



Pupils at a Nakuru early childhood development center enjoy a cup of porridge. The Nakuru Youth Bunge conducted a fundraising campaign towards a Children's Porridge Program to reduce malnutrition rates and boost children enrollment in schools in Nakuru. Photo: Aga Khan Foundation

KENYA

YETU INITIATIVE

Yetu (“Ours” in Kiswahili) is funded by the Aga Khan Foundation and USAID. The Yetu Initiative works with civil society organizations (CSOs) rooted in the communities they serve to advance the principles of self-reliance and locally sustained development. To ensure sustainability and community ownership, Yetu trains CSOs on how to mobilize local resources – not just money, but in-kind contributions of time and assets. Yetu enables CSOs to build better community engagements, strengthen linkages and trust with like-minded Kenyan organizations, businesses, foundations, governments, and individual citizens.

OUR WORK

Yetu fosters a stronger eco-system for Kenyan CSOs through a collaboration, learning, and adapting (CLA) approach in both design and implementation of interventions that promote local development. Yetu works in close collaboration with CSOs, county governments, and county stakeholders including the community, businesses, and donors to:

Support local development organizations (LDOs) at county level to build their capacities, and to enable the implementation of inclusive and gender-sensitive programs that address county development priorities. Yetu empowers LDOs to bridge the needs of communities with county government, private sector and donors' interests.

Enhance county-level development through CLA and evidence-based decision making by conducting research studies that inform Yetu's strategy on community philanthropy.

Enhance sustainability of local CSOs through innovative community philanthropy and capacity development approaches including blended learning, peer learning (twinning), and bootcamps (in-person and virtual). Yetu has also built a collaborative space of actors that seek to create an enabling environment for local philanthropy in Kenya through research, policy advocacy and lobbying.

ACHIEVEMENTS

To date, Yetu has:

- Enabled 86 Kenyan CSOs launch local fundraising campaigns raising over KES 165 million (US\$1.65M) for local development.
- Improved the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of 236 organizations on local fundraising through blended learning.
- Established a growing community of practice of over 650 local CSOs and mobilized private sector contributions of expertise and resources.
- Developed and deployed an e-philanthropy platform - over 100 Kenyan CSOs have shared learnings on the platform and fundraised for local development courses.

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Kisii, Nairobi, Nakuru, Mombasa

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

The Aga Khan Foundation

KEY PARTNERS

- East Africa Philanthropy Network,
- Kenya Community Development Foundation,
- M-Changa

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