

Gender-Responsive approaches to Nature-Based Solutions

Example from Plan International Kenya

Climate Change is the most significant intergenerational equity issue of our time.

Plan International Kenya is working to address the effects of climate change by supporting communities, particularly women and girls, to build resilience to climate change.

The Challenge

- 71% of Coastal Kenya population live in poverty and are highly reliant on the local ecosystem for their livelihoods, with rain-fed agriculture contributing to 80% of household income.
- Kenya's coastal areas are highly climate-sensitive, vulnerable to the impact of sea-level rise, salt-water intrusion and damage from storm surges, making their economy more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
- Destruction of mangrove forests and over-fishing have resulted in biodiversity loss and reduced household income, further limiting capacity to manage climate risks.

Differentiated Impact on Women and Girls

- Women and children are most vulnerable to climate-related shocks due to limited access to resources, services and information; challenges further exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Women face mobility and security issues due to prevailing social norms.
- Women are often underrepresented in leadership and decision-making roles related to income generation and natural resources management.

Gender-Responsive Solution

Plan International Kenya is implementing the 5-year ***Conservation and Sustainable Management of Marine Ecosystems (COSME)*** project in Kwale County, which uses Nature-Based Solutions to create sustainable, climate-resilient livelihoods for women, including seaweed cultivation and mangrove restoration, while protecting and restoring ecosystems to reduce climate change risks and impacts.

Key Activities and Results:

- Following gendered value-chain analyses, so far over 350 female-led sustainable seaweed farming groups have been established and over 270,000 mangrove seedlings planted, resulting in measurable increases in, and control over, women's income.
- Men are heavily engaged and traditional gender norms have shifted.



"...life in this village has really changed...before this seaweed project, seldom would you find these well constructed houses, many houses here were grass thatched but now walk around and you will see the changes resulting from seaweed sales - where women are the focal players. We are really glad to have this project here." - Female project participant in Kibuyun, Kenya.