% in 1998) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low level of political awareness. • Inhibitive socio-cultural practices. • Gender insensitive procedures involved in the registration of women as members of cooperative societies. • Polarization of women. • High levels of illiteracy among women. • Economic dependence. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster unity and greater coordination in women • Dissemination of gender information nationwide • Alliance and coalition building with men. • Political parties to highlight women's leadership abilities. • Affirmative action in nomination of women to key positions • |

| ISSUE (Pre-Rio Era) | GOALS (National) | ACHIEVEMENTS (Post Rio) | CONSTRAINTS (Post Rio) | WAY FORWARD (to WSSD) |
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| <p>Human Rights of Women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenya's Constitution guarantees fundamental rights and freedom to all her citizens, reaffirms the principle of equality before the law and prohibits discrimination. • Operative and very influential customary legal norms continue to relegate women to an inferior legal status. • Kenya ratified CEDAW in 1984 and subscribed fully to the NFLS. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To safe guard the rights of every citizen irrespective of gender, creed, ethnic background, educational level, political ideology or on any ground. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1993, the Government appoints a Task Force to review the existing laws, regulations, practices, customs and policies that impose constraints in equal enjoyment of rights by women. • National Beijing Platform for Action has been prepared and is in use. • Domestication of CEDAW is on going. • Children's Bill has been passed. • FGM legally banned for all girls less than 18 years. • CEDAW document translated into Swahili. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disjointed delivery of civic education • Slow implementation of the statutes • Illiteracy • Conflicts between government and NGOs. • Massive corruption in the Judiciary • Lack of resources • Absolute poverty. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensured equality and non-discrimination under law and practice • CEDAW should be fully implemented. • Legal literacy should be promoted among all the citizens. • AG must work to purge the Judiciary. • Implement the recommendations of the Task Force for review of laws affecting women. |

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| <p>Violence against Women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1966; the commission on the law of marriage and divorce was set up, which proposed a Bill that was intended to criminalize wife beating. • Parliament considered wife beating as domestic noting that the state should not be seen to intrude open the domestic affairs of its citizens. • An education oriented campaign to address the issue of violence against women started in 1985. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To take measures to eliminate and prevent violence against women. • To evaluate the effectiveness of measures used to curb violence against women. • To adopt and review legislation to ensure its effectiveness in eliminating violence against women. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign against all forms of violence. • NGOs dealing with violence against women have been registered. • Government and NGOs, has set up 2 pilot women police units to respond to domestic violence • Campaigns against FGM by NGOs and religious organisations • FGM has been banned under children’s Bill of 2000 • Domestication of international conventions is in progress. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient funds • Poor coordination among stakeholders • Traditional practices in some communities • Attitude • Failure to report cases of domestic violence • Legal illiteracy • Absolute poverty • Poor record keeping by police • Slow implementation of recommendations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of Integrated violence eradication measures • Assess the causes and consequences of violence against women. • Work out strategies of sensitizing the police and health authorities on ways that may be used to collect information on violence. |

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| <p>Education and Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The attainment of equity and individual development through education have been major goal of the education system since independence,. • The Ominde Education Commission –1964, the Ndegwa Commission -1971 reiterated these goals but did not mention gender parity • Participation rates by gender at preschool level: 51% for boys and 49% for girls. • Illiteracy rates is higher in women • About 49% of schools offering access to females • Girls in primary schools are about 49% • Admissions of women for arts subjects than in science courses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To attain gender parity in education • To boost enrolment and completion rates for both boys and girls • To minimise wastage due to dropouts and repetition of classes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of NGOs to promote education for women • 1996, enactment of a policy to allow the reentry of pregnant and nurturant mothers in the school • Affirmative action in admission of women in public universities • School feeding programme and provision of other necessities • Since 1995, enrolment in primary schools has grown by 6.9%. • Enrolment in secondary schools increased by 10% (1995 to 1998) • 1998, 40% enrolment of women students in Technical Training Institutes • Trained women teachers for primary schools have increased from 39.9% to 42.1%. • Adult literacy classes have been dominated by women. • Intensification of gender awareness campaigns | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no specific policy to promote education of girls and women • Education of girls and women is not highly valued • Heavy domestic workload on girls and women. • FGM and early marriages. • Limited bursaries • Absolute poverty affecting girls education • Higher cost of education. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls should be accorded adequate educational opportunities. • Gender responsive education should be provided. • Cost of education need to be reduced. • Achieve gender parity in enrolment, retention, quality and achievement at all levels of education. |

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| <p>Poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prevalence of poverty, has posed a big development challenge to the government. • Absolute poverty in the rural areas has remained constant at 47% since 1982 • The 1994 National Participatory Poverty Assessment noted that 78.5% of female-headed households were poor compared to 58.8% of male-headed households. • Poverty in female-headed households is due to illiteracy, negative cultural attitudes and practises, lack of production resources. • Introduction of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) aggravated poverty amongst women. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review and maintain economic policies and development strategies that addresses the needs and efforts of women and poverty. • To revise laws and administrative practises to emphasize equal access to productive resources to both men and women. • To develop gender based methodologies and conduct research to address the feminisation deprivation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs have put in place various projects. The aim is to give women access to credit. • The MFIs train women on meaningful income generating activities (IGAs). • Development of a gender responsive National Poverty Eradication Plan. • There has been a review of laws relating to ownership and access to productive resources. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of adequate resources for national coverage. • Poor coordination due to lack of networks between the MFIs. • Civil instability in some parts of the country has forced some NGOs to withdraw their projects. • The leaders have been preoccupied with politics of power at the expense of addressing the poverty issue. • Harsh weather leading to crop failures and death of livestock. • Slow progress in finalizing legislations to protect women against discrimination in property ownership. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support institutions that provide credit to women. • Review, adopt and maintain policies that address the needs and efforts of women and poverty. • Coordination of all parties involved in development. Reviewing laws relating to ownership and access to productive resources • Gender Impact Assessments should precede introduction of new economic policies. • Maintenance of peace and stability • Collection, compilation and production of gender disaggregated poverty data. • Sensitize legal firms and institutions to provide free or low cost legal services. |

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| <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand of health services has continued to widen but the supply is low. • Life expectancy for the females had risen up to 49.8 to 63.2 years. • Infant mortality dropped from 126 per 1000 live births in 1962 to 104 in 1979. • Women and children under five years of age constitute about 70% of all the out patient visitors. • About 56.6% of all deliveries occur at although 80% of all the expectant mothers visit antenatal clinics. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce morbidity, mortality and fertility; • To promote primary health care. • To increase access to health care services and encourage private sector to play a bigger role in the delivery and financing of health care services. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on promotive and not curative health services • Immunisation coverage has risen to 70% from under 40% at independence. • Sessional Paper No.4 on HIV/AIDS control has been developed. • FGM has been legally banned • National Plan of Action for elimination of FGM (1999-2019) has been developed. • Provincial administration is empowered to stop forced marriages and take the “child bride” back to school. • HIV/AIDS awareness levels have gone up to over 95% in the country. • Introduction of HIV/AIDS education in the curriculum. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of health facilities are in appalling conditions • In some hospitals, privacy of patients of both gender are not observed. • Staffing problems (overstaffing of the low cadre and deficit in professional staff) • Concentration of personnel in the urban areas • Experienced staff are leaving the public sector for the private service • Absolute poverty • Strong cultural traditions still favour large families. • Superstitions on use of contraceptives. • Religions that teach total abstinence from contraceptives. • A high level of illiteracy amongst women. • An increased incidence of teenage pregnancies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family planning campaigns • Implementation of the recommendations of the poverty reduction strategy plan • Promote education of women. • Public information and education for attitude change towards FGM. • Government to enforce the law banning FGM. • NGOs that have been promoting alternative forms of initiation should replicate these projects in all areas where FGM is rampant. • FGM practitioners should be taught on the implications on the lives of women and girls. • The gender focal point in the Ministry of Health should be strengthened • Research findings on various health issues should be widely disseminated |

| ISSUE (Pre-Rio Era) | GOALS (National) | ACHIEVEMENTS (Post Rio) | CONSTRAINTS (Post Rio) | WAY FORWARD (to WSSD) |
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| <p>Natural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies • Women afflicted more by environmental degradation. • Scarce representation of women in policy formulation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve more women in policymaking bodies. • Tap women's knowledge in resource management. • Educate women on environmental issues. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental awareness in women has been raised. • Women adopting efficient energy technologies. • Participation in afforestation projects. • Representations in key policy making organs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taboos hindering women from participating in some activities. • Insecurity of tenure • High illiteracy levels. • Few women in institutions training environmental issues. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affirmative action for women to be nominated in environmental policy making institutions. • Increase women enrolments in institutions dealing with natural resources education and training. |

| ISSUE (Pre-Rio Era) | GOALS (National) | ACHIEVEMENTS (Post Rio) | CONSTRAINTS (Post Rio) | WAY FORWARD (to WSSD) |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <p>HIV/AIDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIDS has become a severe health problem in Kenya • About 2.0 million adults and 90000 children have contracted HIV/AIDS. • HIV /AIDS among women and men is estimated to be in the ratio of 1:1. • Women become infected at younger ages than men reflecting the biological and social vulnerability of teenage women. • HIV/AIDS epidemic imposes heavier burden on women in their role as providers of care in the family and community. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce infection rates among entire population and especially the youth. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women organizations are playing a major role in assisting aids victims. • Awareness levels have grown to over 95 % in the entire country. • Formation of the National AIDS Control Council to expedite AIDS control activities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty amongst women is appalling hence they cannot afford life prolonging anti retroviral therapy. • Grinding poverty is also a major factor in pushing young girls and women into commercial sex • Deep rooted cultural practises which encourage multiple sexual partners • Superstitions that attribute HIV/AIDS to sorcery and witchcraft. • Persistence of widow inheritance in areas hardest hit by the scourge • A suicidal attitude amongst a large cross section of Kenyans • The way HIV/AIDS messages have been passed to the public in the past misrepresented the facts about HIV/AIDS. • Lack of testing and counselling centres especially in the rural areas. • Fallacy that young | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV/AIDS awareness campaign should change strategy. • Advocacy for drug firms to cut down prices of anti retroviral drugs • Education campaigns against risk enhancing cultural practises • Establishment of voluntary testing and counselling centres. • Home based care for those in the final phases of the disease . • A law for compulsory HIV/AIDS test for those contemplating legal marriage • Decentralization of training workshops and seminars • To maintain periodic updates on the AIDS • Empower women economically |

Introduction

Kenya has been conscious of international gender developments since independence. She has participated in international and regional conferences on gender issues. Further, various policy documents, national laws and plans have been formulated articulating the need for gender equity. Kenya is a signatory of various conventions and ratified the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1984.

UN General Assembly proclaimed 1975 International Women's Year and first World Conference on Women was held the same year in Mexico. Governments were urged to establish national mechanisms for advancement of women. In 1976, the Women's Bureau was established as the national machinery for the integration of women in development. The functions of the Bureau, according to the Cabinet Memorandum 78 (b) include; Policy formulation, implementation and evaluation; Co-ordination of all government initiatives and programmes for women; Collection and analysis of data and information required for the design, monitoring and evaluation of policies and projects for women; and support to and liaison with NGOs projects and women's organisations. This mandate is a reflection of government's commitment to the advancement of women.

Over the years the women's bureau has undertaken a number of activities in an attempt to ensure gender responsive policy formulation and implementation of programmes. Some of the activities include the development of training manual for sensitisation of stakeholders on gender issues; strengthening the capacity of women groups for Socio economic development; establishment of a gender desegregated database; developing and disseminating the national action plan for implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform For Action; and participating in the Task Force set up by the government for the review of laws relating to women.

The Second World Conference on Women was held in Copenhagen in 1980 and Kenya participated. Regionally, Kenya participated in women conferences held in Rabat, Morocco, (1979); Nouakchott, Mauritania,(1977); Lusaka, Zambia (1979); Arusha, Tanzania, (1984); and Abuja(1989). Resolutions from these conferences have greatly shaped Kenya's planning for women affairs. In 1988, Women's Bureau initiated the formulation of a National Gender and Development Policy.

In development planning, planners have remained conscious of gender issues. This is reflected in various development plans, which have made direct reference to women. They include the 1974/78, 1979/83,1984/88, 1989/93 and 1994/96. Central role of women in development was also recognised by the National Food policy (1984).

NGOs have been very useful instrumental in championing the cause of women in Kenya. They have continued to network with regional and international women organisations to chart out ways of how best the Kenya women situation would be improved,

By the time the UN Conference on Environment and Development was hosted in Rio in 1992, tremendous progress had already been made in many areas of concern to women.

The UNCED in 1992 affirmed women's critical contributions to environmental management and to sustainable development. Principle 20 of the Rio Declaration states, "Women have a vital role in environmental management and development." Their full participation is therefore essential to achieving sustainable development.

To ensure the full and equal participation of women in sustainable development, agenda 21 that emphasises the role of women in sustainable development proposed a number of objectives. See Annex I. Among the objectives was the implementation of Nairobi Looking forward strategies. See Annex II

The women-environment-sustainable development nexus gained attention when it became evident that the twin crises in development and ecology were closely linked. women recognised as a "major group" whose involvement was of necessity a must to stem down the rising tide of environmental degradation .the chemical and radioactive contamination of soils, air, and water, loss of biodiversity, depletion of resources and deforestation pose local and global problems which increasingly stake the very survival of human kind.

The linkage between women, environment and sustainable development is now increasingly acknowledged and understood. Women are perceived as a vital part of the solution to the crisis as environmental managers. Women have many of the specific skills and possess the knowledge that is essential to take care of the environment.

In 1995, Kenya participated in the Fourth World Conference in Women in Beijing. Kenya adopted and domesticated the Platform For Action immediately after the conference. While domesticating the PFA, all critical areas of concern were retained. This was mainly because various initiatives were already being undertaken by governmental and non-governmental organisations.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN KENYA; POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Women's Bureau

Since independence the Kenya government has demonstrated concern for the welfare special needs of women. This concern culminated to the establishment of the Women's Bureau in the Ministry of Culture and Social Services in 1976 as the national machinery for the advancement for women. This was an acknowledgement of women as a population category with special needs that require particular attention. Women's Bureau role was complemented by, the Community Based nutrition programme implementing strategies that were aimed at strengthening the roles of women within the family with particular attention to the status and welfare of young children (RoK1996)

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Over the years the Women's Bureau has undertaken a number of activities in an attempt to ensure gender responsive policy formulation and implementation of programmes. Some of the activities include the development of training manual for sensitisation of stakeholders on gender issues; strengthening the capacity of women groups for socio economic development; establishment of a gender disaggregated database; developing and disseminating the national action plan for implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; and participating in the task force set up by the government for the review of laws relating to women.

Other government ministries special units that were aimed at addressing women issues and subsequently gender concerns in their respective sectors. The Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development had a department of women's education that was essentially a home economics unit. This unit has been transformed into a gender focal point and has launched a task force that has formulated an action plan for mainstreaming gender in the education sector. The Ministry of Health addresses concerns through the primary healthcare programme. It also has a network of maternal child health and family planning (MCH/FP). Other line ministries have set focal points geared towards mainstreaming gender issues in their programmes and policies.

The national policy on gender and development.

In the past there lacked an explicit policy on women's development in Kenya. However, a few sectoral policies and some development plans have acknowledged the enormous contribution of women in national development. Some have also highlighted the constraints that hinder women's participation. The Fourth Development Plan 1979-83 highlighted the contribution of women in the agricultural sector while the fifth development plan 1984-88 addressed itself to the disadvantaged situation of women by pointing out the inequalities in modern sector employment and by identifying women as a "special target" category in agriculture and health. Other policy documents that make reference to the importance of women's participation include the national food policy (1981) and the population policy (1984).

To rectify this anomaly the government of Kenya has formulated the national policy on gender and development. It provides the basis for the government to underscore its commitment to advancing the status of women. The government's policy as contained in various documents such as the 1994-96 National Development Plan is to have women's desks in all government ministries.

WOMEN IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

STATUS

- By 1992, the government had adopted and was in the process of implementing the Nairobi Forward looking strategies with regard to women's participation in national ecosystem management and control of environmental degradation.
- Women in rural areas are affected more by environmental problems than their male counterparts. This is because their lives are closely linked to the environment for basic life necessities such as water, firewood and food.

- Urban centres plagued by environmental problems which affect women than men.
- Women sidelined at all levels of policy formulation and decision making in environmental management.

National Goals

- To involve women on policy and decision making on environmental management and protection
- Increase women's knowledge on environmental management through training in environmental related courses.
- To tap women's indigenous knowledge which can provide a base for successful conservation projects.
- To intensify public education campaigns, supporting and promoting women's conservation efforts by creating an enabling environment.
- To provide gender desegregated data in dealing with environmental issues
- To carryout action oriented research to find out the impacts of environmental degradation on women.

Agriculture, land use and food security

Kenya is basically an agricultural country with agriculture contributing a quarter of the total GDP annually.80% of the population lives in the rural areas where agriculture is the mainstay. Over 50% of Kenya's working population are engaged in subsistence farming, of these 64%are women. (R o k 2000).

Achievements

- Research on knowledge and experience on the part of women in agricultural management carried out in the year 2000 and published by the women's bureau.
- Various projects and programmes aimed at raising the level of women's environmental awareness initiated by women organisations.
- Women are involved in afforestation programmes
- As a result of KIOF's initiatives, a substantial number of women small-scale farmers have been able to increase their food production capabilities.
- Support activities for slum women inclusive of environmental awareness have been launched by NGOs such as WIDEN.
- Level of women's awareness in environmental issues has increased in the past decade.
- Kenyan women continue to participate in forums which discuss environment and related issues e.g. the Global Assembly which was held in 1991 in Miami and the Kenya National Assembly , Women and Environment Partners in life which was held in Kisumu in 1993.
- Adoption of energy saving technologies such as the Maendeleo Jiko by Maendeleo ya Wanawake Organisation and the fireless cookers.

Constraints.

Number of women attending training programmes in environmental related courses still remains very low compared to their male counterparts.

Women land ownership constrained by legal regimes which confer land title deeds to male heads of families. This bars women from making long-term environmental investments on such land.

Grinding poverty has forced women to resort to unsustainable livelihoods such as using crop residues as fuel. It also bars them from adopting appropriate technologies such as use of planners and policy makers to recognise the role of women in environmental management.

Women scarcely represented in environment policy making bodies

Taboos hindering women from participating in some environmentally friendly activities e.g. tree planting by women is prohibited amongst the Luhya.

Insecurity of tenure. In most cases, land is registered under the male heads of the households. As a result, women do not own the land they cultivate.

Lack of collateral to assist in acquisition of credit. Lending institutions demand collateral from those prospecting for credit. Women farmers are often edged out since land in most cases is not registered under them.

Lack of access to farmers' extension and training services

Preference to cash crops as opposed to food crops.

Indigenous knowledge spurned.

Lack of control over farm produce

Way forward

a). Land ownership

Where land is being registered, women's share to their share of land during their husband's life and after his death should be acknowledged and protected. Even where communal tenure exists, women's rights should be acknowledged.

b). Credit

Greater support should be given to women's groups as vehicles of credit to women farmers.

Awareness raising is needed so as to enlighten women on the existing credit facilities.

This way, women will be able to utilise these facilities to their advantage.

Co-operatives and other agricultural oriented lending institutions should re-examine their policies with the aim of orienting activities towards benefiting women farmers.

c). Integration of indigenous knowledge into the modern farming systems

To conserve the environment while increasing food production, utilisation of traditional knowledge can be adopted.

d). Protection of domestic agriculture

The government should put in place deliberate mechanisms to protect farmers from unfair competition with cheaper food imports.

Water and Sanitation

Importance of water as a natural resource in the lives of individuals, communities and nations cannot be overemphasised. An adequate supply of clean water is the most important precondition for sustaining life, maintaining ecosystems and achieving sustainable development of the water resources on earth, only 2.5% of the total surface is fresh water. Kenya is among the 20 top African countries struggling to balance declining per capital water supplies with demands of rapidly rising populations (Bulajic et al 1994). Kenya's water supplies services are provided primarily through 330 gazetted (public) water sources, which account for 80% of the served population countrywide. The rest of the population is supplied by non-gazetted schemes.

In Kenya women are the main collectors and users of water. In their attempt to ensure cleanliness, they have become water managers (Khasiani 1992 ed). Women have learnt to collect water from various sources depending on the quality and its uses.

Achievements

- Handover water management to private companies for instance in Nyeri municipality.
- Water projects have been initiated especially in the arid and semiarid areas. This has reduced the distances women travel in search of water and increase the time they spend on the same.
- The government has released the Ministry of Water Resources” national water policy”. This is supposed to guide the nation in efficient utilisation of this vital resource.

Constraints

- The national water policy does not mention gender or gender roles at all in water resource management.
- Currently, out of 142,000 gazetted urban areas in Kenya, only 30% have sewerage system. (NDP 1997-2001). This usually impacts negatively on women.

Way Forward

- Besides the need for adequate water supplies for domestic and agricultural and industrial uses there’s a need for properly organised and efficient system of sanitation.
- Thus there’s need to review the current approaches to water resources development and management.

Forestry

Of late, forests have come under intense pressure from various quarters, which have threatened to render this nation “forest less”. Intense pressure has been from population growth as it has increased the demand for food. More and more forests are being cut to pave way for more and more agricultural land to feed the increased mouths. Shrinking agricultural land in the densely populated districts has been in some instances eased by people moving on to virgin forests to farm or set up settlements.

Illegal logging is another threat to the forests in Kenya. Loggers have laid large forest tracts bare. The worst affected trees are the prized but slow growing hardwoods such as camphor. Even exotic plantations have been logged without commensurate re-afforestation.

Charcoal burning and bhang growing present grave threat to natural forests in Kenya. Hundreds of acres of natural forest have been destroyed by illegal charcoal burners and cannabis merchants. Bhang plantations have been discovered in Mt Kenya forest.

Excisions proposed by the government will serve to break the camels back if implemented. A whopping 167000 hectares of natural forest will go if the citizenry does

not rise up and say no to forest destruction. This will accentuate water shortage in the country accounting for the fact that Kenya is already listed as one of the African countries which will be water thirsty come the year 2025.

Loss of forests will have far reaching consequences on women .For one they are the main collectors of firewood. They have been relying on the forests to collect dead wood to meet their energy needs. Forests have also been a source of food supplement where they have been gathering fruits and vegetables. Fodder for livestock will also be lost with forest destruction.

Little wonder then women has been at the forefront of promoting afforestation and fighting against forest destruction whether singly or in established groups. For instance women manage many roadside nurseries. They have also been keen on adopting energy saving technologies, which will eventually lead to saving on trees.

Achievements

- The Greenbelt Movement was originally formed by the national council of women in Kenya but now operating independently has promoted the foundation of hundreds of women group nurseries mostly located in the high potential and, marginal zones in Kenya.
- Maendeleo Ya wanawake Organisation.(M.Y.W.O). has been promoting women initiatives in forest conservation. The Women and Energy Project was launched in as part of the Special Energy Programme.
- M.Y.W.O has promoted the use of the energy saving stove through self-help activities at the local level. This has translated directly to conservation of trees and forests.
- The Kenya Wood Fuel Development Programme (K.W.D.P) worked towards developing a self-sustaining system of tree planting to contribute to fuel wood supplies in Kakamega, Kisii and Murang'a districts.

Constraints

- Several social-cultural constraints to women's participation in tree planting. They include:
 - a) Differences between women's and men's access to, and control of household resources, including land and trees.
 - b) The division of labour and responsibilities between men and women.
 - c) Myths or social taboos that women's behaviour.
 - d) The role of tree at the household level.

Way Forward

- Raising awareness on fuel wood issues as a community issue facing both women and men, and needing the participation of both to solve.
- Increase women's participation in planting trees by promoting multi-purpose "fuel wood species" which are relatively fast growing and do not yet have cash values, and are not subject to cultural taboos.
- Encourage subject to national legislation and consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the effective protection and use of the knowledge, innovations and practice of women of indigenous and local communities.
- Increase access of women to the planted trees for their fuel wood needs.

- Increased promotion of the development of energy saving jikos that are accessible and affordable to all women.
- Increased participation of women in energy related training programmes, workshops, seminars and exhibitions with particular focus on women at grassroots level.
- Increased networking among women and women organisations with energy as a common interest area.

Sustainable Human Settlements

Environmental management is needed in all settlements to provide water, protect public spaces, remove wastes and protect air and water quality. Women have been at the core of improving settlements both in the rural land and urban areas .In Kenya, women's shelter problems in both rural and urban areas, remain largely unearthed and have not been dealt with at the policy level until recently. The role of women's groups in dealing with their housing problems, has been likewise been given inadequate attention. (Lee-smith Diana (ed) 1999).

Achievements

- Women in central Kenya have organised themselves for better shelter. See Annex Case study of Mabati women group.

Recycling of garbage by women in Kangemi and Kayole in Nairobi. The project was proposed to empower women economically by sustaining and training them to collect garbage, recycle it and sell the product for an income and keep the environment clean.

Constraints

Lack of financial ability plus free time to start activities, such as making building materials.

Tenure insecurity especially where women are settled in informal settlements. Women suffer greatly incase such lands are grabbed and their shacks are demolished.

The patriarchal nature of the Kenyan society offers more opportunities to men. For instance, land is mostly registered under the male household heads.

Heavy workload which leave women with little or no time at all to look into other issues such as solid wastes management. This leaves garbage to accumulate near the settlements posing serious health risks to the inhabitants.

Even where women are involved in production of building materials as in the case of Kabiro women group, the output is so low that they are unable to compete effectively with established firms producing blocks in larger quantities.

Inadequate skills, which affects the quality of building materials produced by women groups. This makes their product uncompetitive.

Lack of portable water especially in the slums. This forces women meet their water needs by fetching water from burst sewers and other unconventional sources such as puddles.

Way Forward

In new housing developments and where possible in existing developments, a serviced site should be made available for women's' group production area.

Women's groups should be offered services of qualified professionals such as industrial engineers, to assist them improve their outputs and productivity.

Donors should assist women groups involved in shelter improvement. This can be done financially or in kind. For instance, groups making blocks manually can be supplied with block making machines so that they can increase their output and improve the quality for competitiveness.

Identify and support loan schemes, which will cater for the specific needs of the poor. Ensure inclusion of women in boards and committees associated with housing development

More research should be undertaken into low-cost shelter development and ensure women's access to such housing.

The existing housing schemes should continually be upgraded.

All forms of discrimination based on gender in shelter provision should be eliminated.

Women, Decision Making and Governance

Status

- Women make more than half of the total population and comprise of a large voting population.
- Women inadequately represented in strategic decision making institutions
- Men have dominated decision-making which women are relegated to kitchen and limited decision making at household level.

Despite women's major participation as voters, their number in parliament has continued to remain low.

- More women concentrated in low cadre in the civil service remain much less than that of men. In 1992 women constituted a mere 3.5% of members of parliament.
- Not many women have been nominated into the parliament since 1969
- Very few women have continued to be elected as councillors. In 1992 they constituted only 2.7% of the elected councillors.
- They have been fewer women in the Judiciary than men.
- In 1992, the total number of ambassadors appointed to serve in Kenya mission abroad was thirty-two. Out of these, 3.1% were women.
- Permanent secretaries, only 6.1% were women.

National Goals

- ◆ To entrust more women with power and authority
- ◆ To support as many women as possible for political leadership
- ◆ To promote and highlight women's leadership capabilities.
- ◆ To foster unity and greater co-ordination between women's groups as well as government agencies in pressing for women empowerment and protection

Achievements

- ◆ First woman appointment to cabinet in 1995
- ◆ In 1999 first appointment Provincial Commission
- ◆ In 1997, women accounted for 5.7% of the total candidature from 4.6% in 1969
- ◆ Women nominated in parliament have not been many but in 1998 out of 12 nominated members of parliament, 5 were women representing 42%
- ◆ Women representation in the Judicial Service Commission has been increased from 25.9% in 1994 to 30.6% in 1998
- ◆ Number of permanent Secretaries increased from 4.1% in 1992 to 13.3% in 1998

Constraints

- ◆ Low level of political awareness among the women on how to use the power of their vote to elect women to political decision making bodies.
- ◆ Inhibitive socio-cultural practices which discourage women from vying for high office.
- ◆ Gender insensitive procedures involved in the registration of women as members of co-operative societies particularly agricultural societies.
- ◆ Polarisation of women, which has continually thwarted efforts to rally women for behind single candidates for national, constituency and civic elections.
- ◆ High levels of illiteracy among women

Way Forward

- ◆ Need for faster unity and greater co-ordination between women's organisations, women's lobby groups, and women's wing in political parties as well as government agencies in pressing for women's empowerment and protection.
- ◆ Gender information nationwide should be disseminated.
- ◆ Alliance and coalition building with gender sensitive men for advocacy and gender sensitisation.
- ◆ Political parties should continually highlight women's leadership abilities so as to improve the image of women political candidates towards their target voters.
- ◆ Affirmative action in nomination of women into the parliament and appointment of women in positions of leadership.
- ◆ Encourage and enhance appointment of qualified and experienced women to high-level decision-making positions with a view to achieving gender balance in various government bodies, committees, civil service and judiciary among others.
- ◆ Encourage institutions both government and non-governmental organisations to achieve equal representation and participation of women in decision making
- ◆ Creation of awareness and encourage active participation of women in political and decision-making process at the grassroots level.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

Agenda 21 recommended that nations consider adopting, strengthening and enforcing legislation prohibiting violence against women and take all necessary administrative, social and educational measures to eliminate violence against women in all its forms.

Status

- ◆ First attempt by the government to address the problems was in 1966. The Government set up the commission on the law of marriage and divorce. The commission proposed a Bill, which was intended to criminalize wife beating.
- ◆ Parliament considered wife beating as domestic noting that the state should not be seen to intrude open the domestic affairs of its citizens.
- ◆ An education oriented campaign to address the issue of violence against women started in 1985
- ◆ To promote women's awareness of their legal rights, the women, Bureau in conjunction with the public law institute began a legal programme in 1985. It was termed as Women Rights Awareness Programme and it launched a Public awareness campaign on violence against women.
- ◆ NGOs have been central in the efforts to stem down violence against women.

- ◆ Poverty and related conditions have resulted in increasing cases of crime and violence against women.
- ◆ Indifference in the police force who tends to regard marital violence as a minor domestic matter that has nothing to do with the criminal Judicial System.

Achievements

- ◆ Government, NGOs and the Private sector has set up strong campaign against all forms of violence against women and the girl child.
- ◆ A number of NGOs dealing with violence against women have been registered. They offer different services to battered women ranging from counselling, free legal representation, free medical care and safe houses.
- ◆ In collaboration with NGOs, 2 pilot women police units to respond to domestic violence have been set up by the government.
- ◆ The process of establishing the family court division at the high court is at an advance stage.
- ◆ NGOs and religious organisations have continued to conduct education among communities that practice female circumcision.
- ◆ Female circumcision has been banned under children's Bill of 2000
- ◆ Domestication of international conventions is in progress.
- ◆ Review of laws relating to women by incorporating gender in police training curriculum
- ◆ Increased sensitisation on gender violence for Kenyans

Constraints

Insufficient funds to adequately cover gender violence campaigns at grassroots

Poor co-ordination among stakeholders

Cultural/traditional practices in some communities which glorify violence against women e.g. FGM

Slow pace in attitude change.

Victims of violence fail to report to the police especially when the culprit is a family member for fear of breaking the family.

Wife battering even up to now is considered by a wide cross section of law enforcement officers as a domestic issue which should not be sorted out by law of the land

Legal illiteracy is high and victims therefore cannot employ legal mechanisms to seek redress for violence meted out against them.

Absolute poverty has condemned many women to stick in violent homes.

Poor record keeping of sex desegregated data by police

The implementation of task force report recommendations is progressing very slowly.

Way Forward.

Integrated violence eradication measures should be adopted to curb violence against women

There is need to assess deeply the causes and consequences of violence against women and how effective the various prevention measures are.

Crime and data violence are very scarce. Strategies should be worked out of sensitising the police and health authorities on ways that may be used to collect this information.

HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

Status

Kenya's Constitution guarantees fundamental rights and freedom to all her citizens, reaffirms the principle of equality before the law and prohibits discrimination. Operative and very influential customary legal norms continue to relegate women to an inferior legal status thereby making the constitutional ideals unrealisable. Kenya ratified CEDAW in 1984 and subscribed fully to the NFLS.

Achievements

In 1993, the Government appointed a Task Force for the review of existing laws, regulations, practices, customs and policies that impose constraints in equal enjoyment of rights by women in civil, political, socio-cultural life or related matters with a view to preparing legislation designed to remove or limit inequalities referred to. The Task Force completed its work and submitted the findings to the attorney General for action.

National Beijing Platform for Action has been prepared and is in use.

Domestication of CEDAW is on going.

Children's Bill has been passed.

FGM legally banned for all girls less than 18 years.

CEDAW document translated into Swahili.

There is increased awareness and sensitivity in the human rights of women.

More NGOs have been established and they have stepped up advocacy on women rights.

Constraints

Disjointed delivery of civic education

Slow implementation of the statutes

Illiteracy

Conflicts due to misunderstanding between government and NGOs. At times some NGOs involved in civic education are accused of subversion

Massive corruption in the Judiciary has abetted violation of human rights of women

Lack of resources for dissemination of legal awareness education to all citizens

Absolute poverty that is so dehumanising that people have given up on standing for their rights since they are engaged in eking meagre subsistence.

Way Forward.

Equality and non-discrimination under law and practice should be ensured.

CEDAW should be fully implemented. This will promote and protect human rights of women

Legal literacy should be promoted among all the citizens regardless of their status, sex, creed, political ideology, etc.

Attorney General must work to purge the Judicial system otherwise the sleaze will choke completely the enjoyment of human rights in this country.

Establish mechanisms for implementing recommendations of the Task Force for review of laws affecting women.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

Agenda 21 recommended the formulation and implementation of clear governmental policies and national implementation guidelines, strategies and plans for the

achievement of quality in all aspects of society, including the promotion of women's literacy, education and training.

Forum for African Women Educationist (FAWE), which has strongly advocated for education of women and girls argues and rightly so that the society stands to benefit greatly from the education of girls and women. Kenya stands to benefit from the education of women and girls in that:

- It improve family care, health and nutrition which has been identified as dependable outcomes .of a mothers education;
- It is a powerful factor in achieving significant rates of child survival, growth and development;
- It increases income earning avenues and opportunities for girls and women;
- It opens up opportunities that would have been closed to women and it increases their chances of advancement in employment;
- It leads to increased yield and self sufficiency in the agricultural sector where women constitute the majority;
- It enhances the role of African women in arresting the causes of environmental degradation and promoting improved environmental management, and:
- It enhances the capacities of women and girls to promote energy and water conservation and a sustained healthy environment among others.

Status

Since independence, the attainments of equity and individual development through education have been major goal of the education system.

The Ominde Education Commission of 1964 and the Ndegwa Commission of 1971 reiterated these goals but did not mention gender parity

Participation rates by gender at the pre-school level have been constant at 51% for boys and 49% for girls.

Illiteracy rates is higher in women than in men

About 49% of schools offering access to females

Girls in primary schools are at about 49%

Admission of women to pursue arts subjects in drones while the more competitive science courses are taken up by men in tertiary levels of education.

National Goals

To attain gender parity in education

To boost enrolment and completion rates for both boys and girls

To minimise wastage due to dropouts and repetition of classes.

Achievements

Formation of NGOs whose sole mission is the promotion of women and girl child education e.g. the Samburu Girl Child Education Programme

Enactment in 1996 of a policy that allows the re-entry of pregnant and nurturant mothers in the school system.

School feeding programme and provision of other necessities to keep girls in schools

Since 1995, enrolment in primary schools has grown by 6.9%. The gender gap has remained below 2% in favour of boys.

Enrolment in secondary schools increased by 10% from 1995 to 1998. Gender disparities are higher than those in primary level recording 8.2% in favour of boys. By 1998, this had declined to 6.6%

In 1998, Technical Training institutes recorded an enrolment of 40% for women students.

Trained women teachers for primary schools have increased from 39.9% to 42.1%.

There has been an increase of trained secondary school teachers from 34.2% in 1995 to 36.6% in 1998.

Adult literacy classes have been dominated by women e.g. in 1998, of the total adult learners, 73.9% were women.

Continued provision of non-formal education in legal literacy, health, agriculture, water and sanitation as part of community based programmes.

Gender sensitisation for curriculum developers, most book publishers, have attempted to review and publish gender sensitive books.

Identification of gender awareness campaigns on girl child education through print and electronic media, public barazas, workshops and in schools.

- Gender mainstreaming in education, policy formulation, planning curriculum development and educational material production.
- Formulation of proposed guidelines on mainstreaming gender in education.
- Establishment of a data bank in the planning department of the Ministry of Education with easily accessible gender disaggregated data. Since the Beijing Conference in 1995, significant empirical and analytical knowledge and information has been generated in the Girl Child education.
- Introduction of gender sensitive teaching methodology in focused in service courses in the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development.
- Gender sensitisation for curriculum developers, most book publishers have attempted to review and publish gender sensitive books.
- Formulation of guidelines for readmission of teenage mothers in schools. (1996)
- Initiating the Girl Child programme with the objective of closing gender gaps in Education.
- Development of the Non-formal Education projects, which addresses learning, needs of out of schoolgirls and boys.
- Inclusion of gender concerns in the current National Development Plan (1997-2001) and highlighted in Draft policy on Gender and Development and the National Poverty Eradication plan, 1998. This made it possible to translate gender concerns into positive interventions.
- Provision of bursary funds by government to all districts. e.g. Kshs 1.5 Million for Wajir per year.
- Setting up of bursary funds by local communities for the education of needy girls and boys.
- Fundraising activities by NGOs to boost girls education
- Intensification of gender awareness campaigns of girl child education through print and electronic media, public barazas, workshops and in schools.
- Provision of leadership and career guidance to girls.
- Provision of food and other necessities to keep girls in schools.
- Establishment of community mobile schools for single mothers and herds boys in some parts of the country.
- Training of young and single mothers on income generating activities.
- Continued provision of non-formal education in legal literacy, health, agriculture, water and sanitation as part of community based programs.

- Affirmative action has been adopted which has contributed to enhance enrolment of girls in State Universities.

Constraints

Despite the above efforts, education of girls and women continues to be faced with several constraints:

There is no specific policy to promote education of girls and women
 Education of girls and women is not highly appraised as that of boys and men
 Heavy domestic workload on girls greatly affect their performances in school
 FGM and early marriages have persisted in some communities increasing school dropout rates
 Bursary funds have not been sufficient to cater for the increasing needy cases. There are times when they are awarded to undeserving cases.
 Absolute poverty is affecting education of girls more than boys because where a family is unable to pay fees for the children, girls are forced to repeat or dropout in favour of boys
 Higher cost of education.

- Less endowment of girls schools with respect to science teaching facilities leading to lower representation in post secondary science education institutions.
- Introduction of cost sharing by government has continued to adversely affect girls education especially those from poor households where poverty is a major contributing factor.
- Lack of resources to monitor the effectiveness of the curriculum.
- Poor monitoring and coordinating mechanisms.

Way Forward.

Girls should be accorded adequate educational opportunities to improve their standards of living.
 Gender responsive education should be provided and disparities removed from national policies and programmes
 Cost of education need to be reduced. The government should make good its promise of providing free education for all.
 Achieve gender parity in enrolment, retention, quality and achievement at all levels of education.

- Revision of curricula to be more sensitive to the needs of the girl child.
- Increase the number of training institutions for and on women and girls.
- Practice affirmative action to increase the number of women in teacher training colleges and in other tertiary institutions.
- To work for elimination of gender inequalities in education career development by providing quotas and other special programmes for girls and young women.
- To promote girls' and women's access and retention in education through the provision of;
 - Non-formal education
 - Scholarships and bursaries.
 - Childcare facilities for young children.
 - Gender appropriate curricula.
- Reducing cost of education and shifting resources from the richest segments of the population to the poor.

- Undertake participatory research to identify how flexible timetables, school calendars to enhance enrolment, retention and performance.
- Provide adequate security and conducive learning environment especially in girls' boarding schools.
- Provide training and skills to enhance women opportunities in the changing work place.
- Provide gender sensitive occupational and educational guidance and counselling services to girls at all levels of the educational system in respect of career choices and personal development.
- Adopt gender appropriate curricula, teaching of human rights and integration of gender awareness in all aspects of training programs in order to eliminate negative stereotyping.

WOMEN'S ACCESS TO AND PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES

Achievements after Rio

- Sessional Paper No.2 of 1992 articulated that the Small Scale and Jua Kali Enterprise sector plays an important role in job creation.
- In 1992, a National Policy on Gender and Development was developed. The thrust of the policy was to achieve successful integration of women into mainstream development as beneficiaries and agents of development process. It highlighted the social, cultural, economic and political factors that perpetuate inequality of access and control of development resources and benefits.
- It sought to promote gender equity in Kenya by ensuring:
 - a) Increased education for women and girls.
 - b) Improved income generation through gainful employment and access to means of production.
 - c) Easy and convenient access to basic services.
 - d) Improved, affordable and accessible technology for easing the workload of women
 - e) Increased gender awareness and sensitisation in all sectors for facilitating smooth implementation of gender sensitive policies and programmes.
 - f) A gender sensitive legal framework and practice that will facilitate fairness and justice to the women of Kenya in all sectors of life, among other provisions.
- In 1996 and 2000, the Government formulated National Policies on Gender and Development. These built upon past experience and commitment of the Government, NGO's, religious organizations, donor communities and women themselves.
- To oversee the implementation of this policy, it was found that there is need for a versatile and integrated institutional arrangement. It was therefore proposed that the following institutions be established.

(i). Parliamentary Committee on Gender and Development (PCGD)

The PCGD address issues of gender relations. Its mandate will be to ensure gender-balanced approach in legislature, national and sectoral budgets and other issues as may be brought to the National Assembly for discussion and approval.

(ii). National Gender and Development Commission (NGDC)

The Government will establish a NGDC within the Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports. The commission will report to the minister and will have a broad mandate to co-ordinate and facilitate gender mainstreaming national development. The NGDC will:

- Promote public information, education and communication on gender issues.
- Recommend to the Government and other stakeholders specific action, including affirmative action, where necessary in order to promote gender equality at all levels and all spheres of life.
- Carry out monitoring and evaluation and commission research, where necessary, of policies, Programmes, social-cultural practices and performances of legal system in order to identify gender imbalances, if any, and come up with possible remedies and;
- Establish and maintain close liaison with the Parliamentary Committee on Gender and Development among others.

(iii). National Gender and Development Secretariat (NGDS)

The Women's Bureau, which is the National Machinery for the advancement of women, will be restructured and upgraded so as to perform the functions of the Secretariat to the commission more effectively. Specifically, the Secretariat will:

- Ensure that all policy formulation and reviews, action plans and other major national planning exercises apply to a gender responsive planning approach;
- Monitor in liaison with other stakeholders, the progress made towards achieving gender responsive national socio-development targets;
- Promote social mobilization required for gender awareness and national information sharing;
To co-ordinate the production, dissemination and utilization of gender statistics needed for the design, monitoring and evaluation of policies, projects and practices for national development planning;
- Ensure effective liaison and co-ordination of gender issues at the regional and international for a and;
- Facilitate co-ordination with Gender Issue Units in various ministries for better integration at a sectoral level.

Units of Gender Issues (UGI)

The NGDS will strengthen the existing UGIs in all Government Ministries and facilitate the establishment in other ministries. The UGIs will be responsible for overseeing the effective mainstreaming of gender in sectoral among the following functions;

Ensure that gender issues are considered in sectoral policies, projects and Programmes.

Integrate gender considerations into various implementation plans and routinely report on the progress made.

Establish and maintain gender-disaggregated database and enhance the existing ones.

Initiate and co-ordinate gender training to ensure integration of gender issues in all aspects of work.

The eighth national development plan (1997-2001), recommended that in order for the informal sector to grow rapidly during the Plan Period, there is need to support women and youth involvement in small/medium programmes. The following action oriented initiatives coordinated by the Ministry of Culture and Social Services were proposed for implementation:

Women groups will be supported in the mobilization of local resources for development purposes, focusing on community based industrial activities in a well coordinated manner;

More resources will be directed to individual women at grassroots levels who have potential to manage industrial enterprises;

Training Programmes for women's groups will be mounted in the areas of entrepreneurship with the emphasis on quality and diversification;

Promotion of gender friendly technologies in the industrial sector, particularly for small and medium scale enterprises;

- Women have joined forces, and informal lending and borrowing amongst them through women groups has been a major break through to women.
- With funds from United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), the "jua kali women's textile projects" grew rapidly to include continuous skill-development services provided at the Kenya Textile Training Institute in Nairobi and the Kamahi institute of technology in Nyeri.

Through training on issues such as book keeping, market appraisal and business planning. Beneficiaries have been able to see their businesses expand rapidly. In a bid to fight a common enemy, women have come together into groups to alleviate poverty. A good example is women in Luanda division, Vihiga district. The activities these groups engage in range from timber production, horticulture, basketry, pottery, rope making, tailoring and merry go rounds and revolving loans. By engaging in these activities they try to reduce the problem of starvation and other domestic problems.

Constraints

- The above policy documents on gender and development like other Government papers, have been long on words and goodwill, and short on action and political will.
- Access to credit has been the greatest barrier women face in investment endeavours. Notably the absence of formal financial institutions in rural areas where majority of women are found and lack of collateral are the major barriers which women face.

Way Forward

- Support the institutions that provide credit to women without demanding huge collateral and approval from their guardians.

- Review, adopt and maintain policies that address the needs and efforts of women and poverty.
- Coordination of all parties involved in development to improve the effectiveness of anti-poverty programs.
- Reviewing laws relating to ownership and access to productive resources.
- Gender Impact Assessments should precede any introduction of new economic management policies.
- The government should mobilize its machinery to ensure that peace and stability is maintained in every corner of the country.
- There is need for collection, compilation and production of gender disaggregated poverty data.
- Sensitize legal firms and institutions to provide free or low cost legal services.

WOMEN AND POVERTY

Status

- ◆ The prevalence of poverty, defined as a situation where an individual fails to attain a level of well being considered by the society he/she lives as of reasonable minimum standard has posed a big development challenge to the government.
- ◆ Absolute poverty in the rural areas has remained constant at 47% since 1982, with the prevalence among female headed households increasing from 47% to 53% in 1992.
- ◆ The 1994 National Participatory Poverty Assessment noted that 78.5% of female-headed households were poor compared to 58.8% of male-headed households.
- ◆ The assessment showed that there are about twice as many “very poor” female-headed households as compared to male-headed households (i.e 44% and 20.8 % respectively).
- ◆ Poverty persistence in female-headed households is associated to illiteracy, negative cultural attitudes and practises, lack of ownership and access to land and other production resources.
- ◆ Vulnerability and susceptibility of women to poverty have been aggravated by the introduction of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs).

National goals

- ◆ To review and maintain economic policies and development strategies that addresses the needs and efforts of women and poverty.
- ◆ To revise laws and administrative practises to emphasize equal access to productive resources to both men and women.
- ◆ To develop gender based methodologies and conduct research to address the feminisation deprivation.

Achievements

- ◆ To supplement government efforts in poverty eradication, NGOs have put in place various projects. Since women are the most afflicted by poverty, most of these projects have targeted them. The aim is to give women access to credit, which the established lending institutions have denied them all through.

- ◆ They train women on meaningful income generating activities (IGAs) and advance credit to women groups at reasonable interest rates.
- ◆ Development of a gender responsive National Poverty Eradication Plan was launched in 1999 and targets to reduce poverty levels by 30% of the current levels by the year 2015.
- ◆ There has been a review of laws relating to ownership and access to productive resources.

Constraints faced

- ◆ Lack of adequate resources for national coverage.
- ◆ Poor coordination due to lack of networks between the MFIs. They in most cases appear as if they are competing for the poor so that they can lend their money.
- ◆ Civil instability in some parts of the country has forced some NGOs to withdraw their projects from such areas prematurely. Thus invested resources are wasted.
- ◆ The leaders have been preoccupied with politics of succession at the expense of addressing the real issues facing this nation. One of the issues being the grinding poverty under which millions of Kenyans are.
- ◆ Bureaucratic and structural rigidities that have slowed the pace of implementation of anti-poverty measures proposed in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.
- ◆ Harsh weather which, have led to massive crop failures and death of livestock. These two being are the mainstay of rural livelihoods and their near collapse has condemned more women to poverty.
- ◆ Poor dissemination of research findings.
- ◆ Slow progress in finalizing legislations to protect women against discrimination in property ownership.

Way forward

- ◆ Support the institutions that provide credit to women without demanding huge collateral and approval from their guardians.
- ◆ Review, adopt and maintain policies that address the needs and efforts of women and poverty.
- ◆ Coordination of all parties involved in development to improve the effectiveness of anti-poverty programs.
- ◆ Reviewing laws relating to ownership and access to productive resources.
- ◆ Gender Impact Assessments should precede any introduction of new economic management policies.
- ◆ The government should mobilize its machinery to ensure that peace and stability is maintained in every corner of the country.
- ◆ There is need for collection, compilation and production of gender disaggregated poverty data.
- ◆ Sensitize legal firms and institutions to provide free or low cost legal services.

Women and Health, Nutrition and Personal Dignity

Status

Demand of health services has continued to widen but the supply has not matched up the demand.

By 1992 life expectancy for the females had risen up to 49.8 to 63.2 years.
Infant mortality dropped from 126 per 1000 live births in 1962 to 104 in 1979.
In Kenya, women and children under five years of age constitute about 70% of all the out patient visitors.

National Council for Population and Development prepared the Population Policy Guidelines, which are the primary framework for Kenya's population policy.

About 56.6% of all deliveries occur at home despite the fact that about 80% of all the expectant mothers visit antenatal clinics.

National goals.

Reduction of morbidity, mortality and fertility;

Promotion of primary health care.

Increasing access to health care services and encouraging private sector to play a bigger role in the delivery and financing of health care services.

Achievements

Health sector reforms have shifted emphasis to promotive health services as opposed to curative health.

Immunisation coverage has risen to 70% from under 40% at independence. There has been a rigorous polio eradication campaign and the coverage has been encouraging.

Sessional Paper No.4 on HIV/AIDS control has been developed.

FGM has been legally banned by the Children's Bill, which was enacted in the year 2001.

National Plan of Action for elimination of FGM (1999-2019) has been developed.

Provincial administration is empowered to stop forced marriages and take the "child bride" back to school.

NGO's in collaboration with the government have carried out aggressive HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns such that awareness levels have gone up to over 95% in the country.

HIV/AIDS education has been introduced into the school curriculum.

Constraints

Ministry of health facilities are generally in appalling conditions lack essential medical equipment and are congested to the extent that patients share beds especially in the maternity wards, the nurseries and the paediatric wards.

In some hospitals, privacy of patients of both gender are not observed and the situation is worse in the labour wards.

Staffing problems in which case there is overstaffing of the low cadre and deficit in professional staff.

Over concentration of key personnel in the urban areas with over 80% of doctors being based in urban areas, which account for less than 20% of the total population.

Mushrooming of private clinics has resulted in many experienced staff leaving the public sector for the private service. This has mainly been due to better terms of service in the private sector.

HIV/AIDS pandemic, which has overwhelmed the health sector and greatly affects women.

Absolute poverty has made health services out of reach for majority of Kenyans and the situation has been worsened by economic reforms, which have introduced cost sharing in the public health sector.

Lack of gender desegregated data for effective implementation of projects and programmes.

Inadequate data on abortions and violence.

There strong cultural traditions in most Kenyan communities, which attach a lot of value to large families. Thus, family planning education amongst such communities is seen as an alien practice aimed at destroying cherished traditions. Superstitions, which associate the use of contraceptives to promiscuity. This discourages interested people from using them for fear of stigma. Some religious congregations in Kenya teach their adherents to totally abstain from use of artificial birth control methods, which are more reliable than the natural methods e.g. the Muslims and Roman Catholics. A high level of illiteracy amongst women bars them from knowing the options available for them in so far as birth control is concerned. An increased incidence of teenage pregnancies due to the breakdown of traditional values stressing on chastity. FGM is highly prized in a number of ethnic groups in Kenya and this makes it had to root out. There has not been adequate education amongst communities practicing FGM as to enlighten them on the dangers and uselessness of the practice. They have also not been made aware of the fact that FGM is blatant violation of women rights. Prominent leaders in the communities practicing FGM have come out in support of the act publicly. Being key opinion shapers, they have dealt severe blow to efforts put by stakeholders in a bid to eradicate FGM. This is especially serious when such a person is a government minister. In some districts, the practice has gone underground due to pressure. This will make it even harder to trace and eliminate in spite of stricter legislation that has been enacted.

Way forward

Family planning campaigns need to be stepped up .It is especially important to use opinion shapers if the desired results will be achieved sooner than later. The airwaves, which have become freer nowadays, can be great asset towards this end. Implementation of the recommendations of the poverty reduction strategy plan should be undertaken as matter of necessity. There is need to promote education of women as this will have a direct bearing on education in that it will increase the child bearing age while empowering women to make their own decisions as to the family size they would want. Even in the presence of a law banning FGM, public information and education are necessary to activate attitude change towards FGM. Awareness raising is crucial for people to know the existence of a statute banning FGM. This should especially target women who in some cases are coerced into face the knife. The Government should act fast to enforce the law banning FGM. NGOs that have been promoting alternative forms of initiation should replicate these projects in all areas where FGM is rampant. The FGM practitioners should be taught on the implications of their art on the lives of women and girls. This should be accompanied by training on other constructive ways of earning their living other than practicing FGM. Medical practitioners found carrying out female circumcision either in Government or private hospitals should face punitive disciplinary action such as withdrawal of licenses or dismissal. The gender focal point in the Ministry of Health should be strengthened in order to sensitise the policy makers, administrators and technical personnel of the need to have gender-disaggregated data in areas such as out-patients, in-patients, mortality statistics and overall management information systems.

Further research should be undertaken to establish the prevalence of issues such as abortion, FGM, maternal mortality and violence.

Research findings on various health issues should be widely disseminated for people to be aware of the recent trends in the health sector and the way forward.

WOMEN AND HIV/AIDS

Status

AIDS, a disease caused by human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV) has become a severe health problem in Kenya as spelt out in Sessional Paper No.4 of 1997.

In 1999 it was estimated that about 2.0 million adults and 90000 children had contracted HIV/AIDS.

In urban areas the number of HIV infected adults was estimated to be 430000 while in the rural areas the number was about 1.4 million.

Incidence of HIV /AIDS among women and men is estimated to be in the ratio of 1:1, but the reported cases by April 2000 shows that men contributed 51.5% of the reported cases.

Women become infected at younger ages than men reflecting the biological and social vulnerability of teenage women .The distribution of reported AIDS cases show that the peak ages for AIDS cases are 30-34 for males and 25-29 for females.

HIV/AIDS epidemic imposes heavier burden on women in their role as providers of case in the family and community.

National goals

Achievements

Women organizations are playing a major role in assisting aids victims.

Awareness levels have grown to over 95 % in the entire country.

Formation of the National AIDS Control Council to expedite AIDS control activities.

Constraints

Poverty amongst women is appalling. This put them in position where they cannot afford life prolonging anti retroviral therapy. As such when they develop full-blown AIDS, their demise comes slowly and painfully. Grinding poverty is also a major factor in pushing young girls and women into commercial sex oblivious of the imminent dangers in the trade.

Deep rooted cultural practises which encourage multiple sexual partners as in case of the Morans in Maa speaking groups.

Superstitions that attribute HIV/AIDS to sorcery and/or witchcraft.

In areas hardest hit by the scourge such as Nyanza, widow inheritance has persisted in spite of the evidence linking this practice to the spread of HIV/AIDS.

A suicidal attitude amongst a large cross section of Kenyans who equate HIV/AIDS infection to motor accident or any other tragedy which hits without warning. Thus they dispense off responsibility of right living and recede to bastions of fatalism to their detriment and society at large.

The way HIV/AIDS messages have been passed to the general public in the past has painted a wrong picture. Billboards of emaciated bodies skin on bones were earlier used in AIDS awareness campaigns. This created a false impression in minds of

people that so long as one is not bony; he or she is free from the deadly virus and is therefore fit as a sexual partner.

Lack of testing and counselling centres especially in the rural areas keeps people in darkness as far as their sero-status is concerned. This in turn promotes suicidal sex behaviour, which lead to HIV/AIDS infection.

Fallacy that young girls are free from the disease has made older men to go for them. This has led to high rates of infection among schoolgirls.

Merchants of death; a host of organisations have sprung up in the name of fighting AIDS but in the real sense they are just out to enrich the founders with donor funds aimed at stemming down the scourge.

Concentration of NGO activities in major towns has marginalized the rural communities leaving them at the mercy of the killer disease.

Way forward

HIV/AIDS awareness campaign should change strategy. Instead of presenting HIV/AIDS victims as bony folks, with the consequence of creating false impressions, AIDS educators should present facts about the disease.

The on going advocacy for drug firms to cut down prices of anti retroviral drugs should persist until these merchants bow to the pressure. Alternatively the government should follow suit of other AIDS afflicted countries and flout patent laws to permit manufacture of generic antiretroviral drugs.

Education campaigns against risk enhancing cultural practises such as inheritance of widows amongst the Luo and group sex amongst the Morans should be heightened.

Government and NGOs should work harder to establish voluntary testing and counselling centres all over the country.

Home based care for those in the final phases of the disease should be encouraged to ease pressure from the hospitals.

A law should be passed making it compulsory for those contemplating legal marriage to undergo HIV/AIDS test.

Decentralization of training workshops and seminars to the rural areas is necessary so that the entire national population is enlightened on the disease.

To maintain periodic updates on the AIDS pandemic, giving a gender perspective.

Empower women economically to reduce their vulnerability due to economic dependence.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Because of the centrality of women in environmental conservation and other development issues, their concerns should be integrated in policy making and implementation.

It is important both for democratic and development reasons, that women be involved at all levels of the decision making process, especially in those areas that directly affect their lives and where they are the major policy implementers.

The surest way for women to influence policy making on these issues is by striving for greater political participation and representation in the legislature. It is in this legislative arena where most of the important decisions affecting the entire society are made.

A number of policy interventions that can be made to facilitate greater female participation in political decision-making include: ensuring that at least 50 percent of the nominated members of parliament are women and appointing at least 50 percent

of the incumbent women MPs to head important non-social welfare ministries, such as finance, agriculture or science and technology.

Policy restructuring should address the problem of poor women and the impact on them of environmental degradation and Structural Adjustment Programmes and design new ones, taking into account women's needs and the support services they need to participate effectively in environmental and other national development activities.

In designing new policies to reverse the negative impact of SAPs, emphasis should be put on improving poor women's employment prospects and ensuring women's access and control over productive resources such as land, technology and credit facilities.

Policy restructuring should also pay particular attention to the general deterioration in the health situation especially since the emergence of the deadly killer disease AIDS and the re-emergence of highly contagious diseases such as meningitis. The government needs to significantly increase its health and social amenities budget, which has been drastically cut since early 1980s.

As women groups and organizations have historically participated in environmental conservation, a concerted effort should be made to step up material and moral support to all women groups in the country that are engaged in conservation efforts, however modest their achievements

Given the government's own objective of food self-sufficiency and the interrelatedness between food production and environmental conservation, affirmative action should now be taken to redirect production resources to the food sector. Needless to say, in the food sector, as in other areas of national development, women are only pleading for an enabling environment to allow them effective participation and performance.

Finally, public awareness training on matters of the environment should continue and be accelerated to ensure that by the end of this century, every Kenyan fully understands the close linkage between the natural and human environment, the dangers posed by environmental degradation and the major strategies of arresting and reversing environmental deterioration.

All the stakeholders should step up dissemination of their research findings. This will help to avert duplication of efforts while at the same time serving to educate the populace. It will also help in the design and implementation of relevant projects based on the research findings.

Strong advocacy should be undertaken to ensure that recommendations in documents such as the National Policy on Gender and Development are implemented.

Polarizations amongst women, serve no good purpose other than to water down their cause. Diversity in educational attainments, financial endowments, creeds, political ideologies and the like should be harnessed to catapult women's self-determination to greater heights.

FINANCING, INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

There is no gender-disaggregated data on funding. Thus, a clear picture on technical cooperation resource flow to women, women specific projects and programmes cannot

emerge. Many projects under various sectors benefit women directly for example health, environment, population, housing and education. These are implemented at the national level, but some programmes specifically target women at the grassroots level. These have been mainly income generating projects.

All donors giving aid to Kenya have components, which benefit women directly or indirectly. But, due to lack of disaggregated data on funding, it is not easy to say what percent from which donor go to women specific projects.

It is not easy to take the success of technical cooperation alone. Achievements and advances made in the critical areas affecting women are attributed to government, NGOs and the donors.

Various constraints have been experienced in collaboration with the donors some of them are:

- Lack of coordination between treasury, ministries and auditors.
- Accounting information on direct expenditure by donors on projects is sometimes not notified to the implementing ministries for input into the ministries accounting records.
- Many donors' requirements for accounting are different from those of the government.
- Amongst themselves (government and donors) occasional lack of supervision cause poor sustainability of projects.
- Accounting procedures are not well understood between the concerned parties.
- Relationship between some donors and the government has been strained due to what the latter have cited as "interfering with the national sovereignty". The government has been on the other hand been accused by some donors of gross violation of human rights, misrule and failure/ refusal to eradicate corruption. This has created a stalemate in which donor funds have been suspended and as a result many projects have stalled or have collapsed all together.
- The government has been wary (on unjustified grounds) of NGOs especially those providing civic education. This has served to create tensions, which in effect has undermined cooperation.
- In some instances, it has appeared like NGOs are competing with each other especially those in the category of MFIs. is has been due to poor networking amongst the NGOs leading to a duplication projects.

It can only be hoped that the cooperation that existed between the international donor community, government and NGOs will be continued in future.

SOME OF THE INSTITUTIONS FACILITATING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

| ORGANISATION | AREAS OF FOCUS |
|--|--|
| Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Organization (MYWO) | Experienced in management of projects in the areas of family planning, harmful traditions, nutrition, energy and environment, girl child education, civic education and leadership training |
| The Green Belt Movement | Started as project of NCWK to rehabilitate and conserve the environment with tree planting as the basic activity and focus. Conducts training on various environmental issues and is active in environmental advocacy. |
| National Council of Women of Kenya (NCWK) | Established as an umbrella body to coordinate the activities of women's associations. Its purpose is to provide a forum where representatives can meet to discuss and take action on matters of common interest. |
| International Federation for Women Lawyers (FIDA) Kenya Chapter | Established in 1987 to promote the welfare of women and children, promote comparative study of the law and establish international relations based on equality and mutual respect |
| Kenya Women Finance Trust (KWFT) | A non-profit making organization established to advance and promote the full participation of economically active women in the economy; particularly those poor who lack access to credit |
| Association of African Women For Research and Development (AAWORD) | Research and networking on gender and development issues. |
| Breastfeeding Information Group (BIG) | Started to encourage breastfeeding, to provide accurate information and assistance, to monitor the code of breast milk substitutes and to establish mother - to-mother network so that women can obtain encouragement and information from other mothers in their own communities. |
| Positively Women of TAPWAK (POWATA) | A support organization for women living with HIV/AIDS. It provides a forum where they can discuss conveniently and confidentially problems such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health problems facing them; • To liaise with government and funding agencies to economically support the economically disadvantaged woman get her basic rights. • To create an educational forum to |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <p>enable the woman to know the basics on HIV and AIDS and to live positively with her condition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide specialized home based care for women during the terminal stages of illness. |
| Partnership for Productivity Service Foundation (PFP) | Established to carry out small and micro enterprise development in rural Kenya by focusing on meaningful Income Generating Activities (IGAs). Active in mobilizing women to pool their financial resources together so that they can create a revolving loan fund. PFP's activities are mainly in the Mt Kenya region with the largest concentration in Nyeri. |
| Kenya Organization of Environmental Education (KOE) | Training in environmental management and development through action oriented learning activities that enhance local community environmental policy formulation, curricula development, micro projects, partnerships and networks. The programme target women groups and NGOs in Kenya and the rest of East Africa. |

Success stories of Women in Development

The Mabati Women Groups of Nyeri district

For years, women in central Kenya have organised themselves for better shelter. The mabati movement dates back to the early sixties. It was started by 7 elderly women. As the name mabati (iron sheets) implies; the thatch of the members' houses with iron sheets. The mabati movement grew out of the appropriation of the land where thatching grass was further dictated by women's increased for cash crops. The need for durable alternatives to the grass thatch was further dictated by women's increased activities in the wake of their husbands' out-migration from rural areas in search of urban jobs.

Registration for members was Ksh 2 and a monthly subscription of Ksh 20. When the membership grew to Ksh 20 the group started buying 36 mabati of gauge 32 for one member every month. This was a communal activity by all members who set aside a day to buy the roofing material, which they transported on their backs to designated houses to replace the grass thatch. (Naitore, 1996).

Women reckoned that grass thatched houses harboured worms. Caterpillars and worms disturbed roofing material leaving gaps that leaked during rainy seasons. Sometimes worms fell into uncovered food, veining family appetite.

The problem with grass as a diminishing resource is that it entails walking for kilometres on end in search of it .as a roofing material it provides poor ventilation, which is conducive to chronic obstructive lung disease (COLD) in adults and upper respiratory tract infections (URTI) in children.

With all members houses modified, the mabati groups redirected their efforts to other settlement improvement activities. They started building water tanks, fences, improved jiko and engaging in income generating activities such as knitting and sewing classes and building rental houses.

During the Habitat II conference held in Istanbul, Turkey in 1996,the mabati women group initiative has cited as one of the global “Best Practices”.

(ii). Women groups improving shelter in Maasai land

The Maasai hut poses great health risks for the occupants. The igloo-like structure has no opening save the entrance, which makes cooking or warming a continuous process of inhaling dangerous gases. These traditional Maasai huts are insulated with cow dung.

Maasai culture places housing responsibility on the women. In this traditional nomadic community, housing is relatively insignificant compared with herding a man’s job. With little support from the men’s folks, financially disadvantaged women look for women’s groups to assist them alleviate their shelter problems.

The Oldonyo Nyuki women’s groups took up the challenge of improved housing. By mid-1996 the group had completed five improvements which included better space layouts, use of stronger building poses and enhanced day lighting via better window openings.(Gender Review June 1996).Some women also attempted to water proof their huts using ash.

Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) has taken upon itself the challenge exploring cheaper alternatives to house improvement in Maasailand. The Group is developing a range of technologies, which if accepted by the Maasai may solve their housing problems. It involves casting of a relatively inexpensive, thin, watertight cement skin with integral guttering on top of the old mud roof. The cover costing about Ksh 4000 offers hope for better housing for the Maasai. Women who have been sensitised about this new technology are enthusiastic about it. They are keen to adopt it.

Poverty Alleviation by Women Groups in Luanda Division Vihiga District

In a bid to fight a common enemy, women have come together into groups to alleviate poverty. They have come to know that poverty is powerlessness’ and that there is power in numbers. A good example is women in Luanda division, Vihiga district.

A Training on Networking for Gender Roles in Poverty Alleviation and Natural Resource Management in Luanda Division Vihiga District 1999 was told that there are 300 registered groups in Luanda. The activities these groups engage in range from timber production, horticulture, basketry, pottery, rope making, tailoring and merry go rounds and revolving loans .By engaging in these activities they try to reduce the problem of starvation and other domestic problems.

A number of women in Vihiga district have organised themselves and participate in group projects, which generate income for their respective groups. These include those women who formed small cooperatives in various forms that range from merry-go-round to cooperative societies. Through merry-go-rounds and cooperatives, members pool their resources together and are able to accumulate funds, which enable them to purchase items like kitchen utensils and also to meet other expenses like paying school fees for their children and purchasing of dairy cattle among others. These funds are generally meant to improve their standards of living.

They also keep some savings from these contributions for the promotion of group projects. They at times use these funds to give out loans to members of the group. The loans are repaid with interest. However, the interest rates are not high as those that are charged by commercial banks. These members therefore prefer taking loans from the groups rather than from commercial banks. These loans help the members to start small-scale businesses that enable them to improve their economic as well as social welfare. The groups ensure that the money given to members either as loans or grants is well spent on the anticipated objectives. This encourages thriftiness and bookkeeping that is essential to all serious business undertaking. Furthermore, these groups enable women to improve the social and physical environment by exchanging ideas. The members come to learn better methods of environmental management (Otieno et al (eds) 1999).

Women in Vihiga have started to mobilise the people around them to alleviate poverty. One way has been through campaigning so that as many as possible members should join organised groups and consequently benefit from them. Another form of mobilisation has been pooling resources together through harambee spirit.

Other forms of mobilization include formation of group-work parties where members participate in the clean-up, road and bridge construction and gender sensitization among others.

Women's self help initiatives

Where women have launched self-help initiatives in various fields, interventions are needed to catapult these initiatives to greater heights. However, care needs to be taken to ensure that the initiatives do not cause a breakdown of the established mechanisms. Viable interventions include:

Capacity building: this can take the form of training workshops, seminars and exchange programmes on specific issues depending on the ecology of the area in question.

Advancing credit to women groups at affordable interest rates. The groups will in turn advance credit to individual women so that they can make investments.

Promoting the use of products such as soap produced by local women groups. This can be achieved through local exhibitions.

Formation of women cooperatives to assist in the marketing of their products and in the acquisition of raw materials needed for the various production processes.

Training women on how to manage group affairs in issues such as simple accounts and audit.

Inculcating in women leaders organizational and communication skills.

Where women are involved in production of various commodities, they should be offered services of qualified professionals to assist them improve their output and productivity.

CHALLENGES TOWARDS ENHANCING WOMEN'S ROLE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: WWSD WOMEN'S AGENDA

From the foregoing discussion, a lot needs to be done towards empowering women for sustainable development which include the following:

- Ensure opportunities for women to participate in environmental decision making at all levels as managers, designers and planners, and as implementers and evaluators of environmental projects.
- Facilitate and increase women access to information and education including in the areas of education science and technology and economics, thus enhancing their knowledge, skills and opportunities for participating in environmental decisions.
- Encourage subject to national legislation and consistent with the convention on Biological Diversity, the effective protection and use of the knowledge, innovations and practice of women, indigenous and local communities.
- Evaluate and restructure development policies and programmes in terms of environmental impact and women's equal access to and use of natural resources.
- Promote the education of women and girls in science and technology and other disciplines relating to natural environment.
- Involve national and local women groups in environmental education and conservation projects.
- Analyse structural linkages between gender relations, poverty, environment and development, and integrate demographic and gender factors into environmental impact assessments and other planning and decision making processes aimed at achieving sustainable development.
- Provide technical assistance to women in agriculture, fisheries, small enterprise and industry to ensure the development of environmentally sound technologies and women's entrepreneurship.
- Introduce legal reforms that protect women's access to natural resources.
- Promote and replicate women's knowledge on resource utilisation.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I:

AGENDA 21 OBJECTIVES ON WOMEN IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- a). To implement the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, particularly with regard to women's participation in national ecosystem management and control of environmental degradation.
- b). To increase the proportion of women decision makers, planners, technical advisers, managers and extension workers in environment and development fields;
- c). To consider developing and issuing by the year 2000 a strategy of changes necessary to eliminate constitutional, legal, administrative, cultural, behavioural, social and economic obstacles to women's full participation in sustainable development and in public life;
- d). To establish by the year 1995 mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the implementation and impact of development and environment policies and programmes on women and to ensure their contributions and benefits;
- e). To assess review, revise and implement, where appropriate, curricula and other educational material, with a view to promoting the dissemination to both men and women of gender-relevant knowledge and valuation of women's roles through formal and non-formal education, as well as through training institutions, in collaboration with non-governmental organisations;
- f). To formulate and implement clear governmental policies and national guidelines, strategies and plans for the achievement of equality in all aspects of society, including the promotion of women's literacy, education, training, nutrition and health and their participation in key decision-making positions and in management of the environment, particularly as it pertains to their access to resources, by facilitating better access to all forms of credit, particularly in the informal sector, taking measures towards ensuring women's access to property rights as well as agricultural inputs and implements;
- g). To implement, as a matter of urgency, in accordance with country –specific conditions, measures to ensure that women and men have the same right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and have access to information, education and means, as appropriate, to enable them to exercise this right in keeping their freedom, dignity and personally held values;
- h). To consider adopting, strengthening and enforcing legislation prohibiting violence against women and to take all the necessary administrative, social and educational measures to eliminate violence against women in all it's forms.

ANNEX II:

THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES

Deprivation of traditional means of livelihood is most often a result of environmental degradation resulting from such natural and manmade disasters as droughts, floods, hurricane, erosion, desertification, deforestation and inappropriate land use. Such conditions have already pushed great numbers of poor women into marginal environments where critically low levels of water supplies, shortages of fuel, over-utilization of grazing and arable lands and population density have deprived them of their livelihood. Most seriously affected are women in drought-afflicted arid and semi-arid areas, and in urban slums and squatter settlements. These women need options for alternative means of livelihood. Women must have the same opportunity as men to participate in the wage-earning labor force in such Programmes as irrigation and tree planting in other Programmes needed to upgrade urban and rural environments. Urgent steps need to be taken to strengthen the machinery for international economic cooperation in the exploitation of water resources and the control of desertification and other environmental disasters.

- Efforts to improve sanitary conditions, including drinking water supplies, in all communities should be strengthened, especially in urban slums and squatter settlements and in rural areas, with due regard to relevant environmental factors. These efforts should be extended to include improvements of the home and the work environment, and should be affected with the participation of women at all levels in planning and implementation process.
- Awareness by individual women and all types of women's organisations of environmental issues, and the capacity of women and men trying to manage their environment and sustain productive resources should be enhanced. All sources of information dissemination should be mobilized to increase the self-help potential of women in conserving and improving the environment. National and international emphasis on ecosystem management and the control of environmental degradation should be strengthened and women should be recognised as active and equal participants in this process.
- The environmental impact of policies, programmes and projects on women's health and activities, including their sources of employment and income, should be assessed and the negative effects eliminated.

ANNEX III:

Women in Power and Decision making

Judicial service establishment by grade and sex

| Rank | 1994 | | | 1996 | | | October 1998 | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|----|------|-------|----|------|--------------|----|------|
| | Total | W | %w | Total | W | % w | Total | W | % w |
| Chief justice | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Judges of app | 8 | - | - | 10 | - | - | 10 | 1 | 10 |
| High court judges | 30 | 4 | 13.3 | 30 | 4 | 13.3 | 29 | 5 | 17.2 |
| Comm. of assize | -- | - | - | - | - | - | 10 | 4 | 40 |
| Chief magistrate | 8 | 3 | 37.5 | 9 | 4 | 44.4 | 10 | 4 | 40 |
| Senior principal magistrate | 7 | 2 | 28.5 | 8 | 3 | 37.5 | 10 | 3 | 30 |
| Senior Resident magistrates | 41 | 13 | 31.7 | 40 | 13 | 32.5 | 39 | 14 | 35.9 |
| Magistrates | 94 | 23 | 24.5 | 96 | 24 | 25 | 86 | 28 | 32.6 |
| District magistrates | 119 | 37 | 31.1 | 116 | 39 | 33.6 | 112 | 40 | 35.7 |
| Chief kadhis | 9 | - | - | 14 | - | - | 17 | - | - |
| Total | 317 | 82 | 25.9 | 324 | 87 | 26.9 | 324 | 99 | 30.6 |

Source: Judicial Commission 1998

Number of candidates by sex 1969-1997

| Year of election | Women | Men | Total | %Women |
|------------------|-------|-----|-------|--------|
| 1969 | 4 | 602 | 606 | 0.66 |
| 1974 | 11 | 728 | 739 | 1.49 |
| 1979 | 10 | 734 | 744 | 1.34 |
| 1983 | 7 | 720 | 727 | 0.96 |
| 1988 | 12 | 840 | 852 | 1.41 |
| 1992 | 19 | 835 | 854 | 2.23 |
| 1997 | 50 | 832 | 882 | 5.7 |

Source: Electoral commission, January 1998

Women participation in politics and decision-making can be measured in terms of number of women in parliament. This is indicated in the table below

Members of National Assembly by sex, 1969-1998

| Year | Women | Men | Total | %Women |
|------|-------|-----|-------|--------|
| 1969 | 2 | 165 | 167 | 1.2 |
| 1974 | 7 | 162 | 169 | 1.4 |
| 1979 | 4 | 166 | 170 | 2.4 |
| 1983 | 3 | 167 | 170 | 1.8 |
| 1988 | 3 | 197 | 200 | 1.5 |
| 1992 | 7 | 193 | 200 | 3.5 |
| 1997 | 8 | 214 | 222 | 3.6 |
| 1998 | 9 | 213 | 222 | 4.1 |

Source: Electoral Commission 1998

ANNEX IV:

Violence against Women

Wife beating by Husbands in Nairobi

| Reasons for wife beating | Frequency | % |
|--|-----------|-------|
| A form of punishment | 6 | 22.2 |
| A way of putting women where they belong | 15 | 55.6 |
| Traditionally acceptable | 1 | 3.7 |
| Other | 3 | 7.4 |
| To maintain discipline | 2 | 11.1 |
| Total | 27 | 100.0 |

Reasons for wife beating by husbands in Kajiado

| Reasons for beating wives | Frequency | % |
|--|-----------|-------|
| A form of punishment | 22 | 51.2 |
| Maintain discipline | 18 | 41.9 |
| A way of putting women where they belong | 1 | 2.3 |
| Traditionally acceptable | 2 | 4.7 |
| Total | 43 | 100.0 |

Source: B, Judith et al 1998

Types of Repression, 1995-1998

| Type | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Mob Violence | 138 | 95 | 132 | 139 |
| Extra Judicious Killing | 120 | 130 | 182 | 222 |
| Violence against women | 14 | 24 | 112 | 206 |
| Violence against children | 14 | 18 | 153 | 211 |
| Total | 286 | 267 | 579 | 778 |

Source: Quarterly Repression Reports, Kenya Human Rights Commission.

Reported cases of Violence against women in 1994-1999

Numbers.

| Assault | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Rape including attempt | 589 | 650 | 712 | 743 | 775 | 849 |
| Assault /Battery | 4,580 | 4,889 | 5,229 | 5,488 | 5,866 | 5,918 |

Source: Economic Survey, 2000

ANNEX V:

WOMEN IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Primary school enrolment; 1995-1998

Sex distribution %

| Year | Women | Men | Number |
|------|-------|------|--------|
| 1995 | 45.9 | 54.1 | 632388 |
| 1996 | 46.4 | 53.6 | 658253 |
| 1997 | 47.1 | 52.9 | 687473 |
| 1998 | 46.7 | 53.3 | 700538 |

Source: MOEST 1998

Student enrolment at the Kenya polytechnic by course

Sex distribution)(%)

| Course | Women | Men | Number |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Mechanical engineering | 1.4 | 98.6 | 641 |
| Electrical and electronic engineering | 4.4 | 95.6 | 654 |
| Building and civil engineering | 5.0 | 95.0 | 542 |
| Applied sciences | 39.8 | 60.2 | 955 |
| Business studies | 58.5 | 41.5 | 633 |
| Graphic arts | 31.0 | 69.0 | 477 |
| Institutional management | 84.4 | 15.6 | 392 |
| Survey & mapping | 18.0 | 82.0 | 339 |
| Information & liberal studies | 39.6 | 60.4 | 207 |
| Computer studies | 32.2 | 67.8 | 174 |
| Total | 29.8 | 70.2 | 5,014 |

Source: MOEST 1998

TABLE: Students Enrolment at Kenya Medical Training College by Course and Sex, 1998/1999.

| Course | Female | Male | Total | % Female |
|------------------------------------|--------|------|-------|----------|
| Clinical Medicine (CM) | 89 | 166 | 255 | 34.9 |
| Kenya Registered Community Nursing | 279 | 152 | 431 | 64.7 |
| Enrolled Community Nursing (ECN) | 216 | 114 | 330 | 65.5 |
| Medical Laboratory Sciences | 37 | 71 | 108 | 34.3 |
| Public Health Technician | 52 | 74 | 126 | 41.3 |

| | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Public Health Officer | 5 | 31 | 36 | 13.9 |
| Occupational Therapy | 18 | 29 | 47 | 38.3 |
| Physiotherapy | 16 | 23 | 39 | 41.0 |
| Health Records & Information Diploma. | 12 | 23 | 35 | 34.3 |
| Health Records & Information Certificate. | 27 | 20 | 47 | 57.4 |
| Radiography | 15 | 20 | 35 | 42.9 |
| Dental Technology | 5 | 12 | 17 | 29.4 |
| Plaster Technician | 40 | 14 | 54 | 74.1 |
| Community Oral Health | 8 | 7 | 15 | 53.3 |
| Orthopaedic Technology | 6 | 9 | 15 | 40.0 |
| Pharmacy Technology | 15 | 35 | 50 | 30.0 |
| Community Nutrition | 20 | 2 | 22 | 90.9 |
| Total. | 860 | 802 | 1,662 | 51.7 |

ENROLMENTS OF FEMALE STUDENTS IN MIDDLE LEVEL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES IN KENYA

ENROLMENT IN AHITI, NDOMBA, 1994-1999

| | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Female | 42 | 43 | 55 | 74 | 75 | 64 |
| Male | 149 | 178 | 169 | 179 | 149 | 126 |
| Total | 191 | 221 | 224 | 253 | 224 | 190 |
| % Female | 22.0 | 19.5 | 24.6 | 29.2 | 33.5 | 33.7 |

ENROLMENT IN DAIRY TRAINING SCHOOL, 1994-1999

| | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Female | 27 | 29 | 29 | 18 | 32 | 43 |
| Male | 54 | 58 | 42 | 45 | 57 | 45 |
| Total | 81 | 87 | 71 | 63 | 89 | 88 |
| % Female | 33.3 | 33.3 | 40.8 | 28.6 | 36.0 | 48.9 |

ENROLMENT IN AHITI, KABETE, 1994-1999

| | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Female | 14 | 14 | 14 | 19 | 19 | 27 |
| Male | 70 | 65 | 63 | 42 | 86 | 42 |
| Total | 84 | 79 | 77 | 61 | 105 | 69 |
| % Female | 16.7 | 17.7 | 18.2 | 31.1 | 18.1 | 39.1 |

ENROLMENT IN AHITI, NYAHURURU, 1994-1999

| | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Female | 19 | 20 | 16 | 17 | 22 | 24 |
| Male | 44 | 24 | 34 | 32 | 27 | 42 |
| Total | 63 | 44 | 50 | 49 | 49 | 66 |
| % Female | 30.2 | 45.5 | 32.0 | 34.7 | 44.9 | 36.4 |

ENROLMENT IN BUKURA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, 1994-1999

| | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Female | 52 | 42 | 41 | 34 | 35 | 39 |
| Male | 74 | 60 | 65 | 83 | 84 | 89 |
| Total | 126 | 102 | 106 | 117 | 119 | 128 |
| % Female | 41.3 | 41.2 | 38.7 | 29.1 | 29.4 | 30.5 |

ENROLMENT IN KILIFI INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL, 1993-1998

| | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Female | 54 | 50 | 59 | 67 | 65 | 70 |
| Male | 132 | 112 | 111 | 119 | 123 | 156 |
| Total | 186 | 162 | 170 | 186 | 188 | 226 |
| % Female | 29.0 | 30.9 | 34.7 | 36.0 | 34.6 | 31.0 |

Source: Ministry of agriculture and rural development

Annex VI:

Women and Poverty

POVERTY RANKING OF MALE AND FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLD

| ENTIRE SAMPLE | MALE HEADED | FEMALE HEADED | TOTAL |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| VERY POOR | 594 (20.8) | 293 (44.1) | 887 (25.2) |
| POOR | 1,083(37.9) | 235 (35.4) | 1,318 (37.4) |
| MEDIUM | 899 (31.4) | 118 (17.8) | 1,017 (28.9) |
| RICH | 283 (9.9) | 18 (2.7) | 310 (8.5) |
| TOTAL | 2,859 (100.0) | 664 (100.0) | 3,523 (100.0) |

| BOMET | MALE HEADED | FEMALE HEADED | TOTAL |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| VERY POOR | 125 (20.9) | 48 (36.1) | 173 (23.4) |
| POOR | 231 (38.1) | 60 (45.1) | 291 (39.4) |
| MEDIUM | 184 (30.4) | 23 (17.3) | 207 (28.0) |
| RICH | 66 (10.9) | 2 (1.5) | 68 (9.2) |
| TOTAL | 606 (100.0) | 133 (100.0) | 739 (100.0) |

| BUSIA | MALE HEADED | FEMALE HEADED | TOTAL |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| VERY POOR | 22 (5.9) | 6 (17.1) | 28 (6.9) |
| POOR | 222 (58.5) | 27 (77.2) | 249 (61.0) |
| MEDIUM | 100 (26.8) | 2 (5.7) | 102 (25.0) |
| RICH | 29 (7.8) | 0 (0.0) | 29 (7.1) |
| TOTAL | 373 (100.1) | 35 (100.0) | 408 (100.0) |

| KISUMU | MALE HEADED | FEMALE HEADED | TOTAL |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| VERY POOR | 92 (15.2) | 87 (33.3) | 179 (20.6) |
| POOR | 218 (35.9) | 100 (38.3) | 318 (36.6) |
| MEDIUM | 245 (40.3) | 67 (25.7) | 312 (36.0) |
| RICH | 52 (8.6) | 7 (2.7) | 59 (6.8) |
| TOTAL | 607 (100.0) | 261 (100.0) | 868 (100.0) |

| KITUI | MALE HEADED | FEMALE HEADED | TOTAL |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| VERY POOR | 123 (29.4) | 61 (78.2) | 184 (37.1) |
| POOR | 183 (43.8) | 14 (17.9) | 197 (39.7) |
| MEDIUM | 82 (19.6) | 3 (3.9) | 85 (17.1) |
| RICH | 30 (7.2) | 0 (0.0) | 30 (6.1) |
| TOTAL | 418 (100.0) | 78 (100.0) | 496 (100.0) |

| KWALE | MALE HEADED | FEMALE HEADED | TOTAL |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| VERY POOR | 213 (36.5) | 74 (76.3) | 287 (42.1) |
| POOR | 129 (22.1) | 7 (7.2) | 136 (20.0) |

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| MEDIUM | 162 (27.7) | 7 (7.2) | 169 (24.8) |
| RICH | 80 (13.7) | 9 (9.3) | 89 (13.1) |
| TOTAL | 584 (100.0) | 97 (100.0) | 681 (100.0) |

| NYAMIRA | MALE HEADED | FEMALE HEADED | TOTAL |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| VERY POOR | 19 (7.0) | 17 (28.3) | 36 (10.9) |
| POOR | 100 (36.9) | 27 (45.0) | 127 (38.4) |
| MEDIUM | 126 (46.5) | 16 (26.7) | 142 (42.9) |
| RICH | 26 (9.6) | 0 (0.0) | 26 (7.8) |
| TOTAL | 271 (100.0) | 60 (100.0) | 331 (100.0) |

| MANDERA | MALE HEADED | FEMALE HEADED | TOTAL |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| VERY POOR | 83 (25.4) | 151 (100.0) | 234 (49.0) |
| POOR | 134 (41.0) | 0 (0.0) | 134 (28.0) |
| NON POOR | 110 (33.6) | 0 (0.0) | 110 (23.0) |
| TOTAL | 327 (100.0) | 151 (100.0) | 478 (100.0) |

NOTE: MANDERA is listed separately because it is a pastoral nomadic district whereas the other districts are settled agricultural, and because slightly different ranking systems emerged during the research in this district.

- Proportion of female headed households ranked as “very poor” is substantially higher than the proportion of male headed households so ranked, without fail in every district
- By contrast, the proportion of male headed households ranked as “rich” is substantially greater than the proportion of female headed households so ranked, without fail in every district
- Overall, 80% of female-headed households is ranked as “poor” or “very poor” compared with 58% of male-headed households so ranked, in the entire sample. By contrast, 10% of male headed households are ranked as rich compared with 3% of female headed households in the entire sample
- In Mandera, the astonishing proportion of 100% of female headed households are ranked as “very poor”

ANNEX VII:

Women and Health, Nutrition and Personal Dignity

Distribution of all AIDS cases by province of reporting site and sex, April 2000

| PROVINCE | FEMALES | MALES | TOTAL |
|--------------------|---------|--------|--------|
| NAIROBI | 5,8999 | 7,326 | 13,225 |
| CENTRAL | 4,382 | 3,409 | 7,791 |
| COAST | 7,395 | 11,171 | 18,566 |
| EASTERN | 7,581 | 6,147 | 13,728 |
| N.EASTERN | 243 | 215 | 458 |
| NYANZA | 8,964 | 10,189 | 19,151 |
| RIFT VALLEY | 7,294 | 6,267 | 13,561 |
| WESTERN | 3,237 | 2,968 | 6,205 |
| NATIONAL TOTALS | 44,995 | 47,690 | 92,685 |

Source: NASCOP 2000

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