

# FUTURE YETU

Future Yetu tuwajibike!

[Our future, let's be responsible]

## INNOVATION PROGRAMME

Stronger partnerships: Local Innovations for New Climate Realities in Cities

### GRANT RECIPIENT

Hope Raisers Youth Initiative

### PARTNERS

Loughborough University | Safer Nairobi Initiative | Landskapslaget | Ecological Justice Movement | Nairobi Metropolitan Services | Korogocho Climate Change Adaptation Committee | St Johns Sports Society | Daniel Comboni Primary School | Korogocho Justice Centre

### GRANT AMOUNT

USD 29,280

### DURATION

8 Months

### YEAR

2020 - 2021

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### What is the problem?

Climate change in Kenya results in many low-impact disasters each year. These include disruptions in food and water supplies, reduced incomes, damaged homes/infrastructure, and diseases. The residents of densely packed 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?

Poor people residing in Korogocho community, one of the largest slum neighborhoods of Nairobi County

### What are the causes?

The low level of awareness on disaster- and climate-related issues stems from a lack of avenues for poor people to access information. Access to awareness creation programs is often limited to the literate and economically able, and there is also a lack of available facilities to conduct awareness programs. Korogocho is especially vulnerable to climate change impacts because of its location next to the Dandora dumpsite and between two tributaries of the Nairobi River.

### Approach

The Future Yetu project emphasizes the importance of engaging local communities, especially members of vulnerable groups, in adaptation efforts based on their priorities, needs, existing knowledge and capacity. In Korogocho, the project used a risk-based approach that consisted of (1) identifying and (2) characterizing relevant risks; (3) selecting policy options for addressing them; and (4) feedback to respond to developing risks. Risk assessment began with a baseline survey that helped shape the project's focus and its components, which included the following:

- Korogocho Climate Change Adaptation Committee formation, and participation in development of community adaptation manifesto. The project also facilitated an enabling environment for dialogue between the community and local organizations and government.
- Digital Stories, an innovative approach in which the project team recorded and produced videos of local community members sharing their experiences of climate change impacts. These stories captured local vulnerabilities in a way that can be shared as peer-to-peer advocacy for climate change adaptation. The digital stories were screened for the community and in matatu (minibus) exhibitions.
- Carbon Sink Pocket Park, a small-scale prototype developed to try to respond to the challenges and solutions highlighted through the Digital Stories and matatu exhibition comments. Air pollution was identified as a major issue in Korogocho. The prototype pocket park installed at a Korogocho public school is an accessible green space where fast-growing bamboo is storing carbon dioxide. The park includes a path of knowledge and a bench for the students. The goal for the prototype is to demonstrate a way to help reconnect the next generation with nature while helping to make our city green again.

## FINAL REPORT

# ACHIEVEMENTS



## Sharing Stories on Climate Impacts

"We were woken at 5 a.m. by a huge bang... part of our roof had blown off... We have lived in our house for 18 years, and that was the strongest wind we have ever had."

*From a collected digital story by Roselyn Achieng, Community Health Worker, Tumaini Clinics Korogocho*

## Building awareness, access and capacity

**Built communities' technological literacy and access to new media communications tools** through the process of creating digital stories. Twenty members of the community (12 women and 8 men) acquired skills in basic script writing, plot development, and video production.

**Increased awareness of strong linkage between climate change, air pollution and health** through a multimedia campaign using digital storytelling, matatu, and other artistic exhibitions. An example is this [video on the Carbon Sink Pocket Park](#) project, which includes a performance by Nairobi spoken-word artist Gchopevu, who uses *sheng* (a mix of Swahili and English) to call attention to social issues, such as climate change, within the urban context and to call younger generations to action.

**Established Carbon Sink Pocket Park project at Daniel Comboni Primary School**, demonstrating the utilization of free public space for green gardens. The location of the carbon sink pocket park prototype leverages the ability of children as effective communicators of climate change causes and effects. In this case, the children were first taught about climate change using locally available materials, and then they engaged in the development of the carbon sink pocket park alongside the school community of parents and teachers.

**Integrated local groups into the participatory process through linkage with Nairobi County government environment department.** Korogocho Climate Change Adaptation Committee delivered a climate adaptation vulnerability assessment and call-to-action document, *Korogocho Climate Change Adaptation Manifesto*, that captures community priorities and interests on climate change. The manifesto was launched at Bega Kwa Bega Centre before community leader representatives in May 2021, after which it was hand delivered to the Nairobi City County.

- Through the Future Yetu project, formed the local Korogocho Climate Change Adaptation Committee, which is focused on sustainability of project initiatives, adaptation, and local action.
- Influenced and mobilized participation in local service delivery review conducted on and attended by 100 community residents
- Helped prioritise adaptation initiatives and improve relations between the county government and Korogocho community.
- Held a 3-day digital storytelling event at Daniel Comboni Primary School attended by over 300 Korogocho residents. Engagement themes were climate change advocacy, best practices for better solid waste management, and rainwater and runoff management.
- Completed vulnerability assessments for Korogocho, which identified the following priority climate-change problems:
  - Low community participation in climate change adaptation and lack of dialogue between community and policy makers on issues around climate change.
  - Negative impacts on human health because of increased incidence of water-borne and communicable diseases (e.g., typhoid fever, cholera) from climate-related events.
  - Inadequate disaster management leading to increased risk that extreme weather events will impact already vulnerable informal dwellings, which are often unplanned and lack extensive services or infrastructure.



# LESSONS LEARNED

*"Ukinipangia nihusishe"*

*[If you are going to plan for me, engage me]*

*Samuel Mbillo, Chairperson, Korogocho  
Climate Change Adaptation Committee*

## Lessons from mobilizing community-based participation

**Community-based adaptation must be tailored to local needs.** Involve true stakeholders early and substantively and address known local vulnerabilities to help motivate people to reduce risks relevant to them. For example, viewing the 12 digital project stories gave Korogocho residents a vivid understanding of diverse perceptions about their own community's assets and values, and how these may be affected by climate-change driven risks.

**Gender mainstreaming is needed, as most community leaders are male.** The membership of Korogocho Climate Change Adaptation Committee is 50% women, and there is one member representing people living with disability.

**It is essential not to assume a particular level of knowledge within a community,** and to recognize that people are most likely to change behaviors if pathways to effective action are clear, simple and supported by appropriate incentives and resources.

**Good information for climate change adaptation is vital, but not always available, accessible, or credible.** The baseline survey conducted in Korogocho during the project's initial phase revealed that access to climate change educational resources was low. Further, policies and best practices were written in technical jargon, while the general community is semi literate.

**Children often have a better understanding of the science of climate change processes** than adults from school lessons and can draw out the implications for local livelihoods. Enabling children's participation in adaptation projects can be a powerful means of raising climate awareness, especially in informal settlements where literacy rates are low.

## Lessons from engaging local government

**For effective policies, county government environment officials must understand how informal settlement systems interact** in order to reduce climate-related impacts and risks, but avoid maladaptive interventions. In Korogocho, most of the residents are poor, while local government workers generally reside in middle income areas of Nairobi. The differences between the two groups can pose cultural and language barriers that may deter participation. There is an acute need for processes that enable community members and local organizations to effectively participate in climate change adaptations together.

**Development is directly proportional to a community's ability to cope with an uncertain future.** Poor people, like many residents of Korogocho, rarely have insurance to cover the loss of property due to extreme weather events like floods or storms. They cannot pay for healthcare when climate-change induced outbreaks of diseases and health risks occur. Poor communities already struggle to cope with the existing challenges of poverty and climate shocks, but climate change could push many beyond their ability to cope or even survive. It is paramount that adaptation is facilitated in these communities.

**Trust must be built and maintained between local governments and communities to facilitate participation and cooperation on climate change adaptation.** Despite pressures that can emerge during election campaigns, relations between governments and communities must not be allowed to become cynical or distrustful, nor participatory processes be coopted for political purposes, if adaptation projects are to remain viable and on track. In this project, the Korogocho manifesto workshops and idea phase successfully refocused project engagement on drafting climate change risks and responses.



# MOVING FORWARD



"labda ubadilike ama uangamie hiyo ndio siri ya maisha "  
[Adapt or perish - that's the secret of life]

Nasteha Hassan, Korogocho youths organization

## Innovative communications tools

Although communities may be dealing with the impacts of climate change in their lives, the issue can still seem remote, and understanding may be limited. Successful community engagement on climate change relies on overcoming difficulties in communicating the complex science and uncertainties of future climate modelling.

To meet these challenges going forward may require the use of popular mixed media like comics, music and podcasts, and a talking wall. We intend to engage artists to develop interactive comics on climate change, as well as issues of human rights, COVID-19 myths, and securing and improving first-response systems for emergencies in Korogocho and neighborhood communities. Climate change educational content will be mainstreamed in the envisioned interactive comics for schools.

Social media is crucial for communicating ideas, knowledge and practices. Most of the community participants have signed up for social media and will continue to reap connectivity benefits in the future. With this tool, community members will be able to mobilize change in norms by sharing ideas and stories to family and friends. Using existing formal and informal social networks and expertise is critical for ensuring that projects remain relevant and inclusive.

## Engaging underserved communities

Engaging members of low income and vulnerable communities in actions designed to address climate change can be challenging, given that they already face pressures in meeting urgent individual and household needs. It is important to identify new ways to engage and work with traditionally "hard to reach" groups, including young people, older people, women, poor people, people with disabilities, and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

- The project implemented a community-built carbon sink pocket park at a public school, which is owned and run by the school administration. We have conducted two follow-up visits and the environment club is taking good care of the garden.
- Korogocho Climate Change Adaptation Committee, a creation of waste pickers, recyclers, and community leaders, is now seamlessly engaging Nairobi Metropolitan Environment Department to mitigate a range of identified risks (as per *Korogocho Community Manifesto*).

The next phase, Future Yetu 2, will be a consortium that includes the Korogocho Climate Change Adaptation Committee, Hope Raisers organization, and a digital fabrication partner (to be identified).

- In this next phase, we intend to venture into the production of arts and crafts, jewelry, and more value-added products using recycled waste from Dandora dump site. Additional funding sources to kick-start this project are being investigated.

## FINAL REPORT



**HOPE RAISERS INITIATIVE**    
[www.hoperaisersinitiative.com](http://www.hoperaisersinitiative.com)  
[admin@hoperaisersinitiative.com](mailto:admin@hoperaisersinitiative.com)

**CITIES ALLIANCE**    
[www.citiesalliance.org](http://www.citiesalliance.org)  
[innovation@citiesalliance.org](mailto:innovation@citiesalliance.org)

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