

CASE STUDIES FROM KENYA

Case Study 1: Cluster-level Associations (CLAs) taking up community projects

St John's Community Centre is one of the promoting organisations in Kenya implementing the SHG concept among women living in the slums of Nairobi such as Kiambiyo and Majengo. Being in a slum set up, one of the roles the CLAs in this community have taken as a priority is community projects such as clean-up exercises. Such exercises not only realise a clean environment, but also come with immense gains. Through such exercise they have won the good will of the opinion leaders, government officials and the community at large. In addition, it has made mobilisation for women easy and as a result has hastened group formation. In one of the CLA- Joy in ECC, a woman says "The chief gave us a piece of land to plant vegetables since we had once participated in cleaning up his compound"



SHG women and city council of Nairobi get ready for cleanup



SHG women in a cleanup exercise



Case study 2: SHG women tagged freedom fighters

ACK Diocese of Mt Kenya-Christian Community Services (CCS) is implementing SHG approach in Nyeri, Central Province where illicit brewing is a key economic activity though illegal. Men and youth in Thamaki village in Kiganjo location are addicted to taking illicit brews. As a result, women were overburdened by the responsibility of doing domestic chores as well as providing for the family. This finally emerged as an agenda in the three SHGs found in that area namely, Mwikuria (to grow), Jikaze and Mwienderi (willing). In a bid to address this problem, the groups held hands and called upon the area elders to address the problem in a peaceful way but all in vain. Consequently, the group members decided to conduct a peaceful

demonstration one Sunday and this drew the attention of the District officer and other leaders. They visited the village since the large number of women drew his attention and the community at large. The meeting was held in a church where the DO gave a serious warning on the perpetrators of the business. This has already bore fruits since consumption of the brews has reduced considerably. The community appreciated the three groups and has named them “freedom fighters”.

Case study 3: SHGs linked to Farm Concern International

Disability Community Centre (DCC) is one of the partner organisations implementing the SHG approach in Meru North District in Eastern Province. The organisation has formed a CLA which is currently undergoing training. However, the SHGs in the area through the Ministry of Agriculture are linked with Farm Concern International which works in partnership with Ministry of Agriculture, Green alliance and Kenyatta University which does research.

Farm Concern International promotes farmers by buying produce in bulk to beat middle men who exploit farmers. They provide farmers with ready market for their produce. They offer training to farmers on the best farming practises through demonstration on small plots given by the community members. Besides, they equip farmers with skills and knowledge which enhances their ability to do quality storage of their farm produce. After the training they provide farmers, usually in a group of 20, with seeds at a subsidised price. Farmers come together and form groups which are ready to plant the same type of crop. They then agree on the amount of produce to pool together to the group store. It is then the responsibility of Farm Concern International to source for market for the produce.

In the last planting season Farm Concern International, gave SHG women climbing beans seeds for a demonstration on a piece of land donated by one of the members. They will give the group members seeds this planting season since they have gained skills from the demo plot and hence will plant them in their individual farms. The cost of seeds will be spread among the group members and Farm Concern International.



SHG members and Farm Concern International Officials in their demo plot



SHG members planting climbing beans in their demo plot



Case study 4: SHG has created love and cohesion among members and communities.-Ripples International Project area in Meru district

The SHG concept has empowered poor women to understand and cope with their situation and they are now able to face challenges in a more informed perspective. Kiingirwa group comprises 20 active members endowed with potential and abilities, to address their social economic issues together. The members serve as servants to each other. They are determined to uplift the living standard of every individual in the group. Unity has been the key factor to achievements realized in this group. The group has been on forefront to address social issues like female genital mutilation which is rampant in the area.

For equality, identification and uniformity the group has made a uniform to every member. This uniform was worn in a colorful ceremony which was presided over by area councilor, chief, assistant chief and Head teacher of Maitha primary where the group usually meet. The wonderful uniform serves as end of the year gift to members which will also be used in subsequent events, like public holidays.

The group was among trained on cake baking, so they had prepared a wonderful cake that was cut and shared to edify the spirit of unity. Ripples International, the promoting organization is committed to strengthen other groups to achieve this and act as transformation channels for household sustainability, offering reliable care and support to children.



Area councillor cuts a cake that was prepared by member to mark end of the year as they also wear brand new group uniforms



Case study 5: SHG members' education support-Ripples International project area

Mwitethia group comprises of 22 members, the group has done a wonderful job in addressing social economic issues. Magret Gakii, a widow is a member who bears a big responsibility of bringing up her family weighing heavily on her shoulders. True to its principles the group did not disappoint one of their own. The group members took the responsibility to raise funds in support of her child who is in secondary school and she is able to continue with education courtesy of SHG group. The group members are focused in supporting their children keep in school and attain education. She has taken loans from the group and started a grocery that has really supported her children get food and meet other school requirements. When her husband passed away leaving her with the responsibility

over all the children, the group members met to console, give material and financial and moral support to children. The family was greatly touched by the kind gesture of the SHG members.

Case study 6: SHG member able to pay college fees for two daughters

Joyce Kalume is a member of Mahenzo SHG in Malindi District - the project area of one of the new promoting organizations – Mulangaza Integrated Development Programme. She joined Mahenzo SHG in March 2010. During that time, Joyce had 2 daughters who had completed form four (4) but they were at home because the family had no money to take them to college. After joining the SHG, Joyce realized that there was an opportunity at Mahenzo SHG to take her two daughters to college. In September 2010, she asked her daughters to apply for courses they desired. Mercy Kalume got an opportunity at Mombasa Polytechnic to take a course in clearing and forwarding while Rosemary Kalume enrolled herself to do computer maintenance at Malindi Institute. Joyce Kalume took a loan of Ksh 5,000 and paid Mercy's fees in October 2010. She repaid this loan and in November took another loan of Ksh 6,000 to pay fees for Rosemary. The loans taken from Mahenzo supplemented the bursaries received from Constituency Development Fund to pay fees for the two daughters. Joyce is determined to ensure that her two daughters complete their courses so that they enjoy better quality of life in future.