



- **Grant Recipient:** Hope Raisers Initiative
- **Partners:** Safer City Nairobi, Nairobi City County Department of Environment, Loughborough University, Architects Without Borders/Landskapslaget
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- **Year:** 2020-2021

FUTURE YETU

Amplifying community voices for sustainable climate adaptation

Project Overview

What is the problem?

Climate change in Kenya results in many low impact high frequency disasters each year. These include disruptions in food and water supplies, reduced incomes, damaged homes/infrastructure, and diseases. Residents of informal settlements are the most vulnerable to these impacts, but they often lack access to information, including on possible remedial measures they could take against these hazards.

Where is it?

Korogocho Informal settlement, Nairobi, Kenya

Who does it affect?

Korogocho and communities in Nairobi County

What are the causes?

The low level of awareness on disaster-related issues and climate change adaptation stems from a lack of avenues for poor people to access information. Most of the awareness creation programs are limited to the literate and economically able. The lack of available facilities in Korogocho villages to conduct awareness programs and a lack of facilities to reach remote villages have also restricted outreach.

Approach

Under the Future Yetu consortium, the Hope Raisers organization and Nairobi County Environment department are working to mainstream climate adaptation in the Korogocho community. This includes creating an enabling environment between the Korogocho Climate Change Adaptation Committee and key local organizations to develop partnerships, as well as positioning digital storytelling as a creative methodology for dialogue between communities and local government.

Future Yetu has adopted a two-fold approach to ensure the sustainability of the project initiatives.

1. Develop edutainment programs: digital storytelling, screening climate change adaptation films, community outreach, and mobile matatu (minibus) exhibition) to reach large number of communities within a given year so that the cost per community would decrease as opposed to serving few communities in a given year.
2. Build relationship with local community to participate in climate change adaptation and develop a community climate adaptation manifesto to inform the creation of the first Nairobi Climate Adaptation Plan.

Achievements so far

- Established a core team for a climate change adaptation committee: liaised with Nairobi county environment officers, identified vulnerable community members and involved them in climate adaptation awareness.
- Linked existing and emerging networks and initiatives on climate change adaptation to the Nairobi county environment department.
- Conducted a knowledge attitude practise survey on climate change adaptation.
- Promoted dialogue and improved the exchange of knowledge, information and methods on climate change adaptation through digital storytelling content developed by the Korogocho community. This effort is aimed at understanding the perception of stakeholders about effective community participation.
- Provided guidance on the development and implementation of the Korogocho climate change adaptation manifesto focused on reducing vulnerability and strengthening the resilience of Korogocho and its neighboring communities.

Lessons Learned

Working to build partnerships and capacity in community mobilization, advocacy and awareness on climate change has yielded the following lessons learned:

1. Viewing climate change adaptation stories provides a vivid understanding of diverse perceptions regarding community assets and values and how these may be affected by climate change driven risks.
2. Development is directly proportional to a community's ability to cope with an uncertain future.
3. County government environment officials must understand the way informal settlement systems interact for effective policies to reduce climate change impacts, risks and vulnerabilities and avoid maladaptive interventions.
4. Quality, genuine processes are needed to enable local organizations and community members to effectively participate in climate change adaptation.
5. Popular media such as a "talking wall" and comics strips can be effectively used to help secure and improve first-response systems for emergencies within Korogocho and its neighborhood communities.

Moving Forward

Efforts to encourage local community involvement must address two related issues:

- Erratic weather patterns and inaccurate rainy season forecasts have undermined confidence in scientific approaches to environmental problems.
- At the same time, exposure to the vagaries of climate has led to a growing demand for community participation in climate change adaptation.

Thus, it is crucial to find better ways of communicating science concepts and climate modelling – e.g., through popular mixed media like comics, music and podcasts – to build understanding, create common goals and motivate people to alter behaviours.

Building effective local community involvement in climate change adaptation is linked to working toward empowering communities, including marginalized, poor and vulnerable groups, to become more politically engaged through advocating for structural change for a fairer, accountable, and trustworthy system of governance.

