

#### Celebrating 50 Years of Impacting Lives



AAIK Board Chairperson, Samuel Muga, Executive Director Ms Susan Otieno, Chief Guest Hon Linah Jebii Kilimo , Nandi Hills MP Benard Kitur, Baringo North MP Joseph Makilap and other guests cut a cake during the event.





## ActionAid International Kenya Marks 50 Years of Impacting Lives.

ActionAid International Kenya has marked 50 years of empowering the lives of the vulnerable in the society; they include women, children, and the youth. The jubilee celebration was marked during the organization's annual event dubbed Friends of ActionAid, which was held on 25th November 2022 at the Sarova Stanley Hotel, Nairobi.

The event is held annually and provides an opportunity for ActionAid supporters, partners, leaders, and community members to interact, share, reconnect and highlight the emerging issues that affect the operating environment of the organization and other actors within the Civil Society space.

The theme for this year's occasion was "Celebrating Partnerships for Sustainable Change". During the auspicious event, the organization management led by the Board Chairperson and the Executive Director appreciated all partners who have made it possible for the organization to impact lives for the last 50 years that the organization has been in operation.

"We appreciate our partners for their support. It is through your support that we have impacted lives in the last 50 years. As we look forward to the next 50 years, we invite you to support the organization in empowering the communities we serve" Susan Otieno, Executive Director ActionAid International Kenya.



Nairobi City County Women Representative, Esther Passaris, AAIK Program Lead, Samson Orao and AAIK Executive Director Susan Otieno.

The event was graced by ActionAid supporters, partners, national leaders, and community members. Speaking at the event, the chief guest reiterated the critical space that ActionAid holds in impacting communities. "I have had a fruitful journey with ActionAid. Through their platform, I was able to push the agenda on women empowerment and the fight to end FGM and early marriages. I congratulate you for the work you do in the community" Hon Lina Jebii Kilimo.

Other national leaders that graced the event included Esther Passaris, Nairobi City County Women representative, Benard Kitur, Member of Parliament for Nandi Hills Constituency and Joseph Makilap, Member of Parliament for Baringo North.

ActionAid International Kenya builds solidarity with people living in poverty and exclusion to achieve basic rights and dignity for all.



ActionAid International Kenya Representatives Lucy Ntongai and Jeniffer Kibon (both at the center) participate in a march at COP27 Event in Shamar El Sheikh, Egypt.

#### Hope for Communities Living in the Frontlines of Climate Disasters.

COP27 has brought hope for communities living in the frontlines of climate disasters as nations agreed to establish a loss and damage fund. The Loss and damage fund will support with recovery in the aftermath of destructive climate impacts caused by both sudden onset disasters like cyclones and floods or slow onset impacts like drought or desertification. It will ensure farmers can be compensated if they lose their livelihoods, homes can be rebuilt, and traditions saved.

As nations and stakeholders pressed for the creation of this fund, ActionAid was not left behind; the organization sent a team to Egypt to add their voices on calling for developed

nations to commit to a loss and damage fund, considering that they are responsible for producing most planet heating gas emissions. ActionAid International Kenya team was led by the Executive Director, Susan Otieno, Lucy Ntongai, Project Officer, Gender Responsive Alternatives for Adoption to Climate Change and Jeniffer Kibon a community mobilizer and a climate crisis survivor from Tangulbei whose passion on climate justice is unfathomable.

The ActionAid team from Kenya actively participated in calling for establishment of the Loss and damage fund. This was highlighted through the 'flood is coming' messages where the team wore blue dresses with flood is coming message. The call to establish the fund was culminated with a march that amplified their call on the loss and damage fund.

"There were high hopes that COP27 would deliver for Africa – and on the issue of loss and damage it has. For the millions of people across East Africa who are at risk of starvation after endless drought; for the girls who are being taken out of school to walk miles for water; they will now know that the world stands in solidarity with them. All these people have done the least to cause climate change, but they are paying the highest price. But this is only the first step, and the negotiations next year must address the many questions still hanging on how it will work in practice." Susan Otieno, Executive Director at ActionAid International Kenya,

"COP27 has provided me with a chance to voice my concerns on the effect of climate change to my local community. I am happy that the world leaders heard our voices and have set the fund to address the loss and damage. I am looking forward to an inclusive loss and damage fund that recognizes the voices of the communities on the frontline." Stated Jeniffer Kibon Community mobilizer and Climate crisis survivor.

Establishment of the fund is a step in the right direction but there is need to go to the details of what climate finance is used for. "The climate finance should focus on the immediate needs of the people, recognition of huge adaptation gaps and political commitment to meet needs and establishment of clear time bound tracking on finance and quality mechanisms from local communities to access the funds." Stated Lucy Ntongai, Project Officer, Gender Responsive Alternatives for Climate Change Project



ActionAid International representatives at COP27 from left, AAIK Executive Director Susan Otieno, Jeniffer Kibon, Lucy Ntongai, Flora Vano, Ed Watkiss Farah Kabir,Katherine Tu, and Taniir Hossain

The team attended several side events and had some key take aways:

- Climate induced disasters require bold and pragmatic steps from other regions including Glasgow commitments for emissions reduction
- 2. Climate solutions should be designed to look at the human aspects in order address the immediate and future needs for people, and the environment.
- 3. Local leadership should be involved in developing interventions or solutions to address climate change.



ActionAid International Kenya team exhibiting at the Kenya Diaspora Homecoming Expo at Ole Sereni Hotel

## Powering New Partnerships to Achieve ActionAid International Kenya Goals.

ActionAid International Kenya participated in the 9th edition of the Kenya Diaspora Alliance Homecoming Expo, an annual event that targets diaspora communities, their families, and associates (locally and abroad), investors, corporates, professionals, embassies, students, support organizations, service providers, among other stakeholders. The theme for this 9th edition was 'Leveraging Diaspora Resources for Inclusive Growth'.

During this year's event that was held at the Ole Sereni Hotel between 7th – 9th December 2022, ActionAid International Kenya strategically participated through exhibition and engaged potential donors whose partnership

would be key in ensuring the organization realizes its goals of building solidarity with people living in poverty and exclusion to achieve basic rights and dignity for all.

The Kenya Diaspora Alliance (KDA) is a registered trust, and a federation of over 50 registered diaspora organizations whose core duty is to champion issues on behalf of Kenyans globally and mainstreaming its members into the national development processes.





ActionAid International Kenya Team pose for a photo together with the Homabay County Governor, Hon Gladys Wanga.

# Homabay County and ActionAid International Kenya Commit to Improving Livelihoods of the Most Vulnerable.

ActionAid International Kenya together with Homabay County Government have committed to strengthen partnerships to improve the livelihoods of the vulnerable in the county, they include poor rural women, the youth, and Persons with Disabilities.

This was affirmed during a courtesy call to the governor by the ActionAid International Kenya team led by the organization's board chairperson Samuel Muga and the Executive Director Susan

Otieno. During the meeting, the organization leadership highlighted our commitment to address challenges facing the vulnerable and discussed opportunities for more partnerships.

"My government is committed to address challenges facing the people, we have had a chance to listen to men, women, youth and even children on several issues facing them and the same has been captured in our County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP). Let's continue working together to better the lives of our people." Stated Hon Gladys Wanga, Governor Homabay County.



ActionAid International Kenya Executive Director Susan Otieno highlights the organizations work during the courtesy call.

ActionAid has been implementing a Local Rights Program in the county for the last 10 years and has scaled it up to other localities within the region for another 10 years. Local Rights Program (LRP) is an approach through which ActionAid International Kenya funds projects and programs in a locality. The core strategy for the Local Rights Program (LRPs) is to ensure that poor and marginalized people secure sustained improvement in the quality of their lives, through promoting access to basic rights and services.



ActionAid International Kenya Board Chair Samuel Muga introducing Members of the Board

The partnership involves the local community-based and non-governmental organizations, women, girls, men, and boys in poor and excluded communities, the traditional leadership, local and national government officials, parastatals, the private sector, and any development actors already working in, or willing to work in the Local Rights Program. "ActionAid is committed to addressing the

"ActionAid is committed to addressing the plight of the most vulnerable in the community and we believe that working together with the County Government of Homabay, we will improve livelihoods." Susan Otieno, Executive Director, ActionAid International Kenya.



Hon Gladys Wanga, Governor Homabay County addressing the ActionAid team at the County Headquarters.

ActionAid International Kenya is working to achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication.

#### Kenya holds Pre-YouLead Summit Event



ActionAid International Kenya and partners held a pre-YouLead Summit roundtable as a precursor to the main YouLead 2022 Summit that was held in Arusha Tanzania as from 12th to 16th December at the East Africa Community Headquarters.

The roundtable sought to Spur Youth-led businesses to transition from Micro Enterprise to small Enterprise, Provide a platform for women and youth entrepreneurs to share experiences, opportunities and challenges of running businesses, and curate innovative approaches to sustainably grow their businesses and present opportunities for youth led SMEs for participating in cross-border trade under AfCFTA and formulate the recommendations of Women and Youth in Trade to be submitted to the AfCFTA Secretariat for consideration and incorporation into the Women and Youth in Trade Protocol.

"In this Pre-YouLead Summit 2022 themed 'digital access to the future of work' that aims at making Africa a free trade area. Youths should seize the opportunity, share their agenda, and

actively be involved in the decision-making process" stated Susan Otieno, Executive Director, ActionAid International Kenya



ActionAid Executive Director makes her speech during the roundtable event

The event was graced by Raymond Ochieng, Secretary of Youth Affairs at the State Department of Youth Affairs who emphasized on the need for the youth to embrace the digital space as a solution to unemployment. "The digital space is a pathway that will lead us to what we want to achieve for our young people. It is a platform that young people must exploit." Stated Raymond Ochieng.

ActionAid International Kenya works with the Youth to claim and realize their constitutional rights through working within three main pillars; empowerment, solidarity, and campaigning.



Ronald Ochieng Secretary of Youth Affairs at the State Department of Youth Affairs makes his speech during the roundtable event.



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