

**Practical
ACTION**

Big change starts small

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE



ABOUT US

Practical Action is an international development organization putting ingenious ideas to work so people in poverty can change their world

The Practical Action group consists of a UK-registered charity with community projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, an independent development publishing company and a technical consulting service. We combine these specialisms to multiply our impact and shape a world that works for everyone.

In Kenya, we have been active for three decades, where we have built strong relationships with trusted partners, including the government, funders, private sector and communities.

We facilitate locally-owned solutions in clean energy, sustainable agriculture climate resilience, water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management. And we share what works with others, so that small changes can grow big.

Our country office is in Nairobi while our field offices are in Kisumu and Lodwar. We manage projects in thirteen counties in western, northern and central Kenya as we look to impact more areas.

Practical Action's main aim is:

**HELPING PEOPLE FIND
SOLUTIONS TO SOME OF THE
WORLD'S TOUGHEST PROBLEMS.
CHALLENGES MADE WORSE
BY CATASTROPHIC CLIMATE
CHANGE AND PERSISTENT
GENDER INEQUALITY**

OUR CHANGE AMBITIONS



Farming That Works

Transforming agriculture to support thriving livelihoods for young people

By 2025, Practical Action's work with partners will have led to improved food security and incomes for 200,000 people in rural communities and a further 1,000,000 systems beneficiaries.

We intend to break the cycles of low productivity and increasing rural poverty through a holistic and gendered approach, enabling young men and women to boost their income through agribusiness.

Agriculture-based enterprises have the highest potential to create viable and resilient livelihoods for young people, especially in rural areas.

We focus on:

- Improving knowledge and skills on sustainable production and entrepreneurship in partnership with the private sector.
- Shifting perceptions on agriculture as an attractive livelihood option for young people.
- Linking agripreneurs with markets, equipment, inputs and finance through collaboration with market actors.
- Strengthening the policy environment to ease the participation of young people in agribusiness.



Energy That Transforms

Improving access to clean energy for the least-served communities

By 2025, Practical Action's work with partners will have led to 1.6 million people in last mile communities and a further 5 million system beneficiaries accessing affordable low-carbon energy for improved income, livelihoods and health.

We focus on communities least served by the electricity grid and whom the private sector and the government struggle to serve.

We are building on our comparative advantage in energy for agriculture, clean cooking, humanitarian energy and last mile distribution.

Our priority areas are:

Clean Cooking: Eight out of ten Kenyans cook with woodfuel or charcoal. This contributes to illnesses, deaths, forest loss and climate change. We aim to facilitate access to higher-tier cooking solutions including gas, electricity and fuel-efficient biomass cookstoves.

Energy for the Last Mile: We empower Last Mile Entrepreneurs (LME), especially women, to effectively participate in clean energy value chains by addressing systemic barriers.

Energy for Productive Use: We are exploring opportunities to link our existing work in energy with our programs in agriculture, WASH, and climate resilience. We are creating awareness on the opportunities and technologies for Productive Use of Energy (PUE) such as irrigation, agro-processing and cold storage chains.

Policy Advocacy: We work with the national and county governments on sustainable and inclusive energy planning.



Resilience That Protects

Building climate resilience for the most vulnerable communities

By 2025, Practical Action aims to protect the lives and livelihoods of 200,000 people from the impacts of intensifying droughts and other natural hazards in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs).

We focus on:

- Facilitating access to safe water for people and livestock through solar-powered boreholes and water distribution systems.
- Promoting resilient livelihoods through irrigated farming and other income options to reduce reliance on pastoralism.
- Supporting natural resource management via water harvesting, sustainable grazing, agroforestry and indigenous forest restoration.
- Linking communities to early warning systems providing timely climate information to reduce losses from natural disasters.
- Contributing technical support for effective climate policies and planning.



Cities Fit For People

Making cities fit for people to live and work

Practical Action's work with partners will have led to improved water, sanitation and waste management services for 100,000 people in low-income communities and a further 500,000 systems beneficiaries in Kisumu city and other towns within the Lake Victoria Region in Kenya by 2025.

We focus on:

- Facilitating water connections and water quality monitoring by utilities.
- Supporting the private sector to provide affordable sanitation technologies.
- Promoting access and use of appropriate hygiene solutions.
- Facilitating a circular economy for waste to create jobs.
- Contributing expertise to enhance policy and governance.



Gender

At Practical Action, we believe that everyone should have the opportunities, resources, and support to achieve their potential. That's why championing gender equality and women's empowerment is a big part of our work.

We partner with women to ensure existing systems meet their needs, reflect their aspirations and support their wellbeing. Additionally, we work constructively with men to change the perceptions, behaviours and norms feeding gender inequality and social exclusion. We recognize gender-transformative change is key to creating a world that works for all people.

Everyone benefits when women and men enjoy equal opportunities to work, make decisions, lead and thrive. At the minimum, we ensure all our work is gender-sensitive while striving for gender transformative approaches.