

act:onaid
Kenya



About **act:onaid** 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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ActionAid Kenya Launches 10-Year Local Rights Programme in Mwanamwinga, Kaloleni Sub-County, Kilifi County



Kilifi County leadership, led by Deputy Governor Flora Chibule, joins the ActionAid Kenya team following an official engagement meeting marking the launch of the programme in Mwanamwinga. The engagement reaffirmed a shared commitment to partnership, inclusive development, and improving the well-being of communities in Kilifi County.

ActionAid International Kenya has officially launched a new Local Rights Programme (LRP) in Mwanamwinga, Kaloleni Sub-County, Kilifi County, marking the beginning of a transformative 10-year initiative aimed at addressing poverty, inequality, and social injustice while advancing sustainable community development.

The Local Rights Programme forms part of ActionAid Kenya's broader strategy of empowering communities experiencing poverty and exclusion through a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA). Mwanamwinga has been identified as one of the organization's new programme areas where long-term investments will focus on strengthening resilient livelihoods, promoting gender equality, improving access to quality public services, and enhancing citizen participation in governance and accountability processes.

The decision to establish the programme in Mwanamwinga followed extensive community assessments and consultations. The findings highlighted key development challenges affecting the area, including poverty, youth unemployment, food insecurity, the impacts of climate change, gender-based violence, inadequate access to clean water and sanitation, and limited economic opportunities for women and marginalized groups.

Over the next decade, the programme will focus on several key thematic areas. These include advancing women's rights and preventing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) by promoting gender equality, strengthening referral pathways, and improving access to support services for survivors. The programme will also invest in resilient livelihoods by supporting climate-smart agriculture, sustainable income-generating activities, and community adaptation strategies that strengthen resilience to climate-related shocks.



Community leaders in Mwanamwinga engage in a dialogue with the ActionAid Kenya team focused on strengthening community participation, fostering local leadership, and advancing collaborative solutions to development challenges in Kilifi County.

In addition, ActionAid Kenya will prioritize education and youth empowerment by promoting skills development, leadership, innovation, and inclusive opportunities that enable young people to actively contribute to the social and economic development of their communities.

Speaking during a meeting, which forms part of the programme's inception process, Deputy Governor Flora Chibule reaffirmed the Kilifi County Government's commitment to partnering with development organizations to improve the well-being of residents across the county.

"The County Government of Kilifi welcomes this partnership with ActionAid Kenya as it aligns with our commitment to improving livelihoods, promoting gender equality, empowering young people, and ensuring that no one is left behind. We look forward to working together to strengthen community resilience and deliver sustainable development for the people of Kaloleni and the wider county," said Deputy Governor Flora Chibule.

Kitasi Wanga, Interim Programmes and Strategy Lead at ActionAid Kenya, said the Local Rights Programme represents a long-term commitment to supporting communities to claim their rights, strengthen local leadership, and drive sustainable development through community-led action.

"The launch of the Local Rights Programme marks an important milestone in our commitment to advancing dignity, equity, and sustainable development for communities experiencing poverty and exclusion. Over the next ten years, we will work closely with the County Government, community-based organizations, women and youth groups, and other local stakeholders to strengthen resilient livelihoods, promote women's rights, address Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, and expand opportunities for young people," said Wanga.



Velma Kagonya from ActionAid Kenya engages community leaders in Mwanamwanga in a dialogue focused on strengthening community participation, fostering local leadership, and advancing collaborative solutions to development challenges in Kilifi County.

The programme will place women, children, and young people at the center of its interventions, supporting communities to organize collectively, claim their rights, and hold duty bearers accountable for equitable service delivery.

ActionAid Kenya will work closely with the Kilifi County Government, community-based organizations, women's groups, youth networks, schools, and other stakeholders to ensure the programme remains locally owned, inclusive, and sustainable throughout its implementation.

Makueni Women Showcase Thriving Beekeeping Enterprise at the National Agroecology Conference 2026

The conversation around agroecology is about more than sustainable farming, it is about transforming lives. At the National Agroecology Conference 2026, Makueni Beewax Heritage from Kathonzweni, Makueni County, supported by ActionAid Kenya, showcased how community-led innovation, women's leadership, and value addition are creating resilient livelihoods while protecting the environment.

Held on 22–23 July 2026 at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies under the theme, “Transforming Agrifood Systems through Agroecology: A One Health Approach for Inclusive, Sustainable, and Resilient Futures,” the conference brought together farmers, researchers, policymakers, development partners, youth, and private sector actors to explore pathways for advancing agroecology in Kenya.



Jacinta Mwikali (left) engages with participants as they visited the booth, sampled the products, and made purchases.



Participants keenly followed the discussions during the 3rd Agroecology Conference held at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies in Nairobi.

Among the exhibitors was Makueni Beewax Heritage, a women-led community enterprise that demonstrated that beekeeping could deliver far more than honey. With support from ActionAid Kenya, the group's members underwent value addition training at the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI), where they acquired practical skills to transform honey and beeswax into high-quality products such as body creams, candles, and lip balms.

Before receiving the KIRDI training, the women had already begun producing beeswax products using locally available knowledge and techniques while selling raw honey and their handmade products within their communities. However, the training proved to be an eye-opener, introducing them to improved product formulation, quality standards, packaging, and processing methods that significantly enhanced the quality and marketability of their products.

Today, they continue to serve local markets while working towards product certification through the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), a milestone they hope will enable them to access major retail outlets and expand into new markets.

Comprising 20 women, the enterprise is building sustainable businesses while championing agroecological practices that conserve biodiversity and protect natural ecosystems. By blending traditional beekeeping knowledge with modern processing techniques, the women have significantly increased the value of their products, expanded their market opportunities, and strengthened household incomes.

For Francisca Kivuvo, the training marked a turning point



Francisca Kivuvo (wearing a red top) of Makueni Beewax Heritage engages with participants at the booth, showcasing the products and sharing information about their benefits.

“Before the KIRDI training, we were already making a few beeswax products using the knowledge we had and selling them alongside our honey in the local market. The training opened our eyes to better processing techniques, product formulation, quality standards, and packaging. Today, our products are of much higher quality, giving us greater confidence as we work towards KEBS certification. We are hopeful that this will help us access major retail outlets and earn more from every harvest.”

Her fellow member, Jacinta Kamuya, said the new skills have brought greater confidence and economic independence.

“Being part of Makueni Beewax Heritage has changed my life. We have learned that every part of the hive has value. Instead of discarding beeswax, we now turn it into products that customers appreciate. As one of the 20 members, I am proud that we are building a business that benefits our families while protecting our environment.”

Lucy Ntongai, Project Coordinator at ActionAid Kenya, said the success of Makueni Beewax Heritage demonstrates the transformative potential of investing in women’s skills and enterprise development through agroecology.

“The journey of Makueni Beewax Heritage demonstrates that when women have access to the right skills, knowledge, and partnerships, they can transform locally. The achievements of Makueni Beewax Heritage reflect ActionAid Kenya’s broader commitment to advancing women’s economic empowerment through agroecology. Beyond beekeeping, the organization supports women with training in sustainable farming practices that improve food security while creating opportunities to generate income from value-added agricultural products. These initiatives help diversify livelihoods, strengthen household resilience, and contribute to inclusive local economic development.

The initiative is supported by the Australian Government through Australian Aid and ActionAid Australia and implemented in Kenya by ActionAid Kenya in partnership with local organizations in Makueni and Baringo counties.

The story of Makueni Beewax Heritage is a powerful reminder that when women have access to knowledge, practical skills, and strong partnerships, agroecology becomes more than a farming approach, it becomes a pathway to economic empowerment, environmental stewardship, and resilient communities. As the group prepares to enter major retail outlets, its journey demonstrates how investing in women’s skills and value addition can unlock new economic opportunities while promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. From every hive emerges not only honey but also hope, opportunity, and a more resilient future for generations to come. available resources into thriving enterprises. Agroecology is not only improving livelihoods but also creating opportunities for women to participate meaningfully in local economic development.”

Frontline Women Peacebuilders from East and Central Africa Convene in Addis Ababa to Shape Women, Peace and Security Agenda

Frontline women peacebuilders from Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) convened in Addis Ababa from 6–7 June 2026 for a pre-engagement meeting ahead of a high-level dialogue with the African Union (AU) Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). The women peacebuilders participated through the Africa Women Voices for Peace Project, which supports and amplifies the voices of women working on the frontlines of peacebuilding across the region.

The two-day engagement brought together women working at the forefront of peacebuilding efforts in conflict-affected communities, providing a platform for them to share experiences, strengthen networks and influence policies addressing the realities faced by women and girls in conflict situations.



Frontline women peacebuilders from Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and the DRC unite at a regional peace dialogue in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, advancing collaboration for lasting peace across the region



H.E. Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, joins a delegation of frontline women for a group photo

The meeting, convened by the Office of the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, sought to advance women's leadership in peacebuilding and promote approaches that place frontline women at the centre of peace and security decision-making across Africa.

Opening the engagement, AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, H.E. Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, emphasized the importance of ensuring that the voices of women peacebuilders directly inform policies and actions aimed at achieving sustainable peace. Ambassador Mulamula called for a shift from commitments to concrete action, urging stakeholders to recognize frontline women as essential actors in preventing conflict, resolving crises and rebuilding communities affected by violence.

“The voices and experiences of frontline women must shape policies and decisions that deliver lasting peace,” she noted, reaffirming the AU’s commitment to strengthening women’s leadership, protecting women peacebuilders and ensuring that National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security deliver measurable impact in conflict-affected communities.

The engagement also featured presentations from AU institutions, including the African Union Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (AU-WGYD) and FemWise-Africa, which highlighted existing frameworks and opportunities for women to engage directly with continental peace and security mechanisms. Discussions focused on key regional and continental frameworks, including the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) and the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU CEVWAG).

Through powerful personal testimonies, frontline women from Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and the DRC reflected on the challenges faced by women and girls in conflict environments while underscoring the critical role of women-led peace initiatives in building resilient and peaceful societies. Participants highlighted the need for greater protection, recognition and support for women peacebuilders who continue to mediate disputes, support survivors, advocate for communities and contribute to local peace efforts despite significant risks.

Nelline, Project Officer for the Africa Women Voices for Peace Project in Kenya, implemented by ActionAid Kenya in partnership with stakeholders in the project implementation region of Baringo County, welcomed the opportunity for frontline women to engage directly with regional decision-makers.

“I am encouraged to see the voices of frontline women being recognized at the regional level. Their participation reaffirms that sustainable peace can only be achieved when women are meaningfully included in decision-making and supported to lead peacebuilding efforts within their communities,” she said.



Jane Kigen, Programme Manager for Partnerships and Local Rights Programme Coordination at ActionAid International Kenya, is joined by Jeniffer Kibon, a frontline woman peacebuilder from Baringo County during the deliberations at the regional advocacy engagement.

Also sharing her experience was Jennifer Kibon, a frontline woman peacebuilder from Baringo County, Kenya, whose community has lived with the realities of recurring conflict for generations.

“We appreciate this forum because we want to tell our stories ourselves, in our own voices and in the best way we understand them. Since we grew up, war has been our daily way of life. Being here assures us that our grandchildren and future generations can enjoy peace. Nothing discussed about peace is meaningful without us being present,” she said.

The pre-engagement culminated in a dialogue with the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, providing frontline women with an opportunity to engage directly with continental actors and advocate for stronger action on women’s participation, protection and leadership in peace processes. The meeting underscored growing efforts to move Women, Peace and Security commitments from policy statements into practical measures that place women at the heart of Africa’s peacebuilding agenda.

The participation and leadership of frontline women peacebuilders was supported through the commitment of partners, including the Judith Neilson Foundation and Australian Aid through ActionAid Australia. Their support contributes to strengthening women's voices, advancing inclusive peacebuilding approaches and enabling women leaders from conflict-affected communities to engage in shaping decisions that affect peace and security across the region.



Rulia Nelline, Project Officer for the Africa Women Voices for Peace Project at ActionAid Kenya, makes her remarks during the deliberations at the regional advocacy engagement.

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