



Stakeholders from Makueni and Mbooni sub-counties in Makueni during a group discussion on the proposed formation of a Local Development Organization for Makueni County. This meeting was part of the Makueni Social Mobilization Exercise. Photo credit: Yetu

KENYA

YETU INITIATIVE

Yetu Initiative works with civil society organizations (CSOs) and local development organizations (LDOs) rooted in the communities they serve to advance the principles of self-reliance and locally sustained development. Yetu builds the capacity of these county-level organizations to engage and catalyze the citizen, government, and private sector for county-led development. LDOs leverage community assets, capacity, and trust for community philanthropy. Yetu (“Ours” in Kiswahili), is a Global Development Alliance activity, funded by USAID and the Aga Khan Foundation.

OUR WORK

Yetu Initiative fosters a stronger ecosystem for Kenyan CSOs and LDOs through capacity support to accelerate their journey to self-reliance with new approaches and tools. Yetu enables better community engagements, strengthen linkages and trust with like-minded Kenyan organizations, private sector, businesses, corporates, county governments, and individual citizens. Yetu accomplishes this through the following objectives:

SUPPORT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS AT THE COUNTY LEVEL

Yetu supports the formation of community-owned and community-driven LDOs in Isiolo, Kisii, Makueni, Mombasa and Nakuru counties. Yetu uses a participatory design-driven approach with stakeholders to ensure shared ownership, responsibility, decision making, and power in the formation and positioning of the LDOs. In addition, Yetu empowers these LDOs to bridge the needs of communities with interests of county governments, the private sector, and donors.

ENHANCE COUNTY-LEVEL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING

Yetu works with LDOs at the county level to establish feedback loops and collect community issues and concerns as well as to undertake action research. This enables community led, evidence-based priorities setting that speaks to the needs of the communities, addressed through a multi-stakeholder approach for collective impact.

ENHANCE SUSTAINABILITY OF LOCAL CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Yetu works to enhance CSO sustainability through community philanthropy. Yetu has implemented several innovative community philanthropy and capacity development approaches for sustainability including blended learning, peer learning (twinning), and bootcamps (in-person and virtual). Yetu is also building a collaborative space for actors that seek to create an enabling environment for local philanthropy in Kenya through research, policy engagement and lobbying.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Spearheaded the formation and strengthening of Local Development Organizations in five counties with aim of having legally registered entities by June 2021.
- Used participatory and gender-sensitive approaches working with stakeholders in the five counties to understand and adapt to local contexts. Yetu established LDO steering committees, engaged communities, county government, and private sector, and mobilized CSOs to join the LDOs. The participatory process included traditionally marginalized groups (women, youth, and people living with disabilities).
- Enabled over 109 Kenyan CSOs to launch local fundraising campaigns that succeeded in raising over KES 175 million (US\$1.75M) for local development. The 2020 CSOs cohort raised funds towards prevention, care and mitigating socio-economic effects of COVID-19.
- Established a growing community of practice of over 700 local CSOs, improved knowledge skills and attitude of over 260 CSOs through blended learning and mobilized private sector contributions of expertise and resources.
- Developed and deployed an e-philanthropy platform, on which over 146 Kenyan CSOs have communicated their work and promoted fundraising.

BUDGET: USAID\$ 5,506,528 and AKF \$5,509,601. Total budget is \$11,016,129

DURATION: 2014 - 2022

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Isiolo, Kisii, Makueni, Mombasa, Nairobi and Nakuru counties

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

The Aga Khan Foundation

KEY PARTNERS

- County Governments
- East African Philanthropy Network
- M-Changa
- Integrity Action
- Ushahidi

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