



GENDER RESPONSIVE CLIMATE ACTION IN KENYA'S ASAL COUNTIES

Turning Local Resilience into a Transformative National Strategy





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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
Acronyms	4
Foreword	5
Executive Summary: The Resilience Imperative.....	6
1. Introduction: Climate, Gender, and the Future of Resilience	8
2. Methodology: A Women-Centered Engagement Process.....	8
3. County Insights: The Gender Dimensions of Climate Action.....	10
3.1. Kilifi County: Coastal Vulnerability and Policy Innovation.....	10
3.2. Kajiado County: Managing Scarcity and Conflict through Inclusion.....	10
3.3. Wajir County: The Climate-Insecurity Nexus.....	10
3.4. Isiolo County: Resilience Amid Mobility and Conflict.....	11
3.5 Lamu County: Coastal Resilience and Women’s Agency.....	11
4. Analysis: Systemic Gaps and Cross-Cutting Challenges.....	12
5. A Framework for Action: Pathways to Gender-Responsive Resilience	13
5.1. National Level: Strengthening Governance and Policy Coherence	13
5.2. County Level: Operationalizing Climate Action	14
5.3. Community Level: Investing in Grassroots Innovation.....	14
6. Recommendations.....	15
7. Conclusion	16
Annex A: Selected Policy and Governance Frameworks	17
A1: National Legal and Policy Instruments.....	17
A2: County-Level Instruments	17
Annex B: References and Additional Resources.....	17
Acknowledgements and Contributors.....	19
About Women in International Security- Horn of Africa (WIIS-HoA).....	19

Acronyms

ASALs	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
CCA	Climate Change Act
CCCF	County Climate Change Fund
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CSO	Civil Society Organization
NCCAP	National Climate Change Action Plan
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SWB	Sisters Without Borders Network
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization

Foreword

This publication was developed by WIIS–HoA, which continues to serve as a crucial platform for promoting women’s leadership in peacebuilding, security, and resilience. Based on field visits across Kilifi, Kajiado, Wajir, Isiolo, and Lamu counties, this report highlights the voices and experiences of women on the frontlines of both climate impacts and innovation. Their insights provide increasing evidence that women are not merely passive victims of climate change but also leaders in adaptation, peace, and sustainability.

The findings here highlight the urgent need to align Kenya’s climate response with a gendered perspective on human security. From local women’s cooperatives creating drought-resistant livelihoods to peace networks mediating resource-based conflicts, it is evident that gender equality is not just a side issue but is vital to building resilience. By documenting these local realities, this report aims to guide national and county policies, promote inclusive financing, and bolster Kenya’s collective efforts to address the climate crisis.

By placing gender at the heart of climate action, WIIS–HoA reaffirms that women’s leadership is essential for effectiveness. Kenya’s future resilience relies on recognizing that women’s knowledge rooted in community, land, and care is vital for building a sustainable, peaceful climate future.

This brief is part of WIIS–HoA’s broader Climate Resilience and Human Security Program, implemented across Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, to enhance understanding and collaboration at the intersection of gender, climate change, and peacebuilding in East Africa. It reflects WIIS–HoA’s ongoing commitment to

advancing the WPS and Climate-Security agendas as interconnected pillars for sustainable development and inclusive governance throughout the Horn of Africa.

Executive Summary: The Resilience Imperative

Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) face growing pressure from prolonged droughts, inconsistent rainfall, floods, and land degradation. These climate challenges weaken food systems, disrupt livelihoods, and heighten competition over land and water. Women and girls are among the most affected, as they are responsible for securing household water, food, and care, often with limited control over land, income, or decision-making. During times of scarcity, their workloads increase, and their risk of insecurity and gender-based violence also rises.¹

The impacts of climate change can cause major socio-economic changes, including transforming traditional gender norms that influence economic activity, social relationships, and leadership. When carefully managed, these changes can create opportunities for women's economic empowerment and increase their participation in decision-making, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding.²

Consultations across Kilifi, Kajiado, Wajir, Isiolo, and Lamu Counties point to a consistent pattern. Women's groups are already managing water points, running savings and credit schemes, restoring degraded land, supporting alternative livelihoods, and mediating local disputes. These efforts are helping households cope with drought, reduce resource-related conflict, and maintain basic incomes in difficult conditions.

Kenya has created a solid policy framework for climate action, including the Climate Change Act

(CCA), the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and County Climate Change Funds (CCCF). However, these systems are not yet functioning at the scale required in countries facing climate-related challenges. In many areas, funding is slow to reach communities, information on climate risks remains limited, and women's organizations are still on the margins of formal decision-making. Meanwhile, climate pressures are fueling local conflict, youth unemployment, and increased insecurity in parts of the ASALs.

This brief draws on county-level experience to outline practical steps to enhance gender-responsive climate action. Six key priority areas are identified:

1. **Institutionalize gender mainstreaming in climate policy** by embedding gender analysis across national and county planning, budgeting, and accountability frameworks.
2. **Make County Climate Change Funds work for women** through simplified access, gender-responsive budgeting, and transparent, gender-disaggregated reporting.
3. **Strengthen inclusive, multi-stakeholder climate governance platforms** that give women's organizations and youth a real voice in decision-making.
4. **Invest in community-based adaptation and knowledge systems** that combine indigenous practices with scientific data and accessible early-warning mechanisms.

¹ Angelini and Jones, *Climate Change, Gender Equality and Peacebuilding*. <https://surl.li/yesssr>

² UNEP et al., *Gender, Climate & Security*. <https://surl.li/ozhoxy>

5. **Integrate climate, peace, and security frameworks** to address the links between drought, resource conflict, and instability, particularly in pastoralist and border areas.

6. **Protect girls and young women from climate-related risks**, including school dropout, early marriage, and gender-based violence, as part of long-term resilience building.

Boosting resilience in Kenya's ASALs relies on coordinating policies, funding, and community action. Increased focus on women's roles, resource access, and involvement in decision-making will be key to ensuring climate efforts reach the most affected and support long-term stability.

1. Introduction: Climate, Gender, and the Future of Resilience

Climate change is no longer a distant threat for Kenya; it is a lived reality that influences every aspect of life, especially in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) counties. Rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, and frequent droughts have undermined traditional livelihoods, strained water supplies, and disrupted food systems. Ranking 150 out of 185 countries on the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative Index, Kenya faces a fragile situation of high climate vulnerability and low adaptation capacity, highlighting the urgent need for action. These changes are not gender-neutral. They amplify pre-existing inequalities and expose structural weaknesses in governance, service delivery, and economic opportunity.³

In Kenya, where most rural households rely on rain-fed farming and pastoralism, women bear the heaviest burdens. They are responsible for securing water, food, and energy for their families, yet they remain largely excluded from decision-making processes that set climate priorities and manage resource distribution.⁴ The exclusion of women from climate policy and planning not only undermines equity but also fundamentally weakens the effectiveness of national adaptation strategies.

Women's vulnerability is compounded by financial constraints, restricted asset ownership, and gender norms that cast them as primary caregivers and "shock absorbers." These systemic barriers, coupled with lower human and social capital and limited access to climate-tech information, significantly diminish their adaptive

capacity. Kenya has made important strides in its policy frameworks through the Climate Change Act (2016), the National Adaptation Plan (2015–2030), and the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP). These commitments are mirrored at the county level through County Climate Change Funds (CCCFs) and integration into County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs).

Yet, implementation remains uneven. The persistent gap between policy commitments and community impact underscores the need for more localized, gender-integrated, and sustained financing. It is important to acknowledge the critical role that women, youth, and Indigenous people play as change agents in informing and driving climate responses at multiple levels.⁵ This brief emphasizes women's leadership and community-driven solutions as essential to bridging that gap.

2. Methodology: A Women-Centered Engagement Process

This policy brief is based on a participatory, women-centered engagement process. Consultations took place across five diverse counties, namely Kilifi, Kajiado, Wajir, Isiolo, and Lamu.

Although Lamu is not traditionally classified as ASAL, it is important because of its unique climate challenges: occasional inland droughts and severe coastal risks such as sea-level rise and coastal erosion, which reflect the intense resource pressures faced by dryland communities. In situations where droughts and floods are expected to become more frequent

³ Dasgupta Aparajita (2024), Gendered vulnerabilities in climate shocks: the role of social protection interventions. <https://surl.li/bwgfvh/>

⁴ Adelphi, & African Union. (2024). *African climate security risk assessment, Eastern Africa*. <https://surl.li/hopypw>

⁵ African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032) <https://ln.run/MjQKJ>

and displace communities, women bear a heavier burden as their ability to adapt deteriorates.⁶

The dialogues involved over 150 participants, including women from grassroots organizations, youth leaders, county officials, and civil society representatives. By using storytelling and collaborative solution development, the approach ensured the analysis was rooted in local realities. The methodology thus served as a direct means of transforming women's lived experiences and knowledge into organized policy guidance.

Each dialogue was designed as a space for co-learning, where participants explored how climate change intersects with local security issues, economic livelihoods, and gender norms. The sessions combined storytelling, scenario mapping, and practical solution planning, enabling communities to identify their specific vulnerabilities and opportunities.

The process uncovered a common thread: women are already leading local adaptation efforts through informal savings groups, water management initiatives, and peace committees, but their work remains underfunded, under-recognized, and disconnected from formal policy. This brief acts as a bridge between these lived experiences and the policymaking system, turning grounded knowledge into clear, structured recommendations.



Pic: Kilifi consultation workshop

⁶ Trócaire. (2014). *Kenya climate change case study*
<https://ln.run/y2aao>

3. County Insights: The Gender Dimensions of Climate Action

Our consultations across the five counties revealed unique challenges but common themes related to women's leadership and systemic barriers. This section highlights the main themes discussed during the consultative workshops.

3.1. Kilifi County: Coastal Vulnerability and Policy Innovation

According to Kenya's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MoALF), Kilifi County's proximity to the Indian Ocean makes it especially vulnerable to rising sea levels, saltwater intrusion, and unpredictable rainfall. Agriculture and fishing are increasingly threatened. Despite these challenges, Kilifi has shown leadership in climate governance, allocating 2% of its annual budget to its CCCF and enacting the *Kilifi County Climate Change Amendment Act (2023)*.

Moreover, the Climate Change Amendment Act strengthens gender representation on climate change committees by adopting the constitutional "two-thirds" gender rule, reflecting growing recognition of gender-responsive planning. Women leaders called for capacity-building for women's cooperatives, stronger access to climate finance, and formal inclusion of women in local planning committees.

"The development of Kilifi County will happen greatly when women are majorly involved in decision-making." – County Director for Water and Climate Change, Kilifi.

⁷ MoALF. (2017). Climate Risk Profile for Kajiado County. Kenya County Climate Risk Profile Series. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MoALF), Nairobi, Kenya.

3.2. Kajiado County: Managing Scarcity and Conflict through Inclusion

Kajiado County, characterized by its semi-arid terrain and pastoralist economy, faces recurring water scarcity and land degradation, which intensify resource-based conflicts.⁷ Participants highlighted that while Kajiado has developed multiple environmental and agricultural bills, such as the Kajiado County Climate Change Act, 2020 (Amended 2025), and the Kajiado County Crop Agriculture Bill, 2023, translating policy into action remains slow.

Kajiado's women are leading innovative adaptation efforts from bee-keeping and poultry projects to women-led cooperatives that support alternative livelihoods. Exposure visits and partnerships with AgriTech startups have emerged as practical solutions.

"Women should always go to decision-making tables with alternatives." – Participant, Kajiado Workshop.

3.3. Wajir County: The Climate-Insecurity Nexus

In Wajir County, the intersection between climate stress and insecurity is stark. Recurrent droughts have decimated livestock, leaving many young men unemployed and vulnerable to radicalization. Youth and women are at risk of not only radicalization but also are victims of violent extremist acts.⁸ In the event of droughts, pastoralists lose more than half of their livestock. For example, during the 2011 drought, pastoralists lost 40–70% of their livestock.⁹

⁸ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Kenya, (2017), *Fact sheet: Support to the prevention of violent extremism in Kenya*, <https://url-shortener.me/B8TL>

⁹ MoALF. (2017). Climate Risk Profile for Wajir County. Kenya County Climate Risk Profile Series. The Ministry of

Women face increasing insecurity when traveling long distances to fetch water and firewood. However, Wajir was the first county in Kenya to establish a CCCF and allocate 2% of its development budget to climate action. Consultations showed that women's organizations play a dual role as peacebuilders and climate advocates. They mediate local conflicts, lead water-user associations, and raise community awareness of sustainable land use, despite limited technical and financial support.

"Climate change worsens women's access to health and safety. But when women lead, the whole community learns to adapt." – Women Leader, Wajir County.

3.4. Isiolo County: Resilience Amid Mobility and Conflict

Isiolo's arid climate and proximity to pastoral corridors make it a hotspot for resource-based conflicts, ethnic tensions, and political dynamics.¹⁰ In this context, women have emerged as architects of resilience, leading tree-planting initiatives along the Ewaso Nyiro River and fostering inter-community collaboration.

However, limited follow-up on climate projects and weak coordination between NGOs and government actors have slowed progress. Participants emphasized rising health risks from unsustainable practices (e.g., farming with untreated wastewater) and the connection between school dropout rates and climate-

induced migration, highlighting the importance of integrating adaptation with social protection.

"Climate resilience starts when we take ownership of our land, our daughters' education, and our shared future." – Youth Leader, Isiolo County.

3.5 Lamu County: Coastal Resilience and Women's Agency

Lamu presents a unique set of challenges, from rising sea levels affecting the archipelago to periodic droughts inland. The county is ecologically vital due to its extensive mangrove forests. The most frequent hazards are drought, pests and diseases, severe winds, resource-based conflicts, flooding, and rising sea levels, leading to more crop failures, livestock deaths, water shortages, pest and disease outbreaks, property damage, loss of vegetation, human emigration, and instability.¹¹

Women-led associations are central to local climate action, successfully restoring mangrove forests and diversifying family incomes through value-added processing of fish products.

The Kivulini Women's Group, a women-led organization focused on food security and nutrition, highlighted that its mangrove restoration efforts, which have planted over 5,000 seedlings, both protect the coast and provide income through sustainable harvesting.

Despite the establishment of a robust legal framework, including the 2016 Climate Change

Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MoALF), Nairobi, Kenya

¹⁰ Kiruku and Mercy Corps (2025) The Resilient Approaches in Natural Rangeland Ecosystems (RANGE) Programme Conflict Analysis Report, <https://url-shortener.me/BA0K>

¹¹ Misiani, Z., Mwadiga, S., Abubakar, M., Boneya, H., Onyango, L., Okello, A., Dirie, M. R., & Orero, M. (2023). Exploring the nexus between climate hazards and conflict in Lamu County: Implications for community adaptation action plans. *Journal of Environmental Protection*. <https://doi.org/10.4236/jep.2023.1412054>

Act (amended in 2023) and various County Climate Change Acts, significant implementation gaps and bureaucratic hurdles continue to impede the flow of climate finance to proactive grassroots organizations in Kenya. While County Climate Change Funds (CCCFs) are designed to channel money to local priorities, their operationalization remains uneven, with many counties struggling to implement them effectively.

“The local and national government should promote women’s full and equal representation in climate change decision-making. Our women are already educating communities and driving solutions; they must have a seat at every table.”
—Environmental officer, Lamu County

4. Analysis: Systemic Gaps and Cross-Cutting Challenges

Across all five counties, our analysis identified persistent systemic challenges that prevent effective, gender-responsive climate action.

- **Policy and Implementation Gaps:** Despite strong national frameworks, climate action at the county level remains disjointed and often ignores gender considerations. For example, in Kilifi County, even though there are laws requiring gender-balanced steering committees, there is little evidence that these quotas are strictly enforced or that these bodies have moved beyond planning to implement active, gender-responsive projects. This gap leaves national policies as solid theoretical models that lack effective, inclusive implementation at the local level.
- **Chronic Underfunding:** Local initiatives heavily depend on short-term donor funding without clear plans for sustainability. County Climate Change Funds are an important innovation, but remain underfunded and difficult for grassroots women's organizations to access due to complex application and reporting processes.
- **Capacity and Information Deficits:** Poor infrastructure and limited agricultural and environmental extension services hinder outreach to remote communities. Many local government officials and community groups lack specialized training in climate adaptation, data management, and gender analysis.
- **The Climate-Insecurity Nexus:** Climate-induced insecurity emerges as a significant new threat. As water and pasture become more limited, tensions between clans and cattle rustling increase. Youth unemployment and marginalization raise the risk of extremist

recruitment, especially in border areas like Wajir and Isiolo.

- **Exclusion from Decision-Making:** Most importantly, women's organizations, while active in climate response, struggle to access formal decision-making processes, influence policy priorities, or secure direct climate funding.
- **Low female asset ownership worsens women's exclusion and vulnerability.** According to the 2022 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey, a vast majority of Kenyan women, 75% in agriculture and 93% in non-agricultural sectors, lack land ownership, creating a significant barrier to obtaining bank loans. This absence of collateral hinders their ability to adopt key Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices, such as irrigation and drought-resistant seeds, which are essential for environmental resilience¹². In contrast, Tanzania acts as a regional leader by actively reforming its legal frameworks to enhance women's land rights, showing a successful example of improving financial inclusion and sustainable farming. Addressing these interconnected issues requires an integrated approach that combines climate resilience, gender inclusion, and peacebuilding.

5. A Framework for Action: Pathways to Gender-Responsive Resilience

Translating Kenya's policy commitments into tangible local outcomes requires a multi-level framework that embeds gender equality at its core.

5.1. National Level: Strengthening Governance and Policy Coherence

At the national level, ministries responsible for environment, planning, finance, and gender must coordinate to mainstream gender analysis across the entire planning cycle.

- **Policy and Finance:** The Government should allocate a defined share of national climate finance to gender-responsive programming and strengthen the Climate Change Directorate's capacity to track and publish gender-tagged expenditures.
- **Security Integration:** National security and development agencies must formally recognize climate change as a threat multiplier and collaborate to design preventive programs that link peacebuilding with ecological rehabilitation, particularly for at-risk youth.
- **Accountability:** Establishing a National Gender and Climate Steering Committee (even if within the KNAP steering committee), bringing together ministries, CSOs, academia, and county representatives, would improve policy coherence and ensure Kenya's climate agenda aligns with its commitments under the SDGs and the Convention on

¹² KNBS and ICF. (2023). Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2022. Key Indicators Report. Nairobi, Kenya, and Rockville, Maryland, USA. <https://surl.li/ohlwuf>

the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

5.2. County Level: Operationalizing Climate Action

County governments are the primary implementers of adaptation. They must be equipped with the funds, skills, and systems to deliver.

- **Financing and Budgeting:** Counties must operationalize their commitment to allocate at least 2% of their development budgets to climate initiatives. Critically, this must be paired with gender-responsive budgeting tools and simplified "access windows" to ensure women's groups can directly access CCCFs.
- **Institutional Capacity:** Counties should institutionalize County Climate Desks with dedicated officers trained in gender analysis, climate finance management, and data collection.
- **Knowledge and Partnerships:** Building partnerships between counties and research institutions can bridge the data gap for early-warning systems and technical support for climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy, and water management.

5.3. Community Level: Investing in Grassroots Innovation

True climate resilience begins at the community level. Policy must recognize and invest in local knowledge systems and women-led initiatives. Integrating community participation, indigenous knowledge, and gender-responsive approaches fosters social cohesion, empowers marginalized groups, and enhances grassroots adaptive capacities.

- **Livelihood Diversification:** Water harvesting, agroforestry, and livelihood diversification (e.g., bee-keeping, poultry) emerged as the most impactful adaptation options. Women's savings groups can act as local finance hubs, and micro-grant mechanisms are needed to scale their efforts.
- **Strengthen resilience by harnessing agricultural productivity:** In an effort to strengthen agricultural productivity, women's groups at the community level must be supported to adopt more drought-tolerant and faster-growing crops, adding value to them post-production, or linkages to better markets.
- **Technology and Inclusion:** Digital tools can transform adaptation. Since women are less likely than men to adopt Climate-Smart Agriculture, expanding mobile-based early-warning systems, satellite mapping of grazing patterns, and e-learning for women farmers will increase resilience, requiring partnerships with the private sector to ensure affordable access.
- **Local Leadership:** In pastoralist areas, formally linking women's peace committees to resource management initiatives can reduce conflict while promoting shared stewardship of rangelands and water points.



Pic: Isiolo consultation workshop

6. Recommendations

Drawing from the insights of the five counties and a national policy review, this report proposes six overarching recommendations for a gender-responsive and sustainable climate future:

- 1. Make County Climate Finance Work for Women:** County Climate Change Funds were created to bring resources closer to communities, yet many women's groups remain unable to access them. Counties should establish simplified and transparent access mechanisms for women-led organizations, including guidance in local languages and flexible reporting requirements that reflect grassroots realities. Public reporting of CCCF allocations should be disaggregated by gender to strengthen accountability and ensure that funds reach those most affected by climate change.
- 2. Strengthen Women's Influence in Climate Governance:** Formal representation alone is not enough to ensure that women shape climate priorities. National and county climate institutions should ensure that women's organizations have a meaningful role in decision-making, including in the design, budgeting, and oversight of climate programmes. Gender focal points within climate-related departments should be empowered and resourced to integrate gender analysis across planning and implementation processes.
- 3. Integrate Peacebuilding into Climate Responses:** In pastoralist and border counties where climate stress fuels competition and conflict, adaptation efforts must be aligned with peacebuilding. Climate programs should work alongside women's peace networks, local mediation structures, and youth initiatives to address resource-based tensions and promote shared management of land and water. This integrated approach is essential for building both environmental and social resilience.
- 4. Expand Women's Access to Climate Information and Technology:** Women's ability to prepare for and respond to climate risks is constrained by unequal access to information. Early-warning systems, agricultural advisory services, and digital learning platforms should be designed to reach women directly, using mobile technology, community-based networks, and trusted intermediaries. Partnerships with the private sector can help improve coverage and affordability, provided that inclusion and accessibility are built into service delivery.
- 5. Invest in Women-Led Adaptation and Livelihoods:** Across Kenya's ASAL and coastal counties, women are leading practical responses to climate change, from water harvesting and agroforestry to fisheries management and alternative livelihoods. These initiatives should be scaled through targeted micro-grants, technical support, and market linkages delivered through county programmes and development partners. Strengthening women's enterprises supports household resilience while contributing to local economic stability.
- 6. Address the Vulnerabilities of Girls and Young Women:** Climate shocks intensify the risks faced by girls, including school dropout, early marriage, and gender-based violence. Climate adaptation strategies should include

measures that protect girls' education, safety, and well-being during periods of environmental stress. Supporting girls' resilience is central to building secure and sustainable communities in the long term.

7. Conclusion

Kenya stands at a pivotal moment where the urgency of the climate crisis intersects with longstanding goals of gender equality and peace. The findings from Kilifi, Kajiado, Wajir, Isiolo, and Lamu demonstrate that resilience is not built in boardrooms – it is cultivated on farms, at water points, in markets, and around community meeting tables, often led by women. Policies and plans, however forward-looking, will mean little unless they translate into action that empowers those on the frontlines. Moving from policy to practice requires deeper inclusion, greater accountability, and sustained investment in community-driven solutions.

Critically, Kenya must elevate women from the margins to the center of its climate response. This means moving beyond token participation to genuine power-sharing: women should shape priorities, drive project design, manage resources, and monitor outcomes. When women and other marginalized voices influence decisions, climate actions are more likely to address real needs and to succeed. As the global community accelerates efforts toward the 2030 Agenda, Kenya has the opportunity to lead by example – to offer a model integrating environmental sustainability, social equity, and peace into a coherent resilience strategy. The choice before us is clear: continue viewing women as passive beneficiaries of climate aid, or recognize them as architects of transformative

change. The latter path will define the nation's resilience for decades to come.

“Symbolism is not enough; action gives the agenda life.” – President, WIIS-HoA.

Indeed, women across Kenya's ASAL counties have already begun to act – transforming scarcity into innovation and vulnerability into leadership. It is now the responsibility of government, civil society, and development partners to match that courage with commitment. By ensuring that every plan, every budget, and every institution reflects the knowledge and agency of women, Kenya can harness the quiet power of its communities to shape a resilient and secure future for all.



Pic: Lamu Consultation Workshop

Annex A: Selected Policy and Governance Frameworks

A1: National Legal and Policy Instruments

1. The Constitution of Kenya (2010): Articles 42 and 69 mandate the protection and conservation of the environment for present and future generations.
2. Climate Change Act (2016): Provides the overarching legal framework for mainstreaming climate change responses and establishes the National Climate Change Council.
3. National Adaptation Plan (2015–2030): Defines sectoral priorities and frameworks for building climate resilience.
4. National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2018–2022 and subsequent versions: Outlines Kenya’s strategic interventions for mitigation and adaptation.
5. Kenya Climate-Smart Agriculture Strategy (2017–2026): Aims to enhance agricultural productivity and resilience.
6. Vision 2030: Anchors climate resilience within the broader national agenda for sustainable development.

A2: County-Level Instruments

Each of the five profiled counties has adopted or is developing complementary frameworks that provide the legal basis for local action. These include:

1. County Climate Change Fund (CCCF) Acts / Regulations (e.g., Wajir 2016, Kilifi 2023)
2. County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) (2023–2027)
3. County-specific legislation on Environment Management, Water, Charcoal, and Sand Harvesting (e.g., Kajiado)

These instruments (not exhaustive) are foundational for the localization of Kenya’s national commitments and must be operationalized through adequate resources and inclusive governance.

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About Women in International Security-Horn of Africa (WIIS-HoA)

Women in International Security – Horn of Africa (WIIS-HoA) is a non-governmental organization based in Kenya that promotes gender equality, leadership, and inclusion in peacebuilding and security across the Horn of Africa.

Since its founding, WIIS-HoA has established itself as a regional leader and moderator on the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda.

Through policy engagement, capacity building, and advocacy, the organization collaborates with governments, civil society, and regional entities to turn global WPS commitments into locally driven, actionable results.

Under WIIS-HoA’s strategic programs, the Sisters Without Borders (SWB) Network is a grassroots movement founded in 2014 that brings together women-led organizations and male gender champions working for peace and security in their communities. What started as a national coalition in Kenya has grown into a regional platform covering Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Tanzania, representing diverse voices and approaches toward sustainable peace and inclusive security. SWB members include civil society organizations, community-based groups, youth initiatives, and faith-based actors, all working to promote dialogue, social cohesion, and gender-responsive leadership. The network acts as a bridge between grassroots realities and policy spaces, amplifying women's leadership as agents of peace, security, and climate resilience.

This publication is part of WIIS-HoA’s climate resilience and human security efforts, focused on better understanding and addressing the intersection of gender, climate change, and peacebuilding in East Africa. The initiative reflects WIIS-HoA’s broader commitment to advancing the WPS and Climate-Security agendas as interconnected pillars for sustainable development and inclusive governance across the Horn of Africa.



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