



Right Sharing

of WORLD RESOURCES

3RD QUARTER 2021 | www.rswr.org



Walking With Women THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES

“PAULINE AYODI IS A FIELD REPRESENTATIVE IN KENYA – DURING THE PANDEMIC SHE NOTICED THAT DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IS VITAL TO WOMEN’S ONGOING SUCCESS.”

In an average year, RSWR Field Representatives visit with multiple women’s groups to offer training in business and group dynamics. They also notice areas outside of the women’s businesses where they could be helpful. As the pandemic continues, our field representatives have been attuned to the needs of the women’s groups. They have provided trainings on sanitation, mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing.

When the first wave of Covid-19 hit the global community and shut down many businesses, our field representatives in all three countries requested food aid. While the mission of RSWR is to provide grants to women’s groups, the Board and the field representatives agreed that our commitment to the women extends into times when their businesses are shuttered in quarantine.

Pauline Ayodi is a field representative in Kenya. During the pandemic, she noticed that disaster preparedness was vital to women’s ongoing success. “I realized that what women and other people went through in their economic lives, after the pandemic struck the world, was partly because of lack of emergency preparedness.

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PARTNERING WITH WOMEN IN COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

GOD CALLS US TO THE RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES, FROM THE BURDENS OF MATERIALISM AND POVERTY INTO THE ABUNDANCE OF GOD’S LOVE, TO WORK FOR EQUITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

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A Women's Bank In India

The People's Educational and Economic Development Society (PEEDS), an organization located in the Vellore District of Tamil Nadu, India, has partnered with RSWR 3 times since 2017. As our partner NGO, PEEDS has supported multiple groups of women to set up federations where the women themselves manage the revolving loan funds within their groups and use these funds to begin small micro-businesses. One of the PEEDS projects involved freeing women from bonded labor as brick-makers; as a result, some of them chose to manage their own brick-making company collectively, while others decided to start personal businesses. The NGO provided training, held follow-up meetings, and aided in the distribution of revolving funds to new women beneficiaries in their area. Over the years, PEEDS has endeavored to share resources equitably with women and their families. Revolving funds have reached 683 women beneficiaries so far.

PEEDS has been making intensive efforts, with the women's groups, to create a women's bank organization. The women's bank will have low interest loans and saving opportunities. Dr. Kannan and Mr. Purushotham, RSWR Field Representatives in India, write: "The bank will be jointly governed by the elected women leaders

and guided by the NGO. With seed money, savings, and subscriptions, the federation fee will be mobilized as capital. Everything else will be decided by the women members. It is an initiative towards sustainability and self-reliance."

In addition to financial resources, this bank will offer training and follow-up support for economic endeavors. This will impact the women's livelihoods in a sustainable way without relying on the local vested interests and caste landowners.

A.Radha, secretary of PEEDS, writes:



A women partner and member of PEEDS at her shop



Beneficiaries Group meeting PEEDS

"Thank you – RSWR and their donors, officials, board members for the partnership and support to our women through PEEDS over these years.

Because of you, the women will have easy access to financial credit, resources to run their income generation activities or livelihoods or economic endeavors out of the revolving funds. Without RSWR we could not have dreamt of this great change in the lives and livelihoods of the poorest women."

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I thereby took on the burden to get knowledge of what we can do in the future in case of later emergency disaster events."

Pauline enrolled in an online course to learn how to prepare for disasters, with the goal of sharing this information with the women with whom she works. "If the community can be alert and prepared, including the women we deal with, we can minimize damages and improve on the recovery and sustainability of their projects as well."

Pauline distributing masks and soap.





Donor Profile: Suzanna Schell

WHAT MAKES YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT RIGHT SHARING?

I am a feminist and a Quaker. I believe that when you support women it gives them the freedom to tap into their own creativity and enterprising nature. I appreciate the empowerment model – I also love the multiplier effect, where women positively benefit their communities and their initiatives grow and help others.

I also love sewing and textiles. There’s all kinds of colonialism and racism tied up in textiles and clothing, especially from the British legacy in India. When our women partners make clothing in their homes with a sewing machine purchased with a loan from their women’s group, they can feed their families and revitalize their communities and their culture.

I’m retired – it will be 4 years in September. When I turned 70.5, I was able to give from my IRA. Before then, it never occurred to me that I could give in this way, even though I worked in development. I sat down and decided which organizations I could give to. Now I balance my IRA distribution across Quaker ministries.

When I think about my giving, I look at Quaker ministries both global and local. I look at which organizations are doing social, racial, economic, and climate justice work, both locally and nationally.

I am intentional in my giving, and I now realize that I don’t need these funds right now – I’m fortunate and privileged to use my retirement funds to help others. It’s liberating for me as well. *I live simply, and the other side of the testimony of simplicity is to share the overflow.* Money is stored energy – it doesn’t do anything sitting around. Fortunately, we can liberate it and put that energy back out there where people need it.

“I BELIEVE THAT WHEN YOU SUPPORT WOMEN IT GIVES THEM THE FREEDOM TO TAP INTO THEIR OWN CREATIVITY AND ENTERPRISING NATURE.”



Bhumika, a tailor, with her sewing machine

UPDATE FROM OUR PARTNERS:

The Sengenge Self-Help Project

The Sengenge Self-Help Project is a women’s group from the rural area of Siaya County, Kenya, on the shores of Lake Victoria. The area is drought-prone and poverty-stricken. The group consists of 20 women from age 18 to 70, all of whom have small market businesses. Even before receiving RSWR funds, the women were operating a Rural Savings and Loan plan. Each member saved Ksh 500 (\$4.60) per month, and the money was then loaned to individuals who needed it and returned with interest. They have used the RSWR funds to add to their revolving loan fund, so that the women may now take much larger loans to boost their small businesses.



Lucy preparing fish

The women had difficulty repaying recently, because Covid-19 government restrictions greatly affected their business income. However, they were given additional months to repay, and now all of them have done so. Eight members took second loans, ranging from \$100 to \$200 to expand their businesses. One of these women is Lucy.

Lucy is a member of SSHP who received \$100 to boost her existing fish business. She gets her fish from Lake Victoria. She goes out every morning, comes back home, and then deep fries the fish. She sells it to the local community. In the evening, she goes out again to sell at a nearby market. Lucy is on her second loan of \$100, having repaid the first.



RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES

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You can contribute to Right Sharing by saving used postage stamps. Visit www.rswr.org/stamp-program/ for more information and send your stamps to: Stamps for Right Sharing c/o Indianapolis First Friends, 3030 Kessler Blvd. East Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46220.

PLANNED GIVING

Consider making RSWR a part of your estate plan. Find out more at: www.rswr.org/planned-giving/

Food Aid for India

“The street vendors, petty traders and small shopkeepers have lost their business. Both women and men are out of work. The sudden declaration of curfew has worsened the livelihood of the poor and daily bread winner’s life.” – Dr. R. Kannan

3,000 women are being supported with food aid in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, India. The women had to pause their businesses again for the second wave of Covid-19 and subsequent lockdown. The funds for food aid to India were wired in July to RSWR partners, who agreed to take on the responsibility of distributing the aid to the women. They will send Rs. 2,000 (27\$) to each woman’s bank account. Your support, which goes directly to our partners, is allowing them to engage with their communities when it is safe to do so. Thank you for giving to the women’s groups in India throughout the pandemic and beyond.



RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES contributions are tax-deductible in the USA as allowable by law. RSWR is a 501(c)(3) organization; our tax identification number (EIN) is 31-1636209.

Right Sharing of World Resources

Jacqueline Stillwell
General Secretary

Sarah Northrop
Program Director

Caitlin Churchill
Communications
Director

Isabel Ringley
Senior Financial
Officer

Maggie Ellis
Executive Assistant

937.966.0314
rswr@rswr.org
www.rswr.org

