



Pastoral Women's Council

Maasai pastoralists are among the poorest people in Tanzania.

Maasai women lack land and property ownership rights, access to basic healthcare and education, and the ability to make decisions about their own lives and bodies.

The Pastoral Women's Council is a community-based NGO that works throughout northern Tanzania to address the root causes of such social and gender injustices through the empowerment of pastoralist women, girls and their communities.

Throughout its 20-year history of engagement with communities, PWC continues to work towards strategic goals that:

- 1)** Enable and empower women to control their economic livelihoods and meet their daily needs;
- 2)** Ensure access to a quality education for girls to create a society where women are independent, equal partners to men;
- 3)** Create solidarity amongst women to claim their rights; and
- 4)** Facilitate access to essential social services including reproductive health services.

PWC operates as a membership organization that empowers pastoralist women to take control of their own development. Annually, PWC engages with over 3,000 members in 90 villages across northern Tanzania.

Guided by four foundational principles – solidarity, equality, trust, and transparency – PWC's work promotes a developed society that represents the rights of all individuals, regardless of gender or culture.

Our Work

PWC's programmes focus on education, women's economic empowerment, and rights and leadership to address the root causes of gender inequality and marginalisation.

Education

PWC's education programme aims to improve pastoralist girls' access to quality education. PWC's education interventions include:

- Academic sponsorship
- Management of Emanyata Secondary School
- Construction of schools and improvement of infrastructure of existing schools
- Training for school management and leadership
- Pre-form One Project
- Girls internship programme

88%
of targeted girls under 16
report that they feel less
pressured to marry

Women's Economic Empowerment

PWC's economic programme gives pastoralist women financial independence, breaking the cycle of poverty and elevating them within their families and communities. PWC's economic activities include:

- Women's Solidarity Boma livestock program
- Income Generating Groups including Village Community Banks (VICOBAS), and Saving and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs)
- Women's adult literacy classes

80%
increase in incomes among
VICOBAs group members

Rights & Leadership

Women's Rights and Leadership Forums educate women and communities on wider variety of issues facing women and girls including land and property rights, domestic violence issues, rights to education and the inclusion and promotion of women as civil leaders and economic contributors in their communities.

- Advocacy for women's human rights and local needs at the household, village, district and national level.
- Advocacy and support for pastoralist communities in securing their rights to property and natural resources.

500
women benefiting from secured
communal land tenure allowing them
to engage in eco-tourism ventures

We Maasai women don't want to depend on men to support our families and our children. We believe we can stand on our own. I hope the next generation of Maasai women will be not just accepted as equals in the community, but will also be part of the decision makers.

- Manyara, Women's Action Group leader and founding member of PWC
Ololosokwan Village, Ngorongoro

The Impact of Financial Independence

"I was among the founding members of the VICOBA savings group in my village. The group began with PWC mobilizing us through village meetings. Then we started with everyone contributing 5,000 TZS (US\$2.50) at each meeting.

"I received an initial 100,000 TZS (US\$50) from the VICOBA and then a further 200,000 TZS (US\$100) to establish a restaurant in the village. I provide food for guests. It is really busy, especially on market days, when I often serve more than 25 people and make a 200% profit. I have already paid back my loans.

"Being part of this group has really changed my life because now I have the money to buy whatever my family needs. I have built a house for my family. This has made me a confident and independent person. I feel proud knowing that I can own a business. This was a dream of mine and now I have done it."

Beatrice Joy, business owner, Ketumbeine village



Increased Education Opportunities

"The culture and customs of the Maasai community do not value girls' education and often girls fall victim to early marriages and pregnancy. PWC's work creates bridge to address the challenges which Maasai children, especially girls, face regarding education and their rights. The work is really bearing fruit and now the community is concerned about girls' education because of the constant community awareness and education. Girls are becoming assertive and self-confident and many are refusing to be victims of early marriages and pregnancies.

"When my daughter attended the PWC Pre-Form 1 class in 2015 she was not able to speak English but after the three months course she has really changed and is now able to speak good English. I am also very proud of her as she also passed the course exit exams.

"I want to urge my fellow parents to play their role as parents and ensure their children attend school. This is the only way our community will transform and develop. We need to unite as parents and address this problem of early marriages and pregnancies within our society."

Kooya - Parent of former Pre-Form 1 student





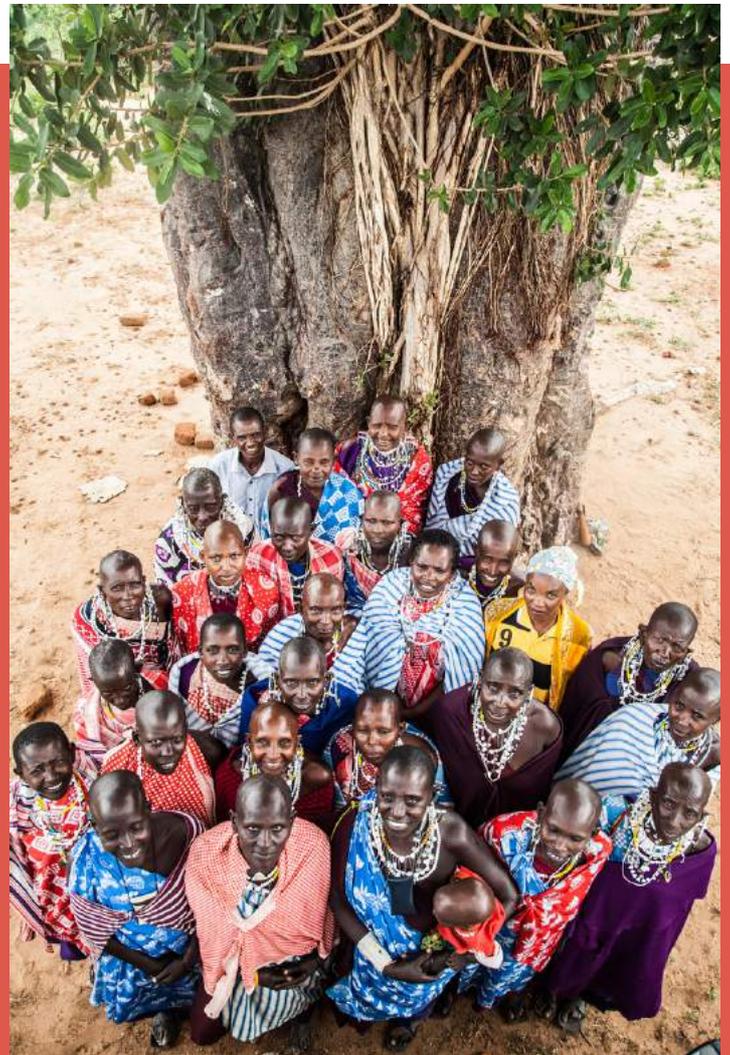
Securing Women's Rights

The 10 Women's Rights and Leadership Forums in Ngorongoro have had a particularly tangible impact on women's land ownership. To date more than 290 women have applied and received plots of land, increasing food security for families and challenging cultural norms about women's ownership of property.

"My own life has been changed through my involvement in the Women's Rights & Leadership Forum. I now stand in the general assemblies and speak up for my rights."

All of us women now are determined and confident to stand up for our rights in front of our husbands and all men. We are no longer afraid."

- Esapat - WRLF Chairwoman, Engaresero village



Support Our Work

PWC is a charitable organisation that depends on the financial contributions of individuals and funding bodies.

Every donation can make a big difference in the lives of pastoralist women and girls:

\$1,000

will give 10 women per year a microcredit loan. Over 10 years, that donation will help lift up to 100 women out of poverty.

\$500

will pay for a girl's school fees, books, and uniform for one year, giving her a future and helping her to escape forced marriage.

\$150

will buy a cow for the Women's Solidarity Boma livestock program.

\$50

will support a PWC intern with food, accommodation, and transport for one month.

Make a donation by contacting us on pwctanzania@gmail.com

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