



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



AACJ IN 2022

AACJ.AFRICA



The African Women's Development and Communication Network



NATURAL JUSTICE



MESSAGE

We are pleased to present our report showcasing the remarkable progress and achievements of the African Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ) program. This comprehensive document reflects the collective efforts and unwavering commitment of our partners and stakeholders in advancing sustainability, youth engagement, and gender transformation in the fight against climate change.

We are thrilled to witness the significant strides we have made in fostering strong relationships with our consortium partners and implementing organizations, which extend far beyond the project's original scope. Our dedication to organizational sustainability and active civil society engagement has fortified our network and allowed us to tap into a wealth of knowledge and resources within the climate justice movement. By prioritizing capacity building and empowering youth, we have successfully amplified their voices, ensuring their central role in shaping climate policies and driving tangible change.

The report prominently highlights our deliberate efforts to address gender inequalities and promote transformative gender practices. Through a gender lens, we have critically reviewed policies, laws, and actively engaged with women-led organizations to foster inclusive and equitable climate action. Our commitment to intersectionality has allowed us to embrace diverse perspectives and passionately advocate for the rights of marginalized communities, leaving no one behind in our pursuit of climate justice.

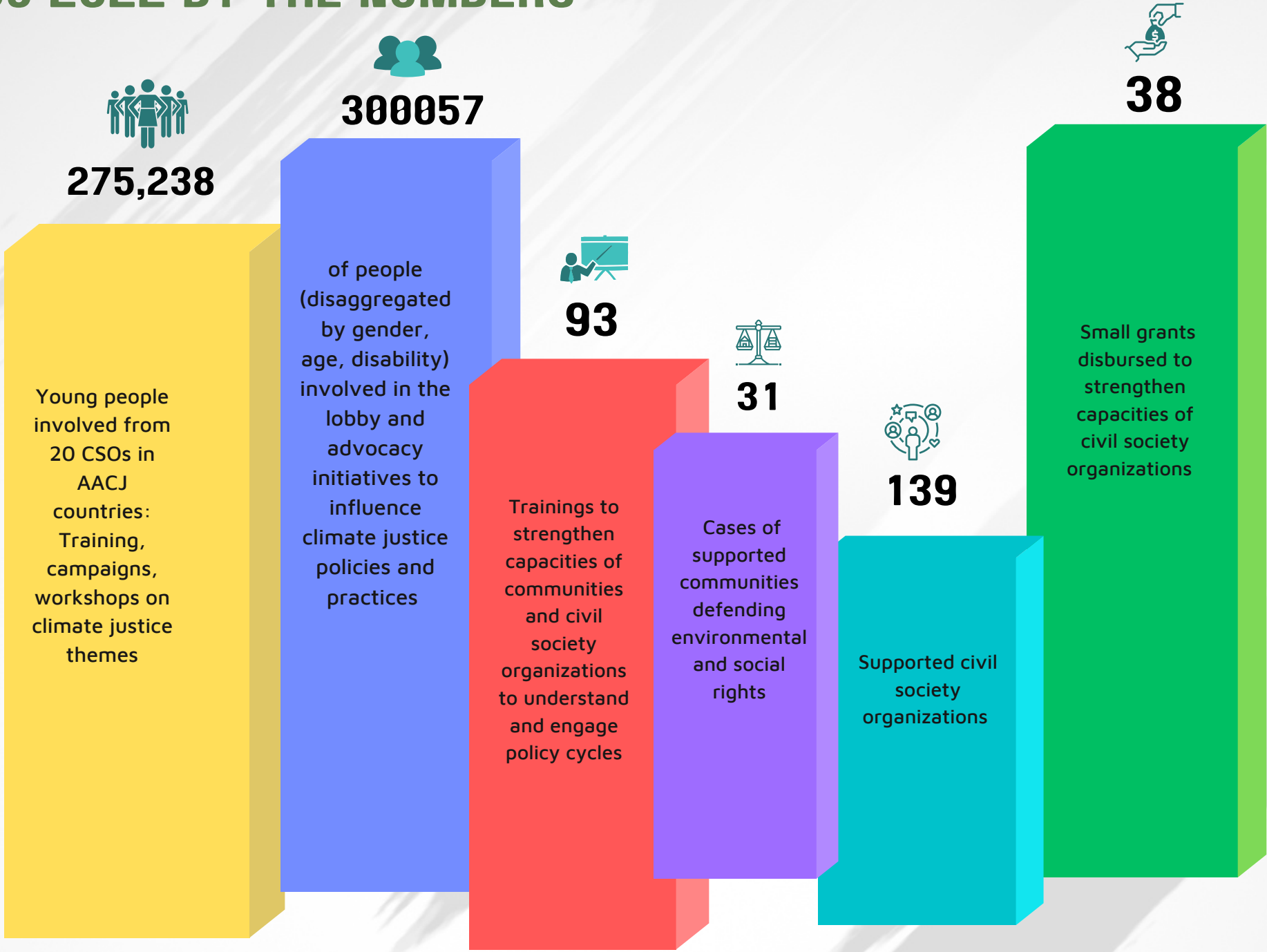
Additionally, the report offers insightful reflections on our Theory of Change, justifying proposed strategic adjustments. While our Theory of Change remains highly relevant, we acknowledge the importance of further deepening our understanding of gender and climate justice across our partner organizations. Furthermore, we recognize the unique climate challenges faced by specific countries, particularly those intertwined with conflict. By addressing the crucial theme of safety and security, we can better support communities in navigating the complex intersection of climate change and conflict.

We wholeheartedly commend our exceptional team for their unwavering dedication and relentless commitment to the AACJ program. It is genuinely inspiring to witness the positive impact we are making in the lives of grassroots communities, and we are confident that our collective efforts will continue to drive lasting change.

As we forge ahead, let us remain resolute in our pursuit of climate justice. Together, we possess the power to empower youth, challenge gender norms, and create a sustainable future for all. We encourage each of you to thoroughly review the report and reflect upon our remarkable achievements, challenges, and potential areas for growth.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and your unwavering efforts. It is with great pride that we lead this remarkable team, and we eagerly anticipate our continued progress on this vital journey.

AACJ 2022 BY THE NUMBERS





SUMMARY

The AACJ project implementation from January to December 2022 focused on strengthening civil society partnerships and movements to address the global crisis of climate change. The report highlights the disproportionate impact of climate change on the poorest and most marginalized communities, emphasizing the need for urgent action. Throughout the year, the consortium engaged in various activities to influence policies and raise awareness, such as the Youth Conference, Faith and Climate Justice Day, and participation in key events like the Africa Climate Week and COP27.

One notable initiative was Oxfam's Climate Caravan, which brought together over 200 African civil society organizations to demand climate justice from their governments. Collaborative efforts among the consortium partners were evident in the publication of influential reports and the Climate Justice Torch campaign initiated by PACJA, which illuminated climate justice issues across the African continent.

Despite the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the AACJ project continued to make progress, conducting capacity strengthening workshops and awareness-raising sessions virtually or in person. Examples include training sessions in Somalia and Burkina Faso, focusing on empowering CSOs, youth, and women activists in climate justice advocacy and storytelling techniques.

The AACJ consortium actively participated in climate justice campaigns, such as the 'follow the money' campaign and online sensitization forums, contributing to policy development and influencing processes at national and international levels. They engaged with stakeholders, including government bodies and commissions, on issues like energy, proper implementation of climate policies, and financing.

FEMNET played a significant role in advancing climate justice with initiatives like the African Feminist Academy for Climate Justice and the Ecofeminist Movement Building Strategy, which generated demands and fostered collaboration across 10 countries. They also supported partners' participation in COP27 and engaged in discussions on climate, gender, and social protection.

The inclusion of new partner NAGAAD in Somaliland expanded the collaborative work of AACJ in Somalia, focusing on sharing climate justice narratives among women from pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. In Mozambique, MULEIDE focused on coalition building and held a provincial conference to discuss climate justice and land issues.

The African Youth Commission (AYC) prioritized providing a space and voice for youth in climate justice discourse, strengthening its internal systems, and actively participating in regional convenings and events. AYC conducted awareness campaigns and capacity-building activities, including workshops and youth assemblies, to enhance youth engagement in climate policy processes and climate action finance access.

Across the AACJ countries, AYC mobilized and raised awareness among 275,238 young people from 20 CSOs through training, campaigns, and workshops on critical climate justice themes such as renewable energies, gender, sustainable agriculture, and carbon finance.

Natural Justice (NJ) facilitated learning exchanges, indigenous land summits, and grassroots training meetings to empower coastal fishing communities and indigenous people to advocate for environmental justice and sustainable development. NJ also emphasized the role of journalists in spreading climate justice narratives and partnered with the Media Council of Kenya to enhance journalists' capacity in reporting climate change and environmental justice stories.

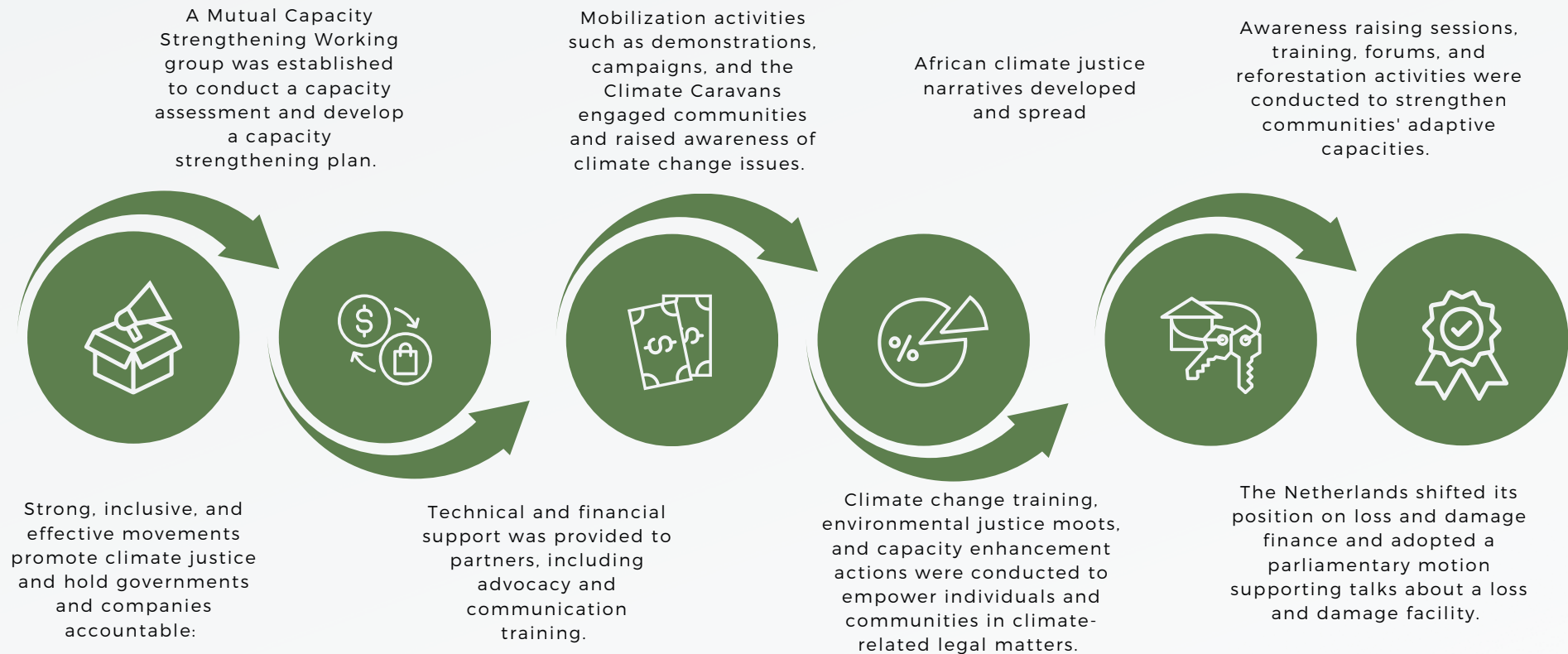
The AACJ project demonstrated a strong commitment to its objectives, reporting on thematic framework indicators and strengthening civil society through lobbying, advocacy, and gender and social inclusion lenses. The updated results framework reflects the project's progress, aligning with the commitment to transparency and accountability.

Overall, the AACJ project's implementation in 2022 showcased the power of collective action and partnership in addressing the urgent and complex challenges of climate change, while empowering the most vulnerable communities and amplifying their voices for climate justice.



PROGRESS REPORT

Progress has been made on qualitative measures and quantitative key indicators in the AACJ (African Activists for Climate Justice) project towards the expected outcomes by 2025. Here is a summary of the progress made in each pathway:





FOSTERING LOCAL OWNERSHIP AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS: EMPOWERING COLLABORATIVE ALLIANCES

Overall, the AACJ project has made significant progress in creating space for climate justice demands, influencing changes in law and policy, strengthening human rights frameworks, enhancing community resilience, and garnering political support for climate just policies.

The review of the partnership highlights significant engagement and collaboration with various stakeholders, particularly local partners, throughout the period under review. The consortium partners, including the AYC (African Youth Initiative on Climate Change), NJ (Natural Justice), PACJA (Pan African Climate Justice Alliance), SOGPA (Somalia Green Peace Association), and JA! (Justica Ambiental), have actively worked with government entities, civil society organizations (CSOs), media institutions, universities, and indigenous communities to achieve their goals related to climate justice.

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In Senegal, NJ strengthened collaboration with consortium partners and worked alongside other organizations, such as the University of Dakar, the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition, Plan B Film, the Collectif Bargny dit Non, the Association of Producers and Market Gardeners of Kayar, and the Local Fishing Committee of Saint Louis. Together, they defended rights against private sector projects and advocated for better environmental protection.

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PACJA engaged with partners such as WWF, FES, FAO, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Meru University, and AVSI in Kenya. These partners funded activities of the Kenya Platform for Climate Governance (KPCG) and collaborated on locally led climate actions. In Ethiopia, 17 CSOs, YDE, and journalists showed interest in participating in the program implementation. The Dutch Embassy closely followed the program's activities and expressed full support for its implementation. In Nigeria, the AACJ project engaged partners like ECCAI, ESLF, CLHEI, Good Health Living Environment Foundation, OWACDO, and ASF for community mobilization and visibility

In Somalia, SOGPA worked with over 25 CSOs, including youth groups, networks, CBOs, grassroots organizations, and women's groups, providing capacity building on climate justice training. NJ collaborated with local organizations in Mozambique, such as Observatorio do Meio Rural, Grupo de Jovens Activistas de Moatize, Missao Tabita, and Ajocme, through its partnership with JA! (Justica Ambiental). These collaborations aimed to address environmental, climate, social, and gender issues in response to unsustainable development.

In the Netherlands, Oxfam initiated convenings of all Climate Justice PoVs consortiums, including AACJ, to facilitate learning, sharing experiences, and networking among the partners. The AACJ Program Management Unit (PMU) actively participates in these quarterly meetings, which now take place on a rotational basis among the consortiums.



CSOS ENGAGED IN THE AACJ PROGRAM IN 2022



In 2022, the AACJ program significantly scaled up its engagement with civil society organizations (CSOs) across different countries. In Burkina Faso, Oxfam collaborated with over 16 CSOs, including UNERIZ, FEB, FEPAB, RJPE, ACODEV, APRESS, ANGEL-SD, and others, focusing on activities related to rice transformation, agriculture, and livestock. In South Africa, approximately 30 CBOs, grassroots movements, and NGOs benefited from the program through various activities such as pickets, capacity-building workshops, dialogues, and consultations. CSOs like Sisonke Environmental Justice Network and Eastern Cape Environmental Network played an active role in organizing and implementing these activities.

Somalia engaged with over 25 CSOs, youth groups, networks, CBOs, grassroots organizations, and women's groups, including Geedbeer Rajo Beer. The collaboration with Geedbeer Rajo Beer helped bridge the gap between the government, civil society organizations, and the private sector, allowing the AACJ program to better understand different perspectives and spread awareness about environmental issues.



In Senegal, Oxfam partnered with Teranga Lab, a youth organization in the suburbs of Dakar, for training on journalism, communication, podcasts, and videos. They also collaborated with J-GEN, a feminist organization, to organize an ecofeminism workshop involving other feminist organizations in Senegal. In Mozambique, AJOAGO - Govuro Youth and Friends Association played a crucial role in convening and empowering rural communities, CBOs, and social movements through the thinking and working politically (TWP) model. AJOAGO is part of cooperative networks actively addressing climate change, the environment, and sustainable development.

In Nigeria, the AACJ project collaborated with the Federal Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and parastatals, engaging around 20 CSOs. The project also marked World Environment Day 2022 in collaboration with the EU Commission, French Embassy, UNDP, UNIDO, Coca-Cola, and several other CSOs.



ENGAGEMENT OF THE DUTCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS/DUTCH EMBASSY IN PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

The involvement of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Dutch Embassies played a significant role in program implementation. The Dutch MoFA and Dutch Embassies were invited participants, and their representatives attended events and briefings related to the AACJ program. The Dutch Embassy in Somalia was in contact with Oxfam, and in Senegal, the program launch was attended by the Ambassador of the Netherlands. Oxfam country offices maintained contact with the respective embassies in their countries, and in Burkina Faso, invitations were sent to the Dutch Embassy for project activities. Oxfam Novib represented the AACJ consortium at a Kenya Climate Justice Strategy consultation convened by the Kenya Dutch Embassy representative in the Hague.

Overall, the involvement of CSOs and the collaboration with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Dutch Embassies significantly contributed to the implementation and success of the AACJ program, fostering partnerships, capacity building, and knowledge sharing to promote climate justice and environmental sustainability.



PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS ACHIEVING SUSTAINABILITY.

**"Sustainability is
not just a choice;
it is a
responsibility we
owe to future
generations."**





Efforts towards achieving sustainability in the AACJ program have been focused on civil society sustainability, organizational sustainability, social sustainability, and financial sustainability. The program has been building long-lasting relationships with consortium partners and implementing partners to ensure continuity beyond the project's duration. Platforms provided by organizations have facilitated networking opportunities and capacity building through training sessions for CSOs working on climate justice and environmental issues.

PACJA, as a climate active organization, has emphasized building trust among its members and strengthening networking to enhance organizational sustainability. Innovative approaches, such as engaging youth activists, have been utilized to bring fresh ideas and promote future organizational growth. The consortium has also prioritized capacity building of partners to empower them in advocating for climate change challenges and fostering connections and positioning to create a movement for climate justice.

Oxfam Nigeria has conducted capacity-building initiatives to enable CSOs to engage effectively in the project and take ownership of their roles. Knowledge sharing and linking partners with relevant stakeholders have been essential for continuous engagement. FEMNET, through various publications like newsletters and the Africa CSW Nairobi Declaration, has documented the work of partners and contributed to social sustainability by amplifying the demands and commitments of African women and girls.

In Kenya, PACJA's downstream partner, KPCG, has collaborated with various institutions in joint planning and implementation of events, promoting social accountability. Fundraising efforts have also been made to ensure financial sustainability beyond the project period. Similar workshops, training, and capacity-building sessions have been conducted by Burkina Faso, Somalia, Mozambique, and South Africa to enhance civil society sustainability and organizational sustainability.

Financial sustainability has been a priority, and the AACJ consortium has worked closely with partners and members on resource mobilization initiatives. Additional financing has been sought through activities like the African Feminist Academy for Climate Justice organized by FEMNET. Linking members with development partners for financial support has also been a part of the consortium's efforts. Active participation in policy processes at national and subnational levels has further contributed to financial sustainability.

Although substantial progress on sustainability aspects is yet to be fully realized, the program is committed to continued work in these areas. The focus remains on fostering sustainability across civil society, organizations, social dimensions, and financial aspects to ensure long-term impact and success.



CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

Youth engagement and gender transformation are important cross-cutting issues in the AACJ program. Recognizing the significance of youth as key stakeholders and enablers of lasting change, the program has prioritized their inclusion in climate change decision-making processes. Efforts have been made to engage and empower young people through capacity building, experience sharing, and the establishment of youth-led organizations and movements. Youth engagement has taken place at various levels, including schools, universities, and community settings, with conferences and workshops dedicated to strengthening the youth movement and advocating for climate justice.

Gender transformation and intersectionality are essential for addressing gender inequalities in climate change issues. Partners have adopted a gender transformative approach, considering the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls. This approach involves reviewing policies and laws with a gender lens, encouraging participation of all minorities, and supporting women-led organizations. Intersectionality is also considered, recognizing the intersecting dimensions of identity and their influence on climate justice. Partners have conducted gender analyses, supported women in mining towns, and empowered gender non-conforming individuals. Inclusion and representation of women and girls have been prioritized in policy advocacy efforts.

The AACJ program has undertaken consultative reviews, multistakeholder dialogues, and legal empowerment processes to promote gender-responsive climate action. It has focused on the linkage between gender, conflict, and climate, aiming to change perspectives and address the effects of climate change on minority communities. Women's knowledge and resources have been tapped into, strengthening their resilience and food security. Forums and conventions have been organized to amplify women's voices in climate action and sustainability.

Reflecting on the Theory of Change, the program finds it appropriate and relevant for the implementation context in 2021 and 2022. The Theory of Change emphasizes the unity of civil society and complementary strategies, including litigation, to achieve climate justice for grassroots communities. While no adjustments to the Theory of Change are proposed at this stage, there is a need to enhance understanding of gender and climate justice among partner organizations. Furthermore, the program recognizes the unique experiences of climate change and conflict in certain countries and suggests addressing the theme of safety and security. The validity of the Theory of Change will be further evaluated in the upcoming mid-term review in mid-2023.



