

Resilient livelihoods and climate justice

Compendium of case studies 2018 - 2019

June 2020





Control over seed could strengthen the right to food of many smallholder farmers in Malawi. PHOTO: ACTIONAID

Acknowledgements

The Resilient Livelihoods and Climate Justice Team would like to extend their appreciation to all communities in the different geographical locations that made this work possible. This publication is only a testimony of the many struggles and victories that landless people, rural women, young people, indigenous communities, smallholder women farmers, fisherfolk and pastoralists in these communities have won.

The team would also like to thank the staff members who took time to develop and showcase these case studies at the Annual Learning and Review Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa in April 2019. The effectiveness of these case studies in bringing to life our Theory of Change generated the interest in publishing the studies in this compendium in order to share widely within ActionAid and the broader development sector.

We are also grateful to our editing team for doing a sterling job in finalizing this document. Many thanks to Ruchi Tripathi (Head of Resilience Livelihoods and Climate Justice Team), Carol Kayira (Resilience Livelihoods and Climate Justice Programme Manager), John Marondo (Programme Quality, Learning and Impact Coordinator), and Catherine Gatundu (Livelihoods Policy Advisor).

Cover photo: Woman carrying maize: control over seed can strengthen the right to food for many Malawian small holder farmers. PHOTO: ACTIONAID MALAWI

CONTENTS

1. Introduction	4
------------------------	----------

2. Agroecology and Food Sovereignty Programme framework	5
2.1 Summary of our agroecology work	5
2.2 Upscaling agroecology to empower rural communities: the case of Chiendambuya in Zimbabwe	5
2.3 Farmer-led agroecology extension services: the Female Extension Volunteer Programme in Ghana	7
2.4 Resuscitating farmers' power to control seed, strengthening resilience to climate change impacts in Malawi	8

3. Climate Justice Programme Framework	13
3.1 Summary	13
3.2 'Weather Women' in Senegal: Taking a proactive approach to disseminating weather information at community level	14
3.3 Malawi: Supporting civil society engagement in developing the National Adaptation Plan	15

4. Natural Resources and Defence of the Commons Programme Framework	18
4.1 Nepal: Land reform and land rights	19
4.2 Haiti: Reparative justice and corporate social responsibility	20
4.3 'Arrested development' at the heart of coal mining in Mui Basin, Kenya	22

1. INTRODUCTION

ActionAid International's work on resilient livelihoods and climate justice is implemented in 38 countries. The interventions are largely centred on:

- working with people living in poverty to strengthen resilient livelihoods systems
- supporting rural women and local communities' food sovereignty
- advocating for public financing for agriculture and for women smallholders
- protection of women environmental defenders
- promoting natural resource rights and management
- focus on climate justice among a host of other interventions.

This work comes under Priority Three of the ActionAid Global Strategy 2028. The approaches and strategies for delivering interventions under this priority area are varied and include:

- informed and purposeful support for the adoption of agroecology as both methodology and approach for promoting resilient livelihoods and adapting to the effects of climate change
- supporting access to, use and control of, natural resources (land, water, minerals) by women and young people
- influencing gender-responsive public services and social accountability in the areas of land tenure and agriculture
- ensuring local to global connections through supporting rightsholders engagement in key national, regional and global policy forums, such as the UN Commission on Status of Women (CSW), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and African Union and Regional Economic Community meetings, among others.

Rationale and utility of this compendium of case studies

This compendium contains nine impact case studies drawn from experiences in nine different

countries. While these have focused on interventions implemented between 2017 and 2019, the impact on the communities in these countries is as a result of ActionAid's long-term rootedness and engagement with people living in poverty in those communities – including rural women, farmers' organizations, young people and other duty bearers. The case studies have been selected as examples that communicate the impact of and changes brought about by our work in different communities, as envisioned in our 3-year Programme Frameworks and nested theory of Change.

This compendium of case studies provides contextualized evidence on the direction, progress made, our contributions and the intermediate changes that have occurred in line with the impact at different levels local, national, regional and international level. This compendium is also our own way of validating the assumptions of our Theory of Change across the different operating contexts presented by the countries from which these case studies were drawn from. The case studies bring to life the experiences, voices and emotions of local people, their organizations and social movements in their daily struggles for resilient livelihoods and climate justice. Some of the case studies indicate the beginning of long journeys, some highlight quick gains, and some are specific moments of celebrating impacts.

The case studies also bring to the fore key learnings that are useful for adaptive programme implementation for deepening the impact of our work in communities. These lessons are for everyone; the Federation, its functional teams, project staff, partners, social movements, rightsholders and other actors within the wider development sector to use in programme design, learning, and communicating impact, among other uses.

Structure of the compendium

This compendium is organized according to the three work streams under the Resilient Livelihoods and Climate Justice Priority area. These are: Agroecology and Food Sovereignty; Climate Justice and Natural Resource Rights and Defence of the Commons. The case studies are discussed under the relevant work streams mentioned above.



Climate change adaptation community discussions. PHOTO: ACTIONAID MALAWI

2. AGROECOLOGY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

2.1 Summary of our agroecology work

Agriculture today leans heavily towards industrial agriculture, driven by governments and transnational companies. We believe this model of agriculture is environmentally and socially damaging, with its heavy reliance on chemical inputs, industrialised seeds and corporate supply chains. It does not value the effort of millions of women food producers, farmers and indigenous communities who produce the food and care for our environment.

Together with our global partners we support agroecology as a way to enhance the resilience of smallholders against climate change. We aim to improve food security and livelihoods by addressing the socioeconomic and ecological inequalities that exclude women, indigenous groups, young people and

others. We work with social movements to challenge industrial and corporate agriculture, and to support women's access to territorial markets. We also scale up advocacy for public financing for women smallholders and agroecology; and we promote agroecology as a positive alternative to ensure food sovereignty and the right to food.

2.2 Upscaling agroecology to empower rural communities: The case of Chiendambuya in Zimbabwe

Summary

ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) supported rural women farmers to adopt and upscale agroecological practices

as a means of empowering them to enhance their incomes, reclaim their influence on local food production systems and consequently achieve household food security. The intervention implemented in two districts focused on promoting women smallholder farmer's rights to a resilient food system less dependent on external inputs or influenced by political agendas of actors external to the community, such as local and international corporates and other multinational agencies involved in local, national and international food systems. These examples also celebrate the positive impacts of rural household livelihood diversification as a means of strengthening households and community social and economic systems.

The situation in Chiendambuya

Chiendambuya is located in an agricultural region that mainly supports crop production and livestock rearing. However, over the years crop production and livestock rearing have drastically declined due to recurrent droughts that are attributable to the effects of climate change. The reduction in agricultural production has seriously affected the household food security, livelihoods and incomes of people in the area. The impact of this has been much greater on women, who are the major food producers in the area and, due to gender-ascribed roles, also shoulder the responsibility for household food security and care duties.

The intervention

ActionAid Zimbabwe has partnered with ten groups of local women and has supported them in embarking on a project to rear local goats and chickens, supported by the use of available local feeds. The goats and chickens are local breeds that are resilient to the effects of climate change-induced droughts. So far, 160 women have benefited from the project. ActionAid Zimbabwe supported the ten groups to come up with a mechanism that allows the original members of the groups to pass on the livestock to other women not involved in the intervention to ensure wide reach and impact of the intervention.

Women from the ten groups have realized massive benefits that include household food security,

enhanced nutritional outcomes and improved economic opportunities. Out of the 160 women involved, 70% are now able to produce excess chickens which they sell to earn income. According to the women, at least 1,000 indigenous chickens are produced as excess production, and these are sold to raise money that is used to meet other important household needs such as health and education. One of the women, Shuwiso Vangisai (37), highlighted that:

“Through the rearing of local breeds of goats and chickens, I am now able to feed my family whereas other households in this community that have not yet adopted this are failing to do such. With the profits I am now able to send my children to school.”

ActionAid Zimbabwe has also worked with the women farmers to support them with information about and skills in agroecological methods. The women farmers are using organic manure from the goats and chicken rearing projects. The women mentioned that:

“Our use and reliance on goat and chicken manure for crop production has meant that we now less rely on external inputs such as fertilisers. We now have the power to decide what crop to grow and when, and this means we now are able to plant on time and at low cost.”

Elvis Augustin, the ActionAid Zimbabwe Livelihoods Officer, also noted that the vision of AAZ is to see the national scaling-up of agroecological practices with government support, as this has the potential to cut the costs of food production in an environment constrained by the serious effects of climate change, which have constrained the capacity of farmers to produce. ActionAid Zimbabwe is supporting farmers to adopt other useful agroecological techniques such as own seed production and multiplication (linked to seed banks), mulching, organic manure utilization, multi-cropping, livelihood diversification, potholing and weed suppression, which can create an environment where farmers can produce and achieve food security and enhanced nutrition.

Conclusion

This case study has highlighted the benefits that can be accrued from the adoption of agroecological practices to empower rural women. The empowerment of women is the first building block in ActionAid's Theory of Change that seeks to challenge the different forms of power that hinder women from enjoying their full rights. AAZ has noted that the adoption of agroecology definitely empowers rural women farmers to make critical decisions in the food production system, such as deciding on what type of crop to grow and when. Generally, women farmers are quicker than their male counterparts to take up agroecology due to their multiple roles on food provision, and therefore they are experiencing the benefits of agroecology. AAZ has also realized that supporting women in groups creates the impetus for having wider influence in communities, which amplifies the influence of, and decisions to adopt, agroecological practices on a wider scale.

2.3 Farmer-led agroecology extension services: the female extension volunteer programme in Ghana

Summary

ActionAid Ghana is supporting communities through participatory appraisal processes in the identification of farmer-led extension support programmes. This is seen as a way of bridging the gap between public sector extension providers and women farmers, who are excluded due to socio-cultural factors that limit their access. An advocacy component ensures the mobilisation of women farmers in advocating for government support for agroecology extension services. A core component is supporting the Female Extension Volunteers (FEVs) programme, a farmer-led community-based extension service using field demonstrations and farmer field schools for sharing innovations.

The issue we are trying to solve

The government agriculture extension system in Ghana is in crisis, with the ratio of agriculture extension agent

to farmer standing at 1:6,000+ in some parts of the country. The situation is worse for women farmers, as socio-cultural factors further limit their ability to access extension services. Private sector extension providers take advantage of this crisis by promoting the use of agrochemicals and hybrids among climate-vulnerable communities. ActionAid piloted this farmer-led community-based extension service to ensure that women farmers have access to extension services and to promote agroecology among smallholder farmers and their transition to climate-resilient sustainable agriculture/agroecology.

The intervention

The Female Extension Volunteers (FEVs) programme resulted from ActionAid's support for communities through participatory reflection processes. In these processes, a farmer-led extension support programme was identified as a way of bridging the extension gap. Selected women farmers identified as natural leaders in their communities were trained in agroecology practices and basic extension delivery methods. The FEVs were also supported with simple tools and logistics to enhance their work. The main focus of the FEVs is to promote agroecology and support smallholder farmers' transition to climate-resilient sustainable agriculture (CRSA). FEVs facilitate and link up with the Agriculture Extension Advisors to provide extension services to women farmers in their own communities. This case promotes agroecology among smallholder farmers and their transition to CRSA.

FEVs also use field demonstrations, farmer field schools and half-yearly review meetings supported by ActionAid to share innovations. An advocacy component ensures the mobilisation of women farmers to gain government support for agroecology.

Impact

With the support of the female extension volunteers, local smallholder farmers are gaining back control over their agricultural production and food sovereignty. Smallholder women farmers are experiencing increased agricultural production through agroecology practices that are less dependent on external inputs; they

are also more connected to government agriculture extension services and other support programmes.

Through the programme, women farmers are preserving and multiplying local seeds, which are adapted to local conditions, making them readily available for production with reduced dependence on expensive hybrid seeds. Smallholder farmers are increasingly using crop residues to prepare compost manure, which improves soil fertility, reduces residue burning and prevents environmental degradation. Through the interventions and links with the government, we were able to influence some government policies. For instance, Ghana's Minister for Food and Agriculture, who used to be known to be pro-GMO, has recently declared in a meeting with 17 country directors of World Food Programme (WFP) in sub-region, that Ghana is not ready for GMOs as the country is able to feed itself from locally improved seeds.

Through this intervention there has been a realization of the economic empowerment of women and their families through access to extension services. Women farmers are gaining back control over their agricultural production and food sovereignty. Smallholder women farmers are experiencing increased agricultural production through agroecology practices with less dependence on external inputs. It has also connected smallholder women farmers to government's agriculture extension services and other support programmes.

Strategy in action

This aligns with the AA Agroecology and Food Sovereignty Framework, that identifies types of change that will be encouraged, including policy change at national level. This change includes the shift in national government's use of climate adaptation funds to reorganize extension services with a focus on women smallholder farmers, farmer-to-farmer extension and agroecology. In addition, governments actively engaging and listening to women farmers demands and acting on them (around food sovereignty and land rights). This has removed the socioeconomic limitations that women and young people face, one of them being access to extension services. This has been done through participatory appraisal processes in the identification of farmer-led extension support programmes, training

on agroecology practices and basic extension delivery methods, as well as an advocacy component, ensures the mobilization of women farmers in advocating for government's support for agroecology extension services.

Conclusion and lessons learned: generating alternatives and learning

This simple innovation has contributed to greater access to agroecology extension services and other government support programmes by women farmers in Ghana.

2.4 Resuscitating farmers' power to control seed, strengthening resilience to climate change impacts in Malawi

Summary

Agriculture is the main occupation of around 80% of Malawians. It is estimated that agriculture accounts for around 30% of gross domestic product (GDP), provides jobs for about 70% of the labour force, and is the basis of livelihoods for more than 65% of the population. Smallholder farmers are responsible for the production of 70-80% of Malawi's food requirements. This implies that agricultural growth and poverty reduction prospects will be closely linked in the transformation of the smallholder agricultural sector. In the global context, smallholder farmers equally dominate food production, and using traditional agricultural practices meet the food requirements of around 60% of the world's population. The success of the agricultural sector is dependent on a farming system that enjoys seed security. This means that seed of high quality is available and readily accessible by farmers. Easy access to quality seed can be achieved and guaranteed only if there is a viable seed supply system to multiply and distribute seeds that have been produced or preserved.

The national seed policy and enterprises in Malawi have focused on improving farmers' access to modern seed varieties distributed/sold through the formal seed system, which is controlled by multinational

seed breeders, processors and vendors. This is at the expense of the informal seed system, which is dying out, and which, if not well supported, and will be overtaken by the former.

With support from ActionAid Malawi (AAM) and Rumphu Women Forum (RWF), efforts are being made to help farmers regain control of traditional or local seed varieties. These efforts are being promoted with the realisation that where vulnerable smallholder farmers have no power to control seed, there is no food sovereignty for them. These efforts, it is hoped, will ensure that traditional seed varieties will no longer be vulnerable to continued erosion or loss. Food sovereignty is broadly defined as the right to control own food systems, including own markets, production modes, food cultures and environments. This is a radical alternative to food security, as it is directly linked to democracy and justice, putting the control of productive resources such as land, water, seeds and natural resources into the hands of those who produce the food. This definition contrasts what food security entails, which is having physical, social and economic access to enough, safe and nutritious food.

What is the issue we are trying to address?

Increasingly, farmers are facing challenges to make their own decisions around seeds. This is because of the current seed policy, which continues to ignore the informal seed system that the majority of farmers use. The policy includes some hostile provisions that undermine the right of farmers to save, use and re-sow farm-saved seeds, as it bars farmers groups from recycling seeds, under the pretext of quality control, while encouraging farmers, in general, to buy and use newly purchased seed annually from certified seed agencies. As a result of these restrictions, seed has become more expensive and hard to keep, and this has affected agricultural productivity.

The national seed policy establishes the regulatory framework for seed quality and traceability; unfortunately, it does so in favour of the formal rather than the informal seed sector. Section 3.13 of the Seed Policy under Priority Area 13: Recycling of Self-Pollinated varieties, states that, "Government and the

private sector encourages farmers to use fresh seed each season." It is because of this statement that farmers have been discouraged from saving, using and sharing local seed varieties through extension messages. This is contrary to Malawi's commitments under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA – FAO, 1999), which guarantees farmers' rights to save, reuse and exchange seed.

"Increasingly, we are losing our rights, as smallholder farmers, to keep, save and exchange local seed. Because of this, we have lost a significant proportion of local seed varieties. Because of the loss, keeping, saving and exchanging local seed varieties, for some time now, has not been at the heart of our traditional farming systems. This used to contribute significantly to our livelihoods even without the application of external inputs like in organic fertilisers. While concentration now is on hybrid seed varieties, it has entailed that we now rely on buying seed for our farming, in the process, inch by inch, losing rich knowledge of and practices in traditional agriculture that centred more on organic farming. Organic farming contributed a lot to soil health and improved crop yields..."

"Currently, with concentration on hybrid seed, I personally feel powerless, as it now costs a lot of money to buy seed for planting. In a single rainy season, it has happened repeatedly, where we have bought seed again and again for replanting, after a dry spell had choked germination initially."

ESTER MABASO, CHIGWERE VILLAGE

What are we doing about it?

ActionAid Malawi and other civil society organizations (CSOs), including the Centre for Environmental Policy Advocacy (CEPA), from as far back as July 2015, have been working on ensuring that the Seed Policy is reviewed to reflect the needs of small holder farmers and have been increasingly advocating for the introduction of farm-saved seed within the policy discourse.



CISONECC facilitating NAP Sensitization meetings in GHV Gaga in Chikwawa District where communities, particularly women shared their inputs into the NAP Process. PHOTO: ACTIONAID

The work ActionAid and its partners are doing aims to ensure that smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, can contribute to conserving, improving and making available plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, which constitutes the basis of farmers' rights. Together with other CSOs, farmer organizations, ActionAid and its partners are also ensuring the rights of women smallholder farmers to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed and other propagating material, and to participate in decision making regarding, and in the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from, the use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are upheld.

"The exchanging of local seed with relatives, community members and others has strengthened our social bonds and networks besides building our resilience, as a community. This saves us from the disintegration and deterioration of our social fabric, as a community. It is further strengthening our traditional seed systems, and the use of indigenous farming knowledge, which we are sure to transfer to our children for posterity.

"I am personally indebted to ActionAid and Rumphu Women Forum for sensitising us on our right to keep, save and exchange local seed varieties. This initiative has thus revived, in some of us, not only the use of local seed

varieties, but also the saving and exchanging of the same. No wonder that we, in Chigwere village, have put in place plans to establish a seed bank for local seed varieties. As one of the ten people that have started using local seed varieties, which include local maize, sweet potatoes, millet and groundnuts, I have noticed that this has enabled us to start controlling our own food production initiatives, hence providing security to food for a couple of families, as we are now able to share and exchange seed. I so much value local seed varieties, as I am now able to save money. By saving and replanting seed, I have not bought maize seed, thereby saving around K16,000 for my 1-acre piece of land. With local seed varieties I have maximised the use of organic inputs, reducing the need for and use of costly inputs like fertilisers. I have used the saved funds for other necessities such as clothing, school fees and healthcare. These local seeds that I have used go beyond assuring us of our right to food. They have already started to resuscitate that which used to be an integral part of culture, heritage, identity and sense of oneness. Local seed varieties are again moving from one person to the other. For a couple of years to come, it is my hope that this village will be awash with people using local seed varieties."

VIC NYIRONGO, WHO A WIFE TO CHIGWERE VILLAGE HEADMAN

Strategy in action

Strengthening the women's movement

At local level, ActionAid worked with the coalition of women farmers and the women forum to gain an understanding on the challenges women farmers face regarding seed. This was done through participatory meetings and Reflection-Action circles. Through the Coalition of Women Farmers, the voice of women farmers was amplified, and they were able to meet policy makers to influence seed policy. With the power of stories, evidence and advocacy, women farmers and smallholder farmers in Malawi have come to realize that farmers' voices should matter and should be included in policy spaces.

Partnerships and networks at national level

There are strong powers behind the controlling of the development of seed policies within Malawi, stemming from the drafting of the national seed policy as well as global and regional policies. However, there is also a strong force coming from farmers and civil society that can alter the landscape. Seed policies can be changed through the active mobilization of rural women, including working with movements to advocate for policies that promote agroecology, sustainable engagement with markets and increased access to and control over seed by women farmers to sustain resilient livelihoods. There is power when farmers and civil society join together and support wider movements in support of seed and food sovereignty, as shown by the sustained efforts of the Coalition of Women Farmers (COWFA) and other CSOs like the Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA) in encouraging government to recognize and improve the informal seed sowers and users.



ActionAid Malawi has also empowered smallholder farmers like one in the photo engaging the former Minister of Agriculture of key policies during one of the agriculture learning events. PHOTO: ACTIONAID

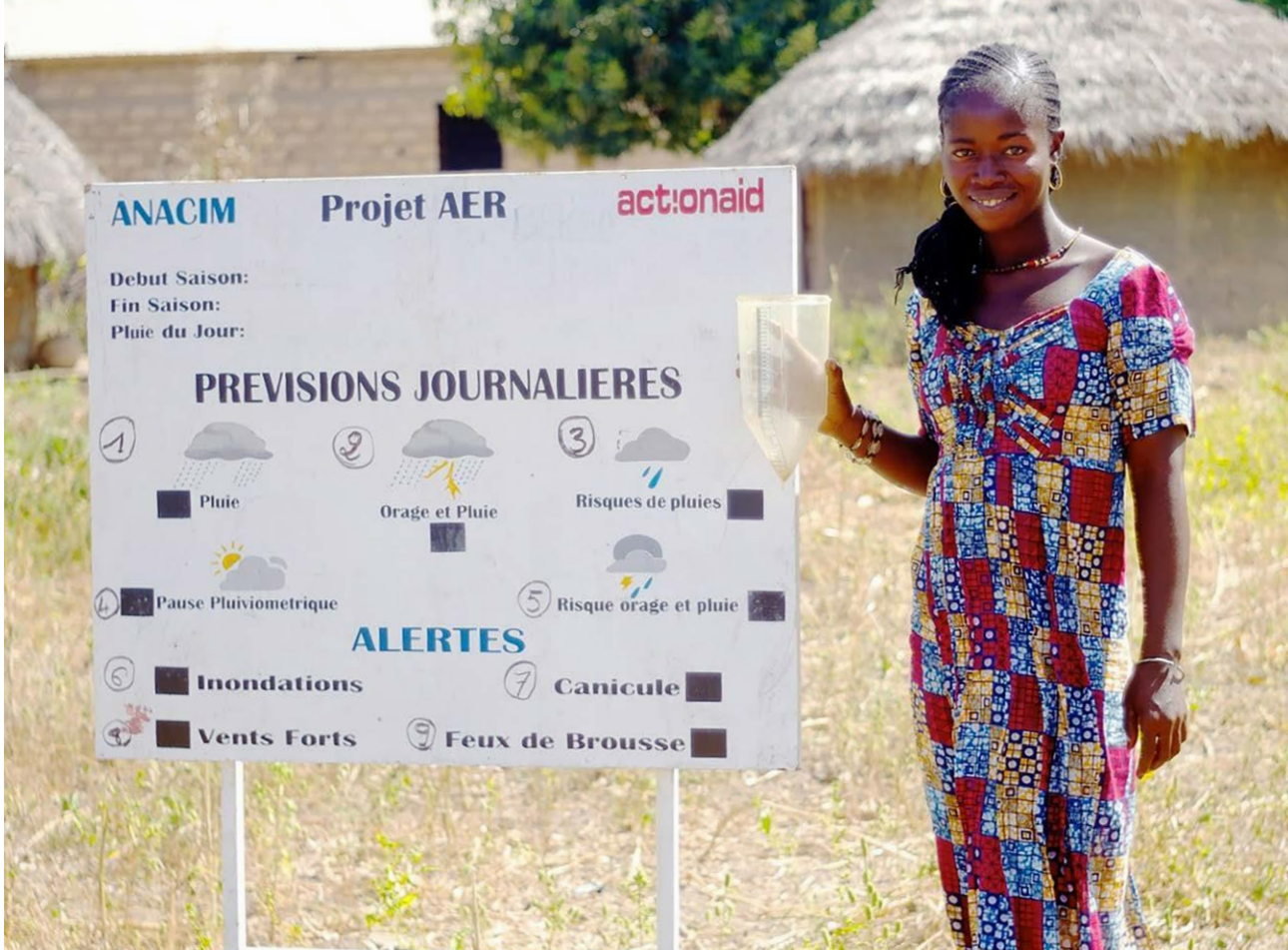
What has changed?

A realisation of farmers rights

Through COWFA and other CSO engagement with government, farmers became aware of their rights in line with ITPGRFA – rights that guarantee farmers’ rights to save and share seed. Malawi committed to respecting farmers’ seed rights under ITPGRFA. There is hope that the government will review the adjustment of national legal, administrative and policy measures affecting the implementation of farmers’ rights.

A stronger voice and movement of women farmers

Through this work the Coalition of Women Farmers has become a strong voice in issues around seed. Policy spaces have opened up for the participation of rural women farmers. While the seed policy debate continues, the local government council, through the District Agriculture Development Office (DADO), continues to work collaboratively with ActionAid and COWFA, by empowering women to improve the quality of the seed they keep, reuse and share. COWFA and other CSOs argue that national seed policies and laws should support and not impede farmers’ continued sharing of plant genetic resources for food, agriculture and related knowledge among themselves.



Local early warning systems in Senegal. PHOTO: ACTIONAID SENEGAL

3. CLIMATE JUSTICE PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

3.1 Summary

Despite not being responsible for most of the pollution leading to climate change, poorer countries and communities, particularly women and indigenous people, suffer its most severe impacts, either in terms of extreme weather events or slow-onset impacts like desertification. These effects are likely to become more severe in future.

We focus on climate justice and equity, recognising the responsibility of wealthy countries and wealthy companies, as well as individuals, to lead rapid climate action and support developing countries to cope with climate impacts and transition to greener pathways. ActionAid’s work on Climate Justice focuses on supporting the ability of communities to adapt to climate change by:

- strengthening national plans and processes
- protecting and financially supporting people facing climate induced losses and those forced to migrate due to climate change
- putting pressure on wealthy countries to support initiatives like the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to facilitate climate action and adaptation in poorer countries
- advocating for system change and the scaling-up of successful local solutions
- challenging false solutions such as ‘Climate Smart Agriculture’
- promoting real solutions such as agroecology and ensure that land based solutions respect human rights and food security.

The case studies below showcase some examples of this work in several countries.

3.2 'Weather women' in Senegal: women take a proactive approach to disseminating weather information at community level

Introduction

Agriculture in Senegal is predominantly rain-fed and so erratic weather patterns present an ever-increasing risk to smallholder farmers across the country. Late onset of rain often leads to a shorter growing season, unexpected torrential rain and flash flooding. This results into farmers losing scarce resources such as seed and other inputs. All these factors lead to increased household food insecurity. These climate change impacts also combine with socioeconomic challenges such as high population growth and competition for scarce resources, which can derail any development strategy (Sambakhe et al. 2017).

The ability to anticipate climate fluctuations from a few days to a few months in advance can be decisive in allowing smallholder farmers to adapt their agricultural practices to compensate. Mamadou Fall of the Agence Nationale de l'Aviation Civile et de la Météorologie (ANACIM), Senegal's meteorology agency, states that *"the rainy season is supposed to start in May. But in 2016, some areas received up to 70mm of rainfall in April. Many farmers would have guessed that the rainy season had started early, and they would have prepared their fields and planted out their seeds. But then the rain stopped. It turned out to be a false start to the rainy season"* (Sambakhe et al. 2017). Seeds planted during that false start to the rains would have germinated but then lacked enough water to grow, meaning major losses for many farmers. Most farmers save just enough seed to get them through the year or else buy new seed for planting (Sambakhe et al. 2017).

Our work

ActionAid Senegal has pioneered a new Early Warning and Weather Information System for farmers, which is overcoming the challenges commonly faced by other attempts at early warning systems. This system

succeeded in getting the information to community members in a simple and very accessible form. In each village where ActionAid has a presence, there is a designated weather information contact person. These 'weather women' receive training and are equipped with a mobile phone. In the run-up to and during the rainy seasons, and at times of unusual weather, ANACIM calls the women to let them know the weather forecast for the week to come.

The 'weather women' then put marks next to simple graphics on a white panel in the middle of the village, indicating whether there will be rain, dry spells, storms, high winds, or risk of floods, bush fires or heatwave, among other possible climate events. They add information on the dates that the rains are expected to start or stop, and if the rains are expected to be heavy or light. This helps farmers to plan their activities and to accurately know the best times for planting, maintaining, and harvesting their crops, significantly reducing risk of losses from unpredictable weather patterns.

This Early Warning and Weather Information System enables ANACIM to make their information available and useful to citizens. This helps ANACIM to get accurate rainfall information across the country, which will help the government to better understand changes in weather patterns, and to plan ahead for climate change.

Impact

Farmers in Senegal can now know when to plant, maintain and harvest their crops in the face of unpredictable weather patterns. This helps them to significantly reduce the risk of losses in the face of climate change. Founé Daniokho, treasurer for Medina Kenioto Women's Group, Kedougou region, testified that:

"I record the rainfall levels, and ANACIM give[s] us the weather information which I mark on the board. It is very easy to use, and very helpful. Weather patterns have changed, and we are getting less water and lower harvests due to climate change. But with the right weather information, we can adapt to these changes."

The Early Warning and Weather Information System has formed a useful interface between local farmers and ANACIM to make information available to all citizens. This is helping ANACIM to get accurate rainfall information across the country, which will help the government to better understand changes in weather patterns, and to plan ahead for climate change. Fatou Keita, secretary of Bakho village women's group, Kedougou region, also highlighted that:

"I was selected by our village women's group to be the weather information contact person. I was trained inby....., and ActionAid gave me a mobile phone to use for the project. Now I keep the rainfall gauge in my field next to the village and go to check it every day, recording the data in a book we were given. Whenever there is rainfall, or whether news to share with farmers, the representative from ANACIM calls me and we share information with each other. During the rainy season, we speak every day. I tell them the rainfall measurements, and they tell me the weather information. Using a board marker, I just put an X next to the symbol for rain, sun, flood, wind, heatwave or fire. I also add the date of when the rainy season is expected to start or end. This helps people to know in case there is a false start or end to the rainy season."

Strategy in action

This case study demonstrates how building the power of people living in poverty and exclusion by generating alternatives to irregular weather patterns through an Early Warning and Weather Information System for farmers results in the empowerment of local farmers. This practice is increasingly becoming necessary as weather patterns continue to change, affecting farmers and their livelihoods. The evidence from Senegal brings to life our hypothesis as articulated in the Climate Justice Programme Framework that more knowledge is useful in a community's adaptation to the challenges of climate change. Specifically, under Climate Justice AA's strategy is to increase knowledge and awareness of climate justice among women and community members in order to build their resilience.

Conclusion and lessons learned: generating alternatives and learning

Senegalese smallholders women farmers like those in sub-Saharan Africa and beyond suffer disproportionately from climate change. Access to current information on the weather is key to their resilience and livelihoods. Access to relevant climate-related information in a timely manner is a right that local women smallholder farmers can exercise, and this goes a long way in helping them adapt to the effects of climate change.

3.3 Malawi: supporting civil society engagement in developing the national adaptation plan

Introduction

Malawi continues to experience climate-related disasters, with women being the most affected. Like many other countries, Malawi was expected to develop a National Adaptation Plan. However, experience has shown that during the development of such important national plans, women are not part of the process. With this background, ActionAid Malawi utilized the opportunities from the 'Ready for Anything' project supported by DFID to provide COWFA members with invaluable skills of how to do advocacy work in the National Adaptation Plan with partnership of the Civil Society Network on Climate Change (CISONECC). COWFA and CISONECC reviewed policies and budgets to ensure that women's views were included in the adaptation strategies that the government formulates.

What was the issue being addressed?

From the onset, the government faced several challenges in developing Malawi's National Adaptation Plan (NAP). One of the key challenges was a lack of information – particularly on the needs of local communities and how such information could be gathered. Therefore, there was a risk that government plans and frameworks might not adequately represent the needs of the people.

The other challenge was that most policies do not include the voices of women. The involvement of women in the NAP process was to ensure there are clear inclusions of women's voice and their issues in the process of the NAP formulation.

What ActionAid and/or its partners do to address the situation or problem

ActionAid Malawi, in partnership with CISONTECC, set out to assist the government with the data needed in various stages of the NAP development process. The data collected through participatory methodologies included climate related hazards, coping mechanisms, institutional set up. This closely followed the key objective of the NAP: that the NAP process would adopt and implement priorities and options set by vulnerable groups.

CISONTECC also knew that to obtain sufficient influence there was a need to earn an important position in support of the government and ensure that women farmers, one of the critical excluded groups most affected by climate change, are included in various committees spearheading NAP development in Malawi. Central to CISONTECC's strategy has been leveraging the Ready for Anything (RFA) project influencing strategy and the Joint Principles for Adaptation (JPA) to promote dialogue with government, identify capacity-building needs, and ensure significant stakeholder involvement in the process. CISONTECC and a coalition of women farmers were therefore included in the NAP core team and sectoral teams and were trained on the NAP process together with other key stakeholders prior to the launch of the NAP development process in Malawi in 2014.

Therefore, CISONTECC took action to gain CSO support and undertook media awareness, to establish a cooperative and supportive relationship with the government and other key stakeholders, including those in the sectoral teams and NAP core team. The established relationship with ActionAid Malawi and Coalition of Women Farmers in Malawi through the Ready for Anything (RFA) project ensured that facilitation was there for CISONTECC was able to consult women farmers and other excluded groups most impacted by climate emergency in the RFA-targeted districts in

Malawi to define their needs and priorities in relation to climate change adaptation for inclusion in the NAP. A consultation report was produced and shared with the NAP core team and National Technical Committee on Climate Change for incorporation of various issues raised by women farmers into the NAP process, especially in the NAP stocktaking report as part of laying the groundwork for the relationship between civil society and government.

Through CISONTECC's wide-reaching network and good engagement with national and district level stakeholders, including academia, they were able to produce two vulnerability assessments in 2015 and 2017 that mapped out the scale, nature and solutions to many adaptation challenges throughout the country. This contribution, in addition to CISONTECC's earlier report expressing the needs and priorities of excluded people and those most affected by the climate emergency and expectations of civil society, placed CISONTECC as a leading organisation in the development of the NAP in the government's eyes – leading to their inclusion on the NAP core team and the National Technical Committee on Climate Change (NTCCC). This central position has given CISONTECC the influence and credibility to advocate for most impacted communities' interests to be centre-stage in Malawi's NAP.

CISONTECC's role in influencing the formulation of Malawi's NAP continued with support provided to the government in its application to the Green Climate Fund for NAP readiness funding in 2017, the training of national and district-level stakeholders, including Coalition of Women Farmers and young people on participatory monitoring, evaluation of the NAP, and continued district-level sensitisations and consultations on the NAP in 2017 and 2018 respectively. Through this work, it is hoped the country can proceed with a genuinely equitable and effective adaptation process.

What was the impact of these strategies?

ActionAid worked towards raising awareness among women and young people and enhancing their capacity on climate justice issues. Through the NAP process we convened and facilitated roles to mobilise women, young people and CISONTECC to use their voice to influence climate policies, project plans and financing at all levels and to hold the government accountable.

There is power in advocacy. COWFA, ActionAid and CISONCEC engaged in the formal policy-making process addressing 'visible power' head on to ensure that rural women, who traditionally do not yield much influence and power in these deliberations, would be

included and engaged in the development of the NAP. This will result in communities being more resilient and able to protect their lives and livelihoods in the face of disasters and climate change.



Communities in GVH Mangulu in Machinga District sharing and documenting their inputs into the NAP Process, with CISONCEC facilitation. PHOTO: ACTIONAID



Women marching for their land rights. PHOTO: ACTIONAID NEPAL

4. NATURAL RESOURCES RIGHTS AND DEFENCE OF THE COMMONS PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

Summary of our Natural Resources and Defence of the Commons work

Demand for natural resources is rising and the culture of extractivism growing. Unaccountable business practices depend on resource extraction and consumption, while most governments focus on the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources to fuel growth. People’s rights to access and control over natural resources are not respected: women, young people and indigenous people are particularly excluded, and natural resources are being degraded at the expense of food sovereignty, livelihoods, and ecological and climate resilience.

We focus on the inter-connectedness of natural resources, aiming to achieve a balance between biodiversity conservation, its sustainable use, and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from natural resources.

Our work on natural resources includes: demanding progressive policies and practices that secure women’s rights to land and productive resources through influencing national policies and norms as well as appropriate regional and international forums; challenging extractivism and its impact on gender equality and ecological justice; supporting communities to claim their natural resource rights, and lobbying for people-centred feminist approaches to natural resource use; supporting communities to hold corporations accountable for human rights violations by engaging with relevant binding international treaties and national policy frameworks.

4.1 Nepal: land reform and land rights

Introduction

Issues of land ownership in Nepal throughout history have been well documented, including the first efforts towards national land reform that were initiated starting from the 1950s. Despite these efforts at reforming land ownership in Nepal, no tangible results have yet materialized, with the problem of absentee landlords persisting up to this day with no signs of declining. Landless people, including women, living in poverty and exclusion are the worst affected by this. The most common land tenure system in Nepal is sharecropping, or unregistered tenancy, that results in landlords enjoying benefits from their ownership of the land through renting out land or sharing the profits of agriculture sales. Tenant farmers continue to suffer malnutrition and hunger despite being the producers of food from the land. Those cultivating have no ownership; those with ownership do not cultivate. Compounded by the centralized land administration system in Nepal, there is less access for marginal and subsistence smallholder farmers and no land is distributed to people living in poverty and exclusion – who are the real tillers of the land. In some parts of Nepal, semi-bonded labour systems (Haliya, Haruwa/Charuwa) are widespread despite having been outlawed by the government in 2002. Currently an estimated 100,000 families are still living under semi-bonded labour.

Our action

ActionAid Nepal (AAN) has always made land rights a strategic priority area and has focused on tenants' rights. AAN has partnered with the Land Rights Forum, a social movement consisting of landless people from all communities in Nepal. In 2004, the Land Rights Forum was launched at national level and this helped expand its work to all the districts and villages in Nepal with different chapters of the Land Rights Forum being formed and activated. Today there is an expansive network of the Land Rights Forum that works to defend the rights of land tenants. AAN has continued to provide training to Land Rights Forum members to increase their capacity to be frontline leaders for landless people at all levels.

Impact

Many Village Land Rights Forum (VLR) members have been empowered through training to become frontline leaders and represent their communities at national level. The VLR now exhibits confidence and skills, and the ability to proffer solutions to land ownership challenges in their communities. The VLR in various districts has established Legal Camps that they use to argue their cases at various levels. The VLR has also engaged government departments and argued the case for the issuance of land ownership certificates to former land tenants who have occupied lands for over a decade. With the support of the land rights movement, a total of 143,546 tenancy rights claims were submitted in 2018 and of these 73,917 of these were successfully settled; also, 439 couples had received land ownership certificates by 2018. The joint ownership of land at household level has also contributed to guaranteeing women's access to land and enhanced their status in the family. Women have access to land rights, which ultimately leads to the economic empowerment of women.



Community seed banks. PHOTO: ACTIONAID NEPAL

Women with access to land have been able to engage in other income-generating activities that enable them to pay for basic services for their families, such as education and healthcare, and allowing the women to pay for their own household activities. An outstanding example of economic empowerment is the partnership between AAN in partnership with JJA started Women's

Saving Plan Programme that has helped women like Ms Paswan to buy a bull to help her earn money when she cannot work the land, this alternative has enabled her to continue earning a living. Ms Paswan says,

"I was provided with training on farming, seeds and plants for income generation. After the training, I started growing vegetables and five years later I was able to buy 2 Katthas of land. Vegetable farming also helped me to meet the marriage expense of my three daughters. Since I am getting old and losing strength to work on the land, I bought a buffalo again and now my family lives on the earning from the milk it gives. But I still grow vegetables in my kitchen garden and its production is enough for us to consume throughout the year. My family is living a happy life now as our economic status has become far better than it used to be. For this transformation, I am very much grateful to AAN and JJA."

Strategy in action

This case study aligns with the broad work that AAI's Resilience and Climate Justice Team is working on. It includes evidence of the impact of identifying barriers around access to and control over natural resources such as land and how removing these barriers results in women and the poor realizing their rights. The engagement of the Land Rights Forum with government agencies demonstrates how the work of common people organized in social movements can contribute to shifting formal and visible power held by state actors. The inclusion of women in joint land ownership certificates is an exhibition of shifts in invisible power, with men agreeing to have women as joint owners of land in a country where patriarchy and landlordism are common.

Conclusion and lessons learned: generating alternatives and learning

Based on the empirical experience of the land rights movement in Nepal, a number of lessons have been drawn out and listed hereunder. The experiences of the Land Rights Movement indicates that ensuring

social justice is not an easy process as it is linked with complex issues of the political economy. Unless these issues are challenged with alternative voices, movements can fail. The success of social movements in engaging with duty bearers and stakeholders at various levels is dependent on a firm and sustainable political commitment from the masses rooted in communities. This also demands consistent advocacy for the generating and influencing public opinion in favour of those living in poverty and exclusion.

The role played by AAN in strengthening the leadership of the Land Rights Forum social movement is an example of best practice – one that can be applied to social movements outside the realm of land rights. Capacity strengthening and leaving the people to take charge of their campaigns and manage their own organizations and movements is critical for transformative change. In this process, people's social movements become the frontline in their deep-rooted campaigns.

4.2 Haiti – reparative justice and corporate social responsibility

Introduction

In the aftermath of the 2019 earthquake that hit Haiti, 1.5 million people were left homeless. In 2011 more than 1,000 people lost their land and livelihoods when construction of the US-backed Caracol Industrial Park began in northern Haiti. The current economic and political context in Haiti is dominated by policies that prioritize industrial and agro-industrial activities that do not support peasant family farming, which is the source of food for the majority of the people. These policies have resulted in land grabs of smallholder farms, particularly in the north-east and the centre of the country, and these regions have become the 'theatres' of land-grabbing operations.

Two hundred and fifty hectares of the most fertile agricultural land in the north-east at Caracol was taken up for the industrial park construction. Food crops were grown on this land, an important part of the local economy. Before the project, 90% of people in the

north owned animals, with an average of ten animals per person; after displacement through land grabs only 47.27% owned animals, with an average of four per person. Further, they suffered loss of assets, money and use of agricultural land as pasture. After the industrial park project, only 54% of displaced people cultivate a plot of land. The average size of agricultural plots before the Caracol project was 12,049 m² and this decreased after displacement to 1,500m² for those who still owned an agricultural plot.

The US-backed industrial park, financed by the Inter-American Development Bank and the US Agency for International Development, was intended to create about 40,000 jobs for Haitians. The farmers whose land was taken for construction of the industrial park were listed for compensation. The compensation plan that was implemented initially in 2011 and concluded in 2013 did not result in the restoration of sustainable livelihoods in the local communities. Marie, a smallholder farmer and mother of two who was forced to leave her land when construction of the Caracol Industrial Park started stated that:

"I had farmed my land for 22 years but was made to leave without any compensation. Afterwards, the government sent investigators asking for all kinds of information from us, but they never told us how much compensation they were going to give us. There were no negotiations; we were told to accept the compensation that they were going to give us."

The action

The people affected began organizing themselves into a structure called 'Collective Peasants Affected' to protest against their displacement and the unfairness of the compensation plan. ActionAid and its partners in Haiti supported the affected people through amplifying their case in the public domain, thereby drawing the attention of the US government. In addition, ActionAid and its partners stood in solidarity with the affected people throughout a gruelling legal process.

In their legal application, the Committee of Persons Affected by the Industrial Park Project alleged the loss of their livelihoods due to evictions from their land to

allow the development of the Caracol Industrial Park. They highlighted that the evictions were completed with very few days' notice, without the communities having been consulted or receiving any information. They stated that the proposed compensation had been paid only several years later and not adequate to guarantee their quality of life, and therefore the result was that they were in a worse position than they were before the evictions. Other negative repercussions for families included loss of access to education and food security, with women and children being the most affected. In their application, the affected people also mentioned the potential hazards and environmental impacts in the Caracol Bay area and the Trou-du-Nord River that would result from the construction and operation of the park.

ActionAid Haiti, with support of ActionAid in Italy, France and USA, helped the farmers to carefully document and make the legal application. As the main actors affected by the prejudicial actions, ActionAid and Accountability Counsel ensured that ten members representing the collective in the dialogue meetings were equipped in the negotiation techniques. ActionAid requested support from Accountability Counsel, a global non-profit organization that specializes in supporting community-led dispute resolution to help the farmers file their case in January 2017 to the accountability office of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), one of the major funders of the industrial park.

Impact

Following this, from June 2017 to December 2018 a negotiation process between the Collective and their advocates, representatives of the IADB, and representatives of the Haitian government was facilitated by the IADB Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism (MICI in Spanish), which was designed to receive complaints by people harmed by IADB activities. As a result of the dialogue process, the farmers came to a negotiated agreement with the Haitian government and the IADB to provide land, agricultural equipment, vocational training and support for micro-enterprises focused on women and the most vulnerable members of the community. In addition, to restore their livelihoods in a sustainable way, each affected family was allowed to select one member to apply for a job in the industrial park. Seliana Marcelus, one of the farmers and lead negotiators, highlighted that:

“Since my land was taken from me, we women have been in a difficult situation. We’ve had no income for crops we used to sell. We didn’t see any future. With the agreement we signed yesterday, we hope our lives will be changed.”

According to Milostene Castin, Coordinator of the Committee of the affected people, “by reaching this agreement we have written a page in the history of Haiti. This is the first time that Haitian farmers have stood up and been listened to”.

Strategy in action

This case is rooted in the identification of reparative justice and corporate responsibility. Current development models are too dependent on resource extraction and consumption, and most governments are focused on growth based on unsustainable exploitation of natural resources with too little attention given to more inclusive and sustainable alternatives. Unaccountable states and corporates do not respect people’s rights to access and control over natural resources; this is particularly true for women, indigenous people and entire communities that depend on land, water, forests and other natural resources. This situation has allowed continued natural resource grab and degradation at the expense of food sovereignty, livelihoods, ecological integrity and climate justice. Women and communities have limited access to and control over natural resources (including land, water, forests, and minerals) and are deprived of the right to decide if and when investments take place and how they benefit might from such investments. Efforts to defend the commons are often not coordinated and face resistance from powerful elites and corporate actors, resulting in risks to human rights defenders, shrinking civic and political space, and in some cases conflict and militarization.

For this reason, this case study has demonstrated the impact of harnessing collective power and influencing and campaigning in the defence of women’s and men’s rights.

Conclusion and lessons learned

Through accompaniment and support in advocacy and negotiation skills, farmers have taken a place at

the negotiating table and advocated for their rights. The harnessing of collective power at local level has the effect of shifting the different forms of power, including hidden power that is often in the hands of corporate actors. The generation and use of evidence to inform advocacy actions is of paramount importance in engaging government and corporate actors and influencing them to shift their policies and positions.

4.3 ‘Community engagement in the extractive industry: the case of coal mining in Mui Basin, Kenya

Summary

The extractives sector in Kenya, currently valued at \$400 million per year, or 1% of annual GDP of \$40 billion, is projected to grow tenfold or more by 2030, increasing its contribution to the national GDP by 10%. Kenya’s development blueprint, Vision 2030, projects mineral exploration as one of the sectors that will transform Kenya into a newly industrialising middle-income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens by 2030 in a clean and secure environment. Indeed, Kitui county has premised its development pathway on mineral resource development. To date, the county has held three investment conferences with the aim of attracting investments and transforming the county into a key player in Kenya’s economy. Already, Africa’s richest man, Aliko Dangote, according to the Forbes Survey, has announced plans to set up a Sh36 billion cement plant in the county with capacity to produce three million metric tons annually. Dangote Kenya Limited has already secured a license to prospect for limestone in the county. Kitui county has also intensified efforts to actualize the coal mining concession awarded by the government to a consortium led by China’s HClG Energy Investment Company to mine coal in Mui Basin in the county.

Reports indicate, however, that the agreements were signed without the knowledge, participation or consent of the affected communities, who lack comprehensive understanding of the nature of the agreements and the implications of planned actions on their socio-economic rights including the right to land and natural

resources and women's rights. The reports further indicate that the impact of mining operations was not gender neutral. For example, studies found that failure to consult with women when negotiating a community's 'free, prior and informed consent' to develop a mining project, access to land, compensation and royalties, disempowers women, and can disrupt traditional decision-making structures. ***"What used to be the granary of Kitui County has turned into hot bed of relief food,"*** says Peter Musyoka, a human rights activist in Mwingi.

The payment of compensation and royalties to men 'on behalf of' families and communities denies women access to, and control over, the financial benefits of mining. This reinforces women's economic dependence on men, disempowering women and skewing gender relations or exacerbating existing inequalities. Additionally, women-headed households often did not receive payments if they did not have a male representative. Loss of land and displacement led to loss of livelihoods and increased work burdens for women in providing for their families. Daniel Muoti from the Centre for Human Rights and Civic Education stated that:

"Apart from the economic benefits to the investor in coal which have a positive score, the net economic, social and environmental benefits of any coal mining project globally is negative."

Issues being responded to

The key issues in Kitui county are around coal mining in Mui Basin. Residents of the Mui Basin area were ambushed with mining concessions signed by the Kenyan government for the Chinese mining company, Fenxi Mining Group, to mine coal in Mui Basin explicitly without the knowledge, participation or consent of the affected communities. In Mui Basin, communities have been waiting to be forcefully relocated for the last five to six years.

This has resulted in a state of 'arrested development' as communities hold back on investing in land as a strategy for cutting down on the magnitude of losses. This has limited the realisation of the full potential and

enjoyment of rights. Others have hurriedly sold their land to brokers. In other cases, the guidelines from government on mineral explorations and activities in this phase are not shared and might well be the most abused of regulations. Explorations to ascertain the quantity and quality of deposits seem to go on indefinitely, and based on quantities being extracted the communities suspected that mining could have started a long time ago.

The confirmation that there are commercially viable coal deposits in the Mui Basin served to raise anxiety and fear among residents about the looming rights violations. Thirty thousand households face threats of displacement from their arable land. There is serious concern regarding the impact of the project on the Mui Basin's eco-system. The eco-system is particularly fragile, and mining is likely to adversely affect and change it, with dire consequences. Further concerns revolve around the impact on groundwater, watercourses, and flora and fauna.

The residents are, however, not aware of any alternative plans for compensation and/or resettlement and remain worried that they are likely to lose their livelihood (small-scale agriculture) due to eviction and resettlement following the impending mining activity. It is rumoured that there are plans to resettle the community in land next to Tana River county, which to the affected community members is not an option, due to high levels of insecurity.

Whereas residents claim there is a liaison committee negotiating on behalf of the community, the liaison committee is reportedly out of touch with the community and they feel that the community interests are not taken into consideration. The residents pointed out that there are several challenges in dealing with the liaison committee: they are unable to question the committee's actions as they did not participate in their election. One community member, Sarah Makau, said:

"Liaison Committee avoids our questions because we did not elect them/appoint them. We cannot demand the answers from them either, but they keep telling us to wait for the information to be brought to us at the grassroots. They just tell us to avoid any advocacy interventions by CSOs [civil society organizations]."

Interventions to address the issue

Ambushed with the mining concession and threats from risks associated with coal mining, communities in the area began organising to resist the project. Elected leaders in the area had been given information on the positives of coal mining and had blindly embraced the project. Civil society groups working in interest of local communities had chosen softer landing in calling for fair compensation for those affected by the project. Caught between a rock and a hard place, the community was in a dilemma: resist the project or demand fair compensation. At a meeting called by AAIK and its partner, the Center for Human Rights and Civic Education (CHRCE), for communities to develop their development plans, women quietly noted their desire to resist the project in the light of protecting their rights to food, water and a safe environment. Women claimed the men had embraced the project because they would be compensated. AAIK and CHRCE took the bold step of supporting communities to realize the community plans as described below.

To address the issues, the approaches used aimed to enhance women's capacity to claim and protect their rights in the extractive sector and to help them mobilize and take collective action to negotiate improved policy and practice. The activities involved:

- undertaking a Social Action Study to establish the extent to which rights are upheld against the backdrop of largescale development and mining
- mapping of mineral resources using social tenure domain model and Geographic Information System approaches and producing geospatial/STDM (Social Tenure Domain Model) maps
- developing and strengthening democratic assemblies led by women to gather and articulate the demands and aspirations of community women using participatory methodologies
- holding awareness-raising meetings on policies, programmes and opportunities for women at local,

provincial, national and regional levels

- supporting communities in mining sites to engage with governments and mining companies during a national conference on oil, gas and mining
- arranging dialogue meetings with members of the Kitui County Assembly to strengthen its oversight of the extractive sector
- organizing a learning visit on coal mining in South Africa for select committee members of Kitui County Assembly and community residents
- participating in the deCOALonize campaign
- undertaking a regional exchange visit to Uganda to strengthen women's solidarity and share learning.

Conclusion and lessons learned

The key external factor that contributed to this change was the deCOALonize Lamu campaign, which connected with these actions, giving them much needed impetus. The action benefited from experiences of the de-COALonize campaign, complemented each other by bringing all those lessons and experiences together, creating solidarity through unity of purpose, and conducting joint advocacy work. The landmark court ruling against the establishment of a coal plant in Lamu was another factor. This benefited the action by amplifying the discussion among the wider public on the dangers of coal and discrediting the government narrative for clean coal. The global trend indicating that coal investments are collapsing in developed countries such as Australia, United States and China among others provided useful evidence for our anti-coal mining and plant campaign.

In communities affected by mining, awareness-raising activities and training have led to women becoming more aware of their rights on natural resources and organising activities to protect rights generally in the area. The establishment of a movement of communities affected by coal mining in Kitui is a good example of this change.

ActionAid is a global movement of people working together to achieve greater human rights for all and defeat poverty. We believe people in poverty have the power within them to create change for themselves, their families and communities. ActionAid is a catalyst for that change.

<http://actionforglobaljustice.actionaid.org>

International Registration number: 27264198

Website: www.actionaid.org
Telephone: +27 11 731 4500
Fax: +27 11 880 8082
Email: mailjhb@actionaid.org

ActionAid International Secretariat,
Postnet Suite 248, Private Bag X31, Saxonwold 2132,
Johannesburg, South Africa.