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**Unapologetic
Action for
the Rights of
Women and
Girls in
Kenya**





Shifting food systems is essential to tackling the climate crisis, especially as women are among those most affected by climate impacts. ActionAid Kenya champions agroecology as a real climate solution

About Us

Since 1972, ActionAid International Kenya (AAIK) has operated as a non-religious, non-partisan development organization committed to ending poverty and injustices. AAIK works in solidarity with communities living in poverty and exclusion to shift power to the communities themselves, enabling leadership and holding duty bearers accountable to protect, respect, and fulfill rights in line with the Constitution of Kenya. AAIK has presence in twenty-five counties, including Baringo, Garissa, Homabay, Isiolo, Kajiado, Kilifi, Kisumu, Kitui, Laikipia, Makueni, Meru, Murang'a, Nairobi, Nakuru, Siaya, Taita Taveta, Tharaka Nithi, Turkana, Wajir, Marsabit, Elgeyo Marakwet, West Pokot, Embu, Mombasa, and Migori.

Executive Director's Message

As we mark International Women's Day 2026 under the theme "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls," ActionAid International Kenya reaffirms its unwavering commitment to advancing women's rights and challenging the systems that perpetuate poverty, inequality, and exclusion. For over five decades, ActionAid Kenya has stood alongside women and girls living in poverty and marginalisation, supporting them to organise, speak out, and lead transformative change in their communities. Our work is rooted in the belief that women are not passive right holders of development, but powerful agents of justice, resilience, and social transformation.

Through our Country Strategic Plan 2018–2028, "Our Rights for Justice," we continue to shift power to communities and women-led institutions, strengthening grassroots movements that demand accountability and equality. Over the past three years alone, our programmes have directly reached more than 1.1 million people across Kenya, supporting efforts to end violence against women and girls, strengthen women's economic resilience, and expand civic participation.

We continue to work with communities across the country and in other areas globally to centre our work on women's rights, especially in the face of current global conflict and humanitarian challenges, which are even more pronounced domestically. We commit to

putting our foot forward to ensure no one is left behind, to ensure that women across the board continue to lead lives in dignity, and to ensure that we hold each other's hands in a quest to build more resilient, transformative, and just societies where everyone enjoys their right to dignity and social justice.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our communities, partners, donors, civil society actors, and government stakeholders whose collaboration makes this work possible. Your commitment and solidarity continue to drive change. Together, we remain unapologetic in our pursuit of rights, justice, and dignity for all women and girls.

Samson Orai

Executive Director

ActionAid International Kenya





Unapologetic Action for the Rights of Women and Girls in Kenya

In Kenya today, the struggle for gender equality and women's rights remains both urgent and deeply intertwined with broader social justice movements. At the heart of this fight stands ActionAid International Kenya (AAIK), a non-partisan, non-religious development organisation that for over five decades has championed the rights, dignity, and leadership of women and girls living in poverty and exclusion across the country.

ActionAid Kenya is unapologetic in advancing women's rights, placing women living in poverty and exclusion at the center of our mission. This commitment goes beyond advocacy from a distance; it means working side by side with women, and young people to claim and realise their constitutional rights. The organisation recognises that gender inequality is both a cause and a consequence of structural poverty, and that dismantling entrenched patriarchal systems is essential to ending injustice.

Through our Country Strategic Plan 2018–2028, “Our Rights for Justice,” ActionAid Kenya deliberately invests in women's empowerment by shifting power to local communities and women-led institutions. This approach reflects a decisive shift away from top-down charity toward grassroots leadership, accountability, and sustainable change. Women are not passive right holders of aid; they are agents of justice, policy reform, and community resilience.

At the core of ActionAid Kenya's work is a holistic framework grounded in empowerment, solidarity, and campaigning. The organisation strengthens women's economic security, leadership capacity, and resilience, while building strong networks among women, young people, and communities to drive collective action. It also campaigns for laws, policies, and social norms that

uphold gender equality and protect women's rights. A central priority remains ensuring that women and girls are free from violence and able to participate meaningfully in leadership and decision-making at all levels.

Over the past three years, this unapologetic commitment has translated into sustained impact. Under Strategic Objective 1, which focuses on ensuring that women and girls living in poverty and exclusion, together with their communities, attain economic security, leadership, and freedom from all forms of violence, 538,526 people were directly reached.

Strategic Objective 2, which supports young people and communities living in poverty and exclusion to realize their economic rights and access to Gender-Responsive Public Services (GRPS) through democratic and just governance, impacted 277,647 people. Strategic Objective 3, which works with women living in poverty and exclusion and their communities to secure land tenure and build sustainable, resilient livelihoods in fragile contexts amid humanitarian and climate crises, reached 347,703 people. Strategic Objective 4, focused on strengthening people-led movements, communities, and their collectives to defend, reclaim, and expand civic space in Kenya, reached 17,507

Impact Over the Last Three Years

Strategic Objective 1

538,526 people reached

Ensuring women and girls attain economic security, leadership, and freedom from violence.



Strategic Objective 2

277,647 people reached

Supporting youth & communities with economic rights and GRPS access



Strategic Objective 3

347,703 people reached

Helping women secure land tenure & resilient livelihoods



Strategic Objective 4

17,507 people reached

Strengthening civic movements & space in Kenya



people. ActionAid Kenya's work also confronts harmful practices that undermine women's rights, including gender-based violence and other forms of discrimination that endanger women and girls. By collaborating with communities, local partners, traditional and religious leaders, and government institutions, the organisation promotes girls' education, challenges harmful traditions, and advocates for stronger legal protections that safeguard women's dignity and welfare.

As the world marks International Women's Day 2026 under the theme "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls," ActionAid Kenya reaffirms that progress requires more than promises. It demands bold action, sustained advocacy, and unwavering solidarity with women living in poverty and exclusion. The theme reflects the organisation's enduring belief that women's

rights are human rights, that justice must be accessible to every woman and girl, and that action must be intentional, collective, and transformative.

Most defining of ActionAid International Kenya's approach is its unwavering commitment to shifting power away from external actors and placing it firmly in the hands of women. Through partnerships grounded in trust, accountability, and solidarity, the organisation strengthens local women's groups and movements that are already driving transformative change within their communities. From economic empowerment initiatives to advocacy for land rights and civic participation, its work is anchored in the belief that sustainable development can only be achieved when women lead. Advancing women's rights is neither optional nor incremental; it is urgent, intentional, and unapologetic.

The newly launched Garashi Resource and Protection Centre by ActionAid Kenya provides a safe and supportive space for women and girls who have survived gender-based violence. The centre offers essential protection services, psychosocial support, and pathways to justice, helping survivors rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.





ActionAid Kenya's programmes integrate art as a powerful tool for engaging girls to challenge harmful traditions and replace them with empowering messages about bodily autonomy, the right to live free from violence, and the power of self-determination.

Our Impact through Local Rights Programs

In **Kajiado County**, under the Elangata Wuas Local Rights Program, ActionAid Kenya addresses child marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), gender-based violence, and gender inequalities. The initiative works closely with 14 cultural age-set chiefs and 200 religious leaders, engaging 60,000 community members through intergenerational dialogues that promote equality. Education outreach has reached 3,757 girls and 3,554 boys across 29 schools, supporting classroom and ablution blocks construction, and advocacy against harmful practices. Women's economic empowerment is strengthened through 35 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) with 1,225 members, enhancing confidence, resource access, and decision-making participation, while helping women adopt alternative livelihoods to cope with climate impacts such as drought. Referral pathways are reinforced to provide justice, psychosocial support, legal protections, and leadership opportunities. This program is supported through Child Sponsorship links in Italy and the UK.

In **Makueni County**, the Kathonzweni Local Rights Program has reached 4,538 households across 136 villages, strengthening the 400-member Kathonzweni Women Movement. Education initiatives have empowered 4,854 learners (2,484 girls and 2,368 boys) across 29 schools, supported classroom and ablution block construction, implemented school feeding programs, and introduced hygiene initiatives. Women's economic empowerment is strengthened through 40 VSLAs with 1,400 members, and 40 Trainers of Trainers equipped with financial literacy have created economic hubs to confront systemic discrimination, adopt alternative livelihoods, and participate in decision-making. Justice and protection initiatives ensure women

and girls access their rights, live free from prejudice, and translate advocacy into tangible action. This program is supported through Child Sponsorship links in Italy.

In **Kishushe, Taita Taveta County**, and **Kamuthe in Garissa County** through the Women's Rights Programme, 1,217 women and girls have been empowered to speak out against gender-based violence, access justice services such as psychosocial support, and rebuild livelihoods. Thirty savings groups, 40 climate-resilient women farmers, and leadership platforms enable women to generate income, support families, and influence local decision-making. Three hundred men, 50 cultural leaders, and county officials support norm change against FGM and violence. Resource and protection centers provide safe spaces for women and girls. This program is supported by the Irish Aid through ActionAid Ireland.

In **Marafa, Kilifi County**, AAIK has strengthened women's leadership, agency, and resilience through initiatives including the Sauti Ya Wanawake Movement. Thirty VSLAs enable women to pool resources, access credit, and launch businesses. Interventions have benefited over 5,000 women and girls through legal aid, mentorship, leadership support, climate-smart agriculture for 1,500 women farmers, Disaster Management Committees with strong female participation, education outreach to over 10,000 girls, and governance literacy to 7,386 women. A safe space facility serves 5,000 women and girls. This program is supported through Child Sponsorship links in Greece.

In **Makima, Embu County**, AAIK strengthened over 86 women's groups with leadership training, legal aid clinics, and dialogues on GBV, enabling over 5,000 women and



Through child sponsorship programming, ActionAid Kenya channels funding towards vital community development initiatives, including water projects, classroom construction, and the rehabilitation of social amenities, improving access to essential services and strengthening community well-being.

adolescent girls to report GBV, access survivor support, and advocate for stricter enforcement of anti-FGM and domestic violence laws. Electoral literacy workshops empowered over 2,000 women, increasing female candidate selection to local leadership roles. Equitable land access and resource control initiatives enabled 150 land-poor families to secure communal plots, while 300 women-led households cultivated high-value crops and reared poultry. Household incomes increased by over three years. Civic engagement programs trained over 600 young people in budget tracking, public expenditure monitoring, and human-rights law. Youth-led social audits identified gaps in service delivery and quarterly town-hall meetings strengthened local governance accountability.

In Nyakach, Kisumu County, the Local Rights Program has conducted community sensitization and trainings in human rights, case management, social accountability, land rights, and paralegal skills, reaching 5,000 women and men. The LRP contributed

to the review of the Kisumu Gender Policy, enhanced child protection by training 50 patrons and 40 teachers, and increased GBV reporting through 25 trained case managers. Communities have been sensitized on gender-responsive services, resulting in tangible action by duty bearers. This program is supported through Child Sponsorship links in Italy.

In Nyokal, Homabay County, the Local Rights Programme has strengthened women and youth empowerment, forming 26 women's chapters, and Activistas youth network. Resilience efforts include farmer training, provision of seeds, and shade nets in three primary schools. GBV reporting increased following case manager training, and the county recognized ActionAid's child protection work in August 2025. Classrooms and ablution blocks have been constructed, and a sub-county children's assembly formed after training 50 children delegates and 40 teachers across 26 schools. This program is supported through Child Sponsorship links in the UK and Spain.





Our Impact Through Thematic Programmes

The **Komesha FGM Sasal Project** across Wajir, Marsabit, Elgeyo Marakwet, Garissa, Isiolo, Tharaka Nithi, and West Pokot has equipped 8,933 adolescents with knowledge on FGM impacts, engaged 5,556 men and 7,848 women in intergenerational dialogues, and supported 3,413 women and 86 girls through Reflect Circles. 3,416 religious leaders publicly declared abandonment of FGM alongside 113 male champions. 66 survivors accessed psychosocial support, 14 social movements were strengthened, and 424 frontline actors trained. The project is supported by the European Union in Kenya through UNFPA Kenya



The **African Women Voices for Peace Project** in Baringo strengthened women-led peacebuilding across West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet, Turkana, and Baringo. Five women-led peace movements engaged 1,840 women, including 40 women with disabilities, increasing women's participation alongside chiefs and security actors. Referral pathways were improved, over 5,000 women strengthened economic resilience, five frontline women represented their CBOs in stakeholder meetings, and 234 women accessed mental health and psychosocial support. This program is supported by the Judith Nielson Foundation through ActionAid Australia.

The **Empowering Tea Communities** Programme engaged 1,474 farmers and informal workers in Murang'a, Nakuru, and Meru counties, strengthening rights awareness and alternative livelihoods. The programme reached 14,071 people directly and 84,426 indirectly. 53 Village Savings and Loans Associations were formed, and a multi-stakeholder platform of 238 members facilitated systemic change.

The **Gender Responsive Alternatives to Climate Change project** trained women with disabilities as Trainers of Trainers in Disaster Risk Reduction, covering stakeholder mapping, accessibility assessments, and inclusive climate action planning. 98 persons with disabilities obtained certificates to access government services. This program is supported by DFAT through ActionAid Australia.

The **SPA Project** empowered young women in Majengo (Nairobi), Kilifi, Baringo, Turkana, and Isiolo to lead social audits, advocacy, and community campaigns. Young women contributed to county budget allocations for gender-responsive services, school construction,



hospital funding, and water projects. Cash transfers enabled young mothers to establish small enterprises, while agroecology strengthened livelihoods. This program is supported by the Danish Government through ActionAid Denmark.

The Access to Justice and Security Project in Nairobi and Kisumu, implemented between December 2024 and November 2025, increased access to justice for GBV survivors through legal aid, psychosocial support, community sensitization, and institutional advocacy. Using the 20194 SMS reporting system, three (3) perpetrators were convicted, 55 cases proceeded to court, 6,000 community members reached through forums, 265 survivors gained economic empowerment, and over one million people reached via radio talk shows. This program is supported by the Rabelais Trust and ActionAid UK.

The Girl Generation programme in Isiolo and Garissa reached over 30,000 participants, including 400 girls including those with disabilities. School forums in 31

schools, 1,452 community dialogues, 638 women-only reflection spaces, and 37 radio talk shows drove positive shifts in FGM attitudes. 11 social movements were strengthened, and two anti-FGM policies adopted. This program was supported by FCDO via Options.

The Fair Green and Global Project promoted women's land rights, registered joint title deeds, formed widow groups to prevent disinheritance, and supported women-led mining enterprises. Multi-stakeholder platforms implemented the Kilimanjaro Charter on Women's Land Rights and developed feminist corporate policies.

The Young Urban Women Kenya Project empowered over 800 young women from informal settlements in Mombasa and Nairobi through feminist economic alternatives, digital advocacy, and policy engagement. Step-down activities reached 600 more, and research influenced campaigns for fair employment, public investment in care, and gender-based violence prevention.

MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning)

The MEAL Department embeds women's rights commitments across planning, reflection, reporting, and decision-making. Participatory Review and Reflection Processes, annual reviews, and community reflection spaces center women lived experiences. Outcome harvesting, reflection forums, and engagement with 34 partners ensures adaptive management, transparent feedback mechanisms, and downward accountability, strengthening rights-based changes at community level.

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