

HUAIROU COMMISS- SION

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



HUAIROU COMMISSION
Women, Homes & Community

LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR

Dear members and partners,

This year, the Huairou Commission successfully raised the profile of grassroots women on the global stage while empowering them to demonstrate the relevancy of their on-the-ground experiences in high-level policy development. Our year of work culminated in their experiences being received as expert input from the bottom up in addressing challenges faced by grassroots women and the poor from climate change, building resilient communities, and traditional models of land tenure. The once inconceivable concept that grassroots women were part of the solution with perspectives that should be included in policy discussions and decision-making is now coming to fruition.

The presence of grassroots women was felt at regional meetings, global forums and in the almost 50 countries they come from. They learned new skills and shared their successful strategies through Huairou Commission sponsored peer learning exchanges and grassroots academies. The Huairou Commission sponsored grassroots women to attend multiple global and regional meetings and participate in many as expert panelists and speakers. At meetings such as CSW, the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference, and at UN-Habitat's 7th World Urban Forum, and all three regional preparatory committees for the third U.N. World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

To further support our work, the Huairou Commission embarked on a number of strategic partnerships: Most notably Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI) and Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO). We combined our 56 years of collective experience to advocate for grassroots expertise and priorities on the global stage. This partnership has already proven to be effective in developing a strategy for poor women around the world to participate and demand their inclusion in the post-2015 development process. We also deepened our commitment to community resilience by leading and expanding the Community Practitioner's Platform with support from Action Aid and other international NGOs.

Ensuring women's voices are represented at the international level, the Huairou Commission played a key role in preparatory committees for the third U.N. World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and facilitated the civil society section of the first preparatory committee the third U.N. Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). The Huairou Commission made a commitment to establish a space for women to share their voices in these future conferences. As key members of the Civil Society and Women's group for each conference, we will not rest until grassroots women are accepted and celebrated for the expertise they bring with them to policy discussions and development.

We put our beliefs into practice within our own organisation, creating an Operational Framework that better reflects our members' hopes and goals for the Huairou Commission's future. With the input of over 30 member groups, grassroots women will be welcomed into enhanced leadership functions and roles and given more power over the direction of the organisation.

As we prepare to celebrate our 20th Anniversary in 2015, we worked throughout this year to keep a strong foothold in the areas of utmost concern to our members. Strengthening community resilience and response to disasters, ensuring land security and tenure, and the importance of the urban-rural connection to globalization continue to guide our efforts and activities. As the world delineates and welcomes the Sustainable Development Goals, the Huairou Commission looks forward to empowering women to participate in decision-making and strategic planning at all levels.



Jan Peterson
Chair of the Huairou Commission

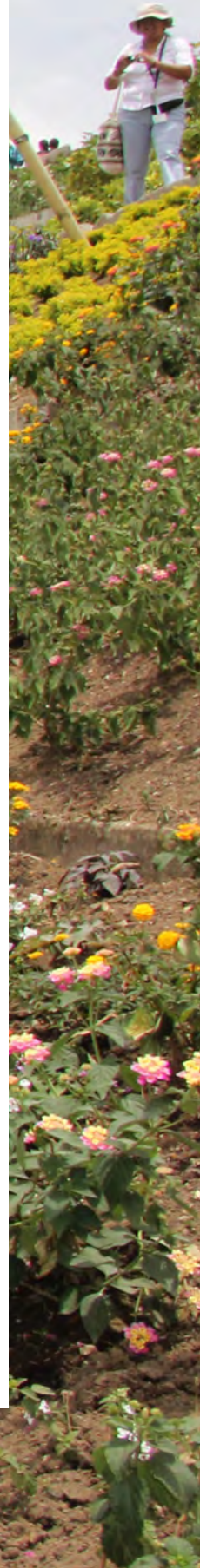
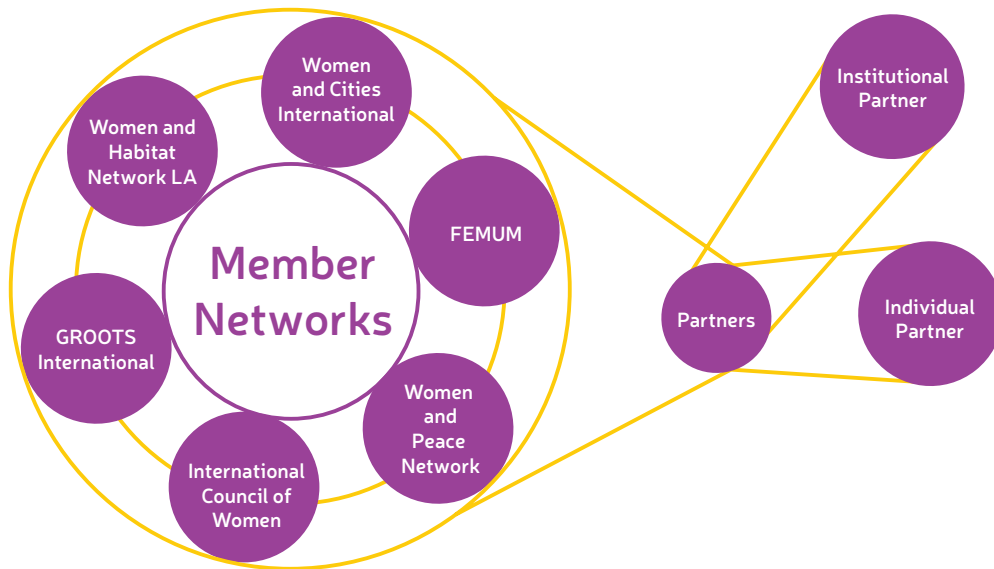


OUR MISSION

The Huairou Commission aims to empower networks of grassroots women in strengthening their community development practices and transforming public policies at local, national, regional and global levels.

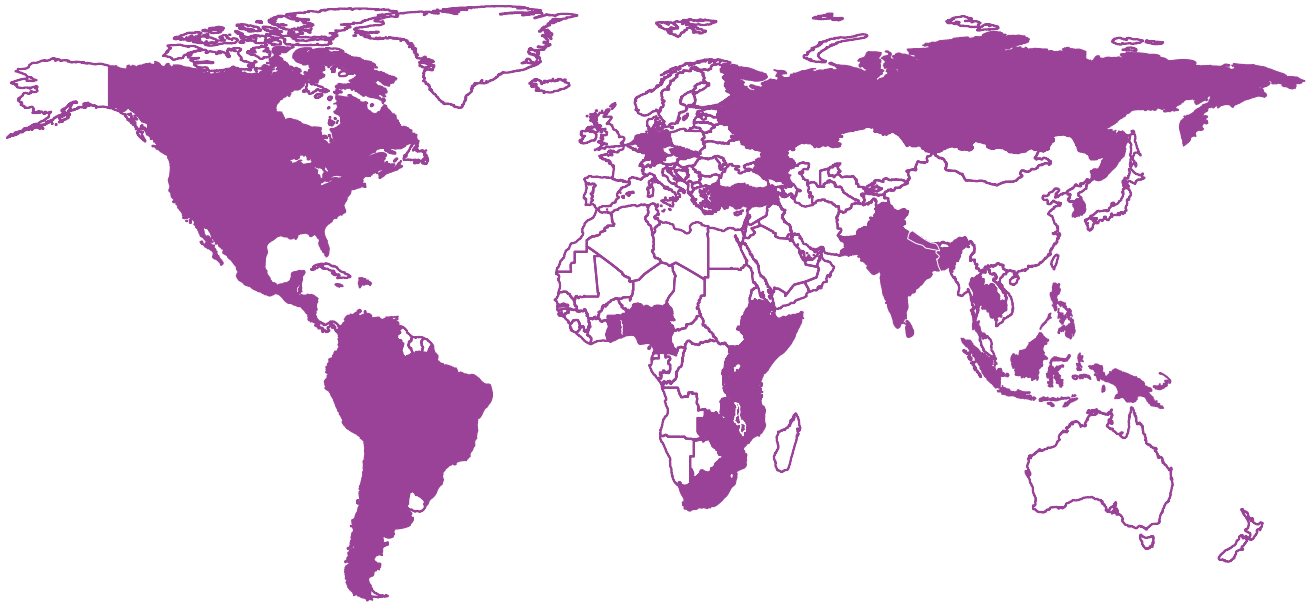
◆ OUR GLOBAL NETWORK

The Huairou Commission is a membership and partnership coalition comprised by networks and federations of grassroots women's organizations. Our institutional and individual partners share our goal of institutionalizing grassroots women's public leadership. We work together to ensure that grassroots women are driving forces in setting the public agenda and standards of political accountability in the context of poverty reduction and development that is equitable and sustainable. The Huairou Commission holds consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and is associated with the Department of Public Information.



WHERE WE WORK

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



Argentina
Bangladesh
Benin
Bolivia
Brazil
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada

Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Czech Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Germany
Ghana

Guatemala
Haiti
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Jamaica
Kenya
Malawi
Mexico

Mozambique
Nepal
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru

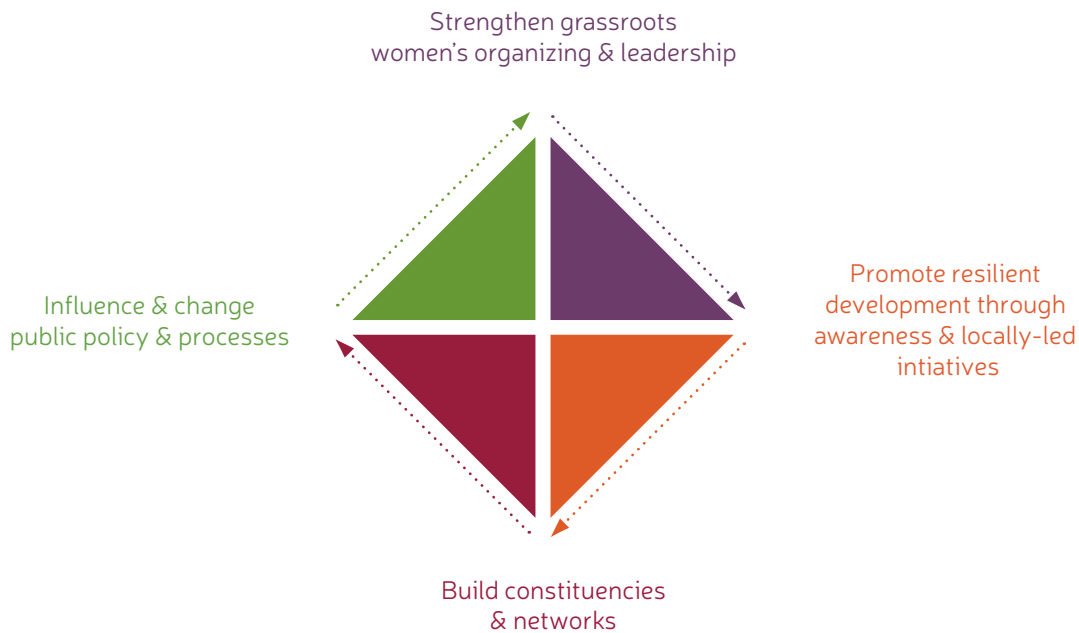
Philippines
Russia
Rwanda
Slovakia
Somalia
South Africa
South Korea
Sri Lanka
Tanzania

Thailand
Tobago
Trinidad
Turkey
Uganda
USA
Venezuela
Zambia
Zimbabwe



OUR MOVEMENT BUILDING APPROACH

In 2012, our “Resilience diamond” was introduced to serve as a tool for capturing our holistic, movement building approach. As our work progressed, it became evident that the ‘diamond’ and its four elements represent the core strategies that cut across all of the Huairou Commission’s work to empower grassroots women to transform development.



“
..Grassroots women,
we are not targets of
development. We are
not passive actors. We
are active, we want to
participate in development
agendas, but we are
the key and important
partners that should be
recognized. Nothing
for us without us.

”



STRENGTHENING GRASSROOTS WOMEN'S ORGANIZING AND LEADERSHIP

Transforming development to reflect the priorities of grassroots women requires a strong grassroots-led constituency base. This means grassroots women leaders must be able to act collectively, solve community development problems, foster new leadership, transfer effective practices to other communities, and negotiate with local authorities. Over 500 grassroots women are now leading their communities at various official levels as a result of the Huairou Commission's leadership trainings and workshops. These trainings transfer knowledge, but also empower grassroots women to take on new public leadership roles, including implementation, advancing partnerships, and demonstrating that grassroots women's participation leads to more effective development results.

“The reason we exist is to empower women at the grassroots level. Resilience is an overarching impact that we want to have in our communities, but we all agree that without our leaders—all of you—there would not be any resilience.”

– Prema Gopalan, Swayam Shikshan Prayog, India

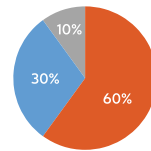
◆ GRASSROOTS WOMEN TAKE ON NEW ROLES TO ADVANCE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Maasai Women's Development Organization (MWEDO) trained 60 grassroots women leaders on negotiation and advocacy, including how to influence the planning of local village and district budgets related to drought and climate change. The training identified strategies on how to influence land use-planning in the context of shrinking grazing lands, as well as gaining access to veterinary vaccines, repairing traditional dams, and purchasing saplings to increase water tables.

In India, grassroots women's federations partnering with Swayam Shikshan Prayog were invited by Osmanabad and Washim's district administrations to conduct drought awareness campaigns in their districts. In response, grassroots women are disseminating information on water conservation, water efficient crops, recharging water sources, and drought-resistant crop varieties in 70 villages.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LOCALLY-LED AWARENESS AND PRACTICES

Grassroots women led a series of strategic actions to secure and protect their individual and collective asset base, as well as their development gains, through Huairou Commission's Land, Housing and Community Resilience programs. The Community Resilience Fund is a flexible funding mechanism that channels resources to 29 grassroots women's organizations in 21 countries in Africa, Asia and LAC regions. The CRF supports a diverse set of strategies, ranging from conservation to securing land titles, as well as community monitoring of government social protection and distribution of disaster relief. This holistic, empowerment-oriented approach is founded on the notion that in order to advance and strengthen community resilience, women must organize themselves to analyze risks, learn and test solutions, and leverage their gains to achieve government recognition and resources to scale up solutions. In 2014, The CRF was supported through funds from SIDA, NORAD and MAC Foundation.



- Resilience practices (including revolving fund and loans)
- Leadership and training on specific resilience practices
- CRF management and M&E

◆ FORMALIZING AND SYSTEMATIZING CRF OPERATIONS

In 2014, Huairou Commission and its members collaborated with an international consultant to assess CRF operations and agree upon principles and guidelines that retain the essential elements of the CRF as an empowerment mechanism, while systematizing and standardizing its operations. Members agreed that CRF funds can be used for leadership building and networking, but the majority of funds must be spent on implementing resilience practices, including sectoral training and creating practice leaders. Additionally, CRF practices must be sustainable by replenishing the fund through leveraging government resources, creating revolving funds, and rotating assets.

SPOTLIGHT

The Community Resilience Fund at Work

Union of Cooperatives of Las Brumas

Since 2009, women farmers in the highlands of Jinotega have promoted sustainable, climate-smart agriculture to preserve indigenous and drought-resistant plant species, addressing both food security and farmers' livelihoods. The Union of Cooperatives of Las Brumas used the CRF to support their members and advance these strategies. By 2014, members reported that CRF investments increased the diversified plots from 50 to 200, and net earnings for each farmer increased from \$80 to \$500 USD. The CRF also supported many farmers in a shift from cash crops such as coffee, to food crops such as beans, corn, yucca and chia.

WAGUCHA and DAMPA

In addition to Las Brumas, WAGUCHA in Honduras as well as DAMPA, Philippines used the CRF in ways that enhanced inter-group cooperation and strengthened their organizing and federating strategies. In Nicaragua and Honduras, women used the CRF to create revolving funds that rotated across groups, thereby strengthening the cooperation among groups. In the context of post-disaster recovery in the Philippines, DAMPA used the CRF to provide revolving funds for livelihoods restoration and asset-pooling and sharing strategies such as revolving construction tool banks which attracted more communities to join DAMPA's federation.

◆ SECURING LAND AND HOUSING

Since its inception the Huairou Commission has been deeply committed to developing practical solutions that empower grassroots women to secure land and housing. Despite legislation and land reforms that support women's property rights, women face discrimination under both formal and informal customary systems of land tenure. Since 2006, Huairou Commission has been part of the multi-stakeholder global coalition Global Land Tools Network (GLTN) facilitated by UN-Habitat. This coalition, in which HC leads the rural cluster, focuses on developing concrete tools and strategies to advance the achievement of objectives laid out in policies and legislation for land reform.

Huairou Commission member Espaço Feminista has worked within the communities of Ponte do Maduro for over six years to strengthen women's participation and leadership in the land titling process. Through their partnerships with UN-Habitat and government agencies, research institutions and civil society, Espaço Feminista has led the effort to enable grassroots women to meaningfully participate in and influence the regularization process.

The Huairou Commission has played a central role in evolving the Gender Evaluation Criteria (GEC) a tool for assessing the gender responsiveness of land tools. This tool has gone through a rigorous piloting and assessment process in order to be formally recognized as a tool that can be applied across varied contexts. GEC pilots undertaken by HC members in multiple countries were instrumental in identifying the key common elements that have to be in place to support the effective application of the 22 evaluation questions and 6 criteria that make up this essential tool.

SPOTLIGHT

Bringing a Gendered Analysis to Land Tools

As part of the GLTN, HC representatives supported the development process of an engendered version of the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM). STDM is based on the community-led enumeration strategy for building a land information base evolved by Slum Dwellers International. Huairou Commission piloted this tool with the Zambian Homeless and Poor People's Federation and integrated a gendered analysis into the STDM in the context of customary land tenure systems. Twenty women and five men led the STDM process in Mungule Chiefdom from June to October 2014. The team applied the STDM to profile, enumerate, and map 7 villages, and the pilot offered the opportunity to produce a Women's Empowerment Baseline by applying Huairou's empowerment framework. Traditional leaders, who had resisted the unconventional tool, soon saw the value of the STDM, as they gained knowledge of the land under their jurisdiction, including information about the rapid loss of ancestral lands through their conversions into state land.

SPOTLIGHT

Community in Recife, Brazil Granted Land Titles After 5 Decades of Grassroots Organizing

After five decades of struggle to regularize their informal housing settlement, the community of Ponte do Maduro in Brazil celebrated as the Governor of the State of Pernambuco issued the first land titles to residents of Chié. In total, 3,000 titles will reach around 40% of the ~8,000 families in Chié. The titles represent a significant victory in the struggle to secure land tenure for impoverished residents. For women, security of tenure means legal rights to property and access to credit, freedom to invest in home improvements without fear of losing investments, empowerment to make household decisions, and improved social and economic status in the community.

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NETWORK AND COALITION BUILDING

The third element of the diamond focuses on building networks, coalitions and alliances which help to aggregate the voices, practices and advocacy priorities of local grassroots organizations, link them to partners and amplify impacts of their work. 2014 offered several opportunities for building strategic alliances among diverse grassroots groups with common agendas.

HC/SDI/WIEGO Alliance

As part of an effort to raise the visibility of grassroots voices and priorities in global policy-making spaces, and advance the formal and meaningful participation of organized grassroots groups in global development processes, the Huairou Commission partnered with the two other most prominent coalitions of grassroots women, slum dwellers, and informal economy workers—Huairou Commission, Slum Dwellers International (SDI), Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing—joined forces this year to establish a set of Grassroots Sustainable Development Goals, concrete recommendations on the Means of Implementation of the post-2015 agenda, and a broad advocacy campaign that advances and recognizes the expertise, knowledge, and priorities of grassroots communities across the globe. This newly formed platform brought grassroots leaders together from Kenya, Peru, India, Honduras, South Africa, Uganda, and elsewhere in a three day Strategic Meeting and Workshop. The Huairou Commission, SDI, and WIEGO's grassroots leaders used this planning session to develop a joint grassroots sustainable development agenda and platform.

Their findings were developed into advocacy messages to contribute not only to the roll-out, implementation and monitoring of the post-2015 development process, but also feed into parallel global development processes that the coalitions are involved with, such as Beijing +20 (UN Women), Habitat III (UN-Habitat), 3rd United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), and the International Labour Conference discussions on formalizing the informal economy (ILO).

During the formation of the Millennium Development Goals, grassroots communities with the most at stake in the process were excluded, resulting in an overarching development agenda that did not reflect the needs or priorities of poor communities, nor did it facilitate their active engagement in its implementation. Thus the goal of making the Sustainable Development Goal's (SDGs) work for the poor must be a central focus of the current agenda. As the world debates the SDG's and shapes the agenda for post 2015, it is a critical opportunity and turning point for global development agenda setting: it is essential that the meaningful participation of grassroots women, slum dwellers, informal workers and other grassroots leaders is central to the framework.

SPOTLIGHT

Bringing Together Multiple Stakeholders to Center Stage Women's Perspectives on Land at the World Bank

In 2014, HC also brought a team of 13 participants to the World Bank's Annual Land and Poverty Conference, where HC was responsible for convening conference participants who work on women's priorities in relation to land tenure. This included participants from within World Bank as well as GLTN members such as ActionAid, Habitat for Humanity, International Land Coalition, Landesa, Norwegian Refugee Council, and Slum/Shack Dwellers International. This process of convening and connecting facilitated by Huairou Commission has resulted in bringing women's concerns on land and property from the periphery to the center of the conference. In 2014, 18 presentations with countless participants focused on gender issues during conference sessions. In addition, HC representatives also trained participants on the Gender Evaluation Criteria (GEC) for assessing the practical tools and strategies for securing land.

INFLUENCING AND CHANGING PUBLIC POLICY PROCESSES

The fourth element of the diamond focuses on influencing decision-making in response to the needs of grassroots women. This year, a variety of strategies were used to facilitate dialogue and partnerships between grassroots women and local governments at local, sub-national and national levels and gain public recognition for grassroots women.

Community Practitioners Platform for Resilience

SPOTLIGHT

The Community Practitioners Platform is an organizing and networking mechanism promoted by the Huairou Commission and GROOTS International, which connects grassroots community-based groups working to reduce their vulnerability to disaster and climate risks in rural and urban areas. Through the CPP grassroots groups expand their networks and foster partnerships to create common advocacy and learning platforms. By building constituencies and networks from the bottom up, members of the Platform expand the reach and effectiveness of their practices and policy recommendations. Grassroots women's organizations and groups in many countries have been engaging different national ministries focused on disaster management, women's empowerment, social protection, agriculture, environment, local government and local development in order to understand policy frameworks, promote grassroots women's agendas and explore collaborative arrangements.

Advancing Grassroots Resilience Agendas Through the Community Practitioners Platform in Honduras

SPOTLIGHT

In 2014 COPECO, the National Disaster Management Agency of Honduras signed a special agreement formalizing its partnership with HC member WAGUCHA. Through this agreement, COPECO will use GPS and satellite technology to help refine grassroots understanding and analysis of risk and vulnerability as well as identify evacuation routes and shelters to protect communities in the event of a hurricane. COPECO also will provide emergency preparedness and response training to more than 3000 community members of whom 80% are women and certify a set of community volunteers as local agents of disaster risk management.

Grassroots Women Contribute to the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Policy Process

For the first time in the Huairou Commission's history, representatives attended all three UNISDR Regional Platforms. Participants advocated for African women's priorities in Abuja, Nigeria; Latin American and Caribbean women's in Guayaquil, Ecuador; and Asian women's at the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR in Bangkok, Thailand. The Huairou Commission's efforts in these important regional forums aimed to impart women's expertise and views to the global framework on disaster risk reduction to be finalized next year in Sendai, Japan. By attending every Platform, HC strategically positioned women to be key contributors to and actors in developing the 2nd Hyogo Framework for Action.



◆ TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY INITIATIVE

The Huairou Commission's Transparency and Accountability Initiative has made exciting strides in partnerships. The T&AI's goal is to show that when grassroots women organize at the community level to design and implement anti-corruption strategies, they build gender responsive governance that leads to improved service delivery and shifts in power. For the 58th session of the UN Commission on the

Status of Women (CSW58), grassroots leaders from six organizations who have demonstrated success with the T&AI methods met to exchange strategies and achievements, including Las Brumas (Nicaragua), DAMPA (Philippines), Espaço Feminista (Brazil), Lumanti (Nepal), UCOBAC (Kigoba, Uganda), SWID (Jinja, Uganda), GROOTS Kenya, GROOTS Jamaica and PDAP (Bangladesh).



NEPAL

Lumanti worked with grassroots women to test a social accountability strategy on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Thankot VDC in the Kathmandu Valley. To enhance the accountability and responsiveness of water and sanitation services, communities devised a combination of strategies. Nine ward-level local communities learned to analyze public budgets in relation to water and sanitation. They mapped related service providers and institutions, and participated in community conversations that linked effective service delivery to

good, transparent and accountable governance. A WASH community report card evaluating water and sanitation services was used as the negotiation foundation with Thankot local authorities. Since then, garbage collection and drinking water quality have both improved and the Thankot local authority has agreed to involve communities in planning improvements in water and sanitation services, publicly display government programs and budgets, and to appoint a community monitoring committee to enhance transparency and accountability to communities.

SPOTLIGHT

GRASSROOTS WOMEN ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

2014 was a year in which Huairou Commission members participated in several major policy forums, part of the preparatory processes for finalizing new policy frameworks in 2015.

In many ways, HC's visibility, credibility and ability to influence decisions in these policy venues represented a convergence and culmination of our past investments in building a strong grassroots-led constituency base and effective grassroots-led practices; in building strategic alliances and coalitions; and in dialogue and collaboration with decision makers at local and sub-national levels. The global policy fora were venues to showcase and leverage HC's gains and apply the lessons in the form of policy recommendations.

Building on previous experiences as well as the period of funding from 2013 into 2014, key insights and lessons have been revealed.

1. Partnership building and the formalization of grassroots leadership roles require continuous long term engagement by grassroots organizations. However, in order to advance these partnerships, policies and program mechanisms that promote engagement with grassroots and government, and the presence of institutional champions, are critical. Such institutional mechanisms and institutional champions appear to be emerging strongly in Sub-Saharan Africa and Brazil where partnerships have been advancing to a greater extent with this past year's focused investments.

2. Access to poverty reduction and social protection programs can be utilized by impoverished communities to reduce risks and vulnerabilities, as well as advance partnerships with government, by undertaking public leadership roles of beneficiary identification and monitoring.

3. Despite their active and sustained leadership at the local level, grassroots leaders continue to need the support of NGO leaders and other institutional champions to highlight their priorities in policy venues and to facilitate engagements and partnerships with decision makers.



58TH CONFERENCE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

From March 10th through 21st, grassroots women leaders and activists, UN entities, government representatives and NGOs from all over the world gathered in New York for the 58th session of the UN

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW58). The priority theme of 2014's CSW was "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls."

◆ MDG SPEAK OUT

Despite the objective of reducing poverty, the MDGs failed to meaningfully involve poor communities, particularly grassroots women, in the process. "No grassroots, no development," said Limota Goroso Giwa of IWCC Nigeria, a member of the pan-African Home Based Care Alliance, during the CSW Parallel Event at the United Nations entitled Securing Grassroots Women, Securing Development: Gains, Gaps and Lessons from the MDGs. This MDG speakout event, hosted by the Huairou Commission, provided a platform for speakers from five member organizations as well as partners, allies and policymakers.



◆ CSW 58 AGREED CONCLUSIONS

One of the most relevant outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women was the agreed conclusions on the priority themes for the future Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and concrete recommendations for governments and institutions to implement at the local, national and global levels in the coming years. The Agreed Conclusions for CSW58 were reached after a marathon sitting that went until 3 a.m.

Lana Finikin of Sistren Theater and GROOTS Jamaica; Co-chair of Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO) for Latin America and the Caribbean:

"It's a document that will hold governments accountable to all the conventions that were agreed on before. Now that we are heading to the post-2015 and looking at

sustainable development goals and how they will impact women, it's important we hold our governments accountable to ensuring the CEDAW, ICPD, rights of the child and the Beijing platform which were agreed upon before. They are critically important to women around the world, since they take into account all rights of women, participation in governance and decision making processes, etc.

Women and girls across the world would be more subject to violence and to issues affecting us, because we wouldn't have any documents to hold governments accountable, or anyone accountable for that matter, for our rights as women and girls. At least we have a document now that we can use to negotiate in the national working environment that we are in."

OPEN WORKING GROUPS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

New York, NY

OPEN WORKING GROUP SESSIONS ON POST-2015 / SDGS

With the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emerging as a global policy framework, HC members felt it crucial to guarantee that organized communities and grassroots women's organizations be meaningfully involved in shaping and implementing the policy agenda to ensure that the new development framework addresses the priorities of the poor and marginalized. At the Open Working Group sessions held at the United

Nations in New York, national governments heard from Huairou Commission representatives who presented both grassroots women's contributions to advancing sustainable development and recommendations for goals that reflect the development priorities of communities. In response to the Zero Draft of the emerging Sustainable Development Goals, grassroots women also called for a transformative approach to the new development agenda.

TRANSFORMATIVE SHIFTS IN SDGS

◆ MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Strategic Priority: Position grassroots women's organizations as knowledge holders, practitioners and trainers in sustainable development, and monitors of policy, program, and budgets

Targets: Support of community-collected data; support of institutional channels to transfer grassroots knowledge; ensure equitable partnerships between grassroots groups and government officials

◆ SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Strategic Priority: Formalize partnerships with grassroots women's groups and leaders; consult and employ women's groups in development programs

Targets: Ensure safe public spaces and transport; institutionalize public policies that increase women's rights to land and assets; support community-based centers; diversify and strengthen grassroots women's share of middle to top earning jobs

◆ RULE OF LAW AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Strategic Priority: Decentralization of decision making and resources; recognition, institutional and financial support of grassroots women

Targets: Institutionalize mechanisms for grassroots women to inform, monitor, and implement government programs and service delivery; increase % of women's commissions and desks in local governments; increase % of grassroots women participating in decision making; include gendered experiences of corruption in laws and policies; increase access to public services and funds; political and economic support to promote transparency and accountability in governance

◆ CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Strategic Priority: Recognize grassroots women's groups as resources of development practices; foster collaboration between authorities, grassroots women's groups and other stakeholders

Targets: Institutionalize participation of grassroots women in decision and policy making; establish cross-sectoral national planning that enable grassroots women and government partners to implement climate change and DRR initiatives; ensure gender equitable risk reduction; reduce the impact of recurrent, small-scale disasters; fund community-driven livelihood, basic service, infrastructure, and natural resource management approaches and foster local knowledge

◆ POVERTY ERADICATION AND HEALTHCARE

Strategic Priority: Formally recognize and institutionally and financially support organized grassroots women in their roles as caregivers and local health service monitors

Targets: Increase priority access to governmental health services and supplies for home-based caregivers; earmark % of municipal, AIDS Council, and poverty reduction budgets for home-based caregiver alliances; increase number of caregivers in planning and decision making in the design of social service programs

WORLD BANK ANNUAL LAND AND POVERTY CONFERENCE

Washington, DC

After three years, the Huairou Commission has opened up unprecedented space for women at the annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty. From March 24th to March 27th, 2014, the HC delegation participated in the conference in Washington, D.C., a major global event on land. HC was instrumental in creating this space, where paper submissions were solicited around women and land, and the paper and policy sessions of the “Gender Track” carved out three full days of in-depth discussion and analysis on women and land issues.

HC’s participation was the culmination of months of behind-the-scenes work by the Huairou Commission and its partners to engender the conference as part of HC’s ongoing work on women’s security of tenure. HC created a committee for partners, including the World Bank Gender in Rural Development Thematic Group, Landesa, Habitat for Humanity, ILC and GLTN. This dynamic partnership collaborated and lobbied for an exceptional emphasis on women’s land issues at the conference. They successfully secured a space for a daily Women’s Caucus to discuss the research presented at the conference and a booth to display research and practice on the topic of women and land rights. This committee was also charged with coordinating a full day of in-depth policy dialogues on women and land.

Over the course of the conference, over 70 conference panelists presented as part of the gender track. Topics ranged from inheritance to ownership to user rights

and tenure, and presentations demonstrated conclusive evidence of the negative impact of women’s insecurity of land rights. The HC delegation members took part as presenters, panelists and session chairs, and their well-received presentations of practical solutions and successful implementation of women’s land rights were prominent among the research presentations that dominated the event.

In addition, HC representatives also trained participants on the Gender Evaluation Criteria (GEC) for assessing the practical tools and strategies for securing land. In relation to HC’s work on disasters, the alliance and network building occurred in the context of building the Community Practitioners Platform.

WORLD URBAN FORUM 7

Urban Equity in Development: Cities for Life. Medellin, Colombia

The Seventh World Urban Forum (WUF7) brought equity to the forefront of the urbanization conversation. The ideas put forth in the 'Washington Consensus' extolling the trickle-down effect have continually stopped short of providing fair and just opportunities for all aspects of society. The UN-Habitat sponsored meeting was held over one week in April in Medellin, Colombia, the Wall Street Journal's 'City of the Year' of 2013.

The Huairou Commission brought a delegation of 26 international community leaders to Medellin, Colombia to participate and strengthen the position of grassroots women in this global policy event on the issue of sustainable development that affects their communities directly. Members of the delegation spoke and presented on several high-level panels and forums including 'Dialogue: A Safe City is a Just and Equitable City', the Gender and Women Roundtable, and the Civil Society Roundtable.

Preceding the conference, the Huairou Commission's International Grassroots Women's Academy was recognized, for the first time since the 1st World Urban Forum in 2002 in Nairobi, as an official side event. The Academy brought together 130 women from 25 countries to learn about local grassroots women's practices in urban safety, resilience, and organizing, and share collective experiences in disaster risk reduction, women's leadership and economic empowerment, and building successful partnerships at local, regional, and international levels.

◆ GRASSROOTS WOMEN'S ACADEMY

The Grassroots Women's Academy is a pre-conference method developed by the Huairou Commission to mainstream women's priorities and perspectives in global policy-making events focused on poverty reduction and sustainable development. The Academy is facilitated by the Huairou Commission and local partners in Medellin, Colombia, and is a space where ~60 local and international grassroots women connect. Grassroots women leaders from different Huairou Commission member organizations shared their experiences and strategies they have implemented in their communities and in national and regional contexts to advance the empowerment of grassroots women and their influence in

Further recognizing the monumental role that communities and grassroots women must play to ensure equitable and transformative change in cities, the Grassroots Academy also welcomed UN-Habitat Executive Director Joan Clos, and DED Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, who spoke of the gains that grassroots women have made in global spaces, as well as their potential to actively contribute and engage in urbanization processes.

Almost 25,000 people participated in the Seventh session of the World Urban Forum and the Huairou Commission's delegation made their presence felt on multiple levels. From moderating assemblies to speaking on high-level networking, training, and roundtable panels and events, grassroots women put their expertise on display and succeeded in getting key language into the Medellin Declaration. This language emphasized the inclusion of the role of women, communities, and partnerships in the Habitat III process, as well as more generally in making urbanization a positive and transformative force for gender equality and inclusive cities.

Women at the conference found a welcome place to gather every day at the Women's Daily Caucus organized by the Huairou Commission. With an average of 35 attendees every morning, the caucus provided a strategic space to learn about opportunities to share their expertise and experience, and served as fertile ground for women to connect and network, enabling them to act as a galvanizing force at WUF7.

the local development processes, within the framework of community resilience building. The Grassroots Academy is participatory and practical, and enables attendees to identify groups to link with each other in order to strengthen the effectiveness of their local interventions.

The goal of the Grassroots Academy is to share and consolidate innovative practices and advocacy strategies directed towards influencing local and global policy decision-making processes, leading to the revision of development agendas such as Post-2015, HFA2 and Habitat III.

“

The challenge before us is... to **transform women's status** by changing the way they are perceived by their families, communities and governments; and by enabling them to **claim their rightful place** as citizens, change-agents, leaders and stakeholders in development. ”

2014 PUBLICATIONS



[Community Resilience at Scale: Grassroots Women Demonstrating Successful Practices](#)

This publication shares successful grassroots strategies for building community resilience to disasters and climate change. It showcases women leading sustainable development in their communities, and features scaling up strategies to influence global agendas such as the Hyogo Framework for Action 2 and Post 2015 Development Agenda through four resilience-building practices designed and implemented by grassroots women in Kenya (GROOTS Kenya), Nicaragua (Unión de Cooperativas de Mujeres Productoras Las Brumas), Honduras (Wagucha), and India (Swayam Shikshan Prayog). Leveraging support from Huairou Commission's Community Resilience Fund, the women started new initiatives or expanded and deepened existing ones, and transferred solutions to new communities. This publication features just some of the highlights of grassroots women's achievements from 1,156 communities in 21 countries that are part of the Community Resilience Campaign.



[Resilient Women: Integrating Community Resilience Priorities in the Post-2015 Agenda](#)

This action research publication of the Community Practitioners Platform for Resilience (CPP) in Latin America and the Caribbean spotlights the realities, actions, and gains of CPP's member organizations from Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela. The CPP is an organizing and networking mechanism for community-based groups, particularly grassroots women-led groups, to reduce their vulnerability to disaster and climate risks. Aimed at building community-to-community support for local development, CPP strategies include fostering exchanges of risk reduction and resilience building practices, and establishing multi-community action plans that can be advanced with public officials or NGOs, donors, and research institutions.

2014 PUBLICATIONS CONTINUED



[Mujeres Resilientes: Incluyendo las Prioridades de la Resiliencia Comunitaria en la Agenda Post 2015 \(Spanish version of prior\)](#)

Esta publicación de investigación de acción de la Plataforma de Practicantes Comunitarios para la Resiliencia (PPC) en América Latina y el Caribe, destaca la realidad, las acciones, y los logros de las organizaciones miembros de la PPC desde Brasil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Perú y Venezuela. La PCC es un mecanismo para la organización y trabajo en red de grupos de base comunitaria – particularmente grupos de base liderados por mujeres – para reducir su vulnerabilidad a los riesgos de desastres y cambio climático. Dirigido a la construcción de apoyo de comunidad a comunidad para el desarrollo local, incluidas en las estrategias de la PCC son: promover el intercambio de prácticas de reducción de riesgos y fomento de resiliencia, y establecer planes de acción multi-comunidad, los cuales se pueden avanzar en conjunto con oficiales públicos, ONGs, donantes e instituciones de investigación.



[Engendering Access to Justice: Grassroots Women's Approaches to Securing Land Rights](#)

This community-based research project examines how grassroots women in Africa use innovative approaches to achieve justice in land disputes and gender-based violence brought about by disinheritance and gender discrimination. The community-based study has three purposes: 1. highlight the multitude of issues and challenges facing African women relating to land and property; 2. document the main strategies that grassroots women's groups use to help women attain justice in order to develop a cohesive series of strategies for grassroots women-led groups; and 3. provide evidence that can be used to insert grassroots women's perspectives and practices into the existing development discourse on women's access to justice in relation to land and property. The study involved 70 communities across seven African countries—Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe—where women face challenges in accessing rights to land. The 12 organizations involved in this project are members of Women's Land Link Africa (WLLA), a collective action initiative on African women's land and property rights coordinated by the Huairou Commission's Land and Housing Campaign and its local partners since 2004.

2014 FINANCIAL REPORT

Condensed Statement of Activities for the Year January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

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

OPERATION REVENUES

Government, Corporate and Foundation Grants	\$1,685,444
Donations and Contributions	\$54,534
Other Income/Interest	\$6,662
Total Operating Revenues	\$1,746,640

OPERATING EXPENSES

Staff Salaries and Consultants	\$571,024
Field Organizing: Pilots, Mapping and Monitoring	\$638,282
Advocacy and Alliance Building	\$98,018
External Resource Experts	\$12,785
Peer Learning	\$30,385
Documentation: Tool and Material Creation	\$49,602
Travel and Related Expenses	\$286,333
Professional/Admin Fees and Expenses	\$55,357
Communication Expenses	\$15,295
Occupancy and Utilities	\$ 13,112
Equipment Purchase and Maintenance	\$7,294
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,777,487
Change In Net Assets	-\$30,847
NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$1,058,316
NET ASSETS END OF YEAR	\$1,027,469

HUAIROU COMMISSION DONORS

BI-LATERAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES: Swedish International Development Program, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, U.S. Agency for International Development

NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MULTI-LATERAL AGENCIES: United Nations Development Program

PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS: Margaret A. Cargill

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS: Women's Refugee Committee (Dampa), Cordaid, Human

