

# WOMANKIND KENYA

## PROFILE



# **WOMANKIND KENYA ( WOKIKE):**

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Womankind Kenya is an indigenous local NGO based in North eastern province Kenya with its head office at Garissa Municipality. Womankind was founded in 1989 as a welfare society by local Somali pastoral women who were committed to improving the living standards and the level of decision making of their fellow pastoral women and the girl child in the North Eastern province.

The society was registered under the NGO co-ordination ACT of 1990 in September 1995 as Womankind Kenya (WOKIKE) Reg N<sup>o</sup> OP.218/ 051/ 951/ 446. The organization particularly targets women and children, the most vulnerable members of the society; it addresses issues of Education, Agriculture and livestock management, water and sanitation, Health, campaigns and advocacy, women empowerment through civic education, emergencies interventions and women IGA programmes. It works with the pastoral communities at large to identify core problems.

Womankind aims to build confidence, raise self-esteem and empower the community we work with to participate fully in their own affair and decision making to facilitate community based projects. This is aimed to exploit the natural and human resources available in the region whilst sustaining and improving the environment for the benefit of the habitants and their livestock. The organization aims to bring together the local community with their expertise and experience and the development agencies with their resource to confront ignorance, diseases, poor livestock husbandry, environmental degradation and the resultant poverty and backwardness.

Womankind forms the basis for networking with other civil society organization both at the Local and international level to create a resource centre and a forum for discussion; exchange ideas on problems affecting the pastoral community. While also Integrate the existing projects for improvement on proper healthcare and the living standards towards self-employment opportunities and initiate food self-sufficiency strategies and funding.

## **ORGANIZATION OBJECTIVES:**

1. To promote and improve pastoral production system with consequent dependence on sustainable utilization of environmental resource.
2. Exploit and manage natural and human resource to its full potential for ecological gain.
3. Involve the community in the conservation of communal resource through strengthening the institutional framework.
4. Facilitate community-based project.
5. Integrate the already existing project for improvement of living standards.
6. Provide proper health care and initiate self-employment opportunities.
7. Initiate food self- sufficiency strategies and funding.
8. Child sponsorship programmes to improve Education in the area.
9. To rehabilitate girls displaced as a result of drought
10. To improve girls Education in the North Eastern Kenya to empower women.
11. Focus on rural women in development activities and their participation.
12. Community awareness creation on current affairs, their rights and development activities.
13. Create forum for discussion, exchange of ideas on problem affecting women and their solution at all levels.
14. Networking with other NGOs at both National and International level.
15. Introducing new simple technologies to improve temporary Somali houses.
16. Provide skills training to rural women to influence their nomadic lifestyle by introducing skills that can encourage on semi- urban lifestyle.
17. Enlightening the community on the civil rights.
18. Advocacy and legal representation of women.

## **ORGANIZATION'S DEVELOPMENTAL STRATEGIES:**

### **WOMANKIND'S VISION:**

Womankind Kenya is committed to reduction of poverty and all its vices especially-ignorance, illiteracy, diseases and dehumanising cultural practices, to pave way for a dignified and empowered community in North Eastern Province.

### **WOMANKIND'S VALUES:**

Womankind Kenya will continue to uphold solidarity with the poor and marginalized, especially women and the girl child. It will also continue to intensify its commitment to freedom of poor women and orphaned girl child from the bonds of poverty, discrimination and social injustices. This implies that respect for human rights, gender sensitivity, respect for religious norms, integrity, wilful and voluntary participation of community in its programmes forms the core values of Womankind Kenya.

## **WOKIKE'S MISSION:**

Womankind exists to support the most vulnerable members of the community, specifically women, destitute children and poor households in Garissa, Ijara and Wajir districts of North Eastern Province and to build the capacity, knowledge and ability to take control of their lives.

## **Womankind pursues this mission through:**

- Implementation of integrated sustainable development projects that are community managed, with special concern for poor women and destitute children.
- Emergency response to women and children afflicted by natural and man-made disasters.
- Advocacy for change of unjust socio-economic and political structures that affect the communities it works with.
- Information sharing and awareness creation on the rights of women and the girl child.

## **WOMANKIND STRATEGIES:**

Womankind Kenya (WOKIKE) programs aims at improving the living standards of the pastoral community.

Womankind will pursue these strategies through implementation of community-based multi-sectoral integrated development programs. The basis for this approach is influenced by three factors:

- Previous funding and implementation of Womankind activities have been sector specific. By mobilizing its resources along sectoral lines.
- WOKIKE plans and budget are prepared along the respective sectors, thus making them easy to understand and report, especially by the project staff and the partner communities.
- During implementation, the organization will be seeking collaboration with various Government of Kenya (GoK) line ministries. This approach will be ideal to help WOKIKE identify and cooperate with the respective GoK line ministries to the relevant sector.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Since the inception of the organization, Womankind Kenya has initiated the following projects that are geared towards community empowerment.

## EDUCATION:

1. Nursery school project: Four nursery schools in four droughts displaced villages with an enrolment of 540 children (135 per school) with teachers and other support staff.



*Infrastructure improvement one of wokike's strategies to improve education.*

2. With the help of donor the organization has put up a rescue centre for girls cum primary school with an enrolment of 70 girls with its support staff. The children are school going and therefore they are saved from the evil practice of female genital mutilation practiced among the Somali community and 200 neighbouring destitute girls attending to the primary school.
3. Constructed 8 classrooms for the Ummulkheir Girls primary school, purchased books and desks, provide electricity supply and four (4) pit latrines. The school admits girls from the rescue centre alongside the girls from the neighbouring village.
4. Through networking with other actors Womankind has managed to supply 600 hundred-text books to two primary schools in Garissa district.



*Provision of learning and teaching materials to girls schools in marking of International Women's Day*

5. Construction of Four (4) classrooms, provided two hundred textbooks and Purchased and distributed 120 school desks to Bothai Primary School.
6. Constructed Four (4) classrooms, Four (4) pit latrines and provided Seven hundred and Four (704) textbooks to Ijara Primary School.
7. Constructed Eight (8) classrooms Four (4) pit latrines put up a Shallow well and an Administration block to Kotile primary school in Ijara district.
8. Established and constructed Shurie Secondary School, the one and only secondary school in Ijara district.
9. Capacity building to the school management committees through trainings (six primary schools in Ijara and four ECD in Garissa) on their role and responsibilities and budget tracking.



10. The organization is a member of the Elimu Yetu Coalition where it houses the Garissa and Ijara chapters. The EYC campaigns for the education for all, and annually organize for processions and public Baraza in the campaign for the government and the community to fully participate in the education activities.
11. Support to needy children who perform well in their exams, with biasness towards the girl child. The organization through support from friends pays school fees to needy girls from poor families, who enrol in the national and provincial secondary school (now supporting 24 girls and 6 boys).
12. Construction of classrooms at Shurie secondary school
13. Construction of four classrooms at Alfurgan orphanage centre
14. Construction of a permanent structure (2 classrooms) at Alfatah primary (ECD) which is now hosting more than 150 children.



*Training of school management committees*

### **HEALTH:**

1. Through Community Trainings some Three hundred and fourteen (314) people of the rural community were trained on: Community Animal Health Workers (CAHW's), Community Health Workers (CHW's), Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA's), Village Health Committee (VHC).
2. Conducted several workshops on HIV/ AIDS and FGM both in Ijara and Garissa districts.
3. Established a community drug shop for Jalish community in Ijara district.
4. Baseline survey on reproductive health was done in Garissa in the year 2001.
5. Awareness creation on reproductive health through workshops, Public Baraza and home visits.

### **WATER AND SANITATION:**

1. Four shallow wells in Kotile in Ijara district, the project are aimed to benefit a population of Ten thousand (10,000) people.



*Due to wokike's intervention in the sector of water the distance to water points reduced from 10 – 2kms.*

2. Two water pans for the community in Korissa sub - location of Ijara district.



*Construction of shallow wells at Abalatiro*

3. Seven water pans (Dams) in Ijara districts.

4. Construction of toilets and bathrooms near the available water pans to avoid water pollution.



*Toilets construction- one way of improving sanitation in schools and watering points*

5. Construction of water tank to Ummulkheir girls home and provision of three plastic tanks to the school



*Improved shallow well*

## **CAMPAIGNS AND ADVOCACY:**

1. Awareness creation on female genital mutilation, through a series of twelve (12) workshops. WOKIKE has created awareness and education on female genital mutilation with a resultant positive impact in Garissa central.
2. Collecting and disseminating information to the rural communities on matters related to their lifestyle and simple improvement. Identifying priority needs and their solutions, through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA).
3. Systematic campaigns against negative cultural behaviour, legal provision for marginalized women: - on inheritance, divorce, marital problems, violence, and other harmful practices.
4. Advocacy programmes in Ijara, raising the consciousness level of the community on their rights – create enabling environment for the community to demand for their rights in service provision from service providers.



*Womankind works in line with government ministries to reach the community.*

5. Organizing lobby groups to carryout advocacy programs and issues e.g. Masalani Girl-child Education lobby group (Mitnimo girl child lobby group) Masalani HIV/AIDS lobby group. e.t.c.



*Wokike empowers women through trainings*

6. Carried out the National civic education programme (NCEP I) for three districts within North eastern province (Garissa, Wajir and Ijara) during the phase one project.
7. Training and disseminating of the children ACT 2000.
8. HIV/ AIDS awareness campaigns led to the formation of the only CBO in NE province; OPAHA (organization of people living with HIV/AIDS). This initiative encouraged people with the disease to declare their status and receive some sort of acceptance from the wider affected community.



*Community marking the World Aids Day*

9. Campaigns against FGM has sensitized more than 25 women who have so far dropped the knife and formed a CBO called 'AYAN' which helps the organization in the campaign to curb this harmful traditional practice.
10. Carried out the regional launch of the Gender and Governance programme in North Eastern Province. Since the launch wokike has continued to disseminate gender programmes and educate the community on the importance of the programme.
11. Training of Water users Associations in 5 different watering point in Garissa



*Womankind works in partnership with religious leaders.*

### **INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES:**

1. Induced an Income Generating Activity (IGA) through micro-credit to three women groups with 124 members as beneficiaries in Garissa.
2. Constructed Hotel and lodging facilities as an Income generating programme for Ballah women group- in Masalani division of Ijara district.
3. Established a community drug shop for Jalish community in Ijara district.
4. Provided 150 beehives for the women groups in Bodhai location in Ijara.



*Bee keeping as an income generating activity.*

5. Provision of grants to organized women and youth groups and proper monitoring of the activities laid down by the groups



*Livestock*

*keeping is one of IGA activities Wokike has supported in Ijara district*

## **AGRICULTURE:**

1. Ongoing irrigation scheme for Abalatiro community Masalani division of Ijara district to benefit three hundred households as a pilot project, with a total acreage of 124 acres.
2. Revived the Hidaya farm in Garissa district by purchasing an engine and water pump and offering training to the farmers.

## **CAPACITY BUILDING:**

1. Tailoring project: started 1996 for displaced mothers and drought victims. So far over 250 mothers graduated and have started tailoring business in small capacities within the Garissa markets. Some 20 alumni still linked to the organization for management support are now employers within the Garissa market.



*A mother in a tailoring class; a project by wokike to uplift the living standards of women*

2. Trained and facilitated the formation of nine youth groups (2 in Garissa and 7 in Ijara district), eight women groups (3 in Garissa and 5 in Ijara) and 4 water point management groups in Ijara district.
3. Guidance and counselling to widows and schoolgirls.



A theatre group in action in one of the campaigns conducted by wokike.

## **DROUGHT INTERVENTION AND EMERGENCE RESPONSE**

**Womankind** undertakes programme activities intended to curb the effects of drought that is recurrent in every two-three years. Women and the girl child are the most affected in the periods of dry spell. Women have a responsibility of fetching water and during this difficult period they spend more than three hours covering a distance not less than 30kms. This makes them weak and vulnerable to diseases. Womankind had realised the need to carry out community dialogues on emergency priorities for women affected by drought and emergencies, which will chance to communities to come up with coping mechanisms and livelihood patterns. To arrest the situation wokike;

1. WOKIKE provided 2,100 meters of polythene papers to displaced women for shelter improvement. 525 households benefited from the exercise; as each household received 4 meters.
2. Water tinkering to institutions, vulnerable villages, orphanage centres and schools. Womankind Kenya provided an average of 20,000 litres of wholesome water. This is intended to quench the thirst of many women who use most of their valuable time looking for this basic commodity.
3. Provision of fuel to boreholes: Womankind Kenya responded to such by providing 10,000litres of diesel to an average of 10 boreholes in the driest months of the year. This is done to relieve the ailing economy of the pastoral communities of Northeast. Their purchasing power always goes low especially during the dry spell.

4. Womankind Kenya distributed foodstuffs to the most vulnerable members and villages targeting the old, children, the disabled, women and pregnant mothers. Womankind Kenya distributed maize flour, powder milk, cooking oil, salts and beans to raise their nutrition status. Schools and institutions, which bear the brunt, are also targeted in such emergency response. Orphanages and the few existing girls home are given the first priority.



***Relief food to the hardly hit communities***

5. Children are the most affected at the times of drought and emergencies. Womankind Kenya opened up feeding centre-targeting children coming from destitute families and pastoralists dropouts. Womankind Kenya run feeding centres where children are given highly nutritious porridge for children totalling to four hundred and fifty children. Al-furqan orphanage, Moi boarding and Masalani primary schools were targeted. Old men and women were equally inclusive of the beneficiaries.



**---- and its time for porridge as these boys queue to have their share in one of the feeding centres**



*Wokike staff helps to serve the porridge during one of their monitoring exercise*



*Wokike staff and the community trying to fix a tank in one of drought stricken areas*



*Relief food distribution by wokike staff for drought stricken communities of the North*

## **NETWORKS**

1. Womankind Kenya is a member to a number of networks both at national and international level. Wokike is a strong member to;
  - ❖ Pastoralists Hunter Gatherers Network (PHGNET)
  - ❖ Northern NGO forum (NNF)
  - ❖ Elimu Yetu Coalition (EYC)
  - ❖ Indigenous Information Network (IIN)
  - ❖ Girl Child Network (GCN)
  - ❖ National focal point
  - ❖ TARNET (an education network for pastoralist communities)
  - ❖ North-eastern women initiative for self-empowerment (NEPWISE)

Womankind was the brainchild of NEPWISE, which is an advocacy and networking forum for women in the northeast. The network has currently forty member organizations. The membership is open to women organizations working in the northeast. The network is currently housed by womankind Kenya. Wokike gives all the material and technical support the network requires.