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Editorial Team

Ezra Kiriago - Communications Coordinator
Mary Makokha - Communications Officer

Designed by:

John Musila - Fundraising Communications Officer

Seeking Inclusivity and Just Governance in the Extractive Sector



Participants following proceedings at the Jukwaa La Madini, Mafuta na Gesi on November 16, 2023, in Nairobi

Communities where gemstones, oil and gas are being extracted continue to languish in poverty despite the government putting in place a formula to distribute the revenue collected from mining activity in their areas. This was the picture Artisanal and Small-scale Miners captured during the Jukwaa La Madini, Mafuta na Gesi held between November 14 and 16, 2023, in Nairobi.

Exploiting extractive resources offers substantial revenue prospects and possible contributions to Kenya's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth. The extractive sector accounts for an estimated 4.2% of the national GDP and 3% of Kenya's export earnings. From the 4.2% of the national GDP, Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) account for an estimated 0.8%. In Kenya, there are around 800,000 Kenyans who depend on ASM.

Thomas Kipnyeng said when reading the speech of the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Mining (Elijah Mwangi): "Transparency is the bedrock of trust."

Indeed, a lack of transparency by multinationals and national government on revenue has caused distrust in the community. Even though the law has provided the 7-2-1 extractive/ mining revenue distribution rule, members of mining communities from Taita Taveta, Kwale, Kilifi, Kitui, Kakamega, Kajiado, Narok, Migori, Marsabit and Turkana indicated that they did not know how much they were entitled to. The 7-2-1 rule means the central government retains 70% of the proceeds, 20% is sent to the county government, and 10% to the community. The efforts of artisanal and small-scale miners continue to be thwarted by a myriad of challenges, including equipment, finances, and the market. These have

contributed to the violation of human rights that bedevil the mining and extractive industry in Kenya.

Further, women continue to face discrimination and exploitation in the mining fields.

Josephine Chao from Taita Taveta said:

“There are tasks that women are not given at the mines, not that we cannot do them, and that affects our earnings. Buyers of our minerals bargain for lower prices than they will part with, buying from a male seller. We also face sexual abuse and exploitation in the extractive industry,”

“Since the enactment of the Mining Act 2016, Kenya, we have made good progress in Kenya, but there is still much to be done. In terms of participation, women are not meaningfully involved. Most of the time, men are given all the time and at the tail end of discussions, a woman is asked to give their opinion or idea in passing,” said Pauline Atieno.



ActionAid International Kenya's Pauline Atieno addressing-participants at the Jukwaa La Madini Mafuta na Gesi in Nairobi

She added: “Women need platforms like this one where they can articulate their views and voice their issues to be part of policy making in the mining and extractive sector.”



ActionAid International Kenya's Pauline Atieno addressing-participants at the Jukwaa La Madini Mafuta na Gesi in Nairobi

Pre YouLead Summit - Young People Call for Meaningful Engagement



Young people engage in an activity during the pre-summit.

The Global Platform Kenya, an affiliate of ActionAid Kenya, held the pre-YouLead summit event on 17th November 2023 at the Global Platform grounds as a precursor to the main YouLead 2022 Summit held in Kenya from 20th to 24th November 2023 at the Bomas of Kenya. The Global Platform Kenya supports movements, youth networks, organisations and individuals who promote the agenda of progressive youth-led change.

The pre-summit theme was Youth-Led Solutions: Rethinking the Kenyan Education System, Existing Economic Opportunities, and Youth Representation in Decision-Making Spaces.

The pre-summit brought together national policymakers

together with youth leaders to craft homegrown, solution-based approaches to resolve the most pressing development young people are facing in Kenya; they included reviewing the extent to which the current education system is addressing skills needed in the evolving labour market, discussions among young people on how to address the challenge of limited access to economic opportunities and decent work for young people in Kenya, and how to overcome low representation of young people in decision-making spaces in Kenya.

Speaking at the event, young people were categorical of the need for them to be actively involved in governance and decision-making processes.

“The youth are not actively engaged in governance and are only brought to the tail end for mere formality when decisions have already been made. Young people deserve to be heard before any decisions that touch on them are made,” stated Daiman.

ActionAid Kenya Programmes and Strategy Lead Samson Orao reiterated the need for meaningful engagement of young people by the duty-bearers.

“Young people’s involvement in governance has been

more of recipients as opposed to direct engagement. Young people should be actively engaged in crafting solutions to their most pressing issues.”

The pre-summit deliberations were informed by the proposition that 'a radical transformation of the current education system in Kenya is imperative to equip youth with the skills required for the evolving labour market, and that increased access to economic opportunities, decent work, and enhanced representation in decision-making spaces are essential for the holistic development of young people.'

The main summit is jointly convened annually by the East African Community (EAC), MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation (MSTCDC), the EAC Youth Ambassadors Platform and other state and non-state partners in Arusha Tanzania.



ActionAid Kenya Programmes and Strategy Lead Samson Orao speaks during the summit.



Young people representatives from across the country during the summit

Young People in Kenya Hold Workshop for a United Voice on Climate Change.

Involving young people in conversations about climate change and policy formulation is crucial for fostering inclusive decision-making and safeguarding pastoral communities' way of life and cultural heritage.

There is a need for factual, well-articulated and targeted communication on climate change, and this can only be achieved if the communicators are well-informed about the phenomenon. To this effect, ActionAid International Kenya (AAIK) and its partners brought together 100 young people from all corners of Kenya to build their capacity and understanding of all the facets of climate change on Monday, November 27, 2023, in Nairobi. Our partners in this initiative included Care Kenya, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), PELUM Kenya and ActionAid Denmark.



Participants following discussions during the youth workshop held in Nairobi.

When we talk about 'Fund Our Future,' it is imperative that the youth and communities most affected by climate change are engaged from the point of knowledge for any fruitful outcome. As we draw closer to the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and with a limited number of young people represented at COP28, the young people have resolved to occupy alternative platforms to participate in the convention.

"It is difficult to find all of us on the discussion tables in Dubai, but we can create ways to voice our issues and concerns to be discussed in the Convention. Climate change is a pressing matter, and all humans are reeling from its effects. While others will be in Dubai deliberating on climate change, Kenya is reeling in the most severe impacts of this phenomenon," said Kitasi Wanga, AAIK programme manager – resilient livelihoods and emergencies while encouraging young people to take to social media platforms to engage and contribute to the climate fair.



Kitasi Wanga, AAIK's programme manager, resilient livelihoods, and emergencies, speaking at the youth capacity building workshop held in Nairobi.

Now, people have died from floods occasioned by El-Nino rains. Animals, crops, houses, schools, and business premises are being swept away, shuttering people's livelihoods. Japheth Orieny, a young environmentalist, noted that young people will have to do double work to realize climate justice.

He said: "As African youth, we feel our voices and that of communities most affected are not considered in climate conventions like #COP28. It is time terminologies and policy documents are simplified for the youth to understand to contribute to the change we desire."

Having attended various climate change forums and the COP27, the climate justice advocate also listed some challenges hampering efforts to stop and reverse climate change.

“Some delegates negotiate in bad faith, pushing their business agendas, not climate plans. Much can be achieved if such delegates are screened out of all COPs. The youth and members of communities most affected by climate change are not well represented in COP discussions,” added Orieny.

Sharing his experience at COP meetings, Collins Odhiambo of ActionAid Denmark noted that more time and importance must be attached to the Convention deliberations.

“There is a need to articulate the urgency and impact of climate change in our lives in Africa, but if a topic/subject or concern is allocated two minutes (literary) for consultations before presentations are made and conclusions are drawn, we cannot have the right picture



Collins Odhiambo engages youth at the youth workshop held in Nairobi.

from which decisions are arrived at,” averred Odhiambo. COP28 commences on Thursday, November 30, 2023, and runs through to Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at Expo City Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



Obed Koringo, Care Kenya's Climate Policy Adviser, makes a presentation at the youth workshop held in Nairobi.

Dimitra Clubs Forum: Inclusive Community Engagement for People's Empowerment and Gender Equality



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with ActionAid Kenya, launched the Kenya chapter of the Three Strategic Dimitra Club approach in Kilifi County in May 2022, with the goal of promoting inclusive community engagement and empowering individuals, particularly women, in rural areas.

For more than a decade, Dimitra clubs have been powerful drivers of people's empowerment in rural areas of sub-Saharan African countries. These clubs are voluntary groups composed of men, women, and young people who come together to make positive changes in their communities.

The Dimitra Clubs approach is based on self-development and self-reliance. These clubs enable members of the community to identify common challenges, discuss them, come up with solutions, and implement them together. This approach has been highly successful in

promoting gender equality, economic inclusion, and overall community development. (Source: FAO)



Since the launch of Dimitra Clubs in Kilifi County in 2022, the project established 23 Dimitra Clubs in 20 villages in Malindi and Magarini Sub Counties. These clubs meet weekly or monthly, and their combined a totals of 1004 individuals.

The Dimitra Clubs Forum, organized by FAO and ActionAid Kenya, took place in Malindi on the 28th and 29th of November. The event was designed to exhibit the experiences, results, challenges, and lessons learned by Dimitra Clubs to local authorities, stakeholders, and the media to gain support for the approach and encourage its expansion.

Speaking at the event Samson Orai, Programme and Strategy Lead at ActionAid Kenya expressed gratitude for the partnership between AAIK and FAO and emphasized the importance of addressing livelihood and food security issues in the community, especially considering the flooding emergency that Kenya is experiencing. The event continued with presentations from FAO representatives, the Deputy County Commissioner, and other stakeholders.

Representatives from six clubs presenting their results and sharing their experiences, with a focus on various aspects, including infrastructure and roads development, improved education, youth engagement, food security and nutrition, access to clean water, and economic empowerment through income-generating activities. Dimitra Clubs have brought about transformative changes both personally and within the community, leading to significant changes.

“Individuals involved in the clubs have experienced increased self-esteem and a sense of empowerment” explained a representative of the Umuhimuwa Dimitra Club.

“Our club has given us a platform to share our concerns and contribute to community development, as well as taught us how to use our own resources to address challenges. It has given the youth a voice and an

opportunity to demonstrate their potential and highlight successful actions.”



“Prior to the establishment of the Dimitra Club, there was a significant lack of open dialogue and exchange of opinions within our community.” However, since the creation of the Dimitra Club, all of us have an equal opportunity, regardless of age or gender, to express their opinions, contribute to the community, and actively participate in forums with peers and stakeholders.” explained a representative Tabia – Maoni Dimitra Club

Grace Mwangi, Community Engagement and Gender and Empowerment Specialist of FAO provided an in-depth explanation of the Dimitra Clubs approach highlighting the significant impact the clubs have had on various areas, such as nutrition, agriculture practices, education, health, behavior change, and women’s rights. The approach has also promoted gender equality and empowered women to participate equally in community decision-making processes.

Contact Us:

Email: info.kenya@actionaid.org

Physical Office Address: All Africa Conference of Churches Building,
Waiyaki Way, Ibium House, Second Floor
P.O Box 42814-00100, Nairobi

Office Telephone Lines: +254 (020) 425 0500 ,
+254 722518220 , +254 722207749,
+254 733333352, +254 733330053

Fundraising Hotline: 0700 653 153



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