



SUSTAINED MOMENTUM

Biennial Report
2015-2016

Act!
act
change
transform

This Biennial Report provides an overview of our work during the period 2015/16.

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Inside cover photo: Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN)

Page 4: Zinduka Afrika (ZAF), Makueni County

Page 6: Farm Practice Initiative, Kitui County

Page 8: Pan African Justice Alliance (PACJA)

Page 10: Green Energy Africa

Page 14: Moving the Goalposts, Kilifi County

Page 19: GROOTS Kenya

Page 24 and 26: Green Energy Africa Limited







Contents



Strengthening Capacities of Local Organisations

12



Enhancing Communities' Resilience to Climate Change

16



Economic Empowerment through Value Chain Development

25



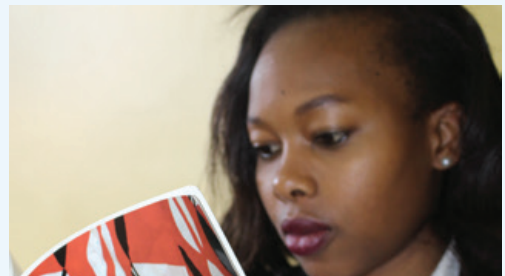
Ensuring People Have Safe and Affordable Water

28



Sustaining Peace and Countering Violent Extremism

33



Advocacy for Inclusive Legislative Reforms

39



Good Data Improves Transparency and Accountability of Projects

43



How We Spent Our Resources

45

OUR VISION

Empowered citizens and communities living a productive life in dignity.

OUR MISSION

To support, partner with and develop local organisations to be effective agents of lasting positive change.

OUR CORE VALUES

1. **Commitment:** We are committed to the process of empowering marginalised communities to better their lives.
2. **Fairness:** We believe that all human beings are equal under the law and deserve the opportunity to live a productive life, feel safe and secure, and participate in the building of the nation.
3. **Flexibility:** We are flexible in the way we work, applying our methods, tools and approaches as the context demands and adapting to the changing demands and needs of our partners.
4. **Integrity:** We behave ethically at all times, utilise the resources entrusted to us responsibly and efficiently, and remain accountable to our partners, communities and benefactors.



We are a leading Kenyan, not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation involved in diverse developmental initiatives in Kenya.

Our Focus Areas



Environment and Natural
Resources Management



Democracy and Human Rights



Peace Building and Conflict
Transformation





Foreword

It is slightly over two years since taking over the helm from Chris Ngovi as Act! Chairman. On my behalf, and that of the Board, it is therefore my distinct pleasure to share with our valued stakeholders Act!'s second Biennial Report for the period 2015/16.

The period under review marked Act!'s continued growth as a rebranded indigenous Kenyan organisation. While there was 34.7% reduction in revenues, the continued resilience of the organisation and growth of its Peace Building and Conflict Transformation pillar are noteworthy – especially the commencement of new work in countering violent extremism, a national and regional challenge. The theme of this year's Biennial Report, **Sustained Momentum**, captures the spirit of the period. All this would not have been possible without our capable Senior Management Team, led by Anne Nyabera; our dedicated staff; generous funders; and other supportive stakeholders, especially the members of the communities in which Act! implements its work.

Not only was succession at Board level smooth, but it also saw the entry onto the Act! Board of fresh new talent that has been instrumental in retaining the organisation on its positive trajectory. As we celebrated Chris, Irene, Titus, and Dennis we were glad to welcome Karuti, Terry, Don and Sam on the team. From the Board retreat soon thereafter, we have gelled well and set the right tone at the top.

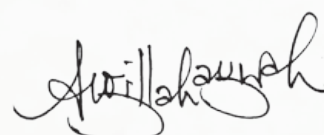
There were some critical shifts in Act!'s operating context that will have various impacts on the organisation's work and its sustainability. Internationally, Brexit and the recent US election are a case in point. Locally, the year

While there was **34.7%** reduction in revenues, the continued resilience of the organisation and growth of its Peace Building and Conflict Transformation pillar are noteworthy – especially the commencement of new work in countering violent extremism, a national and regional challenge.

witnessed the reconstitution of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and some concerns regarding the country's preparedness for the August 2017 General Election. The period also saw shifts by a number of major funders to change their approach to partnerships with Kenya, motivated by the rebasing of the country's economy amongst other factors. Many of these are, of course, events and the Act! leadership continues to analyse them for longer-term trends to which the organisation can craft more appropriate longer-term responses.

As we move into the 2016/18 period, the foregoing and other factors will continue to influence the pace and substance of Act!'s growth. Consequently, the Board has taken a more robust approach to institutional sustainability, signalled in no small measure by the implementation of Act!'s Strategic Plan 2016-2019 and Resource Mobilisation Strategy. Their implementation is intended to put Act! on a solid trajectory of growth and sustained influence as a development actor for years to come.

I wish you all an enjoyable and enlightening read – and look forward to your feedback and continued support!




Francis A. Aywa
Board Chairman



Our Reach

52 

Organisations awarded grants to implement Projects within Act!'s core areas of work

82% 

Partner organisations who benefitted from Act!'s capacity development achieved their programming targets and results



199,765

People reached through climate change-targeted interventions



29,000

People accessing clean and reliable water supply

25

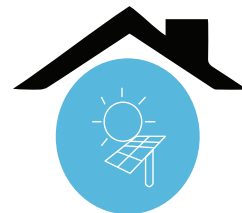


County Governments supported in drafting and aligning County level laws and polices to national legislation



29,972

People reached through initiatives aimed at countering violent extremism and addressing root cause of conflicts



30,000

People benefitted from renewable energy initiatives including entrepreneurship skills

41 

Laws and Policies at National and County levels influenced with Act!'s support



39 out of **52**
organisations
accomplished **80%**
in the prioritised
capacity areas of their
entire Institutional
Improvement Plans.

Strengthening Capacities of Local Organisations

The Civil Society sector in Kenya is vibrant and has succeeded in transforming the country, for example, by contributing to the passage of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. More recently, the sector has contributed to the enactment of numerous county policies, plans and budgets in the now-devolved system of governance.

Despite these successes, the sector is fragile due to minimal organisational sustainability. In a recent study undertaken by Act!, where non-state actors (NSAs) in 21 counties were mapped and their capacities assessed, we found that the Organisational Sustainability situation in the sector remains weak. This reinforces Act!'s resolve to directly contribute to transforming the CSO sector into a fully sustainable one. In terms of technical capacities to carry out their development mandate, sector organisations are achieving some successes.

Organisational Capacity Development (CD) is a key function for Act!, as it cuts across all our work. Our CD approach is anchored on strengthening institutions to effectively meet their beneficiaries' development needs. The CD support is guided by Act!'s Capacity Development Framework. One of our objectives is to provide the necessary training and mentorship to our staff so they are multi-skilled and able to offer holistic CD support to our partners.



To realise this objective, Act! has conducted three internal trainings for staff:

1. Facilitating trainings and meetings
2. Facilitating Organisational Capacity Assessments (OCAs)
3. Climate-smart programming

As a result of the CD support in developing and implementing the resource mobilisation strategy, the Sustainable Practical Programme for Africa (SUPPA) has already received an office as a grant courtesy of the County Government of Nakuru, hence an official physical location.

– Mr Peter Waweru Executive Director, SUPPA

Act! CD services focus on participatory OCAs and Institutional Improvement Planning (IIP) sessions, which result in Institutional Improvement Plans (IIPs). Based on the individual IIPs, Act! then provides tailored CD support and accompaniment to the partners through:

1. Mentorship and coaching
2. Formal trainings
3. Learning events / peer learning forums
4. Exchange programmes
5. Thematic roundtable meetings
6. Secondment / placement / embedding
7. Internships

As a result of our capacity development support, **52** organisations recorded notable progress towards institutionalising good governance and organisational management practices, including improved resource mobilisation and financial management systems.



As a result of the CD support provided, partners have put in place improved user-friendly systems, improving their overall capability, performance and responsiveness in realising measurable organisational aspirations. In doing so, Act! not only empowers the staff and Board Members of the partner organisation but also communities and key stakeholders, hence providing the greatest potential for sustainability. At the end of the capacity building process, a close-out OCA is carried out to determine the achieved results in organisational capacity levels. This is also done to ascertain the level of implementation of the IIPs and the positive and impactful changes achieved by the organisation. However, staff turnover and funding instability remain the main threats to sustaining the capacity developed.

USD

1,175,739.00

The total amount received by partners who developed their resource mobilisation strategies with technical assistance from Act!



Enhancing Communities' Resilience to Climate Change

In 2015-16, Act! worked to enhance the capacity of local NSAs to adapt to the negative effects of climate change. For example, we worked with National and County Governments to make climate change adaptation a mainstream feature in their Policies and Action Plans.


During the period, 199,965 (93,011 male and 106,754 female) community members have built their resilience to climate change by taking up innovative farming solutions to improve their incomes and food security. These solutions include adoption of drought-resistant crop varieties, zai-pit technologies, climate information delivery, solar water pumping and micro-irrigation techniques.

With funding from the Department for International Development (DFID) through the **Strengthening Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change in Kenya** programme, Act! implemented innovative climate change adaptation ideas. For instance, in Mandera County, the high cost of providing water for domestic and livestock use has been a financial burden for the poverty-stricken pastoralist community. For years, the community relied heavily on a diesel-fuelled generator to pump water from the borehole, which consumed approximately 30 litres of diesel per day. To offer a more sustainable solution, Act! supported the installation of a solar energy system to power the borehole pump. This innovation has resulted in significant savings and reliable water supply for the community. Subsequently, it has also reduced water tariffs and emission of greenhouse gases.





Thinking ahead and building up the resilience of Kenya's smallholder farmers against climate change remains critical to our work.



199,965

People whose resilience to climate change impacts has been improved



16

National and County policies influenced through Act!'s partner organizations



10

Projects supported to enhance livelihood opportunities for small holder farmers in targeted regions



460

Acres of degraded land rehabilitated to provide pasture for livestock in ASAL

In addition, measures to enhance livelihoods for livestock-dependent Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) communities were implemented in targeted regions in Kenya. In **Kajiado County**, Act! supported the Emaiawata Self-Help Women's Group with trainings and financial resources. As a result, the local community has taken up horticultural farming, where they use solar-powered micro-irrigation systems. This has significantly reduced their reliance on livestock and improved their household incomes and food security.

"My life has greatly changed, since I am now making extra income to pay for my children's school fees and support the family in many other ways," says Sipion Leketony.



Act! aims to manage degraded lands sustainably to increase production and carbon sequestration. In line with this strategy, over 460 acres of ASAL land in Baringo and Mandera counties were put under pasture. This increased livestock feed during the dry season and improved livelihoods through sale of grass and grass seed.



"I have harvested over 10 tonnes of Sudan grass. A pile of the grass in Mandera costs KES 500, and during drought it goes for more than KES 1,000. After the first harvest, I water the farm without planting other seeds, then the grass grows again. I am happy farmers can harvest Sudan grass three times. Now I have stored many Sudan grass piles for my animals to feed on. I have realised that if my cattle feed on Sudan grass, the milk production is high. I have surplus and can sell Sudan grass and milk to pay school fees for my children," says Daiye, a farmer in Sala location. **In addition, 908 small farms were supported to set up soil and water conservation structures, such as terraces, grass strips, cut-off drains and zai pits.**

In the same period, Act!'s work for improved governance and sustainable utilisation of natural resources resulted in the development and enactment of several policies in six targeted counties, namely

1. Mainstreaming climate change in the CIDPs in Machakos, Nyeri and Tharaka Nithi Counties
2. Integrated Water Resources Management Policy and Clean Energy Bill in Mandera County
3. Climate Proofing of the Agriculture Development Fund Act in Machakos County
4. Charcoal Regulations for Kenya
5. Charcoal Policy in Wajir County
5. Development of the Narok County Environment Bill
6. The Sand Harvesting Policy in Kitui County

Similarly, such efforts have seen improved citizen participation, particularly by women, who are not only participating in addressing climate change problems but are also taking part in various management committees on climate-sensitive sectors like water.

KES
108,000

The monthly savings by the pastoralist community due to use of hybrid solar pumping system.

Act! interventions in strengthening the capacity of Water Users' Associations in **Mandera County** has enabled women of Damasa, Jarbaley, Kabo, Kamor, Liban and Sala locations to be part of the Water Management Committees for the first time. For instance, Kamor Liban Water Users' Association was initially composed of only 10 men. Now, out of the 40 members, 27 are male while 13 are female. Women have also been represented in the various sub-committees, such as procurement, finance, monitoring and management.



At the global level, Act! supported climate change negotiations that brought community and youth groups on board in the climate change dialogue in Kenya before the COP 21 conference in Paris, France. This ensured that the voices of communities were factored in to the Paris Agreement.



Prof. Judi Wakhungu Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources addressing participants during the "Pre-COP21 National Stakeholders Workshop" with support from Act!



Adding value to farm products is one of the approaches that Act! is using to increase smallholder farmers' competitiveness in the product value chains.

Economic Empowerment through Value Chain Development

In 2015-16, Act! supported smallholder farmers to access product markets for increased income through several interventions along the value chain from production to processing to certification to marketing. For instance, in Nyandarua County, farmer groups were supported with high yielding potatoes and snow peas seed varieties. In Kitui and Makueni Counties, farmers were supported with high yielding flour cassava varieties and fruit-processing technologies. To this end, more than 800 farmers are benefiting from the fruit-processing plant.

In **Nyandarua County**, Kenneth and Beatrice Kiarie, who own and manage a farm known as KENBET, are among the farmers who have benefited from training and mentorship on diversification and value addition. Previously, the couple grew horticultural crops such as potatoes, cabbages and French beans on their land. After the training, they have adopted growing of strawberries and converting them into jam. The couple have invested in strawberry processing and packaging equipment and are now packaging their strawberry fruits into 250g punnets, in line with good agricultural and food safety practices. To earn more income, they are making strawberry-flavoured yoghurt and have also started making potato crisps.

Beatrice Kiarie a farmer who has found a fortune in strawberry farming through value addition



The price of a **250g** punnet of strawberry goes for a **KES 100**; jam made from an equivalent amount of strawberries goes for **KES 200**. Before training, the farm would sell a litre of milk at **KES 50**. Today, by adding value to the milk, their strawberry-flavoured yoghurt earns them between **KES 150-200** per litre.

Act! interventions to enhance fish production in non-native production zones recorded substantial results. Through greenhouse fish farming technologies, farmers in Laikipia County were supported to enhance tilapia (warm water fish) production, which has boosted their household incomes and nutrition. Similarly, to enhance market access and improve farmers' bargaining power, five commodity associations were established and strengthened to better deliver their mandates. This was achieved through trainings on governance, marketing, financial management and value addition, making farmers' products more marketable and subsequently increasing their income.



To reduce post-harvest losses and boost farmers' income, Act! provided direct infrastructure support to farmers' groups in various counties. This include:

- Installation of a Cold Storage Facility in Nyandarua County
- Fish feeding and processing facilities in Laikipia County
- Crisps-making machines in Nakuru County
- Cassava processing facilities in Kitui County
- Trout fish storage facilities in Mombasa County
- Post-harvest handling and bagging facilities in Kilifi County.



Edwin Kinyatti explains to a community group how to use a solar powered device in Magadi, Kajiado County



A Clear Path to Clean and Affordable Energy

Most rural households in Kenya are not connected to the national power grid and have to rely on biomass fuels, including charcoal, firewood and kerosene, to meet their energy needs. The impact of these fuels is deleterious not only to the environment but also to the well-being of women and children, who have higher exposure to them.

In 2015-16, Act! implemented projects aimed at promoting clean and more affordable energy technologies among rural communities in selected Counties. To this end, **30,000** households were supported with information on renewable energy, climate change adaptation and entrepreneurship opportunities in the renewable energy sector. This improved their livelihoods.

During the period under review, Act! also conducted a detailed feasibility study for a 40MWh off-grid Solar Power Plant in Makueni County. The study sought to ascertain the plant's technical and financial viability. Similarly, a 10kWh off-grid Pilot Unit-cum-Demonstration Model was set up. The Pilot Solar Unit is currently supplying clean and affordable renewable energy to 12 neighbouring households, a mixed secondary school with **530** students, a government administration police post and a health centre with six administration offices and a maternity wing serving over **500** patients a month. To ensure increased uptake of the technology and sustainability of the project among the locals, Act! supported the construction of a Community Training and Resource Centre. It is hoped

AFFORDABLE ENERGY

that once the Centre is fully operational (equipped with training materials, equipment and human resources), most community members will benefit from reduced energy costs and environmental conservation will be enhanced. In addition, the project committee members were trained on basic maintenance of the solar panels, financial management and governance.

To promote conservation of Kenya's forest resources and reduce carbon emissions, 1,050 households in

Laikipia, Nyandarua and Tharaka Nithi counties were provided with improved energy-saving stoves, which use approximately 50% less wood than traditional three-stone fires. In addition, following efforts to boost adoption of the technology and enhance livelihoods through the entrepreneurship opportunities arising, 60 artisans (women and youth) have acquired skills on how to fabricate and install the improved integrated cooking stoves among the local communities. In Makueni and Kajiado counties, 10 women's groups were trained.

To promote increased use of renewable energy for lighting needs among the underserved rural communities, **3,748** households were supported with solar-powered lamps in Kajiado, Makueni and Tharaka Nithi counties. One example is the Osopuko Eldonyinapi Women's Self-Help Group, who can now attest to the benefits of the off-grid technology. The group has benefited directly at household level and acquired the entrepreneurial skills to set up a shop and earn more income through the sale of solar-powered products, including panels and lanterns.



Jacqueline Nairuta showcases some of the solar devices that the women's group sells to community members in Kajiado County.



30,000

People who have benefitted from renewable energy initiatives including entrepreneurship skills



3,748

Households supported with solar powered lamps in Tharaka Nithi, Kajiado and Makueni Counties

In the same period, Act! also supported end-user financing initiatives through local micro-finance institutions to promote continued acquisition and ownership of solar energy technologies among rural community groups. In Tharaka Nithi County, nearly 150 members from eight self help groups have obtained loans to install solar-power energy solutions for domestic and commercial use.

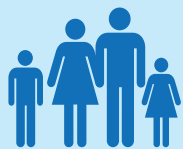
Act!'s efforts to influence an inclusive legislative framework in the energy sector led to the submission of a Memorandum on the Energy Bill 2014 to the Clerk of the National Assembly for debate.



Switching from Kerosene to clean solar lighting

Teresiah Munyiva, 35, is a shop owner in Makueni County and the chairperson of Kithuki Women's Group. Munyiva started selling solar energy products (solar lantern lamps and panels) in her shop after she was introduced to the business by Green Energy Africa, one of Act!'s implementing partners under Changieni Rasili Mali Facility. Through her new business venture, she is popularly known by the locals as the "solar expert" due to her passion in marketing the products. She now boasts of increased revenue. Her solar products record profits of KES 15,000 in a good month. Group members also benefit by hawking the lights to their surrounding neighbours. Munyiva makes an average of KES 300 per day as income. Her children are today enjoying the benefits of solar power as they can study in the evening in a more conducive environment, unlike in the past, when the family relied on kerosene lamps for lighting.

Ensuring People Have Safe and Affordable Water



29,000

People accessing clean and reliable water supply through Act!'s support in Kisumu County



58%

Time saved in fetching a 20-litre jerry can

The poor, particularly women and girls in rural and informal settlements in Kenya, bear the greatest burden in accessing clean and affordable water for their household needs

During the reporting period, Act! interventions in the water sector were implemented in six counties namely: Bungoma (Mt Elgon region), Elgeyo Marakwet, Kisumu, Makueni and Mombasa. Through development, rehabilitation and upgrading of various water sources, **29,000** people were provided with access to safe and reliable water to meet their daily household needs. This was achieved through financing and technical assistance (sharing of options available to increase access to water and distribution to underserved residents), leading to installation of high capacity water pumping systems for the Boya Water Utility.



“We now have 24-hour water supply, and customer complaints have significantly reduced,” says the operator. “The supply has increased from 120,000 to 216,000 litres per day.”

Water use efficiency remains a major management problem in many water schemes and contributes to high Non-Revenue Water (NRW) and waste at household level. In response to this, Act! introduced innovative solutions for NRW management through ATM Prepaid Water Meters, which were installed in five water kiosks through the Sondu Miriu Right Bank Water project. Through the initiative, more than 2,500 water users are enjoying 24-hour water supply, up from four hours in the past. Similarly, revenue collection has increased from an average of KES 4,000 to KES 114,000 per month.



114,000

Average revenue per month by communities with use of ATM Prepaid water meters



30,000

Tree seedlings planted to conserve environment and increase forest cover



The poor, particularly women and girls in rural and informal settlements in Kenya, bear the greatest burden in accessing clean and affordable water for their household needs

Reduced user fees means that household resources that could otherwise have been used for water are freed for other needs, such as paying school fees or investing in business. It also means the households can afford more water, thus reducing hygiene-related diseases and making the community healthier and more productive



Community members fetch water from an ATM Prepaid meter water kiosk in Sondu Miriu, Homabay County

The use of diesel-powered generators to pump borehole water leads to high operational costs and carbon dioxide emissions — a contributing factor to climate change. To reduce this, Act! piloted the integration of green energy solutions at selected water schemes. Similarly, in Kapsitotwa village, Elgeyo Marakwet County, Act! installed a Hydram (hydraulic ram) System to pump water from a valley. This benefited over 1,000 people and reduced the time previously taken to fetch water by approximately 58%. In Makueni County, the installation of a submersible pump in a shallow (hand-dug) well has benefited 530 people.



Before and After: Community members in Elgeyo Marakwet no longer draw water from source but at rehabilitated water points. **Far right,** Hon. Gabriel Lagat, Deputy Governor Elgeyo Marakwet County during the commissioning of the water project.

In Mombasa and Makueni counties, Act! provided seed capital and technical assistance to support urban farming and small-scale farming ventures in rural areas. These efforts have increased food and nutritional security among targeted communities and enabled them to diversify their sources of livelihood. To this end, three farmers in Likoni, Mombasa County have adopted urban farming, earning KES 6,000-10,000 per month from the sale of vegetables. In Makueni County, 300 farmers who adopted efficient water-harvesting technologies have become food secure and increased their household income. In addition, over 30,000 tree seedlings were planted to promote environmental conservation and increase forest cover in Makueni and Tharaka Nithi Counties.

During the year, Act! also lobbied for an inclusive legislative framework at National and County level. At **National level**, we supported the development of the Water Act 2016, while at the **County level**, our advocacy and technical support resulted in the formulation and enactment of:

1. Makueni County Sand Conservation and Utilisation Act 2015
2. Kajiado County Water Policy
3. Kisumu County Water Bill 2016
4. Mandera County Integrated Water Resources and Services Policy 2016



Sustaining Peace and Countering Violent Extremism

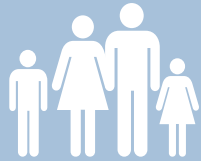
We believe that exclusion and marginalisation weakens communities' ability to withstand external shocks, such as those arising from political instability, natural resource-based conflicts and violent extremism.

In 2015-16, in response to the aforementioned challenges, our work under the peace building and conflict transformation initiative focused on enhancing community cohesion and addressing the root causes of violent extremism. These interventions were implemented in Garissa, Isiolo, Kilifi, Kisumu, Kwale, Lamu, Mombasa, Taita Taveta, Tana River and West Pokot counties.

Twenty-eight local organisations, including faith-based organisations, are addressing conflicts arising from natural resources and political instability, as well as countering violent extremism in Kenya. They are doing so through initiatives such as the Strengthening Community Resilience against Extremism programme funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Peace, Security and Stability programme supported by the Royal Danish Embassy. Our unique approach and capacity in responding to conflicts, including radicalisation and violent extremism, have made us the go-to organisation in developing and implementing key Counter-Violent Extremism (CVE) interventions in Kenya.



Using a multi-faceted approach to CVE, we are working with communities, governments and local organisations, including faith-based organisations, to reduce the allure of potentially radicalising messages and win the hearts and minds of resilient communities



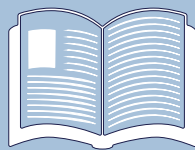
29,972

People reached through initiatives aimed at countering violent extremism and addressing root causes of conflicts



28

Local organizations supported to implement projects aimed at promoting peaceful coexistence and build resilient communities against violent extremism



58

Peacebuilding and conflict early warning initiatives such as nyumba kumi dedicated to resolving drivers of violent extremism strengthened or formed in the six Counties of Coastal Kenya



To ensure an enabling policy environment and coordinated efforts among state and non-state actors, we pioneered the development of county-specific CVE strategies in Kwale and Mombasa Counties. These strategies are in line with the National Counter-Violent Extremism Strategy. They will provide a model framework to boost stakeholders' efforts and understanding of the underlying dynamics feeding violent extremism. They will also integrate various efforts to stop the spread and erode the appeal of violent extremism.

Our work towards policy formulation and implementation recorded considerable success. In 2015-16, Act! commissioned a study to identify factors hindering rehabilitation of returnees. The report on Returnees and Amnesty in Kenya pointed out policy gaps that have hindered the rehabilitation of returnees. The report has been shared with government agencies to help develop a policy on returnees and amnesty.

In keeping with our tradition of sharing knowledge, evidence and experiences in peace and conflict work, Act! convened several key conferences and events. These brought together experts from governments, national security agencies, academia and community members to promote conversations and find strategies for countering violent extremism and other security challenges.

The experiences and lessons drawn from these forums have proven critical in sharing information and strategies that the Government and communities can utilise in response to emerging conflicts and violent extremism.

Act! recognises that strong ties between communities and governments (National and County), regardless of gender, tribe or religious affiliation, are a necessary precedent to countering violent extremism and other security challenges facing Kenya. To promote cohesion and counter narratives that lead to violence, Act! supported the establishment of "community police cafes" in Mombasa County. The forums have helped bring together security agencies and community members to identify local security problems and jointly design interventions to deal with them.





“The community police cafes have improved the relationship between the community and the police, characterised by increased levels of trust and joint actions, unlike in the past, when mutual distrust and hostility prevailed,” Halima Mohamed, Coast Education Center.





- In partnership with the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development through the Ministry of Education, Act! held the **Learning to live together** through history and government education conference. This forum sought to identify good practices in promoting learning to live together, respect for diversity and inclusiveness, as well as dialogue, mutual understanding, and social cohesion through history and government education.
- To facilitate implementation of the National Counter-Violent Extremism Strategy, Act! held a **National CSOs CVE Coordination Workshop**. This forum sought to dialogue on the establishment of a National CSOs' CVE Coordination Mechanism and to explore opportunities for mutual collaboration, support and partnership between state and non-state actors in the war against violent extremism in Kenya.
- In response to local, national and transnational security dynamics, Act! organised the **Africa Regional Dialogue on Defying Violent Extremism**, the first ever in the region, in partnership with San Diego University's Joan B Kroac Institute for Peace and Justice. This forum sought to assess the most effective strategies to consolidate dialogue, prevent violent conflict and human rights violations, and nurture sustainable peace. The dialogue sought to find a common position and understanding of the complementary nature between peace and justice to resolve current and avert future growth of violent movements.





Through various peace initiatives, Act! is helping to de-escalate violent conflicts in targeted regions. In **Kilifi County**, the use of theatre and sporting events, such as football tournaments, has helped youth, including young girls and young mothers, to disseminate peace and shun violent extremism messages. In **Tana River County**, through “**Tushauriane Tana Delta**” and the launch of the **Tana River Peace Declaration**, Act! has helped restore peace and promote a conducive environment between the once-warring communities of the Pokomo (farmers) and the Orma (pastoralists).



Using Mini Buzz Chats- a unique free public service bus rides, commuters in Mombasa County are now inspired to boldly discuss and come up with homegrown solutions against radicalization and violent extremism

Advocacy for Inclusive Legislative Reforms



25

County Governments supported in drafting and aligning county level laws and policies to national legislation



5,089

CSOs mapped to inform their capacity to engage with county governments to actualize delivery of devolved functions in Kenya



41

Laws and Policies influenced with Act! support

Act! believes that real development happens when communities are active participants of that process. We are committed to ensuring greater inclusion of men, women and youth, who were previously excluded from decision-making processes at County and National levels. By working with them, we ensure that laws and policies do not discriminate against them but rather promote their rights.

In 2015-16, Act! continued to play a critical role in influencing and setting the policy and legislative development agenda. It ensured National and County governments passed laws and policies with input from the public, particularly marginalised groups such as women, youth and people living with disability. To ensure meaningful engagement among the policy makers and communities, we influenced the development of over **14 national laws** and policies and **27 county laws and policies** across Act!'s core areas of programming: democracy and human rights, environment and peace building and conflict transformation.

At **County level**, County Governments are largely responsible for the implementation of national government policies on natural resources and environmental conservation. Act! supported **25** Counties in drafting and aligning county laws and policies with national legislation. The policy and legislative development support was in the agriculture, climate change, water, energy and environment sectors. This was achieved through training of County Executive

Committees, County Assembly Members and community interest groups in the actual drafting of the legislation. Some of the policies and legislations Act! supported are:

- ❑ Drafting of Climate Change Policies and Action Plans in Baringo, Laikipia, Makueni, Mandera, Meru, Narok, Nyeri and Wajir counties
- ❑ Water Bills and Policies in Kajiado, Kisumu, Makueni, Meru and Tharaka Nithi counties
- ❑ E-waste legislation for Machakos County
- ❑ The Kajiado Land Bill
- ❑ In Kajiado, Mandera and Nakuru counties, Act! ensured gender mainstreaming in the development of environment and natural resource management policies

At the **National level**, Act! influenced the review of:

- ❑ The Natural Resources (Benefit Sharing) Bill
- ❑ The Climate Change Act of 2016
- ❑ The Forest Policy and Bill
- ❑ The Water Act 2016
- ❑ The EMCA (Amendment Act)
- ❑ The National Energy Bill
- ❑ Through Act! support, the EMCA Amendment Act took into consideration the rights of disabled persons and was passed with input from the civil society and communities





Act! advocacy initiatives in the **land sector** focused on influencing the passage of comprehensive land laws, as provided for in the Constitution of Kenya 2010. These included the **Community Land Bill**, now an Act of Parliament, **the Land Laws (Amendment) Bill** and **the Minimum and Maximum Land Holding Acreage Bill**. In influencing these laws, Act! developed position papers on issues such as historical land injustices and gender issues, audited existing land laws (Land Act, National Land Commission Act and the Land Registration Act) and mobilised stakeholders to develop petitions and memoranda with proposed recommendations. These were presented to the Land Committees in the National Assembly, the Senate, the Coast Parliamentary Group and the Pastoralists' Parliamentary Group.

During the period under review, Act! also supported the National Land Commission in developing **County Spatial Planning Guidelines** – a policy framework for stronger and more effective land planning and management in Kenya. This will guide County officials in planning, public participation, procurement and funding options for implementing land reforms. Additionally, by partnering with the National Land Commission, Act! supported a study to inform provisions on minimum and maximum land-holding acreage in respect to private land. Similarly, Act! supported the finalisation of the Ecosystem and Natural Resource Management Plan for the Mara ecosystem, which spans three Counties: Bomet, Nakuru and Narok.

As a result of Act!'s intervention, 51 land advocacy issues were raised. These included: securing public land, historical land injustices, devolution of land management and the need for community land legislation. A total of 16 petitions and memoranda were raised from advocacy efforts targeting land governance and administration, and acted upon by County Governments.



Act! strives to promote **evidence-based programming** and believes in the importance of using research to influence policy development and programming. During the period, Act! was contracted by the Agile and Harmonised Assistance to Devolved Institutions (AHADI), a USAID Kenya/East Africa funded programme to map NSAs in 21 counties. The goal of the mapping exercise was to identify NSAs in Counties where AHADI is being implemented and assess their capacities to engage with the County Governments.

A total of **5,089** active NSAs were mapped. The study revealed that contrary to popular belief, slightly over a third (39.8%) of NSAs, including advocacy-type

civic organisations, had adequate capacities and governance structures to effectively engage with County Governments. It also found that 54% of NSAs mapped were engaging with County Governments despite not having adequate capacities and structures. This called for strengthening of their capacity for effective engagement and delivery of services in their areas of operation.

The study's findings have been made available and will enable County Governments to have constructive engagements with NSAs in implementing devolved functions and promoting public participation.

Good Data Improves Transparency and Accountability of Projects

Act! believes that timely and efficient utilisation of donor resources is critical in meeting the development aspirations of the communities we serve.



During the reporting period, Act! applied ICT solutions to ensure all supported partner programmes and activities are on course to achieving their objectives. The interactive phone-based and online monitoring and evaluation system contributed to quality project design, tracking and knowledge management. It also ensured all partner projects were designed and results tracked in a similar manner, thus enhancing programming quality. In addition, Real-Time Data from the phone-based application ensured continuous flow of information from partners during the implementation period of

their activities. Through these tools, Act! staff could explore, at the click of a button, how the interventions were helping the target beneficiaries through actual GIS location and photos of the interventions.

As a result, partners received timely feedback that enhanced implementation and achievement of programmatic objectives. Moreover, the system has helped reduce programme costs and time required for field visits, data entry and analysis. This innovation has cut a niche for Act! in the development sector.



How We Spent Our Resources

Our Income

During the year 2015/16, our Income amounted to Ksh. 1.136 Billion which resulted mainly from our Environment and Natural Resources Management Platform and the growing programs under our Peace Building and Conflict Transformation Platform. PBCT has emerged in the period as a key growth sector for Act! We have gained recognition as the 'go-to' Organization particularly on initiatives relating to countering violent extremism (CVE). In 2015/2016, Act! signed new agreements with the Royal Danish Embassy and the US Department of State in this area of work.

Our expenditure in the year 2015/16 amounted to Ksh. 1.173 Billion. Our overhead costs amounted to 11% of this amount, reflecting continued operational efficiency.

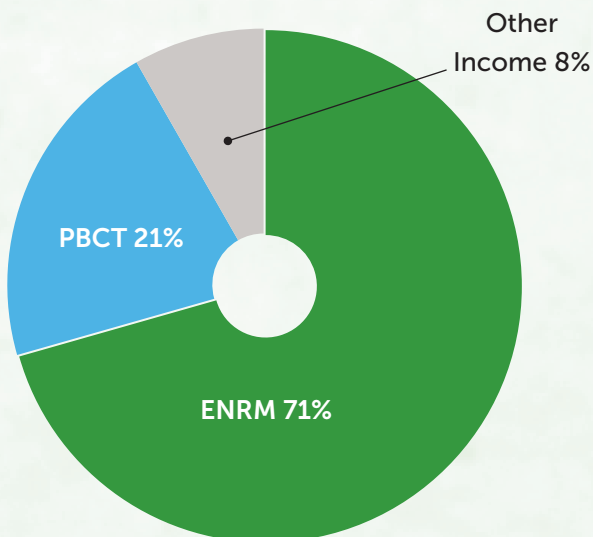
Outlook for the Future

The pipeline in the period under review presents prospects for an improved income base given the new grants which we expect to sign in the new financial period. Act! will also be rolling out its new Resource Mobilization Strategy in 2017.

Funding per pillar

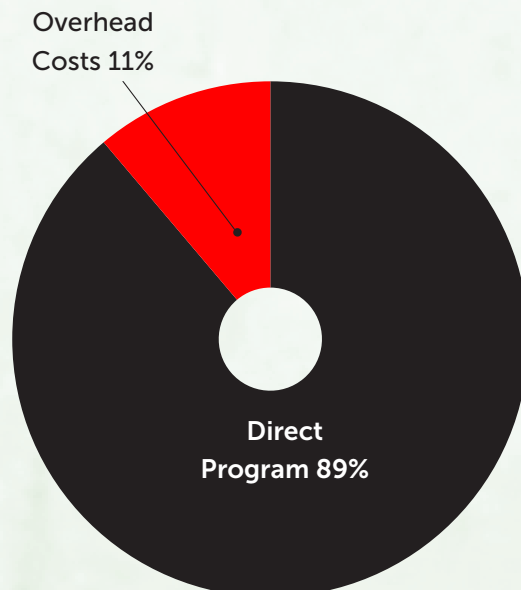
Funding Per Pillar 2015/2016

Pillar	Income
ENRM	801,476,957
PBCT	240,339,010
Other Income	93,752,101



Comparison of Direct program expenditure versus Overhead Costs

Direct Program	1,041,815,967
Overhead Costs	131,034,593





Appreciation

We wish to express our gratitude to our partners: USAID, DFID, the Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi, and the Royal Danish Embassy in Nairobi. They have generously provided the resources that have made it possible for us to implement the various programmes and projects. On behalf of the constituents we serve, we say thank you for making a difference in their lives.

We also wish to thank partners who implemented the various interventions across the various parts of Kenya. Without your cooperation, dedication and commitment, we would not have achieved the positive change on the lives of millions of Kenyans that we reached.



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Our Board of Directors

Act! Board comprises of seven highly qualified individuals drawn from diverse competencies such as finance and grants management, legal, capacity development and civil society sector expertise. The Board provides policy, financial and strategic direction as well as oversight.



**Francis A. Aywa,
Board Chairman**

Is a lawyer and governance consultant with over 20 years of experience in Civil Society and Governance work.



**Anne Nyabera,
Executive Director**

Is the Executive Director, Act! with 15 years of experience in Program Management in Civil Society, Bilateral and Multilateral Agencies.



Donald Mark Odera

Is a Partner, Advisory Services at Horwath Erastus & Co. and a respected accounting and finance professional with extensive Public and Private Sector and NGO experience.



Teresa C. Maina

Is a Human Resources practitioner and a consultant with over 20 years' experience in Human Resource Management, Strategic Leadership, Organizational Development and Change Management.



Alice Nderitu

Is a Human Rights, Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Specialist. She is also a Senior Advisor on peace processes within Northern Nigeria, South Sudan and Sudan for the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.



Prof. Karuti Kanyinga

Is an accomplished development researcher and scholar with extensive national and international experience in the Human Rights, Democracy and Governance sector.



Hephzibah Beulah

Is a Governance and Advocacy Consultant with over 15 years of experience in advocacy, youth empowerment and community development.



Samuel Ndonga Mwangi

Is an experienced professional with over 10 years in the Private Sector and International Development. He has vast experience in Sustainable Private Sector Development, Renewable Energy and Agribusiness.

List of Acronyms

AHADI	Agile and Harmonised Assistance to Devolved Institutions
ASAL	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
CD	Capacity Development
CVE	Counter-Violent Extremism
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
DFID	Department for International Development
IIP	Institutional Improvement Planning
NLC	National Land Commission
NRW	Non-Revenue Water
NSA	Non-State Actor
OCA	Organisational Capacity Assessment
SUPPA	Sustainable Practical Programme for Africa
USAID	United States Agency for International Development









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