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| **Our Programs** | |
| **Overview** | Wajir Initiative Network (WIN) main aim is eradication of abject poverty among the pastoralist communities in Wajir and is currently running initiatives in education, water and sanitation, livelihood improvement, women and gender equality, health, food and agriculture and environment conservation |
| **Education** | Wajir Initiative Network seeks to empower and motivate young girls through education to become agents of change and to break the cycle of destructive cultural practices in Kenya, such as;   * Female genital mutilation (FGM) * Early child marriages * Lack of sanitary pads * Early pregnancies * Long distances to fetch water * Lack of shoes and clothes * Lack of maternal healthcare services * General perception of a woman’s role in the community   Many girls in Wajir county do not attend any formal school and those who attend, a great proportion of them drop from schools before completing the primary school. We believe in impacting one girl at time until all girls in Wajir County have the opportunities they need to learn and thrive as individuals and achieve their full potential. These future leaders will improve their community, their nation, and the world. We challenge ourselves to support our girls on an equal footing with the boys by helping them access education and other opportunities. |
| **Water and Sanitation** | Drawing on experience from other arid areas of Kenya and the world, we organize training on innovative water harvesting, conservation designs and waste disposal  ***Rock Catchments***  A type of rain water harvesting technique where a large rock outcrop is utilised to catch and concentrate rainwater runoff into a storage structure for domestic and livestock use to alleviate water shortages. This technique is very site specific and since it depends on the natural rock surface for collecting runoff, suitable site selection is critical. It requires sufficient slope, natural clean rock, surface, small retaining/guide walls to direct runoff to a storage tank and above all, very good discipline amongst the community to ensure restricted access by people and animals to the rock surface. Rock water harvesting is a good solution in areas where groundwater is limited.  ***Sub-surface Dams***  The basic principle of the subsurface dam is that instead of storing the water in surface reservoirs, water is stored underground. The main advantage of water storage in subsurface dam is that evaporation losses are much less and the risk of contamination of the stored water from the surface is reduced as parasites cannot breed in underground water. Pastoralist communities are very familiar with the concept, drawing water for both human consumption and livestock at times when other sources have dried up  **Shallow wells**  Shallow wells can be found in areas where the water table is high enough for their construction. They are also relatively cheap to install but can easily be contaminated is not well designed. Scope exists for the development of shallow wells near to the larger storage reservoirs taking advantage of the locally raised water tables and also the natural filtering properties of the soils.  **Water yards**  A water yard is an enclosed water supply system constituting borehole equipped with pumping system that supply water from the borehole to elevated water tank, from which water flows freely by gravity to water distribution point, cart filling point and animal troughs. Solar pumping systems are available for use.  **Roof water harvesting and underground storage for schools**  Roof water harvesting has been practiced for a long time to supply small quantities of water during the rainy season. Local communities are trained to scale up this practice by installing gutters, down pipes, slow sand filters and large underground tanks in selected schools. This will ensure continuous supply of water for schools during and after the rain season..  **Improved hygiene and sanitation**  We train the pastoralist communities on proper waste disposal including drilling of toilet latrines ensuring low contamination levels and disease control. |
| **Women and Gender** | Wajir Initiative Network addresses the unmet needs of women and girls in places where they have been marginalized and disempowered, while recognizing that it is vital to involve men and boys in the process of helping women and girls claim their equal place. Ensuring equity between women and men is the key to unleashing the full potential of communities to transform their lives.  Throughout our programs, we consider the needs of both genders and build on the courage and resourcefulness of women to help them improve their families and communities. |
| **Children and Youth** | Children growing up surrounded by poverty, conflicts or in the aftermath of disaster have high risks and their choices are limited. As young people mature, the decisions they make have an enormous impact on their families, their communities and our world. When disaster strikes, young children are especially vulnerable to developing emotional and social problems that can jeopardize their futures That's why giving children and youth the right support at this most critical time is essential to building tomorrow’s strong and productive communities.  At Wajir Initiative Network, we undertake mentorship programs for boys and girls in schools. During the mentorship programs young boys and girls are trained to be responsible citizens. We create forums where the children and the youth can meet and socialize through play, art and sports. This has been very helpful especially in the recent past when youth radicalization has been on the increase.  For adolescents faced with violence, early marriage and interruptions to schooling, we provide opportunities for community involvement, vocational training and life skills development. Our goal is to empower youth in the toughest places to make smart life choices and invest their energy in developing solutions to their countries’ biggest challenges. |
| **Health** | Our work to build healthy communities, families and individuals is at the heart of Wajir Initiative Network's vision for social change. By partnering with a range of partners, from village health committees to government agencies, we help build the means to improve:   * maternal, newborn and child health, * ensure proper nutrition and * Combat infectious diseases. |
| **Food and Agriculture** | One in every eight people in the world — 842 million — are trapped in a cycle of hunger and poverty. Nothing is more basic to human well-being than having enough nutritious food to eat.  Pastoral communities practice small scale farming. Hunger is a crisis when disaster ruins the harvest. Extended draught has extremely devastating effects. It is a cycle when families cannot grow or buy enough to lead healthy, productive lives, and when the effects of malnutrition are passed on to the next generation.  When food shortages occur due to drought and conflict, Wajir Initiative Nework collaborates with food aid organization to alleviate and prevent hunger and treat malnutrition in the most vulnerable — children, pregnant women, the elderly and the displaced among the pastoralist communities. We working with local suppliers to speed delivery, save money and boost local economies.  Wajir Initiative network helps small scale farmers manage their land, increase their harvests and diversify crops to produce a larger, more nutritious, and stable food supply. By teaching nutrition and hygiene, we ensure families can utilize their resources to boost their health. And we connect farmers with new markets and introduce more efficient methods of tending productive livestock and processing and storing crops to increase incomes. |
| **Environmental Conservation** | Climate change is worsening an already unprecedented scarcity of resources, including water and arable land in some of the world's most volatile and impoverished regions. Environmental degradation most strongly impacts vulnerable communities, primarily because these places lack the coping mechanisms that normally protect lives and livelihoods.  Wajir Initiative Network is committed to helping the pastoralist communities in Wajir County address and adapt to environmental changes. Our programs increase access to clean energy, manage limited water supplies, and teach farmers to protect their land. |