

A photograph of two young boys sitting on a swing set in a park. They are both wearing bright pink short-sleeved shirts. The boy in the foreground is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression, while the boy behind him is smiling. The background shows green grass, trees, and a stone archway. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

**act:onaid**  
Kenya

# 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

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## Learners Set for Safer, Improved Facilities with Support from ActionAid Kenya

Learners in Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) across four schools in Kwabwai Ward, Ndhiwa Subcounty, Homa Bay County, are set to experience improved learning conditions following the commissioning of new classrooms and sanitation facilities supported by ActionAid Kenya.

The organisation has officially launched three ECDE classrooms at Nyarandi Comprehensive School, Abura Comprehensive School, and Ngere Kwabwai School. It also commissioned a five-door ablution block at Got Adundo Comprehensive School. The facilities are intended to provide safe, child-friendly, and weather-resilient learning environments for young learners.

The initiative aims to address long-standing challenges faced by ECDE pupils, including exposure to harsh weather conditions, inadequate sanitation, and unsafe temporary learning structures that have previously affected attendance and learning continuity.



Teachers welcomed the development, saying the new infrastructure will significantly improve the learning experience for young children.

“Previously, ECDE learners studied in poorly constructed structures exposed to cold and dust during rainy and windy seasons,” said Mr Charles Makombe, Head of Institution at Nyarandi Comprehensive School. “This new classroom will protect them from such conditions and reduce cases of respiratory infections, allowing children to learn more comfortably and consistently.”

Parents also expressed optimism that the improved facilities will boost enrollment and retention of young learners in school.

“As parents, we are now assured of our children’s safety and well-being while at school,” said Evaline Akoth, a parent from Abura Comprehensive School. “This will motivate many of us to enroll our children earlier in ECDE, giving them a strong educational foundation.”

Learners also shared their excitement about the new facilities, saying they feel more comfortable and motivated to attend school. At Got Adundo Comprehensive School, pupils welcomed the improved sanitation infrastructure.



New ECDE classroom at Nyarandi Comprehensive School stands beside the old iron-sheet classroom where young learners once studied, marking a step forward in improved learning spaces.

“We are happy to have good ablution blocks where we can easily use and also a changing room for girls,” said the student president at the school.

Early Year Education (EYE) Dhiwa Subcounty Supervisor Cornela Ouno noted that the new facilities will have a direct impact on learning outcomes and school participation.

“These developments will go a long way in strengthening ECDE delivery in the subcounty,” said Cornela Ouno. “Improved classrooms and sanitation facilities mean better attendance, fewer illness-related absences, and a more stable learning environment for our young learners. This is a major step toward building strong educational foundations.”

The five-door ablution block at Got Adundo Comprehensive School is expected to significantly improve hygiene standards, particularly for young children who are most vulnerable to sanitation-related illnesses.

Speaking on the development, Euphemia Odero, Local Rights Programme Coordinator at ActionAid Kenya, said:

“The commissioning of new classrooms at Nyarandi, Abura, and Ngere Kwabwai schools, alongside improved sanitation facilities at Got Adundo Comprehensive School, represents an important step toward addressing long-standing challenges that have affected young learners, including exposure to harsh weather and inadequate hygiene infrastructure. We believe that investing in child-friendly and resilient infrastructure is central to strengthening learning outcomes, and we remain committed to working with communities and partners to expand such initiatives so that every child can learn in an environment that supports their health, dignity, and potential.”

According to ActionAid Kenya, the project forms part of a broader effort to strengthen learning environments for ECDE learners and promote child-friendly infrastructure. The organisation noted that quality infrastructure plays a critical role in improving educational outcomes and safeguarding children’s health. It further stated that the newly constructed facilities are intended to serve as model structures for education stakeholders, demonstrating practical examples of safe, inclusive, and child-friendly learning environments. The organisation hopes this approach will encourage government agencies, partners, and communities to replicate similar interventions in other schools.

Education stakeholders in the area said the improved facilities are expected to reduce health risks, promote proper hygiene practices, and eliminate hazards previously associated with temporary and poorly constructed sanitation structures.

With the new classrooms and improved sanitation facilities in place, the schools are expected to record increased enrollment, improved attendance, and better learning outcomes, marking a significant step toward strengthening foundational education in Kwabwai Ward, Homabay County



New ECDE classroom at Ngere Kwabwai Comprehensive School stands beside the old iron-sheet classroom where young learners once studied, marking a step forward in improved learning spaces.



New boys' and girls' latrine blocks at Got Adundo Comprehensive School stand beside the old iron-sheet pit latrines that learners previously used, marking improved sanitation conditions

## ActionAid Kenya Launches 10-Year Local Rights Programme in Kimaeti, Bumula, Bungoma County

ActionAid International Kenya has launched a new Local Rights Programme (LRP) in Kimaeti, Bumula Sub-County of Bungoma County, marking the beginning of a transformative 10-year initiative aimed at tackling poverty, inequality, and social injustice in the region. The programme is part of ActionAid Kenya's broader strategy of empowering communities living in poverty and exclusion through a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA). The organization has identified Kimaeti in Bumula as one of the new Local Rights Programme areas where long-term investments will focus on strengthening livelihoods, promoting gender equality, improving access to quality services, and enhancing community participation in governance.

The decision to establish the programme in Bumula followed extensive community assessments and appraisal missions conducted between 2024 and 2025. The studies revealed persistent challenges affecting residents, including widespread poverty, unemployment among youth, food insecurity, gender-based violence, inadequate access to clean water, poor sanitation, and limited economic opportunities for women and vulnerable groups. The new programme in Kimaeti is expected to focus on several key thematic areas over the next decade. These include promoting women's rights and addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) by advocating for equality, protection, and access to support services for survivors.



Several consultative meetings were held between the community, stakeholders, and the ActionAid Kenya team to discuss and align on the objectives of the Local Rights Program within the community.

The organization is also committed to strengthening livelihoods and building climate resilience among farming households, economic empowerment, and adaptation strategies that help communities withstand environmental challenges. In addition, ActionAid Kenya will strive to improve access to education and create youth empowerment opportunities by supporting skills development, leadership, innovation, and inclusive learning pathways that enable young people to reach their full potential and actively contribute to community development.

“The launch of the Local Rights Programme in Kimaeti, Bumula Sub-County marks a major step toward advancing dignity, equity, and sustainable development in communities facing poverty and exclusion. Over the next ten years, the programme will address challenges identified through community assessments, including poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, gender-based violence, limited access to clean water, and weak economic opportunities for women and youth.

Guided by a Human Rights-Based Approach, it will strengthen women’s rights, support survivors of SGBV, promote climate-resilient livelihoods, and expand youth empowerment through skills and leadership development. Working with local partners, the programme will enhance community ownership, accountability, and change.” Kitasi Wanga, Programme Manager – Resilient Livelihoods and Emergencies, ActionAid Kenya

The programme will place women, children, and young people at the center of development efforts, enabling communities to organize collectively, claim their rights, and hold duty bearers accountable.

The initiative is also expected to work closely with local community organizations, county government institutions, schools, youth groups, and women-led associations to ensure sustainable and community-driven development.



Kitasi Wanga, Programme Manager for Resilient Livelihoods and Emergencies, ActionAid Kenya engages the community in Bumula.

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