



AIDEX CONFERENCE
HELD ON 11-12 SEPTEMBER 2019
AT SAFARI PARK HOTEL

THEME

**The importance of inclusiveness to REGIONAL progress - is
the aid and development sector doing enough?**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Aidex Conference of Nairobi, was launched in 2014 as a satellite event focused on aid and development within Africa. It is a two-day high-profile conference attracting over 500 Aid and Development professionals from East Africa and beyond.

The theme of the 2019 conference will tackle: ***The importance of inclusiveness to regional progress - is the aid and development sector doing enough?***

The aim of the two day event was to;



- Engage in our interactive conference programme
- Learn from the challenges and success stories from your peers
- Network with over 500 aid and development professionals from the government, UN, Red Cross and local and International NGO's
- Hear from thought leaders and policy-makers

This conference was attended by Government of Kenya Officials, UN

Agencies, Kenya Red Cross and both local and international NGO's. Participants included buyers of equipment and services and representatives from suppliers to the sector, A&D agencies including: NGOs – local and international, UN, Red Cross and government.

The conference also provided a networking functions are a fundamental feature of the conference, and delegates were encouraged to meet and interact through the welcome coffee breaks, conference lunches and a networking drinks reception after the first conference day.



INTRODUCTION

The high level event was opened officially by Nicholas Rutheford. He welcomed attendees and gave an explanation of this year's theme of inclusiveness in the aid and development sector and how fundamental it is to the work we do. The Gold Sponsor of AidEx Nairobi 2019, Al-Khair Foundation thanked the attendees and encouraged them to have a productive discussion.

In addition Julius Court of DFID also gave a presentation on the case for inclusiveness requiring a more intelligent approach through identifying where the systems may not be working and how to target neglected vulnerable populations. He analyzed case studies implemented by DFID funded programmes, from sustainable urban economic development to private sector investment and supporting girls in education.

1.0 DAY ONE

1.1 The Discussion on Tech in an inclusive society:

Kenya's regional digital landscape is rapidly advancing, but are rural areas able to keep up with technology advancement? How can we prevent technology from increasing levels of inequality?

This session had members from WWF Kenya, UNHCR innovation, Amani Institute and Growth Africa discussing on how we can involve technology in an inclusive society.

We need to keep the technology to have a sustainable and inclusive society. When designing the technology for whichever respective community it is good to involve them in the process of designing. Wildlife fund gave an example of their virtual reality that ensures the community is engaged in wildlife protection. The people on the ground are key in designing the type of technology that will suit their needs. The panelist agreed that this should be the way forward and not the other way round where technology is invented without the beneficiary being actively involved in the engagement.



1.2 Conversation on disability needs in a humanitarian context

How accessible are working environments for employees and what projects, devices and services are required to deliver effective aid to people with disabilities? Do we understand disability?

Key panelists were from youth with Physical Disabilities Development Forum, Action Network for the Disabled, sighsavers and CBM international.

Most often the disabilities that are focused on are more physical than mental, social or psychosocial needs. Disability also varies with the employers. Some have put concerted efforts towards employing some with some form of disability while some are yet to be inclusive. In the education sector it was noted that there is need to have inclusive material as well as have trainers who can handle disability. The national budget allocated for disability is also minimal. Most governments do not consider disability persons as a major stride towards achieving sustainable development. The focus is more often on the disability and not on the person. There are crisis related barriers, institutional barriers, policies and regulations set up which are not inclusive at all. Furthermore, most of them are not being adhered to. Capacity building is required to fully implement policies.

When it comes to humanitarian response during disaster, most often disabled people are rescued last which should not be the case. In such instances policies should be enabled to ensure that the disabled persons are considered first.

In access to information awareness needs to be done on type of disability to ensure type of method used for disseminating information is accurate and does not become segregated. The disabled persons should have their voices amplified and more specifically the women who experience almost triple discrimination.

1.3 Conversation on Innovation in Healthcare

Delivering health services in challenging contexts like conflict zones requires rapid problem solving, strong teamwork and reliable tools. Speakers will share their experiences of overcoming medical adversities when the odds are against them.

The panelist came from Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, MSF Spain, Kenya Red Cross and AMREF Health Africa In Kenya.

In the sustainable development Goals, health is the third goal that needs to be achieved to a zero level.



Psychosocial support has been given to disabled people by AMREF who have the capacity to access remote areas through their flying doctors concept. However, in this remote areas infrastructure is often lacking in the areas of sanitation. Mobile solutions need to be built especially in refugee camps. Health care solutions to be low cost for sustainability and ownership. Cash transfer through the Mobile money transfer helps in data collection.

It was also noted that young people have good innovations but getting it to the market becomes hard as funding is a challenge. There should be policies set for the sake of creating hubs to incubate innovators. Communication in conflict areas is often difficult thus hindering achievement of most deliverables. In the aspect of health care financing how are the households protected.

Most innovations focus on curative-social innovations communications but leave out health worker and community relationship. There is need to have digital devices that can be translated to the language of the recipient community.

1.4 Partnerships and poverty alleviation

Can the improvement of economic and social inclusion of refugees in host communities count on a Global Coalition? The key panelists for this discussion were from UNHCR, Boma Project, Village Enterprise and Mercy Corps. There is a need to address the rising cases of refugees as most host countries are finding it hard to sustain them. In the graduation model inclusion criteria should be used and to take a multi-sectoral approach.

How well can we integrate the graduation model to ensure the beneficiaries do not go back to poverty but are sustainable. There are Internal refugees who access employment within the host country making the graduation model successful. There are other income generating activities within the graduation model that can promote diversification. Organizations that work with the refugees and use the graduation model should work together for the benefit of our refugees.

1.5 Inclusiveness for Zero Hunger

Thoughts on economic inclusion, community-based planning to drive livelihood support and ongoing interventions using new innovations.

How do we handle food insecurity among the poor and disfranchised?

Speech from World Food Program.



It was noted that climate conflict, economic instability and exclusion causes food insecurity. There is need to support peace to alleviate conflict among these communities. There is also need to build social gaps and strengthen livelihoods and enhance social inclusion in conversations.

There is a growing concern that most civil societies are substituting for state responsibility such as on crop production. There is need to engage the government to provide the community with crops that are climate proof. There is an increasing decline in the nutritional quality of food because of the soil and climate.

To scale up its capacity World Food Program are working with women in the households and using the graduation model for success. Most households don't need food transfer they need a whole package. There is need to move to accountability and cost efficient production.

DAY TWO

The Days discussion was commenced by Njeri Maria of Maria Njeri Foundation. She has lived with cerebral palsy. She has shared her experience on growing up in Kenya with Cerebral Palsy and her work as a youth advocate championing disability rights. She highlighted the need for positive collaboration with people with disabilities, alongside the importance of improving both data and awareness for effective interventions and inclusive integration.

2.0 Njeri Maria Foundation

Maria will share her experience of growing up in Kenya with cerebral palsy and her work as a youth advocate championing disability rights. She highlighted the need for positive collaboration with people with disabilities, alongside the importance of improving both data and awareness for effective interventions and inclusive integration.

Maria highlighted on the need for early intervention to prevent disabilities that are secondary in nature. The level of awareness and interventions is also key in realizing the needs of the disabled persons. Attitudes people hold towards persons with disability need to change.

Technology also needs to be monitored and enhanced for disability use. This process should involve the disabled persons from the onset. We should not be doing it for them but with them.

The media should also be careful with stories being broadcast.



2.1 Faith Based Aid delivery

The panelists in the discussion are from Lifeline Energy, Islamic Relief and Catholic Agency for Overseas Development.

The discussion is on an analysis of whether faith-based organizations (FBOs) are more effective in certain cultural contexts and how we can ensure the approach is non-discriminatory?

Religion plays a role worldwide in all aspects of life. Africa has been seen as a continent that is largely religious. The Church has a distinctive role in fostering development and are inclusive. They also provide a safe space for dialogue. Their strength comes from their faith and zero tolerance on discrimination.

Challenges

- Certain Organizations asking for certain products only for the project repealing inclusiveness hence discrimination
- Certain resources cannot be used for community e.g betting cash
- Church is not involved in advocacy issues

2.2 Road to economic sustainable development

Does the private sector have a rightful role in the sector and if so, what should it be? Considering the challenges of sustainability and how to overcome them.

Panelists for this discussion are from COTU, Spring Accelerator, Sustainability Impact Network Africa/Detra –Africa and Safaricom PLC.

- Health empowerment is key to achieve sustainable development.
- Corporate social responsibility is key in the public sector
- Financial inclusion of women is necessary
- Girls introduced into supply chain as sales agents to achieve economic empowerment
- Girls should be taught financial literacy at an early age
- Trade union develop policies that enhance knowledge access
- In Safaricom 2% of their employees have alternative ability and 50 percent of the workforce comprise the women
- Private sector to embrace the graduation model in using innovation
- Co create innovations with community



2.3 Localization as a reality

How can foreign aid donors help and how should they be helping? Addressing the question of whether pure local capacity building is the most effective means of development, or whether international organizations have an important role to play. In any case, how can we reduce the risk of corruption on the ground? The Panel in this discussion are from CHS Alliance, Nuru International, translators without Borders and Oxfam Kenya.

Can we realize localization? Is it practical? The concern is on capacity building. To achieve a successful localization trust and patience and in the handling of power dynamics. There is need for proper handing over especially financially. Most big NGO'S are however reluctant in releasing full control on the financial sector with fear of corruption and the fact that the project may not end up benefiting the community. There is also the fear their space and visibility will diminish. Internal advocacy and reorientation is required to achieve this.

To achieve localization there is need for a grand bargain, aid recipients should be considered as most are vulnerable. We also need to realize that localization is easier at the responder stage.

Challenges;

- Challenge of making the Organization live the parent principle instead of the local Organization principle
- International I organizations have a problem in the localization there is need to make the intervention long term
- Localization needs patience to work
- Planning building trust is required
- To make localization reality get the information from the community
- Accountability is required for the grassroots organizations
- Local organizations need to tell the international NGO on what they have achieved

2.4 Women Empowerment

How can we ensure the potential of young girls and women in rural areas is met? An examination of ways to promote women and girl's engagement in every aspect of development and supporting their journey for self-reliance. Further insight into how to respond to complex cultural health issues such as female genital mutilation (FGM).

The panelists were drawn from Polycom Development, Amref Health Africa, LVCT Health and DRC Kenya.

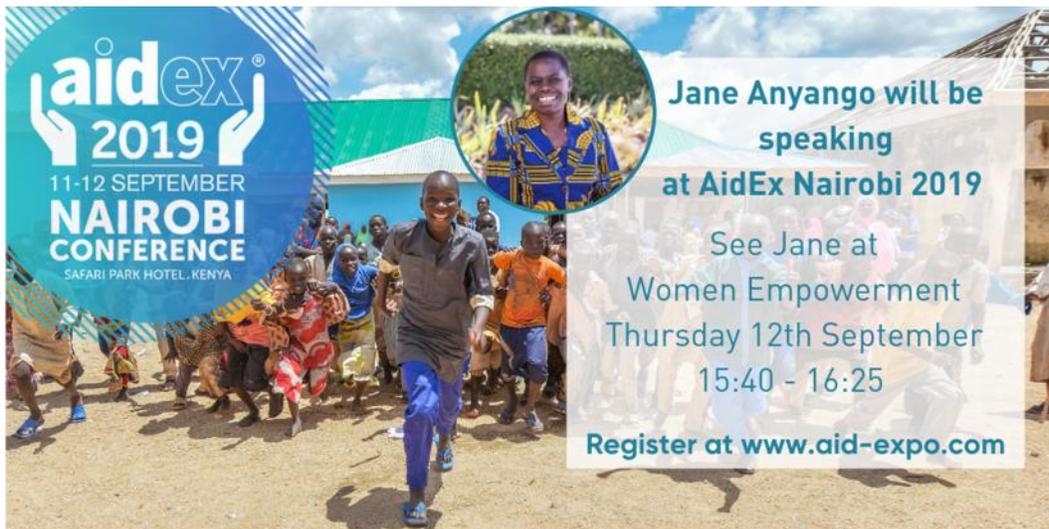




The panel

discussing on women Empowerment

There are some communities still practicing FGM in this era. Clan elders are not inclusive in the discussions that prohibit harmful practices. It is important to involve stakeholders to curb harmful practices that target the women. The Police should be sensitized not to ridicule victims who report cases of gender based violence. There is also need to involve the boys in such talks and to enhance accountable practices. Women rarely have financial inclusion. Allocation of resources to be done appropriately. There should be role modelling. Men need to be involved in discussing the harmful effects of FGM.



Polycom uses the upward, horizontal and downward approach. This ensures that the project is well understood by the community. The Project engages say 5 women, who go talk to other 10 women and the ten women go talking to others.

Talking boxes initiative is used to encourage the girls to report and talk about issues that really are affecting their lives. There is need to listen to the community.



Conclusion

To achieve total inclusivity a multi-sectoral approach needs to be done. In addition;

- Innovation in revolutionizing cycle of poverty is needed
- Technology should be highly inclusive
- Attitude of person with disability to be changed
- Expert practices for disabled people
- Young people to be involved

