

Progress and Challenges of the Kiribati Women in Mapping

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SUMMARY

Kiribati Women in Mapping (KWIM) is a non-government organization dedicated to empowering women and young girls to build meaningful careers in mapping. KWIM provides opportunities for school dropouts, equipping them with practical skills and valuable experience in geospatial technologies. The organization also supports women who are financially dependent on their husbands, including those in abusive relationships, by offering training and pathways to independence through employment. At its core, KWIM thrives on the principle of women helping and supporting other women to develop their skills, fostering a community of empowerment and mutual growth. □ □ Through training programs, workshops, and collaborations with regional and international partners, KWIM has enabled women to contribute to vital projects such as resource mapping, infrastructure mapping, and climate change impacts. These initiatives not only benefit the participants but also address pressing challenges faced by Kiribati as a Small Island Developing State. □ □ Despite its achievements, KWIM faces challenges. Limited resources, societal norms, and financial constraints often hinder the organization's ability to expand its programs and reach more women. Additionally, raising awareness about the value of women in mapping remains an ongoing effort. □ □ Looking ahead, KWIM is committed to overcoming these challenges by: □ 1) Expanding Access: Increasing training opportunities and reaching more women across Kiribati. □ 2) Strengthening Partnerships: Building stronger relationships with local and international organizations to secure funding and technical support. □ 3) Advocating for Change: Promoting gender equality in the workplace and encouraging more inclusive policies. □ □ KWIM's story is one of resilience and hope. It shows how empowering women with skills and opportunities can transform lives and communities. By addressing both the progress made and the challenges faced, this presentation will inspire others to support and replicate similar initiatives. KWIM is a testament to the belief that when women rise, entire nations rise with them.