**IMPROVING DISASTER RESILIENCE IN KAMUGA COMMUNITY**

There are several mishaps that happen in life. Some are Natural, some are caused by human miss management of natural resources. Disaster is the name given to such an occurrence. They are never planned for and because of this, they rarely spare lives. Floods, droughts, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, fires, tsunamis and tornadoes among others makes the dreadful list of these bad happenings. Floods for instance are as a result of overflow of water from a water body (a lake) resulting from excessive rainfall in a particular area.

For the changing climate, weather has much in response. Fumes arising from mother planet\_ earth, have brought about the slow but steady destruction of O-zone layer. This O-zone layer is the protector of our environment from Ultra-violet rays and when it is no longer complete, then, we suffer the result of global warming. Heat radiations from and to the sun contribute to the effects brought about in the climate. Long waves (radiations from the earth) and short waves (radiations from the sun) affect the atmosphere by a big margin. For the short waves there was installed a natural wall-like protection that lies 10-25miles from the earth’s surface. The protection has for so long protected our planet during the stone age when factories were rare.

In today’s lifestyle, we can never stop industrialization from our daily operations. Though fossil fuel has dominated and we are trying to supplement and replace it with green energy, it still runs most of our engines. Today in Many African countries most automobiles are purchased as second hand from countries such as Germany, Japan, and China among others. This is hazardous to the climate of all the continents alike.

The rate of deforestation has gone too high, almost uncontrollable by the governing law. Sneakers have gotten into the woods without permission and have harvested timber without proofs of licenses from the authorities. The norm of planting trees has become abnormal. Trees have always protected us from soil erosion, droughts, strong winds and unclean air. Much importantly, indigenous trees have always sufficed the hardship seasons and served well in the good times.

Within Kenya, Homabay County, Rachuonyo North Sub-County, Central Ward, Kogembo Village, there exists on and off effects of the floods in every rainy season. The population around the place live near and around the lake (Victoria). Many of the energetic young men do fishing, motorbike transportation (bodaboda) and rarely farming. Women on the other hand do small businesses of grocery, second hand clothes, fruits vending and weeding for other farmers for pay. Alongside these; small-scale farming which is mostly for consumption at home. The ground has posted challenges in the field of farming as a career due to weather adversity. When it’s a rainy season\_ floods, without rains\_ drought. Over and again the residents much closer to the lake (up to about 2.5miles from the lake) are forced to move away from their homes due to the floods. Farms that are tilled do get flooded hence the repeat of hunger in families. For the residents of Kamuga community, survival becomes tough during this season. Mainly the farmers that till the lands do maize, millet, yams and cassava in small scale. All these do not thrive in clogged waters.

The drainage systems are also poor, added to the almost flat terrain. The latitudes and contours of the area rested upon by the community have slight differences. A good number of houses are also semi-permanent and mad-walls, with few being permanent houses. During the floods, the houses are overwhelmed by the water that comes from below the ground (also known as achia in the native language\_ luo) or the surface waters. In reality infrastructure get destroyed. The roads, the houses and schools are subject to repair after the floods are gone. Every time it rains hard on Gusii and the neighboring higher lands there occurs disaster on the lakeside and Kamuga village is not an exception. Kamuga is a place where people almost stay as nomads. Though it happens at a frequency of one to two years, the trend is a bad one that needs to be addressed by the residents, the Member of county assembly, Member of parliament and the reigning regime inclusively.

Children who grow in this area are affected greatly in their pursuit of education. Every year they lose almost a full term for the problem of movements and instability of a place to call home. This has led to much drop-out cases and the subsequent consequences like peer pressure to joining idle groups who are highly aligned to pilferage and use of bhang within the community.

BELOW ARE SOME OF THE WAYS TO IMPROVE DISASTER(FLOOD) MANAGEMENT IN KAMUGA COMMUNITY.

1. Tree planting

For the bare land with countable trees, deposits of sand have always covered the rich fertile lands of Kamuga. There ought to be a movement, change of mindset, a norm and a culture of planting, and maintaining trees on a daily basis. Homesteads should embrace this practice and do both broad and narrow leave trees. If they can also incorporate fruits among the trees it would be better. Along the periphery and within every home, there should be tress plated. It is evident from the area that Mango, oranges, lemon, avocado, and guava trees do well in the area. These can in turn be planted and the products sold to buy other trees to plant, raise life standards (by improving cashflow) and put food on the table. Tree planting needs not to be a difficult task, the access of the seeds, should be done locally to avoid much strains. Raised seed beds should be done by either the youths voluntarily as a community, or, at an affordable cost of at most KSh. 10 per stem. Water can be withdrawn from the lake using the carts pulled by donkeys. It would take only 3years to stabilize the land and secure it from vast erosion which also leaves hollows that are filled with water in rainy seasons. Watering at the home can be done by the members of each home as the elderly one are helped in doing the same. Out of season, there would also be rains, making the community a place where farming can take place every season.

1. Opening drainage channels.

There exists the drainage channels that are blocked on every rainy season. Some are too shallow for much water to flow in without overflows. Yet there are areas in the same place where need is the best word to use in description. Re-opening and opening respectively would serve better. While the government has much of protocols to follow for the provision of the services of an excavator, the villagers can meanwhile do it manually. Each home to come together with the neighboring and do the task using jembes, it would also help to solve disputes of boundries when neighbors come together and set a way for the drainage in a mutual agreement. All these can be done as the residents a wait for the action from the governing authority to fall into place. Water from higher grounds would therefore get a proper way into the lake. When the flow of water is sorted, then the problem is made less in effect.

1. Building Raised houses

As for builders, henceforth they advised to raise house to some considerable heights. Houses for humans, cows, sheep, goats, chicken and any other pet like dogs should be raised above the ground level. Due to the rise in water levels, there is need to be cautious about the level of place of stay. Embracing this would lead to much more securing of human, cattle and pet life. There is a way out of the devastating condition brought about by the perennial floods. Now that many make claims to be living in ancestral lands, and others also have no cash to purchase new plots elsewhere for resettlement, an option for this lot is to keep their homes and do it in a better manner by raising their houses. Raising of houses would be easier as gravel and stone are readily available at the show of the lake\_ Victoria.

1. Connecting with the higher lands.

Seeking information from the higher lands surrounding the larger Kamuga would serve to save the whole ecological system within Kamuga . In such a connection, there is evidence of an upcoming danger via phone calls. This can be done to help in evacuating in due time from the worse areas in the community spoken of. When the community is well informed, then safety is enhanced. Connection with the source is always the best choice one can make and for Kamuga society, the source of information is the highlands.

1. Counselling sessions.

Occasional counselling for the society in the chief’s camp, sports places, and schools. If this goes well, resilience is then built through and over generations.

1. Life-skill training in schools and events

Quick response to emergencies isn’t just an inborn for everyone. Some must be taught to get to the ordinary level and even surpass. Upon spreading the skills into the society, there would be much improvement on the way the residents would handle the adversity.

1. Digging of pit latrines strategically.

Latrines are to be dug near the drainage line spoken of in the second point above. Them who still have uncovered pit latrines are hereby advised to cover the pit latrines to make them safer. There are some households who have the pit latrines and they are advised to raise the entrance so as to avoid spillage and spread of pathogens causing infections such as cholera.

1. Evacuation.

This could be the most difficult part of the solutions. Moving from place of residence is a difficult thing among the luo community. It is pictured as abandoning the ancestors. The grave yards of loved ones is not a norm to leave easily among this tribe. Times are changing and so do situations, what is fought against today might not have been the same thing the day before. Holding fast to culture has been a great impediment to the growth and change needed for a better society. Though it be hard, trailblazers can always be found within every setting and their work will be to spread the spirt of change to others by induction. The community in the topic has many residents in parcels of land that even belong to the government\_ allocated to the Lake and is under the custody of Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). Even though some have settled there for generations now, it’s time they gave space for occupation by the wildlife. It would also help reduce attacks from: hippos who at times feed on their farms, crocodile who have frequently bitten people around, monkey who also destroy plants in the farms, big snakes who have even swallowed young goats alive among others that may be roving like hyenas.