



# 50 things you should know about ActionAid International Kenya

## Advancing Women's Rights

**1.** ActionAid International Kenya (AAIK) initiated and supported Women's Movements such as Sauti ya Wanawake in Coast (2001), PIENGIMA Women Association in Siaya (2002), Budalangi Women's Lobby Group in Busia (2004), Pambazuko la Wanawake in the Western Region (2008), Tangubeli Women Network in Baringo (2009), GOCESO Women Network in Kuria (2011), Nyarongi Women Network in Homabay (2012), KOMESI Women Group in Pokot (2012), Iloodokilani Women Network in Kajiado (2013), Kathonzweni Women Movement in Makueni (2016), Kamuthe Women's Rights Networks in Garissa (2016), Young Urban Women in Nairobi (2017), and

Isiolo Voice of Women Network in Isiolo, (2018). These groups are at the forefront of fighting Violence Against Women and Girls, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Child Marriages, and Land and Property Rights Violations in organizing and growing women's rights networks for collective power and action.

**2.** Women save our beloved sons and husbands campaign- In 2000 women in Wajir and Mandera communities were mobilized to discourage their sons and husbands from going into resource-based conflict.

**3.** ActionAid International Kenya initiated girls' and boys' Forums in early 2000s. The forums have



21094. Through the project 10,000 community members understood women's rights. 3,317 cases have been reported through the short code, 456 survivors have received counseling services, 371 have received medical support, 297 have received legal aid, 349 have been reported to the police and give OB numbers, 98 cases have been presented in court 5 convictions, 15 cases have been referred to existing shelters, 81 cases went through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

instilled life skills and built girls' confidence to clear education and take leadership positions at the children's assembly. This year 2022, In Mwakirunge ward, Mombasa County a class 8 girl is representing her ward as a Minister of Participation at the county level

4. In the early 2000s, ActionAid International Kenya worked with over 50 community-based groups and networks of People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA's) to champion the rights of PLWHA's and bring about change in the stigma of people living with HIV. Further, AAIK supported the development of the HIV/AIDS Bill in 2004 which ensures the protection of rights and provision of resources to people living with HIV/AIDS.

5. Holding the Stick Campaign in Mandera, Northern Kenya- In the Takaba tradition, a stick signifies authority. In the elders' council, for example, a person speaking is handed a stick to imply that they have permission to speak. In 2003, ActionAid spearheaded advocacy interventions that resulted in women being allowed to carry the stick. This symbolised that they had been allowed to voice their concerns within the community.

6. In 2015 the Access to Justice project was launched with the aim to increase awareness on the impact of violence on women and girls as well as facilitate survivors access to medical, legal and psychosocial support through mobile communications technology

7. In 2016 ActionAid International Kenya Launched the End Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) campaign. Which has led to the rescue of over 650 girls from FGM who were housed in safe houses. Over 20,000 girls have been empowered to Say No to FGM and almost 10,000 boys are supporting them. With our support, more than 370 young mothers and almost 12,000 children are back in school. We have also been able to transform 50 cutters and over 1600 religious leaders to join the fight against FGM. Most importantly, door-to-door community engagement program has reached over 60,000 people to gain their understanding and support for their girls to be safe and for all their children to benefit from education. The campaigns were done in Kajiado, West Pokot, Garissa, Isiolo, Migori, Narok, and Bungoma Counties

8. In 2016, ActionAid International Kenya worked with two parliamentary groups on national campaigns that touched on Community land. They included, the Coastal MPs and Pastoralist MPS forums, as well as 837 community members who put pressure on the enactment of Community Land Law. The Community Land Act 2016 anchors women's land agenda in communal settings.

9. In 2016 ActionAid International Kenya rolled out the Unpaid Care Work Campaign which brought recognition to the unpaid care work that women do and sensitized over 1000 women to evaluate time spent on various



categories of care and work. The campaigns were held in Kilifi, Mombasa and Baringo Counties.

10. Chagua Mama Campaign' and 'Know Your Woman Aspirant' media campaigns. In 2022 ActionAid International Kenya launched the two campaigns with an intention of raising women leaders' profiles among voters The campaigns led to the launch of the Women in Political Leadership Strategy 2022, through the campaign 38 women who were supported were elected to various political positions.

11. ActionAid International Kenya girls' focused projects such as the construction of over 400 safe toilets, over 400 classrooms, distribution of sanitary towels to over 500 schools and hygiene talks have ensured children from marginalized communities in AAIK Local Rights Programs (LRPs) have benefited from such interventions.

12. ActionAid International Kenya has facilitated over 2000 women across 37 counties to access training in business management, and savings groups such as Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) to improve their livelihoods.

13. In 2021, ActionAid International Kenya formed a National Coalition on Women

Economic Empowerment (WEE). The coalition is using feminist and intersectional approach, as the basis for strategic advocacy to shape policy and increase funding to advance gender equality, address structural barriers, and foster women's and girl's voice and power as economic actors across all levels. Through the coalition, AAIK formulated a National Policy on Women Economic Empowerment (NPWEE) which provides a framework for ensuring financial inclusion and integration of women in the overall long term economic development agenda, in line with the Constitution of Kenya, Vision 2030 and the global and regional commitments.

14. To enhance climate justice, ActionAid International Kenya has been at the forefront of fighting industrialized agricultural bases on agrochemicals to agroecological farming methods. Over 400 community members from Isiolo, Kajiado, Baringo, Taita Taveta, Mombasa, and Kilifi Counties have been trained on agroecological farming methods and kitchen gardens.

15. Through Women led movements such as Sauti Ya Wanawake, Isiolo Voice of Women Network, women have successfully lobbied for inclusion in local decision-making structures and processes, occupying leadership positions in committees such as schools, hospitals, and water projects.

16. ActionAid International Kenya completed resource centres/ safe houses in Kongelai (2002) West Pokot County, Budalangi (2002) Busia County, Kieni (2004) Nyeri County (2004), Narok County (20004), Garissa County (2019), Bamburi (2021) Mombasa County, and Kuria (2022) Migori County Local Rights Programs (LRPS). Through the centres, violation cases are reported and acted upon.

## Building Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience communities



17. ActionAid International Kenya supported the Sugar Campaign for Change (SUCAM) which championed the adoption of Sugar Act in 2001. The Act led to better management of sugar industry and increased revenue for farmers.
18. In 2002 ActionAid International Kenya supported the “Dykes Kwanza” translated “Dykes First Campaign” that called upon the government to do intensive repairs to the Budalangi dykes which prevented the river from overflowing.
19. In 2003 ActionAid International Kenya supported the community in the Yala swamp to fight land grabbing by Dominion Farms LTD.
20. Dakatch Community Land case - In 2011, ActionAid International Kenya and the Dakatch community in Malindi County won a land related case that forced a multi-national biofuel company to reduce its leasehold from 50,000 to 5,000 hectares ensuring that their lives are uninterrupted.
21. Getting on board anti-poverty campaign- In 2015 ActionAid International Kenya launched a campaign (using a bus) that was intended to challenge the G8 leaders to support, rather than undermine, the efforts of Africa’s poor

to overcome poverty, injustice, and social exclusion.

22. Women to Kilimanjaro Campaign- In 2016 ActionAid International Kenya facilitated a group of women to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania as a symbol of women’s struggle to achieve land rights. The campaign led to the development of a charter of demands that engaged 44 women from 22 counties. The Charter played a key role in lobbying for women’s land rights. 785 women obtained title deeds individually and another 215 obtained title deeds jointly with their spouses.
23. Marereni Salt Belt Land Case. In 2021, ActionAid International Kenya supported the Malindi Rights Forum during a court case that halted the destruction of their homes and sources of livelihood including mangroves, coconut palms, and cashew trees in 800 acres of land that was being claimed by a salt company.
24. ActionAid International Kenya has rehabilitated water sources and points in Isiolo (Isiolo County), Kamuthe (Garissa County), Marafa (Kilifi County), Elangatauas (Kajiado County), and Kathonzweni (Makueni County), Kishushe (Taita Taveta County), Narok County. For example, in 2019 at Kitise and Mukameni in Makueni County Safaricom Foundation, in partnership with ActionAid International Kenya launched a water project.
25. ActionAid International Kenya has supported food security programs for over 1000 households through innovative community consulted solutions such as drought-resistant crops, irrigation schemes strengthening agroecology kitchen gardens in schools and at homes, and cash transfers. The humanitarian support has been done in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) Counties of Isiolo, Garissa, Kajiado and Baringo

26. Tax Justice Campaign 2013. ActionAid International Kenya mobilized various stakeholders, including the youth via Activista to influence the national and county governments to implement progressive tax reforms by ending harmful tax incentives given to multi-national companies, to enhance revenue generation for improved public service delivery.
27. Currently, ActionAid International Kenya is working on a Climate Justice Campaign, aimed at fighting against industrial agriculture and fossil fuels, and modeling agroecology and green initiatives as solutions and pathways out of climate change. Interventions to address the climate crisis have paid off through the adoption of the Loss and Damage Fund at COP27.

## Influencing Policy and Governance



28. In 1996, ActionAid International Kenya supported the constitutional review process that incorporated social and economic rights as stipulated in the UN Declaration of human rights
29. In 2008, ActionAid International Kenya developed the decentralization policy that was mainstreamed into vision 2030’s Medium-Term Plan.

30. In 2008, ActionAid International Kenya spearheaded advocacy work for amending the political parties bill and financing of political parties under the auspices of the Coalition for Accountable Political Party Financing (CAPF)
31. During the constitution review process in 2010, ActionAid International Kenya mobilized communities through civic education, culminating in over 12,000 submissions on various positions and the dissemination of 300,000 copies of the draft to communities.
32. In 2010 ActionAid International Kenya participated in the formulation of the National Gender Based Violence Framework and a related National Plan of Action.
33. In 2015 ActionAid International Kenya in coordination with the County Government of West Pokot County initiated the Agriculture Sector Bill which sought to strengthen representation of women smallholder farmers in key decision-making platforms touching on agriculture.
34. In 2015 ActionAid International Kenya worked with other stakeholders to mobilize support and subsequent realization of the Protection against Domestic Violence Act that now provides maximum protection and relief to survivors of domestic violence, including spouse, children, and dependent persons.
35. In 2015 ActionAid International Kenya supported The Green Amendment Campaign (GAC), a popular initiative seeking to amend the constitution of the Republic of Kenya to put in place the gender rule (sensitization was done using #ActOnGenderRule hashtag). The campaign brought together women collectives throughout the country and 1.4 million signatures were presented in parliament.

**36.** Since 1972 ActionAid International Kenya interactions have led to the formation of over 50 movements advocating and championing different thematic areas and policies. 50 movements, Community-Based Organizations (CBOS) and Not-for-profits organizations are now in operation. They include Merti Integrated Development Programme (MID-P), Pokot Women Empowerment Organization (POWEO), Kilifi Citizens Forum (KCF), Embu Citizen Oversight Network, Bare Care Centre, Womankind Kenya, Mwakirunge Youth, Malindi Rights Forum and Usafi ni Uhai CBO among others.

## Youth Advocacy Programs



**37.** ActionAid International Kenya through the Global Platform (GP) works with Youth movements to strengthen and advocate for Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS), Civic Participation, Zero Violence and Gender Based Violence (GBV), Climate Justice and Economic Opportunities and Decent Work for Youth (EODWY). The youth movements dubbed Activista have presence in 13 Counties with a National Secretariat in Nairobi. In addition to Activista, the platform initiated Ecovista (deals with issues touching on climate justice) in 6 Counties and Artivista (deals with art related issues) in 5 Counties.

**38.** The Global Platform has conducted over 100 online advocacy campaigns through social media platforms such as Twitter chats and Facebook attracting an online reach of

over 16,000,000.

**39.** In 2018, the SDG Ambassador was launched aiming to co-create a vibrant network of young social entrepreneurs who create decent jobs for young people and empower women living in poverty and exclusion. 6 social enterprises won cash prizes amounting to 500,000 KES (5000 USD) and a customized mentorship program worth 350,000 KES (3500 USD). Signs Media TV is one of the social enterprises who benefitted from the cash prize. The media house advocates for inclusivity in media houses and has an online coverage in over 37 counties in Kenya. The station has a total number of 43 employees with 60% being People with Disabilities (PWDs).

**40.** In 2019, the CampusMeToo a Student-Led, Pan-African Movement was established aimed at fighting against sexual harassment from staff towards students in higher learning institutions. The movement is currently operating in 18 institutions such as the University of Nairobi, Kenyatta University, Technical University of Kenya, Moi University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya College of Accountancy, Great Lakes University of Kisumu, Maseno University, Zetech University, Cooperative University, African Institute of Research & Development Studies, Kenya Institute of Management, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology among others.

**41.** In March 2021 Actvista Nairobi chapter (an ActionAid International Kenya youth initiative) together with the Youth Serving Organisations (YSO) Consortium presented their memorandum to the joint committee on Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) in parliament on the lack of youth participation in the process. Hence lack of transparency.

**42.** The Global Platform Kenya has been conducting a series of feminist hangouts or feminist Fridays. The hangouts bring together youth from Kenya together by creating a safe space for young women to deconstruct socialization, challenge patriarchy and embrace power.

## Improve Access to Education in Kenya



**43.** Since 1972 ActionAid International Kenya, Child Sponsorship Program has contributed to education programs such as buying school uniforms, paying school fees for vulnerable children, building schools, providing school materials, and after school extra-curriculum activities such as 4K Club and girls forum across the 47 counties in Kenya.

**44.** In 1999 The Elimu Yetu Coalition (Education for All) was set to support global educational campaigns. The aim was to influence national policy to ensure that every child in Kenya has access to high-quality primary education. The coalition was instrumental in lobbying for the free education policy in 2002.

**45.** In 2002 ActionAid International Kenya supported the dissemination of the Children's Act together with Children's Department Offices so that parents who refuse to enrol their children to school are aware of the consequences.

**46.** ActionAid International Kenya School feeding programs through relief operations have enabled millions of children to stay in school.

**47.** In 2019, ActionAid International Kenya launched the Big me Campaign, a dress-up day with a difference. In this campaign children are given a chance to think big and take a magical trip to the future and express what they want to be when they grow up. The campaign has led to the construction of classrooms for pupils in vulnerable communities and is also involved in the fight against FGM.

**48.** In 2022, ActionAid International Kenya launched the Education for Life (EFL) project which has worked with over 5,000 highly marginalized 10-19 year old, out-of-school girls, and boys in the counties of Isiolo, Garissa, Migori, Kisumu, and Kilifi.

## Improve Access to Health Facilities

**49.** In 2002, ActionAid International Kenya supported the Kenya Coalition on Access to Essential Medicine (KCAEM) to campaign for changes in the legislature including the re-amendment of the Intellectual Property Act (IPA) which allowed generic drugs to be imported for the treatment of HIV.

**50.** In early 2000s, ActionAid International Kenya supported the construction of Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) centres in select locations across the country. The VCT centres played an essential role in the prevention of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection and offered tailored health education to help the communities reduce risk behaviours and protect themselves.



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## **Power in People: 50 Years of Changing Lives**

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