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AGRI-JOBS 4 YOUTH!
GFA CONSULTING GROUP
Pam Oja for Transformation
Building Peace & Development Opportunities

KNOWLEDGE AND IMPACT BRIEF

Unlocking Equitable Agricultural Land Access for Youth and Women in Western Kenya

A Transformative Intergenerational Model

Intervention:

Enhancing Youth and Women Access to Land for Sustainable Economic Development in Western Kenya (Agri-Jobs 4 Youth / GFA-P4T)

Target Counties:

Bungoma, Kakamega, Kisumu, Siaya, and Vihiga

The access to land intervention implemented by GFA Consulting Group in partnership with Pamoja for Transformation (P4T) in the framework of the GIZ Agri-Jobs **4 You**th Initiative, addresses barriers to accessing agricultural land through a Transformative Intergenerational Dialogue approach. This approach promotes inclusive engagement between landowners and farmers, strengthens mutual understanding, and facilitates practical, community-driven solutions such as formalising land leasing, improved land governance, and conflict transformation.

Executive Summary & Context

Access to productive agricultural land remains a critical bottleneck for youth, women, and widows in Western Kenya, heavily restricted by deep-seated cultural norms, informal verbal leasing risks, and complex legal hurdles around inheritance and succession. A Transformative Intergenerational Dialogue Approach promoted inclusive engagement between landowners and farmers, strengthened mutual understanding, and facilitated practical, community-driven solutions such as formalised land leasing, improved land governance, and conflict transformation towards access to land. The intervention, implemented by GFA Consulting Group in partnership with Pamoja for Transformation (P4T) in the framework of the GIZ Agri-Jobs **4 You**th Initiative, was set up along four key processes: i) selection and capacity building of community paralegals ii) awareness and sensitization forums iii) intergenerational dialogue sessions and iv) community paralegal clinics.



Young men aspire to access land so that they can apply appropriate modern technologies including machinery in farming to increase their incomes

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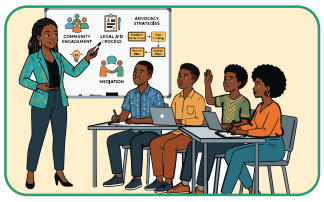


Young people and women access land to produce African Leafy Vegetables. A company promoting inclusive Contract Farming guarantees market for the farmers' produce

These processes help bridge the gap between legal rights and community realities. Strategically, the intervention transformed local administration officers into active frontline governance and paralegal agents who address land access needs at community level.

By anchoring and institutionalising land leasing guidelines into county policy frameworks, specifically contributing to the Siaya County **Land Control and Management Policy** and the **Bungoma County Land Use Policy** through collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Women Empowerment for Resilient Rural Areas (WE4R) and SHIBUYE the Intervention ensured long-term institutional sustainability beyond its direct implementation timeline.

PROJECT REACH & TARGET ATTAINMENT



25

Paralegals Trained

13 men, **12** women, comprising local administrators/chiefs, Community Change Advocates (CCAs), and Farmer Service Centre (FSC) representatives.



24

Awareness & Sensitization Forums Conducted

5,058 participants (**4,167** farmers, **807** landowners, and **84** stakeholders), over 20% above target.



83

Intergenerational Dialogues (IDs) Facilitated

3,818 participants (**2,633** farmers and **1,185** landowners).



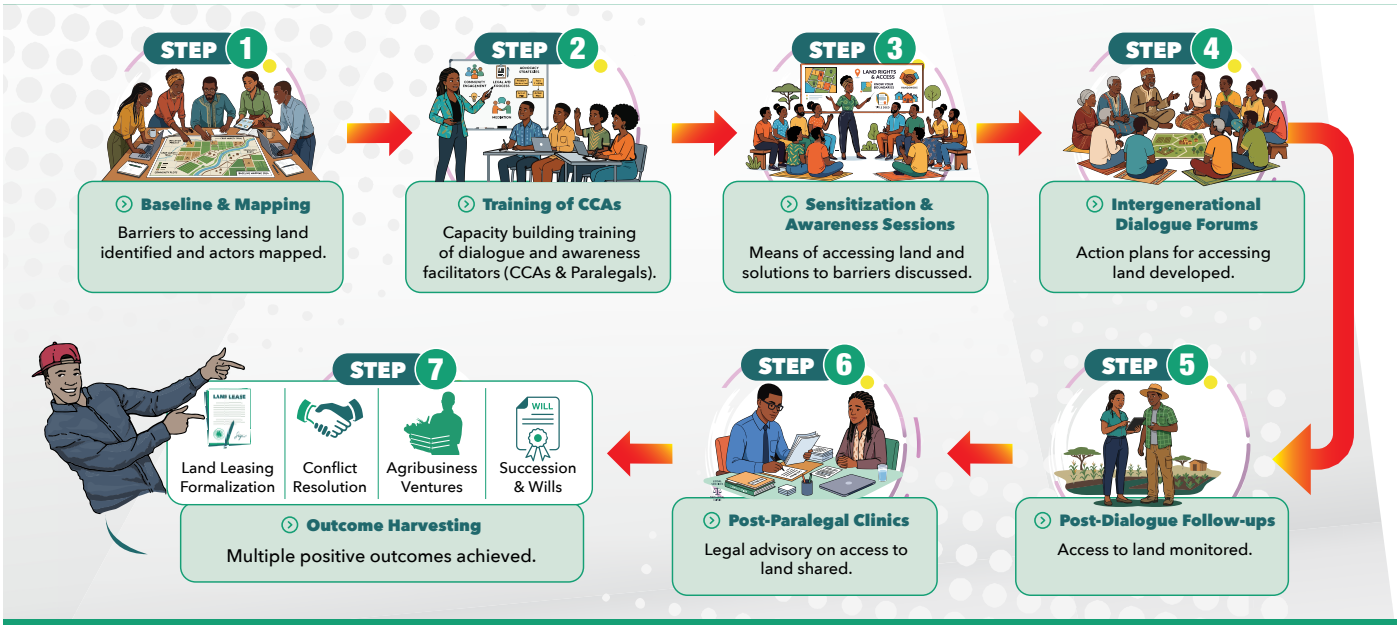
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Community Paralegal Clinics Conducted

669 participants (**426** farmers, **243** landowners). The paralegal clinics are very popular with the youth who constituted over **70%** of the participants.

Core Implementation Process and Reach

The Intervention achieved measurable success across its structured multi-step approach.



Integrated Approach to Agricultural Land Access (IAALA)

STEP 1 Baseline and Mapping

A comprehensive analysis of the barriers to land access and ownership faced by youth, women, and widow farmers and other actors was mapped before the intervention. Based on the findings, recommendations for implementation were designed. The Baseline was compared with the endline to evaluate the achievements of the intervention against the target.

STEP 2 Training of Community Change Agents (CCAs) and Capacity Building for Community Paralegals

Participants from the local communities were selected and trained to become CCAs. The training strengthened the participants' skills and knowledge necessary in facilitating sensitisation and awareness creation to enhance land access for women and youth.

A rigorous 5-day capacity building equipped local community paralegals comprising of CCA, chiefs, assistant chiefs and Farmer Service Centres with technical, legal, and facilitation capacities on land rights, matrimonial property, succession laws, and Alternative Justice Systems (AJS).

STEP 3 Awareness and Sensitisation Forums

The forums served to build foundational knowledge on agribusiness value chains, highlighting land as the primary factor of production and challenging discriminatory cultural practices against youth and women. Means of accessing land and solutions to barriers were also discussed.

STEP 4

Intergenerational Dialogues (IDs)

Structured sessions paired farmers (youth and women) directly with their corresponding landowners (parents, husbands, in-laws, grandparents) to negotiate mutual terms and co-create practical solutions. An important outcome of the IDs were actions plans for accessing land.

STEP 5

Post-Dialogue Follow-ups

In the follow-ups, the action plans developed during the Intergenerational Dialogues were assessed and evaluated. Physical visits to farmers and landowners verified actions taken.

STEP 6

Community Paralegal Clinics

Dialogue commitments were translated into legal and administrative actions, and offered accessible advisory platforms for estate planning and dispute resolution.

STEP 7

Impact, Outcomes & Qualitative Evidence

Post-dialogue tracking and the participatory Outcome Harvesting exercise verified significant behavioural, social, and institutional transformations:

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHT CARD: VERIFIED OUTCOMES

Persons Accessing Land by Gender and Age

	Youth (18–35 Years)		Above 35 Years		
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Total
Formal Land Lease Agreements Completed (and Formalised)	191	116	117	34	**458**
Succession Process Initiated	7	5	16	6	**34**
Family Land Conflicts Resolved (through Dialogue and Mediation)	22	29	8	2	**61**
Written Wills Prepared (and Voluntarily Deposited with Area Chiefs to Support Orderly Succession Planning)	-	-	1	2	**3**
Full Access to Land	37	25	20	4	**86**
Improved Access to Land	34	26	18	4	**82**
				Total Verified Outcomes	**724**

These results demonstrate strengthened trust, improved collaboration, and practical actions towards equitable and sustainable access to agricultural land for youth and women.

- **Formal land lease agreements completed:** Replaced vulnerable, informal verbal leases with secure, written, and witnessed agreements protecting young and women farmers from abrupt exploitation.
- **Succession processes Initiated:** Families moved away from chaotic informal divisions toward statutory probate and letters of administration.
- **Family land conflicts resolved:** Resolution of land-related conflicts at family level through transformative dialogues and local mediation rather than costly court litigation
- **Written wills prepared and deposited:** Voluntarily deposited with area chiefs for safe custody, marking a major progressive shift in estate planning.
- **Full access to land:** Landowners and farmers fully resolve their differences over leasing, succession or family conflicts. The farmer who hitherto was denied access now fully has it for economic production.
- **Improved access to land:** Partial access to land for the youth and women was achieved through the implementation of the four key processes.
- **Policy influence:** Anchored youth-friendly land leasing guidelines into county development policy via partnerships with FAO and the WE4R initiative.

> *Before, I used to lease land without a written agreement. On one occasion, I paid more than KES 3,000 to lease a piece of land, and after the first planting season I harvested a good crop. When the landowner saw the good harvest, he wanted to take back the land and offered to refund me only KES 500. The land lease agreement introduced through the intervention has helped prevent such conflicts.*
>
> *– Farmer from Siaya County*

> *There is now greater peace within our communities, and both social and land-related conflicts have reduced significantly. People are more aware of their rights. Inheritance cases are now referred to the assistant chief, who issues the necessary referral letters, and the succession process is progressing steadily without conflict.*
>
> *– Paralegal, Kakamega County*

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