

AfriNOV

Nonviolence | Evidence | Action

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

*Partnering with community groups for sustainable
peace and social change in Kenya*

A total of 3485 (1945- Female, 1543 Male) people, were reached directly by our community tailored program activities in 2023. Out of the total reached 1550 were youths and 106 were People Living with Disabilities.



In 2023 AfriNov contributed in their small way towards the global call for environmental conservation and management in order to deal with the global climate change challenges.

Introduction

This report presents highlights of the various activities implemented by AfriNov in the year 2023. Regardless of the hard-economic situation experienced in the year AfriNov was able to register numerous success stories and achievements. This is the year that AfriNov made major strides towards partnership and networking. The year that AfriNov was able to build up its visibility through social media. It was a period of great reflection and rethinking on our strategies. Strikingly AfriNov was immensely involved in Climate change sensitization and interventions either in collaboration with other organizations or just with AfriNov trained grassroots groups. The sensitization saw a number of community initiatives emerging where community groups mobilized for tree seedlings and organised for mass tree planting activities across our catchment areas.

Key highlights

TTT staff benefited from the partnership between AfriNov and Organization for Identity and Cultural Development (OICD) when OICD director visited Kenya in April 2023 and conducted a three days Engagement Methodology for Identity in Conflict (EMIC) training that introduced AfriNov staff to a new tool for community need analysis.

It is also good to note that AfriNov was able to organize and run a virtual sharing meeting for the East Africa Network team. The key area of sharing was the use art work in our social justice work. One of the TTT Trained youths' group in Nairobi led in the sharing. This was because they have successfully used art work in their social justice campaigns. There was a lot of learning from the sharing.

At the end of the year AfriNov was represented at the Africa Quaker Peace Network gathering in Burundi that brought together key Quaker related peacebuilding actors from different African countries. The 3 days session was for sharing of successes and challenges and charting a better way forward. AfriNov was represented by Benson Khamasi our Program officer.

Political context.

The year 2023 started with a tense and unstable political situation. The opposition wing was still nursing their wounds after losing the 2022 presidential election and also the court petition. When the year started the opposition alliance- Azimio La Umoja, was in the mood of organizing for ant- government mass protests. The major demand then was lowering of the cost of living and audit of the 2022 Presidential elections results. The 1st and 2nd Quarter of the year witnessed one of the most violent political protests in the recent past. Where police officers confronted the protesters by force causing some deaths and massive destructions of properties. After several attempts for truce advocated by religious leaders, civil societies and international bodies, the government agreed to have a dialogue with the opposition to try and come up with an amicable way of dealing with the issues as raised by the opposition. A team of 10 people – 5 from both sides dubbed bi-partisan dialogue committee, were tasked with the assignment to listen to both sides and come up with suggestions for an agreeable way forward that would foster national unity. The initiative resulted into a calmer 3rd and 4th quarter of the year. Both sides engaged and also interviewed and listened to other key stakeholders from both sides and came up with a report that was delivered to both the President and the Opposition leader. The report is yet to be un-veiled to the public. The plan is to table the suggestions before the National assembly for debate and consideration. Meanwhile the year ended well with the hope from both sides that the suggestions will be considered in order to end the political animosity.

Socio-economic context

The economic situation continued to be tough as days went by with more promises from the government. Prices of most house hold commodities and basic needs continued to increase leaving most Kenyans crying for help from well-wishers. The government on the other side continued to push for more taxation to pay the accrued debts. This saw many court petitions from activists and opposition politicians with little success. The government remained adamant and even ignored and disobeyed court orders openly. Ultimately the year ended on a hard-economic level with no hope for the common citizens. Consequently, this affected our program implementation to some extent. Some of our very active Community Resource People were not easily available due to their other engagements to fend for their families while others got employed and could not get time to support our trained community groups. This led to dragged implementation of activities.

Program context

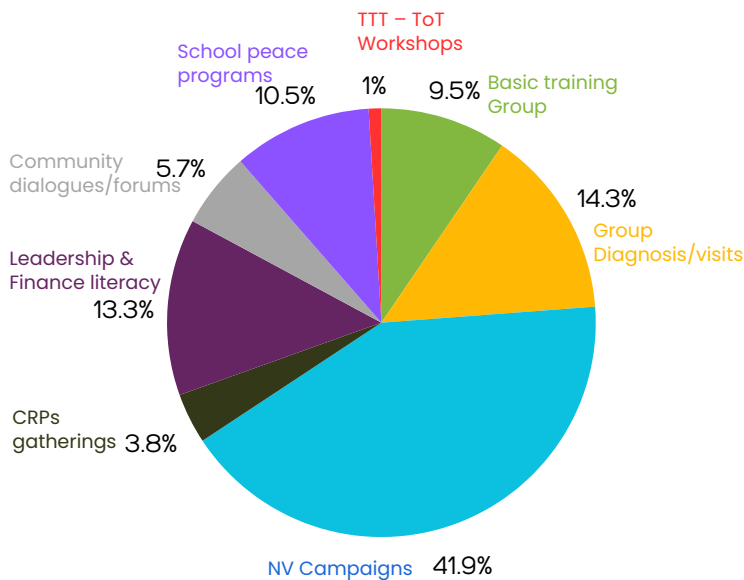
AfriNov is implementing four programs namely Nonviolence and peacebuilding, democracy and governance, economic empowerment for peace and action for climate Justice. All these are threads that roots from the Turning the Tide skills, tools and approaches. TTT therefore is a strong pillar in the organization planning and execution of its mandate. TTT informs the organization and implementation of key activities in each thematic area in the organization. For a deeper and stronger support of groups, AfriNov decided to phase out some groups and exited from some communities.

The basis of the change was informed by two things; ability of such groups to run campaigns with minimum or no support. AfriNov only partnered with the groups whenever and only when invited.

The current change in implementation was done to ensure that every campaign led by community groups gain maximum support from the organization from planning to the final stage of the campaigning.

Group diagnosis activities for the year 2023 were carried out in a more improved way in order to capture more information about groups. After receiving a capacity building training for Engagement Methodology for Identity in Conflict (EMIC) tool by Organization for Identity and Cultural Development (OICD) in April, staff were able to begin implementing the tool that would allow more detailed and elaborate information to be captured from the groups in communities. The tool also became an eye opener in understanding more on the role of identity in social injustices and violence in the community and by capturing more detailed information it would be useful to the organization in ensuring planning and executing their program activities. Strong partnerships with public, private and policy organizations provided opportunity to share knowledge and experiences at the same time maximizing available resources.

Summary of Programme activities:



Activity	Planned	Done
Basic training Group	10	11
Group Diagnosis/visits	15	14
NV Campaigns	44	38
CRPs gatherings	4	2
Leadership & Finance literacy	14	5
Community dialogues/forums	6	2
School peace programs	11	1
TTT - ToT Workshops	1	1
Totals	105	74

Number of people reached.

	Overall	Youth	PLWDS
MALE	1543	655	71
FEMALE	1945	895	35
TOTAL	3488	1550	106

Outputs and outcomes

Activity	Outputs	Outcomes
Group Diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 new groups successfully visited and diagnosed for possible training in nonviolence work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of groups implementing Nonviolence work in Kenya Enhanced advocacy on nonviolence as a strategy for peace and social justice in various communities. Increased coverage area
TTT Basic Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 new groups trained on TTT program 200 more people successfully introduced to the nonviolence approaches and TTT skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of people gained an understanding on nonviolence skills and approaches for advocating for social justice in their communities. Expanded network of nonviolence agents for social justice and peace advocacy in Kenya. Group members gained skills and strategies to conduct Non-Violence campaigns
TOT WORKSHOP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 new CRPs successfully trained on TTT facilitation skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced number of CRPs capable of planning and facilitating successfully a TTT training. CRPs Gaps existing in some regions well filled by training a new pool of CRPs.
HIPP- WORKSHOP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 School peace patrons in Nairobi introduced to The Help Increase Peace Program – HIPP for a possible partnership in introducing the program to schools in Nairobi. 5 National Cohesion and Integration Commission staff also introduced to the program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness about AfriNov programs Gained basic skills in HIPP for school peace building Developed partnership with the 20 schools represented. Enhanced partnership with NCIC
Nonviolence campaigns		
1. Women and widow's property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38 elders reached and sensitized on the rights of women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced family violence caused by land inheritance complains. Enhance access to justice and process Reduced compromised cases of inheritance that has often rendered widows vulnerable.
2. Youth in peacebuilding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 participants reached this includes the leaders and youths who are reforming from drug abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transformation of youths from drug abuse to being peace and change movers in the community. Increased accountability from the local administration on matters of security and drugs control. Reduced school drop outs as the County takes up the process of awarding bursaries to children from affected homes.
3. Community Peace dialogues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 refugees and 25 local community members reached and engaged each other Other key partners also participated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved relationship between the locals and the refugees. Increased awareness on the issues affecting refugees within the community. People are now sensitive on how they deal with the refugees and even now willing to support them. Regular meetings to discuss emerging issues.
4. Public sensitization on need to hold leaders accountable for public resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32 participants reached 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County government agreed to fix all street lights and get street children off the streets as the police intensify patrols in order to address issue to insecurity in turbo town
5. Climate justice campaigns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 500 people reached directly through the activity including government staff and the members of the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness on the need to have proper waste disposal from households. Increased ownership of the campaign by different communities reached.
6. Disability rights campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32 participants attended the café and discussed on ways to enhance disability inclusion in governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness of disability rights of inclusion in governance system and processes.

Notable Impact stories

Muongano Disabled Special Group

Turning Lack to opportunities:

This is an inspiring journey of resilience, empowerment, and community transformation. AfriNov's first encounter with Muungano was in 2018 during a diagnosis meeting where they shared their aspirations but also their struggles due to societal stigmatization. They lacked the confidence to approach public or private offices for services they needed, feeling marginalized and overlooked.

The turning point for Muungano came through Turning the Tide workshops and follow-up activities organized by AfriNov. These workshops focused on building confidence, advocacy skills, and networking within the community. As a result, the members of Muungano gained a newfound sense of empowerment and determination to change their circumstances.

Armed with newfound skills and confidence, Muungano embarked on a series of campaigns to address their needs and improve their community. One of their notable achievements was acquiring funds for various projects. These projects not only benefited their group directly but also had a positive ripple effect on the entire community.

One of the most impactful projects undertaken by Muungano was the acquisition of a public toilet at the satellite market in Dagoretti North. Previously neglected and in poor condition, this public toilet became a symbol of Muungano's resilience and determination to improve their surroundings. The renovated toilet not only provided a much-needed facility for the community but also served as a testament to what can be achieved when marginalized groups are empowered and supported.

Through their initiatives and projects, Muungano Disabled Special Group not only turned their lack of opportunities into meaningful endeavors but also became a beacon of hope and inspiration for others facing similar challenges. Their story is a testament to the transformative power of empowerment, advocacy, and community collaboration in creating positive change.

We can attribute the success of Muungano Disabled Special Group with several key issues being addressed through their initiatives, particularly the acquisition and management of the public toilet.

- 1. Employment Opportunity:** By acquiring and managing the public toilet, Muungano created a sustainable employment opportunity for its members. The operation of the facility requires regular maintenance, cleaning, and customer service, all of which provide job roles suitable for individuals with disabilities. This not only empowers the members financially but also boosts their self-esteem and sense of contribution to society.
- 2. Revenue Generation:** The public toilet serves as a revenue-generating asset for Muungano. Businesspeople and visitors from around the area pay to use the facility, thereby creating a steady income stream for the group. This income can be reinvested into the group's projects, furthering their impact and sustainability. It also reduces dependency on external funding sources, making Muungano more self-reliant and resilient.
- 3. Health Improvement:** Access to clean and well-maintained public toilets is crucial for public health. By providing a hygienic facility, Muungano contributes directly to improving the health and sanitation standards of the community. This is especially significant in satellite where proper sanitation infrastructure may be lacking, leading to a reduction in waterborne diseases and overall improvement in public health outcomes.
- 4. Community Development:** The presence of a functional public toilet at the satellite market in Dagoretti North not only benefits Muungano members but also the entire community and visitors to the area. It enhances the market's appeal and accessibility, attracting more customers and contributing to economic activity in the locality. Additionally, improved sanitation facilities contribute to a cleaner and more pleasant environment, enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.
- 5. Advocacy and Social Inclusion:** Muungano success in acquiring and managing the public toilet reflects their advocacy efforts and promotes social inclusion. By taking proactive steps to address their needs and contribute positively to the community, Muungano challenges societal stereotypes and fosters a more inclusive society where individuals with disabilities are recognized for their abilities and contributions.

Call for community action on climate change.

Acknowledging the impact of adverse climatic changes in food and human security may not be enough rather it calls for inclusive actions from general public to act in their small ways to save the endangered environment. Shrinking and drying rivers are well evident in most parts of the Nation, reduced water flows to lakes, swelling lakes and dams due to destroyed swamps and riparian lands, prolonged droughts and flash floods are as well experienced in Kenya. Despite the constitution of Kenya provision on land and environment in chapter 7, little is been done in communities to avert the continuing destructions. Resource based conflicts are also resulting due to shrinking natural resource base in the counties. Lack of accountability by industries, institutions charged with environmental protection and conservation are contributing to continued environmental injustices.

Collaborative efforts made it possible to sensitize the communities on climate change issues

In 2023 AfriNov supported grassroots groups that are adopting Nonviolence skills to address the climate change challenges in various ways including:

- Environmental accountability by industries and institutions
- Inclusive environmental conservation and protection campaigns such as community led tree planting, clean up exercise
- Stakeholder's engagement and discussion to generate solutions to identified climate challenges such as shrinking water sources, deforestations and misuse of riparian lands.



In Uasin-Gishu we worked with Forest and environmental conservation department



In Mumias Kakamega County we worked with local administration officials for massive tree planting.

Gender based violence

On gender-based violence we worked with other civil society groups to make our voices stronger in condemning the vice in different communities.



Engaging teenagers in sporting activities was a strategy to deal with the rampant teenage pregnancies. We also held several public sensitizations forums to raise awareness on the causes and consequences of teenage pregnancies.

Collaborative efforts made it possible to sensitize the communities on climate change issues



Quker Peace Network gathering in Burundi- we were represented by our own Benson Khamasi

Key Achievements

- Additional trainers added to the pool of CRPs that was presenting a gap in some localities.
- Enhanced community ownership of campaigns as seen in groups in Nandi, Mumias, Malava, Nyakach that are working with minimal support from organization in their campaigns.
- Increased partnership and networking for the organization as it receives recognition in many Counties for the positive impact it has through its programs. Some of the well outspoken Counties that recognize the great contribution of AfriNov is Nandi, Trans-Nzoia, Kisumu and Kakamega.
- Staff capacity building carried out in the month of March also offered new skills to the staff in enhancing diagnosis activity for better planning and choice of the tool to implement in a specific community.
- The ability to work with local partners in activities that concern the general public too was evident in the year. These include being part of the stakeholders in writing the petition on the need for government intervention in Sondu clashes that has led to longstanding inter-ethnic differences. Also working with CSOs in Kisumu and Trans-nzoia on marking the 16 Days of activism against GBV as well as creating public awareness.
- EAN virtual gathering that brought together about 45 participants from Rwanda, Burundi and Kenya to discuss about Art and social change work. This was an enriching activity that provided a rare opportunity to participant to interact virtually learning from each other. It really motivated them to use Art work for social change activism.
- Participation in the Quaker Peace Network gathering held in Burundi that brought together Quaker peace actors from different countries in Africa. This provided us space to share our progress in peacebuilding and nonviolence work.

Key challenges.

- Political environment was not conducive at the start of the year especially when the opposition began mobilizing its supporters for demonstration it made difficult to continue with some activities in areas as Nairobi and Kisumu.
- The first quarter having had challenges and pressure from high cost of living sometimes makes organizing activities very challenging as people opt to go look for work to earn than engaging in voluntary work.
- Due to high cost of food products, some activities demanded more than what had been planned reasonably.

Key learnings

As an organization, we have learnt quite a lot in this year from the value of partnerships and networking, maintaining the momentum especially in campaigns and staff capacity development for efficiency in the organization.