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*Kilifi County Governor Gideon Mungaro when he visited ActionAid Kenya stand at the devolution conference.*

## **Kenya Marks 10 years of Devolution with a Call for Strengthening of Systems for Service Delivery**

Kenya marked 10 years since the inception of the devolved system of governance. The event was held on August 15th – 19th in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County. Under the theme: Driving Transformation from the local level: County Governments as the center of economic development, the conference provided an opportunity to reflect on the ten years of devolution and explore

locally and internationally recognized methodologies for strengthening systems to enhance transformational service delivery in counties.

ActionAid International Kenya prides itself on the successes that have been realized because of devolution. This is informed by the fact that ActionAid Kenya was a key player during the constitution review process in 2010, which saw the promulgation of the new constitution that brought devolution. During this time, ActionAid Kenya participated by mobilizing communities through civic education, culminating in over 12,000 submissions on

various positions and disseminating copies of the draft to communities.

ActionAid Kenya participated strategically at the conference through an exhibition where we hosted several county heads and delegations at our stand. Those who visited our stand got a chance to learn more about ActionAid work, we also discussed partnership opportunities. In addition, ActionAid Kenya had a team of delegates who engaged funding partners, delegations from both the national and county government, corporates, and foundations. The event was graced by the President of the republic of Kenya, H.E Dr William Ruto



*Programmes Lead, Samson Okech Orao holds a discussion with Isiolo County Secretary, Dadhe Boru at the Devolution Conference 2023.*

ActionAid International Kenya has footprint in 22 out of the 47 counties in Kenya.



*Delegates visit the ActionAid Kenya stand at the devolution conference that was held in Uasin Gishu County*

The last 10 years of devolution brought hope and impact to communities. However, challenges still hinder the full realization of a just and democratic governance for access to Gender Responsive Public Service. As counties look forward to the next decade, ActionAid Kenya looks forward to strategically partnering with county governments to ensure the provision of Gender Responsive Public Services targeting women and their communities living in poverty and exclusion.



*AAIK team at the Devolution Conference from left: Samuel Nyutu, Fundraising and IPD Lead, Hannah Munyao Fundraising Coordinator and Samson Orao Programmes and Strategy Lead*



*Annastacia Makete arranging bales of grass for her livestock.*

## **Drought preparedness through pasture management and climate justice advocacy**

With three failed rainy seasons in Kenya, farmers' livelihoods in the country's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) areas have been disrupted. Those who previously depended on farming and livestock keeping cannot do so. Crops have dried up due to lack of rain, and livestock

have died due to lack of pasture. Communities, especially women and girls in these areas, travel long distances for water.

Despite the drought, communities who have interacted with our programmes, have become resilient and are benefiting despite the existing challenges. One of these persons is Annastacia Makete, a farmer from Kimunde,

Kanzokea, in Kithuki Kitise ward in Makueni county. We took time to visit her and learn from her experience.

As we walked to her homestead, we were welcomed by healthy-looking cattle feeding on harvested grass. Near her house was a poultry house; we could see about 30 chickens at their holding yard pecking on grains and others drinking water. Across, there were two donkeys and a herd of goats grazing. This painted a different picture from other homesteads that we had visited, and again, you wouldn't expect to find all that in a drought-stricken area.

She welcomed us, and we proceeded to our discussion after exchanging pleasantries. Makete first interacted with our programme through one of our local partners KaKiKa (Kanzokea, Kithuki and Kanthuni). The partner had organized a forum to educate farmers on how to ensure their livelihoods are not affected by the drought. A team of trainers from ActionAid Kenya proceeded to educate them on various measures they could use to survive the drought.

As a livestock keeper, she was interested in one of the sessions that was educating farmers on how to grow grass, harvest, and store for future use. During the sessions, she sought more information on grass growing and was ready to try independently after several practical sessions.

"Through the information I got from ActionAid and its partner, I proceeded to grow grass during short rain periods. Luckily, the grass matured, and I harvested and stored it for future use. I engaged in grass growing as I envisioned succeeding in the initiative." Stated Makete

"The pasture I harvested during my first-time planting did very well and was surplus to the point I started selling. Having been taught on storage, I stored enough for future use but somehow, I needed more information on commercializing the venture for more income. This necessitated more training." She added.

"During the next session, we requested to be educated

on how we could benefit more from the pasture. We were educated on bundling the grass in bales. The bundling assisted us in determining the prices to avoid losses. Initially, we could sell a bundle of grass at Ksh 350, but with information on baling, a bundle that would cost 350 is currently producing two bales out of it, which I sell each at Ksh 250, meaning from Ksh 350, we now get Ksh 500, a profit of Ksh 150 extra is realized." Said Annastacia Makete



Growing grass has not only allowed her to provide pasture for her livestock, but it has also provided a source of income; she sells the surplus for an income. She uses the revenue to grow more grass and cater for her family's basic needs, including paying school fees for her children.

Knowledge of grass growing has transformed her life. As she participates in solutions to the climate crisis in her small way through planting trees, she considers the climate discussion a top priority. She still hopes that a solution to the climate crisis will be realized.



*Mumbua watering tree seedlings at their tree nursery.*

## **Hold polluters accountable for our existence!**

The climate crisis has had devastating effects on many across the world. This is a similar case for communities in Kenya who have experienced failed rains leading to loss of livelihoods. As communities experience these challenges, the situation is dire for women and children. Women must travel long distances in search of water and food.

One who has experienced the impacts of the climate crisis is Teresiah Mumbua Munyao from Makueni; she has experienced the devastating effects of failed rainy seasons. Despite this, she is determined to pull through.

Together with 10 other women, they have incorporated agroecology practices to grow mangoes, pawpaws and lemons. They sell these seedlings for an income, which they then invest in a Village Loans and Savings Association. They can borrow money for personal development through the village and loans association.

“ActionAid educated us about VSLA (village and loans association). We came together and decided to engage in the growing of mangoes, pawpaws, and lemons seedlings. Considering our region is good at the growth of fruits, we came together, and with their support, we kickstarted this initiative and two years down the line, we have been able to sell seedlings and get the money we use for our basic needs.” stated Mumbua.

She sites lack water as their biggest challenge.

“Our main challenge is water in this initiative. Failed rains lead to the drying up of young trees. To address this situation, the income we get after selling the seedlings is what we use to buy water for watering the seedlings. We have also purchased a chain link and nets to protect the young seedlings from animal damage.” She added.

“During the last year, our VSLA managed to raise 600,000 thousand, which we distributed amongst ourselves. This money enabled me to invest and pay my children’s school fees.” stated Mumbua.

As we wound our discussion, she took us to her farm, where we saw mango trees flowering. She proceeds to indicate that the situation would have been different if there had been enough rain.

“Growing up, the climate wasn’t this bad. We experienced rain that would be enough for my parents to grow food and keep livestock, but the situation has deteriorated with time.” she stated

Coincidentally, her name Mumbua means born when there was rain.

“Climate change is real, and its consequences are dire; we need to be serious about climate change mitigation measures. Locally, we are engaged in our small mitigation measures of planting drought-resistant trees and avoiding cutting the existing ones. People should be held accountable, especially those who destroy our forests and emit harmful gases into the air; they are the cause of all our problems.” said Mumbua

Mumbua speaks for many other women who have survived the devastating effects of the climate crisis, and the little those who have played a role in this crisis should do is to be accountable.



*Mumbua at the tree nursery*





## ActionAid Kenya Hosts the Fair, Green and Global Annual Meeting

ActionAid and partners within the Fair, Green and Global programme organized an annual strategic meeting to share experiences, learn from each other and plan together. ActionAid Kenya was the convener for this year's conference that was held in Taita Taveta County. The theme for this year's meeting was Leaving No One Behind-Tackling Gendered Barriers of Trade and Investment Value Chains at Local and National Levels for Global Impact.

The meeting participants comprised ActionAid (AA) staff and ActionAid partners from Kenya, Uganda, Bangladesh, Guatemala, Netherlands, and Zimbabwe who are implementing the Fair, Green and Global (FGG) programme. The programme focuses on strengthening the power and influence of civil society, especially women, in advocating for fair and green trade and value chains.

Click on this link for the full report- <https://actionaid-kenya.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/FINAL-FGG-REPORT-2023.pdf>

STOP THE POLLUTION

STOP THIS

SAVE THIS

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

THE CLIMATE IS CHANGING  
WHY AREN'T WE?

HEAL THE  
EARTH  
HEAL OUR  
FUTURE

STOP  
OCEAN  
POLLUTION

RECYCLE FOR THE LIFECYCLE

CORAL REEFS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT  
AND DIVERSE ECOSYSTEMS ON THE PLANET  
THEY ARE THE RAINFOREST OF THE SEA

THERE WILL BE NO FUTURE  
IF WE TREAT NATURE CRUELLY



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