



SHIBUYE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS



SCHW holds regular planning meetings with grassroots leaders to monitor and evaluate progress of projects

Who We Are

Shibuye Community Health Workers (SCHW) is a women led organization founded in 1999 by 15 women caregivers in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic sweeping through their communities. By engaging at the frontline of community healthcare, grassroots women became active participants of their own community development. Today, SCHW has grown to a community based organization of 119 women groups operating in 14 locations in Kakamega County of Kenya.

The aim of SCHW is to advance community driven development through building the capacity of grassroots women to be the center of positive change. SCHW works with other local CBOs and self-help groups, regional government agencies, national, international institutions, and like-minded NGOs to implement programs that combine practical solutions used by communities and movement building to ensure women's roles and voices in development are heard.

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People's Health,
People's Dignity,
People's Development's

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Community Health & HIV/AIDS

As the founding program of SCHW, community health workers (CHWs) continue to address systematic health issues within their communities. This includes advocating for the HIV positive population, especially widows and children and empowering women to understand their rights and take ownership of their own and the communities' health. SCHW is spearheading the Home Based Care Alliance of over 2,000 CHWs to deliver basic care and health services to over 4,000 orphans, vulnerable children, and people living with HIV/AIDS.

Community Response to Women's Rights Violations

For years, SCHW has partnered with national NGOs to develop initiatives to deter domestic violence, child abuse, and safeguard the inheritance rights of widows and OVCs. SCHW has trained community members as paralegals to assist in legal disputes involving the most marginalized populations. To date, 9 watchdog groups have been formed, comprising of community paralegals to monitor and represent the community, and ombudsman committees to act as mediators in land disputes.

SCHW is also expanding its program to integrate the watchdog groups to pursue legal justice for women and children who have been abused. By the end of 2014, SCHW will have established a women's rescue center, with staff who are able to respond to emergency treatments, provide

referrals, legal aid, temporary housing assistance, and psychosocial support.

Advocacy & Movement Building

SCHW strives to bring grassroots women's voices into policy setting spaces and empowering women to participate in key decision-making processes. To date, through leadership training and community development initiatives, SCHW has supported grassroots women to seek positions at county level elections, on district boards, as village chiefs, and among other prominent leadership roles that were historically male-dominated.

Community Resilience, Livelihood, & Food Security

In an effort to address the lack of food and livelihood security within the many communities that SCHW serves, SCHW has partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture to train grassroots women on drought resistant vegetables and collective gardening techniques. Together with awareness campaigns, an increasing number of farmers are beginning to diversify their crops from primarily cash crops such as tea and sugarcane, to more food crops such as banana trees.

SCHW recognizes that livelihood and food security cannot merely center around increasing agricultural production, especially with increasing unpredictable weather patterns. Therefore, SCHW has linked women groups to microcredit institutions to strengthen small business ventures in order to build grassroots women's capacity to become financially independent.

Our Partners

Department of Gender and Social Development (DGSD)

Federation of Women Lawyers in Kenya (FIDA)

Global Fund for Women

GROOTS Kenya

Huirou Commission

Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium

National AIDS Control Council (NACC)

USAID *AphiaPlus*



One of the elderly caregiver who has been trained by SCHW in safe water use