



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

AACJ: EMPOWERING AFRICA THROUGH LOCALLY LED CLIMATE ACTION



KENYA

The impact of climate change on agriculture cannot be overstated. In Kenya, small-scale farmers are particularly vulnerable to the extreme weather events that have become increasingly frequent. However, there are local-led initiatives that are tackling these challenges head on, and making significant progress towards building resilience and adaptive capacity.



AACJ WORK IN KENYA

LOCAL LED ACTIONS

Apiculture

One such initiative is centered on apiculture. The LLA located in Meru and Makueni counties is aligned with pathway 4, which aims to strengthen communities' adaptive capacities. The LLA has expanded its beekeeping operation from 100 to 256 hives, and increased the land area for apiculture from 4 hectares to 10,000 hectares. The initiative has already yielded positive outcomes, including turning beekeepers into environmental conservationists, enhancing sources of livelihoods through farming diversification, and reducing human-wildlife conflict.

SORGHUM

Another successful initiative is focused on sorghum farming in Meru County. Sorghum is a fast-growing, drought-resistant crop that requires less initial investment compared to other crops. The LLA provided farmers with 8,122 kilograms of sorghum seeds to cover an estimated 4,000 acres of land. This has led to increased registration of more farmers into sorghum farming, improving food security and living standards for local communities.



SUNFLOWERS

A third initiative is centered on sunflower production in Meru County. This initiative aims to provide farmers with capacity building through extension officers and community volunteers. The project has already registered over 3,000 farmers cultivating sunflowers across 5,000 acres of land. The expected results include the production of over 200 tons of sunflower in one season, equivalent to USD 100,000. A portion of the harvest is delivered to multinational corporations such as BIDCO-Africa, while local cottage industries process the rest into edible oils

These initiatives have proved to be successful and have the potential for sustainability, scalability, and replicability. Apiculture, sorghum farming, and sunflower production offer opportunities for establishing sustainable rural-led agribusinesses that not only mitigate the effects of climate change but also provide a source of income for local communities. By working together and embracing alternative farming practices, we can ensure that the impact of climate change on agriculture is minimized, and farmers are able to build resilience and adaptive capacity for a better future.



AACJ WORK IN SOMALIA: LOCALLY LED ACTIONS

SOMALIA

The climate crisis is one of the most pressing challenges facing the world today, and it is hitting some regions harder than others. Somalia, for instance, is one of the countries that is most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. With frequent droughts and floods, deforestation, and socio-political conflict over land-based resources, many rural communities are struggling to survive.

LOCALLY LED ACTIONS


The Locally Led Climate Action (LLA) program is making a significant difference in Somalia by channeling funds and decision-making power to the local level. The program is building partnerships between government, civil society organizations (CSOs), and communities to identify sustainable solutions that meet the needs and priorities of the local communities.

Aligned with Pathways 1, 2, and 5, the LLA is targeting contextual climate change vulnerabilities that are particularly relevant to Somalia. The program is empowering CSOs with the tools and knowledge to advocate for climate justice and raise the voices of those on the frontlines, particularly women and girls who are most affected by the climate crisis in Somalia.



The LLA has already achieved some remarkable results. Two CSOs, Geedbeer and Action for Environment, have been trained in advocacy and strategy development, and they have been supported in developing climate advocacy strategies that enable them to engage line ministries and influence policies at the national level. The expected outcome is an enhanced knowledge of advocacy and influencing tactics that can be used to leverage available opportunities and assume greater participation at the national level.

Several capacity strengthening workshops have been organized for CSOs and activists on climate narratives building and campaigning skills for effective climate campaigning strategies. The expected outcome is an increased knowledge of the context of climate justice among those on the frontlines, enabling them to raise their voices and identify their needs and priorities for climate action.



Moreover, the mapping exercise of CSOs working on climate change has identified actors currently active in the climate change sector and has strengthened their role, capacity, and funding to assume greater participation in decision-making spaces and stronger leadership. The mapping exercise also aims to identify potential new actors interested in developing into the climate justice movement in Somalia and how to help them increase their knowledge on climate change and influence policies on climate justice.

As a result of the LLA initiative, seven CSOs have formed an alliance known as the Somali Climate Action Network to jointly advocate for greater decision-making in climate action and strengthen their voices to demand space for leadership roles. The joint advocacy has resulted in more CSOs attending COP27 in Egypt for the first time in Somalia.

The LLA program has a strong focus on sustainability, scalability, replicability, and future growth plans. Through the program, communities have gained a better understanding of the concept of climate justice, and CSOs have developed narratives around climate justice to raise the voices of the most vulnerable groups in the community. The creation of space for dialogue, experience sharing, and networking for CSOs has increased the relationship between CSOs and government engagement for more involvement in decision-making and leadership roles around climate action in Somalia.

The LLA INITIATIVE is viewed as a system where CSOs and government partnerships are able to identify socially inclusive solutions that are tailored to local needs and priorities. By empowering local communities and building capacity, the program is making a significant impact in the fight against the climate crisis in Somalia. The LLA program is a powerful example of what can be achieved when stakeholders work together to find sustainable solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges.



AACJ WORK IN SENEGAL: LOCALLY LED ACTIONS

In Senegal, there is a need to build a strong and inclusive climate movement that is led by women and youth. While there are civil society organizations, community-based organizations, and professional organizations throughout the country that have integrated environmental issues into their agendas, there is not yet a cohesive climate movement. The AACJ program provides a tremendous opportunity to transform this disparate movement into a strong and inclusive movement with effective leadership from women and youth.

Senegal is subject to chronic and seasonal vulnerabilities, mainly due to climate change. Coastal erosion, drought, and flooding are already affecting parts of the country, threatening the livelihoods of some communities. The LLA intervention includes mapping more than 500 organizations working and advocating on climate change, mainly women's and youth movements

At least 150,000 people are at risk of being affected by flooding each year, and 20,000 by epidemics. In this context, it is important that youth and women's organizations are at the forefront of the climate movement to raise and make the voices of the most vulnerable communities heard.

The LLA intervention for movement building in Senegal started with a mapping of local climate justice organizations last year. Capacity building workshops for women's rights organizations were organized on climate issues. This year, there will be participation in the Summer University of Feminists organized by the organization "Jigeen" and which will be held at the University Gaston Berger of Saint-Louis. The aim is to continue to raise awareness among women's rights organizations on the intersectionalities between gender and climate. The idea is that this work of awareness and mobilization will lead to the creation of a strong ecofeminist movement in Senegal.

Additionally, a bootcamp will be organized in October with the "Environment Clubs" of the Universities of Senegal (Saint-Louis, Dakar, Thiès, Bambey, Ziguinchor). This will bring these young people together in Sédhiou, in the south of Senegal, and strengthen their knowledge of climate justice and their capacity to influence it through a series of mutual learning activities.

The expected outcomes/results of the movement building intervention included the mapping of more than 500 organizations working and advocating on climate change, mainly women's and youth movements. Thirty (30) Senegalese feminist activists have been trained on the issues and challenges of the ecofeminist movement and its interactions with issues related to economic and social justice and women's rights. Each year, more than 200 people were targeted, mainly women and youth, through these activities.

In terms of sustainability, scalability, replicability, and future growth plans, the mapping done by the LLA will be used as a strategic steering tool in this work of structuring the Senegalese climate movement. The LLA is currently launching a process to develop a strategy that will allow them in the coming years to connect local movements to regional and global movements and to implement a real plan to strengthen the influential capacities of these movements. The LLA aims to have 30% of the positions of responsibility in the movements they support held by women or youth.

Agroecological Zoning: The LLA intervention for agroecological zoning in Senegal falls under pathway 4 and consists of identifying, documenting, sharing, and scaling up good local adaptation practices. The agro-ecological zones have been chosen as the scale of intervention and study. This approach will allow the LLA to have a territorial picture of the existing problems and the responses provided by the communities.





NIGERIA

AACJ WORK IN NIGERIA: LOCALLY LED ACTIONS

The Local Livelihoods Adaptation Project (LLA) in Nigeria is implementing a tree-planting campaign in Agunji and Ngubi communities in Nasarawa Eggon LGA, Nasarawa state, Nigeria, to promote climate change adaptation and build resilience in the agriculture sector, which is the main occupation in the area. Over 80% of women's livelihoods depend on small-scale subsistence farming, making them particularly vulnerable to climate change-induced risks such as natural hazards, droughts, pests' infestations, and changes in rainfall patterns. The project seeks to address these vulnerabilities by raising awareness about climate change and environment issues, training community members on community development planning (CDP) to integrate climate change adaptation strategies, and capacity building on Open Government Partnership (OGP) for state and non-state actors.



The LLA organized a CDP workshop in September 2022, which targeted community beneficiaries, technical field officers, key community stakeholders (gatekeepers), the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture (Department of Climate Change), community-based organizations, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources. The workshop aimed to improve the understanding of the community beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders about climate change and environment issues and strengthen their capacity to integrate climate change adaptation strategies into their development plans.



In October 2022, the LLA also organized a capacity building workshop on OGP for state and non-state actors to promote inclusive participatory budgeting, citizen engagement and participation in governance processes, enforcement of environmental laws, extractive industry transparency and openness, food security, ease of doing business, and improved service delivery in primary and secondary school education. The workshop aimed to bring government and civil society organizations (CSOs) together for a common understanding toward the implementation of OGP in the state and promote good working relationships between non-state actors and the government on environment and climate change issues.

Additionally, the LLA conducted a step-down training on climate change monitoring and reporting for field officers and community volunteers in the state, targeting VSLA, budget monitoring group project beneficiaries in disaster-affected and prone communities (including women-based groups and youth groups), the technical field officers, the State Ministry of Women Affairs, key community stakeholders (gatekeepers), the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture (Department of Climate Change), community-based organizations, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources.

The training aimed to strengthen the capacity of these groups to monitor and report on climate change and environment issues, enhancing their ability to identify early warning signs of climate change-induced risks and respond appropriately.

Finally, the LLA created 36 episodes of media TV/Radio Audience Participation Programmes on State Television and Radio Nasarawa Broadcasting Service to educate the society on climate change and environment issues, promoting the project's objectives, goals, and expected results. The links to the TV/Radio Audience Participation Programmes are provided to enable stakeholders to access them for educational and promotional purposes.

The interventions of the LLA aim to address the contextual climate change vulnerabilities and risks experienced by the communities in Agunji and Ngubi in Nasarawa Eggon LGA, Nasarawa state, Nigeria. By raising awareness about climate change and building the capacity of relevant stakeholders to integrate climate change adaptation strategies into their development plans, the project seeks to promote resilience in the agriculture sector, enhance food security, and build the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities.



AACJ WORK IN BURKINA FASO



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Burkina Faso, a country with a predominantly agricultural population, is grappling with the adverse effects of climate change. With a growing population

and increasingly scarce rainfall, the agricultural sector's productivity is at risk, leaving vulnerable communities, including women, young people, and people living with disabilities, in a precarious situation. However, through the implementation of the AACJ program, Burkina Faso is taking decisive steps towards adaptation and resilience-building.

LOCALLY LED ACTIONS

Local action initiatives, led by organizations such as the "Association pour l'Education et l'Environnement (A-2E)," are playing a pivotal role in scaling up proven adaptation techniques and technologies.

Addressing Climate Vulnerabilities:

The agroecological farming practices implemented by the local action initiatives target specific vulnerabilities faced by communities in Burkina Faso. Wind and water erosion, water scarcity, soil degradation, deforestation, and loss of ecosystems are among the challenges being tackled.

These initiatives aim to restore arable soils, improve vegetation cover, enhance carbon sequestration, implement sustainable water management, increase crop yields, and ultimately improve the well-being and livelihoods of beneficiary households.

The LLA Intervention: The selection of intervention sites and beneficiaries is based on well-defined criteria, including vulnerability, gender considerations, and the impact of climate change on their land, families, or communities.

LOCALLY LED ACTIONS

The interventions encompass a comprehensive approach that includes theoretical training, study trips to successful sites, hands-on field practices, production activities, and continuous monitoring and follow-up support. By providing knowledge, resources, and guidance, the initiatives empower communities to take charge of their own resilience-building efforts.



Promising Outcomes: The positive outcomes of these initiatives have been remarkable. Beneficiary households have witnessed the rejuvenation of arable soils, improved vegetation cover, and the sequestration of carbon in their fields. Sustainable water management practices have been adopted, resulting in increased water availability even in times of scarcity. This has led to improved crop yields, enhanced incomes, and enhanced food and nutritional security. Additionally, improved health and better school performance among households have been observed, while animal production has thrived through the preservation of hay.

Ensuring Sustainability and Scalability: The long-term sustainability and scalability of these initiatives are vital. To achieve this, continuous training, support, and advice are provided to the participating communities. The renewal of agroecological techniques such as "Zai" before each season and the application of compost on the fields ensure optimal results. Crop rotation and the practice of assisted natural regeneration (RNA) further contribute to the resilience of agricultural systems. These initiatives serve as models that can be replicated and expanded, creating a ripple effect that extends the benefits of agroecological farming across Burkina Faso.

Building a Brighter Future: The strides made in agroecological farming in Burkina Faso hold tremendous promise for the future. By adopting climate-resilient practices, communities are not only mitigating the effects of climate change but also transforming their livelihoods. With improved incomes, enhanced food security, and a healthier environment, Burkina Faso is on the path towards sustainable development. The efforts being undertaken by organizations like PACJA and A-2E demonstrate the power of collective action and highlight the immense potential for climate justice in West Africa.

AACJ WORK IN ETHIOPIA

In Ethiopia, where environmental pollution and the detrimental impact of tannery factories pose significant challenges, local women's groups have emerged as catalysts for positive change. These powerful grassroots initiatives, implemented in the Oromia region, particularly in Mojo town, are driving forward the Advancing Climate Justice (AACJ) project. By addressing environmental degradation and advocating for sustainable practices, these women are leading the charge towards a resilient and environmentally conscious future.

Women Taking Charge: Mojo's Environmental Protection Initiative Mojo, a vibrant road-side town located in eastern Oromia, has long grappled with issues such as littering, improper waste disposal, and deteriorating hygiene. Frustrated by the persistent challenges, a group of determined women decided to take matters into their own hands. Forming a cooperative, they launched a rigorous cleaning campaign, dedicating themselves to the task twice a week. Their efforts brought about a temporary improvement, but the women realized that sustainable change required collective responsibility. Thus, they embarked on a mission to involve the entire town in environmental care.

Recognizing the importance of a top-down approach, the women proposed to the town administration the implementation of a town-wide directive, which was subsequently approved by the local municipal council. This directive imposed fines on individuals caught littering on the town's streets, with penalties amounting to 400 Ethiopian Birr.



The impact of this directive was immediate and profound. Fueled by a sense of fear and urgency, Mojo's inhabitants became more conscious of their responsibility towards the cleanliness of their town. While directives and regulations are not perfect solutions, they played a crucial role in curbing the town's littering problem. This exemplary collaboration between women's groups, society, and the local administration stands as a testament to the power of collective action in transforming Mojo for the better.

Championing Justice: Mojo's Stand Against Tannery Factories Ethiopia's manufacturing sector, a driving force behind economic growth and employment opportunities, has brought about its own set of challenges. In Mojo town, where industrialization efforts were ramped up, a leather processing plant and a stone crushing company were established. While these ventures were initially celebrated as engines of progress, they inadvertently led to environmental and social repercussions. Improper waste management by these factories resulted in contamination of nearby water sources, causing the loss of livestock and posing health risks to the community, particularly the elderly.



Outcomes and Future Prospects

The remarkable initiatives led by women and girls have not only facilitated advocacy and accountability, but they have also empowered these individuals to voice their concerns and actively participate in decision-making processes. Through their unwavering commitment, these women have translated their efforts into tangible outcomes, with punitive measures integrated into local municipal laws. To ensure the long-term sustainability of these initiatives, plans are underway to replicate similar projects in other regions covered by the AACJ project. Extensive awareness campaigns and targeted training sessions have already equipped members of the climate justice movement with essential skills, enabling them to gather valuable information and tap into local and indigenous knowledge related to climate change and gender issues.

In the face of initial indifference from the local administration, a coalition of women, predominantly young activists, emerged as vocal advocates for environmental justice. They organized public discussions, drawing attention to the detrimental effects of the factories and rallying support for their cause. Through their collective efforts, they successfully compelled the authorities to take action. The local administration responded by imposing restrictions on the factories, including stricter waste processing protocols and the closure of non-compliant facilities. This inspiring triumph showcases the pivotal role women's empowerment plays in climate justice, underscoring the profound impact of female engagement and collective action.

AACJ WORK IN MOZAMBIQUE



Climate change is an undeniable reality, both globally and in Mozambique. The devastating impacts of cyclones, floods, and other extreme weather events have wreaked havoc on countries worldwide, including Mozambique. Families have endured unimaginable loss and countless socioeconomic infrastructures vital for local development have been destroyed. It has become apparent that there is a significant lack of knowledge among communities and decision-makers regarding environmental rights and the urgent need to ensure a healthy environment for all.

Recognizing these challenges, priority actions have been identified to address the knowledge gap and empower communities through awareness and advocacy movements. Aligned with pathways 1, 3, and 4, these actions aim to raise awareness, mobilize women, young people, and other segments of society, and drive positive change

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Mozambique, at the local level, stands as one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the impacts of climate change. Frequent cyclones, floods, and other extreme events have ravaged the nation, causing widespread destruction and claiming the lives of thousands of citizens. The lack of knowledge among communities and decision-makers exacerbates the vulnerability. Communities and young people are unaware of their environmental rights, impeding their ability to advocate for them. Similarly, decision-makers lack the necessary understanding and sensitivity to address the needs and obligations required to ensure a healthy environment for all.

The risks associated with this lack of knowledge and sensitivity are profound. They hinder the provision, planning, and financing of concrete actions that can improve living conditions, enhance resilience, and effectively adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. To address these risks head-on, awareness campaigns on television and radio have been launched, alongside the creation of advocacy movements consisting of women, young people, and influential entities. The aim is to instill a collective understanding of the urgent need to advocate for climate justice.





The locally led action intervention encompasses a range of activities:

1. Conducting radio and television debates on Climate Justice: Engaging the public through informative and thought-provoking discussions on the importance of climate justice and the implications for human rights.
2. AACJ Project Socialization Workshop: Facilitating workshops to disseminate knowledge and foster dialogue among stakeholders, promoting collaboration and joint action towards climate justice.
3. Production of Information, Communication, and Education Material: Developing and distributing materials that effectively communicate the urgency and significance of climate justice, ensuring widespread understanding and engagement.
4. Courtesy Meetings with Decision Makers: Seeking opportunities for direct engagement with decision-makers at all levels, including ministers, state secretaries, and parliament members, to promote awareness and drive policy changes that prioritize climate justice.

These efforts have yielded promising results:

1. Advocacy and awareness movements are gaining traction and becoming more consolidated in the City and Province of Maputo, serving as beacons of hope and catalysts for change.
2. The radio and television programs have successfully reached over 12,500,000 spectators and viewers, ensuring a broad reach and fostering a shared understanding of climate justice.
3. A more favorable environment has been cultivated for collaboration and cohesive work with public institutions. Decision-makers are displaying increased openness and willingness to address the pressing issues surrounding climate justice.

To ensure the sustainability, scalability, replicability, and future growth of these actions, it is vital to continue raising awareness among the public and government entities. The more stakeholders comprehend the urgency of the climate justice movement and the fundamental human right to live in a healthy environment, the greater their willingness to provide financial support and invest in volunteering efforts. This collective effort will be the driving force behind lasting change and the realization of a just and sustainable future for all.

In conclusion, the locally led action in Mozambique stands as a powerful and positive force, driving awareness and advocacy for climate justice. By empowering communities, fostering collaboration with decision-makers, and reaching millions through media campaigns, the movement is making significant strides towards a future where every individual can enjoy their right to a healthy environment. Together, we can build resilience, protect our communities, and ensure a brighter and more sustainable future for Mozambique and the world.

