Women in urban slums act for climate resilience and COVID-19 recovery in Kenya

Description of the project:
This project brings useful responses to specific gendered impacts of the COVID pandemic, which left many women in urban slums without a job while increasing their household responsibilities. AWAK trained 700 urban women in slums to convert former domestic dumping sites into vegetable gardens, using organic compost to enrich the soil and biomass waste to produce biochar. The project provides women with sustainable sources of livelihood, including from vegetable sales, and promotes formal banking. It builds a holistic recovery program, with beneficiaries training more women, economic empowerment reducing domestic violence, and access to education for children.

**TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES**

**Climate impact**
- Reducing methane emissions by converting dumping grounds into green spaces
- Promoting organic farming, including organic compost
- Re-greening of urban areas

**Gender impact**
- Economic empowerment for women who sell vegetables, briquettes and soap
- Women gain technical and business skills and transfer knowledge to other women
- Promoting women’s leadership in the community

**Scalability / replicability**
- Systemic approach to solve climate and covid crisis
- Women as demonstrators and leaders for the community
- Objective to reach 10,000 households countrywide

**CONTACT**

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Women-led mangrove reforestation in Sunderbans, India

Description of the project:
Frequent cyclones in the Indian state of West Bengal damage mangroves, destroy agricultural land and affect soil fertility. In this context, inland and mangrove afforestation, as well as efforts to increase community resilience are crucial. This project, carried out by indigenous women, aims to train beneficiaries in the preparation of seedlings and the planting of mangroves. This protects the area from soil erosion and reduces the intensity of climate disasters. Women are also empowered economically through an organic farming and vermicomposting program, which provides a sustainable source of income and ensures food security for local communities.

**TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES**

**Climate impact**
- Resilience to climate disasters: mangroves reduce the impact of frequent cyclones.
- Mangrove plantation improves climate mitigation efforts through CO2 absorption
- Organic waste management with vermicomposting contributes to climate mitigation and sustainable local farming

**Gender impact**
- Women’s economic empowerment through capacity-building and income-generation
- Indigenous women from vulnerable communities take on local leadership roles

**Scalability / replicability**
- Easy-to-replicate concept using local knowledge with little financial cost
- Training of Trainers model ensures the sustainability of the project
- Improving food security and nutrition

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