



THE WESTERN FOCUS

A quarterly newsletter comprising of ADS Western activities and achievements

INSIDE

County climate information systems

Peaceful Coexistence among Ethnic communities

Institutional Strengthening and Sustainability

Soybeans commercialization in western Kenya-2 SCALE

Training of Community-based trainers (CBTs)



STEPHEN AMUSALA-CEO ADS WESTERN

STATEMENT FROM THE CEO

The year 2023 has proved to be a very eventful one with myriad engagements with our partners and stakeholders during the first quarter. It gives us great joy to share with you highlights of our work.

Take a moment to read through.



CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

2,950

Community members have
increased their resilience

As the world grapples with the devastating effects of climate change, it's clear that we can no longer carry on with business as usual. This is not an Exception for the people of western Kenya. We need to adapt to the changing climate and take steps to mitigate its worst impacts by building resilience.

Through training, a total of 2,950 community members have increased their resilience to climate change through collaboration with stakeholders amongst them, in planting 41,000 gliricidia seedlings at the boundaries, on embankments for soil and water conservation, and intercropping with food crops.

Additionally, these tree seedlings exhibited a survival rate rate of 75% due to the maintenance provided by smallholder farmers. Furthermore, 5,000 gliricidia cuttings were distributed for continuous multiplication to meet the demand for the long rain season of 2023.



41,000

GLIRICIDIA SEEDLINGS
PLANTED



HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION:

Access to healthcare and social protection are fundamental human rights that are essential for a healthy and productive society. Unfortunately, many people in western Kenya still lack these necessities, leaving them vulnerable to poverty, illness, and other hardships.

The Nurturing Care Framework (NCF) for Early Childhood Development (ECD) is a priority for the Kenyan government, with Siaya County launching the Smart Start Model to strengthen systems, structures, and processes across sectors (education, agriculture, civil registration, and social and child protection) to achieve sustainable, high-quality ECD coverage for children ages 0 to 8. As a civil society initiative, the Moments That Matter (MTM) Program complements the government approach of the Smart Start Model by empowering caregivers and community leaders, permanently embedding the knowledge and skills for nurturing ECD.

MTM fulfills the NCF's Focus on families and communities through its investment in Primary Caregivers and their children who are 0-3 years of age with targeted capacity-strengthening support for a limited, intensive period.

MTM engages high risk, highly vulnerable families through nurturing care and positive parenting practices through peer groups and individual home visits.

This project leverages relationships with county governments, health systems, faith leaders, and early childhood development service providers to launch the initiative in new communities while strengthening the capacity of existing MTM infrastructure— ECD Committees,

Promoters, and MTM-trained faith leaders—to transition to second cycles in existing communities. Our main goal is to strengthen primary caregivers, fathers, and families so that young children thrive and reach their full developmental potential.

In Vihiga County, the project is being piloted in Luanda Sub County, in two wards (Mwibona and Luanda Township); currently, we are working with thirty faith leaders, with the Bishop of ACK Maseno North Diocese as the patron, and sixty ECD promoters to deliver the project.



0-3 YEARS
of age with targeted capacity-strengthening support for a limited, intensive period.

To date, we have successfully conducted stakeholder mapping and initial sensitization meetings at the County and Sub levels to share about the Project's phase and its targeted beneficiaries. New communities have also been identified; with an intervention site in Mwibona Ward covering Esiandumba and Ebutanyi Sub Location with seven hundred and eighty vulnerable households, each having either a child under the age of three or a pregnant mother, who are all being supported by sixty ECD Promoters. The control site covers Mwibona Ward, Mwitubwi Sub Location, and Luanda Township, covering Ebusiralo Sub location is

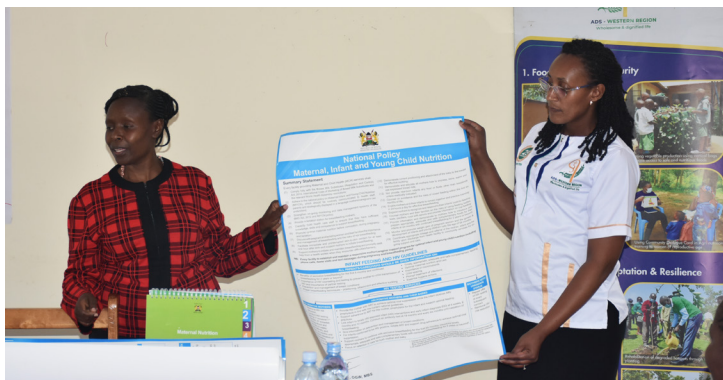
HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION:

supported by 11 community Focal Persons, with a total of one hundred and fifty four vulnerable households.

By prioritizing health and social protection, we can build stronger, more resilient communities that are better equipped to weather the challenges of life.

11

Community Focal
Persons Support



ADVOCACY AND GOVERNANCE



In a world where power is often concentrated in the hands of a few, advocacy and governance play a critical role in ensuring that the voices of the marginalized and vulnerable are heard. By empowering people to speak out and take action, and by promoting good governance practices, we can build a better world for ourselves and future generations.

Through the Christian Aid Climate Justice project, we helped communities in Kakamega, Vihiga, and Bungoma counties prepare for climate change and grow their economies. We did this by improving their ability to deal with climate change-related problems that could harm their livelihoods and economies and by promoting planning and budgeting for climate change in Western Counties. The advocacy and lobby meetings with the governor, deputy governor, and members of the county assembly in partnership with the county directorate of climate change and the county attorney on the Bungoma County Climate Change Fund Bill 2022 resulted in the setting aside of funds that complimented the project funds in the drafting and validation of the Climate Change

Bill. This led to the buy-in of the county assembly and passed the Bill which was ascended to an Act by the Governor. The act was gazette 29th November 2022.

We have sensitized and trained twenty Ward Climate Change Planning committees in seven wards, focusing on their mandate in the County Climate Change Fund (CCCF) dispensation. The training aimed to operationalize the Vihiga County Climate Change Fund through the creation of knowledgeable local-level committees to facilitate the actualization of local-level climate actions. Five ward committees were supported to identify the various investments and write proposals that were forwarded to the county climate change steering committee for vetting. The projects funded included: Jua Kali Water Project-Mwibona Ward, Buhani Water Irrigation Project-Mungoma Ward, Ipali Water Project-West Bunyore Ward, Kimogoi Water Project-Gisambai Ward, Mudungu Water Project-Wodonga Ward

COUNTY CLIMATE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

We have strengthened gender and social inclusion in participatory community decision-making processes through participatory assessments.

These are achieved by convening the County Climate Outlook Forum (PSP), launching county climate information system Plans to support climate-informed planning and decision-making, conducting participatory Assessments on climate risks, Support Drafting Climate Change Legislations, Lobby, and advocacy for Climate change legislation, and Training of Ward committee members in monitoring and reporting for climate change investments.



PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AMONG ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

In a diverse and interconnected community, peaceful coexistence among ethnic communities is essential for creating a harmonious and just society. When people from different ethnic backgrounds are able to live and work together in peace, they can draw upon the strengths of their respective cultures and build bridges of understanding and mutual respect. Unfortunately, ethnic conflict and tension are all too common, often fueled by ignorance, fear, and misinformation. But through dialogue, education, and community engagement, it is possible to promote peaceful coexistence and build a more inclusive society. By embracing diversity and working together to address common challenges, we can create a world where all ethnic communities can thrive and contribute to the greater good.



ADVOCACY AND GOVERNANCE

240

RELIGIOUS
LEADERS

30



CSOS

95



COUNCIL OF ELDERS,

12



MEDIA HOUSES

Western Kenya Peace initiative project engaged 2000 Youths, 1200 women, 240 security agents, 220 Private sector, 240 Religious leaders, 95 Council of elders, Boda Boda riders, 30 CSOs, and 12 Media Houses through sensitization meetings, Dialogue forums, Community meetings, Radio talk shows and stakeholders' meetings, this yielded peaceful campaigns and elections, reduction of conflicts during the electioneering period, ethnic reconciliation, and peaceful co-existence among different ethnic groups in Mount Elgon. Peace Monitors were equipped with the necessary skills for early warning and quick response.

There was evidence of improved inter-ethnic relations and tolerance to divergent political views through the dialogue session played an important role in bringing the different ethnic communities together in collaborative ventures which encouraged reciprocal home visits among them. In Kopsiro the Peace project created an atmosphere where the Soi and the

Ogiek (Dorobo) could sit and talk together on the contested land ownership issues. During the election aftermath, 70% of identified existing and new targeted hotspots in Mt Elgon where different ethnic communities resided experienced peaceful coexistence, which displayed a reduction of conflicts during the electioneering period, ethnic reconciliation, and peaceful co-existence among different ethnic groups in Mount Elgon While continuing with livelihood activities. 50% of collaborators (4467 actors) in peace initiatives actively support peace-building initiatives such as sensitization meetings, dialogue forums, community meetings, radio talk shows, and stakeholder meetings.



GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Gender equity; GBV issues were addressed in Busia and Kakamega counties through the sensitization of 2000 community members on gender-based violence and the commemoration of 16 days of gender-based violence activism, which 81 stakeholders attended. Gender policy in Kakamega, Vihiga, and Busia has been adopted and implemented minimally. This has seen at least 14% of women in leadership positions for political seats, group leadership, and county governance committees. Key actions included setting up safe homes for GBV survivors, strengthening the gender network, enforcing GBV policies, and creating continuous awareness, as well as enhancing livelihood options for improved household incomes. There is a need to work with partners to improve the production and use of gender data through strategic partnerships, research, advocacy, and communications. This will diminish existing inequalities, illuminate a path forward, and monitor progress.

2000
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS
SENSITIZED

16 DAYS
OF GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE ACTIVISM,

81
STAKEHOLDERS
TOOK PART

14%
WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP
POSITIONS



ADS Western Region
#16DaysOf Activism Against Gender Based Violence

UNITE!

8th Thur DECEMBER 2022. **ACTIVISM TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.**
10:00am-12:00noon

MODERATOR
LILIAN ATITI
Gender Based Violence Focal person Village County MOH

PANELIST
FRANCIS MOLLIGW
County Police Commissioner Bungoma and founder peace Ambassador aggression Organization

PANELIST
DAVIS OCHIENG OKEYO
Principal Program Officer National Gender and Equality Commission (N-GEC)

KEY NOTE SPEAKER
EMILLY OMTIL
Gender based violence focal person UN women

zoom Meeting ID: 876 9132 8856 Passcode: 347740 WorldRenew f LIVE

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING



ADSW improved its resource mobilization strategy by strengthening the mobilization committee on Change the Game Academy and local resource fundraising, through which it saw 6 new projects on board from Christian Aid, WHH, and RTI-USAID. This improved the financial sustainability of the organization. Strengthening of AWRICO done through expansion of honey processing, amaranth flour, and increased volumes aggregated in the aggregation centers for uptake



FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

The world faces a growing challenge of feeding a rapidly increasing population while ensuring food and nutrition security for all, this is not an exemption for Western Kenya. However, amidst these challenges, there is good news. Great news on food and nutrition security Improved capacity of 17000 (11570 ft, 5430m) smallholder farmers out of the targeted 21780 results from the adoption of climate-smart technologies such as sustainable land cultivation (soil & water conservation, cover crops, agroforestry, water harvesting & irrigation, composting, liquid fertilizer). 17000 farmers were able to meet their basic needs due to improved food security from the im-



proved yields of targeted crops such as sweet potatoes, soybeans, maize beans, and indigenous vegetables through access to inputs for farm productivity and markets, which generated average KES 15,400 monthly household incomes. This further led to increased dietary diversity from a score of 4.4 to 6.1 amongst 65% of the targeted women who ate at least three balanced meals.

To support sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition security, it is important to consider supporting local organizations and initiatives that promote the adoption of climate-smart technologies and buying locally grown and produced foods.



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GREEN BUSINESS PROJECT

- In collaboration with Bukura Agricultural College (BAC), 105 women & youth from three groups (two for dairy and one for tissue culture) were admitted to BAC and underwent technical and hands-on training for four months. The trainings were held on-farm, and 103 people completed the course. The three women's groups have successfully applied for a grant from WHH worth KED 1.2M to be invested in their respective value chains to upscale their production and add value.
- In collaboration with the Church (ACK Maseno North) and local administration, 151 students (women and Youth) have been mobilized, vetted, and admitted to BAC being the second cohort that is undergoing training in poultry production. Three women groups-Ngobolia WG-Luanda South ward, Vushiere WG (Banja ward) and fish production (Samaki WG in Luanda South ward)
- Supported three marginalized health centers and Bukura Agricultural College with plastic water tanks (Each with a capacity of 5,000 liters of water) (Shamakhokho H.C. in Hamisi, Ebukolo HC in Emuhaya and Ochwore HC in Luanda). This is to enhance access to clean and flowing water by patients and workers of these remote health centers in this Covid 19



SOYBEANS COMMERCIALIZATION IN WESTERN KENYA-2 SCALE

- Soybeans have become one of the most important crops in western Kenya due to their high nutritional value and versatile use in food products. The commercialization of soybeans involves the process of growing, harvesting, processing, and marketing the crop to various industries. The global demand for soybeans has increased significantly in recent years, driven by the growing population and increasing awareness of the health benefits associated with soy consumption. Soybeans are not only used for food products but also for the production of biofuels, animal feed, and industrial products.

- The aggregation has been one of the best strategies to help achieve economies of scale along agricultural value chains. It has made it easier to meet the standard requirements of modern markets and also to address other barriers to accessing the market and agricultural inputs. ADSW through 2 –SCALE Project continued to provide extension and aggregation services to the already engaged 3,000 farmers out of which 1064 farmers planted soybean on 537 acres, with a projection of 319,200 tons. This will further amount to Ksh.22,344,000 if all these soybeans are sold at an average of Ksh.70 per kg. However, there has been a 25% increase in the farmers' uptake of soybean production, with many practicing pure stand production, contrary to last year when intercropping was the dominant practice.



COMMUNITY-BASED SEED PRODUCTION

- Seed is one of the most important agricultural inputs as it carries the genetic information of the crops, thus dictating the ultimate productivity of other inputs. The use of good quality seed varieties is widely recognized as fundamental to ensuring increased crop production and productivity. Other potential benefits accrued to farmers from good seeds include a high yield index, reduced risks from pest and disease pressure, and high incomes.



The availability of quality seed to farmers is, therefore, key to food security and agricultural development. Farmers' access to improved seeds of soya beans, was accelerated by building the capacity of 20 community-based seed multipliers to multiply soybean seed varieties (SM 10, SF 11, YM 3, and YF 1). 30.5 acres are under production with two varieties of Maksoy 3N and 6N which were imported from Makerere University. ADSW through the Sweet potato project also partnered with KALRO-Kakamega and KEPHIS to introduce Irene Variety- orange fleshed Potato and early maturing at 80-90 days. JUA Exporters markets exports from 25 acres that are maturing, with 6 acres set for harvest. Meanwhile, 230 bags of sweet potato Irene variety have been sold to adopting farmers in Kisumu and Tur-

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VALUE ADDITION OF SOYA BEANS

The ability for women to operate as food entrepreneurs presents opportunities to leverage not only home production technologies and support family nutrition, but also generate incomes for improved livelihoods. Twenty five women-led groups engaged in soybean value addition using the soya kits, which saved time on processing. The soya bean value-added products increased the incomes of these women groups, which tripled from an average of Kes. 70 for a kg of raw soybeans to an average of Kes. 300 for an equivalent capacity of soy milk, yogurt, and other value-added products.



TRAINING OF COMMUNITY-BASED TRAINERS (CBTS)

Twelve training sessions were held with 88 (30m, 58 f) community-based trainers on; integrated pest management, and soil fertility management. As a result, five youths are now engaged in the production of organic fertilizer for sale to other farmers. Additionally, 703 (554f and 149m) farmers established kitchen gardens in their households, focusing on the production of African leafy vegetables, sweet potatoes, amaranths, sorghum, and cassava.



USE OF SMALL MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN THE PROMOTION OF REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

We have partnered with six SMEs promoting regenerative technologies to enhance access by adopting farmers. The technologies include commercialized organic fertilizer, solar irrigation equipment, IPM, Biogas, and markets for fresh produce



CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE AND MITIGATION

Even as we work to avert the worst potential impacts of climate change, we must become more resilient to those impacts that are now unavoidable. These impacts often disproportionately affect low-income communities, reinforcing the need for equitable and proactive resilience planning and resource allocation. The erratic rains and worst effects of the dry spell from October to December have prompted many farmers to seek coping mechanisms in water tanks. ADSW constructed eight water pans for the demonstration. Two adopting farmers constructed water pans (one each) with the capacity to hold 72,000 liters each. The pans served in controlling runoff and reducing soil erosion, held water for irrigation during dry periods, and were also used for fish production; Tilapia monosex). (Indicate water pan)

66 CIG representatives trained on sustainable land cultivation (soil & water conservation, cover crops, agroforestry, water harvesting & irrigation, composting, and liquid fertilizer) as a resilient measure against climate change. They further trained 1672 (1016 ft, 656m) farmers, of whom 60% have adopted technologies such as Mucuna, Gliricidia trees, terracing, raised beds, hermetic storage bags, early maturing varieties, and integrated pest management, resulting in 230 hectares under resilience mechanisms.



Public participation contributes to better decisions because decision-makers have more complete information in the form of additional facts, values, and perspectives obtained through public input – to bring to bear on the decision process. However, citizen have limited information on planning and budget development restraining them to participate in these forums. ADSW mobilized 1000 community members to attend public participation fora for CIDP validation. This led to the sweet potato and Soya beans value chain being incorporated in the Kakamega County CIDP.



CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE AND MITIGATION

ADSW Western has four board committees in place namely Human Resource, Resource Mobilization, Finance, and Programmes and successfully held eight meetings to review performance, approve annual work plans and budgets, and examine resource mobilization. Two team building were conducted to enhance staff motivation.

Four quarterly staff meetings were conducted to share organizational plans, procedures, performance, and general awareness on organizational progress, challenges and opportunities. Staff training held on M&E, Humanitarian Standards, Helping Without Hurting, food security, leadership, and local fundraising for enhanced effectiveness and efficiency



OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Established networks and referrals for linkages with all duty bearers and services to promote child protection. This requires a printed handout Stakeholder's directory document as the reference.
2. Awareness creation, capacity building, lobbying, and advocacy work including strengthening of service and support networks for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.
3. Stable market system for soybean projects to the community, more players have arisen with the same interest in soybean production, transportation, aggregation, and shredding services which excited and created employment opportunities for youths.
4. Lobby and advocacy for environmental actions, CIPD through organized structures; dialogue sessions with duty bearers and engagement in planning for allocation of devolved resources and push for enforcement of environmental guidelines and strategies to address the aspect of climate change.
5. On-farm seed production is a sustainable opportunity if a strong partnership exists among stakeholders, and seed multipliers are given premium prices for their seeds which is supported by the legal framework that encourages seed production. This will lead to community seed banks strengthening seed supply systems.
6. Strengthen CSO network for the improved lobby and advocacy, governance, and rights-based approach.

STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPTION

ADS-W has worked with stakeholders during needs identification, planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of projects. More benefit was reaped during the 25th anniversary celebrations which saw stakeholders contributed approximately KES 1,000,000/= while others supported peace walk campaigns, tree seedlings donations, and field day exhibitions.

ADSW continued to make strides with National and County government staff in support of extension services and linkages to facilities and services and policy advocacy work for the enabled environment.

ADS-W has also been able to partner with CSO, CBOs, and FBOs on various field activities and even for knowledge and research exchange. Of key impact was mobilization for the inclusion of soya and sweet potato value chains which have been incorporated in the Kakamega county CIDP.

ADSW Continued to work with 38400 beneficiaries such as CIGS, producer groups, and local structures for enhanced ownership, continuity, and building platform.

The private sector plays a bigger role in accelerating development and partnerships as well as enhanced innovations. ADSW worked with SMEs, business entities, national and county entities to provide leeway for most of our farmers who were engaged in production, value addition, and processing for the end user.



SUSTAINABILITY AND RISK ANALYSIS

Key sustainability efforts fronted by ADSW include strengthening AWRICO for income generation. The company thrives in marketing honey, amaranths, hermetic bags, and bids for tenders within and outside ADSW. Key risks affecting the company include inflations, lack of consistent supply of goods by farmers, and lack of markets.

The establishment of centers of excellence instead of the normal demonstration model has resulted in food systems stakeholder collaboration and ownership, and support by both private and public stakeholders to the farmers within the centers. The centers of excellence only face the risk of climate change and attribution of results by different stakeholders who might have put in diminutive efforts.

ADS-W regional programs are affected by various risks. The Covid-19 pandemic delayed implementation and technical follow-up, leading to a low turnout of group members. We have been able to use virtual engagement, radio interactive sessions, frontline sms and brochures to disseminate information on protection.

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Changes in donor funding have led to re-trenching of staff. ADS-W has and is still exploring other donor funding whose interests match our values as an organization. We have also strengthened local resource mobilization.

High prices of commodities such as inputs and productions has affected several beneficiaries. We have been able to link them with county governments for subsidized inputs.

Cultural dynamics among the community especially on the control of resources by particular genders have proved as a risk to the sustainability of food and climate change initiatives. Poor behavioral perception of access to diverse has also limited advanced action towards reducing malnutrition. ADS-W



has and is still sensitizing women on community-level financial products and services. Increasing gender-based violence due to cultural aspects also hindered the sustainability aspects.



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