

Grassroots Women as Citizens, Innovators and Collaborators

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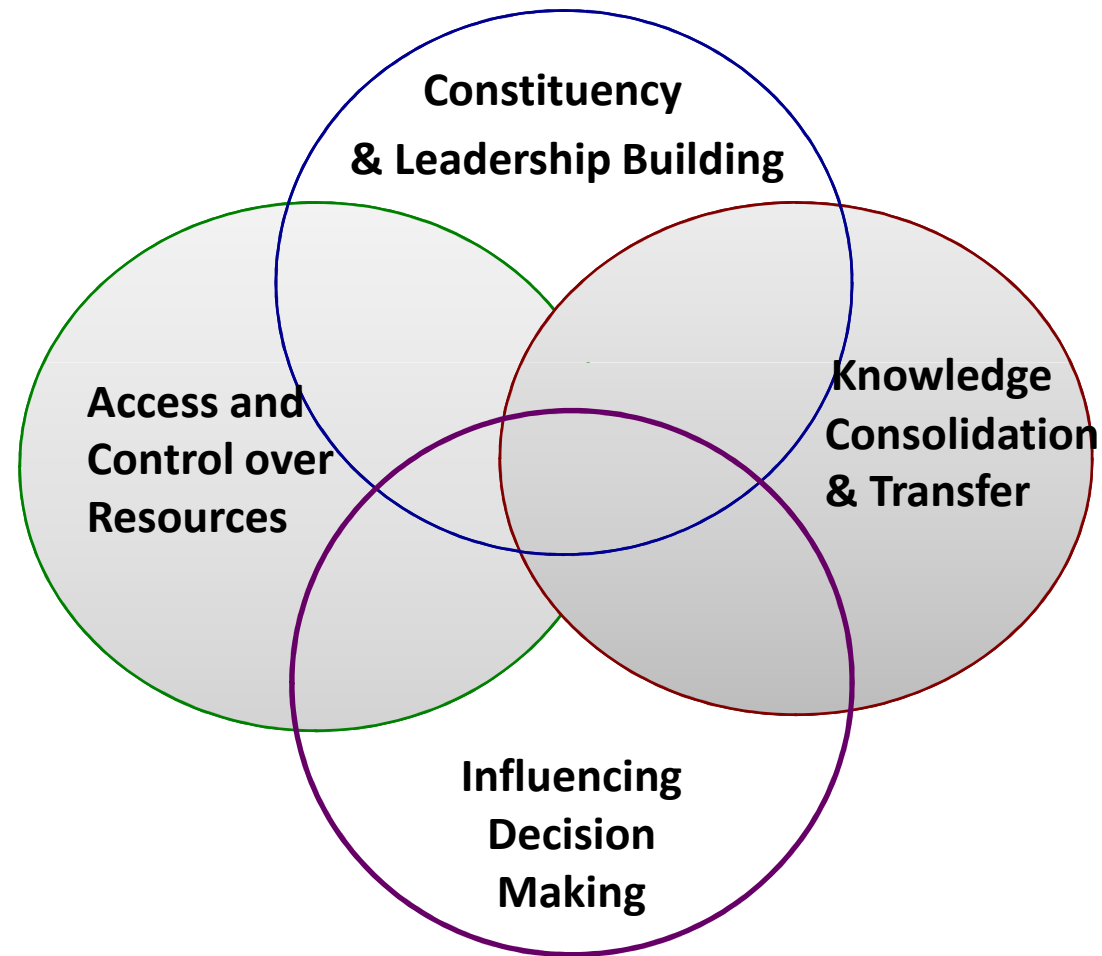


Huairou Commission

- Formed in 1995 during the Beijing Conference
- Coalition focused on women and human settlements development
- Comprising grassroots women's organizations and networks and partners: NGOs, professionals, governments and local governments
- Campaigns: Community Resilience, Land and Housing, HIV/AIDS & Homebased Caregiving and Governance
- Continually building and deepening democracy by facilitating partnerships between grassroots women, governments and with local government.



Empowering Grassroots Women: Huairou Commission's Approach



Our Challenges and Approaches:

Empowerment Elements	Institutional Challenges	Shifts Needed to enable women to undertake new roles	Win-Wins
Organized groups , collective processes	Project oriented initiatives engage individuals, one-time consultations.	Sustained collective action, engagement and learning by organized groups.	Expanded capacities (incrementally built), public roles and leadership for women.
Women as knowledge holders	Women are recipients of training or objects of research	Women as experts, trainers, information managers	Rapid grassroots led transfers of knowledge/practice
Access and <u>Control</u> over Resources/ Assets	Women are beneficiaries of institutional resource transfers.	Women's groups control resources, distribute, monitor resources/ services,	Resources effectively targeted, high ownership for usage, maintenance and high accountability.
Influencing Decision Makers	Absence of institutional mechanisms and incentives for engagement.	Dialogue and collaboration mechanisms, incentives for ongoing engagement	Partnerships for joint planning, implementation and monitoring of programs.

Where violence, conflict intersect with our work

- Violence and conflict damage social fabric and social capital
- Conflict is exacerbated by inequality and marginalization
- Physical safety is compromised
- Women are not just victims but also active leaders trying rebuild the lives of their families and communities
- Large numbers of women headed households as a result of prolonged conflict



Tools and Methodologies

- Community Mapping
- Peer Learning Exchanges
- Grassroots Academies
- **Local to Local Dialogues**
- Women and Children's Centers
- Community Resilience Fund



Exploring Opportunities to Collaborate with Local Authorities

How can we facilitate grassroots collaborations with women local authorities

- a. Facilitate organizing and mobilizing of women as a strong, informed constituency base.
- b. Safe Spaces for Women and Children
- c. Local to Local Dialogue Forums
- d. Negotiations for secure housing and land



How will partnerships with local authorities benefit grassroots women?

- Incentivize collective organizing and functioning as a constituency
- Undertake formal roles which will change their status in the community women
- Enable women to manage and use multi-purpose safe spaces
- Access to information, public funds/ budgets
- Improved access to services
- Building a culture of peace and security



How will partnerships with grassroots benefit local governments ?

- Compel women to organize towards collective interests and act as a united constituency
- Access information about communities
- Disseminate information about programs, budgets and other opportunities
- Effective, responsive and efficient programming, delivery of services to poor communities.

