



PRESENTATION ON : COMMUNITY BASED MAPPING AND LOCAL
DIALOGUES
AS TOOLS TO SECURE LAND AND HOUSING RIGHTS

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MAASAI WOMEN DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

1. Introduction to the issue of land and the Maasai women of Tanzania.

Lack of land rights and impact on indigenous women

- Maasai people of the northern Tanzania are an indigenous semi- nomadic tribe their livelihoods largely depend on livestock keeping and pastoralism. For the Maasai as a whole, cattle are the pivotal livelihoods.
- Pastoralists on the semiarid grasslands of East Africa have various mechanisms enabling the community as a whole to survive from generation to generation.
- As a consequence, their property regime is based on communal ownership of resources and communal access rights.
- Insufficient knowledge and implementation of Tanzanian laws
- In Maasai culture understanding, people lived on and used the land without individual ownership.
- When the government embarked on land distribution programmes, it was men who were given land. When the land was first divided, people did not understand they would own it. It was given to many outsiders, and women were not permitted to participate in land issue. Currently widows and single women are not given the right to own land traditionally.
- *The Maasai culture discriminates greatly against women. Traditionally Maasai women do not own land and that makes them to face discriminatory restrictions on inheritance and ownership of property or income from cattle or access to land.*

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FACTS ON LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS FOR MAASAI WOMEN:

- 1. Poverty within the Maasai Communities**
- 2. A limited alternative source of income in the pastoral areas**
- 3. Status of Women in relation to male partners;**

In Tanzania, Maasai women continue to have only limited access to land and other natural resources, in large part due to their subordinate status in their cultural settings.

For these women, land rights are primarily determined by cultural traditions on inheritance and marriage.



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Tools used to secure land and housing rights

COMMUNITY BASED-MAPPING & DIALOGUING WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- With the support from HUAIROU commission, MWEDO introduced a mapping process project in land and property rights for Maasai women in Northern Districts of Tanzania.
- The main purpose of mapping process project was to record useful information on land and housing for maasai women. Through interviews and surveys at a community level it was useful to find out that maasai people lack knowledge on land laws as they have maintained their customary land rights.
- The findings also showed that some Maasai women and men know about existing Tanzania land rights but simply are not useful to them since governments have not establish administration for access of land in their areas.
- When customary law is used women in maasai community are not considered for ownership of land their said to be only users of these resources.
- Local Authority are not well informed on country land policies use and application. Most leaders at local authorities are men, thus decision making is male dominated.

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- **Objectives**
- The overall objective of the Mapping process project was to gather information from Maasai women and Maasai community who live in the underserved communities in rural Tanzania through oral survey and interviews, this will enable the Maasai women and Maasai community to identify challenges affecting them, approaches and contributions that will lead them finding solutions order to improve their demand / access on land and property title for a durable settlement.

Expectations

It was expected that the project will be able to bring important information to all stakeholders' needs: NGO, Local authorities, Policy makers to realize the priority need of accessing land and property for underserved communities.



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MWEDO used a simple 6 steps strategy:

- Identify what is the issue at community level tackle similar issues,
- Determine appropriate geographical mapping area,
- Collect necessary data,
- Create documentation on findings,
- Validate the findings and use documentation to promote identified issues.
- The strategy included a short survey and oral interviews conducted in each targeted village.



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ACTION PLANNING

For the duration of project the following activities implemented:

- Building and strengthening the capacity of Maasai people particularly women to implement the project to achieve the objectives.
- Training the community on land and property rights including training on how to undertake surveys for the mapping process
- Several sessions of community conversations and dialoging with the local authorities prior and after mapping activities.



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Who is involved in Mapping processes:

- The beneficiaries of the program were Maasai women and men in targeted villages.
- This zone is dominated by pastoralism with very few or agro-pastoralism and social services.
- Local Authorities, village Elders & influential leaders

The mapping process project was oriented to the Maasai community. Women and girls received special attention, as these are the most vulnerable and neglected part of the pastoral communities due to limited access to decision-making.



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PROCESSES

- Research is set on questionnaire way and conducted in interviews forms.
- Training session for facilitators of the process is done on all forms of interviews including oral and written interviews.
- Survey is undertaken by all by all involved with majority of women leading the process.
- Random Interviewers are done by facilitators to community members including local authorities.



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- Language used: Maa (Maasai language) and the answers are collected using tape-recorder and camera recorder and later translated from Maa to English.
- During the sharing finding meeting, recommendations and future strategies/activities are discussed for further implementations.



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BENEFITS ON THE MAPPING PROCESS:

- Men recognises discriminatory restrictions on inheritance and ownership of property against women.
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- It enable the community to realize that lack of information and education on land and property rights is not only women but the whole community,
- Changes the attitude of people to view land dispossession as human rights issue.
- Creates platform for women to start participating in decision- making at their community level which impacts on their development .



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benefits in development:

Positive Community involvement in responding and devoting time towards their community development

1. The demands made by women on access to land and control of their land effect whole society and create women ability to control the use of natural resources for future generations.
2. The process creates advocacy at local and also at international level to be involved in recognition of grassroots women innovations.



LOCAL TO LOCAL

- Comes as a results of the mapping process. It a process that enables grass roots women to engage in dialogue with their local leaders.
- The grass root women should identify the key leaders and invite them.
- Grass roots women should identify people who will enable them to reach this leaders and convince them to participate in the dialogue

LOCAL TO LOCAL (cont'd)

- The grass root women should have their issue documented well in advance showing the problem and possible solution.
- The problem should inform how the solution will enhance development within the given community (e.g. if women are given opportunity to control land they will improve their livelihood and the livelihood of other people in community .)
- NOTE THAT. Organizing for the dialogue should given enough time to enable people to prepare. The venue should be at palace where all leaders will be comfortable to attend.
- Watch! Politicians may hijack the dialogue to discuss their own agendas. Be careful to keep reminding the agenda.

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ASANTENI SANA KWA KUNISIKILIZA!

THANKS!