Restoration of Elgeyo Marakwet Escarpment Initiative (REMEI)



ORGANIZATION PROFILE

Restoring Ecosystems. Empowering Communities. Building Climate Resilience.

www.restoreelgeyomarakwet.org

WHO WE ARE

Restoration of Elgeyo Marakwet Escarpment Initiative (REMEI) is a community-based non-profit organization dedicated to climate resilience, ecosystem restoration, environmental governance, socio-economic transformation and sustainable livelihoods in Elgeyo Marakwet County and Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs). It is registered in the Republic of Kenya under the Directorate of Social Development.

REMEI partners with smallholder farmers and agro-pastoral communities, governments, civil society, and private sector actors to co-create and implement locally-driven solutions through an integrated approach to restore degraded ecosystems, improve livelihoods, and end poverty. As a community-owned organization founded on the belief that communities are best placed to shape solutions to their own challenges, REMEI integrates indigenous knowledge with scientific approaches to build sustainable and inclusive systems.

OUR VISION

Thriving ecosystems where people and nature coexist sustainably.

OUR MISSION

To strengthen climate resilience and improve livelihoods through community-led ecosystem restoration, sustainable agriculture, and governance.

OUR CORE VALUES

- Community Leadership & Ownership
- Accountability & Transparency
- Climate Justice & Inclusion
- Sustainability & Stewardship
- Evidence-Based Action
- Resilience & Impact
- Collaboration & Partnerships
- Respect for indigenous knowledge and cultures



OUR CONTEXT

Elgeyo Marakwet County faces landslides, droughts, deforestation, and declining agricultural productivity.

Intense rainfall frequently triggers deadly landslides in escarpment and hilly areas such as Marakwet East and Kapyego, while prolonged droughts in the Kerio Valley continue to undermine food security, water access, and livelihoods. Communities depend heavily on fragile ecosystems, increasing vulnerability to climate shocks.

Local communities possess indigenous knowledge, resilience, and social structures capable of driving transformative climate adaptation, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable livelihoods when supported through inclusive, community-led solutions.



OUR STRATEGIC PROGRAMME AREAS

1. Climate Governance & Sustainable Livelihoods



We strengthen resilience among vulnerable households through climate-smart livelihoods, sustainable agriculture, and market-driven economic empowerment.

Our goal is to transition communities from vulnerability and subsistence into resilient, climate-adaptive local economies.

Key Areas:

- Climate-smart agriculture & food security
- Tree nursery establishment, agroforestry and regenerative farming
- Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR)
- Poultry farming and beekeeping
- Dairy value addition
- Market systems development
- Women and youth economic empowerment
- Local enterprise development
- Disaster Preparedness & Response

2. **Biodiversity Safeguarding & Ecosystem Restoration**

We work with local communities and partners to restore degraded landscapes and strengthen community stewardship of natural resources through nature-based solutions.

Our goal is to restore ecological integrity while improving livelihoods and strengthening climate resilience.

Key Areas:

- Tree growing and reforestation
- Restoration of degraded lands and watersheds
- Management of invasive species
- Restoration of grazing lands and farmlands
- Water resource protection
- Community-led natural resource management
- Biodiversity conservation





3. **Research, Policy & Advocacy**

We generate evidence, strengthen civic participation, and influence policies that support sustainable environmental governance and climate resilience.

Our goal is to reposition ecosystem restoration as both an environmental and governance issue linked to rights, accountability, and justice.

Key Areas:

- Climate governance and civic education
- Policy research and advocacy
- Citizen accountability mechanisms
- Environmental rights awareness
- Climate finance transparency
- Citizen science and biodiversity monitoring
- Media engagement and strategic communications

WHAT WE DO IN SUMMARY



PRIORITY AREAS FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

1. **Environmental Governance & Accountability:**
- County climate finance tracking
- Citizen scorecards
- Public participation in climate planning
- Ecosystem restoration accountability

2. **Land Rights, Tenure & Conflict Sensitivity**
- Land tenure documentation
- Community rights awareness
- Conflict-sensitive restoration models

3. **Civic Education for Climate Action**
- Climate governance dialogues
- Community awareness campaigns
- Youth engagement forums
- Environmental rights education

4. **Strategic Communications & Narrative Change**
- We are shifting the narrative from: "Restoration as an environmental activity" to: "Restoration as a governance, resilience, and justice movement."

5. **Youth & Schools Engagement**
- School-based restoration programmes
- 4K Clubs and climate ambassadors
- Climate justice debates and mentorship

6. **Community-Led Monitoring Systems**
- Tree survival tracking
- Water recovery monitoring
- Governance responsiveness indicators
- Evidence generation for policy advocacy

7. **Gender & Inclusion in Restoration Governance**
- Women and youth leadership
- Equitable access to restoration benefits
- Community power analysis

OUR COMMUNITY-LED ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT MODEL

Restoration of Elgeyo Marakwet Escarpment Initiative (REMEI) is committed to restoring degraded landscapes and improving livelihoods by eradicating poverty and ending child hunger. We believe that sustainable development begins with economically empowered communities.

Our Community Economic Empowerment Model helps vulnerable households, especially women, youth, and rural families, build financial resilience, restore dignity, and create sustainable livelihoods through community-owned savings and investment systems.

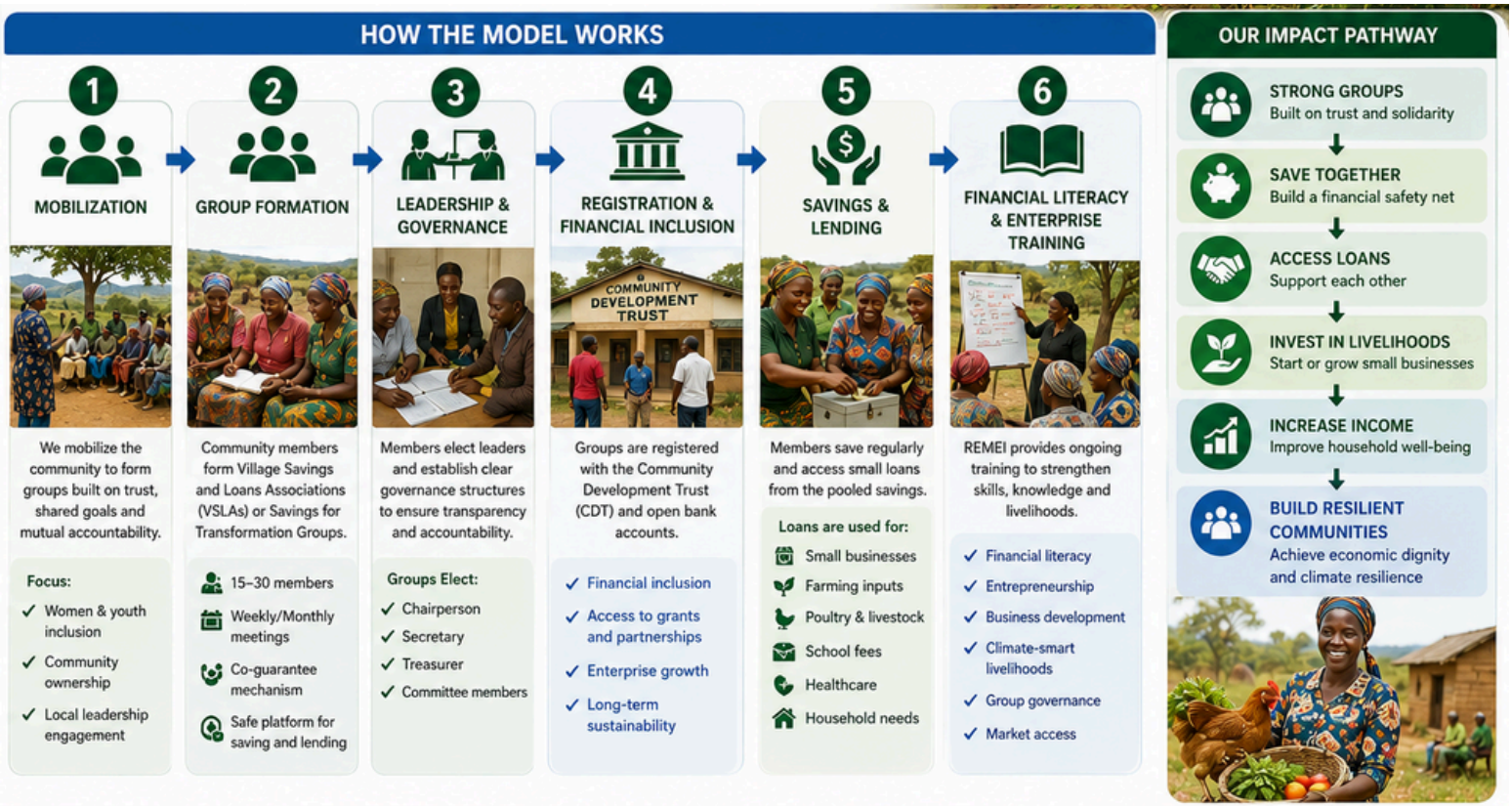
The model combines:

- Financial literacy
- Community mobilization
- Savings and lending
- Livelihood development
- Social empowerment
- Climate resilience

This approach enables communities to move from:



Our model combines financial literacy, community savings groups, and livelihood development to unlock sustainable economic growth. Fully community-led, local groups manage their own savings, lending, and enterprises, ensuring accountability, ownership, and long-term impact. Beyond project cycles, this approach builds strong social capital through trust, solidarity, and collective action, empowering communities to drive resilient, self-sustaining development.



OUR IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

REMEI adopts integrated, community-driven approaches designed for sustainability and long-term systems change.

Gender Equity & Social Inclusion (GESI)

REMEI adopts integrated, community-driven approaches designed for sustainability and long-term systems change. We prioritise meaningful participation of Women, Youth, Indigenous communities, and Persons with disabilities

Capacity Strengthening

We strengthen knowledge, skills, systems, and leadership required to sustain climate adaptation and restoration initiatives.

Rights-Based Programming

We promote constitutional rights, social accountability, and inclusive participation in environmental governance.

Conflict-Sensitive Programming

We integrate peacebuilding, social cohesion, and do-no-harm approaches into restoration and resource management interventions.

Bottom-Up Community Engagement

We work through local structures, existing systems, and grassroots leadership to build ownership and sustainability.

Citizen Science & Evidence Generation

We support participatory research and local monitoring systems for biodiversity, restoration, governance, and climate adaptation.

Market Systems Development

We strengthen local market actors, value chains, and private sector partnerships to unlock economic opportunities.



OUR CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Our work directly contributes to SDGs 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land), 2 (Zero Hunger), 1 (No Poverty), 5 (Gender Equality), 6 (Clean Water), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).



REMEI contributes directly to:

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- AFR100 – African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative
- Kenya's National 15 Billion Tree Growing Restoration Campaign by 2032
- Climate adaptation and resilience frameworks
- Community-led nature-based solutions

UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION 2021-2030

afr100

MISSION 15B #JazaMiti

OUR PARTNERS

HARAMBEE

County Government of ELGEYO MARAKWET
County of Champions

CIDE
THRIVING TOGETHER

AZAROUS
TECHNOLOGY & CONSULTING SOLUTIONS



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