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VOICES FOR JUST CLIMATE ACTION

KENYA

Kenya, like many African countries, has been struggling with the severe impacts of climate change. Floods and droughts threaten natural resources, food security, health, the economy and social stability, especially in its arid and semi-arid regions. Indigenous peoples, women and girls, and marginalized groups – already amongst the most vulnerable in society – are hit hardest.

The Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) program in Kenya partnered with 10 local civil society organizations, from county to national level, and was implemented across the counties of Homabay, Kisumu, Marsabit, Isiolo, Kajiado, Mombasa, Lamu, Kwale, Kilifi, Tana River, Makueni and Nairobi.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Influenced four climate policies in Homabay, Kajiado, Kisumu and Marsabit
- ✓ Supported the development and the launch of the Marsabit County Climate Change Action Plan
- ✓ Developed local climate finance tracking tools for Marsabit, Homabay and Kisumu Counties. The tracking tools were simplified to ensure that local communities could use them. By December last year, all of them had been adopted by county governments and civil society working in these counties.
- ✓ Supported the establishment, capacity enhancement, networking, and linkages of 60 Ward Climate Change Planning Committees in five counties (these committees handle the implementation of World Bank climate funds)
- ✓ Prepared and supported six young people attending COP28 who have since been attached to the Africa Group of Negotiators Experts Support (AGNES) for mentorship into climate negotiations
- ✓ Established platforms for collective action in Kisumu (Kisumu City Climate Change Advocacy Platform) and Nairobi (Mukuru Kwa Njenga Climate Change Working Group)
- ✓ VCA was hosted over 20 times in mainstream radio stations at county and national level.

SUPPORTING LOCALLY-LED CLIMATE ACTION

VCA supported community-led restoration of ecologically degraded areas. One example is Homabay county, where our local partner GENLINK helped to restore the environment by establishing water catchment zones and helping local communities adopt agroforestry practices.

Through advocacy by our partner CUTS, GENLINK's progress gained national recognition and catalyzed further investment. CUTS also helped in realizing a Climate Action Plan for Homabay and mobilized the members of the Homabay County Assembly to discuss the contents of the draft Climate Change Bill to access local climate finance.

POLICY SUPPORT

The VCA program aimed to amplify the voices of local communities through capacity strengthening, movement building, and advocacy for inclusive and just climate policies. Our partners provided technical and advocacy support to ensure inclusive climate planning in Homabay, Kajiado, Marsabit, and Kisumu.

Kenya has a progressive policy framework, but meaningful implementation of these policies remains insufficient. Relevant government departments are underfunded, leading the sector to rely on external funding, which at times comes in the form of loans.

VCA safeguarded against political misuse of the Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLOCA) initiative, a framework funded by the World Bank to finance climate action at the lowest administrative levels. VCA trained communities to ensure those most affected by climate change benefit from the available policies and funds and hold their leaders accountable. FLLOCA is implemented through committees known as Ward Climate Change Planning Committees (WCCPCs). VCA helped build the WCCPCs' capacity, prepared communities to engage with these committees, and helped with proposal writing.

Four of these committees in Marsabit County received additional grants of Kshs 1.8m from donors to scale up their climate actions. In Nairobi, our local partner Youth and Urbanism was also funded by other partners with 11,542 euros to advance different climate actions in the Mathare slums.

ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES THROUGH ART

We believe art can provoke thought and spark imagination. Our partner Kenya Institute of Puppet Theater created awareness on climate change with their performances. They influenced the county of Nairobi to clean up the slums of Mukuru, where residential areas were filled with garbage that blocked the sewer infrastructure.

Our partner Youth and Urbanism used online radio to create awareness on climate change and disaster preparedness in Mathare's slums. VCA linked Youth and Urbanism with the Climate & Development Knowledge Network to realize the radio project.

BUILDING ON THIS PROGRESS

To **sustain and expand this impact**, VCA Kenya seeks flexible funding that enables local organizations and grassroots movements to lead transformative climate action. You can partner with us to sustain this movement beyond 2025.

Voices for Just Climate Action is a program implemented by Hivos, WWF North Africa, SouthSouthNorth, and Akina Mama wa Afrika in Bolivia, Brazil, Indonesia, Kenya, Paraguay, Tunisia, and Zambia.



About Hivos

Hivos has three strategic focus areas: **Climate Justice**; **Gender Equality Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI)**; and **Civic Rights in a Digital Age (CRDA)**. This expertise is complemented by that of our large network of civil society partners.

We are keen to **collaborate, co-create** and **scale up** impactful programs with our implementation and development partners. Please contact our Climate Justice Business Development Manager, **Gigi Wing-Davies**, at gwingdavies@hivos.org or +263 7787 68435.