Amplifying women’s power and leadership to build climate resilience

Background

We are in a climate crisis, and it is not gender neutral. Women and girls bear the brunt of the impact. In rural Kenya, Malawi and Nigeria, where agriculture is the primary livelihood and women are the primary food producers, the impact of the climate crisis is acute. They face pervasive inequalities in accessing health care—contraception in particular; credit; farming supplies; and land for food production. Women are also excluded from their rightful place at decision-making tables.

We estimate that in these three countries:

15 million farm families are in peril because of poverty, hunger and reliance on sporadic rainfall for water

13 million women who don’t want to get pregnant can’t access contraception

MSI knows that women will change the world for the better if they get the chance to control their own lives.

That’s why we’re partnering with One Acre Fund, Population Media Center and Global Fund for Women to amplify the power, strength and skills of rural women in Kenya, Malawi and Nigeria so that they can build more food-secure, climate-resilient communities.

Our 100&Change Bold Solution

Collaborating across sectors our team will:

- Expand access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and services for 1.3 million people.
- Improve the lives of 2.1 million smallholder farmers through access to credit, farm inputs and training on climate-smart farming techniques.
- Elevate self-led women’s groups to secure rights related to reproductive, economic and climate justice.
- Harness the power of storytelling, reaching millions of people, to normalize knowledge, behaviors and practices that advance community resilience.
The Dream Team

Our team brings together best in class organizations in a holistic, rights-based, integrated solution to support female smallholder farmers to build resilient families, farms and communities.

100&Change Wise Head Panel Reviewers called us “The Dream Team” and agree: the impact will be far-reaching, multi-generational and widely scalable.

Our team has:

- Extensive service delivery and farmer networks
- Deep infrastructure in rural areas
- Strong alliances with frontline women’s groups
- Proven communication platforms to connect remote communities
- Track records of catalyzing and scaling systemic change

MSI, the team lead, provides high-quality contraception and safe abortion services to 14 million people per year across 37 countries, travelling the last mile to reach even the most rural and under-served communities.

One Acre Fund reaches more than 1 million smallholder farmers with the resources they need to grow their way out of hunger and poverty and build climate resilience. Within one season, farmers typically increase their income by 50% or more.

Global Fund for Women has fueled powerful movements for gender justice as well as climate and economic justice for more than 30 years, impacting the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in 2018 alone.

Population Media Center has broadcast in more than 50 countries, supporting over 500 million people to live healthier, more just lives.

Opportunities to Invest

Globally, only .01 percent of grant dollars supports projects addressing both climate change and women’s rights despite the fact that Project Drawdown, the world’s leading source of climate solutions, shows that women- and girl-centered approaches are among the 100 best solutions to reverse global warming. With additional funding, our team can scale-up this approach and reach many more vulnerable communities:

- With a $1 million investment, we will focus resources in one country to maximize impact.
- With a $5 or $10 million investment we will support activities in all three focus countries to:
  - Build capacity by training the public sector to deliver reproductive health services for the long term.
  - Expand access to climate-smart products, such as solar lights, through One Acre Fund’s distribution network—which distributed 250,000 solar devices in 2019—to promote sustainable rural electrification.
  - Increase support for frontline gender justice movements to build deep and lasting power to build resilient communities.
  - Expand capacity in storytelling for behavior change through hands-on workshops, creating a scalable approach to dramatic content aimed at changing social behavior.

Additional Farmers and Contraceptive Users Reached by Investment Level

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment Level</th>
<th># of additional farmers</th>
<th># of additional contraceptive users</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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