



# COMASI'S COMMITMENT TO HOLISTIC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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A Grassroots Organization

# INTRODUCTION

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COMASI, the Community Alliance for Support Initiative, was founded in 2021 with a vision to address pressing social issues and uplift communities in need.

Originally conceived as a grassroots organization, COMASI began its journey with a small group of passionate individuals dedicated to making a positive impact in their local community.

Over the years, COMASI has grown and evolved, expanding its reach and impact across various regions within the country.

Through strategic partnerships, innovative programs, and dedicated efforts, the organization has made significant strides in areas such as healthcare, education, environmental conservation, and economic empowerment.

COMASI's commitment to holistic community development is reflected in its multifaceted approach, which combines direct service provision, capacity building, advocacy, and collaboration with local stakeholders.

By prioritizing sustainability, inclusivity, and empowerment, COMASI continues to strive toward its mission of creating healthier, self-sufficient, and resilient communities for generations to come.

*COMASI (Community Alliance for Support Initiative) is an impactful NGO operating in Kenya, Africa, dedicated to fostering sustainable development and addressing various community needs.*







COMASI



**Empowering  
individuals and  
communities.**



# CORE VALUES

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- *Empowerment: Empowering individuals and communities to realize their full potential.*
- *Compassion: Showing empathy and care towards those in need.*
- *Collaboration: Working together with stakeholders to achieve common goals.*
- *Integrity: Acting with honesty, transparency, and ethical behaviors in all endeavors.*
- *Innovation: Embracing creativity and forward-thinking to drive positive change.*
- *Sustainability: Promoting practices that ensure long-term social, economic, and environmental viability.*
- *Diversity: Valuing and respecting the diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences of all individuals.*
- *Accountability: Holding ourselves responsible for the impact of our actions and decisions.*

## **Vision.**

To create a thriving and independent community capable of supporting future generations and prosperity.

## **Mission.**

To lead in transforming and strengthening the community through innovative philanthropic initiatives.

***“We owe it to ourselves and to the next generation to conserve the environment so that we can bequeath our children...”***



*COMASI's purpose is to empower communities and address social challenges through holistic approaches to development. The organization aims to create sustainable solutions that improve quality of life, foster resilience, and promote long-term prosperity for all members of society.*

**To achieve its goals, COMASI employs a multifaceted strategy that includes the following elements:**

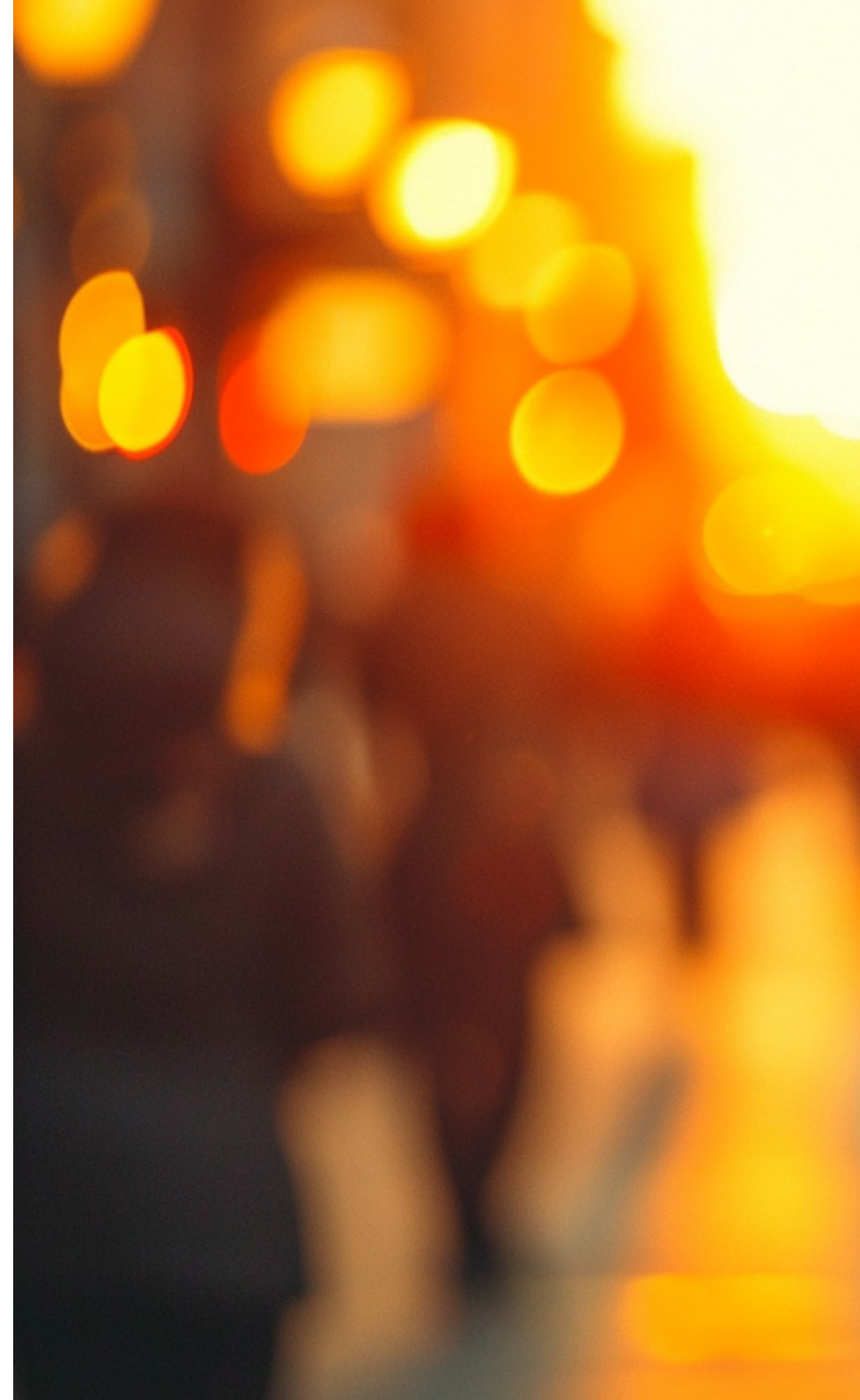
- **Needs Assessment:** COMASI conducts thorough assessments to understand the specific needs and challenges faced by communities in partnership with the national government and organizations of like minds. This informs the development of targeted interventions tailored to address identified issues effectively.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** The organization collaborates with local stakeholders, including community leaders, government agencies, NGOs, and other organizations, to leverage resources, expertise, and networks. By working together, COMASI can maximize its impact and reach.
- **Capacity Building:** COMASI invests in building the capacity of individuals and communities to take ownership of their development processes. This includes providing training, education, and resources to empower community members to lead and sustain positive change.
- **Innovation and Adaptation:** COMASI embraces innovation and adapts its approaches to meet evolving needs and contexts. The organization seeks out innovative solutions, technologies, and practices that can enhance its effectiveness and efficiency.
- **Advocacy and Awareness:** COMASI advocates for policies and practices that promote social justice, equality, and inclusivity. The organization also raises awareness about key issues to mobilize support and drive positive change at local, regional, and national levels.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** COMASI monitors and evaluates its programs rigorously to assess their impact, effectiveness, and sustainability. This allows the organization to learn from successes and challenges, make data-driven decisions, and continuously improve its interventions.
- **To conclude,** COMASI's purpose is to empower communities through comprehensive, participatory, and sustainable strategies that address root causes and promote lasting sustainable-positive change.

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR SUPPORT INITIATIVE

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Comasi is a registered Non-Governmental Organization in Kenya, operating in Nairobi, Kisumu, Migori, Homabay, and Nyamira.

The organization is driven by a motivated group of individuals whose mission is to create a permanent impact on the livelihoods of every individual in the community. Our vision encompasses elevating standards in affordable specialist healthcare, eradicating poverty through income sustainability initiatives, promoting sustainable environmental practices, and addressing mental health challenges within the community.



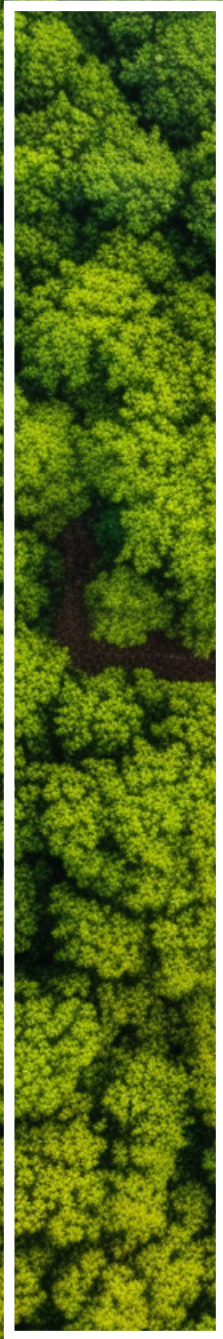


*long-term with our projects and as such, we believe sustainability is key in addressing every bit of these practicalities. COMASI intends to champion the following projects as part of her Mission and vision.*

**AS AN  
ORGANIZATION,  
WE THINK TO  
IMPLEMENT**







# ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

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Afforestation involves planting trees in areas lacking significant cover, and carefully selecting species adapted to local conditions. Community engagement is essential, fostering a sense of ownership and ensuring local needs align with project goals. Reforestation targets areas degraded by logging or wildfires, restoring ecological balance, Beekeeping for honey with increased pollination, and providing economic opportunities for communities.

Community involvement and education play key roles in sustainable development. Strategies include participatory decision-making, skill development, employment opportunities, and collaborative implementation. Acknowledging indigenous knowledge and implementing community-based monitoring enhance project transparency and success.

A robust policy and legal framework are vital. The policy should include strategic planning, intersectoral integration, research and innovation, and community-based approaches. Legal aspects should address land tenure, regulatory compliance, private sector engagement, international cooperation, protection of indigenous rights, ecosystem restoration legislation, legal redress mechanisms, and institutional coordination.

Research and innovation focus on ecological research, climate-resilient species, sustainable land management, remote sensing technologies, carbon sequestration, genetic research, restoration ecology, soil health studies, and adaptive management research. Partnerships and collaboration involve governments, communities, NGOs, private enterprises, and international cooperation, ensuring a holistic approach.

Monitoring and enforcement utilize satellite imagery, GIS, and community-based monitoring to track progress and address issues like illegal logging. Financial incentives, such as direct support, tax incentives, payment for ecosystem services, and carbon credits, drive participation and commitment.

Ultimately, achieving a 15% forest cover brings numerous benefits, supporting biodiversity, climate regulation, ecosystem services, economic development, resilience against natural disasters, cultural values, and global sustainability goals. It represents a significant step towards a resilient environment and a sustainable future.

On other fronts, Lake Victoria as the world's largest freshwater fishery raking in \$600 million each year, is silently dying, millions continue to depend on it for freshwater and income, putting them at risk of being plunged further into disease and poverty. This freshwater body also supports over 40 million people and as such, it is important to preserve its purity.

COMASI intends to establish projects around the recycling and conservation of rivers and riparian lands. Key activities shall include; installing waste trappers on river channels to trap plastic and pollutant debris, beekeeping for extra household incomes, planting bamboo as cover crops on river banks to reduce erosion, and dependency on cutting trees for timber.



# EDUCATION



As we already know, education is the key to success and as such; COMASI is dedicated to improving access to quality education through various programs and projects. Here's an explanation in simplest terms:

## **Distribution of Learning Materials:**

We have a program to provide learning materials such as textbooks and electronic pads. This includes initiatives like exchange programs. These efforts aim to give all learners equal opportunities to access quality education, increasing their chances of success.

## **Sanitary Pad Distribution Program:**

A report released by Amref Health Africa in February 2024 shows that 65 percent of women and girls in Kenya cannot afford sanitary pads. It also showed that only 50 percent of girls openly discuss menstruation at home. Many girls cannot afford these pads, affecting their self-esteem and school performance.

We want to create a sustainable program to provide pads to girls and underprivileged mothers who currently use less sanitary materials. Women are the backbone of society and as such, it is crucial to support their course by making them

comfortable to get desired levels of education.

Our vision is to make sanitary towels a free commodity to access soon by establishing a manufacturing center that would in turn create jobs for society at large.

## **Education Sponsorship Program:**

We recognize that many children drop out of school due to a lack of funds for secondary and college education. This hinders the development of future professionals and self-actualization. Our education sponsorship program is designed to bridge this gap sustainably, ensuring that financial constraints don't hinder students from pursuing their education. To make this a reality; we need partners of like minds to support the course.

The key to the sustainability of this initiative is to work with families of low income directly in projects that will add value to their income. For instance; beekeeping, dairy farming, poultry farming, bamboo farming, tree farming, and fish farming. Once they are taught the skill, they will be able to inherit the second level of projects to make them self-sufficient and build their nutrition.

## **Establishing Youth Friendly and Resource Centers;**

It is key to have permanent resource centers establishments to cater to the ever-rising younger and vibrant part of the community. Over 80% of Kenya's population is under 35 years and as such it is crucial to accommodate this bracket with friendly recreational facilities such as gaming centers, sports centers, libraries, Literature resource points at health facilities, and Digital centers.

These facilities would add value in the form of basic training in skills. For instance; a digital center would train skills in; computer packages, digital marketing, and basic web designs with coding experience.

These centers would get the youth population pre-occupied and as a result cut down on drug abuse, crimes, and joblessness.

COMASI's focus on education involves distributing learning materials, providing sanitary pads to girls and underprivileged mothers, and implementing an education sponsorship program. These initiatives aim to create equal opportunities for all learners and address barriers such as financial constraints, contributing to the overall improvement of education accessibility and success.



# MEDICARE



A mentally healthy community is a healthy community. According to the Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Kenya has a bed capacity 1,600 for mental health care. Some 400 of these beds are located in private mental care facilities.

However, this contrasts with the 1.9 million people in the nation who are affected by depression in some form or another. Thus, depression is a serious issue that deserves and needs more political and social attention.

Various factors, including health, psychosocial disability, and premature mortality due to lack of access to mental health care facilities all contribute to the high rates of mental illnesses, including depression, in Kenya.

A World Health Organization report ranked Kenya the fifth among African countries with the highest number of depression cases. Mental health experts have estimated that 1 in every 4 Kenyans may be suffering from a mental health-related issue, ranging from mild to severe disorders. With all these damning statistics, the country is still struggling with providing affordable

mental health care and treatment.

A key challenge we face is the low level of awareness of mental health disorders, and in particular, the symptoms associated with each.

The WHO report further shows that Kenya was among the few states that did not allocate a separate budget for mental health, with a government expenditure accounting only for 0.01% of the total budget. This translates to a lack of adequate facilities, as witnessed by the audit on mental health by the Auditor General in 2017. This audit showed that a whopping 22 out of 47 counties in Kenya do not have psychiatric units.

This means that all patients needing mental health care must be referred to Mathari National Hospital, the only national hospital specializing in mental health.

It is in these regards that the campaigns, awareness, education, and treatment are crucial to establishing sustainable solutions with structures to tackle ever-rising numbers of mental cases

that in turn lead to suicide, depression, and more chronic psychological illnesses and conditions.

Community Alliance for Support Initiative aims to create an intensive treatment center equipped with personnel, recreation points, and full psycho-support programs to take care of the ailing community as a long-term and sustainable measure to sustain social wellness.

The organization is determined to drive campaigns and replicate successful project modules around the country and regionally to create social solutions and treatment for the affected individuals.

For a productive community, the mind must be healthy and this way, we can get the maximum out of our people. As we specialize in mental health, we will also establish concurrent outpatient and inpatient treatment centres and projects to address generational sustainability project modules.





## TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

COMASI is committed to creating and implementing training programs for both youth and adults, focusing on imparting life skills that can be used to make a living or passed down as heritage for the benefit of future generations. The future belongs to the skills and as such it is crucial to get the community prepared and ready.

### THIS IS OUR MODE OF APPROACH:

#### **Building and Masonry Training:**

The organization believes in the importance of decent housing for the future of society. To achieve this, it is essential to have a community with the skills to build and establish attractive homes. By providing training in building and masonry, COMASI aims to create specialists who can take care of their households and contribute to the overall sustainability of the community.

#### **Tailoring and Design Training:**

Recognizing clothing as a fundamental human need, COMASI emphasizes the importance of being skilled in tailoring and design. This training equips individuals to create their own clothes, generating additional income and ensuring sustainable livelihoods.

#### **Agronomy Training:**

There is a significant gap in professional instructors in farming, and COMASI aims to address this by providing training in agronomy. This skill will lead to higher productivity on farms, better management practices, increased household incomes, and improved food security and nutrition. Additionally, surplus produce could be exported, further boosting income and elevating living standards.

#### **Farming Training:**

Considering farming as the backbone of Kenya's economy, COMASI stresses the importance of involving every family in farming. Training in farming will result in better yields, ensuring food security, more savings, and reducing cases of malnutrition. This, in turn, contributes to a healthier and more productive community.

These skills not only provide opportunities for personal income but also contribute to the overall well-being and sustainability of the community.





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