

**ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL KENYA'S INITIATIVES IN FOSTERING GOOD
GOVERNANCE IN GARISSA COUNTY, KENYA**

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C153/OL/CTY/22645/2021

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF LAW, ARTS AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN PUBLIC POLICY AND
ADMINISTRATION OF KENYATTA UNIVERSITY**

NOVEMBER, 2025

DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AAIK:	ActionAid International Kenya
CBO:	Community-Based Organization
CSO:	Civil Society Organization
DV:	Dependent Variable
IV:	Independent Variable
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organization
SPSS:	Statistical Package for Social Sciences

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

- ActionAid International Kenya (AAIK):** Refers to a non-governmental organization (NGO) committed to eradicating poverty, promoting social justice, and strengthening governance in Kenya through advocacy, community engagement, and policy interventions. It is measured by the number of advocacy programs implemented, policy changes influenced, and community engagement levels.
- ActionAid International Kenya Initiatives:** Refers to structured interventions designed to promote social justice, enhance human rights, and foster good governance in marginalized communities. It is measured by the number of advocacy programs, policy interventions enacted, and levels of community participation in governance processes.
- Citizen Participation:** Refers to the involvement of individuals in governance processes, including policy-making, budgeting, and public service monitoring, to enhance accountability and democracy. It is measured by voter turnout rates, citizen engagement in public

consultations, and participation in oversight mechanisms.

Community Mobilization:

Refers to the process of engaging and organizing community members to take collective action for governance improvements and public service delivery. It is measured by the number of community-led initiatives, frequency of citizen forums, and participation levels in governance programs.

Good Governance:

Refers to a framework that prioritizes transparency, citizen participation, and the rule of law, ensuring effective public service delivery and fostering trust between the government and its citizens. It is measured by the level of citizen engagement in decision-making and transparency scores in government institutions.

Grassroots Advocacy:

Refers to localized initiatives and campaigns aimed at influencing governance policies, increasing transparency, and promoting social justice. It is measured by the number of advocacy programs conducted, frequency of community participation in policy discussions, and changes in governance-

related policies influenced by grassroots efforts.

Legal Support:

Refers to the provision of legal aid, litigation support, and policy advocacy to protect human rights and strengthen governance structures. It is measured by the number of legal aid cases handled, accessibility of legal support services, and success rates of legal interventions.

Transparency:

Refers to the openness of government and institutional processes in providing access to public information and ensuring accountability in decision-making. It is measured by public access to government records, frequency of corruption reports, and institutional disclosure of financial and governance data.

ABSTRACT

Good governance is one of the most important dimensions within sustainable development since it ensures that there is transparency, accountability, and public participation in governance. In the case of Garissa County, there are still challenges with regard to governance, such as poor participation processes, poor linkage to legal aid services, and poor accountability processes. To this end, ActionAid International Kenya had been carrying out various interventions aimed at improving governance; however, the impact had not been scientifically tested. The research therefore, aimed to establish the impact that grassroots advocacy and mobilization efforts by ActionAid International Kenya had on good governance practices within Garissa County. The research was anchored on the principles outlined within the Participatory Governance Theory and Accountability Theory. The research was qualitative and descriptive in nature since it sought to establish the impact that grassroots mobilization had on stakeholders within the organizational setup. The research had 300 study targets that comprised staff within ActionAid International Kenya and other stakeholders like county officials and CMD officials. A 177 study sample was randomly picked through stratified sampling techniques. The research made use of scientific questionnaires since it was reliable due to pilot study validation. The quantitative study made use of Pearson Correlation and was carried out utilizing the Windows version 26 SPSS computer application package. The results revealed that grassroots advocacy had a medium positive impact on good governance (Mean = 3.40), and there was a significant correlation ($r = 0.507$, $p < 0.05$), especially with regard to raising civic awareness and participation. Legal empowerment had a positive impact (Mean = 3.26), and there was also a significant correlation ($r = 0.548$, $p < 0.05$), especially with regard to raising concerns about human rights and justice. Community mobilization had the strongest impact (Mean = 3.33), with significant correlation ($r = 0.614$, $p < 0.05$), indicating the process's emphasis on giving more voice to the people. The conclusion is that ActionAid International Kenya has made significant contributions to the enhancement of good governance in the territory of Garissa County through grassroots advocacy, legal empowerment, and community mobilization.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are independent, non-profit entities that operate outside direct government control. They are actively involved in addressing a range of issues, including social justice, economic development, political reforms, and humanitarian aid (Ali, 2020). Globally, the role of NGOs gained momentum following the formation of the United Nations (UN) in 1945. This shift reflected a growing recognition of the value NGOs bring to development efforts and governance reforms (Schofer & Longhofer, 2020). Over time, NGOs have become key players in promoting democratic values, enhancing transparency, and demanding accountability from public institutions (Tallberg et al., 2018; Henry et al., 2019).

Across Asia and beyond, NGOs have played a pivotal role in advancing public accountability and ensuring responsible resource management. In countries like China and the Philippines, they have been instrumental in encouraging citizen engagement in governance and improving the openness of public resource allocation (Go & Brummer, 2023; Luo, Zhuo, & Xu, 2023). In Indonesia, environmental NGOs have made important contributions by advocating for stronger environmental protection policies and sustainable development (Dong, 2024).

In Africa, NGOs have stepped into crucial roles, particularly in countries where state institutions are weak, and public resources are often mismanaged. Studies from Somalia, Ghana, and Nigeria demonstrate that NGOs support a variety of governance-related initiatives—ranging from anti-corruption campaigns and public dialogue forums to the defense of human rights and promotion of equitable access to essential services (Kulmie et al., 2024; Boateng, 2022; Cascant-Sempere, 2022). Their interventions have helped bridge gaps in government accountability and have fostered more inclusive governance in challenging contexts.

In Kenya, challenges in governance that include corruption, lack of transparency, and poor people's participation are still prevalent. Notably, with the significant investment made in various sectors, the state still faces poor accountability and fairness in the delivery of services (NGO Coordination Board, 2022). As such, there has been an important intervention by these organizations to ensure people participate in governance and there is social accountability (Kimemia, 2024).

Garissa County in Northern Kenya still faces challenges in governance by virtue of marginalization, resource inequality, and socio-cultural issues that impact public participation (Walker et al., 2024). The above factors highlight the need for civil society to engage in efforts that ensure good governance.

One of the most important NGOs operating in Garissa County is ActionAid International Kenya (AAIK). The NGO aims to empower marginalized people, improve gender rights, mobilize people within the communities, improve legal awareness, and ensure that the processes of good governance are clear. Various research reports have shown that action has been taken by the NGO to ensure grassroots advocacy and people's participation in governance (Sele, Nyakerario & Wanjiku, 2024; Onyalo, 2024). The above measures ensure that there is good governance in these settings.

Though there has been continued intervention by ActionAid, there still exist governance gaps within Garissa County; therefore, there is a need to evaluate the impact that the intervention has had on good governance. The study therefore aims to investigate the impact that the intervention initiatives by ActionAid International Kenya have had on encouraging good governance within Garissa County.

1.1.1 Good Governance

The good governance process is well governed by a governance that has values of transparency, people's participation, and rule of law with an efficient need to provide public

services mainly to stamp the boot of citizens over boot-stamping governance (Kulmie et al., 2024). But good governance is established on the foundations of principles such as accountability, inclusiveness, efficiency, and responsiveness to create and maintain integrity in institutions to gain development in society. The good governance process ensures that public policies and decisions are made with the inclusive needs of a society to achieve the motive to gain equity and social justice in society. In clear terms, Haghghi and Takian (2024) clarify that good governance in organized processes to take decisions and act with sensitivity to ethical values in civic engagement and regulation to get the rightful policy that gives meaning to the governance interest.

The study was concerned with the issue of citizen participation and transparency as key dimensions of good governance. The issue of citizen participation refers to the adoption and implementation of the decision-making process by the citizenry and communities. The issue of transparency, however, highlights that actions, financial transactions, and the processes of making decisions by the government are basically open to be accessed by citizens with the aim of eliminating corruption while theoretically justifying trust in governance institutions. For example, bodies such as ActionAid Kenya are deeply involved in governance initiatives aimed at encouraging public participation in the process of making decisions. Citizen participation within the governance process ensures that the voices are heard within the operations that sway the governed. It has been evident that greater results are realized within the process when citizens are involved in the policymaking wizard (Riduan, 2024). NGOs play an active role in ensuring that the government involves the public within these processes. This often involves making efforts within the process to inspire active involvement within the process. The action aid within Kenya has come up with initiatives that ensure marginalized groups within these areas are in a position to equip themselves with the capacity to be on an equal footing with those who set the rules and regulations. At present, action aid

within Kenya is involved within the process since there is an added means through digital platforms and e-governance (Tappert et al., 2024). Obstacles within the process include the failure to participate within the digital platforms and the responsiveness of the government. Similarly, transparency is critical in governance since it ensures that accountability and anti-corruption are addressed. Transparency ensures that all governments are mandated to be open with financial reports, decisions made by the government, and service delivery achievements; these are essential since they will enable citizens to monitor the effectiveness of governance. Some non-governmental organizations that actively participate in pushing the agenda for transparency include Transparency International and ActionAid Kenya. These non-governmental organizations aim to ensure that governments are accountable to citizens by opening all documents to the public and lobbying governments to implement anti-corruption measures. Studies show that all countries with effective policies on transparency display greater confidence among citizens, greater service delivery, and lower levels of corruption. The most recent development that has come to limelight is the use of blockchain technology in managing finances and artificial intelligence in monitoring governance; these technologies have promoted the creation of unchangeable documents and automatic accountability (Kumar, Prakash & Roy, 2024). Challenges still persist, which include inefficiency in bureaucratic settings, overrestrictive measures on accessing documents from the state, and reluctance among political personalities.

Though these NGOs are actively involved in governance initiatives, there are challenges that these bodies face while attempting to ensure that citizens take part in governance. The issue of funding affects the sustainability initiatives that these organizations present to the people in terms of governance. Many NGOs are to some extent dependent on money from donors; therefore, there might be poor prioritization on the part of these bodies since these bodies are working to ensure that donors are satisfied with the progress that these organizations are

making. Additionally, political interference and repressive measures by the state pose a great threat to the governance advocacy that these bodies are pushing forward. For example, there is ActionAid Kenya that has opposed the agendas that these bodies present to ensure that there are various agendas that are linked to reforming policies that are accountable to the citizens. In most cases, there are governments that set boundaries either through laws or by curtailing the amount of money that these bodies receive so that those bodies understand that there are boundaries that they are supposed to take note of in terms of advocating such agendas that are related to governance if these bodies want to attain the set objectives. Additionally, most governments also pose threats to the existence of these bodies. Many bodies that are involved in governance are facing threats since most of these bodies have operational headquarters and offices that are situated in countries that are volatile.

The need for good governance is critical to ensure that the processes are accountable to the citizens and are carried out in an open manner. The research was to investigate citizen participation and transparency with regard to how ActionAid Kenya enhances these two factors within the realms of governance. The need to use NGOs to facilitate good governance must not be overshadowed by poor internal accountability, aid dependence, and political will. If the approaches to establish effective governance are successful, then the NGO can ensure that internal governance within an NGO as well as its citizens operate within a more open democracy.

1.1.2 ActionAid International Kenya's Initiatives

These are projects carried out by Action Aid International Kenya with the aim of implementing interventions that lead to social justice, human rights, and good governance among marginalized groups (Sele et al., 2024). These projects include grassroots advocacy initiatives, offering legal aid services, as well as mobilizing the communities to fight gender inequalities, poverty, and poor governance (Action Aid International Kenya). Additionally,

ActionAid ensures that there is accountability within institutions and promotes inclusive governance that addresses people's concerns through capacity-building processes (Jones et al., 2022).

ActionAid International Kenya promotes grassroots advocacy as a central strategy for ensuring that community voices are heard, especially in areas where governance systems are weak and transparency is lacking. These advocacy efforts are brought to life through public forums, community sensitization sessions, and targeted campaigns that aim to build public understanding of governance processes. These platforms help citizens become more aware of how governance works, their rights within these systems, and the tools available to them to hold leaders accountable (Zhang et al., 2022).

Public forums, in particular, serve as important spaces where citizens and government officials can come together to exchange ideas and concerns, ultimately fostering transparency and inclusive participation (Dada et al., 2021). Similarly, the sensitization sessions held within communities provide critical education on governance structures and processes, helping people understand how to assert their rights and actively engage in holding public officials accountable (Dada et al., 2019). The key measures to determine the outcome that has been realized with these grassroots activities include measures such as the number of advocacy processes conducted, the level to which change has been seen within governance processes in terms of change within policy processes, and the degree to which the communities are involved in governance processes (Muthoni and Mutuku, 2021).

Among the various major initiatives that ActionAid partners with to improve governance and protect human rights is the area of legal aid. The aim is mainly to ensure that there is legal aid provisioned, and then there is strategic litigation as well as policies changed to ensure that there is human rights and social justice (Jones et al., 2022). Legal services are delivered pro-bono by ActionAid. The intervention carried out has various components that are measured.

These include whether people who receive legal aid are eligible to receive such services. Then there are those that indicate the number of cases that are won with regard to governance in court. Third is the success made in reforming policies with regard to use of legal aid (Zhang et al., 2022). One key aspect in the intervention activities of ActionAid in the area of governance mobilization is that people come together to advocate for accountability and participation in governance. Mobilization covers grassroots campaigns, civic education campaigns, and setting up community networks to address governance issues (Jones et al., 2022). Such interventions aim to facilitate citizen engagement in governance issues, which should indeed provide communities with a platform to raise their collective voice when asking for their rights or influencing policy or governance failures (Dada et al., 2021). The level of success could be predicted by citizen engagement, signed advocacy-driven petitions, as well as by the extent of engagement of communities in public governance forums. (Muthoni and Mutuku, 2021).

The effort ActionAid International Kenya puts in Garissa County is intended to strengthen democratic governance, accountability in the public sphere, and inclusive decision making processes (Jones et al., 2022). It combines grassroots advocacy campaigns, legal assistance, and mobilization of communities to empower poor marginalized groups to engage governance mechanisms, demand accountability, and influence policy change (Zhang et al., 2022). Above initiatives will further enhance transparency in governance, empower communities, and strengthen the governance framework of Garissa County.

1.1.3 ActionAid International Kenya

Through a broad geographic perspective, ActionAid International Kenya (AAIK) transforms a non-religious, non-partisan development organization into a non-profit entity. AAIK has been in operation for over 50 years, in accordance with the provision of the Constitution of

Kenya, empowering the marginalized people to claim their rights and hold duty-bearers accountable (Action Aid Kenya, 2024). This has been possible through advocacy, grassroots mobilization, and strategic partnerships, strengthening community leadership and sustenance of development (Oscilowicz, García-Lamarca, Shokry, Perez-del-Pulgar, and Connolly, 2023).

As part of ActionAid International, an international federation of affiliate organizations, AAIK advocates a rights-based approach to redress in system-wide inequalities predominantly affecting communities that are otherwise inadequately represented in the federation. The federation has an International Board that is mandated with ensuring that there is compliance with ActionAid in the accomplishment of vision, mission, and strategic orientation. The Hague is home to the International Secretariat that monitors the regional offices with regards to the diverse programs (Li, 2020).

The non-profit entity is locally known as AAIK and is registered as such under the Non-Governmental Organizations Co-ordination Act, 1990, which provides the operational framework within which it operates (Muthoni & Mutuku, 2021). Since its establishment in 1972 to date, AAIK has expanded to 23 counties and engages with grassroots and international actors to produce progress towards achieving social justice and human rights (Action Aid Kenya, 2024). The national office is situated in Nairobi and provides a platform for national policy dialogue among grassroots and international key stakeholders (Ojwala et al., 2022).

At the grassroots, AAIK engages the population through mobilization, legal aid, and advocacy. At the grassroots and organizational levels, various organizations and civil society entities engage different stakeholders through dialogue sessions, civic education initiatives, and good governance training sessions to empower people to participate in governance (Oscilowicz et al., 2023). At the same time, the activities carried out by the establishment

engage people in gender-responsive governance with the advocacy of policies aimed at eliminating barriers that hinder women and youth from actively taking part in governance (Ojwala et al., 2022). Globally, the operations of ActionAid International are integrated with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with regard to fair development (Li, 2020). The group has advocated for the creation of awareness on free education, land rights, and medical coverage that has led to the development of positive policies that are in favor of the marginalized (Kiru, 2019). Therefore, on the micro-level basis, AAIK has directed funds to the government to boost education that provides better legal safeguards for marginalized groups and better legislation to ensure gender equity laws in Kenya (Ojwala et al., 2022).

Despite such successes to date, however, there also exist some significant challenges such as political challenges to reform acceptance, financial challenges within strictly defined budgets, and bureaucratic obstacles that negatively impact AAIK in the more practical application areas of implementing these governance reform initiatives (Danson et al. 2024). In the midst of such challenges and obstacles to reform achievements, AAIK persists in its efforts to improve its strategic networks and also increase governance transparency with the use of digital platforms that promote the voices of marginalized party actors who are raising these voices within the context of these processes (Oscilowicz et al. 2023).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Governance is integral to good service delivery and good governance. Yet in the case of Garissa County, there are still challenges that are evident in poor accountability structures and poor civic engagement structures. For example, Makwae (2021) highlights that there are challenges that affect governance in this county through poor accountability and poor civic engagement structures. In this case, other scholars such as Ido et al. (2019) confirm that while

there are governance structures that are participative in nature such as community scorecards that improve governance through transparency, there are still challenges in implementing them. This implies that there are still poor citizenship and accountability structures within the county.

Though grassroots advocacy activities, mobilization of communities, as well as offering legal aid services, have been carried out by ActionAid International Kenya to improve governance in Garissa, there still seems to be a dearth of evidence within the context of the impact such intervention measures might be creating within the sector. Though Brass (2019) seems to concur that the inclusion of NGOs in governance is essential and indispensable, there are concerns about whether these measures are sustainable and whether there is clear understanding about the direct mechanisms in place to ensure that there is accountability between the NGO and the government. In similar vein, though Makwae (2021) and others by the name Ido et al. (2019) concur that offering aid services to engage communities might be fundamental within the motivation to ensure greater transparency and participation within the state, there seems to be no study that has attempted to investigate such direct intervention measures taking place within the context of ActionAid in Garissa County.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

- i To assess the effect of ActionAid International in grassroots advocacy efforts on good governance in Garissa County, Kenya.
- ii To examine the effect of ActionAid International in legal support in fostering good governance in Garissa County, Kenya.
- iii To evaluate the effect of ActionAid International in community mobilization on good governance in Garissa County, Kenya.

1.4 Research Questions

- i. How do ActionAid International Kenya's grassroots advocacy efforts affect good governance in Garissa County, Kenya?
- ii. How does ActionAid International Kenya's legal support influence good governance in Garissa County, Kenya?
- iii. How does ActionAid International Kenya's community mobilization affect good governance in Garissa County, Kenya?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The research is important since it offers perspectives on how the governance intervention activities conducted by ActionAid International Kenya affect transparency and people's participation in Garissa County. The results are likely to benefit various stakeholders in the following ways: The study provides evidence-based results that can aid county and state governments in improving governance structures. The study provides guidance on how grassroots mobilization to facilitate good governance has impacted the process and can be geared towards improving policies that ensure inclusive decision making and accountability within public administration.

The outcomes will benefit ActionAid International Kenya and other non-governmental organizations in improving the design and delivery of governance initiatives. The research outlines successful approaches and difficulties that arise during the promotion of participative governance processes with key takeaways that can increase effectiveness in planning and implementing such initiatives. The research fills the gap in academic knowledge by tackling the issue that has been identified as the lack of understanding about the impact of NGO-led interventions in governance in marginalized areas. The research contributes to the development of empirical knowledge in the area of governance and civil society studies.

In evaluating the impact that governance initiatives increase awareness and voices, the research promotes understanding among the communities about their rights and responsibilities within governance. Empowerment among the communities is potentially more effective within the monitoring role of citizens to ensure accountable holders of duties within Garissa County.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The study took place in Garissa County in Kenya. The reason behind selecting the County was that it has been among the areas where ActionAid International Kenya has been implementing various governance projects with the aim of improving public accountability and people's participation. The research concerned itself with three major intervention areas adopted by ActionAid International Kenya with the aim of improving good governance. These include grassroots advocacy, legal aid services, and mobilization. The research sought to investigate how these intervention areas impact two fundamental areas that constitute good governance: transparency and people's participation in the governance process. The study aimed at ActionAid International Kenya employees working on governance projects, civic activists participating in raising awareness among citizens, governmental officials taking part in the governance process, and citizens who had direct contact with the governance projects run by ActionAid International Kenya.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

Several challenges were encountered by the research. First, the safety environment in some areas of Garissa County made it difficult to reach some respondents. To counter this challenge, data was collected in areas that are safe and accessible to the researcher. In some cases, telephone and web-based responses helped to ensure that data was collected. The political sensitivity involved in matters pertaining to governance might have made some

respondents less willing to respond freely to questions. To reduce such challenges, the study guaranteed that data collected was fully confidential and that the study was strictly academic. Self-reporting bias might be present if biased answers are produced while responding to the questions. This was countered by the use of non-leading questions and assurance that privacy is maintained during the process of administering the questionnaire. Lastly, the results might lack validity if the research was carried out in one county only. The use of stratified sampling helped to improve validity, and reliability was improved with pilot testing and Cronbach Alpha tests.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The chapter gives an outline of the various bodies of literature that are pertinent to the variables within the study. These are grassroots advocacy, legal aid, mobilization of grassroots, and good governance. The study has delved into various international, regional, and national views about the application of NGOs in improving governance with emphasis on ActionAid International Kenya grassroots initiatives within Garissa County. Additionally, the chapter outlines the theoretical and conceptual frameworks that are applicable within the study with emphasis on the gaps that need to be answered.

2.2 Empirical Review

2.2.1 Grassroots Advocacy and Good Governance

Mwangi and Otieno (2020) investigated the impact of grassroots advocacy on public participation in Kenya's devolved governance. The research work was carried out using a descriptive research study design and structured questionnaires. The research was anchored on the Participatory Governance Theory. The outcome of the study showed that grassroots advocacy promotes public participation and transparency in the governance structure. The research study did not investigate models of NGO-sponsored advocacy initiatives nor evaluate the impact in marginalized counties such as Garissa.

The case study research conducted by Ahmed & Yusuf (2021) analyzed NGO-led grassroots advocacy campaigning in Somalia. The research adopted a semi-structured qualitative study with policymakers and NGO practitioners. Inspired by Social Mobilization Theory, the research findings highlighted awareness creation among people on governance rights; however, the research highlighted political challenges that resisted the impact of such advocacy. The research highlighted awareness creation but did not assess the outcome of

advocacy on transparency and accountability, and was beyond the devolved governance environment in Kenya.

A survey research study carried out by Karanja et al. (2023) highlighted citizen-led advocacy and transparency within the informal settlements of Nairobi. The research was anchored on Social Capital Theory and established that community participation leads to better accountability and service delivery. In this study, the population was in urban informal settlements; these are markedly different from the rural and marginalized settings found in Garissa. The study did not include structured NGO advocacy intervention. Hassan and Warsame (2024) investigated participative governance reform initiatives led by advocacy in Northeastern Kenya through a mixed-method research study consisting of survey research and personal interviews. From the perspective of Participative Democracy Theory, the paper established that advocacy works to improve active public participation; however, its sustainability must be facilitated by institutions. The research study fails to consider individual organizational initiatives on advocacy activities sponsored by entities such as ActionAid.

Although evidence has shown that grassroots advocacy encourages people to participate and be accountable, empirical research on the impact that grassroots advocacy initiatives conducted by ActionAid International Kenya have had on good governance in terms of transparency and people's participation in Garissa County is minimal.

2.2.2 Legal Support and Good Governance

Omondi & Kariuki (2019) investigated the impact of legal aid service delivery on governance outcomes within Kenya using a descriptive research design and structured questionnaires that targeted beneficiaries and stakeholders thereof from civil society organizations and the Kenya government. Based on the Access to Justice Theory, the study proved that legal aid service delivery had managed to increase empowerment among citizens and improve accountability

within the government. The study did not evaluate NGO-run legal aid initiatives and the impact thereof within marginalized devolved counties like Garissa.

Abdullahi & Hassan (2021) highlighted the role of NGO-provided legal aid and transparency in governance in Somalia through qualitative research techniques among policymakers and those who received legal aid. Using the Human Rights-Based Approach to evaluate research questions, the study found that the intervention had reinforced governance structures but was vulnerable to political influences. The research did not present quantitative evidence to assess the impact of the intervention on grassroots levels of accountability in the case of Garissa County.

A study carried out by Kimani et al. (2022) sought to explore the impact of pro bono legal aid on governance accountability in Kenya, employing a correlation research design and surveying 250 subjects who had received legal aid. Based on Accountability Theory, the research discovered that offering these services had led to greater civil involvement in governance reform initiatives and greater responsiveness from the government. The research was carried out in urban settings of governance. These settings are quite different from the rural settings found in Garissa.

A case study analysis was conducted by Wanjiru and Mutua (2025) on NGO litigation and governance reform initiatives in East Africa. The research suggested that litigation can make governments accountable and transparent in their operations. The research concentrated on litigation and national interventions without concentrating on grassroots initiatives to empower people to take part in governance through legal aid initiatives.

Although past studies recognize that legal aid has a positive impact on accountability and responsiveness to governance, there are few empirical studies that explore the impact of localized legal aid initiatives by ActionAid International Kenya on the transparency and participation of the people within Garissa County. The research seeks to fill that research gap.

2.2.3 Community Mobilization and Good Governance

Njenga and Ouma (2019) investigated the function of community-based organizations in mobilizing citizens to participate in governance reform initiatives within Nairobi County. The study adopted a mixed-methodology research design that utilized structured research interviews and thematic analysis. Based on the Theory of Social Mobilization, the research illustrated that social mobilization contributes to improved governance accountability and oversight. The study was carried out on smaller community organizations and did not include quantitative data that demonstrates the impact that mobilization has on improving governance within marginalized areas such as Garissa County.

Abdi and Noor (2020) analyzed the process of people-driven governance projects in Wajir County with a survey research design and structured questionnaires that employed descriptive statistics. The study anchored on the principles of Participatory Governance Theory. The study revealed that mobilization made people participate more in governance but was undermined by financial scarcity and political factors. The analysis was conducted on general mobilization initiatives in the communities and not those activities organized by NGOs to mobilize people. The study did not investigate the statistical correlation between mobilization and governance outcomes.

Makori et al. (2023) carried out an investigation to assess the impact of mobilization and active participation in governance among the youth in Kiambu County with the aim of determining the effect on governance among the youth in Kenya. Based on Social Capital Theory, the study showed that active engagement resulted in greater responsiveness in policies; however, mentorship was essential in guaranteeing that continuity was achieved. The study was specifically carried out on the youth groups and was conducted in urban areas without objectively assessing mobilization initiatives by NGO missions in predominantly rural areas such as Garissa.

The existing research shows that mobilization has the potential to improve levels of participation and accountability; but there is scant evidence focusing on the role that NGO-managed mobilization has on improving transparency and people's levels of participation in places such as Garissa County that has projects managed by ActionAid International Kenya. The research will fill this research gap.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

The research was anchored on the principles outlined by Participatory Governance Theory and Accountability Theory. The choice of these theories was due to their capacity to clarify how civil actors participate in the governance process. The two theories assisted in understanding how grassroots advocacy, lobbying, and mobilization activities conducted by ActionAid International Kenya assisted in improving good governance practices with respect to transparency and people's participation in the governance process in Garissa County.

2.3.1 Participatory Governance Theory

The Participatory Governance Theory was formulated by Fung and Wright (2001). The theory postulates that citizens and social groups must be actively engaged in the decision-making process that influences public policy and the provision of public services. The need for inclusive participation and the empowerment of marginalized social groups was also highlighted.

In the study context, the Participatory Governance Theory was influential in defining the variable to be covered by grassroots advocacy and mobilization. The Participatory Governance Theory provides the reason behind ActionAid's efforts to get people involved in governance forums and budget speaks, as well as other social platforms such as public barazas. Through the participative approaches adopted by ActionAid within the context of this study, people in Garissa County had the opportunity to air their concerns and demands for transparency, which is one area that makes up good governance.

Therefore, the theory assisted in understanding whether greater grassroots mobilization, supported by ActionAid, led to more inclusive and participative approaches to governance in Garissa County.

2.3.2 Accountability Theory

Accountability Theory, proposed by Bovens (2007), holds that government officials and institutions owe an account to the people and that measures can be taken if there is no fulfillment with regard to governance responsibilities. One significant aspect that Accountability Theory addresses is transparency. In this study, the Accountability Theory was applied to the variable that was entitled ‘legal support’. The aim of the various initiatives by ActionAid to empower people through the law was to make the people aware about their rights and to make them hold the leaders accountable. When people gained greater access to justice and became more aware about the law, there was no need to stress that people can use these requirements to ensure that the leaders use the resources wisely and in accordance with the rules and regulations framed by the governance.

2.4 Summary of Literature Review and Gaps

Table 2.1 Summary of Literature and Research Gaps

Author & Year	Topic of Study	Methodology Used	Key Findings	Research Gaps (Methodology, Theory & Context)	How the Present Study Addressed the Gap
Mwangi & Otieno (2020)	Grassroots advocacy and governance in devolved units	Descriptive survey; questionnaires; correlation analysis	Grassroots advocacy enhances citizen engagement and transparency.	Methodology: Did not measure the sustainability of governance changes. Theory: Weak linkage to participatory governance theory. Context: Did not analyze NGO-driven interventions in marginalized counties.	The present study examined ActionAid’s grassroots advocacy in Garissa County and assessed its long-term effect on transparency and citizen participation using correlation analysis.
Ahmed & Yusuf	NGO advocacy	Case study; semi-	Advocacy increased	Methodology: No quantitative	The present study used structured

(2021)	campaigns and governance reforms in Somalia	structured interviews	awareness but faced political resistance.	measurement of governance outcomes. Theory: Focused on awareness but not accountability frameworks. Context: Conducted outside Kenya's devolved governance system.	questionnaires and correlation analysis to evaluate how ActionAid's advocacy enhanced accountability within Garissa's devolved context.
Karanja et al. (2023)	Citizen-led advocacy and transparency in Nairobi settlements	Survey design; thematic analysis	Community involvement improved accountability .	Methodology: Did not quantify advocacy outcomes. Theory: Limited theoretical grounding in governance theory. Context: Urban informal settlement; not generalizable to rural Garissa.	The present study analyzed ActionAid's dual grassroots and institutional advocacy approach in a rural marginalized context using quantitative measures.
Hassan & Warsame (2024)	Advocacy-driven participatory governance in Northeastern Kenya	Mixed-methods; surveys and interviews	Advocacy increased citizen participation but required institutional support.	Methodology: Lacked statistical measurement of advocacy impact. Theory: Did not link findings to NGO-led advocacy frameworks. Context: Not organization-specific.	The present study quantified the effect of ActionAid's advocacy on citizen participation and governance accountability using correlation analysis.
Omondi & Kariuki (2019)	Legal aid services and governance outcomes in Kenya	Descriptive survey; questionnaires	Legal aid improves access to justice and accountability .	Methodology: Did not analyze NGO-specific legal support initiatives. Theory: Did not apply accountability or rights-based governance theory. Context: No county-level focus.	The study analyzed ActionAid's community-based legal support and evaluated its effect on governance reforms in Garissa County.
Abdullahi & Hassan (2021)	NGO legal support and transparency in Somalia	Qualitative interviews	Legal support improved governance but faced political interference.	Methodology: No quantitative testing. Theory: Weak linkage to transparency theory. Context: National focus; not localized community impact.	The study assessed how ActionAid's localized legal support enhanced community-level governance

					accountability using quantitative analysis.
Kimani et al. (2022)	Pro bono legal services and governance accountability in Kenya	Correlational design; surveys	Legal assistance increased government responsiveness.	Methodology: Did not integrate legal support with advocacy. Theory: Limited use of human rights-based approach. Context: Urban focus.	The study examined how ActionAid combined legal support and advocacy to strengthen governance accountability in rural Garissa.
Wanjiru & Mutua (2025)	NGO-led litigation and governance reforms in East Africa	Case study approach	Litigation can compel government accountability.	Methodology: Focused on national judicial litigation, not community legal empowerment. Theory: Did not apply participatory governance theory. Context: Not grassroots-oriented.	The study evaluated ActionAid's localized non-litigation legal aid services and their influence on everyday governance accountability.
Njenga & Ouma (2019)	CBO mobilization for governance reforms	Mixed-methods; interviews and surveys	Mobilization enhances public oversight.	Methodology: No statistical effect measurement. Theory: Limited participatory governance theory linkage. Context: Focused on small CBOs, not large NGOs.	The study assessed how ActionAid mobilized communities for governance reforms and measured the statistical effect using correlation analysis.
Abdi & Noor (2020)	Community governance initiatives in Wajir	Survey; descriptive statistics	Mobilization encouraged participation but was constrained by politics.	Methodology: No effect measurement. Theory: Did not examine structured NGO support frameworks. Context: Generic mobilization efforts only.	The study investigated ActionAid's structured mobilization strategies and evaluated their effectiveness in sustaining citizen participation in Garissa.
Makori et al. (2023)	Youth mobilization and governance	Quantitative; regression analysis	Youth participation improves policy	Methodology: Focused on youth only. Theory: Limited broader social mobilization theory	The study examined how ActionAid engaged diverse

	participation in Kiambu		responsiveness.	link. Context: Urban county; marginalized environments.	Urban not community groups (youth, women, marginalized households) in governance reforms in Garissa.
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2.5 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework (Figure 2.1 below) shows the linkage between the initiatives taken by ActionAid International Kenya (independent variables) and good governance (dependent variable). The grassroots advocacy activities are enhanced by the number of advocacy activities carried out. The provision of legal aid was measured by the number of legal aid cases processed, the availability of access to legal aid services, and the success rate obtained in the use of legal intervention. Community mobilization was measured by either the number of initiatives that are community-run, the level to which citizens participate in governance, and capacity built within the sector; these activities facilitate inclusive governance. The activities cited above boost participatory activity and transparency, which are essential components of good governance.

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES
(ActionAid International Kenya's Initiatives)

DEPENDENT VARIABLES
(Good Governance)

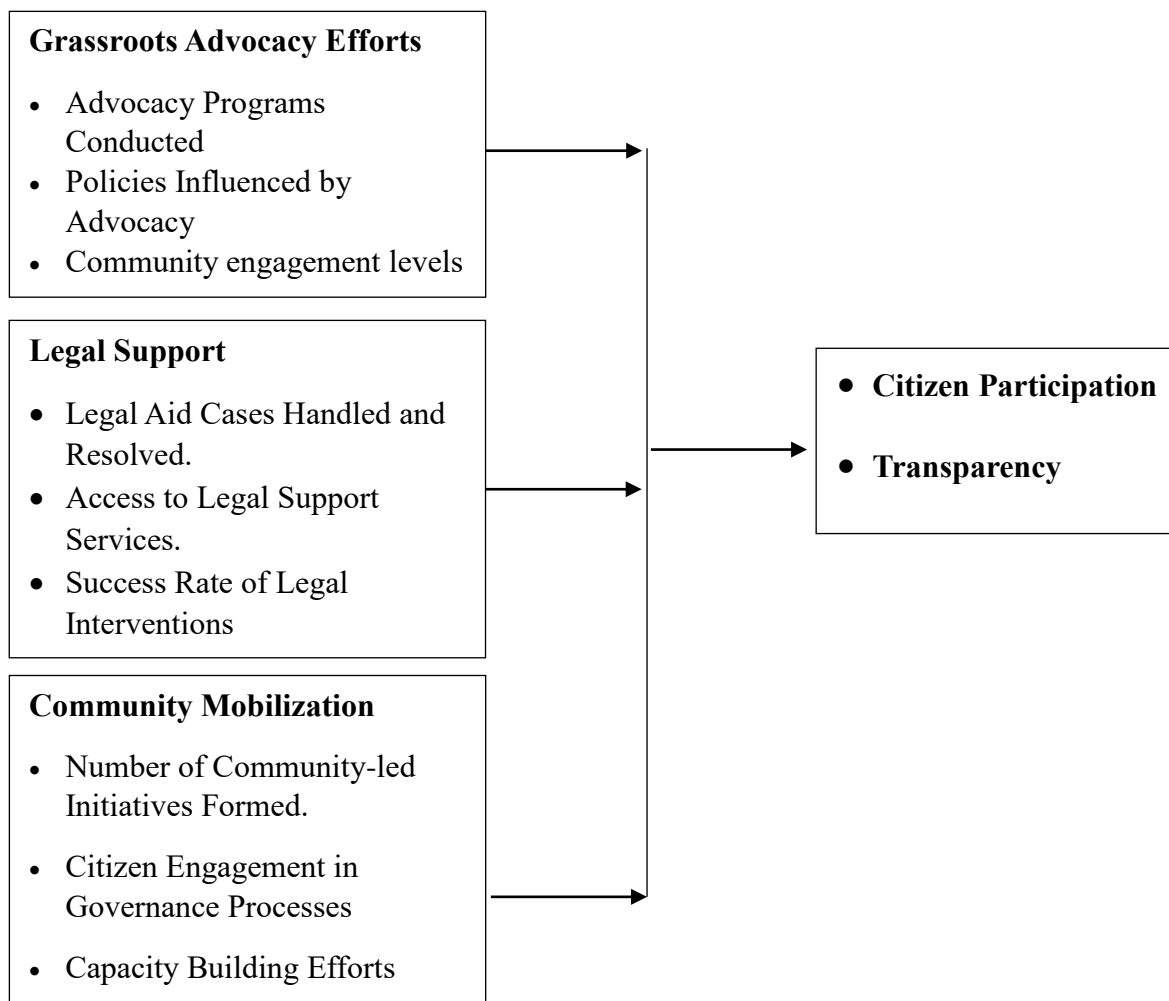


Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework. Source: Researcher, 2025

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter highlights the research methodology that was employed during the study. The research methodology has various components that include research design, study location, population to be surveyed, sampling techniques, data collection tools, pilot study process, validity and reliability tests, and data analysis techniques. The research methodology was employed to ensure that data was accurate and pertinent to the research study aims and objectives. In this study that examines the impact that grassroots advocacy efforts, legal aid, and mobilization of the people had on good governance in Garissa County, the research was to be descriptive to ensure that respondents are in a position to recall experiences without altering research variables. The research methodology was systematic to ensure that data was collected and analyzed from action aid officials and other people involved in governance activities in Kenya. The research processes that are covered within this chapter are in direct alignment with research aims to ensure that data gathered was enough to determine the impact that action aid international Kenya has had on the transparency and people's participation dimensions that bring about good governance within Garissa County.

3.2 Research Design

The research design adopted in this study was descriptive research. The research design was applicable since the study was intended to describe and evaluate the impact of grassroots advocacy, litigation, and mobilization by ActionAid International Kenya on good governance in Garissa County without interfering with any variable. The research was aimed at obtaining opinions, experiences, and perspectives from the respondents who are actively involved in governance projects.

The descriptive design also permitted the use of numerical and narrative data to aid the analysis of the level of citizens' participation and transparency that exists as a result of ActionAid's intervention activities. The study design was ideal to establish the current state of governance practices within Garissa County and to present facts to aid analysis with regard to the study objectives.

3.3 Study Location

The study was carried out in Garissa County, one among the three in the North Eastern Region in Kenya. The county was made up of ten sub-counties; these include Garissa Township, Ijara, Lagdera, Balambala, Bura East, Fafi, Hulugho, Bothai, Liboi, and Dadaab sub-counties. The county had an extra three sub-counties that had been gazetted but had not yet operationalized (The County Government of Garissa, 2023). The county headquarters was situated in Garissa Township. The county was placed within 0.1112120° S to 40.3142430° E with a land area coverage of 44,753 km². The boundarying neighbors include Somalia to its East side, Lamu County to its Southern side, Tana River County to its Western side, Isiolo County to its Northwest side, and Wajir to its North side (The County Government of Garissa, 2023).

The people from Garissa County comprised people from different ethnic groups; most are Somali. The county also has refugees who stay in places such as Dadaab refugee camp. The economic backbone of the county was livestock production. Livestock production was essential to most households (The County Government of Garissa, 2023).

Some governance problems were also seen to exist in Garissa County, just like in other Counties; these include challenges related to accountability and transparency in service delivery, political interference, poor participative governance, and poor budget allocation (Ismail, 2018; Abdullahi & Minja, 2020). These factors ended up hindering development and good governance in the region.

3.4 Target Population

The population was referred to be the entire group of people from which data was collected that was pertinent to the research questions. The study sought to investigate the impact that grassroots advocacy, legal services, and mobilization had on good governance in the county of Garissa. The population would therefore include people who are actively involved in the implementation and management of these interventions. The reason for this was to ensure that data gathered was pertinent to the impact that the governance projects had by ActionAid International Kenya.

The population was comprised of three groups. First, ActionAid International Kenya staff involved in governance programming (program coordinators, field officers, and governance specialists). These individuals were chosen because they designed and implemented the advocacy, legal support, and mobilization activities, and therefore provided information on program intent, strategy, and implementation.

The other category is the community leaders and civil society representatives (including mobilizers, women and youth group leaders, and CBO/CSO representatives) were included because they participated in the programs and were directly involved in citizen engagement and local accountability processes, making them central to assessing changes in transparency and participation.

The last category comprises county and sub-county governance officials who collaborated with ActionAid in public participation, service delivery monitoring, and civic engagement were included because they interacted with the programs within government processes and could therefore speak to institutional responsiveness.

According to ActionAid's program implementation records in Garissa County, these three groups comprised 300 individuals. This population was therefore appropriate because it aligned directly with the three independent variables and consisted of participants who were

knowledgeable, experienced, and positioned to provide credible evidence on governance outcomes.

3.5 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The study adopted the stratified sampling procedure to guarantee the proportionate representation of key governance actors engaged in programs by ActionAid International Kenya. It improved the validity and reliability of findings because the researcher was able to divide the target population into separate subgroups and then randomly select respondents within each stratum (Levitt et al., 2018). The method was thus suitable for the study because it was meant to assess sustained advocacy and governance interventions from multistakeholder perspectives.

Unlike simple random sampling, which might not take proportional representation into account, stratified sampling does ensure that the experiences of people from the several groups interfacing with governance programs are evenly represented so that the risk of perhaps over-representing any one particular group is circumvented. Another way in which the validity of the study was improved was by eliminating selection bias and making it easier to generalize the findings.

In the random sampling process, the possibility of losing some critical views was abated. Without stratification, smaller yet important groups like ActionAid staff might have gone underrepresented, thereby affecting the comprehensiveness of understanding governance dynamics. Through this sampling design, the findings of this study were deemed valid and representative of real-life scenarios, thereby enabling the formulation of policy recommendations that are an informed generalisation. The sample size was computed using the formula developed by Yamane (1967), a suitable method for sample size determination from a finite population.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

n = required sample size

N = target population (300)

e = margin of error (0.05 for a 95% confidence level)

$$n = \frac{300}{1+(300)(0.0025)} = 177 \text{ respondents}$$

Thus, the final sample size was 177 respondents. The population was stratified as follows:

Table 3.1 Sample Size Distribution by Strata

Category	Population	Sample Proportion (%)	Sample Size
ActionAid Staff	60	20	36
Community Leaders & CSOs	150	50	88
Local Government Officials	90	30	53
Total	300	100	177

The chosen categories are important for governance in Garissa County, advocacy, and policy implementation. ActionAid staff internally review their program designs and implementation, while community leaders and CSOs provide a grassroots perspective on the effects of governance. Local government officials lend their perspective based on rich experiences of policy implementation and carry out that implementation jointly with ActionAid. A stratified sampling technique maximizes representation across groups, thereby increasing intellectual robustness and the generalizability of the findings. It captures opposing perspectives, thereby affording a fully inclusive appreciation of governance interventions.

3.6 Research Instrument

The questionnaire was the key instrument applied in this study to obtain quantitative data about the governance intervention conducted by ActionAid International Kenya in the county of Garissa (Appendix II). The study applied questions with closed answers and Likert scale items to measure the respondents' perspectives with concerns to various activities undertaken in governance. The questionnaire was structured to enable observation to be taken from all possible dimensions with concerns to different activities taking place in governance. The dimensions include demographic factors, grassroots advocacy, activities linked to legal support, mobilization activities, and dimensions linked to governance outcomes. The dimensions are aimed at obtaining data that has direct implications with various activities linked to governance.

3.6.1 Validity of Instrument

The validity relates to the question of whether the research instrument measures what it is intended to measure. There are various approaches through which the content validity of the questionnaire may be enhanced. The questions are evaluated in terms of whether the questions relate to the research questions and the conceptual framework. The pilot study was conducted to check the statement analysis in terms of clarity, relevance, and item effect. Furthermore, the study availed the questionnaire that was previously established to ascertain the theoretical validity. The study therefore aims to accurately measure governance variables by applying previously defined models of governance. The above approaches therefore sought to ensure that the study has established content validity and error minimization while assuring that the results reflect the reality surrounding the governance environment in Garissa County.

3.6.2 Reliability of Instrument

The reliability of the questionnaire ensures that there are accurate and reliable results. To ensure these results are accurate and reliable, each format and scale applied to the questions was standardized. The internal reliability was measured by Cronbach Alpha values; these values should exceed 0.7 (Kline, 1999). The process of determining the reliability was done after the pilot study to ensure that improvements had been made before attempting to work on data collection. Positive statements only are placed on the Likert scale; statements asking questions are placed in clear and neutral formats to reduce potential biases in the results, particularly acquiescence. The pilot test further aided the use of clear formats to ensure that there is accuracy in attitudinal questions to reflect the responses accurately. If the reliability measure is below the acceptable standard, there is need to improve this with changes to ensure that the reliability accuracy improves.

3.7 Data Collection Procedure

The data collection process was carried out using self-administered questionnaires distributed physically by drop and pick methods and electronically via Google Forms. Such a dual process allowed flexibility for respondents and increased their chances of participation in the study. Permission was obtained from Kenyatta University and NACOSTI securing research approval before data collection took its course.

The researchers carried out a pilot study consisting of 17 respondents, i.e., 10% of the sample size, so as to improve the application of the questionnaire and clarify its contents. Several biases were identified that might emerge from the chosen methods. For instance, lower response rates were found better typical of online questionnaires through Google Forms, while face-to-face questionnaires could lead to bias through social desirability effects.

To mitigate this challenge, reminders to participate in the study followed through by email and calls to ensure that people took part while maintaining the assurance that the survey was

anonymous. In preparation for analysis, it was essential to review all the questionnaires submitted to ensure that the data was reliable to meet the criteria set in this study.

3.8 Pilot Testing

A pilot study was carried out to establish the validity and reliability of the research instrument before the study was carried out. A 10% pilot study was adopted in the study, with 17 people taking part in the pilot study. The study adopted Connelly's (2008) recommendation that a 10% pilot study be carried out to ensure that the research instrument was reliable and valid without contaminating the data collected during the study. The pilot study respondents took part in the study and comprised stakeholders in the governance of the communities with similar characteristics to those taking part in the study.

The pilot test was designed to determine if the questions in the questionnaire are clear and understandable to the respondents. The pilot study collected data about understanding questions, simplicity of terms, relevance to content covered by the instrument, and time needs to complete the instrument. The pilot test was followed by modifications to the study instrument that entailed clarifying ambiguous questions and eliminating redundant questions. To ensure that contamination and prior sensitization of the respondents did not occur, the pilot study was carried out among respondents who come from different localities within Garissa County but are not in the clusters set for data collection. The pilot study was also aimed at ascertaining whether the data collection instrument was clear and reliable.

3.9 Data Analysis

The data analysis was conducted utilizing Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 26. The data generated was first cleaned to ensure that there was completeness, consistency, and accuracy. The data was then encoded to facilitate analysis with the aid of SPSS. The results obtained are presented utilizing descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations to present features of the study respondents and

illustrate the magnitude that exists within grassroots advocacy, legal aid, mobilization of the society, and good governance within Garissa County.

To establish the impact that the interventions by ActionAid International Kenya have on good governance, the study adopted the Pearson Correlation Model. The Pearson Correlation Coefficient (r) was utilized to establish the strength and degree of correlation that exists between each independent variable (grassroot advocacy, legal aid, and mobilization) and the dependent variable (good governance). The study adopted this model due to its capacity to allow the examination of the linear correlation that exists between various variables without necessarily indicating that there was causation. The data was presented in table format to enable clear interpretation. The results would be interpreted to draw conclusions in relation to the study objectives and other existing bodies of reality to form conclusions that establish the impact that the various initiatives on governance by ActionAid International Kenya in Garissa County are bearing.

3.10 Ethical Considerations

The study adhered to ethical requirements by requesting clearance from NACOSTI. Administrative approval to conduct the research was obtained from Kenyatta University before the data was gathered. The study adhered to ethical requirements to ensure the validity and validity of the research process. Approval to conduct the research was sought from ActionAid International Kenya and the county governments. The research was voluntary; the respondents had been made aware of the rationale behind the research and had the right to withdraw from the research at any time without any form of reprisal. To ensure that the respondents' confidentiality was maintained, no identifying data was allowed on the questionnaires. Also, the results were presented in aggregate form. The data that was collected was only to be used within the academic environment and was protected from

unauthorized user entry. This was to ensure that the respondents' privacy, dignity, and autonomy had been maintained during the research process.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION, AND INTERPRETATION

4.0 Introduction

The chapter examines and highlights the research that was conducted to evaluate the promotion of good governance by the various ActionAid International Kenya projects in Garissa County in Kenya. Various techniques in data analysis had to be adopted to attain the objectives in the research.

4.1 Response Rate

The questionnaires were distributed to the staff working with ActionAid, to the leaders, and to the CSOs and government officials who participate in governance processes within the County of Garissa, with the aim of obtaining data. A total of 177 questionnaires were distributed, with 173 returned; therefore, the rate of response is 97.7%, as illustrated below in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Response Rate

	Count	Percentage
Returned	173	97.7
Non-returned	4	2.3
Total	177	100

The rather low return rate might indicate that the subjects responded somewhat reluctantly. In contrast to that, the rather high return rate in this study suggests that the subjects were quite cooperative, which made them important contributors to the study results' validity and reliability. The Google Forms functioned greatly in taking account of this issue since the Google Forms are free and accessible to allow subjects to send electronic questionnaires.

4.2 Demographic Information of Respondents

The aim of the study was to establish the demographic composition of the respondents who took part in the study. This entailed factors such as gender, age group, level of education, and job title.

4.2.1 Gender Distribution

Study participants include both male and female subjects as shown in Figure 4.1.

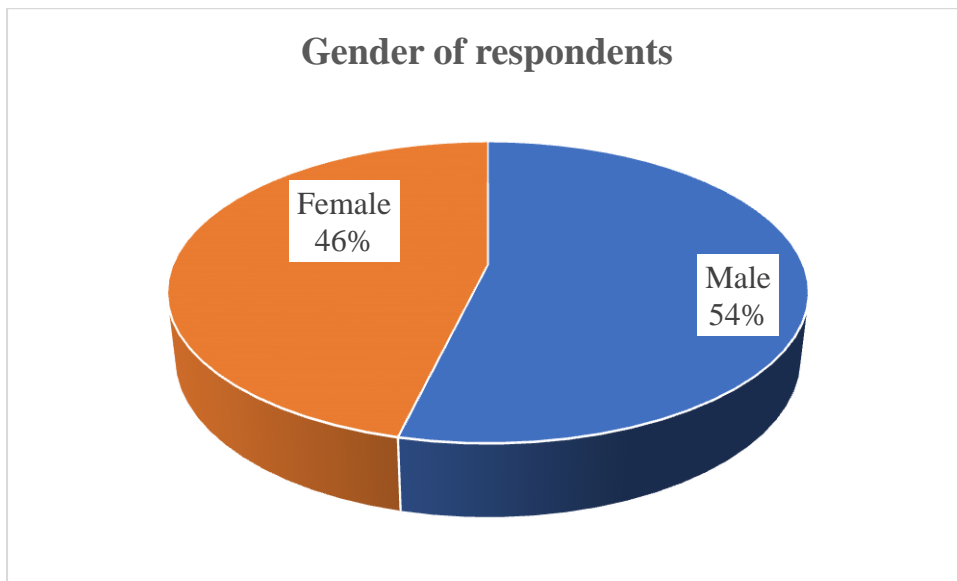


Figure 4.1: Gender Distribution

The results revealed that the majority of respondents were male (93, 54%), while females accounted for 46% (80). This indicates a relatively balanced distribution of respondents by gender, with a slight predominance of males.

4.2.2 Age Distribution

The study aimed to determine the age distribution of the respondents, and the results are presented in Figure 4.2.

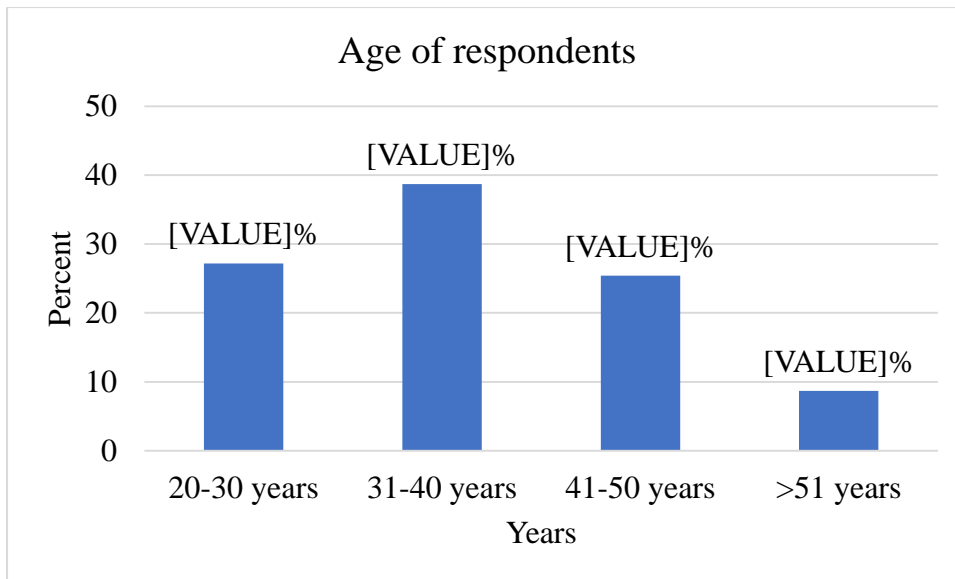


Figure 4.2: Age Distribution

The findings showed that the majority, 67 respondents or 38.7%, were between 31 and 40 years; 27.2% were aged between 20 and 30 years; 25.4%, between 41 and 50 years; and 8.7% were above 51 years of age. This, therefore, indicates that most respondents were above 31 years; hence, they understood how ActionAid International Kenya worked to promote good governance in Garissa County.

4.2.3 Education Level of the Respondents

The study aimed to determine the education levels of the respondents to assess their capacity to understand the effectiveness of ActionAid International Kenya's initiatives in promoting good governance in Garissa County. The results are illustrated in Figure 4.3.

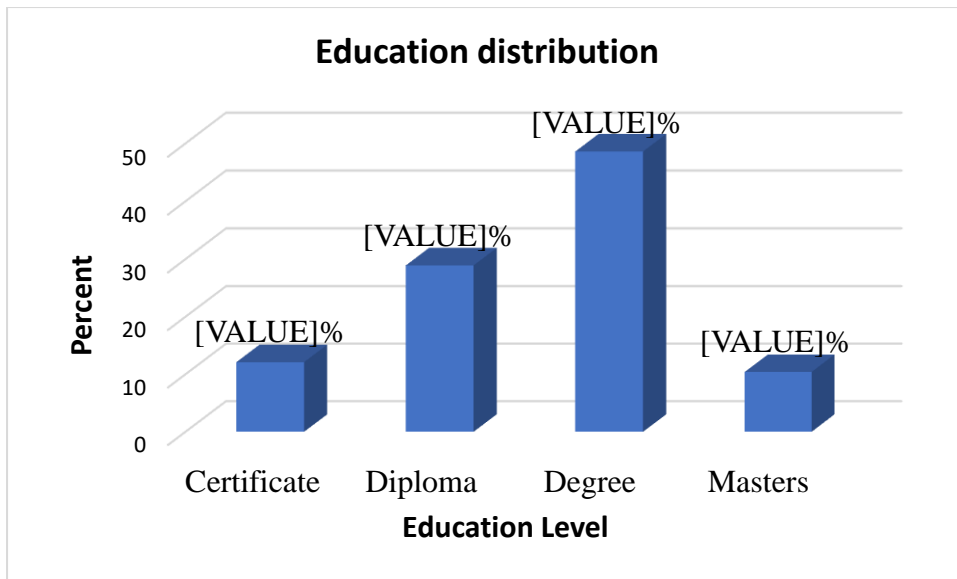


Figure 4.3: Education Level Distribution

The majority of respondents (84, 48.6%) were in possession of a bachelor's degree. 28.9% had a diploma, 12.1% had a certificate, and 10.4% had a master's degree. These results indicate that the majority of respondents possessed sufficient educational training to evaluate the effectiveness of projects put on by ActionAid International Kenya toward the promotion of good governance.

4.2.4 Position in the County

The study aimed to identify the positions held by respondents within the County. The findings are presented in Figure 4.4.

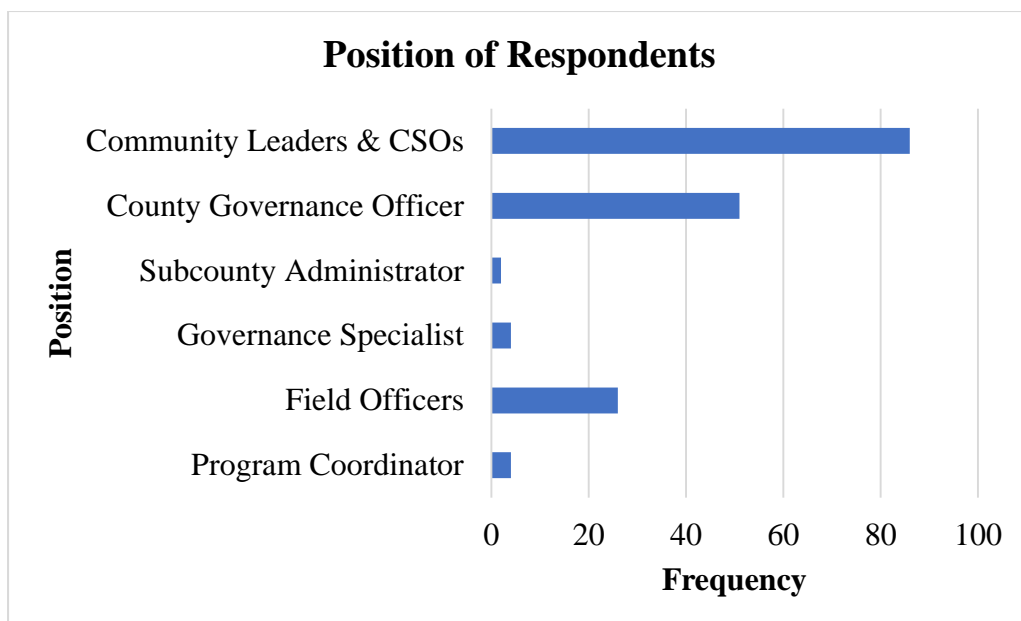


Figure 4.4: Position of Respondents

The findings indicated that majority 86(49.7%) of the respondents held the position of community Leaders and CSOs, with 29.5% were County Governance Officer, while 15% were field officers, and 2.3% were Program Coordinator and Governance Specialist. These results suggested that most respondents were community Leaders and CSOs.

4.3 Reliability of the Instrument

Cronbach's alpha test was used to examine the instruments' reliability. A Cronbach's alpha test validates the consistency and reliability of a Data collecting Instrument. Table 4.2 summarizes the outcomes of the reliability statistics test.

Table 4.2 Reliability Statistics

Variable	Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
Grassroots Advocacy	.700	6
Legal Support	.727	6
Community Mobilization	.723	6
Good governance	.765	12
Overall	.858	30

The highest Cronbach's alpha was observed in good governance coefficient of 0.765 and the lowest coefficient was grassroots' advocacy with 0.700 coefficient. Legal support had a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of (0.727) and community mobilization had a coefficient of

0.723. The study variables depicted an overall Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of 0.858 from 30 statements used. The research tool consistently yielded high Cronbach's alpha coefficient scores, which is generally acceptable because it exceeded 0.7, validating that the instrument was consistent and reliable (FitzPatrick, 2019).

4.4 Descriptive Analysis for Variables

It was employed to compile data on the variables to draw emphasis on their key features. The respondents are required to answer each question with a rating on the five-point Likert scale; 5 = Strongly Agree (SA), 4 = Agree (A), 3 = Neutral (N), 2 = Disagree (D), 1 = Strongly Disagree (SD). The frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations are calculated to understand the quantitative data that has been gathered by the use of questionnaires. The means and standard deviations are mostly applied to understand the key findings of the study. As Margaret (2017) stated that to understand the means rating of the study: 4.2–5.0 = Strongly Agree; 3.4–4.2 = Agree; 2.6–3.4 = Neutral; 1.8–2.6 = Disagree; 1.0–1.8 = Strongly Disagree.

4.4.1 Grassroots Advocacy and Good Governance

The first objective was to evaluate the impact of grassroots advocacy activities conducted by ActionAid International Kenya on good governance in the county of Garissa. The respondents weighed the statements involving the activities' frequency and impact on a five-point Likert scale. The data is presented in Table 4.3 below.

Table 4.3 Grassroots Advocacy Efforts

	SD		D		N		A		SA		Mean	Std. Dev
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
The organization conducts regular advocacy programs such as public forums, workshops, and social media campaigns.	23	13.3	20	11.6	30	17.3	60	34.7	40	23.1	3.43	1.32
Advocacy programs have increased public awareness on governance issues.	24	13.9	24	13.9	22	12.7	58	33.5	45	26.0	3.44	1.37
Advocacy efforts have influenced the development or amendment of policies.	24	13.9	20	11.6	24	13.9	66	38.2	39	22.5	3.44	1.33
The organization actively engages policymakers to push for policy changes.	23	13.3	29	16.8	22	12.7	67	38.7	32	18.5	3.32	1.32
Community members actively participate in advocacy campaigns.	22	12.7	24	13.9	21	12.1	68	39.3	38	22.0	3.44	1.32
Advocacy campaigns have resulted in increased citizen participation in governance.	23	13.3	27	15.6	29	16.8	57	32.9	37	21.4	3.34	1.33
Mean											3.40	0.80

Source: Field Data (2025)

The initial intention of the research was to evaluate the impact that grassroots advocacy activities by ActionAid International Kenya had on good governance in Garissa County. The descriptive analysis presented in Table 4.3 shows that the respondents agreed that ActionAid engages in various activities such as organizing public forums and raising awareness among the people. A mean score of 3.40 was evident to express that this has helped to improve civic awareness.

The data show that grassroots advocacy has made significant contributions to making people more aware of concerns with regard to governance. The respondents also agreed that grassroots advocacy activities had made an impact on the development of policies; however, the slightly lower mean score with regard to lobbying policymakers (Mean = 3.32) might indicate that there is still need to lobby more.

These results imply that the advocacy efforts carried out by ActionAid are important to the enhancement of transparency, oversight, and active participation, which are core measures that form the definition of good governance. These results are supported by Hassan (2024), who pointed out that an increase in civic mobilization in Mandera County led to an increase in active participation and responsiveness to concerns from the government. These results also imply that grassroots advocacy is an important element in placing pressure on accountable governance in marginalized counties. The results are also supported by the Participatory Governance Theory (Fung & Wright, 2001), which argues that if there are systematic opportunities presented to people to take part in governance, then the processes involved in making decisions will be more inclusive and accountable. The grassroots mobilization forums initiated by ActionAid constitute such platforms that allow people in Garissa County to air grievances and hold governments accountable.

Although grassroots mobilization has added to people's participation in governance, there is need for more collaboration between institutions and policymakers to ensure that people's voices are captured in terms of renewed state policies. It is advisable that organizations such as ActionAid engage more with people's budget monitoring groups and county governance groups to ensure that there is strengthened state resultants.

4.4.2 Legal Support and Good Governance

The second objective was to investigate the impact of legal aid initiatives undertaken by ActionAid International Kenya on good governance within Garissa County. The subjects

were required to answer questions about the degree to which they agreed with statements about the availability and outcome of free legal aid services delivered by the NGO concerned. The outcome is illustrated in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4 Legal Support

	SD		D		N		A		SA		Mean	Std. Dev
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
The organization provides legal aid for cases related to gender-based violence, land rights, and human rights violations.	22	12.7	22	12.7	39	22.5	61	35.3	29	16.8	3.31	1.25
Most legal aid cases handled by the organization are successfully resolved.	29	16.8	28	16.2	30	17.3	63	36.4	23	13.3	3.13	1.31
Legal support services are easily accessible to community members in need.	24	13.9	28	16.2	25	14.5	65	37.6	31	17.9	3.29	1.32
The organization regularly conducts legal clinics or awareness sessions on legal rights.	21	12.1	30	17.3	34	19.7	60	34.7	28	16.2	3.25	1.26
Legal interventions by the organization have led to positive outcomes for marginalized groups.	22	12.7	31	17.9	29	16.8	61	35.3	30	17.3	3.27	1.29
The success rate of legal aid cases handled by the organization is high.	26	15.0	24	13.9	35	20.2	58	33.5	30	17.3	3.24	1.31
Mean											3.26	0.74

Source: Field Data (2025)

The second objective was to investigate the impact that the provision of legal aid projects by ActionAid International Kenya has on good governance within Garissa County. The results presented in Table 4.4 indicate that the mean score is 3.26, meaning that the respondents rated the aspect of offering significant aid to the constituents in terms of legal aid by ActionAid as

true. The area that these people receive aid in most relates to gender violence. The latter falls among the matters that are most significant within the sector that needs to be solved within the boundaries of Garissa.

The data further shows that the availability of legal support services by ActionAid is viewed as somewhat accessible; though the mean score is moderate, some groups might be facing challenges with regard to distance and lack of awareness. This postulation is supported by Karimi et al. (2023), who suggested that though there are enough legal aid provisions to ensure that vulnerable groups are protected within the informal settlements found in urban areas, there are stigmatization and awareness creation challenges that might inhibit full use. Similarly, within the Garissa area, though the existence of legal aid by ActionAid has been well received by the community, there seems to be variability in its delivery within the various areas.

The respondents also pointed to the contribution that legal interventions made to the positive outcome among marginalized groups and that the rate of resolution among the cases dealt with by the organization was mostly seen as high. This was evidence of a significant contribution to improving access to justice. The relatively lower rating on engagement with policymakers shows that while ActionAid pushes agendas in terms of improving legislation and policies through change, this might not be a consistent process through such engagement. These results are supported by the findings by Abdirahman and Ibrahim (2024), which recently found that initiatives to empower the community through the law in Wajir County made significant impact in terms of improving accountability and responsiveness on the part of the government in matters related to legal aid services if there was mobilization through rights awareness initiatives. The results in this current study therefore confirm that initiatives aimed at offering legal aid are most successful if there are accompanying initiatives to engage with the communities that are aimed at sensitizing them. The strategy adopted by ActionAid

to engage with the communities and offer civic education is therefore one mechanism that can be seen to empower people to be more clamorous about accountability on the part of duty bearers.

The findings also confirm Accountability Theory (Bovens, 2007), whereby governance is strengthened through the opportunity that citizens have to hold authority to account and seek remedy. Since it enables citizens to exercise their rights within the law and hold accountable governmental institutions, ActionAid promotes the accountabilities that enable the governed to interact with governance institutions in Garissa County. Legal empowerment emerges as key to the development that comes through good governance.

In conclusion, the research proves that there are positive contributions to good governance in Garissa County with regards to the provision of legal aid activities by ActionAid that lead to greater access to justice, the enforcement of rights among the marginalized populations, and public accountability. Yet, the research results show that there is a need to improve the uniformity and policymaking processes with regard to translating the impact of the legal activities aimed at introducing permanent structural changes within the concerned communities.

4.4.3 Community Mobilization and Good Governance

The third objective was to assess the impact of the community mobilization activities carried out by ActionAid International Kenya on good governance in Garissa County. To respond to this objective, the research sought to know the level to which respondents agreed with questions touching on the mobilization activities carried out by ActionAid in areas such as establishing groups within the communities, organizing forums to engage citizens, and implementing awareness and capacity-building initiatives on governance. These opinions were sought utilizing a five-point Likert scale that is reflected in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5 Community Mobilization

	SD		D		N		A		SA		Mean	Std. Dev
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Community-led initiatives such as self-help groups and watchdog groups have increased in my area.	25	14.5	23	13.3	28	16.2	57	32.9	40	23.1	3.37	1.36
Local social movements have been effective in advocating for governance reforms.	27	15.6	34	19.7	27	15.6	52	30.1	33	19.1	3.17	1.37
Citizens actively participate in governance processes such as policy discussions.	18	10.4	33	19.1	27	15.6	56	32.4	39	22.5	3.38	1.30
The organization facilitates citizen engagement in governance meetings.	18	10.4	31	17.9	29	16.8	55	31.8	40	23.1	3.39	1.30
Capacity-building workshops on governance are regularly conducted.	26	15.0	26	15.0	28	16.2	54	31.2	39	22.5	3.31	1.37
Community training programs have improved awareness of governance issues.	26	15.0	21	12.1	29	16.8	63	36.4	34	19.7	3.34	1.33
Mean											3.33	0.78

Source: Field Data (2025)

The third objective was to assess the impact of the community mobilization activities conducted by ActionAid International Kenya on good governance in Garissa County. The descriptive analysis presented in Table 4.5 above shows that the mean score is 3.33, which implies that the respondents agreed that ActionAid’s anti-poverty efforts in the form of community mobilization activities have had an impact on raising levels of community participation and awareness on matters of governance. The respondents agreed that there has been an increase in the number of activities that are led by the communities in the form of

self-help groups and watchdog groups within their areas, which implies that ActionAid has been mobilizing communities to take responsibility for governance.

The results also indicate that the population is steadily taking part in governance processes such as policy debates and forums, albeit in an intermittent manner rather than within the confines of well-structured institutions. The subjects agreed that ActionAid engages citizens in governance forums and holds capacity-building sessions to ensure that citizens gain more knowledge in governance. The mean results indicate that there is capacity-building, though the level and extent to which such processes engage the population might depend on the location and cultural considerations within the communities.

The study findings are also consistent with evidence presented by Yussuf and Adan (2024), who discovered that civic mobilization endeavors in Isiolo County had greatly enhanced civic participation and oversight if the citizens are provided with designed platforms and are continually made aware of rights within governance. Likewise, the civic mobilization strategy adopted by ActionAid seems to increase citizens' voices and build awareness about governance responsibilities and capacities, though the magnitude may be determined by the level of continued support and intervention.

These results also confirm the principles underlying the Participatory Governance Theory that identifies participative governance as the key to bringing about effective results in governance. The initiatives taken by the ActionAid intervention to build these principles related to inclusive governance include encouraging active involvement by citizens in the process and making sure that citizens are no mere receivers of governance policies but are instead active participants in the process.

In conclusion, the research has proven that the work carried out by ActionAid in terms of mobilizing the communities has led to greater awareness and greater development in civic action and development of people-controlled accountability mechanisms in Garissa County.

The lowest means indicate that there needs to be greater engagement and more training carried out among the communities to ensure that mobilization leads to greater accountability within governance rather than periodic action.

4.5 Good Governance

The variable was measured by testing the level to which the respondents agreed with questions posed about the contribution made by people's participation and transparency to good governance.

4.5.1 Citizen Participation as Good Governance

The respondents were required to evaluate these statements with respect to their experiences with ActionAid International with regard to the importance of people's participation in ensuring good governance in Garissa County. The level of importance was rated on a five-point Likert scale and the results are presented below in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6 Citizen Participation

	SD		D		N		A		SA		Mean	Std. Dev
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Local community members are involved in the planning and implementation of development projects.	27	15.6	20	11.6	23	13.3	62	35.8	41	23.7	3.40	1.38
Feedback mechanisms exist for citizens to express their views on public service delivery.	16	9.2	28	16.2	30	17.3	54	31.2	45	26.0	3.49	1.29
Citizens actively participate in policy discussions and governance meetings.	21	12.1	30	17.3	26	15.0	58	33.5	38	22.0	3.36	1.32
Public forums and consultative meetings are regularly conducted.	19	11.0	30	17.3	30	17.3	63	36.4	31	17.9	3.33	1.26
Community members frequently submit petitions to demand policy changes.	24	13.9	34	19.7	38	22.0	47	27.2	30	17.3	3.14	1.31
Civic engagement programs have been effective in influencing governance decisions.	21	12.1	25	14.5	31	17.9	64	37.0	32	18.5	3.35	1.27
Mean											3.35	0.73

Source: Field Data (2025)

The results shown in Table 4.6 indicate that the mean score is 3.35, meaning that the respondents felt that ActionAid International Kenya has made significant contributions to improving citizen participation as key tenets of good governance in Garissa County. The survey shows that the majority of the respondents felt that citizens are participating more actively in development initiatives and projects, meaning that measures taken by ActionAid are bearing fruits in terms of establishing platforms that enable citizens to participate more actively in development initiatives. The results are also shown to confirm that there are

platforms that enable citizens to air their opinions on public service delivery. A moderate mean score was presented to show that the platforms are moderately utilized in various places. As cited in Chisika and Yeom (2024), there is greater ownership among people if platforms that enable them to participate are maintained.

The results also indicate that citizens are involved in governance forums and policy dialogues; however, such involvements are not necessarily continuous and extensive. The consultations and public forums are seen to be carried out; however, such activities are not necessarily frequent and extensive to the required extent. The results indicate that there is moderate agreement; that is, there are involvements in decision-making and consultations; however, there are inhibiting factors that might hamper extensive involvements by those concerned. In line with this reasoning, Hakiman & Sheely (2023) pointed out that while there are involvements in Kenya's devolved governments to ensure participations, these involvements are moderated by the level to which such involvements are facilitated by continuous civic participations.

The data further shows that the citizens make use of petitioning and civic engagement initiatives to shape governance, albeit less than attending public forums. The mean data shows that though there has been an enhancement in the understanding of governance procedures with the help of civic education initiatives by ActionAid, there still needs to be some encouragement to convert this understanding into collective action. These observations are in line with those made by Ouma (2023), who found that though there had been an increase in inclusivity with participatory planning processes in Nairobi, there was still the need for capacity-building initiatives to ensure continued public participation.

Overall, the findings indicate that the intervention efforts carried out by ActionAid have had a medium level of impact on improving the engagement of the citizenry in the governance processes within Garissa County. The impact is consistent with the principles outlined within

the Participatory Governance Theory that effective governance can be made better by active rather than passive stakeholders. The intervention carried out by ActionAid has supported the active stakeholders to take ownership of the governance processes.

In conclusion, the results show that though there has been an element of improvement in levels of civic participation, there is still need to ensure that these processes are made more frequent and systematic. Improvements in civic education processes, as well as the enforcement process after civic consultations are carried out, will ensure that civic participation has direct impact on governance processes within Garissa County.

4.5.2 Transparency as Good Governance

The survey respondents rated the list of statements evaluating the impact of transparency on facilitating good governance in Garissa County on a five-point Likert scale. The findings are presented in Table 4.7 below.

Table 4.7 Transparency

	SD		D		N		A		SA		Mean	Std. Dev
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Government budget reports, audit reports, and policy documents are easily accessible to the public.	25	14.5	22	12.7	26	15.0	61	35.3	39	22.5	3.39	1.35
The government regularly shares information on public expenditure and policy decisions.	19	11.0	34	19.7	20	11.6	57	32.9	43	24.9	3.41	1.34
Citizens are aware of their right to access government information.	25	14.5	27	15.6	34	19.7	50	28.9	37	21.4	3.27	1.35
Citizens feel safe and encouraged to report corruption cases in my community.	21	12.1	27	15.6	25	14.5	65	37.6	35	20.2	3.38	1.30
Reported corruption cases are investigated and successfully prosecuted.	21	12.1	31	17.9	43	24.9	51	29.5	27	15.6	3.19	1.25
Anti-corruption mechanisms are effective in my community.	21	12.1	22	12.7	30	17.3	70	40.5	30	17.3	3.38	1.25
Mean											3.34	0.72

Source: Field Data (2025)

From the results presented in Table 4.7, it is clear that the mean result is 3.34. This means that the majority of the respondents agreed that the initiatives by ActionAid International Kenya had assisted in improving transparency as one of the factors that constitute good governance in the sense that the budget reports by the government are accessible to the public; however, such matters are differently accessible depending on the level of the administration. The level of agreed results shows that though there are transparency measures in place, there is still potential inefficiency in accessing such measures. The results are consistent with those presented by Mong'are and Atheru (2023), who suggested that there are still challenges

within the devolved governments within Kenya due to bottlenecks in administration and other poor communication measures.

In the same way, the respondents pointed out that the sharing of information about public expenditure and government policies was carried out periodically but not necessarily in a systematic way. Knowledge about the right to freedom to information among citizens was clear but not necessarily ingrained. This is evident in that study by Adisa et al. (2024), wherein there was no systematic application of the provisions stipulated in the Access to Information Act among various county governments; therefore, there was no clear understanding among citizens about the right to demand and review public information.

The results also indicate that respondents feel that there is encouragement to make reports about corruption and malpractices in governance, though whistle-blowing culture is to some extent inhibited by fear of reaction to such reports. These results tend to confirm the views that Mbigi (2023) presented results indicating that enhancement of reporting mechanisms has led to more people expressing concerns about matters that might need change but that accountability impact depends on action taken after investigations. Respondents agreed that there are anti-corruption mechanisms in place that are to some extent effective.

In conclusion, these findings indicate that ActionAid International Kenya has made significant efforts towards improving transparency by making documents more accessible to the public and through dialogue activities between the government and citizens with the aim of improving anti-corruption initiatives. At the same time, these results indicate that there are shortcomings in the level of commitment to these practices with respect to the full coverage of measures aimed at public oversight and the protection of whistleblowers. This means that there is truth to the fact that making documents more accessible is only one aspect that needs to be addressed to improve governance.

These observations affirm the Accountability Theory whereby governance will improve if citizens are in a position to review government activities and make those who are supposed to account accountable. Transparency initiatives undertaken by Action Aid are crucial to ensure that there are no gaps in accessing information if there is to be complete entrenchment of transparency to improve governance within Garissa County.

4.6 Factor Analysis

Factor analysis is a powerful technique for reducing and interpreting data whereby investigators can basically identify latent dimensions or factors that explain observed patterns in data sets. All the five Likert scales were subjected to exploratory factor analysis applying PCA extraction and Varimax rotations with the Kaiser Normalization. All factor loadings equal to or greater than 0.50 are generally acceptable (Hair et al., 2010). The factor analysis results included a KMO measure of sampling adequacy and Bartlett's test of sphericity, the variance explained by each variable, and the Rotated Component Matrix factor loadings of the various items. Eigenvalues tell how much a factor explains out of the total variance and are of utmost importance in understanding how much each factor contributes towards explaining the pattern in the data. An eigenvalue of more than one would mean that a factor must be retained.

Factor analysis was undertaken to examine the reliability and sampling adequacy of the research instruments. To check the adequacy of data for factorability, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure of sampling adequacy and Bartlett's test of sphericity were used. Therefore, as given by Tabachnick and Fidell (2001), the KMO threshold of 0.50 is considered appropriate for factor analysis. Bartlett's test of Sphericity as per (Bartlett, 1950) should provide a chi-square output that significant with indication that the matrix was not an identity matrix and should be significant ($p < 0.05$) for factor analysis to be suitable (Hair et al., 2006; Tabachnick & Fidell, 2001).

4.6.1 Factor Analysis for Grassroots Advocacy

Grassroots advocacy was measured using six items and results of Kaiser-Meyer-Okin measure of sampling adequacy test of (0.790) and Bartlett's test of sphericity (χ^2 (15) = 138.971, $p < 0.000$) indicated that data was accepted for factor analysis as shown in Table 4.8.

Table 4.8 Grassroots Advocacy Component Matrix^a

	Component
	1
Community members actively participate in advocacy campaigns.	.685
Advocacy programs have increased public awareness on governance issues.	.634
The organization conducts regular advocacy programs such as public forums, workshops, and social media campaigns.	.631
The organization actively engages policymakers to push for policy changes.	.631
Advocacy campaigns have resulted in increased citizen participation in governance.	.611
Advocacy efforts have influenced the development or amendment of policies.	.601
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) Measure of Sampling Adequacy.	.790
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	
Approx. Chi-Square	138.971
df	15
Sig.	.000
Total Variance Explained (Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings)	40.040
Total Eigenvalues	2.402

Grassroots advocacy was subjected to factor analysis and one component with Eigen values greater than 1 were extracted which cumulatively explained 40.040% of variance. When rotated using Varimax with Kaiser Normalization reveals that one component. The component matrix of grassroots advocacy showed the component had six items whose factor loadings ranged from 0.601 to .685 which explained 40.04% of the total variance. It was therefore concluded that grassroots advocacy was measured by six statement that were retained computed and renamed advocacy for further analysis.

4.6.2 Factor Analysis for legal Support

Six items were proposed to measure legal support and results of Kaiser-Meyer-Okin measure of sampling adequacy test of (0.791) and Bartlett's test of sphericity ($\chi^2 (15) = 166.178$, $p < 0.000$) indicated that data was accepted for factor analysis as shown in Table 4.9.

Table 4.9 Legal Support Component Matrix^a

	Component
	1
Legal interventions by the organization have led to positive outcomes for marginalized groups.	.687
Most legal aid cases handled by the organization are successfully resolved.	.683
Legal support services are easily accessible to community members in need.	.649
The success rate of legal aid cases handled by the organization is high.	.641
The organization regularly conducts legal clinics or awareness sessions on legal rights.	.628
The organization provides legal aid for cases related to gender-based violence, land rights, and human rights violations.	.612
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) Measure of Sampling Adequacy.	.791
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	
Approx. Chi-Square	166.178
df	15
Sig.	.000
Total Variance Explained (Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings)	42.345
Total Eigenvalues	2.541

Legal support statements were subjected to factor analysis and components with Eigen values greater than 1 were extracted which cumulatively explained 42.345% of variance. When rotated using Varimax with Kaiser Normalization reveals that one component. The component matrix of legal support showed the component explained 42.345% of the total variance. All the six items used to measure legal support experienced was retained computed and renamed legal for further analysis.

4.6.3 Factor Analysis for Community Mobilization

To measure community mobilization six items were proposed and results of Kaiser-Meyer-Okin measure of sampling adequacy test of (0.774) and Bartlett's test of sphericity (χ^2 (15) =167.225, $p < 0.000$) indicated that the data were accepted for factor analysis, as shown in Table 4.10. Community mobilization statements were subjected to factor analysis and one component with Eigen values greater than 1 were extracted, which cumulatively explained 42% of the total variance. All six items were retained, computed, and renamed mobilization for further analysis.

Table 4.10 Community mobilization Component Matrix^a

	Component
	1
Local social movements have been effective in advocating for governance reforms.	.702
Community training programs have improved awareness of governance issues.	.679
Capacity-building workshops on governance are regularly conducted.	.641
Citizens actively participate in governance processes such as policy discussions.	.636
Community-led initiatives such as self-help groups and watchdog groups have increased in my area.	.614
The organization facilitates citizen engagement in governance meetings.	.612
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) Measure of Sampling Adequacy.	.774
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	
Approx. Chi-Square	167.225
df	15
Sig.	.000
Total Variance Explained (Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings)	42.003
Total Eigenvalues	2.520

4.6.4 Factor Analysis for Good Governance

Twelve items were proposed to measure good governance and results of Kaiser-Meyer-Okin measure of sampling adequacy test of (0.833) and Bartlett's test of sphericity (χ^2 (66) =299.70, $p < 0.000$) indicated that data was accepted for factor analysis as shown in Table 4.11.

Table 4.11 Good governance Rotated Component Matrix^a

	Component		
	1	2	3
Local community members are involved in the planning and implementation of development projects.	.795		
Anti-corruption mechanisms are effective in my community.	.633		
Civic engagement programs have been effective in influencing governance decisions.	.505		
Public forums and consultative meetings are regularly conducted.			
The government regularly shares information on public expenditure and policy decisions.		.750	
Government budget reports, audit reports, and policy documents are easily accessible to the public.		.698	
Feedback mechanisms exist for citizens to express their views on public service delivery.		.530	
Citizens feel safe and encouraged to report corruption cases in my community.			
Community members frequently submit petitions to demand policy changes.			.703
Citizens are aware of their right to access government information.			.643
Reported corruption cases are investigated and successfully prosecuted.			.592
Citizens actively participate in policy discussions and governance meetings.			
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) Measure of Sampling Adequacy.	.833		
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity			
	Approx. Chi-Square	299.70	
	df	66	
	Sig.	.000	
Total Variance Explained		46.394	
(Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings)		17.335	14.601 14.458
Total Eigenvalues		2.080	1.752 1.735

Source: Field Data (2025)

Good governance statements were subjected to factor analysis and three components with Eigen values greater than 1 were extracted which cumulatively explained 79.68% of variance.

When rotated using Varimax with Kaiser Normalization reveals that two components. The

rotated component matrix of well-being showed three items were loaded on the first factor, whose factor loadings explained 17.335% of the total variance. Three items were loaded on the second factor whose loadings explained 14.60% of the total variance. Three items were loaded on the third factor whose loadings and explained 14.458% of the total variance. Two items (Public forums and consultative meetings are regularly conducted and citizens feel safe and encouraged to report corruption cases in their community were deleted and nine items used to measure good governance were retained computed and renamed governance for further analysis.

4.7 Correlation Analysis of the Variables

The strength and direction of the relationship between variables were assessed using correlation analysis. Specifically, the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient (r) was employed to determine the nature and extent of the association between the study variables.

The results are summarized in Table 4.12.

Table 4.12 Correlation Analysis

		Good governance	Grassroots Advocacy	Legal Support	Community Mobilization
Good governance	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed)	1			
Grassroots Advocacy	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed)	.507**	1		
Legal Support	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed)	.548**	.526**	1	
Community Mobilization	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed)	.614**	.555**	.617**	1
		.000	.000	.000	

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

b. Listwise N=173

The findings revealed a significant positive relationship between grassroots advocacy and

good governance ($r = 0.507$, $p < .001$), indicating that enhanced grassroots advocacy efforts by

The organizational actions that had positive relations with governance improvements include those of ActionAid International. This is consistent with past research carried out in Kenya that has shown similar positive relations between civic mobilization and governance effectiveness (Adan and Ngatia, 2024). Correspondingly, there was a strong positive correlation noted between the provision of legal aid and good governance ($r = 0.548$, $p < .001$), thus indicating that with the increase in the provision of aid, there was a positive contribution to the level of governance, thus confirming the county-level evidence that suggested the positive relations between the underlying legislation and governance effectiveness (Adan and Ngatia, 2024). A strong positive correlation was also noted between mobilization and good governance ($r = 0.614$, $p < .001$): that is, with the increase in the activities carried out to mobilize the communities within the study area, there was an effect on improving governance within the county. These observations are still in line with past research carried out within Kenya that suggested that mobilization and participative techniques such as social audits and scorecards are significant factors in improving governance (Ido and Elegwa, 2019).

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the findings from research are presented in summary form, conclusions are made from the data analyzed, and recommendations are made on how to successfully implement ActionAid International Kenya to ensure that there is good governance in Garissa County. Recommendations are also made on further research.

5.2 Summary of Findings

The impact of grassroots advocacy initiatives, the provision of legal aid services, and mobilization efforts carried out by ActionAid International Kenya was investigated in terms of good governance within Garissa County. A population of 173 respondents was targeted. The results showed that there was a positive perception with regard to the governance activities carried out by ActionAid International.

5.2.1 Grassroots Advocacy Efforts and Good Governance

The study concluded that ActionAid International had made notable efforts in grassroots advocacy, particularly through organizing community forums, conducting public awareness campaigns, and facilitating policy dialogue. A significant number of respondents agreed that these initiatives helped raise public understanding of governance issues and motivated citizens to take part in conversations around policy and accountability. The descriptive statistics reflected this sentiment, with an average rating of 3.40, indicating a generally positive perception of the advocacy efforts.

Furthermore, the Pearson correlation analysis revealed a positive and statistically significant relationship between grassroots advocacy and good governance ($r = 0.507$, $p < 0.05$). This finding suggests that increased advocacy activities were associated with improvements in transparency, inclusivity, and citizen engagement in governance processes. However, the

study also found that engagement with policymakers was not always consistent. While community-level advocacy was active, more strategic and sustained efforts are needed to ensure that the concerns raised by citizens are translated into policy action. Strengthening the link between grassroots voices and decision-makers through more structured advocacy frameworks could enhance the long-term impact of these initiatives.

5.2.2 Legal Support and Good Governance

The data analysis results showed that the offering of legal aid by ActionAid International was significant with respect to gender-based violence, rights to land, and violation of human rights. The respondents believed that these services are accessible and effective; however, there was a feeling that these services are not accessible to all marginalized groups. The result of the descriptive statistics was presented with a mean of 3.26. Correlation analysis results showed that there was strongly positive correlation between offering legal aid and good governance ($r = 0.548$; $p < 0.05$). This implies that the impact of legal aid has made people more accountable to the government and has allowed them to demand greater responsiveness from the government. At the same time, factors such as lack of follow-through and lack of awareness have been pinpointed as areas that need to improve.

5.2.3 Community Mobilization and Good Governance

The research showed that there was an increase in the mobilization activities within the study area such as the establishment of self-help groups, watchdog groups, and civic forums. The respondents agreed that ActionAid assisted in making people participate in governance meetings and conducted capacity-building activities that increased awareness about governance rights and processes. The results from the descriptive statistics showed that the mean was 3.33. Pearson correlation analysis further presented evidence that there is an outstanding direct correlation between mobilization and good governance with a correlation coefficient ($r = 0.614$; $p < 0.05$), ranked first among the other three variables. This implies

that mobilization was fundamental to improving people's voice and ensuring accountability within the governance process within the county.

5.3 Conclusion

The study aimed to identify the effect that grassroots advocacy and grassroots support, as well as grassroots mobilization conducted by ActionAid International Kenya, had on good governance within the county of Garissa. The study found that there had been significant efforts made by the organization to ensure that there was more transparency and accountability.

The research results showed that the grassroots advocacy activities carried out by ActionAid International had significant influences on good governance in Garissa County. This was evident in activities such as the use of forums and awareness creation among the citizens, which made them more enlightened about governance. The positive correlation between grassroots advocacy activities and good governance implied that with enhanced grassroots advocacy activities, more people are likely to participate in monitoring governance. The inconsistency within the continuation of grassroots lobbying efforts implied that there was a need to adopt more effective approaches in grassroots lobbying activities.

The research also found that the legal support services presented by ActionAid International greatly added to the development of good governance. The offering of free legal aid in matters that are linked to gender-violence matters, land rights, and human rights made vulnerable groups feel empowered to seek redress. The establishment of free legal clinics and rights awareness sessions made the population more aware of the rights that exist within the international law arena. The positive correlation between the offering of free legal aid and the state of governance suggested that free legal aid improves accountability and encourages the population to trust the governance structure. The methodologies differed in coverage and post-coverage activities suggesting areas that need to be strengthened.

Lastly, the research found that community mobilization was the most influential in improving good governance in Garissa County. The establishment of self-help and watchdog organizations and turnout to participate in governance forums as well as capacity-building sessions helped the community to demand accountability and transparency from the authority. The evident close correlation between community mobilization and good governance signified that mobilized communities are best placed to oversee the delivery of public services and shape the outcome of governance. Yet these activities need to be continued over time with continued allocation of resources.

In summary, it was found that ActionAid International Kenya has made significant contributions to improving good governance within Garissa County through empowerment, the enhancement of legal rights, and the creation of platforms that enable people to participate. Although there has been significant development in various sectors, further improvement in terms of sustainability and coverage with regard to advocacy and legal aid is required.

5.4 Recommendations

The results from the study imply that grassroots advocacy has made a significant positive impact in creating awareness about governance and people's participation in governance in Garissa County; however, the frequency and magnitude to which grassroots advocacy activities are carried out need to be enhanced. This implies that the initiatives taken by ActionAid International Kenya need to ensure that grassroots advocacy activities are carried out on a regular basis; that is, these activities need to be systematic.

The findings also indicate the need for legal support services in relation to making accountability possible and in securing the rights of marginalized communities. To make these services more effective, the organization should ensure that more people are served by the legal aid services and that there is more emphasis placed on post-case service delivery to

ensure that those who gain access to these services are supported. The use of grassroots lawyers and paralegals and the county justice institutions would ensure that these services are made more accessible and more sustainable.

Community mobilization was identified as an effective driver of good governance practices, especially with regard to the empowerment of citizens to oversee public service delivery and participate in governance. In this regard, to ensure that the momentum gathered in terms of results is maintained beyond the end of the project, there should be continued focus on capacity development among various community groups such as self-help and watchdog groups to enable them to function more independently.

In conclusion, there is need to integrate the various activities that involve advocacy, legal aid, and mobilization. Some of these activities include improving partnerships with various departments in the local governments and opinion leaders to establish a collective governance account. The various initiatives can be brought together through already established structures within the communities to ensure sustainability and a culture of participative governance in the county.

5.5 Suggestion for Further Studies

The research was aimed at the impact that grassroots advocacy and mobilization efforts by ActionAid International Kenya to ensure good governance had on the people of Garissa County. Though the results are quite informative, there are still some areas that need to be covered further. This study can be replicated in other counties to allow various jurisdictions to be compared with each other. Whether the current state of governance is peculiar to this county or if there is more to it will be made clear then.

As this research was conducted on one NGO only, it is recommended that further research be conducted on the governance function of other domestic and international bodies to gain

insight into how different models of operation impact on governance. A further research study might be conducted among other NGOs to gain further insight.

Furthermore, this research has also concentrated on three intervention areas that are linked to governance. Future research may investigate the effect that these intervention areas, in combination with other development projects such as health, education, livelihood empowerment, and water and sanitation projects, may have on governance. Finally, this study employed descriptive and correlational analysis. Future studies may consider adopting longitudinal or experimental designs to assess the long-term sustainability and causal effects of NGO interventions on governance outcomes. Such approaches would deepen understanding of which strategies produce lasting institutional change.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Introduction Letter

Mohamed Ahmed Dahir

Kenyatta University

P.O. Box

Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: REQUEST FOR RESEARCH DATA

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Mohamed Ahmed Dahir, and I am currently a postgraduate student at Kenyatta University, pursuing a master's degree. As part of my academic requirements, I am conducting a research study titled:

ActionAid International Kenya's Initiatives in Fostering Good Governance in Garissa County, Kenya.

You have been selected to participate in this study due to your valuable insights and experience in governance matters within the county. I kindly request your assistance in collecting the necessary data by completing the enclosed questionnaire. All information provided will be treated with strict confidentiality and used exclusively for academic purposes. Your identity will remain anonymous, and no individual responses will be disclosed.

Upon request, I will be happy to provide you with a copy of the final research findings for your records. Your cooperation and assistance in this matter are greatly appreciated, and I extend my sincere gratitude in advance for your participation.

Thank you for considering my request. I look forward to your positive response and cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

.....

Mohamed Ahmed Dahir

Appendix II: Questionnaire

This questionnaire gathers information on ActionAid International Kenya's initiatives in fostering good Governance in Garissa County, Kenya. Your responses will provide valuable insights. Please answer each question carefully. All responses will be kept confidential and used for academic purposes only.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please do not include personal identification on this questionnaire.
2. Select only one answer by ticking the appropriate box for each question.

PART A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Gender:

Male	[]	Female	[]
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2. Age Bracket:

20 – 30	[]	31 – 40	[]
41 – 50	[]	51 and above	[]

3. Education Level:

Certificate	[]	College Diploma	[]
University Degree	[]	Master's Degree	[]
PhD	[]	Others	[]

4. Respondent's Position:

Program Coordinator	[]	Field Officers	[]
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Governance Specialist []
]

County Governance Officer []
]

Community Leaders & CSOs []

Subcounty Administrator []

Civil Society Representative []

PART B: ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL KENYA'S INITIATIVES

I. Grassroots Advocacy Efforts

Please rate the following statements based on your experience with ActionAid International Kenya's Initiatives in grassroots advocacy efforts on good governance in Garissa County. Use the scale below: 1 = Strongly Disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neutral; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly Agree

No.	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
1	The organization conducts regular advocacy programs such as public forums, workshops, and social media campaigns.					
2	Advocacy programs have increased public awareness on governance issues.					
3	Advocacy efforts have influenced the development or amendment of policies.					
4	The organization actively engages policymakers to push for policy changes.					
5	Community members actively participate in advocacy campaigns.					
6	Advocacy campaigns have resulted in increased citizen participation in governance.					

II. Legal Support

Please rate the following statements based on your experience with ActionAid International Kenya's Initiatives on role of legal support in Garissa County.

No.	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
1	The organization provides legal aid for cases related to gender-based violence, land rights, and human rights violations.					
2	Most legal aid cases handled by the organization are successfully resolved.					
3	Legal support services are easily accessible to community members in need.					
4	The organization regularly conducts legal clinics or awareness sessions on legal rights.					
5	Legal interventions by the organization have led to positive outcomes for marginalized groups.					
6	The success rate of legal aid cases handled by the organization is high.					

III. Community Mobilization

Please rate the following statements based on your experience with ActionAid International on the effects of community mobilization on good governance in Garissa County.

No.	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
1	Community-led initiatives such as self-help groups and watchdog groups have increased in my area.					
2	Local social movements have been effective in advocating for governance reforms.					
3	Citizens actively participate in governance processes such as policy discussions.					
4	The organization facilitates citizen engagement in governance meetings.					
5	Capacity-building workshops on governance are regularly conducted.					
6	Community training programs have improved awareness of governance issues.					

PART C: GOOD GOVERNANCE

I. Citizen Participation

Please rate the following statements based on your experience with ActionAid International on the role of citizen participation as good governance in Garissa County.

No.	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
1	Local community members are involved in the planning and implementation of development projects.					
2	Feedback mechanisms exist for citizens to express their views on public service delivery.					
3	Citizens actively participate in policy discussions and governance meetings.					
4	Public forums and consultative meetings are regularly conducted.					
5	Community members frequently submit petitions to demand policy changes.					
6	Civic engagement programs have been effective in influencing governance decisions.					

II. Transparency

Please rate the following statements based on your experience with ActionAid International on transparency as a good governance in Garissa County.

No.	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
1	Government budget reports, audit reports, and policy documents are easily accessible to the public.					
2	The government regularly shares information on public expenditure and policy decisions.					
3	Citizens are aware of their right to access government information.					
4	Citizens feel safe and encouraged to report corruption cases in my community.					
5	Reported corruption cases are investigated and successfully prosecuted.					
6	Anti-corruption mechanisms are effective in my community.					

Appendix III: University Authorization Letter



**KENYATTA UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL**

E-mail: dean-graduate@ku.ac.ke

Website: www.ku.ac.ke

P.O. Box 43844, 00100
NAIROBI, KENYA
Tel. 810901 Ext. 4150

Internal Memo

FROM: Executive Dean, Graduate School

DATE: 29th April, 2025

TO: Mohamed Ahmed Dahir
C/o Public Policy and Administration Dept.

REF: C153/OL/CTY/22645/2021

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL

This is to inform you that Graduate School Board at its meeting of 16th April, 2025 approved your Research Project Proposal for the M.PPA Degree Entitled, "Actionaid International Kenya's Initiatives in Fostering Good Governance in Garissa County, Kenya."

You may now proceed with your Data Collection, Subject to Clearance with Director General, National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation.

As you embark on your data collection, please note that you will be required to submit to Graduate School completed Supervision Tracking and Progress Report Forms per semester. The Forms are available at the University's Website under Graduate School webpage downloads.

Also, please ensure that you publish article(s) from your project before submitting it to Graduate School for examination as per the Commission for University Education and Kenyatta University guidelines.

Thank you.

**RUTH SARAH ACHIENG
FOR: EXECUTIVE DEAN, GRADUATE SCHOOL**

c.c. Chairman, Public Policy and Administration Department.

Supervisors:

1. Dr. Edna Moi
C/o Department of Public Policy and Administration
Kenyatta University


RSA/mo

Transforming Higher Education... Enhancing Lives
Kenyatta University is ISO 9001:2015 Certified




Page 1 of 1

Appendix IV: Permit


REPUBLIC OF KENYA
National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation

Ref No: 126252 **Date of Issue: 22/May/2025**

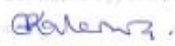
RESEARCH LICENSE




This is to Certify that Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Dahir of Kenyatta University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Garissa on the topic: ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL KENYA'S INITIATIVES IN FOSTERING GOOD GOVERNANCE IN GARISSA COUNTY, KENYA. for the period ending : 22/May/2026.

License No: NACOSTI/P/25/4173886

126252
Applicant Identification Number


Deputy Director
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Verification QR Code



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See overleaf for conditions

Appendix V: Work Plan

Activity	Sept	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May
Reviewing Proposal & Consultation							
Proposal document							
Defense							
Conduct Pilot Study							
Collection of Data							
Data Cleaning & Analysis							
Reporting and Submission							

Appendix VI: Budget

Description of Particulars	Amount (Kshs)
Developing document	10,000.00
Printing and binding	8,000.00
Transport and logistics	7,000.00
Data collection cost	15,000.00
Data entry, cleaning, and analyzing	6,000.00
Typing, editing, and copies of research report	7,000.00
Photocopying, binding and Submission	9,000.00
Additional expenses	5,000.00
Amount	67,000.00

Appendix VII: Map of Garissa County

