

act:onaid
Kenya



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About **act:ionaid** Kenya

Since 1972, ActionAid International Kenya (AAIK) has had operations in Kenya as a non-religious, non-partisan development organization to end poverty and injustices.

AAIK works in solidarity with communities living in poverty and exclusion to shift power to the communities and facilitate their own leadership by holding duty bearers accountable to Protect, Respect and Fulfill their rights in line with the constitution of the Republic of Kenya.

We have presence in twenty five counties working closely with local organisations and partners. The counties include: 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.

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EDITORIAL TEAM

Ezra Kiriago, Communications Coordinator, AAIK

Grassroots Women Call for Stronger Inclusion in Kenya's Peacebuilding Agenda

Grassroots women from conflict-affected communities have called for stronger inclusion in Kenya's peace and security processes, urging government and partners to recognize and support their role as frontline peacebuilders.

The call was made during a high-level dialogue meeting of the National Steering Committee under the Africa Women Voices for Peace Project, convened in Nairobi. The forum brought together stakeholders from the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action, the Ministry of Interior and Administration through the Peacebuilding Directorate, the Kenya National Action Plan Secretariat, Action-Aid International Kenya (AAIK), and other partners.

At the center of the dialogue were women from Baringo County, who shared lived experiences of conflict and peacebuilding at the community level. Presenting a position paper developed collectively by frontline women, Jayne Kipsimat, accompanied by Miriam Kuroito, emphasized that grassroots women are already playing a critical role in sustaining peace despite limited support.



Women from Baringo County present their position paper to the National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Community Resilience during a Women, Peace and Security dialogue in Nairobi, advocating for inclusive approaches to sustainable peace and stronger community resilience.

"We are not just survivors of conflict, we are peacebuilders," Jayne Kipsimat said. "In our communities, women mediate disputes, support survivors of violence, and hold families together. Women, including survivors of violence, should be supported and included in peace-related decision-making processes."

She outlined key demands from the position paper, calling for urgent reforms to strengthen women's participation and protection in peacebuilding processes:

- Institutionalize meaningful participation of women in all peace and security processes
- Increase investment in women-led, community-based peacebuilding and protection mechanisms
- Strengthen protection, referral, and psychosocial support systems for women in conflict-affected areas
- Enhance coordination between state and non-state actors to support localized peacebuilding efforts



Stakeholders in the Women, Peace and Security sector pose for a group photo during a National Steering Committee dialogue in Nairobi

Echoing these sentiments, Kitasi Wanga, Programme Manager at ActionAid International Kenya (AAIK), said grassroots women must be at the center of all peacebuilding efforts if lasting stability is to be achieved.

“Women at the frontline of conflict are already driving change, often with minimal resources,” Wanga said. “If we are serious about sustainable peace, then we must prioritize funding, capacity strengthening, and policy support for women-led initiatives at the community level.”

National Steering Committee Chair Jaki Mbogo underscored the importance of strengthening collaboration and ensuring accountability in implementing Kenya's Women, Peace and Security commitments.

“We have made important strides, but there is still work to be done,” she said. “The transition to National Action Plan Phase Three will be intentional, inclusive, and responsive to emerging challenges.”

Representing the Peacebuilding Directorate at the Ministry of Interior and Administration, Christabel Odhiambo reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening institutional frameworks that support women's participation in peace and security processes.

"Our commitment is to ensure that policies translate into real impact at the community level," she said. "We are investing in early warning systems, strengthening response mechanisms, and ensuring that women are fully integrated into peace and security structures."

The dialogue also provided a platform for reflection on the implementation of the Kenya National Action Plan, with stakeholders acknowledging both progress and gaps in advancing inclusion, access to justice, and protection systems.

Participants emphasized the need to strengthen early warning and response systems, deepen coordination across state and non-state actors, and advance women's economic empowerment as a pathway to sustainable peace. The Africa Women Voices for Peace Project is supported by the Judith Neilson Foundation through ActionAid Australia and implemented in Kenya by ActionAid Kenya.



Women from Baringo County share grassroots perspectives on peacebuilding and community resilience during the National Steering Committee dialogue on Women, Peace and Security in Nairobi

Women Innovating Against Climate Change in Taita Taveta

For farmers in the lowlands of Taita Taveta, erratic weather has long posed a significant challenge. Prolonged droughts and unpredictable rainfall have led to crop losses, low productivity, and food insecurity, as most farmers rely on subsistence farming rather than commercial agriculture. Climate change has further intensified these challenges, making it increasingly difficult for farmers to plan and sustain their harvests.



Mary Mwadime checks her dried vegetables ready for market.

In 2025, ActionAid Kenya conducted a training on agroecology targeting 40 local farmers, including Mary Mwadime, a 65-year-old member of the women's group Sauti Ya Wanawake. Excited to learn new methods, Mary saw this as an opportunity not only to improve her own farming but also to educate her fellow group members on sustainable agricultural practices.

Mary embraced innovative water management techniques introduced during the training. She adopted the use of farm ponds, a water harvesting technology designed for small-scale farmers. Rainwater collected in these ponds can be stored and used during dry seasons, ensuring a consistent supply of water for vegetable gardens. In addition, Mary implemented Zai pits, shallow sunken beds measuring approximately one meter by one meter, filled with water before planting seeds. This technique allows water to be retained for longer, improving crop survival and productivity during periods of low rainfall.

"I learnt these techniques from the training organized by ActionAid. My harvest has greatly improved, and I sell any excess vegetables to earn some income," said Mary.

Mary has also embraced solar drying technology for vegetable preservation, another initiative supported by ActionAid Kenya. Along with other women, she received training on using solar driers to preserve vegetables, enabling them to reach markets even during the dry season.

“This has been a great opportunity for me. I now receive orders from as far as Mombasa and Nairobi. Recently, I sold some dried vegetables to our Deputy Governor after she learned about my work, and she loved them,” Mary shared proudly.

By preserving indigenous vegetables using solar driers, Mary not only reduces post-harvest losses but also saves time, as solar drying reduces drying time by three to five times compared to traditional sun-drying methods. This efficiency allows women farmers like Mary to focus on other farm activities while ensuring a steady supply of nutritious vegetables throughout the year.

Mary Mwadime’s story is a testament to the power of knowledge, innovation, and resilience in the face of climate change. Through simple but effective techniques, she has improved her harvests, increased her income, and strengthened both her family’s and her community’s food security through the sale of surplus produce, proving that even small-scale farmers can thrive in challenging climates.



Mary Mwadime showcases her farming innovations to CS Gender Hon. Hannah Wendot, Taita Taveta Deputy Governor Christine Saru Kilalo, and Taita Taveta Women Representative Lydia Haika during an event in Taita Taveta County.

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