Women, Land and Homes Project - Kenya

HIC-HLRN in collaboration with Mazingira Institute and Pamoja Trust
Customary Practices Survey
Conceptual Framework

1. Same as for Infrastructure Development Survey
2. Evictions Impact Redress and Assessment (EvIRA) Tool
3. Violations cause Impacts. These Impacts warrant Redress. But customary practices are a special case, being socially embedded and widespread
Methodology and Questionnaire

- Following the Infrastructure Development Survey, identified a case study group of 50 women who had lost land and homes due to customary practices.
- Collected qualitative data in the form of housing histories and impacts in the 3 main areas: Wealth, Wellbeing and Habitat loss.
- Asked what they thought should be done about customary practices.
Findings

• Most women had lost land and homes more than once, first from their natal homes of origin and then from their marital homes

• All except one – 49 out of 50 women – experienced violent eviction. The large majority suffered physical violence. Others suffered emotional violence or verbal abuse causing distress and illness.

• These forced evictions were by family members
Evictions due to customary practices are a different type of forced eviction. They must be separately treated in our method.

They are gender specific – women are evicted by family members because they are female.

These are based on norms – things that everyone considers normal.
Action

- Norms that women and girls do not inherit land and homes from parents or husbands have to be addressed both legally (already done) but also socially in every community.
- Programs and partnerships need to be forged
- Awareness of the harms done to women by this type of forced eviction must be raised.
What the women recommended

- All except one of the women wanted reforms and recognition of their rights (she was traumatised)
- They recommended government do things that are already done (Legal changes and CSO support)
- They want everyone to recognise their equal rights as human beings

The Women Land and Homes Project has a responsibility to articulate a societal and region-wide response based on human rights and aimed at prevention and redress
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Project-Kenya
Thank You