



act:onaid

Annual Report
2023



Our Vision

A world without poverty and injustice in which every person enjoys their right to a life of dignity.



Our Mission

To work with people living in poverty and exclusion to eradicate poverty and injustice.

Our values



Mutual Respect



Humility



Courage of Conviction



Honesty and Transparency



Equity and Justice



Solidarity with the poor

The 2023 Annual Report encapsulates the period from January 1st, 2023, to December 31st, 2023. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the potential for errors or unintended omissions remains. Please attribute information from this report to ActionAid International Kenya

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AA.	ActionAid
AAI	ActionAid International
AAIK	ActionAid International Kenya
ALM	Africa Led Movement
ASALs	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
CBO	Community Based Organization
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CLCP	Community Led Change Plans
COG	Council of Governors
COM B	Capabilities, Opportunity, Motivation Behavior
COP	Conference of Parties
CS	Child Sponsorship
DAC	Day of the African Child
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EE	Economic Empowerment
EL	Education for Life
EFAST	Emergency Fast
EFL	Education for Life
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation / Cut
GA	General Assembly
GBP	Great Britain Pound
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms
GP	Global Platform
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
HROD	Human Resource and Organization Development

IEBC	Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission
IHART	International Humanitarian Action and Resilience Team
IPD	Institutional Partnerships Development
IWD	International Women's Day
GRPS	Gender Responsive Public Services
LACCSOF	Laikipia County Civil Society Forum
LIPE	Living in Poverty and Exclusion.
LRP	Local Rights Program
MCAAs	Member of County Assemblies
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MoE	Ministry of Education
MS-TCDC	MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation
NLC	National Land Commission
OOS	Out of School
PRRP	Participatory Review and Reflection Process
SMS	Short Message Service
SPA	Strategic Partnership Agreement
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
TGG	The Girl Generation
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VSLA	Voluntary Savings and Loaning Associations
VSO	Voluntary Service Overseas
VTC	Vocational Training Centers
YSOs	Youth Serving Organizations



Board Chairperson's and ED's Foreword

2023 brings forth a combination of ActionAid International Kenya's programme intervention. In this report, we share about our efforts to support communities living in poverty and exclusion to challenge rights violations and engage with duty bearers to claim their space in country. We present the policy engagement and the different spaces championed by AAIK to further its commitment to women and young people around economic empowerment, political leadership, climate justice, economic justice, Violence Against Women and Girls, education and so on. ActionAid has remained a premier Women's Rights Organization, championing the interests of women and young people living in poverty and exclusion. The Organization has remained true to its Mission of working with poor and excluded people to eradicate poverty and injustice.

In this report, we will bring stories of change within communities. We take you on a journey to Maunguja in Mombasa County and reveal to you how Sauti ya Wanawake in Mwakirunge came together through the support of AAIK to put up a Community Resource Centre which incorporates a safe house for survivors of VAWG within the County. The stories of resilient communities living lives of dignity amidst the face of

debilitating drought is presented in this report. AAIK support survivors to engage in community dialogues to tackle FGM and Child Marriage and reflect on men as change agents towards tackling these vices. Our work around climate justice and campaign has been carried out to support communities' ability to adapt to climate change by strengthening their capacity to engage in county and national policies, plans and processes. We take you through our advocacy efforts towards protection and support to people facing climate induced losses, and people who are forced to migrate due to climate change.

We are happy to spotlight the work of the young people, engaging in climate justice advocacy, public participation, engagement with duty bearers to hold them accountable through governance led initiatives and demanding their voices to be inclusively heard in different spaces across the country. We also examine the discussions on debt, the economy and the rising inflation that has led to a sharp rise in the cost of living in the country.

Having celebrated the golden jubilee in 2022,

we speak to you about our International General Assembly hosted at the Coast that brought together the entire Federation which was dubbed Celebrating Rootedness and Global Solidarity in Internationalization as we marked 20 years as a Federated Organization. The report takes you through the journey of AAIK; successes, challenges, lessons learnt, and a snapshot of the promise we give to the women, children, and young people in Kenya for the year 2024. The Year 2024 is ahead of us, with its opportunities and challenges. The task ahead is not easy, but the Organization has had a 50-year tradition of excellence and commits to continuing this as we serve women and young people across the country. We thank all our partners, communities, beneficiaries, donors, County authorities, funding agencies, and the National Government and other stakeholders for walking with us and look forward collaborating again. I hope this report and our work inspires you as we look forward to the journey ahead together.



Samuel Muga -Board Chair



Susan Otieno-Executive Director.

Introduction:

ActionAid International Kenya (AAIK) began its operations in Kenya in 1972 as a non-profit, non-religious, non-partisan development organization to end poverty and injustice, particularly for people living in poverty and exclusion. AAIK is registered in Kenya as a local organization with a National Board and is an affiliate of the ActionAid International Federation. The Organization is committed to ending poverty and injustice in solidarity with communities living in poverty and exclusion, mobilizing women, young women, and men living in poverty and exclusion, and their groups to shift power to them and facilitate the

leadership of their development issues by holding duty bearers accountable to Protect, Respect and Fulfil their rights in line with the Constitution of Kenya (2010).

ActionAid International Kenya works in twenty-two counties with local organizations as Partners. We have a two-tier governance structure of the General Assembly and a Board elected from this Assembly which works closely with The Executive Director and management . The Organizational Strategy, Our Rights for Justice (2018 – 2028) has three prioritized Strategic Objectives:



Country's Context:

The Year 2023 heralded a mix of opportunities for the country Kenya. The Country hosted the first-ever Africa Climate Summit that brought together 18 Heads of State and about 30,000 delegates to Nairobi to discuss Climate issues affecting the Continent. Loss and damage Financing Facility, climate finance, adaptation, food, and energy were some of the key issues deliberated on in the Summit. ActionAid International joined other Climate activists on a parallel People process dubbed the African People's Climate Assembly that called for meaningful investment through agroecology and food sovereignty, Pan-African collaboration on strategic resources, people-centered approaches, and redefinition of development from an African lens. The year began with drought and ending with El Nino flooding in the last quarter of the Year, with 14 counties being the hardest hit.

In addition to this was the high cost of living that drove the inflation rate to a high of 8.7% on average with the cost of fuel and the cost of electricity being at a peak. The introduction of taxes such as the Affordable Housing Levy led to a shrinking of income for Kenyans on the payroll amidst calls by the IMF and World Bank for austerity measures in Kenya. Discussions on economic and climate justice were prioritized within the Federation, with ActionAid launching two reports: "How the Finance Flows: The Banks Fueling the Climate Crisis" and Fifty Years of Failure: the IMF, Debt and Austerity in Africa. Security issues such as the Shakahola mass graves were also a point of concern for most Kenyans, as were the wanton corruption and withdrawal of high-profile graft cases by the Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecution, causing disquiet among a cross-section of Kenyans and dampening the spirit of fighting and reporting corruption among the public.



Parallel to the African Climate Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, the People's Assembly convened, echoing the urgency of addressing climate change with grassroots voices and community-led solutions.

Internal Context

,AAIK began a process of the Midterm Review of the Country Strategy Paper: Our Rights for Justice (2018-2028), examining the Strategic Objectives and the priority areas in the Country given the changing context. The review elicited new areas of attention, including further emphasis on young people's involvement, the shrinking democratic and civic space, the climate justice campaign, the partnership approach, as well as monitoring and evaluation. The Country also hosted the ActionAid International General Assembly

in Kilifi County to celebrate its golden jubilee having started its first programmes in 1972 in Kenya, United Kingdom and India. The International General Assembly brought together the entire Federation under the theme dubbed Celebrating Rootedness and Global Solidarity in Internationalization as we marked 20 years as a Federated Organization.

The Country also phased out of Bamburi LRP, with the handing over of the Mwakirunge Safe House to the Community at an event that was graced by the Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Martha Koome.



ActionAid Kenya hosted the ActionAid International General Assembly in Kilifi County, uniting voices from around the world in pursuit of global justice and sustainable development.

The Country also phased out of Bamburi Local Rights Programme, with the handing over of the Mwakirunge Safe House to the Community at an event that was graced by Her Ladyship Martha K. Koome, the Chief Justice and the President of the Supreme Court of Kenya.



Programme Priorities

Strategic Objective 1: 500,000 empowered women and girls living in poverty and exclusion challenge violence and secure political participation

1. Empowered communities to end VAW/G

a. Communities are continually enhancing their knowledge and capacity through various trainings and sessions to understand the harmful effects of different forms of violations.

In Isiolo and Garissa counties, Intergenerational dialogues on ending Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C), have proved to be an essential approach to disseminate information and create awareness. We reached 351 advocates for change among them men, young women breaking barriers, members of women's rights networks, and cultural leaders who conducted outreach and community conversations where young and old generations share diverse views and knowledge to accelerate the end of FGM/C hence empowering women to speak out against violence and reflect on issues like child marriage. This approach is crucial because FGM/C is often deeply rooted in religious, cultural and traditional beliefs passed down through generations.

Community radios were used to reach over 158,000 listeners through talk shows in Isiolo's Angaaf radio and Garissa's Kulmiye FM, increasing awareness and fostering attitude change/ shifts towards FGM/C. The audience were educated and engaged by community anti-FGM/C champions and members of the Kamuthe Women Network in Garissa and Isiolo Voice of Women in Isiolo where they shared information on the effects of FGM on girls' dignity, their rights, and

available legal frameworks for reporting violence against girls and women. Social diffusion has taken place in the 5 neighboring counties with very high prevalence cases as indicated in the KDHS 2022 data just released including Mandera (96%), Marsabit (83%), Samburu 86%, Tana River (60%), Wajir (97%). This is evidenced by the calls made by the audience seeking more information on FGM/C and its harmful effects.

Over 87,532 SMS messages were sent, focusing on anti-FGM/C and end-child marriage messages, available legal frameworks, and reporting procedures in the response and prevention of FGM/C. This engagement included receiving over 1,175 two-way communication reports, showing active community involvement in addressing these issues.



Community radios were instrumental in educating and mobilizing anti-FGM/C champions, alongside members of the Kamuthe Women Network in Garissa.



ActionAid Kenya stands alongside communities in Isiolo County as they pledge to end FGM/C and champion women's rights. This commitment was made during the celebration of International Women's Day in Kinna, Isiolo County.

Strategic meetings in Isiolo and Garissa enabled solidarity efforts with key allies and change-makers, where young girls and men emphasized the importance of elders' support in ending FGM/C. Survivors also shared their experiences, prompting commitments from the elders to advocate against harmful practices. Meetings with religious leaders, cultural elders, and influential women provided a platform to reflect on community challenges in ending FGM/C and other harmful practices. Meetings with religious leaders, cultural elders, and influential women provided a platform to reflect on community challenges in ending FGM/C and other harmful practices.



c. Reporting of cases of violence and consolidation of data to strengthen advocacy work in challenging all forms of VAW/G

Four cases of violence in Kisumu were reported and referred for intervention. Additionally, the system operators diligently followed up on 102 cases reported via the 21094 SMS platform, ensuring survivors received necessary medical, legal, and psychosocial support. Moreover, Isiolo and Garissa Women's Rights Champions underwent comprehensive case management training aimed at equipping them with essential skills to address FGM/C and report and follow up on cases of violence within their communities, contributing significantly to efforts to end harmful

practices and promote gender-based violence prevention. In partnership with Women's Rights Network members, champions, system operators, and case managers, AAIK recognises the need for case reporting and follow-up as a key process in the quest for access to justice and therefore need for data management as evidence for advocacy on the challenges in access to justice. These are some of the cases reported within the SMS platform and the WRN systems for reporting.



Cases reported via the 21094 SMS platform facilitated swift access to vital medical, legal, and psychosocial support for survivors.

d. Communities and partners have been supported to use various County and National platforms as spaces for influence and advocacy on issues as we challenge violence against women and girls.

Throughout the year, communities and partners actively utilized various County and National platforms to advocate for the protection of women and girls against violence. Notable events included the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM/C in Isiolo County's Oldonyiro ward, with the theme "Partnership with Men and Boys to Transform Social and Gender Norms to End Female Genital Mutilation" encouraging community involvement and collaboration with men and boys. The County Government of Isiolo, led by Education County Executive Committee Member, renewed its political commitment to eradicate FGM, including increased collaboration and monitoring of FGM prevalence. In Taita Taveta County, 220 individuals were reached with messages promoting the protection of women and girls against violence, alongside efforts to popularize the SMS platform 21094 for reporting GBV cases. The county government also launched the IMONITOR ATM + digital application for monitoring GBV cases. In Nyakach, Kisumu County, International Women's Day (IWD) was commemorated in partnership with Pambazuko La Wanawake Magharibi (PALAWAMA), while Homa Bay County used the occasion to launch and promote the Gender-Based Violence Policy, with contributions from AAIK and other stakeholders. In Nairobi the Global Platform hosted national IWD celebrations featuring panel discussions and exhibitions, providing a platform for women leaders to share experiences and advocate for gender equality. The commemorations continued

in Nanyuki GP with a Feminist Hangout attended by over 150 youth promoting social justice and gender equality. Laikipia County's Social Justice advocates lobbied for equitable opportunities in digital and technology spaces. Isiolo recognized the Girl-Centered Approach of the TGG-ALM programme, endorsed by the county's First Lady during the Day of the African Child commemoration.

Continued partnerships with the Anti-FGM board saw commitments to operationalize steering committees. The board also recognized AAIK's impact in ending FGM and plans to replicate successful models in other counties. Additionally, engagement in GBV Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings and Court Users Committee (CUC) forums provided platforms for shared learning and accountability on access to justice progress, including efforts to address backlogs in cases involving children. In Taita-Taveta County, members advocated for the implementation of GRPS policies through a memorandum presented to the county governor. In Nairobi, AAIK continues to participate in the GBV Technical Working Group to analyse the data review process, identify reasons for underreported cases of VAWG, recognize challenges hindering reporting, and formulate recommendations to address these gaps. Stakeholders analysed data, revealing that 40% of child cases are rescued, while 60% go unreported. Emotional abuse, more prevalent, often remains unreported. Stakeholders including the

government committed to enhancing campaigns to reduce VAWG across the country.

Our engagement on Access to Justice saw AAIK support the convening of Court Users Committees (CUC), enhancing support to duty bearers to play their respective roles in service delivery, in line with the Judiciary's vision of Social Transformation through Access to Justice. In Garissa and Isiolo counties,

the engagements with the stakeholders during the Gender Technical Working group meetings saw the development of the Anti-FGM Policy (zero draft) to be used in addressing the various gaps hindering the vision of ending FGM/C in the two counties. These collective efforts throughout the year reflect significant strides in advocacy, collaboration, and community engagement to combat gender-based violence and promote gender equality.



The Chief Executive Officer of the Anti-FGM Board Bernadette Loloju stands in solidarity with girls in Garissa, as they advocate for concerted efforts to end FGM.

e. Working with children in and out of school to challenge violence and any other barriers to accessing their right to Education.

Efforts to strengthen safe spaces in schools have empowered girls and boys to challenge FGM/C practices and advocate for changes in their communities in Isiolo and Garissa counties. Various activities in Kilifi County focused on sustaining girls' forums in schools and out-of-school settings, providing menstrual hygiene support, and facilitating the re-enrolment of girls who dropped out due to lack of support. The EFL project completed its activities and phased out of the communities in this year. In the 5 counties of implementation: Migori, Kilifi, Garissa, Isiolo, and Kisumu and working with VSO and Leonard Cheshire as Consortium partners, 5,175 out of the targeted 5,701 girls reached were linked to various facilities and institutions to boost their learning. According to the girls learning, transition, and graduation database, and about the previous years of implementation, 5701 girls were mapped and taken through the vulnerability and learning assessments at the catch-up centres with a 9% attrition. Out of the 5175 girls who transitioned to the formal, informal, entrepreneurship, and apprenticeship pathway, only 6.2% dropped out while the rest progressed to the next level. This significantly showed the impact the catch-up centre model had on the girls as they benefited from the individual-based learning mechanism. The life skills and career counselling modules also have

contributed to the 90% retention of girls in school. 64 girls with disabilities in Migori County were successfully linked and registered with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities. In addition, 50 GEC girls with severe disabilities were linked and registered with the National Health Insurance Fund. This will support them in accessing medical services in the future. In Isiolo County 25 GEC girls were linked and registered with SILK-Nawiri, a Self-Help Group for loans and savings.

In Kisumu County, over 100 girls were linked to a safeguarding support network which included the local administration, the security unit for child protection, and the child support department, among others. 12 Young mothers with disability have been linked to the Heart-to-heart Smile Drive for the provision of dignity kits and Sexual Reproductive Health Education. 1 Girl with multiple disabilities was linked to UNICEF and received a wheelchair to aid her in her day-to-day activities. In Kilifi, more linkages have been created in the quarter as a sustainability plan for the project. This involved parents and EFL girls being linked to devolved funds, County Government departments, and local women's rights network organizations for support after the end of the project.



Representatives of the 5701 girls who benefited from the Education for Life project gather during the project's phase-out meeting, joined by consortium partners ActionAid Kenya, VSO, and Leonard Cheshire

2. AAIK continued community engagement in unpaid care work to recognise, redistribute, reduce, and represent

AAIK in collaboration with the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action, UNWomen and National Women Economic Empowerment Coalition members developed a road map to developing the National Care Policy. The National Care Policy once finalized, will address women's unpaid care work in

the country. As part of evidence generation on UCDW, the Kathonzwani Women's Movement evaluated the time diaries to use the data for advocacy work. The time diaries were for evidence-based campaigns in holding the duty bearers accountable for the allocation of GRPS.

3. Increased women's participation and representation in political leadership

In collaboration with the office of the President Advisor on Women's Rights and KEWOPA, AAIK hosted the women leader's consultative forum bringing together women leaders from the Senate and the National Assembly who committed to developing a Bill to support implementation of Thenot more than two-thirds gender principle through a proposed formula. Through a directive to the National Assembly, the President tasked the legislators to provide a legal framework for operationalisation of Thenot more than two-thirds gender principle, being one of the campaign commitments by his administration as well as one of the 9-point agenda items under the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action.

ActionAid has also developed a roadmap to supporting women aspirants in the upcoming General Elections. The support has been drawn to engage the women who participate in the August 2022 elections bringing together winners and losers at distinct levels. Research done by the Organization noted that women aspirants usually invest more in the Campaigns, and the lack of support post the election has a challenging ripple effect on the candidates. The organization therefore convened the first group of 50 aspirants and discussed the need for provision of psychosocial support, rebuilding financial base as well as a roadmap for support for female candidates ahead of the next general election.



Collaborating with the Office of the President Advisor on Women's Rights and KEWOPA, ActionAid Kenya hosted a pivotal women leaders' consultative forum. Senators and National Assembly members united in commitment, forging a Bill to advance the two-thirds.

4. Local Rights Programme Areas (LRP) Social media engagement

ActionAid organized a social media campaign dubbed #UniteEndFGM which trended on X(Twitter) and was recognised by several partners including the FCDO which is funding the project.

Impact of Interventions:

- Intergenerational dialogues in Garissa and Isiolo have fostered empathy, understanding, and collaboration across generations to combat FGM/C. Participants are intervening in neighboring villages to prevent FGM/C, showcasing the dialogue's effectiveness in spreading awareness and behavioral change. The dialogues also facilitated the rescue of 29 girls from FGM/C and child marriages, ensuring their enrolment in schools. Survivors now feel confident to share their stories, promoting dialogue and action against harmful practices in these spaces.
- Young Women Breaking Barriers (YWBB) activities have empowered women to advocate against FGM/C. Over 3000 women in Isiolo and Garissa counties have engaged in conversations, leading to increased knowledge among young mothers attending prenatal and postnatal clinics.
- Parental engagement and community meetings have contributed to increased school retention rates and changes in egalitarian beliefs, encouraging enrolment of girls and discouraging harmful practices during peak seasons. Community campaigns and engagement efforts have led to concrete actions such as demanding the arrest of perpetrators and rescue missions for at-risk girls an example of boda-boda (motorcycle

taxi riders) demanding the arrest of a teacher who had defiled a primary schoolgirl, resulting in the teacher's arrest and arraignment and conviction. Moreover, the community members have reported six GBV cases directly to the chief.

- 57 cultural, religious leaders and influential women from Bura and Nanighi wards came together in a meeting and shared a commitment to eradicate the harmful practice of FGM/C. Following this commitment/ declaration made by the cultural and religious leaders, they reported that they rescued 5 girls from cross border FGM. The following are three remarkable quotes that were documented in their meetings:



"FGM has been a part of our culture, but we have the power to redefine our culture for the better. Let's do this for our daughters."

"Our traditions should bring pride, not pain".

"Our traditions define us, but they should evolve. Let us redefine our traditions to protect our girls and women."

- Reflect circles meetings conducted in Garissa County and Isiolo county have been a powerful forum for open dialogue and shared experiences surrounding eradication of Female Genital Mutilation. It is evident that each voice in this circle has contributed to a deeper understanding of the challenges and potential solutions. One of the women said:

“

“I stood up against FGM in my family, and now my nieces are growing up without the cut. It’s proof that change is possible within our own homes.” Nasra Daud

- In Kamuthe LRP, there is increased confidence in girls aspiring for leadership positions in school governance structures. Interschool debates have provided a platform for girls and boys to voice their issues which has led to increased confidence and knowledge among boys and girls to advocate

against FGM/C. As scale up to creating safe spaces for girls in schools, AAIK through the WRN, also continues to facilitate out of school girls peer-to-peer conversations to speak out about the challenges girls in school encounter during school holidays and have resulted in co-opting girls out of school in the conversations where some girls have mentioned that they are considering enrolling themselves back to school in the new academic year.



ActionAid Kenya leads the charge during the #UniteEndFGM campaign with a powerful March against Female Genital Mutilation.

Strategic Objective 2: Facilitate young people and communities living in poverty and exclusion to realize their rights to a just and democratic governance for access to GRPS and advancement of economic opportunities.

Building people's power for change through capacity development to enable them to participate in key democratic and governance processes.

AAIK actively built people's power for change through targeted capacity development initiatives aimed at enabling community participation in key democratic and governance processes. The End Violence Against Women (EVAW) project in Garissa, Kajiado, West Pokot, and Kilifi demonstrated the impact of community social auditors in holding duty bearers accountable by developing community scorecards reports focused on Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS). This initiative led to an improved understanding of social accountability tools and gender responsive budgeting among community members and enhanced collaboration between communities and service providers through joint programming facilitated by AAIK in partnership with UN Women. West Pokot, Kajiado, Kilifi and Garissa counties community social auditors which built the capacity of young people in social accountability, public participation, county budget analysis, and gender-responsive budgeting.

Economic Justice

The continued impact of Austerity measures on Kenya's macroeconomics and subsequently the economic models and policies have adversely affected the standard of living for Kenyans. The tax measures within the Finance Act 2023 further exposed communities especially women, to economic hardship. These are

some of the realities that citizens expressed through county town halls, meetings/regional assemblies organized by AAIK in collaboration with local partners.

The "Regional People's Assemblies" campaign across 11 countries of operation, fostered dialogue on the inflated cost of living. The campaign culminated in the development of a Charter of Demands detailing citizen solutions to economic challenges, which was presented during the People's National Economic Recovery Conference organized by the Okoa Uchumi Coalition members. This meeting provided a platform for engagement with members of the National Assembly Finance Committee for the presentation of the people's views. AAIK utilized digital activism strategies, leveraging hashtags such as #SautiYaWananchiKE and #CostOfLivingCrisis, to amplify citizen voices demanding economic reforms and policy changes.

Citizen participation in accountability processes about redistribution, allocation, and expenditure of public resources is critical in the efficient provision of GRPS and so community-led social audits ensure that communities are meaningfully participating in democratic processes. This was evident in Nyokai and Kathonzi LRP, where participants acquired skills to conduct social audits, leading to the



inclusion of community priorities in county budgets 2023/2024. Collaborative efforts with the devolution office facilitated comprehensive social audits across counties, enhancing transparency and accountability in governance processes.

Citizens gather at Ufungamano House for deliberations on the high cost of living.

Supporting communities to develop community-led change Plans and demand inclusion in the CIDP

The Cafe Mtaani, a youth engagement platform, and online engagements empowered the community to participate meaningfully in the budget-making process. The Café Mtaani conversations around the CIDP saw many young people filling the county government Hall Meetings and contributing meaningfully to what they felt the government should prioritise on the coming budget. There has been an increase of community participation in the discussions on the county budget by at least 10% after the Cafe Mtaani kicked off.

AAIK through the Global Platform, ran a Tax Justice Digital Media Storm/campaign to share the findings with their digital peers on tax collection, distribution, and utilization. AAIK ran the #Tax4Education that had a reach of 4,358,045. As a result of this engagement, Kenyan Media, Parents Associations, and other Civil Society Organizations added their weight to and amplified ActionAid Kenya #Tax4QualityEducation demand to the Kenyan Government to prioritize utilization of public taxes to fund affordable and quality education for all. Using the hashtag #Tax4QualityEducation, organizations such as TISA delved into the debate unpacking key areas that the Kenyan Government needs to troubleshoot to provide affordable and quality while media houses such as Nation Newspaper on 14th Jan 2023 after the Tweeter Storm highlighted Parents Associations' Rejection of Proposed School Fees to Junior Secondary Schools.

Activista Movement organizing young people from over 13 counties, including Isiolo engaged with the

county government and presented their demands since the county rescheduled this from 2022 during the development of the CIDPs. Marafa LRP also had a good turnout of the duty bearers in supporting dissemination of the CIDP content in simplified format to the grassroot levels. The dissemination of this simple content encouraged community members to come up with development priority areas through memorandums on Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS) which were submitted to the county government for inclusion in the Kilifi County budget 2023/2024 Financial Year. Through this lobby, Community priorities projects that were missing in the initial document of the CIDP were incorporated as part of the final CIDP content.. The Kilifi County Draft Policy on Disaster Risk Management was finalized ready for adoption together with the policy implementation framework and the regulations. The County Assembly Disaster management committee committed to lobby the other members of the county assembly to approve the policy once tabled.. These activities led to significant milestone where sixty-five percent (65%) of community-led projects were integrated into the approved county budget. Through community meetings, analysis of the CIDP and collaboration in the 7 sub counties, communities identified priority projects related to GRPS and successfully secured funding for their implementation. The 105 ward project management committees now formed will follow up on community project implementation in the county, leading to the completion of the community projects within the required time frame. In Taita Taveta, the

engagement of the Governor by Sauti Ya Wanawake through a memorandum addressed the lack of policy implementation in addressing GBV. This advocacy led to additional funding of KES800,000 being allocated under the GBV docket by the County Government.

In Kilifi, Activista spearheaded a social audit of stalled community projects. Holding duty bearers

c. Supporting communities and young people to influence enactment and review of policies for provision of GRPS and monitor/track progress of commitments made by leaders on the same

In Kilifi County, AAIK facilitated public forums in nine wards in collaboration with elected leaders to monitor the implementation of the ward development manifesto. This initiative served as a crucial tool for engaging and monitoring local development efforts within the wards.

AAIK actively participated in the People's Dialogue Festival, a significant Youth Hub activity under the Global Platform for policy influence and contributed to discussions on Climate Justice and Food Security through a session on Youth Involvement in Politics post-2022 General Elections. AAIK exhibited work on Youth Governance, Climate Change, and Gender Equality. This platform provided valuable networking opportunities and highlighted our commitment to youth-led advocacy for good governance and social accountability.

Under SPA II, AAIK engaged with communities through the OKOA Uchumi Coalition, participating in the

accountable, this initiative resulted in considerable progress: The Bekambe Water Pan, Jimba Mikomani Dispensary, and Kwakijala Borehole, all previously stalled, were completed. Bekambe Water Pan is now in active use, while Jimba Mikomani Dispensary and Kwakijala Borehole are operational, providing accessing clean water to the community.

Finance Act campaign both online and offline. Our efforts were recognized through media coverage, amplifying our advocacy for economic justice. In Garissa, SPA II activities empowered 40 young people to track their priorities from CIDP3, which were subsequently budgeted for in the ADP and included in Ward Development Plans. Notable achievements included the establishment of a Youth IT Centre, a key priority supported by Activista.

In advocacy physical efforts, 12 Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) submitted a petition to the National Assembly addressing the High Cost of Living and the impacts of the Finance Act 2023 on community members' lives, urging legislators to reconsider punitive measures while online advocacy through #EngagVijana garnered significant traction, with 391 tweets reaching an estimated audience of over 4 million during the Nairobi County Budget 2023 discussions. Offline actions complemented these efforts, including engagements with the newly formed

Kamukunji Uwezo Fund Committee, emphasizing the inclusion of young women in decision-making processes.



ActionAid Kenya sponsored 100 young individuals to participate in the YouLead Summit at the Bomas of Kenya. The event was honored by the presence of former President of Tanzania Jakaya Kikwete.

d. Young People's Convening

100 young people from LRPs participated in the YouLead Summit 2023, Africa's largest and most diverse forum that brings together young people to engage with governments, private sector, and other stakeholders to craft responses to the region's rapidly growing young people's needs, their challenges, and opportunities within the East Africa Community (EAC) region. The meeting, held at the Bomas of Kenya, reinvigorated the force towards strategies for "the Africa We Want." From the reasoning that the young generation should be equipped with robust and diverse skill sets and knowledge that align and speak

to shifting geopolitics, the evolution of commerce, the ongoing digital revolution, and increasingly important capacities like post-conflict reconstruction, climate justice, leadership development, and public policy advocacy; the Summit was themed Youth Empowerment Through Capacity Building: Revitalizing Youth Voice and Agency towards the Africa We Want.

Furthermore, in December 2023, GP Kenya hosted The National Assembly of Social Movements, under the SPA II program bringing together 63 participants on the first day and 114 on the final day. The gathering was part of a wider and longer-term process by the AAIK-Global Platform to create a space for movements to collaborate and express solidarity around different progressive causes and struggles across Kenya and beyond.

Global Platforms

Global Platform Kenya (GPK) continued to act as a training hub for youth empowerment and activism offering participatory action-oriented training to build the skills and enhance the knowledge of young people from fragile and hard-to-reach areas on policy influencing. Through these interventions, 915 young people were reached directly and 3063 indirectly (1566 Female, 1418 Male, and 79 Non-Gender-Conforming). 61% of the participants were able to act after the training which included step-down training and campaigns locally, nationally, and internationally.

The GPK engaged young people in local-level initiatives to influence county budget planning processes, presenting memos and petitions. The events including digital campaigns empowered communities to advocate for better public services and increased accountability. There was strengthened solidarity among social movements with significant progress observed at the local level. 400 young people were trained on climate justice campaigning,



Young voices resonating on the global stage at the Global Platform Kenya.

with 224 actively addressing climate-related issues in their communities. Climate fellows from the GPK Climate Justice fellowship joined other climate justice activists to advocate for Ward and County Climate Change Committees to be established in their respective counties.

The 2023 period also saw the activation of a new platform for the amplification of young people's voices dubbed Bonga (Talk) Green Forums by young climate activists in Kenya. The Bonga Green Forum is designed to strategically amplify young people's voices in policy-influencing dialogue platforms at the community and national level. The monthly Bonga Green Forums acted as spaces for the localization of the #FundOurFuture campaign. There was an opportunity for the climate justice champions from the Bonga Green Forums to amplify their voices when the Africa Climate Summit was held in Nairobi in September and COP28. The champions supported members to participate in the Africa Youth Climate Summit Assembly and utilized digital media platforms to push the #FundOurFuture Campaign during the Africa Climate Summit and the COP28 resulting to an impressive reach of approximately 4,208,735 individuals, with more than 5,000 actively engaging in our online conversations regarding the Fund Our Future and Loss and Damage campaigns. These forums (held monthly) experienced an escalation in initiative-taking participation of young people in climate justice policy influencing resulting in a tangible impact on policy decisions at the local, national, and global levels.

Further, there was a proactive response to severe flooding in various regions, led by young people conducting needs assessments and mobilizing government and humanitarian responses, digital advocacy campaigns, including #GarissalsFlooding and #CeaseFire, showcased effective crisis intervention by the youth. The GP Capacity-building initiatives empowered youth to engage in humanitarian response, strengthening Disaster Risk Committees at the Ward level.

Additionally, solidarity between and among social movements in Kenya was strengthened when social movement leaders in the country mobilized 114 activists in their networks from various social movements to initiate discussions and reflections on pertinent issues of sustained organizing for social justice in the country. Among the issues that informed the gathering included: how movements in the country can create common ground around organizing issues, sustainability and self-reliance of movements, the disjointed relationship between NGOs and movements, and the sectarianism that currently characterizes many movements in Kenya. Immediate outcomes included the facilitation of shared learning, collaboration, and a common ground on key issues. This initiative not only strengthened solidarity among movements but also promoted shared activism towards a just and democratic society. Importantly, it provided a platform for social movements to examine their influence on expanding civic and democratic processes in Kenya, emphasizing the crucial role of young people in political organizing.

Strategic Objective 3: Advance for women and communities living in poverty and exclusion to secure sustainable and resilient livelihoods to disasters and climate change

Women and young people living in poverty and exclusion secure their rights to land and natural resources

In 2023, AAIK working with its partners, mobilized communities across the programme areas to pursue recognition and protection of their land rights. This mobilization resulted in the strengthening of previously established intergenerational movements of grassroots women, youth, and marginalized communities which actively demanded for inclusive and responsible investment on land. For example, in Homabay, 9 young people and 12 women were elected to represent the community in various land and agricultural committees, resulting in greater representation of women and young people in land decision-making structures. Using skills gained from attending training and conferences on Alternative Justice System (AJS), 2 inheritance cases were resolved in Nyarongi.

In Kishushe, working with the Ministry of Land and Physical Planning, and the State Departments of Interior and Coordination, 49 women drawn from 5 Community Land Management Committees and 4 Land Control Boards were trained on land governance structures emphasizing on their roles and how they can use their positions to protect women property rights, followed by for 5 step-down sensitization forums that reached 3,800 women with knowledge on land rights. This resulted in 3 cases of land grab attempts being stopped by the community.

A widow's movement was formed and launched in Taita Taveta during International Widows Day comprising widows from the 4 sub-counties – Mwatate, Wundanyi, Voi, and Taveta. Addressing the public during the launch, the Law Society of Kenya directed its members working in the county to take and support 2 cases of succession per year on a pro-bono basis. The widows association held 6 widows rights awareness sessions reaching out to over 5,000 widows. Through the support of the lawyers, 5 widows were assisted to get letters of administration. In Mwingi, 3 interface meetings were held on succession laws and alternative justice systems bringing together the widows' groups, the local administration, and the judiciary. From these meetings, the local administration and the judiciary committed to issuing letters of introduction and waiver on court charges and other related processes. As a result, 5 widows from Kaliku, Twimuma, and Kimu locations in Kitui County were able to secure their letters of administration for their properties.

In Taita Taveta, 4 meetings were held between artisanal miners and the Director of Mines in Kenya followed by a visit to the Cabinet Secretary of Mining. The cabinet secretary pledged public finances to support the development of artisanal miners' (ASM) grassroots structures. The ASMs were supported to

organize themselves into CBOs and formed both saccoes and associations which makes them benefit from government opportunities and finances. Four

Hold Corporations to implement accountability mechanisms that adhere to globally agreed safeguards

In Taita Taveta 5 community meetings were on the impacts of human-wildlife perennial cases. The meetings gathered and consolidated data that included loss of lives due to attacks from wild animals including snake bites and not considered for compensation in the laws, delays and unjust compensations of victims affected by wild animals, and respect of the boundaries between Kenya Wildlife Services and the Communities. Using the data, TTHRW petitioned the Parliamentary Committee of Tourism and Wildlife, the 5 Members of Parliament representing Taita Taveta citizens, the County Commissioner, the Senator, the County Assembly, and the Governor. This prompted the Taita Taveta County Assembly to debate the petition in a special sitting where it was resolved that the matter should be seconded to the National Parliament. The Parliament Committee on Tourism and Wildlife held a 2-day public inquiry and fact-finding forum in Taita Taveta upon receiving another petition from the County Assembly. Among the quick results, the Kenya Wildlife Services established 18 outposts in the hotspots within the community, and snake bites have been included in the draft amended wildlife law.

In Kilifi, AAIK's partner MRF and communities met with

(4) locations were identified for the artisanal mining activities and allocated to women and young people in artisanal mining thus securing their mining rights.

the Governor of Kilifi County on the Ocean Water Policy with whom they shared the communities' inputs in relation to the Salt companies' utilization of the ocean water for salt extraction. An online and offline campaign was conducted seeking the opening of roads that had been blocked, leading to the opening up of 2 access roads which has eased mobility to and from the beach, pasture for livestock, and to schools.

In Mwingi, following complaints from the employees of the Mwingi Gypsum Limited company (Erdemann), CHRCE organized a meeting with them where they discussed their labor concerns which included violations such as lack of provision of safety gears, arbitrary termination of contracts, issue of casual laborers yet the company requires them daily, unionization of employees, no payment during leave days and workers injury insurance cover which is against the employment laws of Kenya. Centre for Human Rights and Civic Education (CHRCE) supported the employees in developing a petition to the Ministry of who visited and instructed the company to let the employees be part of the labour union of their choice and to stop arbitrary termination of contracts as they address the issues raised in the petition.

The lives and livelihoods of WLIFE and their communities are sustainable and resilient to climatic shocks and disasters

Across the programme areas, AAIK and its partners strengthened the capacities of smallholder farmers in the agroecology model including training on seed saving, water harvesting, environment conservation, soil health, food safety, post-harvest loss management, value addition, integrated pest management, manure and composting, livelihood diversification, intercropping, policy advocacy and influencing, haymaking and pasture conservation, indigenous knowledge conservation, participatory scenario planning/ early information system, exchanges and learning visit in Laikipia permaculture, Grow Bio Intensive Agriculture Center and Seed savers, exhibition at the national museum. Individual farmers

(45) have established seed banks enabling farmers to access indigenous seeds and promoting seed exchanges among farmers. Farmers have adopted traditional mechanisms to conserve harvests instead of pesticides, 420 Farmers have established kitchen gardens, 300 farm ponds have been established to harvest water, establishment of food forests in 50 communities, established 30 tree nurseries to support food forests, 2 farmer cooperatives are doing value addition to sweet potato, tomato, chilly, milk. Over 20 Schools were supported under 4k clubs' initiative started school gardens and have grown now into farms. These farms have become model farms for schools and communities surrounding.



ActionAid Kenya and partners lead the charge in drought preparedness, fostering community resilience through pasture management and climate justice advocacy.

In Isiolo County, AAIK supported the renovation of water infrastructure including solarization, provision of tanks, dam liners, pipes for boreholes and dams, training of water management committees, water trucking during drought, support the development of Isiolo county water policy, camel caravan to raise awareness on conservation of riparian areas such as river Ewaso Nyiro. The development of water infrastructure led to a reduction of trekking distance by women to access water which has also reduced

exposure to GBV, increased access to safe water for domestic use, improved irrigated agriculture and livestock watering leading to improved income at household, diversification of nutrients at household level through kitchen gardens. Solarization reduced operational costs for running the boreholes and reduced burden on children during drought seasons.

AAIK is a member of the steering committee that is developing the National Agroecology Strategy.



The National Agroecology strategy is envisioned to promote a well-coordinated agroecology sector that contributes to socio-economic empowerment for improved livelihoods, health, and environmental conservation for local communities and the country. In this process, AAIK has been part of the stakeholders who have reviewed the first 3 drafts of the Policy as well as supporting a technical review workshop for the steering committee to concretize the key focal areas and scope of the draft Agroecology Strategy. The strategy was presented to the Cabinet Secretary and taken through the public participation process and is set for finalization in 2024.

More investment was put in training on business model, village agents on VSLA and supported to form and strengthen VSLA groups, and exchange learning visits for village agents to strengthen financial management skills. In Isiolo, over 450 VSLA groups have been formed and strengthened each with 25 – 30 members with savings ranging from Kshs 600,000 for lowest group to Kshs 1,500,000 the highest. AAIK supported the development of Isiolo county enterprise fund policy, which has created a whole department that will be charged with supporting VSLAs. The members of the VSLA are aiming at registering a cooperative with the aim of converting it into a financial institution in the near future.

Pushing for funding institutions to shift money from climate-harming agribusiness and fossil fuels to agroecology and other climate-resilient, low-emissions alternatives led by women and young people

AAIK seized the opportunity presented by the Africa Climate Summit held in Nairobi, 2023 to launch its National Climate Justice Campaign and join hands with other Civil Society Organizations to hold the Africa People's Climate Assembly where the ambitious ActionAid 'Fund Our Future' Campaign report, namely, "How the Finance Flows: The banks fuelling the climate crisis" was launched. The report launch was part of the Africa People's Climate Assembly which was co-planned with other partners and allies and attended by over 5050 people over the 3 days event.



ActionAid Kenya launched the 'Fund Our Future' campaign.

The national launch was preceded by several build-up activities including a climate justice fellowship, Youth symposium and XSpaces on climate justice where the young people reflected on impact of climate change on young people and gaps facing young people in accessing climate finance and support. Young people in 4 counties converged through the XSpaces to reflect on emerging context on climate change and expressed their reflections on . In 4 counties, rural women climate assemblies were held reaching about 541 women in the frontline battling impacts of climate change and reflected on challenges. A communique was read to Key policy makers in the 4 counties followed by a Media press conferences.

Following the launch of the national and global campaign, AAIK participated in series of pre-COP 28 activities and strategizing meetings in the federation to advance our campaign goal and objectives, and externally with other non-state actors to mainstream our ambitions in the broader work of coalition members. AAIK's 3 staff and one grassroots women leader, were part of the AAI delegation that attended COP28 where we engaged with key stakeholders to raise voices to amplify visibility of the Fund our Future campaign and to highlight the impact of climate change and conducted and participated in various joint side events to highlight the impact of climate change and climate financing

Using this platform, Anastacia Plilan represented her community at both the local and national level conversations where she was a panellist in a session on stakeholders' recommendations on the operationalisation of the Santiago Network on Loss &

Damage organized by Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) as well as to drive key messages of the AAI Fund our Future campaign at the global space.

women and young people, expert view and address, key messages from the counties, and official launch of the campaign.

On the other hand, AAIK hosted over 30 staff from across the federation to launch the ActionAid International (AAI) climate justice campaign 'Fund Our Future' campaign signified by the launch of a flagship report, documenting the shocking scale of finance flowing from commercial banks to fossil fuel extraction and industrial agriculture in the Global South. The report launch was part of the Africa People's Climate Assembly which was co-planned with other partners and allies attended by over 5000 people.

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Women Living in Poverty and Exclusion and their communities access lifesaving humanitarian assistance

During the reporting period, AAIK, local women, young people and partner organizations continued to respond the worst ever drought and food crisis to have faced the country, and heavy rainfalls with El Nino characteristics during the October-November-December season by providing critical immediate needs while embedding recovery and resilient building interventions in communities in 9 counties, namely Kajiado, Makueni, Garissa, Isiolo, Baringo, Turkana, Nairobi, Kilifi, and Taita Taveta Counties.

Guided by the ActionAids humanitarian signature and the core humanitarian standards , the response included:

- Conducted 2 assessments, namely a drought rapid assessment and flood impact needs assessment.
- Reached 104, 947 people out of whom 45,732 were women, 19,600 were men, 19,599 were young women, 8,399 were young men, and 13,078 were children.
- Reached 8,239 people with cash transfers.
- Reached 240 farmers from 5 pastoral farmer schools reached with 16450kg seeds for planting.
- Conducted 15 trainings and 29 forums delivered

Damage organized by Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) as well as to drive key messages of the AAI Fund our Future campaign at the global space.

on livelihood diversification, status of drought and flooding.

- Rehabilitated 12 boreholes and established 7 new boreholes supporting access to safe drinking water, irrigated agriculture, watering for livestock, and sanitation for maternal health, supporting 54,000 people (52% women).
- Provided support to 61 schools with feeding program reaching 13,078 pupils.
- Distributed 2400 dignity packs, which include items such as soaps, menstruation packs and underwear for girls across 20 schools.
- Conducted 120 trips water trucking to designated water points reaching over 60 communities with clean drinking water.
- Influencing accountability in coordination platforms and structures e.g., KHPT, CSG. Formation of Inter-Agency PSEA working group.
- Issued an Inter-Agency Presser calling for global urgent action to avert climate fueled catastrophe in the horn of Africa.
- Amplifying the Crisis in National and international platforms/ spaces – ACS 2023, COP 28, fundraising spaces.

Women- led interventions, localization and accountability People and communities in situations of crisis and vulnerability:

1. Can exercise their rights and participate in actions and decisions that affect them;
2. Access timely and effective support in accordance with their specific needs and priorities;
3. Are better prepared and more resilient to potential crises;
4. Access support that does not cause harm to people or the environment;
5. Can safely report concerns and complaints and get them addressed;
6. Access coordinated and complementary support;
7. Access support that is continually adapted and improved based on feedback and learning;
8. Interact with staff and volunteers that are respectful, competent and well-managed;
9. Can expect that resources are managed ethically and responsibly.

Empowering Tea Communities Through the empowering tea communities project, AAIK supported 1242 farmers and workers to realise their rights to decent work, to live free from all violence and to access essential gender responsive public services. AAIK strengthened 53 active groups of farmers and workers established through regular meetings and trainings, and facilitated linkages between the groups and different duty bearers, including actors in the justice system, local administration and different

government entities. Three multi-stakeholder platforms were established in the past year across the three project sites. The platforms are networks that were formed to link the community to duty bearers to start conversations around rights issues, SGBV within the tea communities, prevalence of child labour, support for survivors of SGBV, and provision of improved public services by the government. AAIK further worked closely with the community and the multi-stakeholder platforms to establish 3 localised reporting mechanisms which are unique to each project area to improve reporting of violations and bring access to justice closer to the people. AAIK identified 81 active women's champions across the three areas and supported 153 survivors of SGBV to access justice through referrals, medical and psychosocial support. AAIK further established 3 survivor networks across the three areas which provided a safe space for survivors of SGBV to meet, share experiences, have group therapy sessions for healing and think of ways to diversify and increase their incomes to elevate their economic status.

AAIK further engaged the survivors, women champions, leaders and the community in commemorating the campaign on 16 days of activism against SGBV observed between 25th November, International Day of Elimination of Violence Against women and 10th December 2023 (International Human Rights Day) to call for global action in ending violence against women and girls.



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16 DAYS OF
ACTIVISM
AGAINST SGBV

INVEST
IN SGBV

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Partnerships

In 2024, our partnership with communities and other solidarity partners was enhanced through purposeful engagement with all our partners from local to global. To strengthen the local partners' organizational development and sustainability of community empowerment beyond phase out, AAIK focused on building partner external linkages for further resource mobilization and programming collaborations. The primary partners have joined coalitions, networks, and social movements of like-minded partners to help build solidarity and collective voice on the agenda being pursued. Enhanced openness, transparency, and accountability remain key pillars for sustainable programme interventions.

During the year we worked with 48 partners in 22 counties and among them we supported 30 partners to facilitate different aspects of development processes ranging from humanitarian, development, and policy at County and national level towards a resilient community for all. In the spirit of localization and building financial capacity and empowerment for communities and their institutions, AAIK has supported social movements and consortia to address women's rights violations and the engagement of young people. Our membership to the Okoa Uchumi Coalition has advanced work on tax justice and economic justice across the country.



Finance

Incomes

AAIK realized an income of 750M Kenya shillings during the reporting year. In comparison to the year 2022, there was an decrease of 338million Kenya Shilling, representing approximately 31.08 % decrease of the prior year income. The decrease in income was attributed to reduced income from Partnership & Philanthropist and Institutional donors after major projects ended. Figure 1 below illustrates income split by product or category. 31% of income was realized from individual -giving income (Child Sponsorship), 9% of the total income was realized from the Philanthropist and Partnership, 46% was generated from Institutions and 14% of the total income was related to other income.

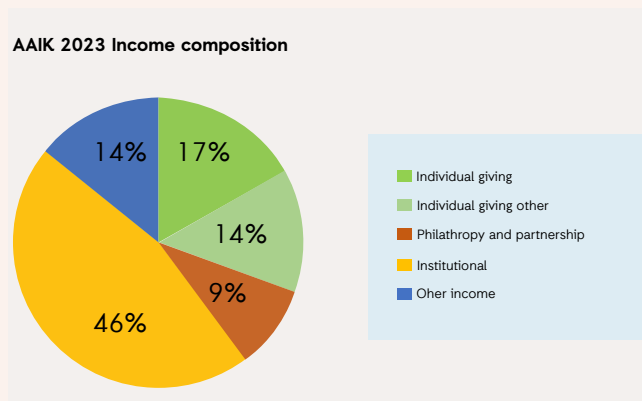


Figure1: 2023 AAIK income categories (Source: AAIK 2023 Data)

In line with revised CSP, AAIK will prioritize fundraising from philanthropists/major givers, and partnerships and their corporates, trusts, and development

foundations, following the decline in income from this category decline in 2023. The target is to increase this funding stream budget by 30% annually to GBP.1.6 million by 2025 and GBP.3.6 million by 2028. AAIK will leverage corporate and the private sectors interest in the SDGs and through their CSIs initiatives to build funding partnerships, in-kind support and/or joint fundraising, and programme implementation. Local income had a positive increase in 2023 compared to the previous year due to increase in fixed deposit interest earnings and local fundraising efforts as well as cost recovery. We aim to leverage on this trend to raise this funding stream by 25% annually.

Expenditures

During the reporting period, total expenditure was 863Million Kenya Shillings (£4.9 Million). Prior year expenditure was higher than the current year by approximately 208 million Kenya Shillings representing approximately 19%, the reduced costs were due to proportional decrease in the ended project expenditure but the year also saw an increase in operational costs owing to the high cost of living in 2023. Analyzed against the resource allocation Framework (RAF), 2023 resource utilization is as follows: 77% of expenditure was spent on programme, 4% was spent on Fundraising and 2% on Governance related costs which were all in line with the framework. 17% was spent on Support cost against 15% threshold in the framework.

Figure 2, below illustrate expenditure by RAF performance

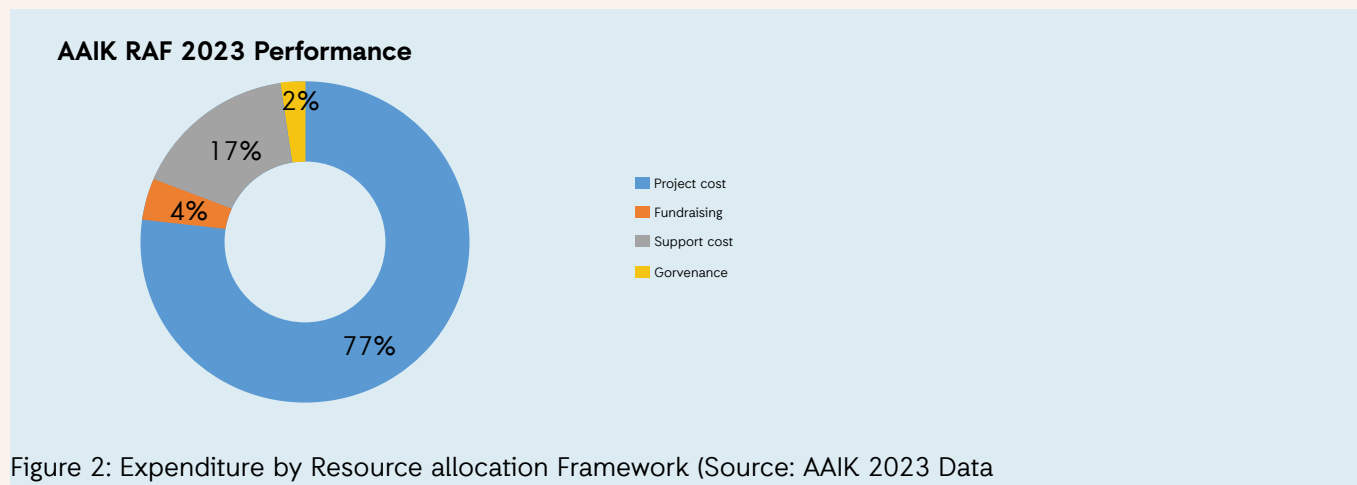


Figure 2: Expenditure by Resource allocation Framework (Source: AAIK 2023 Data)

Reserves

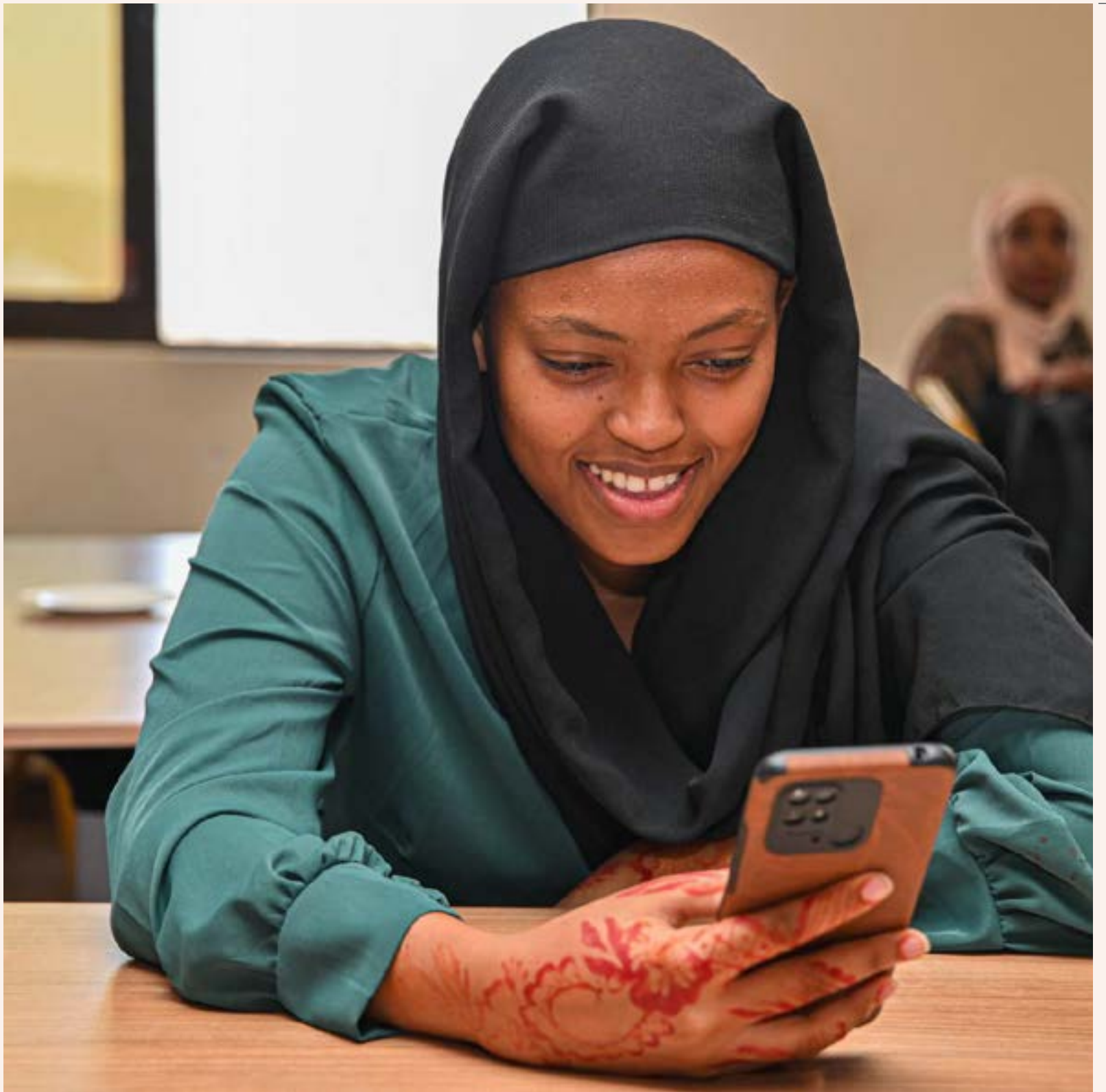
Fund balance for 2023 decreased to Ksh.220 million down from 333 million KSH in 2022. This is because there was 112 million deficit recorded in the 2023 that eventually lead to a reduced reserve levels from the last years 9 months to an aggregate of 4.6 months.

ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL KENYA		
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023		
	2023	2022
INCOME	KES	KES
Institutional Donors	644,090,092.00	1,035,466,891.00
Other Income	106,534,017.00	53,611,824.00
Total Income	750,624,109.00	1,089,078,715.00
EXPENDITURE		
Direct Expenditure		
Project / Programme Costs	462,205,255.00	700,436,007.00
Staff Costs	213,148,089.00	195,713,558.00
General and Administration Costs	187,872,031.00	175,833,943.00
Total Expenditure	863,225,375.00	1,071,983,508.00
(Deficit) / Surplus for the Year	- 112,601,266.00	17,095,207.00

ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL KENYA		
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023		
	2023	2022
	KES	KES
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
(Deficit) / Surplus for the Year	(112,601,266.00)	17,095,207.00
Adjustment for		
Depreciation	9,116,754.00	5,901,852.00
Disposal	(2,261,794.00)	0.00
Effects of Foreign Exchange	(47,720,849.00)	0.00
Adjustment on Leasehold Improvements	0.00	9,024,809.00
Other Adjustments	10.00	515,962.00
Changes in Working Capital		
Decrease / (Increase) in Accounts Receivable	102,494,333.00	(53,139,578.00)
Increase in Deferred Income	95,720,047.00	42,047,797.00
Decrease in Related Parties	87,407,793.00	6,813,652.00
Decrease in Accounts Payable	(21,185,627.00)	(79,121,216.00)
(Decrease) / Increase in Partners Accounts	(17,001,074.32)	23,648,913.00
Net Cash Used In Operating Activities	93,968,327.00	(27,212,602.00)
Investing Activities		
Payment of Lease Liability	0.00	(578,420.00)
Purchase of Fixed Assets	(4,211,750.00)	(8,424,556.00)
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	(4,211,750.00)	(9,002,976.00)
Financing Activities		
Long Term Lease Liability	0.00	(8,445,000.00)
Restoration Provision	3,577,987.00	146.00

Net Cash Used in Financing Activities		3,577,987.00	(8,444,854.00)
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents		93,334,564.00	(36,215,578.00)
Movement in Cash and Cash Equivalents			
Cash and Cash Equivalents - 01 January		274,367,709.00	319,028,141.00
Effects of Foreign Exchange		47,720,849.00	0.00
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents		93,334,564.00	(44,660,432.00)
Cash and Cash Equivalents - 31 December		415,423,122.00	274,367,709.00

The financial year 2023 presented significant challenges to AAIK, particularly with a notable decline in income and increasing operational costs. Despite these obstacles, AAIK remains committed to transparency, efficiency, and accountability in the management of funds. We have implemented strategic measures to address the financial shortfall, such as increased fundraising efforts, stringent spending and cost recovery initiatives



Directorate – HROD, Communications & Audit Communications

In 2023, the Communications Unit made significant strides in amplifying ActionAid Kenya's work. Through a combination of stories, newsletters, media coverage, and social media engagement, we effectively reached a diverse audience and expanded our digital footprint. Throughout 2023, we published 12 monthly newsletters, each focusing on critical issues related to our organization's initiatives. These newsletters served as a valuable communication tool,

keeping our stakeholders informed about ongoing projects, events, and opportunities for involvement. Our efforts to engage with mainstream media and national dailies resulted in the coverage of 53 news stories, including op-eds featuring our organization's perspectives. This media exposure helped to raise awareness about our mission and initiatives, reaching a broader audience and sparking conversations on important environmental topics.



Social Media Growth



We experienced significant growth across our social media channels, with a following of 43,350 across all our social media platforms namely X, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Threads. This expansion of our social media presence reflects the growing interest in our organization's work and the effectiveness of our digital outreach strategies.

ActionAid Kenya Website

The ActionAid Kenya website averaged approximately 5,800 users per month in 2023. This metric represents the number of unique visitors who accessed our website during each month.

The average monthly demonstrates the ongoing interest and engagement with the ActionAid Kenya website throughout the year. By analyzing website traffic patterns and user behavior, we continuously refine our digital strategies to better serve our audience and advance our mission of promoting social justice and combating poverty.

In conclusion, the Communications unit made substantial progress in 2023, achieving notable milestones in newsletter publications, media coverage, and social media growth. These efforts have enhanced our organization's visibility, strengthened our connections with stakeholders, and contributed to the broader conversation on women and girls' rights, tax justice, climate justice and sustainable solutions. As we look ahead to the coming year, we remain committed to advancing our mission and fostering meaningful engagement with our audience.

Human Resources and Organizational Development

AAIK continues to focus on the Feminist Leadership Principles to make the work environment employee friendly as we demystify the use of power. Through focus on Organizational development processes, we continue to interrogate practices and systems that

will lead to improved organization's performance and culture to adapt to change in the industry that has been experienced over the years like COVID19, shrinking donor funding, Ukrainian war etc. This has set pace for AAIK to start having better problem-solving mechanism as we enhance agility. AAIK has adopted online systems and technology all this is aimed at improving organization's performance and culture ensuring that all the stakeholders are brought on board.

Audit & Assurance

Our Internal control systems were reviewed consistently and constantly through both external and internal audit assurance. The reviews have consistently helped management to strengthen governance, risk management and compliance processes within the organization. This is aligned with the organization's goal to establish efficient and effective internal processes through continuous evaluations and improvement.

Risk Management

Our risk management framework has been developed to support achievement of the organization's strategy through proactive identification and management of uncertainties and risks as it highlights the risks and provide a monitoring framework to mitigate risks to sustainability and resilience.

The key organizational risks are as shown below:

Risks/ Uncertainties	Risk description	How we manage the risks
Fundraising Risks	Uncertainties related to the organization's ability to secure targeted funds arising from shrinking child sponsorship funding due to low uptake by supporters, donors, change in donor priorities, success of calls for proposals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Implementation of a comprehensive fundraising strategy with a focus on expanding the funding portfolio from institutional and corporate donors and on building partnerships with donors;
Financial Risks	<p>Uncertainties in relation to the financial health of the organization, inability to obtain budgetary funding to achieve its CSP objectives or attain the desired impact, management of financial resources in accordance with Federation and Policy requirements, and reliability of financial information for decision making. Can also result in AAK restructuring and downsizing.</p> <p>This also includes fiduciary risks and economic risks such as increased inflation which raise operational costs, and foreign exchange fluctuations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Establishment of strong internal processes through organization-wide policies and procedures which are continuously reviewed. o Implementation of cost recovery strategies. o Frequent evaluations of policies compliance, and efficiency and effectiveness of internal processes. o Implementation of fraud prevention and reporting mechanisms.
Programmatic/ Project Risks	<p>Risks related to projects/programmes not successfully and safely delivering requirements and intended benefits or outcomes in accordance with time, cost, and quality.</p> <p>This includes impact on projects delivery arising from climatic events, insecurity in areas of operations, collaboration/partnership risks, cultural risks, and operational risks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Implementation of strong monitoring and evaluation framework and tools o Strategy reviews considering context analysis, environment scan, organizational capacity, partnership model. o Compliance with contract management policies. o Partnership assessments and management

People
Management
Risks

Risks arising from managing human resources, including talent acquisition, retention, employee well-being, and workforce diversity, ineffective leadership and engagement, suboptimal culture, inappropriate behaviors, the unavailability of sufficient capacity and capability, non-compliance with relevant employment legislation/HR policies; resulting in negative impact on performance.

- o Strong policies and procedures have been put in place to govern all aspects of people management.
- o Performance based management
- o Annual capacity assessments and development.
- o Culture reviews to strengthen organizational culture.

Fundraising

1. In the period ending December 2023, the unit raised a total of GBP. 6,484,768 against an annual target is GBP.8,000,000. This marked an achievement of 81.08%. All 6 CS funded LRPs completed their content collection for the year making 88% of the targeted 95% message collection. AAIK continue to partner with The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, from the Australian Government, The European Commission, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), ARISE ActionAid Australia, Danish Development Corporation (DANIDA), Philanthropic Donors ActionAid Australia, Fondazione Cariplo, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSH), The Rabelais Trust, Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission, Amref Health Africa, People's Post Code Lottery (PPL), M-Pesa Foundation, The Roddenberry Foundation, UNFAO, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation,

General Public Netherlands, Emergency Action Alliance Australia, ElectricAid, Irish Aid, Ethical Tea Partnership (ETP), UN Women, Cardiff University, ITA Individual Donor Pool, Fondation Philanthropique Famille Sandoz, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, New Venture Fund, The Jectus Charitable Foundation, Park Federation, Options Consultancy Services Ltd, International Foundation and the Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO)

2. AAIK extends its gratitude to all our donors and funding institutions who partnered with us in 2023, helping us drive positive, sustainable change across the 22 counties we work in Kenya. Your generous contributions have empowered communities, uplifted women and youth, combated gender-based violence, and supported efforts to end harmful cultural practices. We appreciate the dedication of institutional partners, corporate donors, trusts, foundations, and individual supporters, whose



unwavering commitment to social justice has strengthened our initiatives. Together, we are building resilience, fostering economic empowerment, and securing a better future for vulnerable communities.

6. Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- The drought that struck most parts of the country led to the displacement of beneficiaries making tracking of the same a challenge. This was further exacerbated by the El-Nino flooding in the last quarter of the year, leading to the loss of lives and disruption of livelihoods.
- The slow enforcement of laws and policies to protect survivors of violence and form mechanisms to prevent GBV was also a challenge. There has been increased incidences of VAWG despite investment into the sector and the gains made over the years in rights programming and awareness. There has also been a spike in FGM/C which has kept on surging, especially with the debilitating drought.
- The increased cost of living has become a huge challenge to programming within communities and meeting the operational obligations of the Organization as the operational costs have skyrocketed. This has also affected the communities where we work as bigger populations are pushed further into poverty.
- The ongoing global conflicts such as Ukraine, Sudan, Mali, Niger and the Horn of Africa Region and global economic meltdown has led to reduced fundraising opportunities globally and this has greatly affected resource mobilization and the ability of the Organization to respond to ever increasing needs of the population.
- Climate change and fragility has contributed to displacement of communities, enhanced by sporadic conflicts in the Kerio Valley over water and other resources. Many women and young people have borne the brunt of these conflicts.

Case Studies

Citizens Unite in 11 Counties to Confront High Cost of Living

Kenya, like many countries, faces a multitude of economic challenges exacerbated by global forces and internal dynamics. In recent years, the country's reliance on a significant loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has sparked debates and raised concerns about the impact of imposed conditionalities on citizens' lives. As the government grapples with implementing fiscal adjustments to meet debt obligations, ordinary Kenyans bear the brunt of rising costs and financial strain.

A recent desk research conducted by ActionAid Kenya International sheds light on the far-reaching consequences of these economic policies. From tax policy changes to the elimination of fuel subsidies, citizens have experienced increased charges for essential services and higher living expenses. The ripple effects extend to inflationary pressures, particularly in sectors like transportation and food, as documented by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. Climate change-induced droughts have further exacerbated the situation, crippled the agricultural sector, and left many at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition.

People's Dialogue in Embu town, Embu County
In the face of these challenges, grassroots initiatives have emerged as beacons of hope, empowering citizens to advocate for their rights and demand accountability from their leaders. One such initiative

is the People's Assembly on the Cost of Living in Kenya, spearheaded by ActionAid International Kenya in collaboration with partners across the country. This grassroots movement seeks to facilitate inclusive dialogue and amplify the voices of ordinary Kenyans affected by the soaring cost of living.

The People's Assembly activities culminated in the convening of a People's National Economic Recovery Conference, where citizens and civil society organizations came together to discuss solutions to the country's economic woes. The conference served as a platform for citizens to articulate their grievances, collate community demands, and present concrete resolutions to the government. At the heart of these resolutions is a call for the government to uphold the Constitution and prioritize the well-being of its citizens by addressing the high cost of living.

People's Dialogue in Marigat, Baringo County
Central to the success of grassroots initiatives like the People's Assembly is the principle of inclusivity and participatory decision-making. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, including marginalized groups like women and girls who are disproportionately affected by economic crises, these initiatives ensure that voices from all corners of society are heard and considered in the policymaking process.

As Kenya navigates its economic challenges, the government must heed the calls of its citizens and prioritize their welfare. Sustainable solutions to



People's Dialogue held at Ufungamano House in Nairobi County

the country's economic woes cannot be achieved through top-down approaches alone but require meaningful engagement with grassroots movements and civil society organizations. By embracing inclusivity and participatory governance, Kenya can chart a path towards economic recovery that leaves no one behind.



People's Dialogue in Embu town, Embu County

Agroecology and VSLA have propelled me to self-reliance.

Communities in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) have borne the brunt of the country's worst drought in four decades due to failed rainy seasons. The lack of rain has resulted in the loss of livelihood for women and their communities. However, women in Mokong'o village in Tangulbei, Baringo County, have embraced agroecology as a solution to their food needs and are supporting their families, thanks to the training they have received from ActionAid Kenya through the Gender Responsive Alternatives for Climate Change (GRACC) Project.

Lydia Katikit, a small-scale farmer in Tangulbei, is beating the odds at her farm. After undergoing alternative economic activities training in 2016 and being introduced to agroecology, she was eager to diversify her family's diet. She looked forward to earning an extra shilling by selling surplus produce. "In these trainings, I have been taught a lot, and after each meeting, I return home with some fresh knowledge to improve my productivity in the shamba (farm). I am now in a position where I can handle the farm activities independently and chicken rearing," said Katikit. Failed rain seasons had dealt her a blow, forcing her to walk long distances in search of water for her farm, domestic use, and her goats to drink. The construction of a water pan next to her farm

has lessened the burden, but she is worried that the drought might be prolonged for an unforeseeable period.

"Before the water pan was constructed, I went to fetch water very far from home, and sometimes my daughter would sacrifice her school time to come and help me fetch water. The days she attended school, we would go to fetch water in the night, which exposed us to violence and wildlife," she added. "The drought is worsening daily, making our lives unbearable. The economy is also dipping. We are at a crossroads here," lamented Katikit, saying that she has had to fence off her farm to deter goats from grazing on her crops. "VSLA (Village Savings and Loans Association) has lifted me and many other women. I urge other women not enrolled in one to do so as soon as possible. There is so much unity and sisterhood in these groups. This ActionAid project has empowered me so much that I no longer depend on my husband. I am so grateful to you (ActionAid) and your supporters," added Katikit. She is optimistic that her children will attend school well, pursue college education, and have a better future. If this happens, Katikit feels she will have a good old age. She also implores her area leaders to implement measures to mitigate climate change and its effects.



Lydia Katikit watering kales at her small farm in Mokong'o village Tangelbei.

Africa Calls for Climate Justice and Sustainable Solutions

the March began. The procession entered Aerodrome Road and snaked through Uhuru Highway and onto Haile Selassie Avenue into Green Park, where speeches and entertainment were made. The crowd


was dotted with placards written with different messages addressing governments and corporations perceived as responsible for fueling climate change by exploring fossil fuels and industrial agriculture.



ActionAid team participate in the People's Assembly March held in Nairobi, Kenya

The People's Assembly brought President William Samoei Ruto, the host of ACS2023, under scrutiny for implying to be part of the solution to Climate change by asking Kenyans to plant 15 billion trees, but at the same time, his government has officially allowed deforestation, it is eyeing the production of nuclear power, and he champions importation of chemical fertilizers and genetically modified food. ActionAid International launched her research findings on How the Finance Flows: The banks fueling the climate crisis. The report named banks in Europe, America, and Asia (China) funding the exploration of fossil fuels and industrial agriculture as the biggest culprits for climate change. Whereas the ACS2023 was talking about the carbon market (not that it is not important), the People's Assembly focused on the defunding of the root causes of climate change. The People's ACS2023 instead offered the use of renewable energy and agroecology- farming systems that work with nature rather than destroy it.

ActionAid International Secretary General Arthur Larok insisted that interventions must be people-centered, not profit-driven. "When boiling milk rises, you remove the fire to prevent the milk from pouring over. Consequently, we will be calling these 'fires' by name, asking them to cut finance flows to fossil fuel and industrial agriculture," stated Arthur Larok. Here, smallholder women farmers from Nigeria, Malawi, and Zimbabwe shared their experiences of how the climate crisis has affected them and their communities, and how they are adopting. They all indicated that they resorted to the agroecology model of food production. They shunned away from using chemical fertilizers because it kills the soil, affecting the production of quality food and it only focuses on large quantities of yields, leading to more profit and compromising people's health. Corporations from the Global North have made Africa dependent on chemical fertilizers, which is killing Africa's soil, hence, the continent is becoming a net food importer instead of producing it.

A photograph of Arthur Larok, ActionAid International Secretary General, speaking at a microphone. He is wearing a green bucket hat with a white logo, glasses, and a dark blue t-shirt with a red graphic. The background is bright and slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor event with colorful lights.

ActionAid International Secretary General Arthur Larok speaks at the People's Assembly during the launch of the ActionAid report held at the Green Park Terminus in Nairobi Kenya

Susan Otieno, the Executive director of ActionAid International Kenya, stressed that it is time Africa refused to be colonized again. "We don't want to be colonized again! We want solutions that work for us and are designed by us. We want solutions that put us at the forefront and not to be dictated to, to be told how it is done because our forefathers had solutions that worked with nature, and we're friendly to nature. We (Africa) want to produce food without destroying the environment," said Susan. She also implored the people of Africa and their governments to speak in unison and demand systems change to attain real change.



Board Profile & Photos

The AAIK board is comprised of the following members:



Muga Samuel Owade
Chairperson



Roselyn Ngény
Vice Chairperson



Susan Otieno
Member



Emma Ndirangu
Treasurer



Abraham Kisang
Member



Evelyn Goro
Member



Abdullahi Diriye
Member



Dolphine Opembe
Member



Peter Abande
Member



Dr. Dan Adino
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Paul Kurgat
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