



HUAIROU COMMISSION
Women, Homes & Community



ANNUAL REPORT

2012-2013

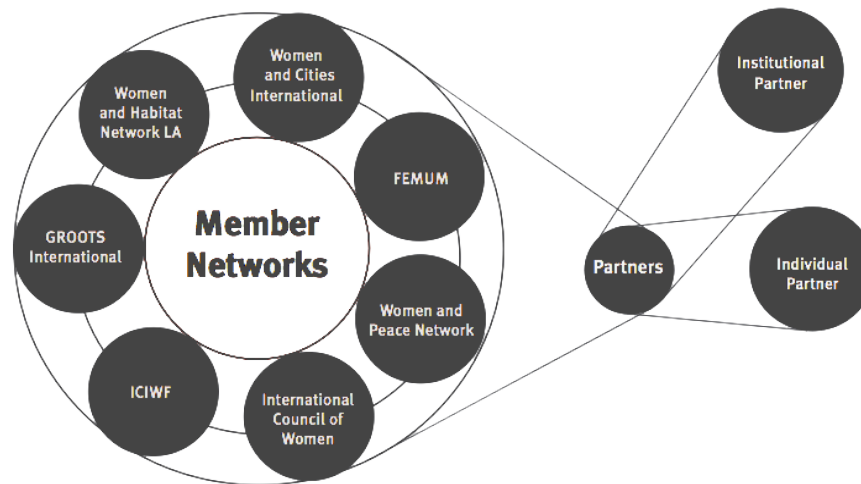


MISSION

The Huairou Commission develops strategic partnerships and linkages among grassroots women's organizations, advancing their capacity to collectively influence political spaces on behalf of their communities and enhance their sustainable, resilient community development practices.

STRUCTURE & CAMPAIGNS

Our institutional and individual partners share our political vision and commit to ongoing work with the Huairou Commission. We focus on establishing and modeling transformative partnerships between grassroots women and professionals. The Huairou Commission holds consultative status with the United Nations and actively participates in UN conferences and deliberations.

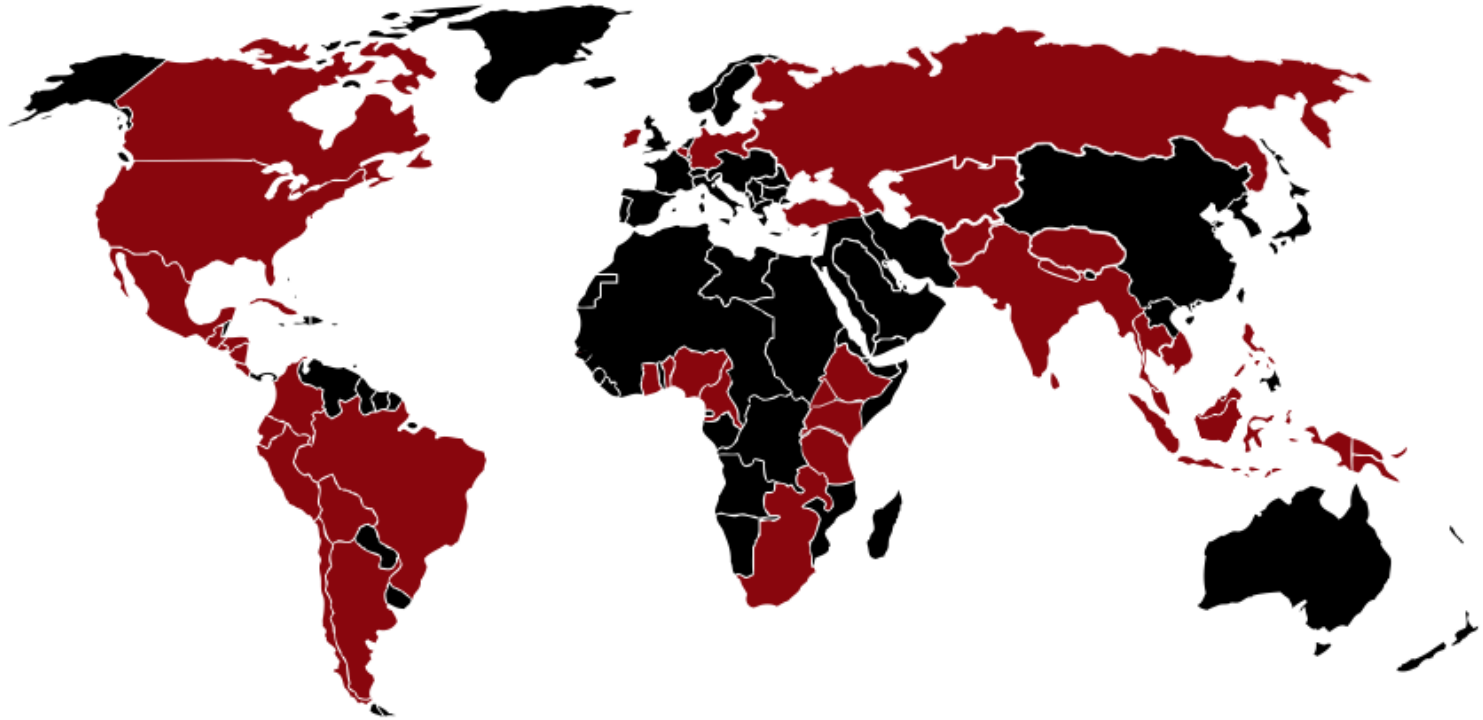


We organize through our campaigns: AIDS, Governance, Community Resilience and Land & Housing.

These Campaigns have risen from the most pressing priorities of grassroots women's organizations working to improve their communities, and have come out of work nurtured by our Member Networks. Campaign members are grassroots groups and NGOs who work directly in local communities. While continuing to work holistically on diverse issues in their communities, grassroots women's organizations and partners use thematic Campaigns as collective organizing spaces to pilot and exchange practices within and across borders and undertake advocacy on key issues for policy change.

WHERE WE WORK

The Huairou Commission supports and partners with women's organizations in the following countries:



Afghanistan	Canada	Ghana	Netherlands	Russia	Uganda
Argentina	Chile	Guatemala	Mexico	Rwanda	USA
Bangladesh	Colombia	Honduras	Nicaragua	Slovakia	Zambia
Benin	Costa Rica	India	Nigeria	South Africa	Zimbabwe
Bolivia	Czech Republic	Indonesia	Pakistan	South Korea	
Brazil	Ecuador	Jamaica	Papua New Guinea	Sri Lanka	
Burundi	El Salvador	Kenya	Paraguay	Tanzania	
Cambodia	Ethiopia	Malawi	Peru	Thailand	
Cameroon	Germany	Nepal	Philippines	Turkey	

FINANCIAL REPORT 2012-13

Condensed Statement of Activities for the Years January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2013

All figures are presented in U.S. Dollars (\$USD)

	2012	2013
OPERATING REVENUES		
<i>Public Support & Revenue</i>		
Grants & Contracts ¹	\$1,928,023	\$2,010,640
Individual Contributions	11,712	44,150
Total Public Support	1,939,735	2,054,790
Interest & Dividends	2,531	4,652
		15,559
TOTAL Operating Revenues	\$1,942,266	\$2,075,001
OPERATING EXPENSES		
<i>Program Services</i>		
Program Coordination & Technical Support	414,605	375,837
Field Organizing & Demonstration Projects	559,667	833,210
Travel, Documentation & Other Activities	255,435	192,654
Policy Advocacy & Alliance Building	55,998	353,206
Peer Learning	29,831	39,388
Total Program Services	\$1,315,446	\$1,794,295
<i>Supporting Services</i>		
Management & General	125,546	204,760
Fundraising ²	40,410	41,963
Total Supporting Services	165,956	246,723
TOTAL Operating Expenses	\$1,481,402	\$2,041,018
Change in Net Assets	460,864	33,983
Net Assets Beginning of Year	563,469	1,024,333
Net Assets End of Year	\$1,024,333	\$1,058,316

Donors

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Cordaid

MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Relief (UNISDR)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS

Margaret A. Cargill Foundation

OTHER DONORS

Anonymous donor

Individual contributions

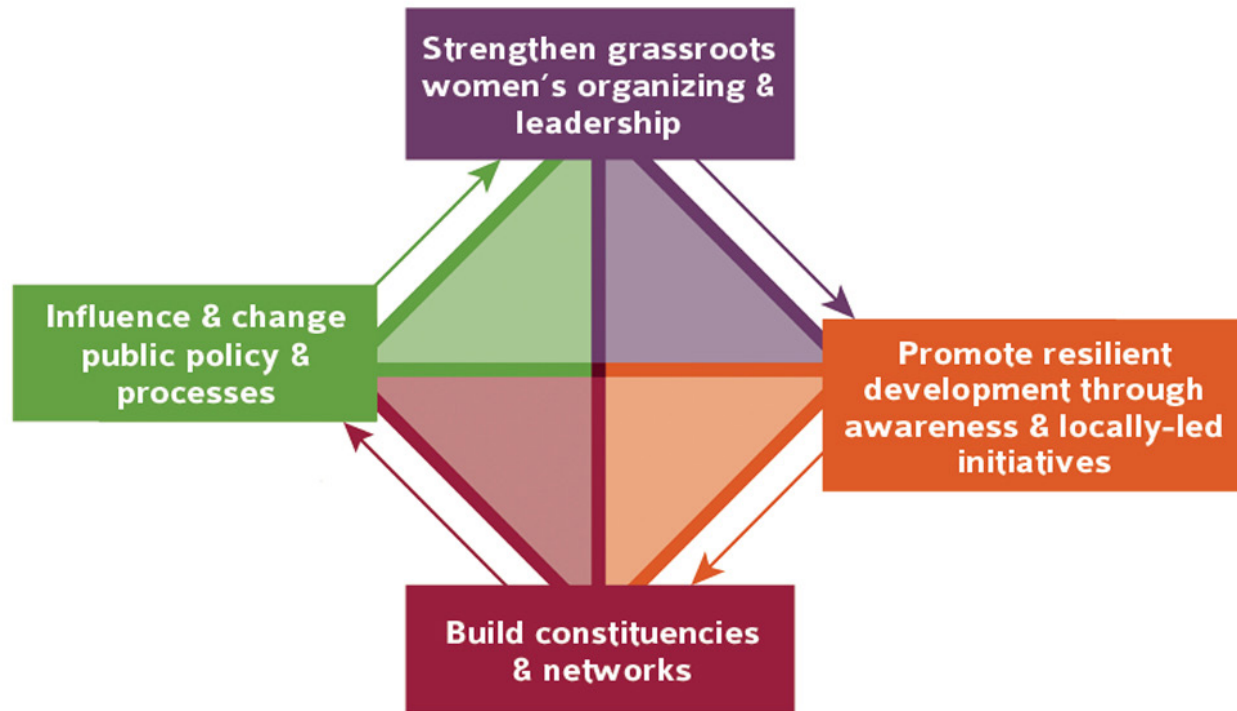
¹ Donors: Norwegian Agency for Development Corporation (NORAD); Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs MDG3 Fund; Anonymous Donor; Cordaid; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Relief (UNISDR) and others.

² This cost category is derived from the agency assigning a portion of senior staff and consultant time devoted to proposal writing, initiating and maintaining donor and institutional relationships and convening small private fundraisers to this category. Staff and member travel to initiate and maintain donor relationships (national-global) as well as communication/production/dissemination costs related to preparing and circulating donor briefs, grant proposals and soliciting donations are also included here.

Complete financial statements, audited by Vargas & Ghigliotti, are available at www.huairou.org/legal-and-financial

OUR MOVEMENT-BUILDING APPROACH

Our “Resilience diamond,” introduced in 2012, serves as the framework of our holistic approach to community resilience based on movement building. Members of our campaign work in partnership to holistically build the capacities of their communities to respond to natural disasters and adapt to climate change through these four integrated objectives:



The overall goal of the Community Resilience Campaign is to empower grassroots women's networks to gain the support of partners, local authorities, national governments, donors and academics to bring their priorities and practices to the forefront of policy and programming in order to reduce vulnerabilities to disasters, climate change and poverty. We carry out this objective through two main mechanisms: The **Community Resilience Fund** and the **Community Practitioners Platform**.

The Community Resilience Fund demonstrates that grassroots groups can map risk, establish action plans, and design and implement projects that promote safety and security of livelihoods, assets, and infrastructure in their communities. Through the Community Practitioners Platform, grassroots groups federate locally across communities, and through the power of these networks, link to their local governments to create public policies and budgets that accelerate risk reduction and resilience building.



“We started our work with turning the massive disaster into an opportunity for empowerment of women and communities.”

-PREMA GOPALAN, SWAYAM SHIKSHAN PRAYOG (SSP), INDIA

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FUND

In 2012-2013, the Community Resilience Fund supported 30 women's organizations in 20 countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.



Latin America & Caribbean

Scope: 7 organizations, 83 communities

- Espacio Feminista, Brazil
- Fundación Guatemala, Guatemala
- WAGUCHA, Honduras
- GROOTS Jamaica, Jamaica
- Las Brumas Union of Small Farmer Cooperatives, Nicaragua
- GROOTS Peru, Peru
- Rosa de Montaña, Venezuela

Africa

Scope: 17 organizations, 809 communities

- Grassroots Sisterhood Foundation (GSF), Ghana
- Gatundu, Kenya
- GROOTS Kenya
- Likii HIV/AIDS Home Based Care, Kenya
- Shibuye Community Health Workers, Kenya
- FVTM, Madagascar
- **Maasai Women's Education and Development Organization (MWEDO), Tanzania**
- Kawempe Home Based Care Alliance, Uganda
- Slum Women's Initiative for Development (SWID), Uganda
- **Circles of Hope, Zambia**
- **Katuba Women's Association, Zambia**
- **Zambia Homeless and Poor Peoples' Federation, Zambia**
- Ntengwe, Zimbabwe
- Ray of Hope, Zimbabwe
- Seke Rural Home Based Care, Zimbabwe
- Zimbabwe Parents of Handicapped Children Association, Zimbabwe

Asia

Scope: 6 organizations, 264 communities

- Participatory Development Action Program (PDAP), Bangladesh
- Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), India
- Yakkum Emergency Unit, Indonesia
- Lumanti Support Group for Shelter, Nepal
- DAMPA, Philippines
- **Life Center, Vietnam**
- **KEDV, Turkey??**



STRENGTHEN GRASSROOTS WOMEN'S ORGANIZING AND LEADERSHIP.

Grassroots leadership is central to our movement-building approach to resilience building. A strong base of grassroots leaders is capable of training new leaders, transferring resilient practices to other communities, and negotiating with local authorities. To build leadership, groups have adopted and adapted various strategies to their specific contexts, such as Peer Exchanges, Resilience Academies and Training of Trainers. Developing grassroots women's leadership and strengthening their organizing skills ensures that grassroots organizations have the ability to influence decision makers to effectively advance implementation of their communities' development priorities.

Strengthen grassroots women's organizing & leadership



Photos:

(Left) Community mapping process carried out by WAGUCHA in Honduras. (Below) GROOTS Peru assembly (photo credit: GROOTS Peru).



Spotlight: GROOTS PERU, PERU SCALING UP TRAINING: STEP BY STEP

To strengthen grassroots women's organizing and leadership, national network GROOTS Peru created and published "Step-By-Step: Building Community Resilience," to standardize the participatory process for raising awareness, situational analysis and community planning within the Peruvian context. As a result, 34 women are on management committees within their communities and actively participating in participatory budgeting in the districts of El Agustino, Ate, Chaclacayo and Lima.

Promote resilient development through awareness & locally-led initiatives

PROMOTE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT THROUGH AWARENESS AND LOCALLY-LED INITIATIVES.

Grassroots organizations are carrying out resilient development practices, ranging from risk and vulnerability mapping to water harvesting, reforestation to income-generating and livelihood activities, to build resilience in their communities from the bottom up. Beyond merely carrying out the initiatives, groups harness these demonstrations to replicate and transfer their best practices, including best practices in how to use financial resources sustainably, through the Community Resilience Fund (CRF). Transferring best practices also serves as a strategy to promote resilient development and raise awareness in communities and local governments.



Spotlight: SWID, UGANDA

DEMO GARDENS ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY

In Jinja, Uganda, Slum Women's Initiative for Development (SWID) has established demonstration gardens in their communities to showcase farming techniques and food crops to address food insecurity faced by communities, especially in the context of a changing climate. Through these demonstration gardens, the women of SWID have been recognized for their expertise, leading to two grassroots women being appointed to local councils. Their involvement has led to joint dialogues between grassroots women, local councils and the Ministry of Health, resulting in the passage of bylaws at the district level for food security: farmers are prohibited from producing sugarcane as a cash crop without also allocating land for food production.





Build constituencies & networks

INFLUENCE AND CHANGE PUBLIC POLICY AND PROCESSES.

Through the Community Practitioners Platform (CPP), are reaching out to other grassroots organization and partners, expanding their networks and coalitions to create common advocacy and learning platforms. By growing their numbers and expanding their reach, members of the Platform are building power from the bottom up, and ensuring that their practices and policy recommendations are rooted in a broad constituency.

Spotlight: LUMANTI, NEPAL JOINING FORCES ACROSS MUNICIPALITIES

Lumanti's national network in of 500 grassroots women from 16 urban, rural and forest communities in Nepal, called the National Network of Women for Community Resilience (NNWCR), is slated to increase by 3,500 when a new network from Kirtipur Municipality joins.

The national network has gained recognition through regular interactions and dialogues with the local government.





Spotlight: DAMPA, PHILIPPINES
FORMALIZING PARTNERSHIPS TO INFLUENCE DECISION-MAKING

From 2012-2013, DAMPA has ensured that their partnerships with government departments such as the Department of Welfare and Social Development (DSWD) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) are formalized through MOUs.

By formalizing their relationships with government, they are ensuring that these relationships continue beyond just election cycles of individuals. Through this strategy of formalizing partnerships and grassroots roles, DAMPA is actively engaged in decentralization, including local implementation of the national disaster risk reduction policy of the Philippines, driven by DILG.

INFLUENCE AND CHANGE PUBLIC POLICY AND PROCESSES.

Through the Community Practitioners Platform (CPP), grassroots organizations are not only expanding their networks and coalitions to create common advocacy and learning platforms, but also building on the gains made in the past ten years in the areas of risk and vulnerability reduction to strengthen partnerships: linking to champions within institutions, gaining formal endorsements and signing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with local and national government agencies. Through this work to influence policy and programs at all levels, especially in the realization of the Hyogo Framework for Action at the local level, they are increasing their power in influencing the public policies and processes that affect their lives and communities in tangible ways.

**Influence & change
public policy &
processes**

re-sil-i-ence (noun):

the capacity of a community to organize itself to reduce the impacts of disasters and climate change by protecting lives, livelihoods, homes and assets, basic services and infrastructure.



COMMUNITY PRACTITIONERS PLATFORM

Trends:

Shifting from a focus on Disaster Risk Reduction to a more holistic, integrated approach to community resilience

- **Food security** through sustainable agriculture
- **Settlement upgrading** through addressing water, sanitation, mudslides
- **Natural resource protection and management**

Grassroots women leaders are taking action such as:

- Taking on monitoring and managing roles
- Joining local emergency response teams
- Improving access to public services
- Transferring knowledge and training other grassroots women as well as local officials
- Influencing municipal budgets
- Leveraging funds for resilience activities from governments

RECLAIMING EXPERTISE: WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN CITIES



HC & UN-HABITAT CO-HOST EXPERT GROUP MEETING (EGM) AT HARVARD

In June 2012, Huairou Commission and partner UN-Habitat co-hosted an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Women's Economic Empowerment in Cities at Harvard University. The discussions covered a range of urban issues, including women's formal and informal employment, earned income, access to credit, financial services and productive assets, access to and control over land and housing, urban service delivery, unpaid public and community work, and participation in urban planning, budgeting and agenda setting.

Meeting participants included grassroots women leaders, feminist researchers, and representatives from government agencies and civil society.

Grassroots Knowledge and Experience Shared

Jhocas Castillo shared DAMPA federation's land and housing work in the Philippines, specifically community mortgage and land sharing programs. Esther Mwaura-Muira from GROOTS Kenya discussed the issue of women's unpaid community work. Additionally, Carmen Griffiths discussed women's employment, presenting a case study from the Construction Resource and Development Center in Jamaica, and Veronica Katulushi representing People's Process on Housing and Poverty in Zambia (PPHPZ) contributed a case study on the Zambia Homeless and Poor People's Federation's work improving women's access to credit and financial services.

Pushing for Policy

The recommendations that emerged from the meeting influenced UN-Habitat's planning for the gender events and dialogues at the sixth World Urban Forum in Naples, Italy.

Expert Participants:

Cecilia Binolfi, Teresa Boccia, Josephine Castillo, Martha Chen, Giovanna Declich, Ezekiel Espisu, Anna Fälth, Ana Falú, Carmen Griffiths, Vera Guida, Michael Hooper, Veronica Katulushi, Jaqueline Leavitt, Cathy McIlwaine, Esther Mwaura-Muira, Kathryn Travers, Luzviminda (Luvy) Arcega-Villanueva

UN-Habitat Representatives:

Modupe Adebajo, Cecilia Andersson, Gulelat Kebede, Angela Mwai

Huairou Commission Representatives:

Katia Araujo, Jan Peterson, Katherine Shelley, Stefanie Wessner

Meeting Facilitator:

Sandy Schilen

Documentation, Interpretation & Support:

Alejandro Alvarez, Mariano Bonavolontà, Elisa Peter, Regina Pritchett, Suzanne Shende



To add: EGM in Recife

[In progress: Grassroots Academy and World Urban Forum]



WORLD URBAN FORUM 6

NAPLES, ITALY 1-7 SEPTEMBER 2012

UN-HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

MOSTRA D'OLTREMARE



WORLD URBAN FORUM 6
NAPLES, ITALY 1-7 SEPTEMBER 2012

UN-HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



UGANDA

Women in **Jinja, Uganda** developed a **revolving loan scheme** for women facing **eviction** to purchase land from the municipal government. Now **48 grassroots women have acquired housing** through the revolving loan fund, 25 have paid for deed prints and 27 have applied for leaseholds. (Photo credit: SWID)



“We as grassroots women were able to learn and share new experiences worldwide which we are incorporating in our initiatives.”

-SLUM WOMEN'S INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPMENT (SWID), UGANDA

ONLINE GRASSROOTS ACADEMY

In 2012, we expanded our signature organizing methodology, the Grassroots Academy, by hosting one virtually. The two-week online dialogue attracted 250 registered users, including many grassroots women using a computer for the first time.

The Online Grassroots Academy, hosted on our **Women and Human Settlements Web Portal** website, a collaboration with partner **UN-Habitat**, brought together grassroots practitioners, academics and development professionals around important development themes in women's lives at the community level. Grassroots women (and a few men) representing over **25 organizations spanning more than a dozen countries** answered and debated questions in three theme-based forums: Community and Innovation; Policy and Partnership; and Grassroots Organizing and Leadership Development.

Academy participants shared personal and professional experiences to identify grassroots solutions to concrete development problems, discuss the essential ingredients of win-win partnerships between community practitioners and (local) authorities, and explore the successes and challenges grassroots groups experience in their efforts to build women's leadership and mobilize local constituencies.

Practices shared in the online discussion allowed grassroots groups to learn from each other, as well as providing important information for policymakers and partners looking to engage with organized groups doing development work in their own marginalized communities.

Photos (right): Grassroots women's groups from the Huairou Commission network participate in the Online Grassroots Academy, from March 14-23, 2012. Photo credits (top to bottom): Unión de Cooperativas de Mujeres Productoras Las Brumas in Jinotega, Nicaragua; Lima Este, GROOTS Peru; Bancos Comunales, GROOTS Peru; DAMPA, Philippines.

PRACTICES EXCHANGED DURING THE ONLINE ACADEMY:



NICARAGUA

Women are using **cooperative farming and production** to build resilient communities. They are using **organic inputs and sustainable farming techniques** to ensure their products are healthy for their families and have a low impact on their environment. They use a holistic approach, also initiating **reforestation, soil and water conservation** projects.



PERU

Women have been trained to build **anti-seismic construction materials** and have successfully gained income from the material production. The **women started a dialogue on housing rights with the local government**, gained recognition for their work and are transferring their knowledge to other regions.

Also in **Peru**, grassroots women are learning the land regularization policies and **pressing for policy change for women to access secure tenure** through a **partnership with the UN**. They have trained over **500 women** across Peru to act as **community advocates**, to know the issues that women are facing around land access and to understand the land policies and frameworks they can use to **improve women's land and housing access**.



THE PHILIPPINES

Community pharmacies (botika binhi) address the **high cost of accessing medicines**. One group has pharmacies in **6 outlets**, serving **4 resettlement areas** and nearly **30,000 families**.

In another community, **women facing evictions negotiated a loan** from a government-backed home finance corporation **to purchase their land** from the land owner. Over 25 years, **421 families** are paying back this loan with a **95% repayment** rate.



NIGERIA

Grassroots caregivers from across West Africa, along with NGO partners from Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon and Benin, gathered to share common challenges and successes at a Peer Exchange, a major step in developing a West African Sub-Regional Home-Based Care Alliance, the first of its kind. Here, caregivers perform a song about living positively with HIV/AIDS during the opening of the Peer Exchange (photo credit: Becca Asaki/Huairou Commisison).

A group of women, likely caregivers, are gathered outdoors in a rural setting. They are wearing traditional West African headwraps and patterned dresses. Several women are singing or speaking, with their mouths open and hands gesturing. The background shows a simple building and trees under a clear sky.

During a peer exchange, a group visits another in order to learn about their local practices and also share their own knowledge.

PEER EXCHANGES

In February 2012, twenty grassroots caregivers and partners from Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon and Benin gathered in Ilorin, Nigeria to lay the groundwork for a new model of organizing.

The West African Peer Exchange aimed to strengthen communication and collaboration between national Alliances across West Africa. During the exchange, caregivers shared challenges they faced, including the burden of caring for those infected and affected by HIV, strong patriarchal systems excluding women and lack of government transparency. In the face of such challenges, the **Nigerian** caregivers have organized a multi-stakeholder coalition across 5 states of Nigeria- a force of nearly 28,500 members- a result of over four years of work. In Kwara state alone, more than 700 caregivers serve in formal positions as “site coordinators” at hospitals and receiving monthly stipends funded by PEPFAR through the Institute for Human Virology.

Representatives from **Cameroon** have built national grassroots network CAGWESA, which represents 28 groups in six regions, with roughly 2,000 caregivers among its members. The network is anchored by grassroots member group Ntankah Village Women Common Initiative, and includes Muslim, Christian and Animist members along with French and English speaking groups.

The Alliance in **Ghana** represents 41 community support groups of caregivers, all living positively, with a total 360 members across the three northern regions of Ghana. Similarly, in Benin, 405 caregivers belong to a network of seven groups of people and communities living positively.

By the end of the 4 days of the peer exchange, leaders developed a one-year action plan for developing working agreements and structures of a West African network. The experience in Nigeria was the first step in a long path to ensure grassroots leaders and their NGO partners are equal stakeholders in the vision and development of the network.

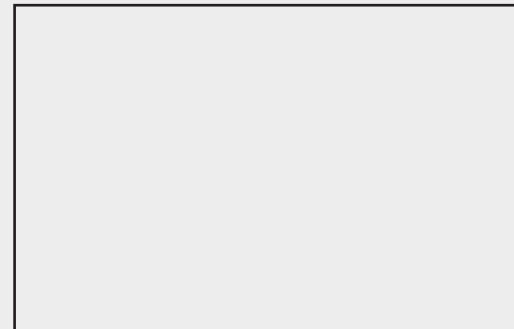
The West African Peer Exchange was hosted by IWCC and organized by HC network member GROOTS International, with generous support from the New Field Foundation and additional support from the Stephen Lewis Foundation and Cordaid.

PEER EXCHANGES:



NICARAGUA

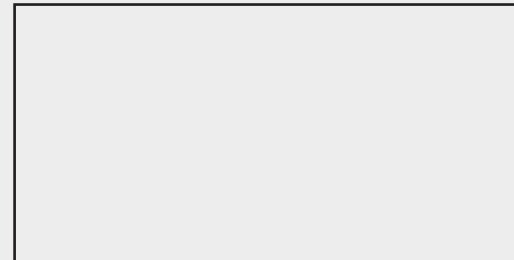
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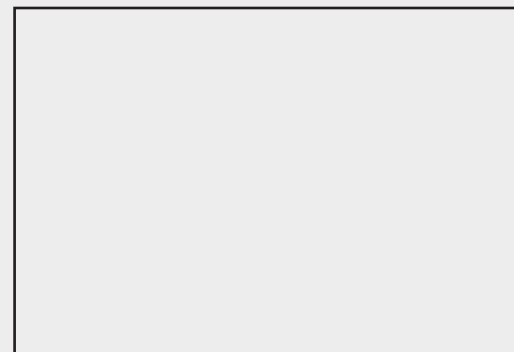
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PEER EXCHANGES

Resilience Exchange

Jinotega, Nicaragua

Mayor Exchange

Cantarranas, Honduras

Safety Exchange

Lima, Peru

Peru-Venezuela Exchange (GROOTS Peru and Rosa de Montaña)

Lima, Peru

Resilience Workshop

Recife, Brazil

Peer Exchange:

During a peer exchange, a group visits another in order to learn about their local practices and also share their own knowledge.

When women learn from the experiences and innovations of their peers, they can feel encouraged to recognize their own experiences and innovations as significant knowledge. Peer exchanges provide the space for hands-on, experiential learning that values the teachers and the learners as experts that already have significant ability and capacity.



“This was the first time having this kind of success...even though caregivers have been organizing for more than 20 years.”

-ZIMBABWE HOME-BASED CARE ALLIANCE

POLICY ADVOCACY

GLOBAL LEVEL



THREE GRASSROOTS LEADERS APPOINTED TO UN WOMEN GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY ADVISORY GROUP

In 2012, three grassroots leaders from the Huairou Commission network, **Marling Haydée Rodríguez**, **Violet Shivutse**, and **Josephine Castillo**, were appointed to the first UN Women Global Civil Society Advisory Group by **UN Women Executive Director Dr. Michelle Bachelet**. Members of the Advisory Group will “provide strategic perspectives on advocacy on gender equality and women’s empowerment and on UN Women’s thematic priorities.” Overall, grassroots women comprised nearly twenty percent of the group.

Josphine (Jhocas), Haydee and Violet are active leaders in their own communities, committed to building and strengthening networks of grassroots women’s groups in the **Philippines, Nicaragua, and Kenya**, respectively, as well as on a global scale. They each have expertise empowering grassroots women to solve development problems from the bottom up.

They were nominated through the **Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR)** Campaign, which advocated for the formation of UN Women. Other members of the group include feminist scholars, human rights lawyers, and male leaders working on gender and women’s rights issues. All appointees have proven track records for their work on women’s empowerment and gender equality, and were appointed by Bachelet based on wide consultation with civil society networks.

Grassroots women leaders gained traction and political space in a variety of roles and advisory positions at the global level, recognizing the vital role of community-based leaders in influencing global policies and priorities. Spaces occupied by grassroots women leaders from our network at the global level include: **UN Women’s Global Civil Society Advisory Group**, the International Advisory Board of **UN-Habitat’s Global Land Tool Network (GLTN)**, and **UN-Habitat’s Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI)**.



Left to right: Marling Haydee Rodriguez, Las Brumas Union of Women Farmer Cooperatives, Nicaragua; Violet Shivutse, Shibuye Community Health Workers and GROOTS Kenya; and Jhocas Castillo, DAMPA, the Philippines. (Photo credit: Julia Kallas / IPS)

Executive Director Michelle Bachelet led the inaugural meeting of UN Women’s Civil Society Global Advisory Group on 10 October 2012. (Photo credit: UN Women)



“Previously we did not have an opportunity to move in formal spaces like this, but through the Huairou Commission, these spaces are being created for grassroots women to voice their concerns and to share their stories with leaders about what is happening on the ground.

When we are there we are able to speak and see for ourselves, we are able to come back and engage with our constituencies about what was discussed, which then allows us to hold our local leaders accountable for what they have said in these global spaces.”

-Carmen Griffiths, GROOTS Jamaica and member of the UN-Habitat Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI)

POLICY ADVOCACY

Grassroots women leaders gained traction and political space at the national level in their respective countries, through leveraging the gains and expertise gained in organizing at the grassroots level in their own communities.

NATIONAL LEVEL ASIA: PHILIPPINES

Two Huairou Commission members, **Jhocas Castillo** of **DAMPA** and **Fides Bagasao** of **GROOTS Philippines**, joined the Philippines national delegation to the **56th UN Commission on the Status of Women** after notifying their government that they would be traveling to New York as part of the Huairou Commission delegation. Government officials extended the invitation based on their familiarity with the women's national networks and with the Huairou Commission.

Bagasao and Castillo collaborated with their government through participating in a side event and providing inputs to policy negotiation.

"My previous experience was just proposing the text and giving input via email, but I was never part of the committee that was sitting down to write the text [of the Draft Agreed to Conclusions] that Huairou Commission was going to negotiate with government...Our inputs as civil society were solicited by the delegation and discussed very openly and then supported by most of the delegation members, as well as endorsed by the head of the delegation," said Bagasao.

This spirit of advocating for the rights of women comes from a long history in the Philippines, as Fides explained: "There is a tradition of being open and progressive vis a vis civil society and open with regards to gender equality. We're coming from that tradition, it's consistent with that tradition, and I can see that it's very affirming for me as a person, as an activist and as a Filipino to be part of this process, both as Huairou Commission and as a delegate."

LAC: HOLDING GOVERNMENTS ACCOUNTABLE TO GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN JAMAICA

In July, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), a group of experts on women's rights from around the world who monitor the implementation of the Convention of the same name, celebrated its thirtieth anniversary in New York City. Lana Finikin, founding member and Executive Director of Jamaica's Sistren Theatre Collective, traveled to New York City on July 5 attend the anniversary celebration and to take part in the CEDAW review process. Finikin was one of the representatives nominated from the collective of women's NGOs who prepared the Jamaica shadow report.

In 2012, on the 30th anniversary of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), a group of experts on women's rights from around the world

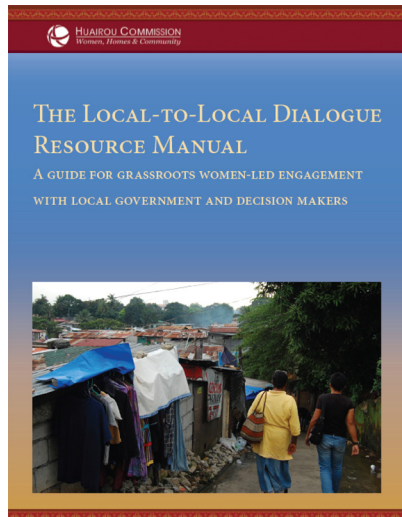
According to protocol, countries signing onto CEDAW submit regular reports to the Committee on how rights are being implemented, and NGOs also submit an accompanying shadow report each period. Based on these reports, the committee then reviews and provides recommendations to the state.

"Our alternative report includes what the government did not do, laws and policies that are supposed to be enacted but don't get done. It focuses on human trafficking, sexual and reproductive health rights for women, abortion and LGBT issues, and issues impacting women with disabilities, in both rural and urban areas," explained Finkin in an interview.

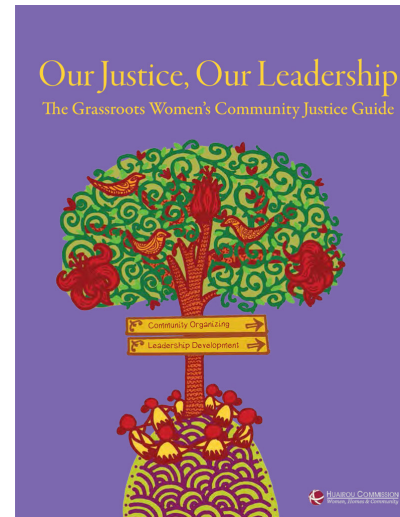
The Jamaican government's report included information collected by GROOTS Jamaica, such as data from safety audits, but did not adequately credit the groups who did the work. Being able to address this issue with the government was a highlight of the trip for Finikin, who stated, "You have to take them to the books, to take them to task, to make sure that they are doing what they're supposed to be doing as government." The NGO group was able to just that: one successful outcome of the experience was recognition and a commitment for future collaboration with the Jamaican government. In particular, Jamaica's Minister of Information, Ms. Sandra Falcone, committed to consulting with the Association of Organizations of Women in Jamaica through quarterly meetings. Government representatives were welcoming and receptive to the goals of the women's NGO group, who were acknowledged as "a powerful set of women who will lobby and push for getting things done."

Not only did this experience bring grassroots women as experts into the monitoring and evaluation process on a global level, but it also built skills that will be used for advocacy work back home. "For me it was awesome, powerful, informative," said Finkin. "I would recommended to any other woman or organization around the world to get involved in their NGO shadow report."

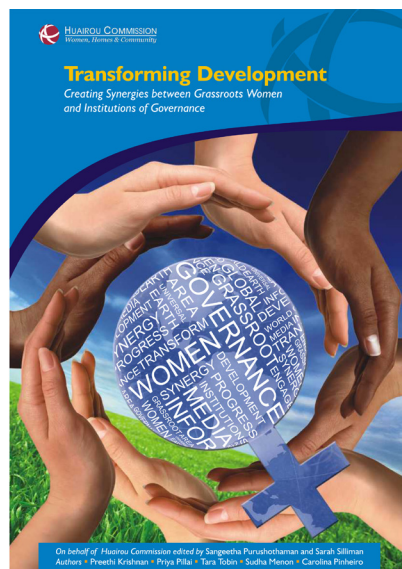
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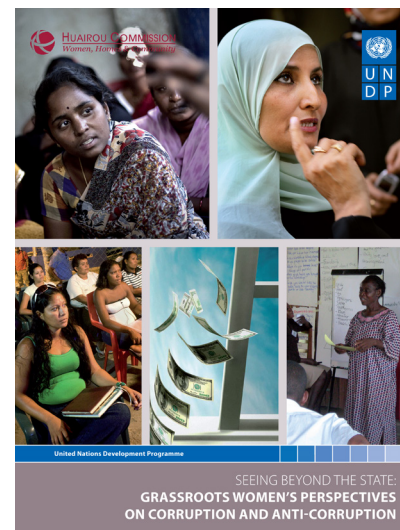
The Local-to-Local Dialogue Resource Manual combines collective knowledge, evolved from nearly a decade of experiences around the world, into a series of practical tools and locally adaptable strategies for initiating and engaging in Local-to-Local (L2L) Dialogues. The manual provides guidance to grassroots women's groups in negotiating a wide spectrum of development issues that affect grassroots women and their communities. The L2L Dialogue Resource Manual is designed for grassroots women's groups and community-based organizations, along with the local authorities and institutions that work with them.



Our Justice, Our Leadership: The Grassroots Women's Community Justice Guide is a culmination of four years of work by grassroots women's groups and networks through Women's Land Link Africa (WLLA), a pan-African platform on land and property rights. Through a participatory process developed in 2008, these groups have pioneered and tested a series of strategies to promote women's empowerment and protect and safeguard their rights, including the creation of community watch dog groups and community paralegals. This publication was made possible in part by funding from an anonymous donor.



Transforming Development is part of a series of tools, publications, and resource support that the Huairou Commission has developed to promote horizontal learning amongst grassroots women's groups and to document and share their strategies and lessons with policymaking and development institutions. This compendium details the initiatives of grassroots organizations which have been supported in part by Huairou Commission. These grassroots organizations illustrate how mobilized groups of women use existing governance mechanisms to participate actively in planning, decision-making, implementation and monitoring of public services in partnership with local government bodies. It is published through the support of UNDP and the MDG 3 Fund of the Dutch Foreign Ministry.



Corruption is global phenomenon and a major obstacle to development and economic growth. Although it affects all social classes and groups, women (and particularly poor women) are among the most affected. To better understand corruption from the perspective of women at the grassroots level, the Huairou Commission undertook a study of 11 communities across eight countries in partnership with UNDP's Global Thematic Programme on Anti-Corruption for Development Effectiveness (PACDE). The objective of the study was to document grassroots women's perceptions and experiences of corruption in developing countries and bring this to important discourses regarding anti-corruption, gender equality and women's empowerment.



This action research, conducted by the Community Practitioners Platform for Resilience in seven Asian countries, is an effort to capture the voices of community leaders and bring the resilience priorities of poor, disaster-prone communities into debates that will shape the new policy frameworks on disaster risk reduction launched in 2015.

As policymakers prepare to renew their commitment to sustainable, resilient development in 2015, the views of various stakeholder groups are being sought through a series of global, regional and national consultative processes. For the most part, however, members of poor, disaster-prone neighbourhoods worst affected by natural hazards and climate change are absent from these consultations. Yet, it is these communities whose survival and wellbeing will be most affected by the policies and programmes that emerge from these debates.

As their location, economic conditions and socio-political marginalisation render them highly vulnerable to the ill-effects of disasters, climate change and development failures, organised groups of poor women and men have been steadily evolving innovative strategies to protect their lives, livelihoods and homes from destruction. It is essential, therefore, that new agendas aimed at transforming the lives of the poor and marginalised take note of what poor people themselves have to say in this regard and recognise the leadership they have shown in advancing disaster and climate resilience.

POLICY ADVOCACY

AFRICA: ZIMBABWE CAREGIVERS' NATIONAL SUMMIT DRAWS 500 CAREGIVERS AND HIGH LEVEL NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

Leading up to the International AIDS Conference, GROOTS International and the Huairou Commission hosted the Grassroots Academy on AIDS.

Over the week, our women leaders discussed emerging trends in the global AIDS response, held a day of dialogues with representatives from partner institutions, and planned for a busy week at AIDS 2012, advocating to be recognized for their contributions to curbing the pandemic and providing care and support to the communities it has impacted most.

POLICY ADVOCACY

GLOBAL LEVEL



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FUND

In 2012-2013, the Community Resilience Fund supported:
30 women's organizations in 20 countries

across Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean to promote:

- **Food security** through sustainable agriculture
- **Settlement upgrading** through addressing water, sanitation, mudslides
- **Natural resource protection and management**

Africa

Scope: 17 organizations, 809 communities

- Grassroots Sisterhood Foundation (GSF), Ghana
- Gatundu, Kenya
- GROOTS Kenya
- Likii HIV/AIDS Home Based Care, Kenya
- Shibuye Community Health Workers, Kenya
- FVTM, Madagascar
- Maasai Women's Education and Development Organization (MWEDO), Tanzania
- Kawempe Home Based Care Alliance, Uganda
- Slum Women's Initiative for Development (SWID), Uganda
- Circles of Hope, Zambia
- Katuba Women's Association, Zambia
- Ntengwe, Zimbabwe
- Zambia Homeless and Poor Peoples' Federation, Zambia
- Ray of Hope, Zimbabwe
- Seke Rural Home Based Care, Zimbabwe
- Zimbabwe Parents of Handicapped Children Association, Zimbabwe

Asia

Scope: 6 organizations, 264 communities

- Participatory Development Action Program (PDAP), Bangladesh
- Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), India
- Yakkum Emergency Unit, Indonesia
- Lumanti Support Group for Shelter, Nepal
- DAMPA, Philippines
- Life Center, Vietnam

Latin America & Caribbean

Scope: 7 organizations, 83 communities

- Espacio Feminista, Brazil
- Fundación Guatemala, Guatemala
- WAGUCHA, Honduras
- GROOTS Jamaica, Jamaica
- Las Brumas Union of Small Farmer Cooperatives, Nicaragua
- GROOTS Peru, Peru
- Rosa de Montaña, Venezuela

Trends:

Shifting from a focus on Disaster Risk Reduction to a more holistic, integrated

Grassroots women leaders are taking action such as:

- Taking on monitoring and managing roles
- Joining local emergency response teams
- Improving access to public services
- Transferring knowledge and training other grassroots women as well as local officials
- Influencing municipal budgets



re-sil-i-ence (noun):

the capacity of a community to organize itself to reduce the impacts of disasters and climate change by protecting lives, livelihoods, homes and assets, basic services and infrastructure.

approach to con

