

# Journal of Public Policy and Administration (JPPA)

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

Mohamed Ahmed Dahir and Dr. Edna Jemutai Moi

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



<sup>1\*</sup>Mohamed Ahmed Dahir

Department of Public Policy and Administration,  
Kenyatta University, Kenya



<sup>2</sup>Dr. Edna Jemutai Moi

Department of Social Sciences, Muranga  
University of Technology, Kenya

**Article History**

*Received 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025*

*Received in Revised Form 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025*

*Accepted 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025*



How to cite in APA format:

Dahir, M., & Moi, E. (2025). ActionAid International Kenya's Initiatives in Fostering Good Governance in Garissa County, Kenya. *Journal of Public Policy and Administration*, 10(2), 74–95. <https://doi.org/10.47604/jppa.3445>

**Abstract**

**Purpose:** The study sought to assess the effectiveness of ActionAid International Kenya's initiatives in fostering good governance in Garissa County. Specifically, it examined the influence of grassroots advocacy, legal support, and community mobilization on governance outcomes.

**Methodology:** A descriptive cross-sectional design was used to evaluate how selected governance strategies affect local public participation and transparency. The sample comprised 177 respondents selected through stratified random sampling. Data was collected using structured questionnaires and analyzed through descriptive statistics and Pearson product-moment correlation using SPSS version 26.

**Findings:** Results revealed that grassroots advocacy had a mean of 3.40 ( $r = 0.507$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), legal support had a mean of 3.26 ( $r = 0.548$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), and community mobilization had a mean of 3.33 ( $r = 0.614$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), indicating strong positive relationships with good governance outcomes.

**Unique Contribution to Theory, Practice and Policy:** The study supports Participatory Governance Theory and Accountability Theory by emphasizing the importance of civic involvement and institutional transparency. Practically, it recommends strengthening grassroots forums, legal aid accessibility, and community mobilization efforts.

**Keywords:** *Grassroots Advocacy, Legal Support, Community Mobilization, Good Governance, ActionAid Kenya*

**JEL Codes:** *H75, K36, D71, H83, L31*

©2025 by the Authors. This Article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>

## INTRODUCTION

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are independent, private, and non-profit entities that operate autonomously from government or political party control. According to the United Nations (2021), NGOs are non-profit, voluntary groups organized at the local, national, or international level to address issues supporting the public good (United Nations, 2021). This definition underscores key components of governance transparency, accountability, and participation that NGOs strive to advance.

NGOs have emerged as influential actors in addressing social, economic, and environmental challenges by engaging in policy advocacy, service delivery, and community empowerment (Ali, 2020). Together with trade unions, faith-based organizations, and the media, NGOs are integral to civil society and contribute to the pillars of democracy through promoting transparent and accountable public administration (Kaloudis, 2017).

The term NGO gained prominence after 1945 with the establishment of the United Nations, which recognized the necessity of including non-state actors in international governance and decision-making processes (Schofer & Longhofer, 2020). Since then, NGOs have significantly contributed to shaping global and national governance structures and advancing the rights of marginalized populations.

The growing importance of NGOs is evident in their roles in humanitarian relief, capacity building, and the promotion of governance sustainability. Their effectiveness in influencing policy agendas positions them as critical actors in addressing challenges such as human rights abuses, governance deficits, and equitable development. The United Nations continues to acknowledge that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cannot be achieved without active NGO engagement (Jesenský, 2019).

In the United States, Toukabri and Alwadaï (2024) demonstrated how NGOs act as stakeholders in corporate governance, influencing board policies and fostering accountability. Luo, Zhuo, and Xu (2023) found that in China, well-structured NGOs can improve service delivery and enhance the sustainability of governance frameworks. Go and Brummer (2023) similarly showed that in the Philippines, NGOs mediate between government bodies and local communities to ensure equitable distribution of resources. In Indonesia, Dong (2024) observed the impact of environmental NGOs on policy reforms related to sustainable development.

Across Africa, NGOs have become key partners in strengthening governance, particularly where institutions are fragile. For instance, Makinda and Okoth (2018) noted that NGOs across East Africa have played pivotal roles in democratization processes and promoting inclusive governance frameworks. In Uganda, Mwenda (2020) highlighted how civil society organizations have promoted transparency and accountability by monitoring government performance and mobilizing citizen participation. In Ghana, Boateng (2022) illustrated NGOs' efforts to facilitate climate governance by fostering dialogue between communities and policymakers. In Nigeria, Cascant-Sempere (2022) examined ActionAid's campaigns for tax justice as part of broader accountability advocacy. Nfor, Masangala, and Gudo (2022) highlighted collaborations between NGOs and regional bodies to promote democracy and development.

Governance encompasses the systems and processes by which public institutions conduct public affairs and manage public resources. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific defines good governance as having eight major

characteristics: participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable, and following the rule of law (UNESCAP, 2019). NGOs have increasingly assumed intermediary roles in upholding these principles, bridging civil society and state institutions to safeguard public interests.

In Kenya, persistent governance challenges including corruption, limited transparency, and inadequate citizen engagement have driven NGOs to step into governance reform roles. The NGO Coordination Board (2022) reported that over Ksh102 billion was invested in NGO-led projects targeting health, education, and poverty alleviation. Wanjala and Odongo (2019) demonstrated how Kenyan NGOs have significantly contributed to policy advocacy, especially in supporting governance reforms under devolution. However, Kimemia (2024) argues that significant governance gaps persist, underscoring the necessity for NGOs to bolster oversight and accountability mechanisms.

In Kenya, ActionAid International Kenya has tended to be more involved in governance advocacy. Sele, Nyakerario, and Wanjiku (2024) discussed ActionAid's campaigns on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) cases in Garissa County, utilizing legal strategies but also engaging in community advocacy for gender rights governance. Onyalo (2024) found that NGOs play a vital role in ensuring people participate in the policy-making and budgeting processes. Wicklife and Simon (2024) outlined how NGOs are themselves held accountable for donor funding, a major basis for credibility in governance. Walker et al., (2024) identified factors contributing to governance deterioration in Northern Kenya, showing that NGO initiatives have promoted transparency and accountability. These examples affirm that NGOs such as ActionAid have substantially contributed to establishing governance standards in Kenya, including transparency, accountability, and public participation.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Good governance is essential for sustainable development, as it promotes transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in decision-making processes. Effective governance ensures that public resources are managed efficiently, policies reflect the needs of the people, and institutions function with integrity. However, despite various governance initiatives, many counties in Kenya, including Garissa, continue to experience governance deficiencies that hinder development. In Garissa County, governance is characterized by weak accountability mechanisms, minimal citizen engagement in governance processes, and limited access to legal support systems. Recent reports from the Office of the Auditor-General (2022) indicate that Garissa County has consistently recorded low budget absorption rates averaging below 70% despite high resource allocation. Additionally, turnout in public participation forums remains below 30% across most sub-counties (Garissa County CIDP, 2023), and audit reports have flagged irregular expenditures and weak financial controls. These issues have contributed to low public trust in governance structures and poor service delivery.

NGOs, particularly ActionAid International Kenya, have been at the forefront of promoting governance reforms through grassroots advocacy, legal support, and community mobilization. Several studies highlight the relationship between NGO interventions and governance improvements. For instance, Brass (2019) examined the integration of NGOs in governance and found that they play a vital role in participatory governance. However, the study also noted that accountability lines between NGOs and government agencies are often blurred, raising concerns about the sustainability of governance interventions. Makwae (2021) and Ido et al., (2019) similarly underscore how weak legal frameworks and limited transparency tools



contribute to inefficiencies in governance, but they fall short of analyzing the direct impact of legal support systems, community mobilization, and grassroots advocacy on participatory governance in Garissa specifically.

While these studies provide valuable insights into governance challenges in Kenya, critical gaps remain in understanding how grassroots advocacy, legal support, and community mobilization influence governance outcomes in Garissa County. Specifically, the effect of grassroots advocacy on citizen participation, the role of legal support mechanisms in promoting transparency, and the effectiveness of community mobilization in enhancing accountability remain underexplored.

This study addresses these gaps by assessing the effect of grassroots advocacy, legal support, and community mobilization on good governance in Garissa County. ActionAid International Kenya was selected as the focus of this study due to its extensive operational footprint in Garissa, structured governance programs, and established track record in delivering sustained community-based interventions. Unlike other NGOs in the region, ActionAid integrates legal aid, civic education, and policy advocacy to address governance challenges at both the institutional and grassroots levels. Its long-standing presence, strategic partnerships, and significant programmatic investment position it as a uniquely capable actor for examining the interplay between civil society engagement and governance outcomes in Garissa. By providing empirical insights into the role of ActionAid International Kenya in promoting accountable and participatory governance, this research aims to inform policy recommendations and improve governance outcomes in Garissa County.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

This section of the literature review examines ActionAid International Kenya's interventions aimed at advancing good governance in Garissa County, Kenya. Such interventions have also included aspects of governance, like grassroots advocacy, legal aid, and community mobilization. The chapter discusses the theories and empirical studies pertaining to the roles of various NGOs in enhancing good governance in a society. This section further identifies gaps in the existing database and provides the conceptual framework by which the activities of ActionAid International Kenya relate to good governance in Garissa County.

### **Theoretical Framework**

This study is positioned under participatory governance theory and accountability theory. According to Fung and Wyn (2001), Participatory Governance Theory considers citizens and affected stakeholders as direct participants in governance processes. The theory stresses transparency, accountability, and inclusivity among these actors and upholds the equal partnerships between state and non-state actors practiced by NGOs and civil society organizations. It asserts that sustainable development is feasible if those affected are active participants in decision-making. Hence, the theory is used in this study as an explanatory framework through which to understand how ActionAid International Kenya intervenes in the promotion of inclusive governance in Garissa County through grassroots advocacy, policy engagement, and community mobilization. Specifically, ActionAid's initiatives in Garissa County such as facilitating town hall meetings, supporting public budgeting forums, and organizing local barazas, exemplify participatory governance in practice. These platforms give citizens direct access to decision-makers, enabling them to voice concerns, propose community priorities, and hold duty-bearers accountable. By embedding these forums within its governance strategy, ActionAid ensures that the local community, especially women and

youth, are included in shaping local development agendas. This alignment between theory and practice demonstrates how participatory governance is operationalized in the unique context of Garissa's decentralized and culturally distinct environment.

A study conducted by Omolo, Macphail, and Wanjiru in 2018 further supports this theory's application in Kenya's devolved governmental structure. Their study on participatory budgeting in Makueni and West Pokot counties determined that structured citizen forums enhanced transparency and service delivery. This justifies the relevance of participatory governance theory in analyzing ActionAid projects in Garissa. Participatory governance provided the main theory in this study that looked into how ActionAid International Kenya supports inclusive governance through local initiatives. It is about citizen participation in governance and the extent NGOs can enhance accountability and delivery of services through the projects they undertake. In analyzing the participatory methods employed by ActionAid, the study examined how such measures translate into governance outcomes in Garissa County.

The Accountability Theory by Bovens (2007) studies the mechanisms by which organizations or institutions may themselves be held accountable for their actions. It considers transparency, public scrutiny, and legal oversight as foundations for good governance and service delivery. This theory is used to evaluate ActionAid's interventions in making governments responsive to oversight institutions and strengthening them in Garissa County. Through ActionAid, a trustworthy environment for the public is developed, thereby minimizing corruption in governance and building accountability frameworks through legal support, capacity building, and advocacy.

In practice, ActionAid has developed and utilizes participatory tools, such as community scorecards to assess public service delivery, budget tracking tools to oversee county resource allocation, and community-based organization (CBO) charters to establish accountability obligations of local leaders towards communities. Hence, these tools operationalize the theory by giving citizens the option to provide feedback, conduct inspections, and demand transparency in governance processes in Garissa.

Participatory Governance Theory explains that decision-making is enhanced by citizen inclusion; this study considers Accountability Theory equally important, as it gives an evaluative view on how transparency and oversight mechanisms created from the interventions of ActionAid can affect the dimension of service delivery and the responsiveness of government. The two theories are complementary in that they examine how legal support, advocacy, and community mobilization employed by ActionAid translate into the larger picture of governance change in Garissa County.

### **Empirical Review**

Previous studies have demonstrated the impact of NGO-driven advocacy and legal support in advancing governance.

### **Grassroots Advocacy and Good Governance**

Mwangi and Otieno (2020) observed the impact of grassroots advocacy on public participation and accountability in Kenya's devolved units. A descriptive research design with correlation analysis was used. While the findings showed grassroots advocacy enhanced some degree of citizen participation and transparency, none of the studied NGOs were ever evaluated, nor were the sustainability of governance reforms studied. The present study addressed these gaps by

distinctly focusing on grassroots advocacy interventions of ActionAid in Garissa County, including their sustained effect under descriptive and correlational analyses.

Ahmed and Yusuf (2021) analyzed the impact of NGO-led grassroots campaigns in influencing governance reforms in Somalia through a case study and interviews. There were increases in public participation levels, but the emphasis was on awareness and was limited by political resistance and contextual differences from Kenya's devolved system. The present study addressed these limitations by concentrating on ActionAid's advocacy within Kenya's governance framework and linking it directly to measurable governance outcomes such as transparency and accountability.

Karanja et al., (2023) researched the way citizen advocacy influences transparency and service delivery in Nairobi's informal settlements. Their conclusions suggested strengthening of accountability mechanisms, constrained within the urban domain and not extending to include the perspective of NGOs. The present study extended the above by evaluating ActionAid's dual strategy of grassroots and institutional advocacy in a rural, underserved county and by using quantitative methods to measure governance improvements.

Hassan and Warsame (2024) studied advocacy-driven governance reforms for citizen participation in Northeastern Kenya via mixed-method approaches. While the study did place value on citizen participation, it limited its understanding of NGO advocacy strategies to measuring the efficacy of one strategy versus another. The present study attempted to fill these gaps by looking into the advocacy strategies of ActionAid and quantitatively measuring their impacts on governance reforms in Garissa County.

### **Legal Support and Good Governance**

Omondi and Kariuki (2019) investigated how legal aid programs promote government accountability and citizen participation in Kenya. Using a descriptive design with a structured questionnaire, the research concluded that indeed legal aid promoted access to justice and governance accountability. However, it did not concern itself with NGO legal aid initiatives or assess the relationship between legal aid and specific governance outcomes. Thus, the present study enriches these gaps by focusing on the legal aid offered by ActionAid in Garissa County to marginalized communities and applying correlation methods to gauge the governance effect.

Abdullahi and Hassan (2021), on the other hand, investigated how NGO legal aid services affected governance transparency in Somalia. Their qualitative interview results indicated that legal interventions improved governance structures, yet they faced political interference. Nevertheless, their study focused on national-level frameworks, and consequently, they failed to provide quantified outcomes. This study, hence, fills these gaps by concentrating on ActionAid's community-level legal interventions in Garissa County and assessing their influence on local governance accountability through quantifiable means.

Kimani et al., (2022) undertook investigating whether pro bono legal services have somehow contributed to the participation of citizens in governance reforms in urban Kenya. They found positive impacts on policy responsiveness; however, this was limited to urban settings, so NGO integration of legal support with advocacy was never evaluated. Hence, this study examined the legal and advocacy application by ActionAid in a rural environment and how these programs empower communities to demand better governance.

Wanjiru and Mutua (2025) reviewed the effect of NGO litigation upon governance reforms within East Africa, focusing on high-profile cases in the judiciary. It was highlighted that

NGOs did largely contribute to legal accountability; however, their study did not include considerations for localized or community-based legal aid schemes. The present study filled this gap by looking into how ActionAid provides legal aid at the grassroots level and assesses the ability of these initiatives to contribute to governance accountability in Garissa County while also trying to ascertain how such programs empower citizens in their daily encounters with governance structures and law enforcement.

### **Community Mobilization and Good Governance**

Njenga and Ouma (2019) assessed how community-based organizations (CBOs) mobilize citizens for governance reforms in Nairobi County, using a mixed-methods design. The findings suggested that the act of community mobilization deepens public oversight and accountability. The findings suggested that the act of community mobilization deepens public oversight and accountability. However, their focus on CBOs is a limitation in relation to large NGOs such as ActionAid. While the earlier study only relied on thematic analysis, this study used descriptive statistics and correlation analyses to find out whether taxing or measurement indeed relates to community mobilization and governance reforms.

Abdi and Noor (2020) explore the influence of community-driven mechanisms on governance participation in Wajir County. The previous study established that mobilization promotes public participation; however, NGO-supported projects and their effectiveness under political and funding constraints were not sufficiently considered in their research. The study at hand filled these gaps by examining the structuring of ActionAid's mobilization programs in sustaining engagement in Garissa County and through the use of correlation analysis to assess their measurable impact on governance outcomes.

Makori et al., (2023) examined youth engagement programs within Kiambu County and their policy responsiveness. Though being considered better policy outcomes from the study, the study was time-limited to youth and excluded general community engagement. The study used quantitative design and regression analysis. On the other hand, the present study looked at the activation of different groups by ActionAid's programs for governance engagement, including youth, women, and the marginalized. Further, while the previous study referred to a regression analysis, it never actually established any direct connection between mobilization and governance reforms that the present study addressed, with descriptive statistics and correlation analysis, all embraced within the rural governance context of Garissa County.

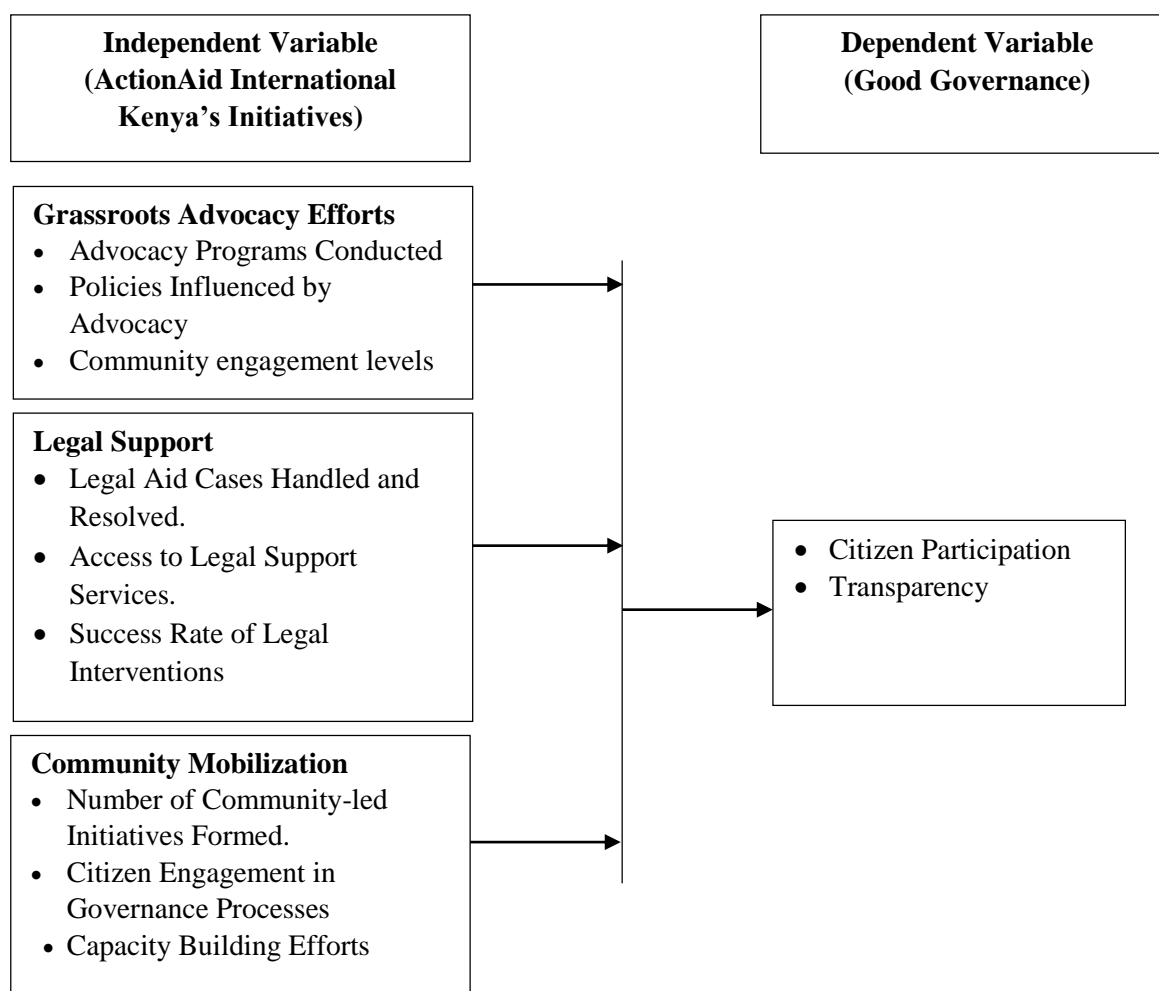
While the present study addressed several gaps in literature by focusing on ActionAid's integrated advocacy, legal support, and mobilization strategies in Garissa County, certain areas remain underexplored. Future studies should assess the long-term sustainability of NGO-led governance reforms beyond project cycles, examine the interplay between political leadership and NGO effectiveness, and explore digital or technological innovations in participatory governance. Additionally, more comparative research is needed across counties and NGOs to generalize governance impact in Kenya's devolved system. These emerging gaps provide fertile ground for future research to further enhance the understanding and impact of NGO-driven governance models.

### **Conceptual Framework**

The conceptual framework seeks to demonstrate the relationship between ActionAid International Kenya initiatives and good governance. Grassroots advocacy initiatives, viewed through parameters such as the number of advocacy programs conducted, policies influenced,



and community participation in the advocacy drives, aid governance by increasing the ability of the citizens to voice their opinions during decision-making.



*Figure 1: Conceptual Framework*

*Source: Author (2025)*

## METHODOLOGY

The study employed a descriptive study design focusing on the role of ActionAid International Kenya toward the promotion of good governance in Garissa County. The descriptive method was appropriate because it provided an opportunity for detailed analysis of governance support actions such as grassroots advocacy, legal support, and community mobilization while ensuring no manipulation of variables (Forsyth et al., 2019). The justification behind choosing this design was that it allowed for the orderly and systematic collection of data describing the governance-relevant activities of ActionAid International Kenya. It also served an initial purpose in considering governance outcomes in relation to citizen participation and transparency, but it did not denote cause and effect; instead, it sought to identify and document the emerging patterns, trends, and stakeholder perceptions. Though governance interventions may be well-described using a descriptive research approach, it does so poorly in the

establishment of causal relationships. Other measures were, therefore, employed to support the research findings. Results were presented as associations and trends rather than direct effects of ActionAid's interventions, ensuring that the findings did not suggest causality. While causality could not be determined, the study included comparative analysis by stratifying responses based on demographic characteristics such as age, occupation, and level of involvement in governance activities to assess variations in perceptions. This structured approach ensured that the study provided a comprehensive and accurate analysis of ActionAid International Kenya's governance initiatives in Garissa County.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Grassroots Advocacy and Good Governance

The study sought to assess the effect of ActionAid International's grassroots advocacy efforts on good governance. A total of six statements were used, and their responses were elicited on a 5-point Likert scale, as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Grassroots Advocacy Efforts**

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree		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
<b>Mean</b>											<b>3.40</b>	<b>0.80</b>

On the statement that ActionAid conducts regular advocacy programs such as forums and campaigns, 57.8% of the respondents agreed, 17.3% were neutral, and 24.9% disagreed, with a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.43 and standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.32. Most respondents (55.9%) agreed that these programs increase public awareness, with a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.44 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.37. Similarly, 60.7% agreed that advocacy has influenced policy changes, supported by a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.44 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.33. On engaging policymakers, 57.2% agreed, 12.7% were neutral, and 30.1% disagreed, with a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.32 ( $\sigma = 1.32$ ). A majority (61.3%) confirmed active community participation in advocacy efforts, and 54.3% agreed that such efforts increased citizen involvement in governance. Overall, the six statements assessing grassroots advocacy yielded an average mean of 3.40 and standard deviation of 0.80, indicating general agreement among

respondents on the positive role of ActionAid's grassroots advocacy in enhancing governance in Garissa County.

### Legal Support and Good Governance

The study sought to assess the role of ActionAid International in providing legal support to foster good governance in Garissa County, Kenya. To achieve this, respondents were asked to rate specific roles of ActionAid International in legal support using a five-point Likert scale, which allowed them to express their opinions on each statement.

**Table 2: Legal Support**

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree		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
<b>Mean</b>											<b>3.26</b>	<b>0.74</b>

On the statement that the organization provides legal aid for cases involving gender-based violence, land rights, and human rights violations, the majority of respondents, 90 (52.1%) agreed, 22.5% were neutral, and 25.4% disagreed, as indicated by a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.31 and standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.25. Regarding the accessibility of legal support services, 86 (49.7%) agreed, 17.3% were neutral, and 33% disagreed, with a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.13 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.31. On whether advocacy has influenced policy development or amendment, 96 (55.5%) agreed, 14.5% were neutral, and 30.1% disagreed, supported by a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.29 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.32. A total of 88 (50.9%) agreed that the organization engages policymakers for advocacy, with 19.7% neutral and 29.4% disagreeing, giving a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.25 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.26.

Concerning the impact of legal interventions on marginalized groups, 91 (52.6%) agreed, 16.8% were neutral, and 30.6% disagreed, supported by a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.27 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.29. On the success rate of legal aid cases, 88 (50.8%) agreed, 20.2% were neutral, and 28.9% disagreed, with a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.24 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.31.

Overall, the six statements assessing legal support yielded an average mean of 3.26 and a standard deviation of 0.74. This indicates that the majority of respondents moderately agreed

that ActionAid's legal support contributes to good governance in Garissa County, although there is still room for improvement in consistency and reach.

### Community Mobilization and Good Governance

The study aimed to evaluate the effect of ActionAid International in community mobilization on good governance in Garissa County, Kenya. This was achieved by evaluating the extent of agreement or disagreement among respondents regarding the ActionAid International community mobilization. The respondents were asked to identify ActionAid International community mobilization using a five-point Likert scale, which allowed them to express their views with each statement.

**Table 3: Community Mobilization**

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree		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
<b>Mean</b>											<b>3.33</b>	<b>0.78</b>

On the statement that community-led initiatives such as self-help and watchdog groups have increased, the majority of respondents, 97 (56%) agreed, 16.2% were neutral, and 27.8% disagreed, with a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.37 and standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.36. Concerning the effectiveness of local social movements in advocating for governance reforms, 85 (49.2%) agreed, 15.6% were neutral, and 35.3% disagreed, with a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.17 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.37. On citizen participation in governance processes such as policy discussions, 95 (54.9%) agreed, 15.6% were neutral, and 29.5% disagreed, as indicated by a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.38 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.30.

Similarly, 95 (54.9%) respondents agreed that the organization facilitates citizen engagement in governance meetings, 16.8% were neutral, and 28.3% disagreed, with a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.39 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.30. On the regularity of capacity-building workshops, 93 (53.7%) agreed, 16.2% were neutral, and 30% disagreed, as supported by a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.31 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.37. Regarding whether training programs have improved awareness of governance issues, 97 (56.1%) agreed, 16.8% were neutral, and 27.1% disagreed, with a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.34 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.33.

Overall, the six statements assessing community mobilization yielded an average mean of 3.33 and a standard deviation of 0.78. This suggests that respondents moderately agreed that



ActionAid's community mobilization efforts have contributed to increased local initiatives, citizen engagement, and awareness of governance issues in Garissa County.

The dependent variable in this study was good governance, specifically in relation to ActionAid International's initiatives in Garissa County, Kenya. This was assessed by evaluating the extent to which respondents agreed with statements regarding the role of citizen participation and transparency in fostering good governance.

### Citizen Participation as Good Governance

Respondents were asked to rate a series of statements, based on their experiences with ActionAid International, regarding the role of citizen participation in promoting good governance in Garissa County.

**Table 4: Citizen Participation**

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree		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
<b>Mean</b>											<b>3.35</b>	<b>0.73</b>

On the statement that local community members are involved in planning and implementing development projects, 103 (59.5%) of respondents agreed, 13.3% were neutral, and 27.2% disagreed, with a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.40 and Standard Deviation ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.38. Regarding the presence of feedback mechanisms for citizens, 99 (57.2%) agreed, 17.3% were neutral, and 25.4% disagreed, supported by a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.49 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.29. On citizen participation in policy discussions and governance meetings, 96 (55.5%) agreed, 15% were neutral, and 29.4% disagreed, with a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.36 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.32.

A total of 94 (54.3%) agreed that public forums and consultative meetings are held regularly, while 17.3% were neutral and 28.3% disagreed, with a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.33 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.26. On the submission of petitions to demand policy changes, 77 (44.5%) agreed, 22% were neutral, and 33.6% disagreed, yielding a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.14 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.31. Regarding the effectiveness

of civic engagement programs, 96 (55.5%) agreed, 17.9% were neutral, and 26.6% disagreed, supported by a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.35 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.27.

Overall, the six statements on citizen participation yielded an average mean of 3.35 and standard deviation of 0.73. These results indicate moderate agreement that ActionAid's efforts have strengthened citizen participation in governance through development planning, feedback systems, policy discussions, civic engagement, and petitioning.

### Transparency as Good Governance

The respondents were asked to rate various statements assessing the role of transparency in promoting good governance in Garissa County, using a five-point Likert scale.

**Table 5: Transparency**

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree		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
<b>Mean</b>											<b>3.34</b>	<b>0.72</b>

On the statement that government budget reports, audit reports, and policy documents were accessible to the public, 100 (57.8%) respondents agreed, 15% were neutral, and 27.2% disagreed, with a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.39 and standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.35. Similarly, 57.8% agreed that the government regularly shared information on public expenditure and policy decisions, while 11.6% were neutral and 30.7% disagreed, as supported by a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.41 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.34.

Regarding public awareness of the right to access government information, 50.3% agreed, 19.7% were neutral, and 30.1% disagreed, giving a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.27 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.35. On the safety and encouragement for citizens to report corruption, 57.8% agreed, 14.5% were neutral, and 27.7% disagreed, with a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.38 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.30. Concerning the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases, 45.1% agreed, 24.9% were neutral, and 30% disagreed, supported by a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.19 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.25. On the effectiveness of anti-corruption

mechanisms, 57.8% agreed, 17.3% were neutral, and 24.8% disagreed, with a mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) of 3.38 and ( $\sigma$ ) of 1.25.

Overall, the six statements assessing transparency yielded an average mean of 3.34 and standard deviation of 0.72. These results indicate moderate agreement that ActionAid's governance initiatives have contributed to transparency, though the consistency and reach of these mechanisms vary among citizens in Garissa County.

### Reliability of the Instrument

Cronbach's alpha test was used to examine the instruments' reliability.

**Table 6: 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
<b>Overall</b>	<b>.858</b>	<b>30</b>

The highest Cronbach's alpha was observed in the good governance coefficient of 0.765, and the lowest coefficient was grassroots advocacy of 0.700. With Cronbach's alpha coefficient at 0.727 for legal support and 0.723 for community mobilization, the variables analyzed in the study showed an overall Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.858 from 30 statements applied. The research tool provided high Cronbach's alpha values consistently. Ordinarily, the tool is accepted as a proper one since the coefficient value exceeded 0.7, showing that the instrument is consistent (FitzPatrick, 2019).

### Factor Analysis

Factor analysis was undertaken as part of an investigation of the reliability and sampling adequacy of the research instruments considered. In order to check data adequacy for factorability, the sampling adequacy measure of Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin and Bartlett test of sphericity were used. Thus, according to Tabachnick and Fidell (2001), a KMO value of 0.50 is considered acceptable for factor analysis. When conducting Bartlett's test of sphericity, the chi-square results should be significant, indicating that the correlation matrix is not an identity matrix; hence, factor analysis is appropriate when  $p < 0.05$  (Bashir & Bala, 2018).

### Factor Analysis for Grassroots Advocacy

Grassroots advocacy was measured using six items, and results of the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measure of sampling adequacy test of 0.790 and Bartlett's test of sphericity ( $\chi^2 (15) = 138.971$ ,  $p < 0.000$ ) indicated that data were acceptable for factor analysis as shown in Table 7.

**Table 7: Grassroots Advocacy Component Matrix<sup>a</sup>**

	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
<b>Total Variance Explained</b> (Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings)	40.040
Total Eigenvalues	2.402

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

a. 1 components extracted.

Grassroots advocacy was subjected to factor analysis and one component with eigenvalues 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 statements that were retained, computed, and renamed advocacy for further analysis.

### Factor Analysis for Legal Support

Six items were proposed to measure legal support and results of Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin 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 8.

**Table 8: Legal Support Component Matrix<sup>a</sup>**

	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
<b>Total Variance Explained</b> (Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings)	42.345
Total Eigenvalues	2.541

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.



a. 1 components extracted.

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.

### 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 ( $\chi^2$  (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 as shown in Table 9.

**Table 9: Community mobilization Component Matrix<sup>a</sup>**

	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
<b>Total Variance Explained</b> (Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings)	42.003
Total Eigenvalues	2.520

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

a. 1 components extracted.

### 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 ( $\chi^2$  (66) =299.70,  $p < 0.000$ ) indicated that data was accepted for factor analysis as shown in Table 10.

**Table 10: Good governance Rotated Component Matrix<sup>a</sup>**

	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.		.750	
The government regularly shares information on public expenditure and policy decisions.		.698	
Government budget reports, audit reports, and policy documents are easily accessible to the public.		.530	
Feedback mechanisms exist for citizens to express their views on public service delivery.			
Citizens feel safe and encouraged to report corruption cases in my community.			.703
Community members frequently submit petitions to demand policy changes.			.643
Citizens are aware of their right to access government information.			.592
Reported corruption cases are investigated and successfully prosecuted.			
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	
<b>Total Variance Explained</b>	46.394		
(Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings)	17.335	14.601	14.458
Total Eigenvalues	2.080	1.752	1.735

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

a. Rotation converged in 6 iterations.

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.

### 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 11.

**Table 11: Correlation Analysis**

		Good governance	Grassroots Advocacy	Legal Support	Community Mobilization
Good governance	Pearson Correlation	1			
	Sig. (2-tailed)				
Grassroots Advocacy	Pearson Correlation	.507**	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000			
Legal Support	Pearson Correlation	.548**	.526**	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		
Community Mobilization	Pearson Correlation	.614**	.555**	.617**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.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 ( $r = 0.507$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ), indicating that enhanced grassroots advocacy efforts by ActionAid International were associated with improvements in good governance. Similarly, a significant positive correlation was observed between legal support and good governance ( $r = 0.548$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ), suggesting that increased provision of legal support contributed to strengthened governance outcomes. Additionally, community mobilization demonstrated a strong positive relationship with good governance ( $r = 0.614$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ), implying that greater community mobilization by ActionAid International led to notable enhancements in good governance within Garissa County.

## SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Summary

The study evaluated the effectiveness of ActionAid International Kenya's initiatives in promoting good governance in Garissa County, based on 173 valid responses. Respondents generally perceived the organization's efforts positively across all dimensions. In grassroots advocacy, the average mean was 3.40, indicating that respondents agreed advocacy programs enhanced public awareness, influenced policy change, and increased citizen participation. A strong positive correlation ( $r = 0.507$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) confirmed the contribution of grassroots advocacy to good governance. Regarding legal support, respondents moderately agreed, with a mean of 3.26, that legal aid services were accessible and impactful, particularly in addressing gender-based violence and land rights. The study also linked legal support to policy advocacy and a high success rate in handled cases. Correlation analysis further indicated a significant relationship between legal support and good governance ( $r = 0.548$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ). In community mobilization, findings indicated an average mean of 3.33, reflecting increases in community-led initiatives, citizen engagement, and governance training. Thus, community mobilization was highly correlated with good governance, with the correlation coefficient being  $r = 0.614$  ( $p < 0.001$ ). Ultimately, it was found that ActionAid's concerted intervention on advocacy, legal support, and community mobilization had a very positive impact on good governance in Garissa County.

### Conclusion

The study concluded that grassroots advocacy by ActionAid International has created a space for good governance in Garissa County, by raising awareness among the general public, facilitating policy changes, and enhancing community participation. Legal aid interventions have proved critical to leveled justice for the poor, especially in cases of gender-based violence

(GBV), and land rights. Mobilization activities for communities, especially with regard to the formation of self-help groups and training activities, have created many avenues for citizen participation and increased awareness of governance issues in the county.

### **Recommendations**

The study suggested that ActionAid International Kenya continue to strengthen grassroots advocacy through sustained public forums, workshops, and digital campaigns that continue to build up governance awareness. Further, it was recommended that legal clinics be further scaled up together with rights education, wherein key thematic areas would include, among others, gender-based violence and land rights issues. The organization may further consider promoting self-help groups and watchdog groups alongside capacity-building workshops for deeper citizen engagement and awareness of governance processes.



## REFERENCES

- Abdullahi, M., & Hassan, A. (2021). *The role of NGO-led legal support programs in promoting good governance in Somalia*. *Journal of African Governance Studies*, 5(2), 45–63.
- ActionAid Kenya. (2024). *ActionAid International Kenya*. <https://actionaid-kenya.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/corporate-profile-actionaid-Kenya.pdf>
- Ahmed, A., & Yusuf, H. (2021). *The impact of grassroots advocacy on governance reforms in Somalia*. *International Journal of Public Administration*, 44(8), 1203–1221.
- Ali, N. S. (2020). *Non-Governmental Organizations and their Role in Rural Community Development*.
- Bashir, H., & Bala, R. (2018). Development and validation of academic dishonesty scale (ADS): Presenting a multidimensional scale. *International Journal of Instruction*, 11(2), 57–74.
- Boateng, K. (2022). *Climate governance and the role of NGOs in Ghana: Facilitating dialogue and sustainable practices*. *African Journal of Climate Policy*, 5(2), 78–94.
- Bovens, M. (2007). *Analyzing and Assessing Accountability: A Conceptual Framework 1*.
- Brass, J. N. (2019). *Blurring boundaries: The integration of NGOs into governance in Kenya*. *Governance*, 25(2), 209–235.
- Cascant-Sempere, M. J. (2022). *Tax justice and civil society: ActionAid's campaigns in Nigeria*. *Journal of African Governance and Development*, 10(1), 45–63.
- Dong, H. (2024). *Environmental NGOs and global governance in Indonesia: Policy influence and sustainable development*. *Environmental Policy Review*, 18(1), 21–39.
- Forsyth, F., Saunders, C., Elmer, A., & Badger, S. (2019). ‘A group of totally awesome people who do stuff’ - a qualitative descriptive study of a children and young people’s patient and public involvement endeavour. *Research Involvement and Engagement*, 5(1).
- Fung, A., & Wright, E. O. (2001). *Politics & Society Fung and Wright Deepening Democracy: Innovations in Empowered Participatory Governance*.
- Go, J., & Brummer, V. (2023). *Mediating governance: The role of NGOs in equitable resource distribution in the Philippines*. *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, 54(1), 101–120.
- Hassan, A., & Warsame, H. (2024). Participatory governance in Northeastern Kenya: The role of advocacy-driven reforms. *Journal of African Development*, 18(2), 110-129.
- Ido, A. M., Waiganjo, Esther, & Mukulu, E. (2019). Influence of Social Audit and Community Scorecard Mechanisms of Civil Society Organizations on Governance in Kenya. *Strategic Journal of Business & Change Management*, 6(2).
- Jesenský, V. (2019). *The role of NGOs in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Development in Practice*, 29(5), 633–641.
- Kaloudis, G. (2017). *The role of NGOs in civil society and democracy*. *International Journal of Not-for-Profit Law*, 19(3), 25–38.
- Karanja, J., Waweru, P., & Njeri, M. (2023). Citizen-led advocacy and governance reforms in Nairobi’s informal settlements. *Urban Governance Review*, 5(3), 199-215.

- Kimani, J., Wanjiku, P., & Mutiso, D. (2022). The impact of pro bono legal services on governance accountability in Kenya. *East African Law Journal*, **9**(1), 45-62.
- Kimemia, J. (2024). *Governance gaps and NGO oversight mechanisms in Kenya*. *Kenya Governance Review*, **7**(1), 12–29.
- Luo, S., Zhuo, L., & Xu, Y. (2023). *NGOs and governance quality in China: An institutional analysis*. *China Policy Studies*, **15**(2), 199–218.
- Makinda, S. M., & Okoth, P. G. (2018). *Civil society and democratization in East Africa*. Nairobi, Kenya: African Research and Resource Forum.
- Makori, L., Ndege, T., & Ochieng, B. (2023). The role of youth mobilization in enhancing governance participation in Kenya. *African Journal of Civic Engagement*, **7**(4), 201-219.
- Makwae, E. N. (2021). Legal frameworks for personnel records management in support of accountability in devolved governments: a case of Garissa County Government. *Records Management Journal*, **31**(2), 109–133.
- Mwangi, P., & Otieno, J. (2020). The impact of grassroots advocacy on governance in devolved units in Kenya. *Journal of Governance and Policy Analysis*, **6**(2), 78-96.
- Mwenda, A. (2020). *Civil society organizations and accountability in Uganda: A critical review*. *Journal of East African Studies*, **14**(2), 301–318.
- Nfor, B., Masangala, C., & Gudo, P. (2022). *Regional collaborations and NGO contributions to democracy in Africa*. *African Governance and Development Review*, **11**(2), 98–117.
- NGO Coordination Board. (2022). *Annual report 2021/2022*. Nairobi, Kenya: NGO Coordination Board.
- Njenga, S., & Ouma, R. (2019). The role of community-based organizations in mobilizing citizens for governance reforms in Kenya. *Community Development Journal*, **54**(4), 609-628.
- Omolo, A., Macphail, B., & Wanjiru, R. (2018). *Inclusive and effective citizen engagement: Participatory budgeting – Makueni and West Pokot counties*. World Bank. <https://hdl.handle.net/10986/29620>
- Omondi, K., & Kariuki, M. (2019). The influence of legal aid services on governance outcomes in Kenya. *Journal of Law and Society*, **15**(3), 101-118.
- Onyalo, R. (2024). *Decentralized governance in Kenya and the role of NGOs in participatory policymaking*. *Kenya Policy Journal*, **9**(1), 33–52.
- Schofer, E., & Longhofer, W. (2020). *The rise of NGOs globally: Historical and contemporary perspectives*. *Annual Review of Sociology*, **46**, 407–427.
- Sele, J., Nyakerario, N., & Wanjiku, T. (2024). *NGO advocacy against FGM in Garissa County, Kenya: ActionAid's approach*. *Gender and Development Journal*, **30**(1), 88–105.
- Toukabri, M., & Alwadai, M. A. (2024). *NGOs as stakeholders in corporate governance: Evidence from the United States*. *International Journal of Corporate Governance*, **15**(1), 1–19.

- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2019). *What is good governance?* <https://www.unescap.org/resources/what-good-governance>
- United Nations. (2021). *Civil society and NGOs*. <https://www.un.org/en/civil-society>
- Walker, D., Gohil, R., Hedges, S., Mulder, R., King, S., & Currie, J. (2024). *Governance degradation in Northern Kenya: Drivers and responses*. *East African Governance Journal*, 6(1), 55–75.
- Wanjala, S., & Odongo, G. (2019). *NGOs and governance reforms in Kenya's devolved government: Opportunities and challenges*. *African Journal of Governance and Development*, 8(1), 56–73.
- Wickliffe, K., & Simon, B. (2024). *Donor accountability and NGO governance in Kenya*. *Development Finance Review*, 12(2), 134–150.