



act:onaid
Celebrating Rootedness and Global
Solidarity in Internationalization

ActionAid International Assembly
Kenya 2023

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Guests at the Global ActionAid Event held at Ocean Beach Resort in Malindi.

ActionAid Global Meeting Held in Kilifi County

ActionAid International Kenya in partnership with the county government of Kilifi hosted the ActionAid Global meeting, first of its kind in Kenya from 19th to 29th June 2023. The meeting took place when the ActionAid federation was celebrating its 20 years of existence while ActionAid Kenya (a member of the federation) was also marking 50 years of impacting lives in Kenya. The theme for this year was celebrating rootedness and global solidarity in internationalization.

The two-week long meeting attracted over 300 dignitaries from 46 countries across the globe. Key high-level meetings that took place included the Country Directors' forums, Heads of Finance, Young Urban Women Movement, International Board Meeting, and the International General Assembly. The teams also got a

chance to interact with Kilifi community members and partners through field visits. Kilifi County is a key partner and ActionAid Kenya has and is currently implementing programmes in the county. Key projects include the Local Rights Program in Magarini and the Education for Life Projected that targeted Out of School Girls.



Heads of Finance Meeting at Ocean Beach Resort in Malindi.

During this global event, ActionAid International Kenya held a national event to commemorate 50 years of impacting lives in Kenya. The event took place at Marereni in Magarini sub county, Kilifi County. The Governor of Kilifi County, H.E. Gideon Mung'aro, graced the celebration. He appreciated the partnership that the county has had with ActionAid Kenya and looked forward to more opportunities of partnering to improve livelihoods.



Kilifi County Governor Gideon Mung'aro, AAIK Executive Director Susan Otieno, Salil Shetty former AAIK Executive Director and AAIK Board Chairperson Sam Muga during the ActionAidAt50 event in Marereni Kilifi County

“ActionAid has been a great partner. As a county, we are delighted to be part of this celebration and are committed to continued partnership.” Hon Gideon Mung'aro, Governor, Kilifi County.

During the celebrations, ActionAid International Kenya, Board Chairperson highlighted the 50 years journey and appreciated how the organization has transformed the lives of Kenyans.

“Our journey has been one of commitment and belief in people, supporting communities to realize their potential and rights. We have currently engaged in programming in 22 counties in Kenya, nearly half of the country. Our rootedness has seen us deep in communities, engaging in community-led processes and partnering with stakeholders to hold duty bearers to account but also to build and nourish the community's voice to be a catalyst

for change.

And a lesson we have learnt? Communities have all the solutions. Our Human Rights Based Approach has shifted power to communities to challenge power and realize their rights. We are grateful and proud of all the partners present here today, and we commit to continue walking with them for the next 50 years,” Sam Muga, Board Chairperson AAIK.

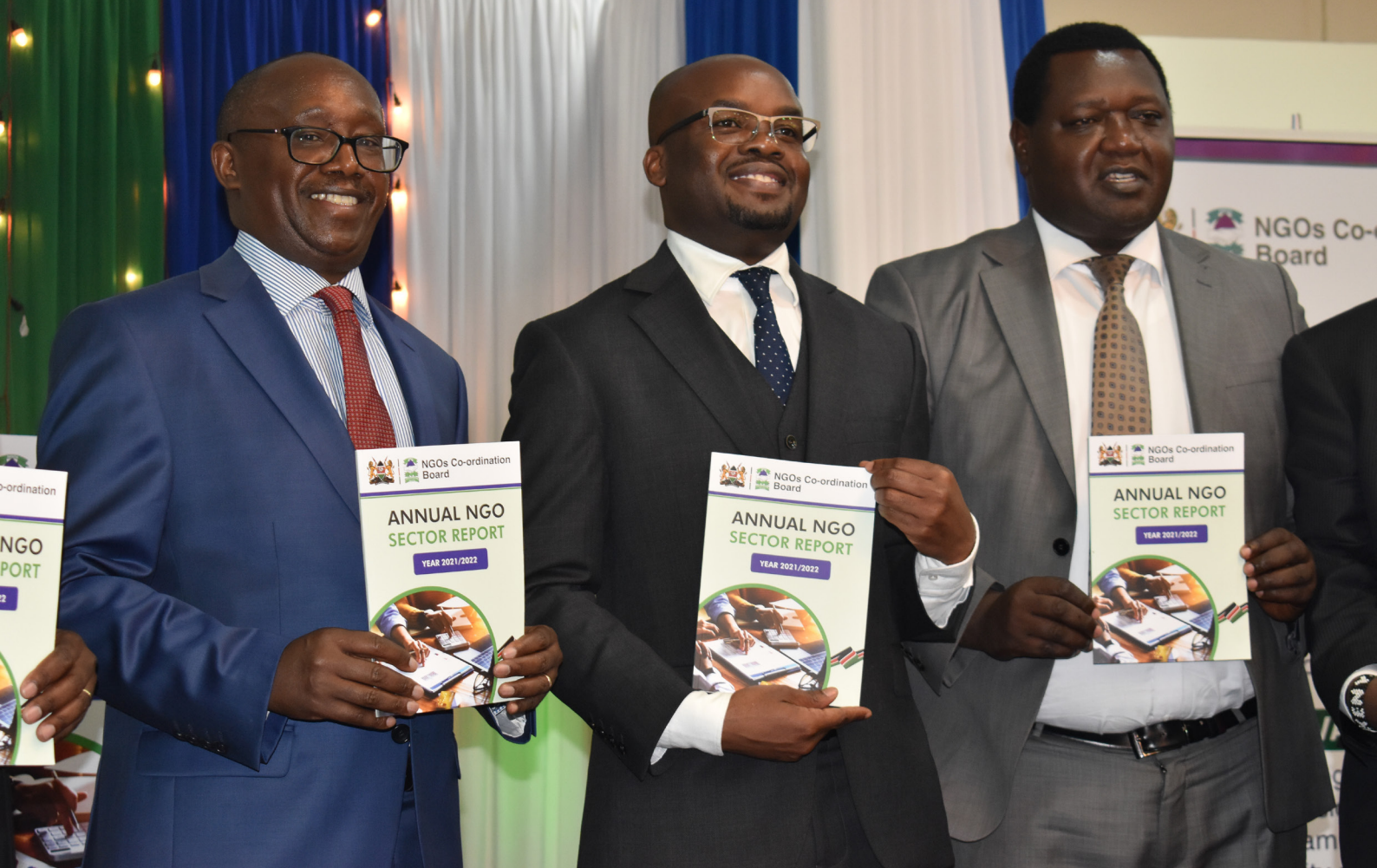


Kilifi County Governor Gideon Mung'aro, CECM Gender and AAIK Executive Director at the exhibitions stands during the ActionAid at 50 Event at Marereni

The ActionAid at 50 event was attended by over 600 community members and 300 international guests.



Women Directors Forum engagement with the community in Marafa, Kilifi County



NGOs Co-ordination Board's chairperson Gichira Kibara (R), Principal Secretary, State Department for Internal Security and National Administration Raymond Omollo (C) and NGO Board's CEO Mutuma Nkanata

ActionAid Kenya Showcases at the NGO Week

ActionAid International Kenya participated in the NGOs Week 2023 celebrations held between June 5 and 9, 2023, at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre, Nairobi.

The event was graced by Raymond Omollo, the Principal Secretary State Department for Internal Security and National Administration, who together with the NGOs Co-ordination Board's chairperson Gichira Kibara and executive director Mutuma Nkanata launched the

2021/2022 NGO Sector Report.

This year's theme was 'NGOs in the Frontline: Powering Sustainable Development in the 21st Century.' The week-long annual celebrations serve as a platform for knowledge and experience sharing, raising awareness on NGOs' role and impact in society, and showcasing NGOs' efforts and achievements. During this period, NGOs also enhance synergy and collaboration between the public and private sectors in attaining social and economic development.



AAIK staff engaging with the public during the NGOs Week on Monday, June 5, 2023, at the KICC Comesa Grounds, Nairobi.

During the exhibition, we interacted with participants and exhibitors from different organisations, eager to know what ActionAid does and where we work. In line with this year's theme, most of those who visited AAIK's booth wanted to know how our organization works with communities affected by the drought since 2021, deemed the worst in 40 years.

Many visitors at our booth expressed interest in their organizations partnering with ActionAid International Kenya, while some invited AAIK to introduce her programmes in their communities. Few beneficiaries of ActionAid's programmes as far back as three decades ago (from Kibwezi, Kitui and Marsabit) expressed their appreciation. We were also delighted to meet an organization we partnered with in its infancy in Marsabit Horn of Africa Development Initiative (HODI) who are very stable and has expanded to Ethiopia.

Following our interactions during the three days of exhibition at the NGO Week 2023, ActionAid International Kenya looks forward to meeting persons and organisations to chart new (or rekindle past) partnerships as we continue to work in solidarity with people living in poverty and exclusion, building their capacities to demand for their rights and nurturing sustainable and resilient livelihoods.



ActionAid Kenya's staff engaging with the public during the NGOs Week on Monday, June 5, 2023, at the KICC Comesa Grounds, Nairobi.



AAIK Executive Director Susan Otieno and the Board Chairperson Sam Muga, interacted with members of Sauti ya Wanawake in Mwakirunge during the resource and protection center launch.

Boost in addressing GBV Cases as ActionAid Kenya Launches Protection Centre in Mwakirunge, Mombasa County

Gender-Based Violence is associated with various factors ranging from poverty, domestic disputes, retrogressive cultural practices, alcohol, drug, and substance abuse, among others, with the most common forms of GBV being physical assault, rape/attempted rape, murder, sexual offenses, defilement, physical abuse, child marriages, psychological torture, and child neglect.

ActionAid International Kenya, in partnership with the

County Government of Mombasa, Sauti Ya Wanawake, and the Mwakirunge Community, launched a community resource and protection center in Mwakirunge Mombasa County. The facility will play a more significant role as a rescue center for survivors of gender-based violence.

The community requested the construction as key in providing shelter for survivors even as they seek treatment at the hospital located in the same place. ActionAid Kenya co-creates solutions with the community and partners. The protection center resulted from the deliberations by all the partners. The county government of Mombasa played a critical role in providing land where the structure was constructed.

“We are happy as Sauti Ya Wanawake; through ActionAid’s support, we now have a building that will benefit our people. The building will be critical as a shelter for survivors of gender-based violence. The rescue center’s proximity to the hospital is an added advantage as survivors will easily receive care from the hospital.” Violet Thiga C.E.O Sauti Ya Wanawake

“This building will help women and girls who are survivors of GBV; we are grateful to ActionAid and the County Government for making it possible for our community to have this structure. ” Mwanahamisi, Community Member

ActionAid International Kenya Executive Director Susan Otieno reiterated the organization’s commitment to winning the fight against GBV by supporting all players involved in the battle to eliminate GBV. The building was launched by the AAIK Board Chair Sam Muga.

The local administration and political leadership were appreciative of the initiative and committed to ensuring



AAIK Board Chair Muga Cuts the Ribbon to commission the Maunguja Resource and protection center in Mwakirunge

that they support in ensuring that the center achieves its purpose; they included local chiefs and area Member of the County Assembly (MCA).

ActionAid has implemented a local rights programme in Mwakirunge and Bamburi for the last ten years, which has seen livelihoods change for the better. Through the Local Rights Programme approach, we fund projects and programmes in a locality to ensure that poor and marginalized populations secure sustained improvement



Dignitaries are being taken inside the protection center.



Participants at the Finance bill discussion forum at Pumwani social hall.

Nairobi Community Voices on the Finance Bill 2023 and 2023/24 National Budget

‘Cut corruption, deliver quality services, and we shall willfully pay these taxes,’ the government told.

The Finance Bill 2023 drew varied opinions from Kenyans, with more criticism than approval.

Many Kenyans- the common ‘Mwananchi’ decried not being consulted through public participation before

the Finance Bill 2023 proposals were presented to the parliament. However, the government did carry out public participation, as reports in the media indicate.

Not many Kenyans understand public participation and do not know how to get involved. To this effect, ActionAid International Kenya (AAIK) and the National Taxpayers Association (NTA) organized a Town Hall Meeting at Pumwani Social Hall to build the capacities of Nairobi communities on the budget-making process on June 19, 2023.

During the plenary, the participants- drawn from all wards in Nairobi- indicated that capacity building on various societal issues must be done on a rolling basis for Kenyans to participate from the point of knowledge. "It is hard to engage effectively during public participation when you do not understand the subject. I implore the public and private sectors and development organizations to continually build the communities' capacity to engage the various government departments in legislation processes ably.



Members of the public air their views during the Finance bill discussions at Pumwani social hall

Though invited, elected Nairobi legislators and members of the county assembly, none of them honored the invitation. Only the MP for the Kamukunji constituency sent his representative, while three MCAs sent their ward administrators.

Just before the Finance Bill 2023 went for the committee of the whole house stage, the Town Hall Meeting presented a memorandum to parliament highlighting their concerns and proposals with the bill as detailed below:

1. The government has not highlighted the inclusivity of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the housing project.
2. The proposed taxes on the importation of machinery for recycling plants should not be adopted.
3. The government addresses issues of corruption and wastage in government.
4. The taxes on imported cement should not be uniform.
5. Affordability of basic (food) commodities should be addressed through incentivizing farm input.
6. The fuel tax should be revised downward from 16%.
7. Tax on vaccine and malaria kits should be dropped.



Partners make a press statement after the forum.

"Today's session was insightful, and I wish we had this training in time. Now, we are engaging the National Assembly Finance and Planning Committee in the tail-end of the public participation period. However, we believe we should still be heard," voiced John Kimani.

On the controversial 3% housing levy opposed by many Kenyans, Kevin Kiogora demanded tax justice, saying Kenyans do not have any issues paying the taxes, but their money should be used well.

"We have no problem paying our taxes. Our problem is how the government utilizes the funds Kenyans entrust it with. Kenyans are up-in-arms with the proposed new and increased taxes because a huge amount of our money ends up in corruption and not quality service delivery," lamented Kiogora.

Protect the Lives of Children in the Digital Landscape

This year's Day of African child was marked on 16 June 2023 with a call for combined efforts to raise awareness on the promotion and protection of the rights of children in the digital environment.

To mark this day ActionAid Kenya joined other partners in Isiolo, Garissa, Homabay and Taita Taveta counties to

celebrate the day of the child. Children are core in our programming. Our child programmes seek to ensure children's rights are upheld including access to basic rights of food, shelter, and education.

The celebrations preceded the Day of the African Child national launch in Garissa County on 9th June 2023. ActionAid International Kenya amplifies the voices of children in the 22 counties we are implementing our programmes.

Photo Gallery: Day of the African Child Celebration



Day of the African Child event in Isiolo County



National Pre-Launch of Day of the African Child in Garissa County

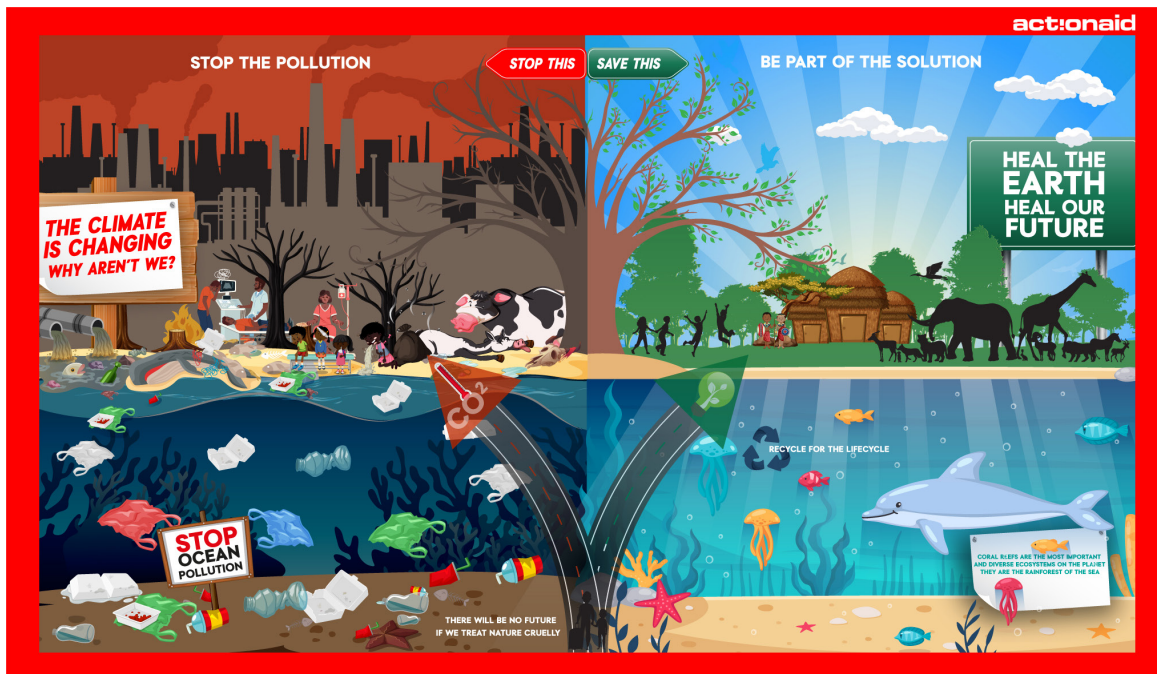


Day of the African Child event in Makueni County



Day of the African Child event in Taita Taveta County

Stop the Pollution. Be part of the solution



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