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Community engagement in Komolion, Tangulbei Baringo County.

ActionAid Project Improving Livelihoods in 'Troubled' County

Climate change affects us all, but the situation is dire for women and children in vulnerable areas. Three women from Tangulbei in Baringo County share their stories on how the drought had put their lives on the edge and how the Gender Responsive Alternatives to Climate Change Project has progressively transformed their lives. The three survivors represent how climate change has impacted communities negatively.

Tangulbei is situated in Tiaty, Baringo County; the area is categorized as an Arid and Semi-arid land (ASALs) by the National Government. ASAL regions receive minimal rainfall and are usually associated with low development indicators. The inhabitants of Tangulbei are majorly

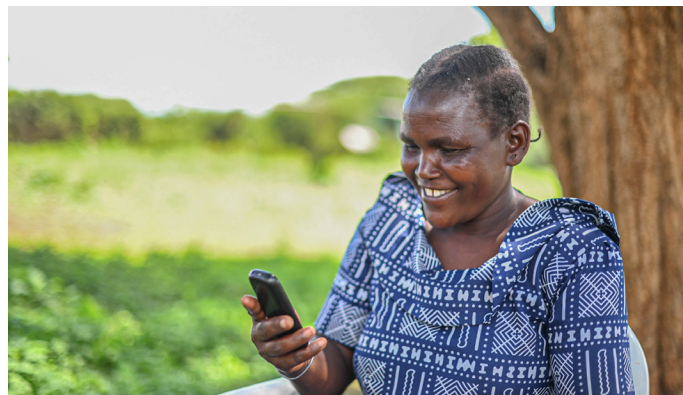
pastoralists, with a few practicing small-scale farming, though with challenges due to the failing rainfalls. Coming from a pastoralist community that always depended on livestock for a livelihood, Chepokulumong, Longoria, and Salina struggled to provide for their families. The drought never spared their livestock; many died, while the remaining few were sold off at a loss. Their situation was and is further complicated by the insecurity that is being experienced in the county. The area occasionally faces insecurity due to banditry attacks associated with cattle rustling and boundary conflicts.

Limited resources like water and pasture often find communities in this region at loggerheads with neighbouring communities. Currently, an ongoing security operation seeks to bring peace to the area. We happened to have experienced what these women go through due to insecurity as we had to cancel our day

two of documentation due to a bandit attack at a market about 10 km away from where we were.

The Gender Responsive Alternatives to Climate Change Project came in handy for them as it helped improve their livelihoods. They have benefitted greatly from being educated on new farming methods like agroecology, transforming them into Agro pastoralists. They have also been educated on their rights and to advocate for services from duty bearers. They are also engaged in income-generating initiatives through Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA), spearheaded by the project. Through these initiatives, their lives have been improved.

“The drought has affected us in a big way. I struggled to provide for my family, but an exchange programme to Isiolo organized by ActionAid exposed me to practices that changed my life for good. During our visit, we saw how other pastoralist communities bettered their lives by practicing new farming methods and village loans and savings associations. After the visit and the skills, I acquired after training, I started practicing new farming methods by growing indigenous vegetables. I can now sustain myself by selling vegetables for an income which I use to buy other food items. I also started a village loan and saving association group together with other women, where I save profit from my small business. Through the savings, I have been able to get a loan that I used to pay school fees for my child.” Chepokulumong Daniel



Chepokulumong Daniel during our interview in Tangulbei, Baringo County.

“I previously depended on livestock for a livelihood, but we lost most of the animals due to drought. This has left us poor. With the education on new farming methods, I now practice small-scale farming that enables me to grow food for consumption and sell extra for an income. The project has also educated me on my rights as a woman and can stand against violence” Longoria Lokipunah



Longoria Lokipunah during our interview in Tangulbei, Baringo County.

“Life was very hard over here due to the drought and insecurity; we always live in fear. We struggle to feed our families, but the ActionAid project opened my eyes. They taught me how to easily better my life and that of my family. I do manual jobs in people’s homes, and with an education in saving, I now work hard and save money in my local Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA). The village and loans associations have enabled me to borrow and repay. The borrowed money has allowed me to return my daughter to school. She had dropped out of school and got married but was still struggling where she had been married. Once I got the money, I went and brought her back home and ensured she went back to school.” Salina Kakuko

The Gender Responsive Alternatives for Adoption to Climate Change project has played a critical role in strengthening women's resilience-building capacity, supporting women-led protection mechanisms, modelling community climate-resilient livelihood systems and engaging duty bearers, including the County Government

of Baringo and the national government.

The project is Funded by the Department of Foreign and Trade Australia (DFAT) Gender Action Platform and implemented by ActionAid Kenya in partnership with ActionAid Australia.



Salina Kakuko at a VSLA meeting.



AAIK stand at the AACOSE Conference that was held at the Tangaza University College

Personalizing Solutions to Impact Communities

The world is changing and impacting individuals hence the need to personalize the solutions to address unique needs in a unique way. A good example is the case of climate change, that has affected women, children, and young people in a big way. ActionAid International Kenya uniquely addresses challenges facing individuals and their communities by co-creating solutions together with the affected and empowering them to speak out and be agents of change.

During the 6th edition of the Annual Africa Conference on Social Entrepreneurship held at Tangaza University College in Nairobi from 10th to 11th May 2023, ActionAid International Kenya got a unique opportunity to showcase and highlight how we have transformed the lives of women and their communities for the 50 years we've been in operation in Kenya. The conference aims to build a collaborative and healthy ecosystem for the African continent's long-term growth and address the solutions that create an enabling ecosystem and the barriers that stand in the way.

ActionAid Kenya participated through exhibition and

was also represented in the panel discussion by the Fundraising Coordinator. Speaking as one of the panelists, she highlighted how the organization enables the transformation by putting women at the center of its work.

"ActionAid Kenya puts women at the frontline of social change. We do this through skills enhancement, enhancing their capacity on entrepreneurship and providing financial linkages" Hannah Munyao, Fundraising Coordinator, ActionAid International Kenya



AAIK Fundraising Coordinator Hannah Munyao during a panel discussion at Tangaza University College

ActionAid Kenya envisions a world without poverty and injustice, and that's why we invest in people's ability to create change for themselves and their communities.



AAIK team with Governor Nadhif Jama and other County Leaders in his office in Garissa County

Strengthening Partnerships for Service Delivery

To strengthen service delivery, ActionAid International Kenya partners with duty-bearers to ensure that communities access quality services. This is achieved through engaging County Governments strategically. ActionAid International Kenya paid courtesy visits to the County Governments of Garissa and Mombasa in May, where we agreed on partnership opportunities.

In Garissa County, the ActionAid International Kenya team met with the Governor, H.E Nathif Jama. They had an opportunity to highlight our work in the county and discussed partnership opportunities. The team was led by the Local Rights Programme and Partnerships Coordinator Yusuf Abdi and Kitasi Wanga, Programme Manager, Resilient Livelihoods and Emergencies. The delegation also included ActionAid's Humanitarian Director, Ms. Sara Almer, who was visiting the country. ActionAid International Kenya Board Members and Senior

Management, on a working tour in the county later that month, met the Deputy Governor of Garissa County, H.E Abdi Dagane. The Board Chair, Sam Muga and the Executive Director, Susan Otieno led the team. During the meeting, the Deputy Governor was joined by the CECM Gender and Social Services, Hon.Hawa Abdi Sahal. ActionAid Kenya is implementing programmes in the

county that seek to empower women and young people living in poverty and exclusion and foster greater respect for children rights. This is being implemented through the girl generation programme that seeks to ensure that the girl child is protected from harmful traditional practices like Female Genital Mutilation/ Cut and ensure that girls are given a chance to realize their dreams by remaining in school.

The other programme is a local rights programme that is being implemented in Kamuthe. The Local Rights Programme is an approach used by AAIK. Through this approach we fund projects and programmes in a locality to ensure that poor and marginalized populations secure sustained improvement in the quality of their lives. The county leadership commended ActionAid's work in Kamuthe. They have experienced its impact on the lives of the community.

ActionAid International Board Members and Senior Management appreciated the relationship between these two institutions and promised to continue the programmes ActionAid was undertaking in the county.



From Right Susan Otieno, Executive Director AAIK, Deputy Governor, Hon Abdi Dagane, AAIK Board Chairperson Sam Muga and CECM Gender Hon. Hawa Abdi Sahal



AAIK Board and Senior Management take a picture together with the Deputy Governor, Hon Abdi Dagane



AAIK Senior Management take a picture together with the Governor of Mombasa County Abdulswamad Nassir

AAIK Team Meets the County Government of Mombasa

In the same month, the ActionAid International Kenya (AAIK) senior team led by Executive Director Susan Otieno paid a courtesy visit to the Governor of Mombasa County, Hon Abdulswamad Nassir. During the meeting, the group highlighted our work in the county and discussed partnership opportunities. AAIK has implemented several programmes in Mombasa County, the latest being the Local Rights Programme in Bamburi, which has existed for the last ten years.

AAIK partnership model involves shifting power to the communities especially women living in poverty and exclusion and their institutions.



AAIK Team led by the Executive Director Susan Otieno with the Governor Hon Abdulswamad Nassir at the county headquarters in Mombasa County

SAMPAK Project Hosts AICS in Isiolo County

ActionAid International Kenya hosted officials from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in Isiolo County. The team was on a monitoring and learning visit to the Sustainable Agroecology Models of Production for the ASAL Kenya (SAMPAK) Project. The team was led by Luigi Luminari, the team leader of Agriculture and Rural Development, accompanied by Francesco Palumbo -the Programme Officer -Natural Resource Management and Miriam Bulbarelli.



Luigi Luminari the team leader of Agriculture and Rural Development, Making a presentation during the visit

Sustainable Agroecology Models of Production for ASAL Kenya (SAMPAK) is a community-led project in Isiolo County: Burat, Ngaremara and Oldonyiro Wards implemented together with ActionAid Kenya, Merti Integrated Development Programme (MIDP) and Cesvi supported by funding from Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation-(AICS). The visit also

included a discussion with the County Government of Isiolo leadership, the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), and a visit to the farmers, VSLA groups, and Farmer cooperatives.



County Secretary Isiolo Dadhe Boru follows the discussion during the SAMPAK visit.

The effects of climate change in Isiolo County has pushed pastoral communities to drop livestock due to high losses and move towards agriculture. In this regard, transition to agropastoralism has posed several issues linked with climate shocks such as extreme droughts and floods causing crop failures. The agropastoral communities of the target area are therefore living in extreme poverty, due to the combined effects of income losses, food insecurity as well as to the lack of sustainable alternative livelihoods.

ActionAid and its partners are implementing an initiative based on three components: Diversification of livelihoods, by involving the communities which have already started to transition to agropastoralism.

1. Increased sustainability of traditional livelihoods, in particular livestock, through the promotion of integrated models of Natural Resource Management.
2. Foster the institutional dialogue by promoting coordination between beneficiaries and their associations, with the representatives of Local Authorities at County and national level.

3. The project is improving food and nutrition security for 10 agro-pastoralist communities, including women and other vulnerable groups, of Isiolo County.

Households depending on pastoralism are working to improve their resilience and their adaptation strategies to climate change, by making their livelihoods more sustainable. Transition to agropastoralism is supporting income diversification by enhancing crops productivity and domestic income. This is thanks to the use of

modern and more sustainable agroecology. Women and other vulnerable groups living in the target communities are improving their nutritional status with the adoption of good nutritional practices and a higher consideration of the women's role in the communities. Community institutions, including associations of producers, are improving their capacity to interact with the local authorities and the private sector, to ensure them better services and better prices for their products.



AICS Nairobi team and SAMPAC project partners follow the discussion during the SAMPAC project during their visit.

AAIK hands Title Deed to Likoni Community Development Programme (LICODEP)

ActionAid International Kenya (AAIK) Executive Director Susan Otieno was the guest of honour during the official title deed handing over ceremony for Likoni Community Development Programme (LICODEP) office spaces whose foundation and development were initially supported by ActionAid Kenya. The handover took place on the 30th of May 2023 at the LICODEP premises in Mombasa County

ActionAid International Kenya and Likoni Community Development Programme (LICODEP) have been partners for nearly 20 years. The two organizations began working together around 1998 and managed to mobilize and organize the community of Likoni into various facets in transforming the Likoni community and peaceful coexistence.



Members of LICODEP hold a dummy of the title deed during the event.



AAIK Executive Director, Susan Otieno interacts with women during the event at LICODEP.

LICODEP continues to build a constituency of a conscientious and politically active community in Likoni and her environs.



AAIK Executive Director Susan Otieno commissions LICODEP Community and Resource Centre

Stop the Pollution. Be part of the solution

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