



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Arid Lands
Information Network

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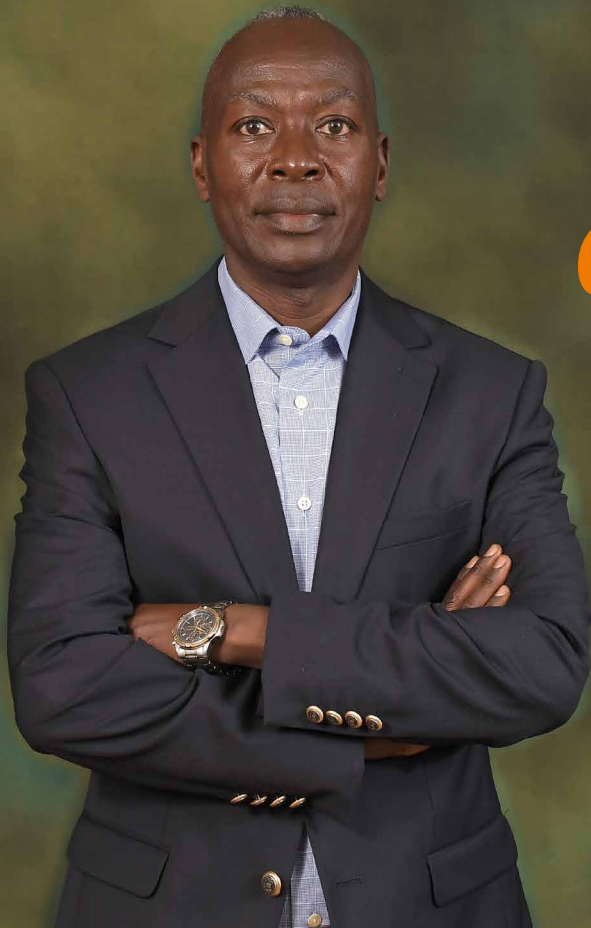
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“*We will continue to foster partnerships, innovate solutions, and advocate for policies that prioritise the well-being of our planet and its people.*”

James Nguo
Regional Director, ALIN

From the Regional Director

Climate change is one of the most urgent global challenges, increasingly impacting lives and threatening economic stability worldwide. ALIN has long been committed to building resilient communities, and through strategic partnerships, grassroots projects, and policy advocacy, we have made significant strides in addressing these challenges.

This past year, ALIN has supported civil society organisations and communities in Kajiado and Kilifi counties, ensuring climate-conscious budgeting during county budgeting processes. In Nakuru County, we have empowered underrepresented groups to lead in developing inclusive climate solutions, strengthening their role as creators, facilitators, and advocates.

Our efforts in building the capacity of Ward Climate Change Planning Committees have enabled the implementation of locally driven climate solutions, amplifying citizen voices and shaping public debate on low-carbon, climate-resilient futures.

Agriculture, closely tied to climate change, remains a focal point of our work. This year, we mobilised and trained three farmer groups in Kajiado County to install solar-powered drip irrigation systems and introduced climate-smart agricultural techniques.

These initiatives have directly benefited more than 360 households, improving food security and economic resilience in rural communities.

Recognising the importance of technology in an increasingly digital world, ALIN has launched several digital transformation initiatives. We introduced ALINET, a Community Network in Laikipia County, providing high-quality, affordable broadband services in line with Kenya's Digital Masterplan. Our digital literacy programmes have empowered women and youth with skills in digital mapping and market information access, creating new opportunities for growth.

My deepest gratitude goes to our board of management, staff, volunteers, donors, and partners who have been fully supportive and have made this journey possible. Your support and belief in our mission inspire us every day. As we look to the future, our commitment to sustainable development remains strong.

We will continue to foster partnerships, innovate solutions, and advocate for policies that prioritise the well-being of our planet and its people. Together, we are making a tangible difference, and I am deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed to this journey.

ALIN at a Glance

Mission

To improve the livelihoods of communities in East Africa through the delivery of knowledge and skills on sustainable agriculture, and adaptation to climate change using modern technologies.

Vision

To create a resilient and knowledge-driven society where communities have access to information and technologies to support rural development and livelihoods in East Africa.

The Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN) is a Kenyan-based NGO that supports communities in East Africa to achieve food security and manage the effects of climate by providing skills, information, and knowledge using Information and Communication Technologies. Over the years, ALIN has kept to its approach of being a locally rooted organisation by working with grassroots communities while connecting globally through partnerships that have enabled it win some of the most coveted awards.

ALIN started working through local groups that have metamorphosed to Access Points, *Maarifa* (knowledge) centres and now being migrated to Community Networks to support digital transformation in rural areas. Our approach is guided by the principle of involving local people to find solutions to their own problems and managing their destiny through gender-focused local management committees.

Our values

- Solution provider
- Trusted adviser and knowledge broker
- Co-creative mindset
- Creativity
- Integrity

Strategic Focus



1 Climate Resilience

We promote solutions that enhance long-term resilience of communities and enable them to thrive in the face of devastating climate shocks.



2 Agricultural Productivity

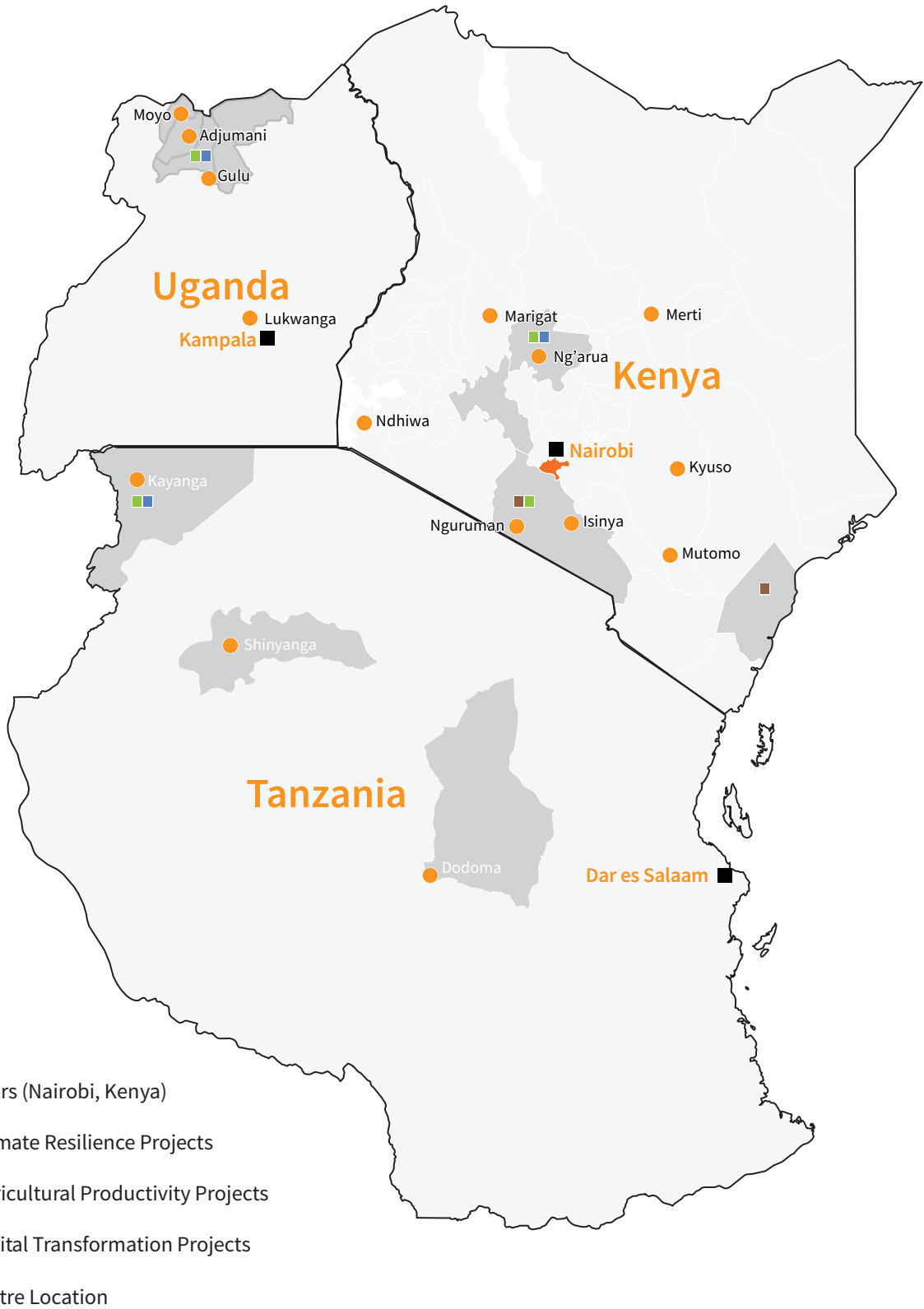
We support communities to achieve food security through new production technologies and access markets for their produce.



3 Digital Transformation

We enhance access to digital technologies to support innovation, business processes and civic participation.

Where we work





Climate Resilience



Farmers installing drip irrigation pipes on the demonstration farm at Ildamat, Kajiado County.

ALIN helping communities prepare for and respond to climate shocks

Climate change and increasing climate variability present a new set of challenges for agriculture in Eastern Africa. More often than ever, smallholder farmers are experiencing shorter rain seasons, increasing temperatures, less fertile soils, and new diseases which are crippling their harvest and by extension, threatening their livelihoods. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2021 predicts that global surface temperature will continue to increase until at least the mid-century under all emissions scenarios considered. Global warming of up to 2 degrees Celsius will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades. There is increased evidence of observed changes in extremes such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and tropical cyclones, and in particular, their attribution to human influence has strengthened since the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the IPCC.

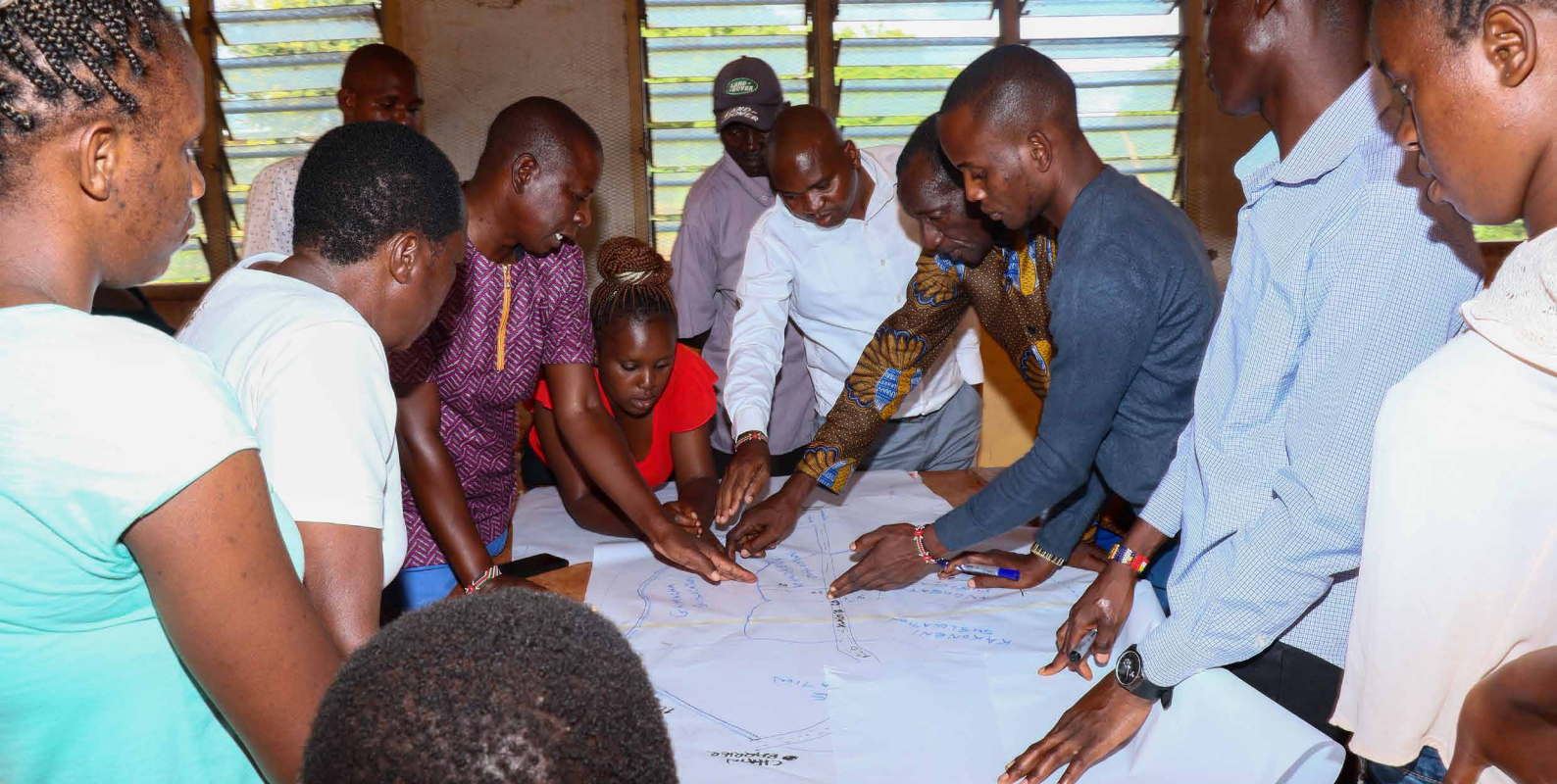
ALIN emphasises climate resilience to empower communities withstand and adapt to the increasing impacts of climate change, ensuring their long-term sustainability and well-being. By implementing climate resilience projects, ALIN helps communities to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to climate shocks, thereby reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing their capacity and that of their livelihoods.

ALIN achieves this through:

- Creation and dissemination of knowledge on climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Supporting community-based initiatives to build resilience and enhance disaster risk reduction
- Supporting grassroots renewable energy initiatives and access to clean technologies
- Promotion and commercialisation of climate-smart innovations
- Reducing the environmental impact of digital devices through waste-management schemes



Ward Climate Change Planning Committee members developing project proposals in Kilifi County.



Ward Climate Change Planning Committee members of Jilore Ward, Malindi Sub-County, identifying their vulnerabilities to climate change during a Participatory Climate Risk Assessment exercise.

Democracy, Just Societies, and Climate Justice project safeguards rights of the most vulnerable

According to the National Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LTLED), socio-economic losses associated with climate change in Kenya over the past decade amounted to between 3% and 5% of GDP per annum. Modelling estimates in the LTLED strategy suggest that Kenya's losses could rise to between 6.5% and 8.5% of GDP per annum between 2021-2050, losing up to USD 11 billion each year because of climate change. However, the modelling indicates that about one-third of this loss can be averted through adaptation action. A climate justice approach is therefore important to safeguard the rights of the most vulnerable and share the burdens and benefits of climate change and its resolution equitably and fairly.

ALIN partnered with the Democracy, Just Societies, and Climate Justice Programme of Oxfam IBIS to build a more sustainable, gender-transformative, and equitable socioeconomic model in Kenya by promoting climate justice and a green economy. It is advocated by women, youth, and civil society alliances in Kajiado and Kilifi counties. This project has contributed to two of the overall strategic priorities in the Danish Strategy for International Cooperation—Democratic Values and Human Rights, and Climate and Green Solutions.

Under the first priority, the project protects democracy and supports effective, democratic, and responsible states, including providing education while in the second, it strengthens civil society capacity to engage in advocacy efforts related to climate justice.

This project supports the implementation of the Oxfam IBIS Climate Change Strategy 2022-2025, which builds the capacity of networks and alliances of civil society organisations and movements to hold governments accountable for planning and funding policies, plans, and initiatives that promote a green and just transition. A key priority is to ensure access to clean, available, and affordable energy as an alternative to fossil fuels and firewood for heating and cooking, with a focus on ensuring access for vulnerable women.

ALIN, in collaboration with various partners through the Democracy, Just Societies, and Climate Justice in Kenya funded by Oxfam IBIS, made a significant impact in promoting climate action and resilience in Kenya.

Engagement of Young People in the Project

The project engaged 317 young people who made up to 60.15% of the total number of participants. This significant involvement of young people emphasises the importance of not only empowering the younger generation to actively participate in societal issues, but also amplifies their voices and taps into their innovative ideas and energy to drive meaningful change. Young people bring fresh perspectives to the table, helping to build more inclusive and just societies while addressing pressing climate challenges. Their active participation was crucial in achieving the outcomes of this project.

Participatory Climate Risk Assessment (PCRA)

ALIN, in partnership with the Kilifi County Government, facilitated communities at the ward level to conduct PCRA. These assessments involved community members identifying vulnerabilities and designing resilience plans, which are essential for accessing the County Climate Resilience Investment (CCRI) grant and any other climate change fund. The PCRA was conducted across all the 35 wards in Kilifi County with the aim to provide an analysis of the vulnerabilities and capacities of a community that integrates their knowledge and opinions to design a plan to improve their resilience.

Development of County Climate Action Plans

ALIN played a crucial role in developing the Kilifi County Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2027. This five-year plan identifies specific investments at the county and ward levels to build climate resilience. ALIN supported data cleaning and analysis and facilitated the integration of 35 Ward Climate Change Action Plans into the comprehensive county action plan.

Policy Advocacy and Amendments

ALIN supported Civil Society organisations in Kilifi County to draft recommendations for the amendment of the Kilifi County Climate Change Act. This advocacy led to an increase in the Climate Change Fund, rising from 0.5% to 3% of the annual County Development Budget. This amendment not only demonstrates a high priority for climate change issues in budgetary allocations but also ensures sustainable funding for climate initiatives.

Building Resilient Communities

ALIN organised several workshops to build the capacity of local stakeholders. The Kilifi County CSO Workshop on Climate Change, Right to Education, and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) brought together 56 participants (34 male and 22 female) and comprised 11 youths between ages 18-24 and 33 others between 25-35 years. The participants were drawn from CSOs working in Climate Change, education, and human rights, as well as representative from the Kilifi County Government, academia, and media.

The intended outcome of this workshop was to empower CSOs in Kilifi County with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively monitor climate change impacts, advocate for the right to education, and engage in UPR reporting. This was achieved through engaging topics. The meeting also provided a valuable opportunity for the CSOs to network and collaborate. This will enable them to collectively advocate for Climate Justice and the right to education.

ALIN also held a multi-stakeholder Climate Action forum with the Kilifi County Government's Department of Water, Environment, Forestry, Natural Resources, and Solid Waste Management at Silver Palm Spa and Resort. This activity aimed to bring together different stakeholders to improve the Participatory Climate Risk Assessment (PCRA) and County Climate Action Plan (CCAP) reports. The PCRA is an analysis of the vulnerabilities and capacities of a community that integrates their knowledge and opinions with the aim of designing a plan to improve their resilience. It uses participatory as well as secondary research to gain a locally specific understanding of vulnerability to climate change and existing resilience capacities.

The stakeholders included representatives from the national and county governments, PCRA Technical Committee members, PCRA trainers, Ward Climate Change Planning Committee (WCCPC) representatives, Civil Society Organisations, Persons With Disability, women and youth representatives, and the local media.

The Ward Climate Change Planning Committees (WCCPC) training and proposal development was held in Malindi Sub-County. It aimed to build the capacity of the WCCPCs on the development of Climate Change proposals for them to benefit from the County Climate Change Fund and Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA).



Mama Witness Tsumo contributing to the drafting of the Kilifi Climate Change Act, in Kilifi County.

The Ward Climate Change Planning Committees Capacity building and proposal development was held in Rabai Sub-County. The workshop brought together 48 WCCC members drawn from four wards. The participants comprised 27 male and 21 female. Of these, five were youths between ages 18-24 while 13 were between 25-35 years. The Malindi Sub-County WCCPC Proposal Development Workshop brought together 43 WCCPC members (21 male and 22 female) drawn from five wards. These included three youths between 18-24 years and 20 between 25-35. Among the participants were five persons with disability. The Kilifi County WCCPC comprises ward administrators, environment officers, community-based organisation representatives, youth, women, persons with disability, and special interest groups.

ALIN, in partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Lodwar, trained 33 journalists from Turkana County on matters climate change, climate justice, education, and economic justice. Following the workshop, the journalists now have a better understanding of the various topics covered and are able to report on these more effectively.

In Kajiado County, according to the Climate Change Act, 2020, one of the roles of the WCCPCs is to develop funding proposals. However, most of the WCCPCs lack this capacity. Consequently, ALIN partnered with the Kajiado County Government Department of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change and held a proposal development workshop to equip the 20 WCCPCs in Kajiado North and Kajiado East with the know-how to develop proposals that would be funded through the County Climate Change Fund Mechanism, including FLLoCA.

Following this critical intervention, 20 proposals are now ready for funding in the 2024-2025 financial year.

The Kajiado North Sub-County WCCCs proposal development workshop brought together 51 Ward Climate Change Council (WCCC) members (28 male and 23 female) drawn from five wards, among them 29 young people. Four of the participants were people with disabilities. The Kajiado East Sub-County WCCC proposal development workshop brought together 49 members (28 male and 21 female) from Kitengela, Kenyawa-Poka, Imaroro, Kaputei North, and Oloosirkon Sholinke wards.

DANIDA also organised an exchange and networking session between Oxfam, ALIN, and the Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) to share experiences and strategies on tracking climate finance and engaging in decision-making processes. ALIN hosted representatives of DANIDA at the Kajiado County Government's Water and Environment departmental offices. The session focused on understanding the local context, discussing project successes, and exploring opportunities for collaboration. The County Executive Member emphasised the need for enhanced support for Ward Climate Change Planning Committees. ALIN and Oxfam IBIS agreed to support the committees by building their capacity.


ALIN in partnership with DANIDA and 21 CSOs from Kajiado County held a session to share insights on what has worked well and areas for improvement in the Democracy, Just Societies, and Climate Justice project. The session also discussed potential programming areas to further enhance the project's impact.



Climate Change Planning Committee members of Ganda Ward, Kilifi County, assess their vulnerability to climate change using the vulnerability matrix tool.

Achievements and Impact


Capacity Building



10
Proposal Committees

Development of Proposals
Ten Ward Climate Change Planning Committees in Kilifi County and another 10 Ward Climate Change Councils in Kajiado County developed climate change proposals.


There are now 20 proposals ready to access funding through FLLoCA.



Participatory Climate Risk Assessment
Communities in Kilifi and Kajiado counties learned to use PCRA tools.

This has enabled them to identify climate hazards and propose practical solutions.

Policy and Planning



Amendment of the Kilifi County Climate Change Act, 2021.

This has increased funding for climate initiatives, ensuring sustained support for climate resilience projects.

The Kilifi County Government developed the Kilifi County Climate Change Policy.

This was in partnership with WWF Kenya, Nature Kenya, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), World Vision, International Law Development Organisation (IDLO), Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN), Centre of Study of Adolescence (CSA), Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO), and Kilifi Platform for Climate Governance (KPCG).

Participation and representation of minorities and the marginalised

Throughout the project, special efforts were made to ensure the active participation and representation of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in all activities. Women and PWDs bring unique perspectives and experiences that are invaluable in identifying vulnerabilities and developing effective solutions.



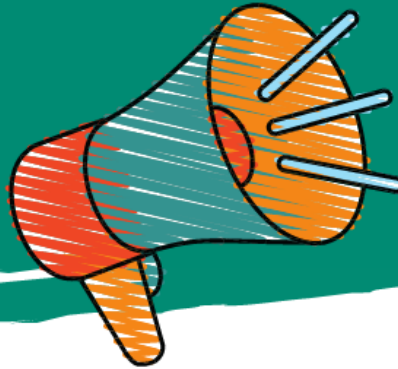
ALIN's commitment to inclusivity ensures that climate actions are equitable and address the needs of all community members, fostering a more resilient and just society.

Media Engagement



There was extensive media coverage to raise awareness and educate the public on climate change issues.

- “Watu Wengi Bado Hawana Ufahamu wa Kutosha Kuhusu Mabadiliko ya Tabia Nchi” ([Article](#))
- “Wakaazi Kilifi Wamekosa Ufahamu Kuhusu Mabadiliko ya Tabia Nchi” ([Article](#))
- Media interview during DANIDA field visit ([Interview](#))
- Kilifi County PCRA and County Climate Change Action Plan Multi-Stakeholder Workshop interviews ([Radio Kaya Interview](#))
- Interview on afforestation and drought in Kilifi County ([Interview](#))



Voices For Just Climate Action (VCA)

The VCA is a lobby and advocacy programme being implemented by the World Wide Fund for Nature Netherlands (WWF-NI), SouthSouthNorth (SSN), Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA), Slum Dwellers International (SDI), Fundación Avina, and Hivos under the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs' five-year strategic partnership, 'Power of Voices'. The programme aims to ensure that by 2025, local civil society and underrepresented groups will have taken on a central role as creators, facilitators, and advocates of innovative and inclusive climate solutions. Their inclusion is crucial for effective and lasting climate responses.

Under this programme, ALIN with support from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF Kenya), partnered with the Nakuru County Government, SDI, Sustainable Energy Access Forum Kenya (SEAF Kenya), Kenya Climate Change Working Group (KCCWG), ADA Consortium, and NACOFA to build the capacity of the Ward Climate Change Planning Committees (WCCPCs).

The WCCPCs are an important avenue for implementing locally-led climate actions as they coordinate and mobilise communities and other stakeholders to design and implement climate change response activities. The committees enable communities to engage effectively in climate action because in most cases, they have few avenues to prioritise their climate action. This contributes to VCA's outcome on citizens' amplified voices shaping public debate on the just transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient future.

The Nakuru County Government's Department of Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Natural Resources, VCA Alliance members and partners including ALIN and other Civil Society organisations, also supported the Participatory Climate Change Risk Assessment

(PCRA) process in Nakuru County. PCRA is an approach that enables communities to identify the climate change hazards, their impacts, and propose practical solutions for evidence-based county Climate Change Action Planning and implementation. PCRA informs sector-specific strategies to strengthen the community's resilience against the identified climate hazards.

Project Highlights and Impact

- Development of Nakuru County Participatory Climate Risk Assessment (PCRA) and Nakuru County Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2027
- Training of 605 Ward Climate Change Planning Committees (319 male and 286 female) on climate action
- Increased allocation to County Climate Change Fund by 2% (from 50 million to 55 million). This after building the capacity of 37 Members of County Assembly and County Executives (22 male and 17 female) on climate action
- Eighteen proposals developed by respective Ward Climate Change Planning Committees. These are now awaiting funding
- Development of 11 Nakuru County Departments Action Plans after training of 40 Chief officers and climate change champions
- Sensitisation of the Garissa County Executive. The result was that the county government endorsed the County Climate Change Bill, 2023 and the County Climate Change Fund Regulations
- Four newspaper articles published, five others captured on MESHA publication, and more than 100,000 social media impressions



Communications training for climate champions in Siaya County, Kenya.

Broadcasting local climate solutions to amplify their impact, build capacity of change champions

In 2023, ALIN supported knowledge management, brokering communications and capacity development of the Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) Programme through support from SouthSouthNorth (SSN) Projects, (Africa). ALIN has been steadfastly laying the foundation for a platform from where the VCA Kenya partners could speak with one voice. To do this, they had to build a team from the partners and provide them with a strategy to achieve their goal.

An important milestone in this mission is when ALIN with SSN and Pan African Media Alliance for Climate Change (PAMACC) brought together the five VCA Alliance members (Hivos, SDI, WWF Kenya, AMwA and SSN) and the more than 23 partners in Kenya for a communications training in August 2023. It was the first time that all the communications contact persons within VCA Kenya met to share information and see how to collaborate around communications.

The key outcome of the training was the formation of the VCA Kenya Communications Coordinating Committee. This committee is key in planning, coordinating, and ensuring the successful implementation of communication activities of the VCA Programme. In addition, they provide a forum for information exchange and experience related to communication issues relevant to VCA Kenya partners.

The training was followed by another for 60 VCA Kenya Partners and champions working in Homa Bay, Kisumu,

and Siaya counties. It provided an opportunity for two VCA Alliance members (SSN and SDI) and seven VCA Partners (ALIN, PAMACC, Suswatch, CUTS, Women Empowerment Link, Siaya Muungano Network, and Muungano wa Wanavijiji) to collaborate in building the capacity of community climate change champions. The Siaya communications training emphasised locally shaped climate solutions as well as building the capacity of community climate change champions on communication. This is to, among others, enhance their capacity to document and disseminate information on locally shaped climate solutions.

In Kenya, the more than 24 VCA local partners carry out interventions in the counties of Nairobi, Kwale, Nakuru, Narok, Samburu, Marsabit, Kilifi, and Mombasa. Other counties include Isiolo, Garissa, Homa Bay, Kisumu, Siaya and Turkana. Among them are a diversity of civil society and grassroots organisations led by youths, women, and indigenous groups. Each local partner, again, collaborates with their respective local partners.

As a result, in Kenya the VCA has been working with more than 560 climate action groups with a total membership of well over 10,000 people. These groups are primarily engaged in climate actions, including river and forest rehabilitation, waste management and recycling, eco-schools, urban farming, and arts. ALIN is collaborating as a Knowledge Advocacy Partner.

jotoafrika

Adapting to climate change in Africa

November Issue 26, 2023

Joto Afrika Publications

In 2023, ALIN published the Joto Afrika issue 25. The publication looked at, among others, one of the options for addressing climate change through the buying and selling of carbon. The issue delved into a sample of carbon initiatives across various sectors, including forestry, through efforts to reduce deforestation, forest degradation, conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks (REDD+). Others were climate-smart agriculture to enhance soil carbon and increase crop yields, sustainable energy use, and alternative livelihood support systems. The issue further contained opinion pieces covering the Africa Climate Summit and innovative climate financing through green bonds.

ALIN also developed the Joto Afrika issue 26 which called for a reinvigorated commitment to international collaboration. It advocated for increased cooperation by emphasising the need for nations to move beyond self-interest and embrace a shared responsibility for the well-being of the Earth and its inhabitants. The publication challenged governments, businesses, and individuals to reassess their contributions to combating climate change. It was a rallying call for ambition, accountability, and a collective determination to navigate the road to COP 28 with purpose and urgency.

September Issue 25, 2023

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ABOUT JOTO AFRIKA

Joto Afrika is a series of printed briefings and online resources about adapting to climate change in sub-Saharan Africa. The series will help people understand the issues, constraints, and opportunities that poor people face in adapting to climate change and escaping poverty. Joto Afrika is Swahili. It can be loosely translated to mean 'Africa is feeling the heat'. Future issues will focus on climate change and pastoralism and climate change and energy. Please tell us what you think about this 25th issue of Joto Afrika and what you would like to read in future issues.

[*https://www.un.org/en/about-us/nobels](https://www.un.org/en/about-us/nobels)
*https://bit.ly/3o3a2uk

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Youth engagement during the pre-Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) in Kajiado County.

Success Story

Youths raise their voices to shape climate policies

Through various global youth movements, young people are raising their voices to advocate for access to decision-making spaces and for mechanisms to enable them to contribute to the design, implementation, and review of climate policies and programmes at all levels. It is imperative for all stakeholders to recognise the ideas, solutions, and expertise young people bring to the table, so their engagement benefits the process and represents a meaningful and worthwhile experience.

Young people have been the link between climate change and grassroots impact, yet they are faced with limited information, resource access, age-based discrimination, and token inclusion. This, however, has not deterred them from participating in negotiations and collaborations. For the first time, the Children and Youth Pavilion at COP 27 was a safe space for young people to engage, learn, and network.

In addition, the development of inclusivity of youth voices through the Youth Envoy at the Conference of Parties (COP) and the development of the Youth Advisory Group to the UN Secretary-General has also provided a platform for youth participation in global climate policy processes. The most notable is the partnerships and engagement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by the official youth constituency of the UNFCCC, YOUNGO.

YOUNGO has provided climate platforms for young people to learn and understand the climate change policy processes and effectively input into these, including localisation through the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY).

LCOY is a platform to boost youth climate action locally and create input into international conferences. It represents a national version of the International Conference of Youth (COY), which takes place immediately before the COP, the annual UN Climate Change Conference. The main theme of the 2023 LCOY in Kenya was 'Building the Gap between Policy and Practice'.

This aimed at leveraging on policy priorities from grassroots youth making climate impacts within their community. LCOY had five thematic areas. These were loss and damage, adaptation and climate resilience, climate finance, climate-smart agriculture, and just energy transition. The process included pre-conference engagement and developing the main conference agenda. It leveraged dialogues and digital advocacy through social media platforms like X (Twitter), webinars, and hybrid conferencing. The focus was on providing a knowledge-sharing platform while understanding youth priorities for COP 28 and beyond.





COP 28 Kenyan Youth Statement developed during the LCOY 2023 highlighted the following:

- Provide substantial investments in climate-resilient infrastructure projects, focusing on vulnerable areas by reinforcing coastal defences, upgrading drainage systems, and constructing resilient buildings and roads vital in protecting communities from the escalating threats of extreme weather events.
- Promote the integration of comprehensive climate education programmes in schools and communities by emphasising sustainable practices and climate change adaptation and mitigation, and enhancing awareness and preparedness to empower communities to face climate-related challenges.
- Initiate transparent and accountable green investment policies. Clear guidelines on climate finance allocation are imperative, ensuring funds are directed to sustainable, youth-led projects.
- Establish dedicated funds specifically for climate innovation projects led by young entrepreneurs and innovators. These funds should support research, development, and implementation of innovative climate solutions, including building incubation hubs for these innovations.
- Integrate gender-responsive strategies within climate policies. This includes ensuring equal participation and representation of women and gender minorities in the COP decision-making processes. Specific provisions should be developed to address the unique challenges faced by women, such as access to resources, cultural limitations, and discrimination.
- Safeguard the rights and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities by recognising their role as custodians of biodiversity and natural resources, and protecting their heritage and livelihoods.
- Develop inclusive just transition policies. Invest in retraining programmes, green job creation, and community-led renewable energy projects adaptable to various country scenarios. Additionally, ensure social justice and equity in the transition process, especially for communities that are part of the transition.
- The government and other state agencies should draft/develop proper guidelines and frameworks that will ensure youth farmers have access to arable lands while also investing in localised research centres and institutions that will increase knowledge based on indigenous food systems and modern-based approaches to agriculture.



Agricultural Productivity



Olkiloriti Women Group from Ildamat Kajiado County sorting onions harvested from the farm for the market

ALIN supporting sustainable agricultural practices and technology to achieve food security, resilience

The majority of East Africa's population resides in rural areas and depends on subsistence agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods. Failure to adopt modern agricultural practices and technology has resulted in low productivity, slow economic growth, and stagnant rural development. Limited access to Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) infrastructure has also restricted the modernisation of agriculture as well as the harnessing of communications systems that facilitate information exchange and innovation.

The region's agriculture sector is over 90% rain-fed and therefore highly vulnerable to climate change. Changing weather patterns are increasing new diseases that are crippling crop production and reducing the total quantity of goods which can be sold in the market. To achieve food security, smallholder farmers need to increase not only their productivity, but also their resilience to increased threats of climate change. Timely information and knowledge on innovative agriculture practices, adaptation, and mitigation can help farmers to be more resilient. Based on this, ALIN aims to support sustainable agriculture production techniques and environmental justice through research, practices and knowledge of innovative agriculture techniques, climate change adaptation, and mitigation.

ALIN supports communities to achieve food security through new production technologies and access markets for their produce through:

- Deployment of smarter and faster technologies tailored to farmers' needs
- Creation and dissemination of knowledge on innovative agriculture practices
- Provision of digital advisory and precision agriculture
- Support farmers' access to finance and markets
- Promotion and commercialisation of innovations that address gaps in agriculture production



Members of Olkiloriti Women Group in Kajiado County harvesting onions from the demonstration farm.



Women sorting onions on the demonstration farm.

Success Story

Kajiado farmers practice climate-smart agriculture by tapping the sun to power drip irrigation systems

Kenya's agriculture sector relies heavily on rain but with the changing weather patterns, most farmers have had to switch to irrigation. Unfortunately, they are depending primarily on furrow or basin irrigation that does not provide efficient water use.

Kajiado, with a history of devastating droughts since the 1900s, is one of the counties that is highly vulnerable to climate change. While climate hazards are common in the county, these are becoming more frequent. But the irrigation system used by farmers is mostly inefficient and causes high emissions due to the use of diesel generators. Switching to solar-powered irrigation systems therefore will not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but will simultaneously increase farmers' income, food production, and resilience.

The International Climate Initiative (IKI) Small Grants project aims to promote the adoption of climate-smart, solar-powered irrigation systems in the county to improve food security and community resilience to the impacts of climate change. It further advocates for the adoption of solar water pumps on a wider scale. Training on the maintenance and reparation of water pumps for small-scale farmers is accompanying the project activities.

The project directly benefits 360 households of smallholder farmers organised in three farmer groups in Kajiado West, Kajiado East, and Kajiado North sub-counties.

Furthermore, 30 non-state actors working on climate change and biodiversity-related issues are integrated into the project's activities.

Approach and Activities

The IKI Small Grants project has trained farmers to practice climate-smart agriculture. It mobilises three farmer groups, each growing nutritious food on one hectare of land. These groups are trained to install and manage solar-powered water pumps and drip irrigation systems. The project also trains farmers in the use of appropriate and innovative technologies for climate-smart agriculture. These include drip irrigation, improving soil fertility, integrated pest and disease management, the introduction of drought-tolerant crops, and the use of agroforestry. ALIN organised workshops to further build farmers' capacity for efficient water use and sustainable water resource management. Nine field days are facilitated to improve the knowledge transfer on climate-friendly, solar-powered irrigation systems among farmers.

To promote the adoption of climate-smart agriculture in Kajiado County, the organisation holds 13 monthly talk shows and radio features on community radio. It further advocates for an increased budgetary allocation from the Kajiado County Government for climate-smart agriculture. To further enhance the capacity of non-state actors to advocate and promote climate change and biodiversity issues, the project includes 14 monthly learning and consultative forums of the Kajiado County Government and non-state actors.

Project Highlights and Impacts

- 384 farmers of which 233 are women trained on climate-smart agriculture
- 150 People with Disability trained on climate-smart agriculture
- Capacity of 38 journalists built on agriculture and climate change
- The Kajiado Climate Smart Agriculture Multi-Stakeholder Platform strengthened
- Some 100 farmers and one school adopted solar-powered drip irrigation
- Another 119 farmers (98 women) trained in group dynamics, gender mainstreaming, and agri-business
- Two advocacy meetings carried out on the Kajiado County Climate Change Fund and County Water Policy
- Fifteen non-state actors learning and consultative forums held

Capacity Development

- IKI Small Grants supported ALIN in their organisational capacity development through:
- Training in resource mobilisation (county, national, and international funding options)
- Training in monitoring and evaluation
- Introduced a results-oriented performance management system



Members of Kokosho Women Group installing drip irrigation pipes at the demonstration farm in Kitengela, Kajiado County.



Farmers harvesting watermelon from the demonstration farm.



Farmers being trained on how to connect drips at the demonstration farm.

Success Story

Erick's story shows it is possible to thrive in the face of environmental challenges

When a prolonged drought hit Kenya in 2022, Erick's family in Kajiado County faced unprecedented challenges. Coming from a pastoralist community, Erick's livelihood relied on livestock keeping. With the severe drought taking a toll on the region, he lost most of his livestock, compelling him to sell the remaining animals at a drastically reduced price of KES500, which is 95% less the market value. This not only affected his livelihood, but also took a toll on his mental well-being, as the Maasai community deeply values their livestock.

"There was a prolonged drought such as we had not witnessed in decades. It killed most of my livestock. I had to sell the surviving animals at the market for 500 shillings," said a disheartened Erick.

But that was not the end to Erick's story, which unfolds with an unwavering determination to overcome the devastating effects of drought. Witnessing the hardships faced by his community and the profound impact on their lives and livelihoods, he seized the opportunity to instigate change. Through his involvement in the 'Powered by the Sun-Climate Smart Irrigation System' project implemented by ALIN, Erick acquired crucial knowledge and skills in climate-smart agriculture.

Erick's journey serves as a testament to resilience that brought about a transformation in his community through the implementation of climate-smart agriculture. Kajiado is a predominantly semi-arid county with a climate change vulnerability index of 0.426. The county has a history of devastating droughts since the 1900s which has increased over time. As much as they are a pastoralist community, 97,565 households practice farming in some 824,874 hectares. Subsistence farming consists of 689,557 hectares while 82,923 hectares are used for commercial farming. ALIN identified three women groups in the county and built their capacity through a series of training on how to practice sustainable agriculture using farm demonstrations with minimal water.

Through this training, Erick resolutely applied these innovative techniques, achieving remarkable success. Accompanying his mother, who is a member of the Naanyu Dupoto Women's Group, one of the groups that underwent the training, he acquired the skills and knowledge that enabled him to start practising agriculture.

Erick took a loan to purchase irrigation equipment and set up a two-hectare agricultural farm in Makueni County. He applied the knowledge he had acquired to grow onions,

cabbages and okra. The profit he got from the crop yields has enabled him to repay the loan and create employment for other youths in his community.

“I repaid the loan I took to purchase drips for my farm. I have also employed some youth who have completed high school but are yet to join college,”
says Erick Koinet.

His journey embodies hope for communities grappling with the harsh realities of climate change. Through his pioneering efforts, Erick has demonstrated that it is not only possible to survive, but to actually thrive in the face of environmental challenges. His example has inspired fellow farmers and ignited a movement among the youth in the community, encouraging them to adopt climate-smart agriculture. This movement holds the potential to revolutionise the agricultural landscape of the entire region.

The transformative power of knowledge, innovation, and determination is vividly evident in Erick’s remarkable success. His story serves as a poignant reminder of the potential inherent in sustainable farming practices, offering a road-map for resilience in the wake of climate change. Erick’s triumph stands as a testament to the potential of climate-smart agriculture to pave the way for a more resilient and sustainable future for farming communities across East Africa.

“ There was a prolonged drought such as we had not witnessed in decades. It killed most of my livestock. I had to sell the surviving animals at the market for 500 shillings.”

Erick Koinet, Kajiado County, August 13, 2023

Approach and Activities

Through ALIN, the IKI Small Grants project has trained farmers to practice climate-smart agriculture. It enabled mobilisation of three farmer groups, each growing nutritious food on one hectare of land. These groups have been trained to install and manage solar-powered water pumps and drip irrigation systems. The project also trains farmers in the use of appropriate and innovative technologies for climate-smart agriculture. These include drip irrigation, improving soil fertility, integrated pest and disease management, the introduction of drought-tolerant crops, and the use of agroforestry.

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Farmers in capacity building and farmer-exchange training to learn the best sustainable organic agricultural practices, in Kitengela, Kajiado County.



Digital Transformation



Maarifa centres are driving digital innovations

ALIN has been working to provide usable information, knowledge, and skills in agriculture and climate change adaptation to improve the livelihoods of rural arid lands communities in East Africa. It has used new technologies as the drivers of this process. One of the key milestones is the development of award-winning Maarifa (knowledge) centres in rural areas.

Maarifa centres have been ALIN's primary means of sharing knowledge and facilitating information exchange in rural communities. These centres are rural facilities that provide digital systems and tools to support socio-economic activities targeting farmers, agro-pastoralists, women, and the youth, both individually and collectively, to empower them and transform their lives. The centres have evolved from traditional social networks to digital villages spread across East Africa. They are currently Community Networks.

ALIN works to enhance access to digital technologies to support innovation, business processes, and civic participation through:

- Supporting the development of ICT nodes and Community Networks
- Identifying, piloting, and scaling up digital innovations
- Enhancing knowledge and skills through networks and capacity building
- Supporting knowledge creation and dissemination
- Supporting deployment of edTech, civic tech, FinTech, and AgriTech solutions
- Supporting rural innovation and start-upA



A technician assembling a communications tower mast on top of a hill near Sipili Town, Laikipia County - Kenya.



Rural technicians assembling communication towers to bridge the digital divide in Sipili town, Laikipia County

Success Stories

ALINET closes digital divide, offers Internet connectivity to various users in Sipili

As technological advancements rapidly increase, the digital divide is widening leaving the most remote areas in obscurity. In line with the Kenyan Government Digital Masterplan (2022-2032), the government in collaboration with other sector players planned to establish 25,000 public Internet hotspots to close the digital gap and democratise access to Internet connectivity. To contribute to this vision, ALIN in collaboration with AHERI Basic Internet rolled out a Community Network dubbed ALINET in Sipili, Laikipia County. The Association for Progressive Communication's LockNet project supported the feasibility study and initial infrastructure of this network.

ALINET aims to provide high-quality, safe and affordable broadband services in Sipili and its environs. The Community Network, using licensed spectrum frequencies, has connected vital community centres, including the Ng'arua Maarifa (knowledge) centre, the local administration headquarters, a health facility, and small business enterprises.

The local administrator in charge of Sipili Location, Chief Jane Njoki, successfully utilises the ALINET community network to electronically maintain essential documents and facilitate online government services.

The project implementation started with an interactive community meeting involving representatives drawn from different community groups and villages around Sipili. This was essential as this grassroots effort is sustained by locals who actively participate in the maintenance and monitoring of the network, ensuring its relevance and reliability. ALINET has since set up antennas, servers, and Wi-Fi infrastructure and connected various hotspots.

"ALIN has structured the ownership of ALINET to rest with community members, encouraging them to be responsible for its infrastructure and management while optimising its meaningful utilisation,"

Mr. Simon Munyeki, ALIN's Field Officer in Sipili while emphasising the community-centric approach.

From online communication for bodaboda (motorbike) riders to facilitating virtual meetings and e-learning, the network has become an essential tool for daily activities in Sipili.

Mrs. Susan Kigano, a local business owner, says the network has enabled her to handle financial transactions seamlessly, demonstrating its practical impact on economic activities.

But despite the advantages of digital communication technologies, they have also played a role in activities detrimental to communities. The telecom and Internet industry, driven by profit motives, often prioritises speed and scale, contributing to a significant digital gap. The resulting digital divide leaves half of the world's population unconnected.

In the face of these challenges, Community Networks like ALINET spark hope, demonstrating that technology can empower rather than exploit. By focusing on local needs and fostering community engagement, ALINET is creating a more just and sustainable world. The story of Sipili serves as an inspiration, reminding us that true progress is measured not only in technological advancements, but also in the positive impact on the lives of the marginalised.

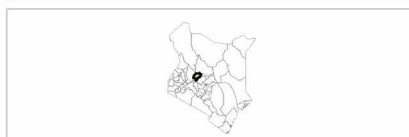
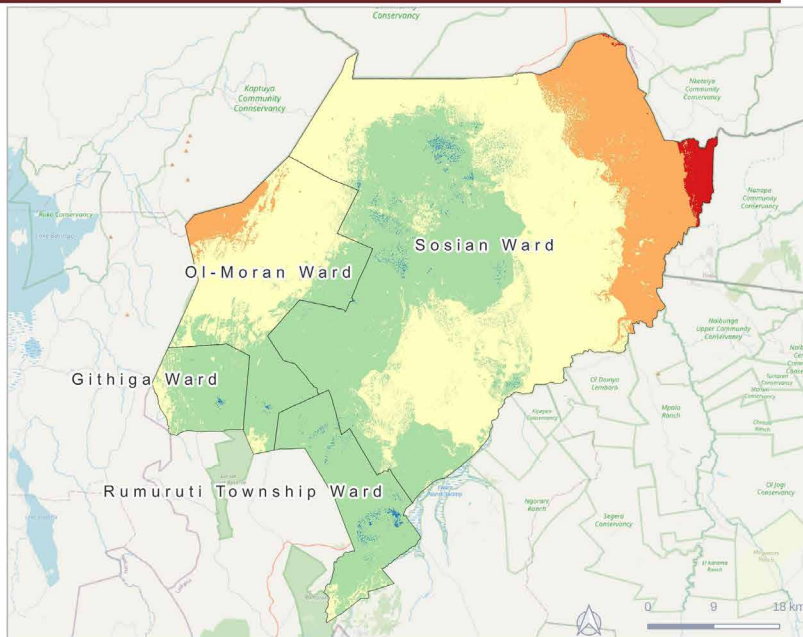
This map identifies the optimal locations for community network masts in Sipili, Laikipia County, to enhance digital connectivity, support local development, and empower the community through improved access to information and resources.

The suitability layers for these masts are based on key factors such as topography, population density, and proximity to essential services.

These factors were carefully weighted using the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) and combined through a weighted overlay analysis to ensure the potential for robust and reliable coverage. This rigorous suitability analysis aims to maximize the impact of the network, bringing long-term benefits to the region.

Following the analysis, the table provides a comprehensive overview of the area's suitability for the network masks..

Class	Area in sq_km	Area_percentage
Not suitable	36.27	1.15
Less suitable	446.83	14.11
Moderate	1499.17	47.34
Suitable	1173.8	37.07



LEGEND

- Not Suitable
- Less suitable
- Moderate
- Suitable
- Very Suitable

Date Created: 21/08/2024

Data source
viewshed derived from ALOS palsar DEM
land cover derived from ESA world cover 10m
POIs, buildings and roads - OpenStreetMap and field survey
OpenStreetMap is open data compiled from community contributions, and is available under the Open Database License (ODbL)

ALIN supports community to digitise its resources through OpenStreetMap

Sipili is a lively town located in Olmoran Ward and surrounded by the stunning landscape of Laikipia County. This tight-knit rural community is undertaking a transformative project of mapping their community. The development of OpenStreetMap involves the active participation of the community in the mapping process, which is a crucial element that enables a comprehensive understanding of the town’s needs, topology, demographics, and the location of significant resources.

The OpenStreetMap (OSM) is a free, open geographic database, updated and maintained by a community of volunteers through open cooperation.

ALIN pioneered a community integrated mapping initiative in Rumuruti, Githiga, Olmoran, and Sosian wards in Laikipia County. Through ‘Beyond the Map’ grant from Humanitarian Open Street Map, ALIN started developing an OpenStreetMap for Sipili, focusing on using GIS and open mapping tools to conduct suitability analysis for the optimal placement of masts for the then proposed Community Network, ALINET.

Hybrid trainings for local youths on open street mapping were conducted. The resulting open street map will enhance the community’s spatial awareness as well as serve as a valuable resource for future development initiatives.

“I never knew how to generate a map leave alone an open street map, but now I can map and gather accurate data for my community,”
Mr. Francis Mburu, one of the young mappers from Sipili.

OpenStreetMap plays a crucial role in democratising map data, empowering the community, supporting humanitarian efforts, fostering innovation, and serving as a valuable resource for various sectors in the world of digital mapping.

The open and collaborative nature of Beyond the Map project highlights community collaboration, demonstrating how technology can empower communities and bridge the digital divide. In addition to providing free and open access to map data, OpenStreetMap also supports humanitarian efforts

by providing maps of disaster areas that are often not well-mapped by traditional mapping companies. OpenStreetMap further promotes innovation by providing a platform for developers to create new and innovative applications using map data.

During the mapping sessions, community members received training on how to use the mapping tools, fostering an environment where they interacted with the mapping software. Beyond the mere exploration of technology, these sessions have evolved into platforms for community members to share their insights and knowledge about the geography of Sipili community.

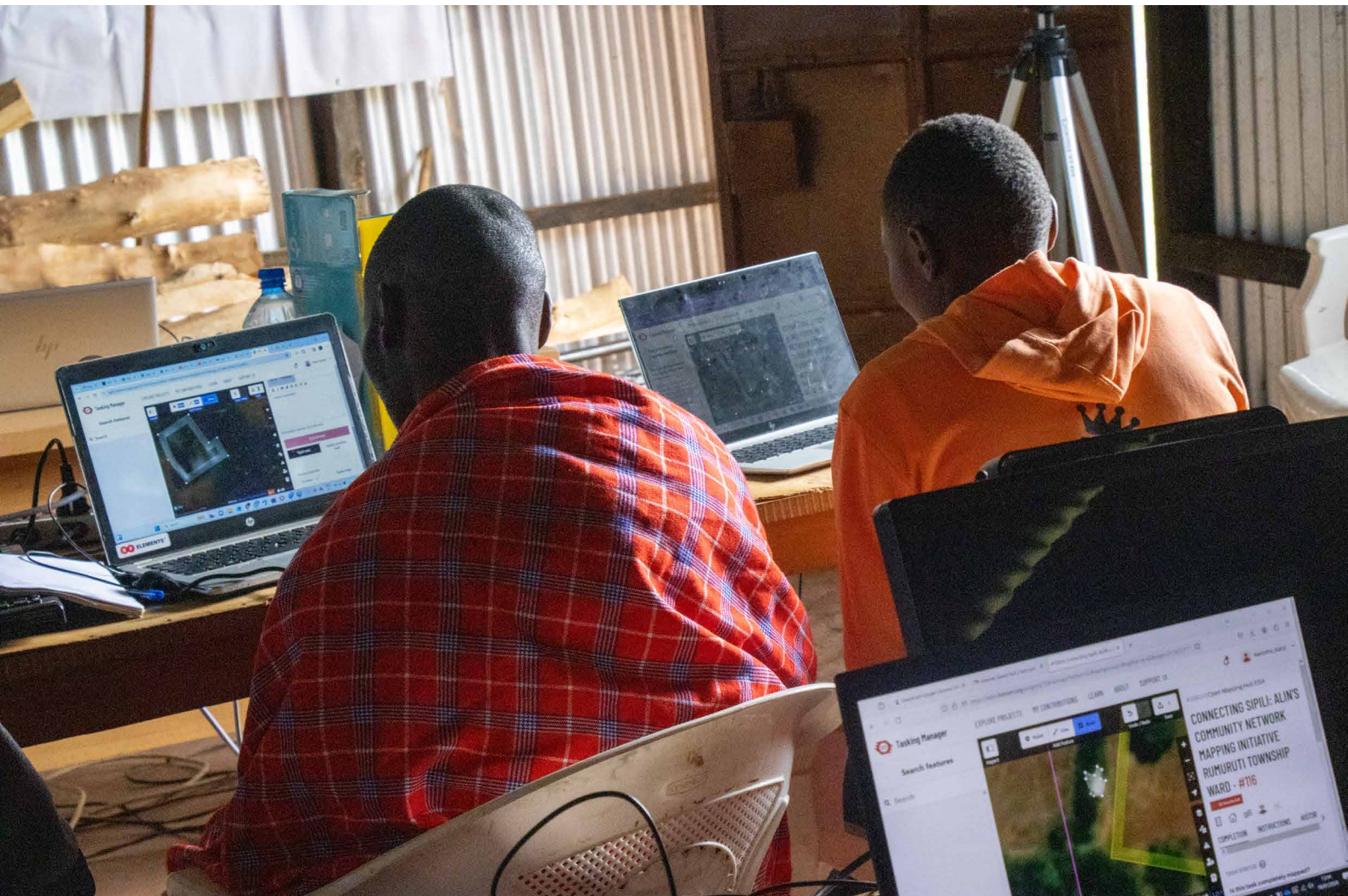
ALIN has trained 18 local youths on digital mapping tools and techniques to enable them carry out future mapping tasks. The mapping process integrated virtual, hybrid and physical Mapathons—a marathon of creating maps and

entering geographical information on OpenStreetMap. This is an online platform which involves small or large groups of individuals, each with their own computer connected to the Internet.

“I got the opportunity to learn a new skill. Most of the time we see maps on Google Maps and wonder who and when they were generated. I am grateful that we have been given the opportunity to know how the maps, specifically OpenStreetMap, are generated, and to be involved in the mapping,”

Mr. Joseph Kanyi, a local Cybercafé owner, while sharing his experience during the first mapathon.

As the Sipili community members navigate the OpenStreetMap, they will have a sense that they played a significant role in shaping it.



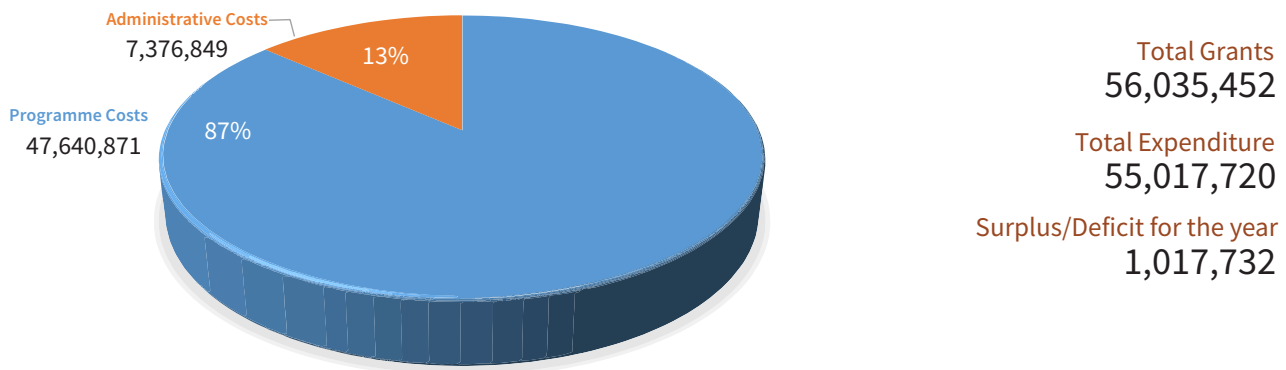
Community members during a mapping session in Laikipia County.

Financial Overview

Income and Expenditure Statement for Year ended 31st December 2023

Income	
Association for Progressive Communications	1,671,225.00
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH-IKI Small Grants	25,651,012.00
Humanitarian OpenStreetMap (HOT), Eastern and Southern Africa Hub	2,173,947.00
Oxfam IBIS	9,999,746.00
SOUTHSOUTHNORTH PROJECTS (AFRICA) ("SSN")	5,107,462.00
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF Kenya)	4,850,419.00
Other Income	6,581,641.00
Total Grants	56,035,452.00

Total Expenditure



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We are grateful to the following partners for making our work possible

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on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag



Partners





Looking Ahead

ALIN's core mandate is to support communities in East Africa to achieve food security through the delivery of knowledge and skills on sustainable agriculture and adaptation to climate change.

Our interventions will continue to focus on developing climate resilient agri-food systems that can adapt to the fast-changing environmental conditions and drive digital transformation across communities. These interconnected areas are critical in addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change and for empowering communities to thrive.

Six years from now, ALIN's success will be judged by how it shall have supported transition to sustainable, resilient, and prosperous communities in line with her strategy.

Climate Resilience

The increasing frequency of more extreme weather events such as prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall and floods is affecting people across the world. For countries in East Africa, where ALIN works, economic prospects are significantly threatened without effective adaptation to climate change, and those already in a vicious poverty cycle are particularly vulnerable.

We therefore aim to scale up our locally led initiatives in these communities and ecosystems to support resilience building against the adverse effects of climate change. ALIN seeks to develop locally led community-based adaptation strategies that address context specific climate risks. This will involve enhancing local capacities to prepare for and respond to climate-related events by focusing on both scientific and indigenous knowledge systems and experiences.

Food Systems Transformation

The importance of the agricultural sector and agri-food systems in East Africa cannot be gainsaid as it supports 80 per cent of the people directly and indirectly, and is key to livelihoods. Unfortunately, food systems in the region are facing many challenges including climate impacts, environmental damage, food insecurity and malnutrition, public health problems, and food loss and waste, often failing those who depend on it the most.

To tackle these challenges, we must urgently transform

food systems to ensure that they elevate and prioritise health, inclusion, sustainability, resilience, climate, and the environment. ALIN will continue to promote transition to regenerative systems by supporting the adoption of holistic approaches to agriculture that prioritise ecosystem health, biodiversity, and soil regeneration. It will also empower smallholder farmers through training and resources, equip them with information, knowledge, and the tools they need to improve their yields by combining modern agricultural techniques with indigenous technical knowledge to create robust and resilient farming systems.

Digital Transformation

To support the most vulnerable, we need to prioritise investments in interventions with the maximum returns and minimum trade-offs. This needs accurate and up-to-date data and information to make the right decisions. Disruptive digital are powerful tools that can revolutionise the agricultural sector by enhancing efficiency, precision, and sustainability.

ALIN will build on her rich history of ICT projects success to promote digital technologies that support social and economic equity while empowering individuals and communities for participation in the digital economy. We envisage to achieve this through development of digital infrastructure such as Community Networks and the Maarifa (knowledge) centres. We will also provide real-time information and knowledge products to support decision-making for farmers and communities. In addition, we will enhance digital literacy to ensure that community members, including the socio-economically excluded groups such as women, youth, and the marginalised can participate in and benefit from the digital economy.

Conclusion

Moving forward, our focus on climate resilience, sustainable food systems, and digital transformation will guide our efforts to build a better future. ALIN is committed to building resilient communities, protecting the environment, and fostering inclusive economic growth. Together, we hope to create a world where every community can thrive sustainably and resiliently in the face of devastating climate shocks. Our vision is clear, and our mission is strong as we make a better tomorrow a reality.



Get in touch

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