

A photograph showing two individuals, likely of African descent, working on a large, dark, metallic engine component. The person on the right is wearing a blue beanie, a blue and purple short-sleeved shirt, and a colorful beaded bracelet. They are both focused on the task, with their hands positioned to adjust or inspect the engine. The background is a textured, grey wall with a blue-painted section. The overall scene suggests a technical or industrial setting.

act:onaid

ANNUAL REPORT
2021



Educator Facilitator Chatherine Muthoni Njuki conducts a literacy session at Kibaoni Catch-Up Center, Kilifi on November 12, 2021. Consolata Makokha- ActionAid International Kenya



Emergence of robust communities
amid disasters

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

About ActionAid International Kenya

AAIK is un-apologetic in advancing women's rights and ensuring that women living in poverty and exclusion are at the center of our work in Kenya. We commit to working with Women, Children, Youth and strategically with males/ men to claim and realize their constitutional rights through working within three main pillars:

- Empowerment
- Solidarity
- Campaigning

Vision

A world without poverty and injustice in which every person enjoys their right of life of dignity.

Mission

To work with poor and excluded people to eradicate poverty and Injustice.

Our core values

- Mutual respect
- Humility
- Equity and justice
- Solidarity with the poor
- Courage of conviction
- Honesty and transparency
- Independence

Contents

Programme Priorities	19
Strategic Objective 1 - Women Rights	19
Strategic Objective 2 - Governance and Youth	23
Strategic Objective 3 - Livelihoods and resilience	29
Partnerships	36
Finance	44
Directorate – HR, Communication & Audit	51
Human Resources and Organizational Development	51
Communications	51
Fundraising	55
Challenges and Lessons Learnt	58
In 2021 AAIK experienced several challenges that included the following	58
During programme work implementation, AAIK learnt the following lessons	59
Case Studies	62
AAIK Board of Directors	69
General Assembly Members	70
ActionAid International Kenya Staff 2021	71

Abbreviations

This report tells stories of communities emerging from challenges and recapping their stories of hope and renaissance in 2021.

AA	ActionAid
AAI	ActionAid International
AADK	ActionAid Denmark
AAIK	ActionAid International Kenya
AAUK	ActionAid United Kingdom
ADP	Annual Development Plan
AEWG	Accelerated Education Working Group
AGYW	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
AiE	Accountability in Emergencies
AJS	Access to Justice and Security
ALM	Africa-Led Movement
ASAL	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
AU	African Union
BBI	Building Bridges Initiative
CDMCs	Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMCs)

CEA	Community Engagement and Accountability
CHRCE	Centre for Human Rights and Civic Education
CHS	Core Humanitarian Standard
CHV	Community Health Volunteer
CHW	Community Health Worker
CJ	Climate Justice
CMR	County Model Review
CRP	Community Resource Person
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSP	Country Strategic Paper
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DFID	Department for International Development
DPRFs	Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECDE	Early Childhood Development and Education
EF	Educator facilitator

EfL	Education for Life
ERM	Enterprise Risk Management framework
FCDO	Foreign and Commonwealth Development office
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FOAA	Friends Of ActionAid
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GBP	Great Britain Pound
GEF	Generation Equality Forum
GIMAC	Gender Is My Agenda Campaign
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GRPS	Gender Responsive Public Services
GP	Global Platform
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
HRDs	Human Rights Defenders
HRW	Human Rights Watch
IHART	International Humanitarian Action & Resilience Team
IEC	Information Education and Communication

IEP	Individual Education Plan
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
IP	International Platform
IPC	Integrated Phase Classification
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
IWN	Iloondokilani Women Network
KEPSA	Kenya Private Sector Alliance
KHPT	Kenya Humanitarian Partnership Team
KSh	Kenya Shillings
LGBTIQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer
LIPE	Living In Poverty and Exclusion
LRP	Local Rights Programme
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoLPP	Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning
NDMA	National Drought Management Authority

NG-CDF	National Government – Constituency Development Fund
NLC	National Land Commission
OOSG	Out of School Girls
PADV	Protection Against Domestic Violence
PRIDE	Promoting Rights, Inclusion, Diversity and Equality
PRRP	Participatory Review and Reflection Process
PSU	Partner Support Unit
PWD	People with Disability
SDGEA	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SHEA	Sexual Harassment Exploitation and Abuse
SMS	Short Message Service
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
TNCs	Transnational Corporations
TTHRW	Taita Taveta Human Rights Watch
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
UCW	Unpaid Care Work

UHC	Universal Health Coverage
VAW/G	Violence Against Women/Girls
VSLA	Village Savings and Lending Association
VTC	Vocational Training Center
WEE	Women Economic Empowerment
WGICLA	Working Group on the Implementation of Community Land Act 2016
WGQ	Washington Group of Questions
WOKIKE	Womankind Kenya
YSO	Youth Serving Organisations
YUW	Young Urban Women



Samuel Muga
Board Chairperson
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FOREWORD

Greetings from ActionAid International Kenya

We are delighted to take this opportunity to think through our accomplishments in the past one year – 2021, as a team, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. We bring you stories of resilience amidst great challenges. In one way or the other, you- the reader, our donors and supporters have been very helpful through the year and hence our gratitude. We witnessed the increase in cases of teenage pregnancies, the shadow pandemic of COVID-19. Recovery from COVID-19's effects on the economy due to restricted movements threatened our ability to deliver as well as mobilization of funds but we felt your support and generosity.

The year also saw the climate related shocks of the locust invasion and the widespread famine across the country. We narrate stories of communities emerging from challenges and retelling their stories of hope and resurgence. It is in 2021 that the drought in Horn of Africa became threatening and had all signs of becoming chronic leading to ActionAid's commitment to ensure that communities developed preparedness plans.

Our partners continued to engage with communities at grassroots level to build their voice to challenge power and advocate for women's rights. AAIK brought together the leaders of the partner organizations together to share lessons learned and demand change at community level.

We continue to thank AAIK's Board of Directors for the commitment and sacrifice that has led AAIK to achieve its commitments in the 2021 calendar year. A team of 11 board members with the Executive Director as an Ex-officio member continues to play its oversight role to ensure we remain compliant to policies and regulations, as well as deliver

mission and vision of the organization both as a national organization and an affiliate member to AA Federation.

Below are the major highlights for the year:

- We continued to program in 16 counties across the country with a total of 38 partners directly implementing activities, and a host of other national, regional and international partners who support our work through different means including policy influencing, movement building or financing and other collaborative approaches. This year 2021, we have published seven researches spanning across different issue areas including women's economic empowerment, gender based violence, informal labour, baseline, midline and endline surveys. We also engaged in policy influencing across the country, working with five counties to pass relevant policies including Isiolo, Taita Taveta, Garissa, Baringo, Makueni and Homabay. We also supported the development of the National Women's Economic Empowerment Policy that is now at the cabinet level. Several other policies are still in progress.

- With your support we continued to champion women's rights and have been known to advocate for people living in poverty and exclusion, amidst internal growth and changing contexts. We supported women empowerment programmes including the Women's Rights Program II, Tackling Barriers to Girls' Education, Not Any Girl, Women among others, reaching a cross section of women with various issues countrywide. More women are now confident to have conversations on how, as a community they are tackling Gender Based Violence (GBV) more so, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAW/G).
- CampusMeToo, a movement of young university students is now active in seven universities with 4,000 young women challenging the long-lived sexual harassment in the higher learning institutions. We showcase stories of young women challenging violence and sexual harassment within universities and institutions of higher learning in the country and engaging with the Ministry of Education and university management to put in place policies and structures to address this vice.
- Through the catch-up centres, in a bid to address the challenges of hard-to-reach Out of School Girls (OOSG), AAIK reached 5,701 adolescent girls and young women through different approaches to improve their chances at life including return to school, TVET, apprenticeship and entrepreneurship. Those who opted for the last three have gone ahead to receive startup kits to begin Income Generating Activities (IGAs). We have engaged with leadership processes for women and showcased policy advocacy with duty bearers and government at national and subnational level.
- We bring you stories of Women's Economic Empowerment and how families are adapting to change through capacity building and advocacy. Through the Women's Economic Empowerment program, we were able to reach 750 women with messages to support advocacy work on women's economic empowerment. We highlight cases of communities challenging land grabs and the actions of investment in community land.

- Our work around challenging land grabs against multinational corporations continued, with policy advocacy targeting different duty bearers aimed at ensuring women's right to ownership of land and security of tenure.
- Through social media, we conducted various campaigns around topical/ thematic issues including but not limited to #WEE, **#EndFGM**, **#COP26**, **#16DaysofActivism** and #EducationForLife, reaching over seven million (7m) impressions particularly on Twitter and Facebook. Through COVID-19 programming, we were able to directly reach at least 51,000 people and over 10 million Kenyans through different means including radio, television, roadshows, and social media. We were able to distribute 89,000 COVID-19 kits and PPEs across different counties. We thus joined the Peoples Vaccine Alliance to continue to call for vaccine equity between the Global North and Global South. AAIK continued to monitor vaccine hesitancy in the country and engaged with communities to access vaccination.
- Staff capacity development and trainings have since resumed to ensure that we live our values despite the effects of the pandemic.

We are confident to say that none of these achievements would have been realized without the financial support from our supporter and donors. We thank all our partners, beneficiaries, donors, county authorities, funding agencies and the national government for walking with us and look forward to engaging you again. Interact with this report, and journey with us as we begin another Decade of Action against poverty and injustices.

Introduction

ActionAid International Kenya began its operations in Kenya in 1972 as a non-profit, non-religious, non-partisan development organization to end poverty and injustice particularly for people living in poverty and exclusion. AAIK is registered in Kenya as a local organization with a local board and is an affiliate of the ActionAid International Federation. The organization is committed to ending poverty and injustice in solidarity with communities living in poverty and exclusion, mobilizing women, young wo/men, and their groups to shift power to them and facilitate their leadership in their own development issues by holding duty bearers accountable to Protect, Respect and Fulfil their rights in line with the Constitution of Kenya (2010).

AAIK works in sixteen counties with local organizations as Partners. We have a two-tier governance structure of the General Assembly and a Board elected from this assembly. The Executive Director together with the Senior Management Team run the day-to-day operations and make up the AAIK's decision-making structure. The Organizational Strategy, Our Rights for Justice, has three broad Strategic Objectives:

Strategic Objective 1:

Empower women and girls Living In Poverty and Exclusion (LIPE) to challenge violence and secure political participation.

Strategic Objective 2:

Facilitate young people and communities LIPE to realize their rights to a just and democratic governance for access to GRPS and advancement of economic opportunities (young people).

Strategic Objective 3:

To advance for Women and communities LIPE to secure sustainable and resilient livelihoods to disaster and climate change.

Country's Context

The Year 2021 was marked with different issues related to women's rights programming. With many of the political protagonists increasing their campaigns, there was heightened tensions across the country with an increase in violence against women. According to a Human Rights Watch (HRW) report there was a spike in GBV overall in 2021, attributed to varied reasons including COVID-19.



Anastacia Plilan (white leso) and GRACC Project Officer Lucy Ntongai (red t-shirt) at Participatory Review and Reflection meetings with Orus community members in Tangelbei ward, Baringo County in September 2021. (Photo Credit: AALK/ Brian Kibet)

Moreover, the strain between the President and his Deputy polarized the country and created political differences that were also marked along ethnic lines. The period also saw an increase in the cost of living with the increase in fuel prices and essential commodities making many rural and women-led families unable to afford the essentials. The economic and social disruptions induced by the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic still further eroded progress in poverty reduction in Kenya, forcing an estimated two million more Kenyans into poverty, majority of them being women. AAIK is a member of the People's Vaccine Alliance that advocates for vaccine equity and sharing of vaccine patents between the Global North and Global South.

The increasing drought and failed rainfall in most parts of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) regions in Kenya also heralded difficulties for families as many lost their livelihoods to droughts and children dropped out of school in search of water and sustenance. AAIK was able to source some funding from Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund (DPRF), but this was inadequate to meet the need. Inter-clan conflicts witnessed in Baringo and Isiolo

counties also led to displacement of communities and loss of lives, leaving many families in the region to be women or child-headed, despite a government-led disarmament exercise in the areas.

Internally, AAIK took several measures to enhance performance and deepen our work in the communities. The organization held an annual plans and budgets meeting for all staff. This was conducted on the back of the annual Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP) conducted with the partners at community level to reflect and learn, as well as plan for 2022.

To enhance better service delivery to the community and relationship between, and among the partners, the AAIK held a partners' meeting that also reflected on policy guidelines with the partners. This exercise was fruitful and underscored the message of a community-centered approach to programming for the partners. AAIK also held meetings with funding affiliates, including the ActionAid United Kingdom (AAUK) Board to share experience and explore enhanced collaboration and localization of interventions. This deepened relationships and programme understanding between affiliates.

1. Programme Priorities

1.1 Strategic Objective 1 - Women Rights

1.1.1 Creating a safe environment for women and girls by challenging VAW/G

The Local Rights Programmes (LRPs) and projects during the year utilized and commemorated various international and national days as advocacy platforms to advocate for issues affecting women and girls, and through these fora, commitments were given, and the voices of women and girls were heard as highlighted below:

- We continue to build the confidence of girls to voice their issues to duty bearers, a girl from Mwakirunge was elected as representative of children in Mombasa where the children presented a petition to the duty bearers on issues affecting children.
- In Kamuthe LRP, during the Zero Tolerance Day to FGM, 10,064 people were reached with the ANTI-FGM message.
- In Elang'ata Wuas LRP, through Iloodokilani Women Network (IWN) celebrated the International Literacy Day in Kajiado County where they shared the situational report that looked at gaps in accessing bursaries and other financial opportunities to advance girls education. The governor and other government officials were able to commit to increasing bursary allocations and ensuring needy and performing girls are accessing such funds to further their education.
- In Marafa LRP, petition during International Women's Day resulted in a commitment by the Kilifi County Government to roll out a framework on ending teenage pregnancies where the gender policy is currently being developed.
- Young people participated in the 2021 International Women's Day challenge where they approximately reached over 2,849,777 million people and over 31M impressions from 1,741 tweets through hash tag #IChoosetoChallenge

Under the Global Platforms, the CampusMeToo project trained and mentored students as ambassadors to identify sexual harassment and its manifestation among survivors and to support student-led activism against sexual harassment from staff. This resulted in a government directive in 2021 to all institutions of higher learning to implement the 5 student-led demands.

We have currently on boarded 18 new institutions to join the movement in the country and instituted a regional hub incorporating Tanzania and Uganda. We reached over 6,000 students within 2021.

'49% of women and 24% men had experience sexual harassment from staff members at the university. 66% of students' victims were sexually harassed by a professor or lecturer.'



(Photo Credit: ActionAid International Kenya)

Evelyne Khaemba, Executive director Pambazuko La Wanawake Magharibi addresses stakeholders of Access to Justice & Security programme launch in Nyalenda, Kisumu on May 31, 2021.
(Photo Credit: AAIK/ Consolata Makokha)



The LRPs and programme areas continue to sensitize communities on rights and the process of Access to Justice and Security (AJS) by popularizing the SMS platform and available referral system through road shows, radio talk shows and community fora through which approximately **4,528** community members have been reached in various LRPs. **1,517,000** bulk messages were sent out on the SMS platform. In collaboration with the system operators across the LRPs, the number of cases reported is increasing. 369 cases were reported in 2021- nine (9) are ongoing in court and 14 pending at police in Mwakirunge. Nine (9) convictions, 89 cases received medical aid, 113 legal aid, 1,003 psychosocial support and 58 mediated cases. Working with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) and religious community, a Safe Space tool kit was developed in 2021 for engagements going forward to ensure that these excluded communities are not violated.

We continue to implement a survivor-centered approach where survivors of violence have been supported in various areas to be able to support themselves and continue with their lives economically

and emotionally. Kishushe LRP identified 30 young mothers from the Kishushe Vocational Training Center (VTC) to register for craftmanship examinations for certification. In Mwakirunge, 60 young mothers, 51 girls are undergoing guidance and counselling, 240 women on life skills, while 250 hard-to-reach women in Kishushe were trained on savings and loaning. 40 young women were given cash transfers to start their businesses in Kishushe.

In partnership with various stakeholders and in various platforms, the LRPs continue to agitate and advocate for safe and secure environment for women and girls from violations. Kamuthe LRP together with the Garissa County gender technical working group developed an action plan towards safety of women and girls. Under the Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) project advocacy coalitions in Nairobi, Isiolo, Taita Taveta and Mombasa were established.

The programme areas continue to collaborate with schools to ensure boys and girls in school are guided using the girl's forum manual on rights awareness, confidence building and life skills training.

The patrons work closely with women's rights networks to create safe spaces for girls in school.

On policy influencing, under various platforms especially the gender technical working groups at subcounty, county and national level, we have influenced development of policies and advocated for enforcement of available ones. AAIK lobbied for enforcement of the PADV in Kishushe, supported finalizing the zero draft gender policy and implementation framework in Marafa, Kilifi and Garissa. These platforms have provided an advocacy stage for the women movements to seek redress and accountability from actors in the referral system on delayed justice or non-commitment in the access to justice work.

1.1.2 Women in Leadership

In collaboration with Global Platform (GP), 90 aspirants were trained in leadership, development of manifestos and requirements for vying in various political positions ahead of the 2022 general elections. The leaders were representatives from Marafa, Bamburi, Nyokai and Kathonzwani.

Together with stakeholders drawn from 21 organizations that advance women's rights, we were able to commission development of a Women in Political Leadership strategy in 2021 that will essentially be the springboard that we will use to propel women into elective positions in the 2022 general elections. This will seek to enrich the Green Amendment work already set in motion and led by AAIK by actualizing the outcome envisioned in the campaign to ensure that we have more women in elective positions as anticipated in the Kenyan constitution.

1.2 Strategic Objective 2 - Governance and Youth

1.2.1 Enhancing youth employability and ultimately improving their livelihoods.

A study on Economic Opportunity and Decent Work for Youth in light of Covid-19 was conducted and the results would be part of the evidence that AAIK will use in advocacy work to seek for economic opportunities for the youth.



Youths speaking on 'Government-Led Economic Opportunities that young people leverage on. (Photo Credit: Global Platform Kenya)

This study, together with other studies on status of TVETs access by the youth (conducted by Women Empowerment Link) would form part of the wider advocacy evidence initiatives going forward. We continue to build the capacity of youth in Nyokal, Kilifi, Kathonzweni, Marafa and Kishushe on decent work.

In addition, GP championed #EconomyYaVijana that trended at number three (3) in Kenya with over 21 million impressions and a reach of over 2,856,396 people. As a result, for instance in Baringo and Kilifi, young people were able to access government revolving funds and start micro business. 59 young people were given direct opportunity to join TVET while Activista in Kilifi got KSh.750,000 support from US State Department opened a fish shop at Kibao Kiche. Over 100 young people and community members were trained on digital literacy. More than 100 young people have been able to utilize digital spaces for blogging and earned a living with some joining Ajira Digital for online employment.

1.2.2 Public Services That Are Gender-Responsive (GRPS)

Over 150 youths have been trained on GPRS and how to conduct evidence-based social audits to track the provision of Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS) in Nyokal and Bamburi LRPs.

In addition, the team identified gaps in housing and staffing, particularly in health facilities within Nyokal. Working with Homa Bay County Government and the community, the team engaged with Nyalkinyi

Health Center, Makongeni Health Center, and Yimbo Dispensary on the report developed. Additionally, the women's movement in the coastal region, Bamburi LRP, mounted a demonstration to demand that projects be completed. This is an example of how women's social groups have developed the capacity to organize peaceful protests to demand accountability for government-related projects. This has come because of ongoing capacity building in GRPS, advocacy, and campaigning. GP trainers led these training sessions.

2021 saw the Youth Serving Organisations (YSO) Consortium being officially launched and the signing of the YSO Memorandum by 24 pioneer youth organisations, including the GP Kenya. The YSO Consortium ensures that young people in Kenya now have a legitimate, organised, and structured body across the 47 counties to voice their issues. Through the YSOs, young people got a voice in national conversation including the BBI where they made a presentation of their asks. This has provided a platform for collective and increased advocacy on GRPS, young people meaningful participation in political spaces, democratic participation

and leadership, and demand for employment opportunities and decent work for young people.

During the year 2021, we had a total of 442 young people appointed in both formal and informal positions enhancing their participation in civic and democratic spaces including the COVID committees, school boards, water users' and peace committees. Communities and young people were mobilized to undertake advocacy campaigns at county level by communities through our partners leading to the re-allocation of resources and prioritization, increase state accountability on revenue allocation and the completion of stalled projects for example in Homabay, Kilifi and Baringo there by enabling more than 40,000 community members to access of quality GRPS (education, water, and health).

In Marafa, Nyokal, Bamburi, Kathonziweni, Makima, Kamuthe, Kishushe, and Elangata Wuas LRPs, Isiolo and Baringo project areas, the communities through training by GP were able to undertake social audit, generate evidence and identify gaps through which they developed a community memorandum detailing their GRPS budget priorities.

This was presented in over 20 stakeholder meetings to duty bearers for inclusion during the 2021/2022 targeting county executive officers and other government officials. Kilifi also advocated for implementation of the Kilifi County Citizen Participation and Civic Education Act of 2020 and facilitated the distribution in the community. This gave the community needed information and power to demand for adequate GRPS.

1.2.3 Global Platform

By close of the year, the Global Platform trained 3,089 persons: 1,742 females and 1,347 males. We conducted 82 trainings through face to face and online platform and approximately 15,639 young people participated in our youth hub activities including Youth Cafés, Usawa Forums, ArtSplash, Feminist Hangout, Masterclasses, YouLead Summit and The Young Feminist Forum. Through mainstream and digital media platforms, our campaigns with young activists reached approximately 46,197,062 people through community radio, TV, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

A group of 20 communication trainees drawn from various Activista chapters with two Inspirators (trainers) at the Global Platform Nairobi on October 8, 2021. (Photo Credit: AAIK/ Darwin Wangeci)



With the youth unemployment and underemployment worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, GP Kenya collaborated with other YSOs to empower young people to campaign and demand for Economic Opportunity and Decent Work. We conducted forums and twitter campaigns demanding sustainable solutions to youth employment situation that had been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. A key outcome of the Youth Livelihood campaign was the launch of the 'Unheard Voices' Research report that collected stories of young people's economic situation that served as the basis of advocacy tool by young to local and national government to provide better response to youth livelihood. We facilitated young people to amplify the findings of the report through mainstream media and digital media using the hashtag #EconomyYaVijana (Youth Economy). The Youth Café discussions evolved around issues of how existing affirmative funds by the government like Uwezo Fund, Youth Enterprise Development Fund, Access to Government Procurement Opportunities and Kenya Youth Employment Program could be structured and, managed better to address challenges faced by young people in the country

in accessing economic opportunities and decent work. In response, the government expanded a pilot program Kaazi Mtaani (jobs in the neighbourhood) to rural areas that had initially targeted the capital Nairobi and major cities, the government also scaled up the Ajira Digital Program (work online) that aims to prepare young people with the necessary skills to secure online jobs. In counties like Kilifi and Isiolo, the local government increased youth allocations in the Mbegu Fund (seed fund) for youth economic empowerment.

Consequently, Gender Responsive Public Service (GPRS) is core to AAIK's work, and the Global Platform worked with the young people to increase active participation in county and national decision-making process. From trainings on social accountability tools, policy analysis to trainings on creative activism the young people we work with were able to conduct community scorecards in public services including health and present memorandums on pertinent issues they wanted to be addressed.

Laikipia youths developed a policy brief on health issues that they presented to the County Government of Laikipia, Department of Health and held a round table discussion with the CEC Health Laikipia who committed to ensuring the implementation of the existing GBV policies, equip health centers with necessary equipment, and provide medical personnel.

The year 2021 also saw our youth constituent play a leading role in shifting power at the national level. As opinions were divided in the country on whether it was necessary and the right time to change the Kenyan constitution that was promulgated in 2010, we convened a five-day workshop at Mt. Kenya Global Platform premises that brought together young people from various parts of the country to analyze and dissect constitutional amendments provisions.

After the analysis, the young people, through the Activista Movement together with the Youth Serving Organizations consortium, developed and presented a memo to the Joint Parliament Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

Among the concerns was that the process had not incorporated youth's views and priorities sufficiently.

The Activista Memo and recommendations formed part of the Committee's report on the constitutionality and legality of the Constitutional Amendment Process popularly known as the BBI (Building Bridges Initiative). By the time of reporting, the Supreme Court of Kenya had nullified the Process. Elsewhere, young people in Kilifi through the local partner Kilifi Citizen Forum ensured that at least 70% of the citizens demands are included in the County Fiscal Strategy Paper and Budget Plans every budget year- a move that is strengthening the local governments public participation practices.

The CampusMeToo movement secured a key milestone in 2021 to end Sexual Harassment on campuses in Kenya from staffs to student. On 3rd February 2021, the Ministry of Education (MoE) in Kenya gave a directive to all vice chancellors of both public and private universities to implement the student-led demands after the students behind the CampusMeToo movement submitted a memorandum to the MoE last year on 25th November 2020 for them to intervene.

Some of the students' demands included all universities and colleges in the country to;

1. Facilitate all newly enrolled students to watch an educational resource on sexual harassment and make sexual harassment a topic in every induction for newly enrolled students
2. Conduct a yearly training for all staff on sexual harassment. At the end of the training, all staff must sign a standardized code of conduct and ethics. The movement has since expanded in major Government Universities and the team is currently spreading the movement to the University satellite campuses.

1.3 Strategic Objective 3- Livelihoods and resilience

1.3.1 Sustainable Agriculture

In advancing for Communities and women living in poverty and exclusion to secure their rights to land and other natural resources for improved livelihood through sustainable agriculture

During this year we committed to secure rights to land and natural resources for women living in poverty, support their participation, influencing and monitoring of policy processes, pursue

practice change and chart alternative, resilient and sustainable development pathways, and models. We also committed to diversifying their income through adoption of agroecological farming practices, financing for agriculture and climate action. Lastly, we committed to continue providing life-saving humanitarian assistance in compliance to the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) and ActionAid (AA) humanitarian signature and continued to advance localization agenda adopting the triple nexus of humanitarian, development, and peace owing to the recurrent, protracted, and complex nature of many crises in the forms of pandemic, droughts, floods, resource-based conflicts among other natural hazards that continue to be experienced in the country.

1.3.2 Women Rights to Land

Regarding promotion of women's rights to land, natural resources, and property, working with our local partners; the Malindi Rights Forum, Taita Taveta Human Rights Watch, Ujeri Uhumike CBO (Mombasa), Emayian Integrated Development Organization, Center for Human Rights and Civic

Education, SCODA, Nyarongi Paralegals (Homa Bay), Mid-P (Isiolo), and networks; the Coast Land Non-State Actors and the Land Sector Non-State Actors, and the Multi-Stakeholders Platform on Women's Land Rights, we reached out to over 5,625 people (4,127 women, 1,498 men) directly with awareness and information on women's rights to land. We also supported movements of women and young people to push for completion, adjudication, and settlement schemes to confer land rights to women through joint titling. With this, 1,573 women registered land in their names while another 56 registered land jointly with their spouses.

On the community land front, working with the Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning and the National Land Commission we facilitated 11 communities to undertake preliminary actions towards registration of their community land. Further, we facilitated our local partners to play an oversight role in the government processes seeking to fast-track registration of community lands to ensure that the processes are inclusive, participatory, and transparent.

Out of this, five community lands elected 27 women into their community land management committees against 47 men, something that has never happened before. On a similar front, our partners supported four communities aggrieved by historical land injustices to file their claims with the National Land Commission.

1.3.3 Land Grabbing

On resisting land grabs, working with Friends of Yala Swamp we supported the community in Yala Swamp to stand up against corporate abuse to safeguard the Yala swamp, an eco-system that assures the livelihood of those who live around it.

Despite previous struggles that terminated 45-year lease to an American-owned rice company, Dominion Farms Limited (K), on the land, due to gross human right violations and abuse, a gazette notice dated 14th October 2021 by The National Land Commission, and the County Government of Siaya intended to allocate 6,763.74HA of the land to Lake Agro Limited, again without community involvement, consultation, and participation. From the intervention, communities obtained a court injunction stopping the allocation.

1.3.4 Influencing policies

Concerning influencing policies at county, national and international levels by supporting communities and their agencies to engage with relevant legislative processes, AAIK continued to influence the ongoing agriculture sector reforms to embrace food systems and production models that are responsive to people and the planet. In the year 2021, working with the food sovereignty working group, we analyzed, packaged, and advocated for concerns of smallholder farmers for adoption

in fiber crop, food safety and environmental risk assessment, seed laws and policy reforms in line with our climate resilient sustainable agricultural approaches. Jointly with other AA federation affiliates, AAIK sustained engagements with the negotiations towards a feminist UN binding treaty on Trans-National Corporations by scooping voices from grassroots for sharing in policy platforms at the international levels.

*Hosea Kandagor addressing county and national government officials from the Education and Agriculture departments in efforts to revive 4K Clubs in Isiolo County on November 9, 2021.
(Photo Credit: AAK/ Consolata Makokha)*



1.3.5 Livelihoods and diversification

On strengthening livelihoods and diversification in the face of climate induced challenges, AAIK continued to support communities through promotion of livelihoods diversification and agroecology interventions including mutual capacity enhancement, fodder and hay production and preservation, establishment of pasture

farms, provision of farm inputs, establishment of demo farms, integrated pest management, value addition, pastoral field schools, and rangeland management reaching over 9,800 smallholder farmers. During the period, AAIK rehabilitated four (4) boreholes, and three (3) sand dams and drilled another two boreholes in ASAL areas to improve access to water for household and micro-irrigation projects.



Stakeholders in rangeland management sector and community members in Isiolo County in a Pastoral Field Schools TOTs workshop hosted by ActionAid Italia, AAIK under the SAMPAK Project on December 15, 2021. (Photo Credit: AAIK/ Consolata Makokha)

1.3.6 Capacity building

In terms of mutual capacity reinforcement for local partners and organizations on disaster preparedness and coordination competencies at community level, working closely with National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMCs), we increased access to and uptake of early warning information by over 12,000 vulnerable communities impacted by climatic induced disasters by disseminating monthly meteorological bulletins in the communities. Out of this, in Marereni, Kilifi County, 19 households moved out of the perennial flooding zones to safer areas. Considering looming drought crisis, we conducted refresher trainings for seven CDMCs on drought preparedness and response leading to development of community-led disaster risk reductions plans, which communities are using to mitigate impacts of the worsening drought situation.

1.3.7 Humanitarian front

On strengthening internal mechanisms to position AAIK's work in the humanitarian sector, AAIK joined other AAI countries in the federation in the accountability and localization learning event in Zimbabwe. The event provided opportunity for cross-learning on increasing women and young people's meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels, especially of grass roots women's rights organizations and women who face multiple discriminations; our engagement with Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) to challenge measures that prohibit local leadership and support development of approaches to shift power; how we work with our partners to deliver and lead humanitarian and resilience building responses, and localization of aid amongst others. About delivery of timely and appropriate humanitarian assistance in line with the AA Strategic Humanitarian Assessment, during the period, we continued to cushion vulnerable and high-risk communities from impacts of Covid -19 pandemic and worsening drought situation in six counties by promoting access to critical services

including dignity kits (four sanitary pads, a bottle of jelly, one bar soap, a tube of toothpaste, three rolls of tissue paper and a mask) to 3,017 girls and 6,478 women; provision of hygiene kits (hand washing equipment, soap and sanitizers) reaching approximately 15,200 households across 14 counties; and water trucking in informal settlements and water scarce communities in ASALs. Working with local partners and ministry of health, we undertook risk communication on Covid 19 infection and prevention through distribution of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, local FM radio stations, social media and SMS messaging and road shows to disseminate information. We also supported 600 households with monthly multi-purpose cash transfers of KShs4,500 to boost their food and nutrition security.

1.3.8 Governance during humanitarian response

Regarding holding government to account on delivery of a qualitative, timely and accountable humanitarian response, working with local partners we conducted refresher training for Women Rights Networks, Community Disaster

Management Committees, Youth Activista on Core Humanitarian Standards to enable them demand accountability from government and other humanitarian actors. AAIK further facilitated the CDMCs to lobby for and regularly monitor public services provision by governments for accountable response that meet their needs. AAIK also continued to participate at national and county level coordination mechanisms, the Kenya Humanitarian Partnership Team, the WASH cluster, and the Community Engagement Sub- group.

1.3.9 Climate Change

On sustaining the clamor for government to prioritize investments in climate change adaptation, drought risk management, ending drought emergencies, and agriculture financing, partnering with Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) the Global Platform trained young people on ecological justice to enhance knowledge and understanding on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and governance structures. Through the #Youth4ClimateJustice, the young people advocated and pushed for the adoption and operationalization of climate change policies in Baringo, Isiolo, Homabay, and Kilifi counties.

Also, the GP hosted a climate strike involving 69 young who utilized art as a tool to communicate their asks on the impacts of climate change. Representatives of the Ministry of Environment and KEPSA followed the event online.

At the international levels, AAIK mobilized women to participate in this year's EarthWalk campaign in the federation and used the event as build up activity to the COP26. Connecting our mobilization from local-national-global, AAIK engaged in the COP26 by participating in several side events to push our climate justice politics to policy makers. In one of the side events dubbed "women climate observers" we facilitated Anastacia Plilan, a woman smallholder farmer from Tanguibe to participate where she pitched on issues of climate impacts, loss & damage, gender issues, and false solutions such as Net Zero.

1.3.10 Climate Change mitigation

About supporting community adaptive and mitigative initiatives to climate change and disasters, working with local partners, carrying from previous year, we supported an additional 30 women-led households of artisanal miners

to improve their dietary options by providing them with skills and inputs to establish kitchen gardens using vertical farming technology. The women were issued with kitchen garden kits comprising of a five-litre watering can, seedlings, a decomposer for foliar production from kitchen waste, and a hand pump for spraying the foliar. On a similar front, AAIK distributed 274 modern beehives and honey processing equipment's to 15 women groups in four counties to diversify their livelihoods and income at household levels.

1.4 Partnerships

1.4.1 The Local Rights Support Unit

The Partnership and LRP Coordination unit was established in 2021 to support and to strengthen LRP and partners' programme quality, by guiding the practice of engagement with primary partners across the counties where AAIK works. This unit was established following a process that successfully saw operationalization of the LRP support unit based at the headquarters. During the year, the LRP support unit offered strategic and effective support in relation to partnerships with communities living in poverty and exclusion.

1.4.2 Phase in and Phase out Processes

1.4.2.1 Local Rights programme Phase out in Nyarongi

We conducted community exit meetings in 2021 to officially handover all community structures to women and young people-led organizations to be fully managed by the community. Phase out is normally undertaken when AAIK has achieved the objectives of its programme activities in an area/LRP. The case for Nyarongi however, was different because it was not the normal planned exit channel as per sponsorship phase out guideline. We had to close the LRP due to withdrawal of child sponsorship links which translated to limited funding to implement programmes in Nyarongi. The community and the supporters were notified of the AAIK phase out in Nyarongi in good time.

The huge investment on capacity building, empowerment, and establishment of community-based structures will see sustained community development processes and through our Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) to development, what we initiated will be sustained, managed,

and led by movements of women and young people. Key community partners and county leaders participated in the phase out process. The key leadership from the national and county governments and related state departments for linkage and sustainability of the initiatives were established.

The phase out however does not mean that ActionAid International Kenya will not engage with the partner in Nyarongi. Partnership with the groups of women and young people will be sustained through joint fundraising.

1.4.2.2 Phase in Nyokal Local Rights Programme – LRP start up processes

Following closure of Nyarongi LRP, we initiated Phase in processes for Nyokal LRP. As required by sponsorship, we conducted community sensitization across the proposed LRP to raise awareness of community of Nyokal on child sponsorship and its role. Community sensitization meetings covered the three critical processes which are closely linked:



Nyokal LRP CDF Evans Odhiambo addressing villagers during Community Sensitization meeting at Apuoche Primary School on March 11, 2021. (Photo Credit: AAIK/ Consolata Makokha)

Pre-appraisal sensitization, Post appraisal sensitization and Ongoing sensitization. We provided the information required to the partner organization and community representatives to make an informed decision and child Sponsorship buy-in.

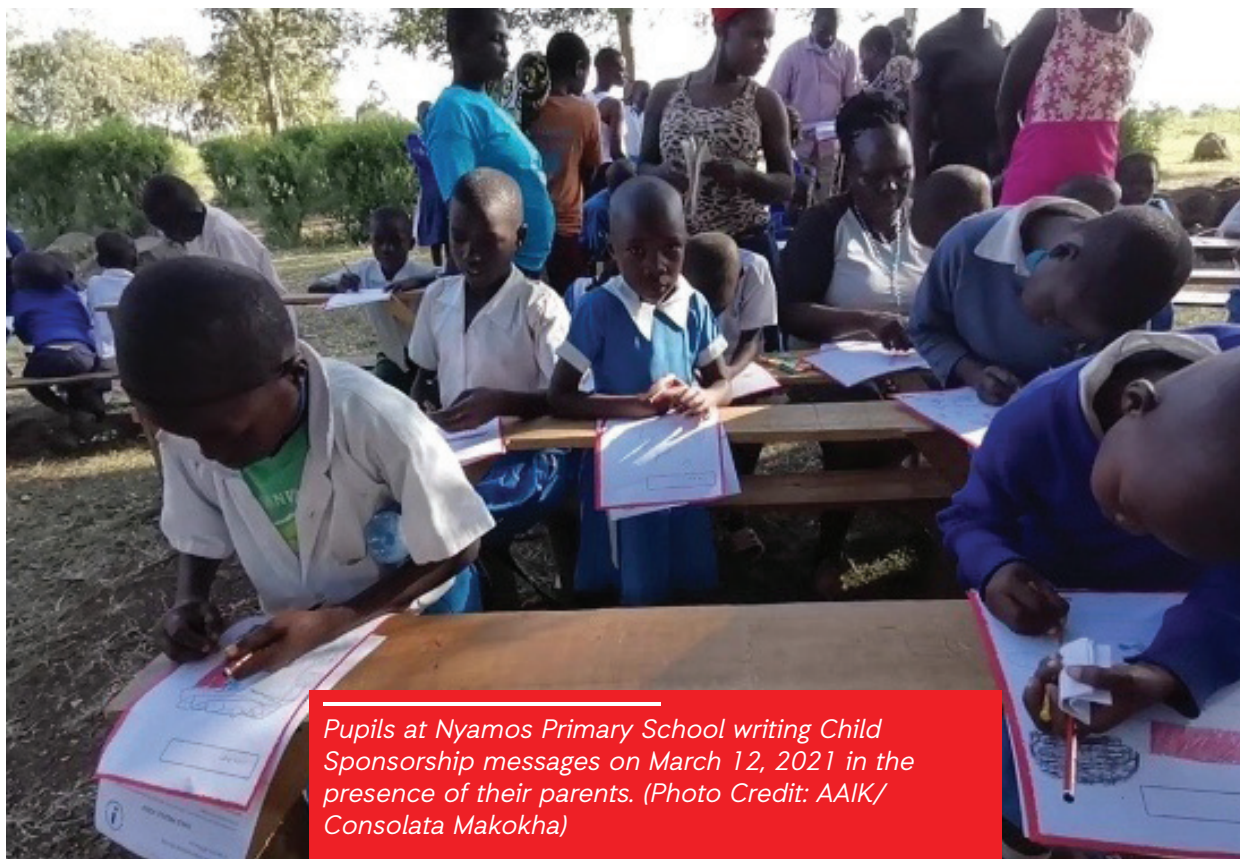
The post-appraisal sensitization meetings introduced Child Sponsorship to the entire community and the ongoing sensitization is to secure sustainable commitment to Child Sponsorship during the whole life of a project in the area; it is an ongoing process of refreshing the

community's understanding of child Sponsorship. The community was properly sensitized to child sponsorship to have confidence that together with them, we will be able to fulfil our commitments to the sponsors.

As part of the community entry process, LRP starter pack was developed and shared with the supporters and other participatory processes were conducted. Communities were taken through participatory community diagnosis of issues and were facilitated to develop community led change plans. The plan then is presented to the state and other development

agencies, and other stakeholders to secure support for implementation of the plan. This is a powerful way for the community to decide and articulate their own priorities for emergency response and recovery, and to ensure they are actively controlling programmes in their communities instead of being passive recipients.

It is an approach that we have tried and tested, a framework that helps local people to explore priority issues/ needs for their community, set priorities and plan actions. It supports communities to help them work through the process and realize their aspirations.



Pupils at Nyamos Primary School writing Child Sponsorship messages on March 12, 2021 in the presence of their parents. (Photo Credit: AAIK/ Consolata Makokha)

1.4.2.3 Proposed ActionAid International Kenya phase in- South Nyakach LRP Appraisal process

A re-appraisal and a review of LRP Scouting process for Southwest Nyakach in Kisumu County to scope the area for a possible new LRP was done in 2021. The region is very dry due to poor and erratic rainfall hence there is minimal productivity from the agricultural ventures adopted by the community members. During the initial outbreak for Covid-19 in 2019, the area recorded the highest number of child abuse cases– the Nyakach Sub County Children’s office had 161 recorded cases from the area including a case with the youngest defiled child, a 12-year-old girl, a class six pupil who lived with her grandmother had been violated by a person known to her. The state of infrastructure in the schools is severely lacking with only two schools in the Sub-County considered to have adequate infrastructure. There is a pressing need for investment in learning structures and materials within the Early Childhood Education (ECD) centers as most of the learners at this level take their lessons from tree shades or poorly erected structures.

The poor state of infrastructure has a direct correlation to the quality of learning offered within these foundational education institutions hence also affects the results posted by learners from the location.

1.4.3 National partners’ capacity building, learning and sharing forums.

In December 2021, we organized two learning and sharing forums for all partner leads in the LRPs and the counties we work in. The partners were given the opportunity to share their challenges and propose practical solutions to them. We took time to refresh on key priorities as per prioritized Country Strategic Paper (CSP), key approaches, frameworks and how to deliver an effective programme.

We believe that doing this will improve effectiveness, deepen the impact of our programmes, and will increase AAIK’s capability to protect people’s rights, participate in the wider development sector and save lives of communities living crisis.

We had in-depth conversations on:

- Participation and inclusion.
- Tracking and reporting change.
- Transparency and accountability.
- Safeguarding and general compliance with policies and commitments.

1.4.4 Community participatory review and reflection processes (PRRPs)

During the year 2021, we conducted quarterly participatory review and reflection sessions. PRRP is a continuous participatory monitoring mechanism that helps to create democratic

space for communities and other actors to review programme implemented and provide feedback to actors.

PRRPs look at whether our chosen strategies and actions are working, how we can do them more effectively, or how to change them based on feedback from the community. In open meetings, communities, and other stakeholders review information, including monitoring data, case studies, budgets, success stories, best practice, learning and challenges.



Susan Otieno, AAIK's Executive Director speaking during a community sensitization meeting on March 11, 2021 at Apuoche Primary School. (Photo Credit: AAIK/ Consolata Makokha)

1.4.5 Hardware Projects in 2021

Type of Hardware	LRP/ LOCATION	Purpose/ Tied to which right	Donor	Cost (in KShs)	Final Finishing
Ngongodinyi Girls Dormitory	Kishushe	Tackling barriers to girls' Education	ActionAid Greece	2.4 million	Completed and commissioned
Kuria safe space	Kuria	Provide safe space -safeguard against FGM and GBV	ActionAid Hellas	3.2m	Final finishes
Maunguja protection and resource centre	Bamburi	Safe house	PPL	4.5M	Final finishing
Garashi primary- girls Ablution block	Marafa	Girls' ablution block	FCDO (through EFL project)	1.2 M	Complete
Nyalilipich water pump installation	Tangulbei	Access to safe, clean water	Covid fund appeal, (DPR F)	Tbc	Complete
Girls changing rooms in three schools	Makima	Tackling barriers to girls' education and improving on retention, transition, and completion for girls	Regular giving	970,000	Ongoing
Development of goal post for two schools	Makima	Tackling barriers to girls' education and improving on retention, transition, and completion for girls	Regular Giving	360,000	Ongoing
Two Classroom rehabilitation at Ilani primary school	Kathonzweni	Tackling barriers to girls' education and improving on retention, transition, and completion for girls	Regular giving	800,000	Complete
Construction of girls change rooms in four schools	Elang'ata Wuas	Tackling barriers to girls' education and improving on retention, transition, and completion to girls	Regular Giving	3,745,600	Complete

Type of Hardware	LRP/ LOCATION	Purpose/ Tied to which right	Donor	Cost (in KShs)	Final Finishing
Water Infrastructure rehabilitation and Solar Equipping	Isiolo (Burat and Oldonyiro wards)	Improving Access to Water supporting communities tackle Covid-19	Unilever/ AAUK	4,152,669	Complete
Oldonyiro Pipeline Extension	Isiolo-Oldonyiro Ward	Provide access to Water for Sustainable Livelihoods-Agroecology.	AICS/ ActionAid Italy	369,000	Complete
Improvement of Shallow Well Water Pumping by use of Renewable energy-Innovative Solar Kits	Isiolo-Ngaremara and Burat wards	Use of Renewable energy source for improved access to Water for domestic use and Sustainable Livelihoods-Agroecology	AICS/ ActionAid Italy	2,475,000	Complete

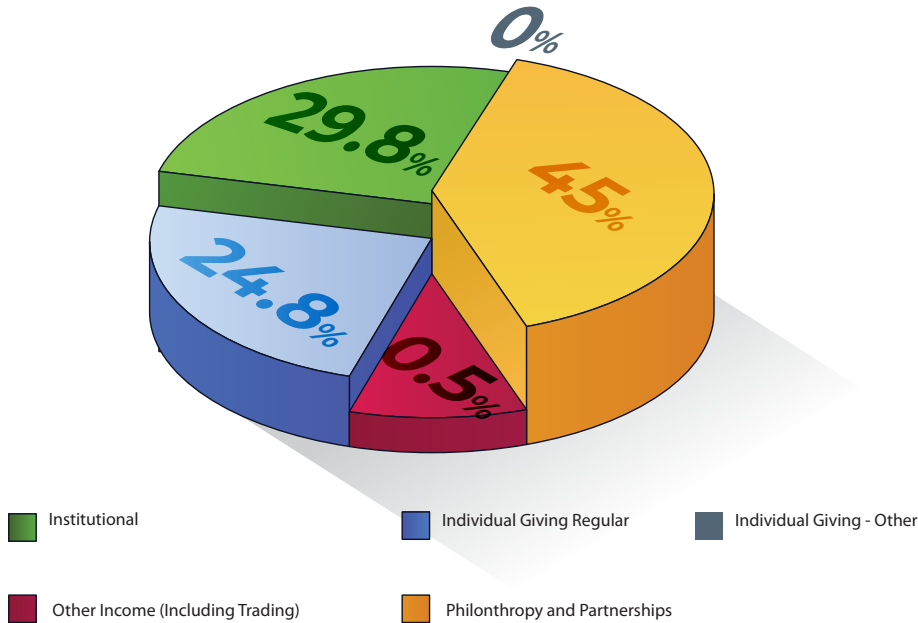
2. Finance

Income

AAIK realized Total income of 1.07 billion Kenya shillings (£7.099Million) during the reporting year. In comparison to the year 2020, there was an increased by 40 million Kenya Shilling (£256K) representing approximately 3.88% of the prior year income.

The increase in income was attributed to income from Partnership & Philanthropist, Institutional donors, and other income. Figure 1, below illustrate income mix by product or category. 24.8% of income was realised from individual -giving income (Sponsorship), 45% of the total income was realised from the Philanthropist and Partnership, 29.8% was generated from Institutions and 0.5% of the total income was related to other income.

INCOME MIX



Expenditure

During the reporting period, total expenditure was approximately 994 million Kenya Shillings (£6.684 Million). Prior year expenditure was above the current year by approximately 76 million Kenya Shillings (£511 thousand), representing approximately 7.6%. The lower costs were due to reduced costs in the following areas, staff cost, rent & rate, telecommunications, utilities, office running and maintenance costs. It is important to note that the expenditure was within Income realised for the reporting year.

Resource was adequately spent in line with the resource allocation Framework (RAF), in which 88% was spent on programme, 3% on Fundraising and 6% on Support cost and 3% on Governance related costs. Total cost spent on Programme and Governance costs increased by approximately 99 thousand Kenya Shillings representing 17% and approximately 18 thousand Kenya Shillings representing 99% respectively when compared to 2020, whereas Support cost dropped by 26% due to attrition rate. Figure 2, below illustrate expenditure by RAF performance:

Expenditure by RAF (Jan -Dec 2021)

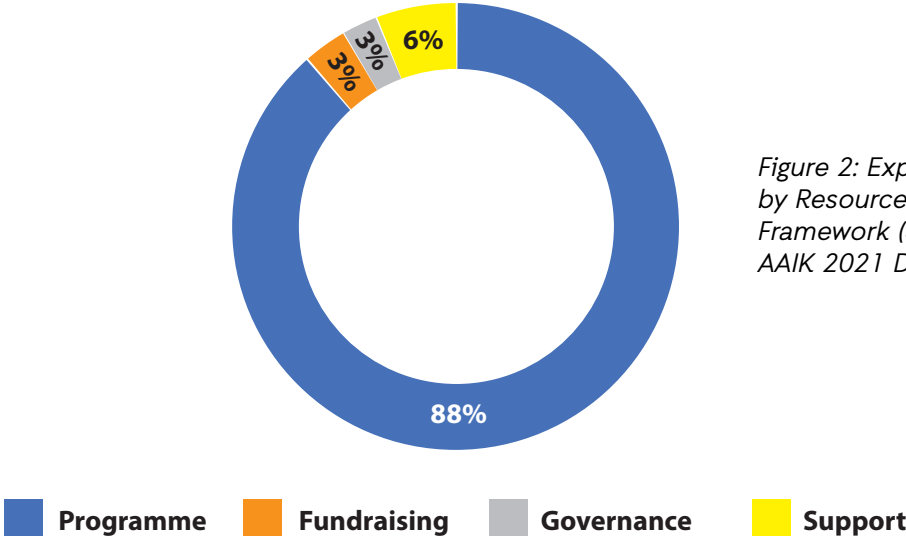


Figure 2: Expenditure by Resource allocation Framework (Source: AAIK 2021 Data)

RESERVES + UNSPENT DONOR FUNDS

Overall, the reserves position remains strong and there was strong cash balances across the Federation. LRP reserve grew by GBP331K, representing approximately 95% of 2020 LRP reserve, National Level reserve dropped by GBP41K, representing approximately 3.7% of the 2020 National level reserve. Unspent donor funds grew up by GBP46K, representing 100% of the 2020 unspent donor funds

Nature of Reserve	2021 (£'000)	2020 (£'000)
<i>Restricted – LRPs</i>	<i>680</i>	<i>349</i>
<i>Restricted – National Level</i>	<i>1,057</i>	<i>1,098</i>
Sub Total	1,737	1,447
<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>(100)</i>
<i>Restricted Unspent Donor Funds</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>0</i>
Total	1,783	1,347

Restricted reserves are those that must be spent in strict accordance with the wishes of the respective donors, whereas unrestricted reserves may be spent at discretion of Action Aid.

**ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL KENYA
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	2021	2020
INCOME	KShs '000	KShs '000
Grant income and goods in kind	1,065,311	1,014,908
Finance income	4,793	14,225
Other income	<u>810</u>	<u>3,151</u>
Total income	<u>1,070,914</u>	<u>1,032,284</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Direct expenditure		
Programme costs	<u>677,205</u>	<u>578,096</u>
Other expenditure		
Transfers to other AAI Offices	23,250	27,280
Staff costs	158,429	318,143
Depreciation and amortization costs	14,597	11,213
Non-capital assets	378	902
Motor vehicle maintenance, fuel and repairs	10,392	12,891
Travel and accommodation	37,194	23,806
Telecommunication, postage and stationery	7,101	9,378
Office running and maintenance costs	7,617	9,800
Rent and rates	4,310	7,892
Professional fees	22,285	10,347
Bank charges	3,684	1,810
Finance lease interest	1,555	2,040
Insurance	3,469	3,357

	2021	2020
Other costs	5,489	342
Utilities – water and electricity	1,610	2,855
Loss on disposals /write offs	-	(4,175)
Fund raising cost		
Fundraising and sponsorship costs	<u>15,618</u>	<u>7,554</u>
Total expenditure	<u>994,184</u>	<u>1,023,531</u>
Surplus for the year	<u><u>76,730</u></u>	<u><u>8,753</u></u>

**ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL KENYA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	2021 KShs '000	2020 KShs '000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Surplus for the year	76,730	8,753
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	14,459	11,073
Amortization	138	140
Interest income	(4,503)	(4,440)
Interest paid on leases	1,555	2,039
Loss on disposals	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,175)</u>
Operating gain before working capital changes	<u>80,380</u>	<u>13,390</u>
Changes in:		
Other receivables	(57,373)	18,951
Deferred income	(55,883)	66,651
Accruals, creditors and other payables	(66,816)	75,331
Due from Action Aid International	<u>57,320</u>	<u>(55,332)</u>
Cash flows (used)/generated from operating activities	<u>(34,374)</u>	<u>118,991</u>
Interest paid on leases	(1,555)	(2,039)
Interest income	<u>4,503</u>	<u>4,440</u>

	2021	2020
Net cash flows (used in)/generated from operations	(31,426)	<u>121,392</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Proceed from sale of assets	-	8,775
Purchase property and equipment	(6,644)	(2,143)_____
Net cash flows (used in)/from investing activities	(6,644)	<u>6,632</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
Principal repayment lease liability	(6,297)	(5,378)_____
Net cash used in financing activities	(6,297)	(5,378)
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	(44,368)	122,646
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	<u>363,396</u>	<u>240,750</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	<u>319,028</u>	<u>363,396</u>

3. Directorate

3.1 Human Resources and organizational Development

3.1.1 Team Building and Planning session

1st to 5th November 2021, the organization had a planning and budgeting meeting in Mombasa where all staff participated ahead of the 2022 calendar. This laid the blueprint for addressing business activities in 2022. The staff interacted with the board who addressed staff issues/ concerns and continued to improve the relationship between the two.

3.2 Communications

3.2.1 Newsletters

In 2021, ActionAid International Kenya produced five editions of the Newsletters with over 30 stories arising from our work including success/ change, case and activism stories shared with country, and Federation staff, partners, the communities we work with and donors.



Residents of Homabay People's Voice display placards in front of the Homabay County Assembly premises on February 23, 2021. (Photo Credit: AAIK/ Consolata Makokha)

Topics these newsletters spoke to include leadership and governance issues, women and youth empowerment, climate action and justice, agroecology, communities' livelihoods, unpaid care work, women, girls, and children's rights- S/GBV and education. They elicited appreciation, more follow-up for fundraising and action by local governments to address citizens' concerns. Some stalled projects under county governments were fast-tracked to completion and constitutional edicts like public participation began to be implemented at the grassroots levels by county officials.

3.2.2 Visibility

AAIK had two events aired live on two national televisions and got the Executive Director and staff on television for live discussions on topical issues around AAIK's work. In addition, we had over 25 articles aired/ published in local and international media (electronic- television and radio, print, and digital). These pieces addressed topics under Strategic Objectives One, Two and Three.

The international media included Cable News Network (CNN) and The Guardian, while local channels comprise of Nation Media- Nation. Africa, NTV and Daily Nation, MediaMax- K24, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC)- Y254 Tv, Kenya Television Network (KTN) and Kenya News Agency (KNA). Digital platforms taifanews.com and jamesnygoti.wordpress.com, while radios included Kayla Fm and Ghetto Radio.

3.2.3 Campaigns and social media

Several campaigns were run on AAIK's social media including the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, The Big Me Campaign, FGM Ends With Us (#EndFGM) and Climate Action Now (#ActOnClimateChange).

Other top issues we engaged in with our followers on social media are education - **#EducationForLife** and **#GirlsEducation**, women economic empowerment - **#WEE**, youth empowerment- **#WajibikaNaSanaa**, **#EconomyYaVijana**, **#IYD2021** and **#Comms4development**, leadership - **#UongoziTunaotaka** and **#YouthRise4Action**. Others include **#IChoosetoChallenge**, **#GenerationEquality**, **#Speakoutnow** and friends of ActionAid (**#FOAA**) which is an annual event for the organization.

AAIK produced one documentary on Education for Life and partnered with a national television- KTN to air it. On Facebook, ActionAid International Kenya- ActionAid Kenya grew in following with over 550 new followers, while Global Platform Kenya (GP Facebook, Activista Kenya, bridge of love alliance, Mt. Kenya Youth Hub, SDG Kenya) had more than 5,000 new followers. @ActionAid_Kenya Twitter page registered over 700 new followers whereas that of GP (@GP_Kenya, @Activista_KE @ActivistaNai, SDGsKenyanForum, @YouthHub_KE and BridgeofLoveAlliance) posted above 4,700 new followers.

On the other hand, GP’s Instagram pages (SDG Ambassadors, GP, Activista, Ecovista, BridgeofLoveAlliance, CampusMeToo) had 246 new followers. On the contrary. On LinkedIn, GP LinkedIn (SDG Ambassadors by ActionAid Kenya) closed the year with over 989 connections.

3.3 Audit

3.3.1 INTERNAL AUDIT & ASSURANCE	
The internal audit and assurance is charged with the role of providing independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve AAIK operations. In 2021, this was achieved by evaluating risk management, internal control, and governance processes, taking into account industry regulations and specific donor requirements.	
3.3.2 Overall Opinion Statement	
Overall, and based on work performed as per the 2021 approved audit plan, our experience from previous years, and the outcome of the Annual Follow Up exercise, the Overall Opinion is one of ‘Reasonable Assurance’ which implies that there are generally sound systems of governance, risk management and control in place across the organisation. Some issues, non-compliance or scope for improvement were identified which require management attention. Our audit planning process is risk-based and as such our reporting inevitably focuses on higher risk areas.	
3.3.3 The opinion is underpinned by	
Internal Control Framework AAIK control environment comprises policies, procedures and operational systems and processes in place to establish and monitor the achievement of AAIK’s objectives; facilitate policy and decision making; ensure economical,	Risk Management Revision and update of risk management policies and guidelines completed in 2020 paved way for the implementation of the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) framework.

<p>effective, and efficient use of resources, compliance with established policies, procedures, laws, and regulations; and safeguard AAIK's assets and interests from losses of all kinds. Core financial, operational, programmatic, and administrative systems/ processes were reviewed by Internal Audit during the financial year 2021. AAIK's overall internal control framework is considered to have operated effectively during the year. However, the opinion provided must be considered in light of Covid-19 and its continued impact on the AAIK.</p>	<p>The organization has now embedded risk management practices in majority operations. Internal Audit is supporting ongoing development through the provision of information to allow recommendation/ action tracking. ERM continues to be reported to the Senior Management Team (SMT) and Audit Committee of the board.</p>
<p>3.3.4 Irregularities Prevention and Detections</p> <p>AAIK's fraud prevention and detection strategy which entails anti-fraud awareness programs for staff and AAIK implementing partners have resulted in reduced irregularities. Internal audit has continued to undertake daily monitoring and management of AAIK's Whistleblowing Inboxes. The internal audit is also committed to reviewing all the reported irregularities as per the policy.</p>	

4. Fundraising

The fundraising landscape changes in the country in 2021 provided an opportunity for the organization to seek opportunities for strengthening the funding capacity through institutional funding, local fundraising, corporates, trusts and foundations.

AAIK worked to retain and expand regular supporters' base from funding affiliates in the global north through Child sponsorship regular giving. Servicing and maintaining existing links through innovative and automated/ digitalized processes while ensuring compliance was a best practice that supported CS deliverables. To support CS modernization the new Child Sponsorship system, Sahakom (SK), was launched to improve communication to Child Sponsorship supporters. The system will also enable AAIK to focus on recruitment of local individuals to support communities for the future.

The Big Me Campaign has been a successful means of engaging local stakeholders to support the work of AAIK and to build brand visibility with current and potential local partners. This is an initiative that began in 2019 and has progressively supported

local fundraising prospects. On this day, pupils come dressed up in attires depicting their dream jobs/ professions and get to know what it takes to achieve those dreams. They also get to understand the challenges that deter their age mates in marginalized communities from achieving their dreams.

The aim of the campaign for this year was to build a classroom in Ewangan Sidai Primary school in Kajiado County and to raise more funds to reach other marginalized schools. The only structure they had was a one room iron sheet structure which served as the staffroom, staff quoter for the teachers and the store for the blackboards at night.

All the children in this school used to attend their classrooms under trees. This was a very harsh condition since the trees did not provide shade and provided a challenged when the weather was not favorable. Through the Big me Campaign and in collaboration with Notre Dame school we raised **KSh1,187,905** that supported the construction of a classroom through community participation. To further increase the fundraising base, we were able to raise **KSh373,500** through merchandise sales.



AAIK's Executive Director (2nd right seated) with staff during the launch of Child sponsorship's new system- Sahakom on June 18, 2021 in Homabay Town. (Photo Credit: AAIK/ Consolata Makokha)

To support in raising funds from institutional donors both locally and abroad, the fundraising team was able to focus on building internal capacity, working with funding affiliates to take up institutional fundraising opportunities and collaborated with AAUK and others on philanthropy opportunities for AAIK. The organization hosted the hybrid Friends Of ActionAid (FOAA) event enabling supporters to connect with AAIK.

There is much to be done to restore AAIK fundraising to previous levels, equally there are significant opportunities for income and partnerships to strike. Kenya is a strategic focus country for AAUK corporate engagement and as a result AAIK is benefiting from support from AAUK to work in collaboration and partnership to develop a local corporate engagement strategy.



Children from Notre Dame School with dreams to be advocates dressed in the profession's attire in November 2021. (Photo Credit: AAIK/ Fridah Bwari)

Institutional funding opportunities continued through the year 2021. Kenya won the federation-wide bidding process to apply to the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women for 1m USD. We prepared the application for submission in 2022's Q1 (Quarter One) to support the Access to Justice Programme. Implementation of the Africa-Led (ALM) to end FGM programme funded by the UK (United Kingdom) Government's Foreign, and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) began. We have also finalized the contract to deliver the Uzazi Salama project in Homa Bay funded by the M-Pesa Foundation and in coalition with local

partners. On corporate engagement, we continue to work closely with ActionAid UK as a strategic partner. The contract was fully negotiated and signed with the Ethical Tea Partnership (ETP) and we look forward to the project's implementation in Q1 of 2022. The initial pilot will take place in three communities focused on reducing GBV in tea worker communities and increasing the rights of communities to basic services. ETP are investing approximately 1M GBP in the pilot and hope to scale this to more communities if the pilot is successful.



Community Members from Burat Ward, Isiolo County listen in as the project coordinator Cynthia Asafi moderate the launch of ALM-FGM Project on November 17th, 2021. (Photo Credit: AAIK/ Consolata Makokha)

5. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

5.1 In 2021 AAIK experienced several challenges that included the following:

- High staff attrition which led to less capacity to support delivery on projects, hampering programme implementation effectiveness in rolling out planned work while affecting work-life balance for staff. This was also compounded by heightened anxiety among staff.

- Transitions without staff onboard made it difficult to effect transfer of responsibilities in a seamless manner, occasioning lapses in institutional memory. The staff levels of motivation were low due to the shared feeling that their concerns had not been addressed. Issues around compensation and benefits remained unaddressed among staff. This affected the staff productivity levels.
- The program positions that had not been filled led to increased strain on staff who had taken up extra duties and sometimes had to work extra hours to meet the various tight deadlines for implementation of activities and resource mobilization. Limited number of staff posed challenges for the staff left behind to tap on all opportunities presented from donors, in many cases opting to defer these opportunities to a later date or compromising on work-life balance for staff to advance interests of AAIK.
- The increased food crisis in most LRPs was a major challenge, leading to loss of lives and economic livelihoods. This has hampered the ability of the organization to continue normal

programming and has led to a humanitarian crisis within the country. AAIK provided some level of response, but there still is an acute need for more resources to provide emergency relief for thousands of communities to avert a looming humanitarian disaster. The increase in GBV countrywide, especially with the spike in COVID-19 infections in 2021, coupled with the restrictions of movement and curfews also hampered the ability of the organization to respond. The ban of gatherings of people added to the challenges for AAIK to sensitize communities. The economic meltdown due to a surge in inflation and the cost of living also left many families, especially women-led households dependent on aid, putting pressure on available resources within the organization.



Protection Against Domestic Violence (PADV) Act enforcement follow up meeting in Taita Taveta in August 2021. (Photo Credit: AAIK/ Pauline Atieno)

5.2 During programme work implementation,

AAIK learnt the following lessons:

- Earlier embedding of the Climate Justice (CJ) priorities is giving AAIK an edge in not only attracting funding but in providing useful inputs needed in the federation-wide campaigning on these issues. This enhances AAIK's fundraising capability and increases brand recognition by funding affiliates and collaboration partners, besides supporting with provision of the necessary resources for emergency interventions.

Engagement with duty bearers at national and subnational levels increases visibility for the organization and supports in delivery of strategic objectives easily. The collaboration with the State Department for Gender resulted in buy-ins by senior most officials at the department, further strengthening AAIK's niche as the pioneer defender of women's rights. Finally, involvement of staff and anticipatory response to crises can provide better responses to changes within an organization, further supporting in ensuring continuity of processes.

- The need for well exposed staff and the role

of working in teams in bridging gaps that are occasioned by staff attrition, which seemed to work in the case of AAIK and with limitation on the amount of workload a staff can handle.

- The role of relationships built across the Federation in mobilizing additional support especially in supporting fundraising and other programme matters that can be supported remotely.
- It is important to have strategic linkages with other development partners to have efficient and effective program implementation.
- Anticipation of program interventions and contextual reviews are critical during planning and implementation of programs. Planning in time is critical to cushion the grant against any unforeseen risks.

6. Case Studies:

6.1 A story on Girls Empowerment in Kishushe

LRP

As we drive through Mwakilemba village, Kishushe LRP in Taita Taveta County, I can't help but recognize how dry everything looks. The sun is scorching hot, and the ground is mostly bare with shrubs here and there. How would anyone survive? My thoughts are quickly interrupted when the vehicle comes to a halt in a homestead. 'Here we are!' said Veronica from Sauti Ya Wanawake.

As we disembark, a beautiful, tall young lady approaches us with a broad smile on her face. 'Karibuni (welcome)' she says, waiting to usher us into the house. "I know you!" I shouted, having realized it was one of the young mothers known as Agnes from Jibadilishe young mother's group.

Agnes Chao, 22, is full of ambition. She has lived her entire life not knowing her father and barely knowing the mother.



Agnes Chao at her grandmother's homestead. (Photo credit: AAIK/ Pauline Atieno)

Her mother works in the city and seldom travels to the village to see Agnes and her brother who live in the village with their 84-year-old grandmother and their uncle, 32.

"I love being with children and molding them," said Agnes who has always wanted to be a teacher.

She continues to narrate her life story to us:

"I enrolled for a course in teaching but dropped out a few months later due to a lack of school fees. My grandmother would sell firewood to sustain my brother and I but with age, this work became too difficult for her, and she could not keep up with the school fees for us. Both my brother and I dropped out of school. My brother said life at home was too tough and run away to go get employed as a herd's man. I have not seen him in three years.

"Life here has been tough with not enough rainfall and frequent invasions by elephants, crop failure was the order of the day. So, I also went off to Wundanyi to get employed as a house helper. I was being paid KSh4,000 per month but after two years I got tired of waking up at the wee hours of the night to get my bosses' children ready for school, doing



Agnes Chao with her grandmother in their kitchen. (Photo Credit: AAIK/ Pauline Atieno)

all household chores all day long with little time to rest. My salary was always delayed hence when I couldn't take it anymore, I quit and came back home. Besides, I had developed some chest pains due to the cold weather over there so I couldn't work well anymore.

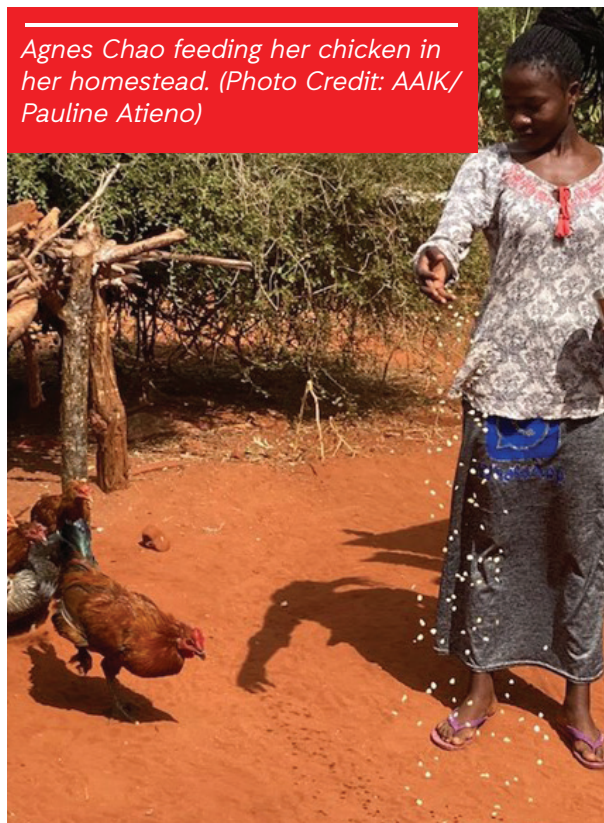
One day, Madam Veronica, a Community Resource Person (CRP) came home and invited me to a meeting sponsored by ActionAid International Kenya. I used to hear of the good work AAIK was doing but I did not know how I could reach them since they were in Kishushe Town which is far from here.

Sometimes to make a living, my neighbour would send me with her donkey cart to go fetch water about five kilometers from here. My neighbour would then give me one jerrycan of water as payment out of the twelve in the cart. Other times I would do odd jobs like tilling someone's land just so we could eat. I always admired the chicken project Veronica had at her homestead and always promised myself I would do such a project but did not know how to start.

After joining the meeting Veronica had invited me to, I realized that most of the girls were either young mothers or girls out of school. I was happy because I felt welcomed, and I knew most of them. I liked how Veronica facilitated the meetings and I was eager to learn. I wanted to enroll at the vocational training centre, but the institution was closed because of COVID-19. Nonetheless, I learnt skills on rearing chicken and soap making from my teacher Veronica.

I was lucky and got KSh10,000 from ActionAid International Kenya to start chicken farming. I was so happy. My teacher here helped me to make a shed for my chicken and then I went around the community and bought eight chickens to start with. I also bought a little feed for them since it was too dry for the chicken to scavenge. I really wanted to succeed in the project, and I concentrated and put most of what I had learnt to practice, and in the month of December (last year) I had over 104 chickens. I sold 80 at KSh150 each making 12,000.

Agnes Chao feeding her chicken in her homestead. (Photo Credit: AAIK/ Pauline Atieno)



I immediately went back to the teachers' college I had dropped out of and finished my training on Early Childhood Development (ECD) studies. I am hopeful for the future. Currently as you can see, I have 17 big chicken and 44 chicks of various ages. I know soon I will get a full-time teaching job and my life shall never be the same.

"Do you want to see my records?" Agnes heads to the kitchen to fetch a book where she has been keeping records as she was taught.

Agnes is just one example of positive changes in the community that have impacted on the lives of young people in Kishushe, and they now report that they feel safer and more certain that the future holds bigger and better opportunities for them.

AAIK's tackling barriers to girls' education has been supporting 300 young mothers in Kishushe to build gainful skills and knowledge to better protect them from GBV.

6.2 A story on Girls Empowerment through Education in Kamuthe LRP

Kamuthe LRP is located within the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of Garissa County. The LRP has had successive years of drought and poor rains; some areas have not had rain in years. Food security is a critical concern in these regions, especially in areas located far from permanent water sources. The area remains particularly vulnerable to food deficits due to erratic and insufficient rain resulting to crop failure. The community living in these areas is characterized by poverty, inequalities, marginalization, illiteracy, and women's subordination. These factors, coupled with increased frequency emergencies such as droughts, floods, diseases' outbreak, armed conflicts and human wildlife conflicts has increased community's vulnerability.

AAIK, in collaboration with the local partners and stakeholders, is implementing several developments programmes to build the community's resilience, reduce vulnerability and incidences of violence against women and girls (VAW/G). Since 2019, the Education for life project (EFL) dubbed 'leave No Girl Behind' has been addressing barriers to girl

child education, economic, socio-cultural, improving teaching environment to be more gender sensitive and inclusivity of 'Out of schoolgirls (OOSG) for empowerment. The project particularly seeks to:

- Accelerate literacy and numeracy skills for most marginalized out of schoolgirls.
- Transition girls to either vocational training, apprenticeship, entrepreneurship and even to formal primary schools depending on their choice of pathway.
- Capacity building of teachers from both formal and nonformal settings to acquire the requisite knowledge, attitudes, and skills to advance the learning of the marginalized girls.
- Establish strong and active partnership for strengthening girls' education.

The project employed a robust and inclusive Community Led Participatory Change approach to identify girls who are out of school which included rapport building with communities, village analysis, marginalization process analysis, identification of OOSG, assessment and placement into the catch-up centres.

As a result of the project interventions, Abshiro 17-year-old girl from Warable village, Nanighi Ward, Fafi Sub- County, Garissa County was mapped as a girl who has never been to school. As optimistic and hopeful as she was during the identification process Abshiro revealed her dream of accessing quality education to improve literacy and numeracy skills, empower herself and be a role model for others. As quoted, Abshiro said in Somali: "Taclin La 'anta waa Mugdi, waxaan u ciilananhay in an wax barto oo an is anfaco" (Translated to English: Lack of education is darkness I always have the passion for education in order to empower myself and others.)

Abshiro was mapped and identified by a team of CRPs and the EfL project team early in 2019, to ascertain her eligibility into the project. Like other girls, she was assessed using various assessment tools like Vulnerability assessment, learning assessment and the Washington Group of Questions. From her overall assessment results, she was eligible to join the catch-up centre established together by the community and ActionAid as a temporary centre for improving her literacy and numeracy skills.



Abshiro outside her class – Habon beauty and Hair salon. (Photo Credit: AAIK/ Immaculate Kithika)

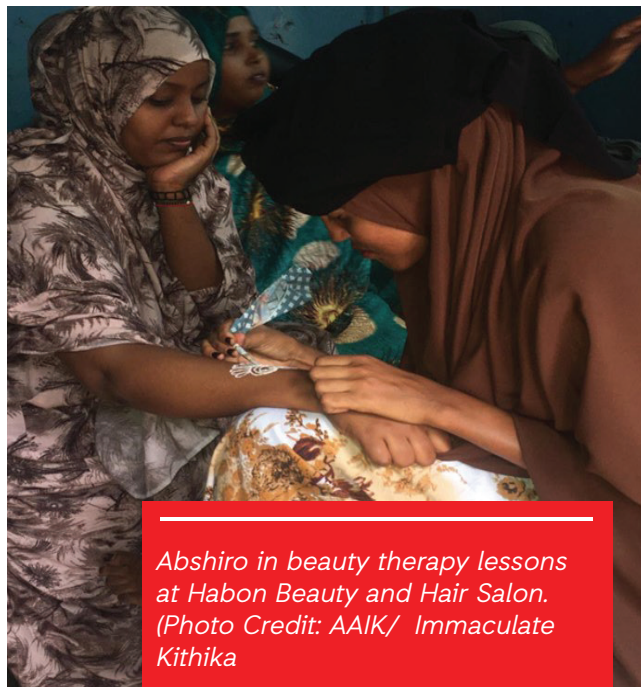
Later, she was given the opportunity to transition to a formal school, vocational training, apprenticeship, or entrepreneurship. Admitted into Warable catch-up centre Abshiro was provided with supportive learning and teaching materials and dignity kits by AAIK under the EfL project this has not only elevated and motivated her passion for learning but also improved her living standard as an adolescent girl.

Teaching and learning in the catch-up centre are facilitated by Educator facilitator (EF) employed by AAIK purposed to build and support girls' capacity on literacy and numeracy. In the catch-up centre, Abshiro, like the rest of the girls, also received life skills sessions by the community mentors who were trained and facilitated by ActionAid International Kenya. She was supported with a personalized Individual Education Plan (IEP) for convenient attendance of her classes between 2:00-3:00pm. The schedule helped her support her mother with

household chores in the morning. Abshiro also got exposed to other available opportunities to pursue after building her capacity on literacy and numeracy. The literacy, numeracy, and life skills and other supportive measures have enabled Abshiro to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of life.

She also got the opportunity to attend several motivational talks from successful women in the community like Kamuthe Women Network and female political leaders like the nominated member of County Assembly of Garissa who also doubled as the chairlady for gender and social inclusion committee in the assembly organized by AAIK. After a period of four months Abshiro gathered enough courage and confidence to share her dream of becoming a businesswoman and passion of developing beauty therapy and henna decoration skills to earn an income with the EF Abshiro was quoted saying that “I have the dream to open a saloon here in Warable village because most of the brides from the local villages are being transported as far as to Garissa town for beatification during their wedding”

Having seen a bright future and a glaring opportunity to tap into, Abshiro was linked to one of the most successful Kamuthe Women Network Member, Maka, by the EF who later linked her with one of the best artisans and business guru in beauty therapy and decoration in Garissa town. The Education for Life project team also approached the county bursary committee and shared the case of Abshiro for further support. Abshiro is currently pursuing her beauty therapy classes as she also partially attends her literacy and numeracy classes.



Abshiro in beauty therapy lessons at Habon Beauty and Hair Salon. (Photo Credit: AAIK/ Immaculate Kithika)

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Community Resource Persons, partners & AAIK staff in a debrief meeting after the two-week Community sensitization sessions on March 18, 2021 in Nyokal, Homabay County. (Photo Credit: AAIK/ Consolata Makokha



Stakeholders pledge to end Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting by end of 2022 in Isiolo County on November 17, 2021. Photo Credit-AAIK/ Consolata Makokha.



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