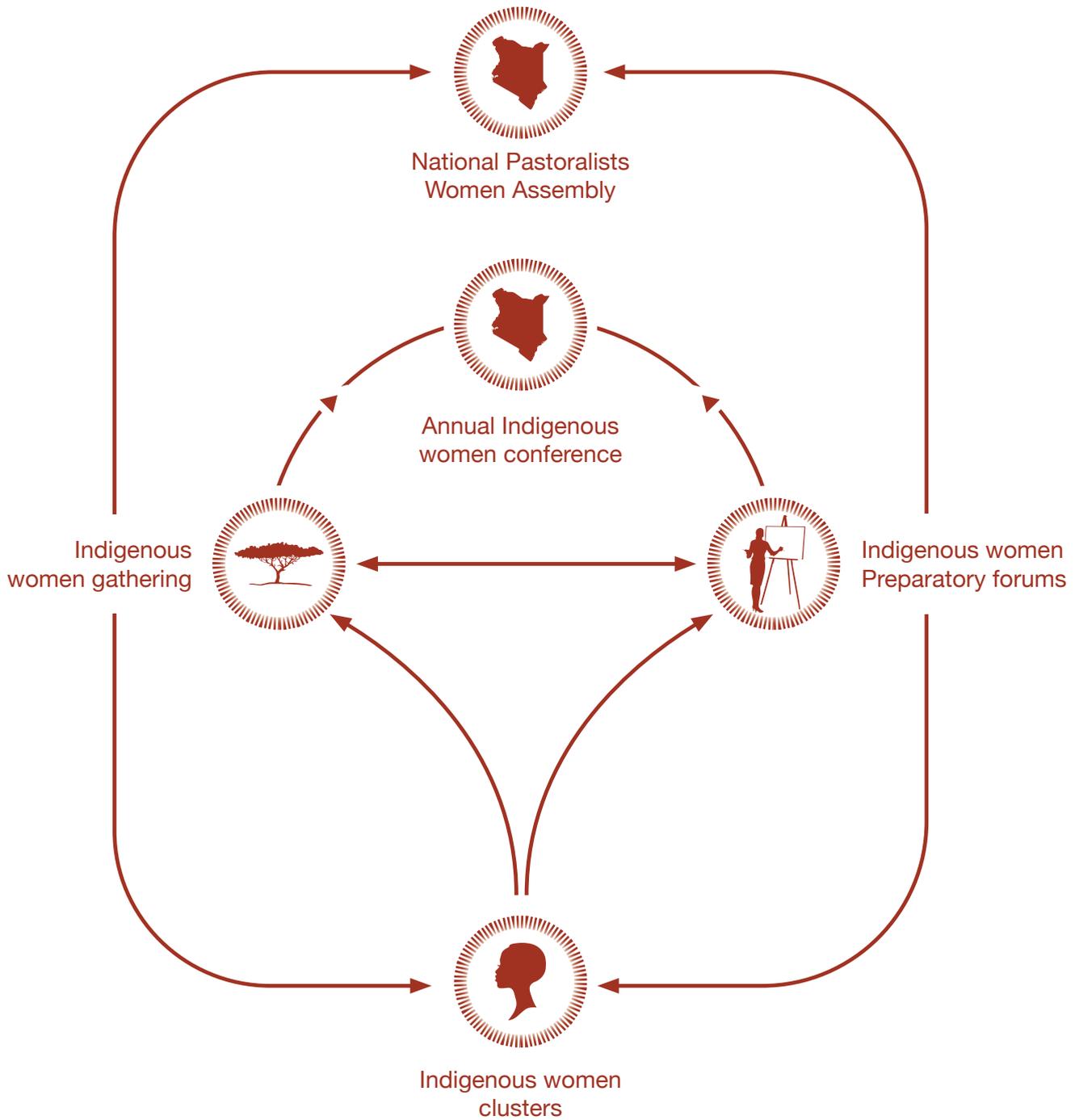




Coalition of Indigenous Women Governance Structure



Indigenous Women Movement



Act • Empower • Advance



1. Why indigenous women movement?

Indigenous Women have been exposed to specific systemic challenges that hinder enjoyment of basic rights and fundamental freedoms. It is therefore very important that women are the solution to such solution-oriented processes. Beyond creating ownership among women, participating in the process deals with underlying issues rather than the symptoms of the problems faced by women.

Existing feminists' movement and indigenous people's spaces, despite being very close to indigenous women have not incorporated in a holistic manner matters affecting indigenous women, such partners remain important allies.

Most indigenous women are affected by an intersection of violations are FGM survivors, have been victims of early girl marriage, polygamous marriage, have little formal education and there are cases where an indigenous woman has experienced all within early stages of life. In many geographical locations, indigenous women live in marginalized areas where they experience extreme poverty as well as bear the brunt on climate change.

In pursuit of solutions, existing human rights organizing as well as humanitarian entities have been approaching matters of indigenous women without including them in the whole process. The outcomes have been charity oriented not meant to resolve underlying issues faced by indigenous women and girls. A proposal for indigenous women led women movement is timely and looking to solve matters by the most affected persons' approach.

The alarming conditions of marginalization imposed on indigenous peoples by the state, the cultural practices of some of indigenous peoples that hamper the full exercise of women's rights, and the opportunities and contributions offered to women by their ethnic heritage, are key aspects of the personal and collective struggles undertaken by indigenous women. Understanding these aspects is fundamental in describing the construction, agenda, and strategies of the women within the indigenous movement.

Notwithstanding the progress made in laws, constitution, education policies and health, indigenous women and girls are still among the most vulnerable and marginalized. They are disproportionately impacted by poverty. Generally speaking, indigenous women movement is seeking to achieve legal, political, and cultural recognition with affirmation that Indigenous women have always had inherent sovereignty over their bodies, spirits and land bases.

Women movements that are inclusive of women at all levels are crucial when it comes to gender equality. Women movement have driven global and national action on gender equality. Nationally and in localities, women advocates often have the greatest understanding of the problems that women and girls face at grassroot level, and also have essential knowledge of how to advance their rights. In pushing for change and accountability, they develop leadership skills; some use these in turn to enter and transform political arenas. A feminist women movement is also a platform for knowledge sharing amongst the grassroot IPs women.

This important because it amplifies the voice of marginalized women and girls. Social women movements mobilize grassroots women and other stakeholders like civil society organizations to develop community-based scorecards. Women movements approaches help in rating; how well communities are doing towards holistic inclusion of women in public decision-making, stopping gender-based violence, holding perpetrators of violence to account, advancing women's economic well-being, and providing social services. Women movements help in addressing norm change in relation to barriers like patriarchy and harmful cultural practices in the society.

Samburu Women Trust belief that Social movements are purposeful, organized, with a goal of pushing towards desirable change, giving women political voice, or gathering for common purpose to influence meaningful change. The role of SWT in this process is to host the leadership. The role has been decided after consultation with indigenous women representing pastoralists, hunter gatherer, forest dwellers and fisherfolks.

SWT is therefore working under the guidance of the leadership and local women who are the most important decision-making entity in women movement building. Indigenous women have realized from indigenous knowledge and experiential learning that a multi front approach is required to address the complex context and issues faced by indigenous women.



1.1 The objective in movement building

To promote common grounds with shared goals between women's networks at grassroots level and other social movements so that women can act as watchdogs in their respective communities as well as advocating for the rights of women and girls in their society.

1.2 Coalition of Indigenous Women (CIWO)

1.2.1 Grassroots women clusters

CIWO is the most local entity where women to women connect with issues and mainly inform on the gaps directly affecting women. These are grassroots women who are self-led. CIWO acts as women watchdog, they identify needs, take stocks of what's happening at their locality and develop common approaching to solidify their voices at national and regional conversations.

CIWO consists of the basic target beneficiaries, local women. The roles of the grassroots women clusters are to translate enjoyment of rights in the society. CIWO purpose is to see that women are included in all ongoing public processes in the county, national and regional level. Some of the basic indicators that CIWO monitor include checking whether women and girls are participating in the budgeting process, public participation, and civic processes. The challenges barring women access benefits form advocacy and programming invention from the movement. CIWO therefore are bona fide drivers in the movement.

CIWO guide the movement building within but not limited to the following roles:

- a) Monitor women progress, and solidify their gaps and challenges at the community
- b) Build and support women conversation
- c) Increase grassroots participation and inclusion
- d) They act as women community monitors in every process taking place at the community/county level
- e) Delegate women who will participate in the preparatory forum and women gathering
- f) Build a data base on the total number of indigenous women and the conditions that they live in
- g) Monitor asymmetric sexual division of labor that generates heavy workloads and exploitation at very early ages

1.2.2 Preparatory Forum

The Forum is a learning space appreciating indigenous knowledge within the movement. This space aims at mainstreaming and in the case of gaps build the capacity of women; train and equip them with skills and knowledge for effective lobbying and advocacy during the different international and national processes. The forum also enables Indigenous Women to build a vibrant movement with a collective women voice. The Forum will culminate in visibility and inclusion in decision making platforms.

Indigenous women are looking to seek out spaces for coming together and expressing their own demands; this shall allow for more active participation in their own communities and in the national indigenous movement, with a voice of their own and a higher degree of leadership.

Why Conduct National Preparatory Forum?

Indigenous women are currently experiencing abuse and violations differently. Depending on the context, some of the problem's women are faced with manifest differently, despite some of the underlying issues being similar. To have social inclusion, the preparatory Forum is necessary to have the movement address nuanced needs as well as have a global view.

The preparatory conversations aim at boosting harmonized discussions, strategizes and developed the roadmap document that will be shared and used to amplify women common voices at the ongoing processes/conversations at county, national and regional human rights tools and mechanisms platforms including; ACHPR, UNCSW, UNPFII, EMPRIIP. The movement will be engaging in a unified voice and realistic, achievable concerns of indigenous women movement. Preparatory Forum is expected to consultatively harness women movement inclusive of CIWO and women clusters in language that is well understood.

SWT shall host periodic national preparatory meetings to consolidate capacity of women clusters at the grassroots level, increase Indigenous women knowledge and skills leading to developed vibrant IPs women movement. The women movement will build a strong collective voice that will influence and increase women inclusion, visibility and effective quality participation in all levels of public decision-making platforms.

The movement will be made possible by attending to the needs shared by all women becoming a way for women to overcome their isolation, weave ties of solidarity, analyze their own situation as women, and begin to see themselves as political actors with the ability and the right to participate in the public life of their communities.

The National preparatory meetings objectives

- Provide a platform for informational sharing sessions on the ongoing national, regional and international processes as one prepares to participant or engaged in those processes.
- Increase indigenous women capacities as well as build a strong vibrant women movement that effectively contribute to the ongoing regional and international discussion.
- Developed indigenous women movement roadmap 2020- 2021 to increase their participation and inclusion in decision making

Expected Outcome

- To build a vibrant continental indigenous women movement that is visible across Africa
- To develop a strategy for engagements that taps the concerns of the Indigenous women and deliberate on the way forward
- To produce a collective document which will be shared in the regional and international forums that will increase indigenous women inclusion and recognition in all decision-making spaces

Role of the forum

- a) To increase the number of sensitized women from the clusters level on the ongoing budgetary planning and public participation at the county level
- b) To consolidate knowledge and skills on indigenous women advocacy at the national as well as other mechanism in regional and international level



1.2.3 Grassroots Women Gathering

The women gathering provide a unique opportunity and space to common strategizes, learning and developed community solutions. The grassroots gathering will be adopting human rights education giving women perspective and views on how to assess and strengthen social women movement and collective voices with grassroots women from pastoralists, hunter gatherers, women living with disabilities and fisher folks.

This is a powerful gathering celebrating indigenous people's diversity and unique cultures. The gathering aims to assess and discuss indigenous women inclusion, participation and involvement as well as promoting knowledge platform and networking for rural women to share, learn and identify integral challenges.

Indigenous women are expected to develop solutions to influence structural change including policy change. Indigenous women from grassroots will influence the changes through cultural festivals and building on existing strategies being used by women. The process will solidify grassroots women recommendation from women clusters and elect representative women leaders to be part of the annual women delegates to present their views.

Grassroots Women Gathering Objectives

The Grassroots Women Gathering will provide a platform and a space to strategize, learn and developed solutions to

- Provide rural women with a platform to discuss how rural women are developing strategies and solutions at community level.
- Strengthen IPs women unique perspective on how to build strong women collective voice in the upcoming indigenous women national conference.
- Promote knowledge platform for rural women to share, learn and analyses their challenges and developed solutions to influence policy change while protecting their land and culture
- Assess and discuss women inclusion, participation and involvement in all levels.

Expected outcome

- a) Increase understanding of importance of women participation, involvement and inclusion in all the processes and discussions
- b) To develop common recommendation to be present at every policy development platform
- c) Strengthen and build strong IPs women movement at the national level

Roles of the Gathering

- a) Share and discuss/follow up recommendations from the previous conferences, human rights tools mechanisms
- a) Solidify the recommendation from the grassroots women clusters to be presented at all relevant spaces for women including annual women conference
- b) To take stock, assess gaps in each cluster, give feedbacks of what is happening in the communities where indigenous women reside
- c) Interrogate move on the needs of women to create strong and vibrant indigenous women social movement

1.2.4 Annual women conference

The annual Indigenous Women is a symposium for indigenous women from across Africa. The conference hold discussions with women leaders from political background from national and counties, grassroots women leaders, feminists and human rights partners to validate and adopt a women roadmap/strategy for Indigenous women to leverage their opportunities and share their recommendations to be use within the county and national government.

The outcome document from the conference will be a feedback mechanism for collective women voices for all levels. The movement also enable women collectively lobby for their inclusion and unify women voices to influence all measures that will address cause of the deep lying issues affecting indigenous women.

Why host IP Women symposium

The IP women symposium is to analyze steps, efforts and achievements made by the government and other partners regarding policies on indigenous women rights as well as identifying gaps for further deliberations. The recommendation from the IPs symposium gives Africa a unifying voice in preparation towards Pastoralist Women Assembly and Ongoing processes

Objectives of the annual women conference

- a) Offer learning opportunity and provide a platform for grant makers to gain knowledge of indigenous women issues.
- b) Sensitize donors on the priorities of indigenous women to foster collaboration and funding.
- c) Analyze steps, efforts and achievements made by governments and partners regarding policies on Indigenous women rights and wellbeing

Expected Outcome

- a) To create a vibrant women movement that can articulate their own agenda as well as increase women visibility, inclusion and effective participation in all levels of decision-making platforms in national, regional and international processes

Roles

- a) An opportunity for women to showcase women trade fair as women empowerment tool
- b) Adopt recommendations from local conversations, share outcomes to the policy makers
- d) Increase women visibility, inclusion and effective participation in all level

1.2.5 Pastoralists Women Assembly (Women General Assembly)

Pastoralist Women Assembly act as women general assembly which bring grassroots women from the fourteen (14) ASALs clusters in Kenya to learn, give feedbacks and discuss opportunities on how to strengthen women alliance and build strong movement that increase their resilience, visibility in monitoring and formulation of policies that shape women rights discussions.

Why host the Pastoralists Women Assembly?

Pastoralist Women Assembly as an assemblage of indigenous women is important because many of the grassroots women in rural areas face a lot of discrimination compared to men since the society is highly patriarchal. Despite pastoralist women contributions to pastoral life, they only have limited access to and control over key productive resources in their communities, there is also minimal or no inclusion of grassroots women in decision-making bodies in their societies, this therefore, is an avenue for indigenous women from the fourteen clusters to meet and discuss, assess the situation of their fellow grassroots women if they are included in the ongoing process in county and national levels. The avenue also gives indigenous women who are the representatives of all the grassroots women from the clusters, a platform to scrutinize, monitor and document outcomes from the annual women conference for its final action planning.

Objectives of Pastoralists Women Assembly

- To build and increase capacity of women to influence policy
- To assess the situation of indigenous women inclusion in decision making at all levels
- To analyze/scrutinize the recommendations from the annual indigenous women conference for implementation and action planning

Expected Outcomes

- Increased women voice and inclusion in all governance structures
- Strengthen the role of women to monitor and report women agenda
- Increase capacity of women to influence policy

Roles

- Assess the gains of women both at the grassroots, county, national, regional and international level
- A mechanism reporting body that helps in monitor and documents any outcome from the annual women conference
- It also helps implement and follow up recommendations
- The setting is used as a reporting mechanism
- To develop women agenda annual action plan

Strategic Interventions

Coalition of Indigenous Women (CIWO), the movement will primarily be led and focused on indigenous women rights. The voices and the need of the women will be a priority to the movement. It is the faith that such an approach will then be part of the global women movement nuanced to alleviate poverty and increase the voices of the most marginalized.

Partners willing to support the indigenous women movement are invited to partnership and value addition including the following;

- Economic Empowerment
- Capacity Building (Skills, Knowledge)
- Advocacy (Alliance creation, networking, rights awareness)
- Archiving Indigenous Knowledge
- Exchange, Solidarity and Learning Spaces (Linkages and learning)
- Natural Resource governance and Extractive industries



Samburu Women Trust (SWT)
Gefro Imani Hse, Park Road, 3rd floor, Room 16
P.O. BOX 1763, Code 10400 - NANYUKI, KENYA
TEL: +254 755 555 211
EMAIL: info@samburuwomentrust.org
WEB: www.samburuwomentrust.org

