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We are indeed grateful to Members of Nairobi County Assembly and youth from the following wards: Zimmerman, Karura, Laini-Saba, Korogocho, Kasarani, Roysambu, Kahawa, Mlango- Kubwa, Baba Dogo, Dandora III, Umoja II, Pipeline, Kwa-Rueben and Lucky Summer. Our sincere appreciation to the women and Members of County Assembly of Murang'a representing Ithiru, Ng'araria, Muruka, Giachanjiru, Ruchu and Kangundu-ini Wards. These groups actualized the concept of citizen participation in devolution through Sauti Mtaani and ward forums.

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Our appreciation goes to the male youth from Kikuyu Sub County who have embraced the concept of positive masculinities to combat gender based violence.

We are indebted to our funding partners for their support in making our programs come to fruition. Thanks to; Heinrich Boll Foundation East and Horn of Africa, DKA Austria, GIZ- Civil Peace Service and VGIF- USA

ABOUT COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT CENTRE

Community Education and Empowerment Centre (CEEC) is a national Non Governmental Organization (NGO) based in Kenya which strives to build the capacity of communities to be actors in their own development. CEEC was founded in 2009 and registered as an NGO in 2012.

VISION

Communities that are nonviolent, all inclusive and where the human rights of all are respected and protected.

MISSION

Empowering communities through capacity building, advocacy, research and documentation on issues of gender, human rights, community peace building, leadership and good governance

PROGRAMS

CEEC has four programs namely;

1. Community Peace building

Sustainable development cannot be achieved in the absence of peace and true and lasting peace can only be realized through the involvement of all actors within the society. This program strives to build communities' capacities to effectively participate in peace processes.

Objectives

- To promote all inclusive and gender sensitive peace processes for realization of sustainable peace and development.
- To enhance communities' capacities to use the philosophy, principles and practice of gender sensitive active nonviolence as a tool for social change.
- To promote peaceful coexistence and management of diversity among different communities and sectors.
- To inform legal and policy reform through research, documentation and advocacy on peace building and conflict transformation.

2. Gender and Human Rights

Kenya is a signatory to and has ratified the main International and Regional treaties and Conventions that guarantee civil liberties, respect for human rights and promotion of gender equality. The Constitution of Kenya 2010 domesticates most of these International and Regional undertakings through a very comprehensive Bill of Rights and other provisions on gender equity and equality. This program aims at actualizing these legal commitments by building the capacity of communities on gender and human rights issues with a view to promoting a just and peaceful society.

Objectives

- To equip communities with knowledge, information and skills in the areas of gender, and human rights for the promotion of gender equality and protection of human rights in communities.
- To enhance the capacity of communities to access justice through legal awareness, referrals and self representation skills.
- To contribute towards realization of economic rights through skills building and linkages to financial opportunities.

3. Leadership and Good Governance

There is a clear link between bad governance/poor leadership and most social problems. Although Kenya has made major democratic strides in the last two decades, there is a sense of apathy among members of public towards political leadership and general ignorance of civic rights and duties. This translates into bad leadership choices and failure to hold leaders to account. This program seeks to strengthen the capacity of communities to effectively exercise their civic rights and duties thus contributing to good governance.

Objectives

- To enhance communities' participation, particularly youth and women in leadership and governance by building their capacity in these areas.
- Strengthen communities' capacity to exercise their democratic right of putting in place transformative leadership and demanding transparency and accountability from their leaders.
- To stimulate communities to engage in local advocacy for laws and policies that foster good governance.

4. Positive masculinities

There has been undisputable evidence the world over that men are the main perpetrators of violence and women are usually on the receiving end. It is in view of this that this program specifically targets men especially youth with the aim of helping them interrogate the connection between negative masculinities and violence with a view to bringing about a paradigm shift from negative to positive masculinities for social transformation.

Objectives

- To equip men with skills to mobilize fellow men for nonviolence social change and gender equity within communities.
- To engage men in promoting gender equality in all developmental processes within their communities.
- To build a pool of male allies for the promotion of gender justice and advocacy against gender based violence.

Strategies

- Trainings & awareness raising forums, Civic education, Exchange Programs, Development of IEC materials, Community dialogue and outreach & Legal aid clinics.

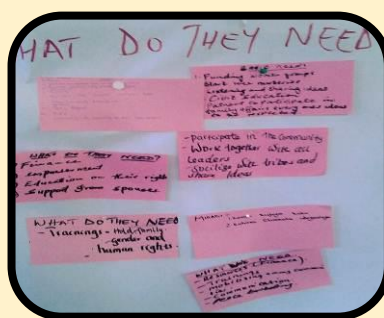
PART I. PROGRAMS REPORT.

1. GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS

i) Building the capacity of communities in Burnt Forest to prevent and appropriately respond to gender based violence

This project which is ongoing is being implemented against the background of a project that PeaceNet Kenya and Kenya Land Alliance (KLA) with the support of GIZ (CPS) implemented in the area in 2013. This involved working with the communities with a view to promoting peaceful co-existence during the 2013 general elections. In the course of project implementation, the women shared their concerns and identified one of their needs as empowerment in different areas of their lives especially in gender based violence prevention and response. In response to this request and with the support of GIZ (CPS), CEEC started working in the project area in July 2014 and has so far carried out a number of activities.

Being a new area for CEEC, a needs assessment was necessary to ensure that any proposed interventions responded to identified needs. The needs assessment was done between July and August 2014 and it covered eight farms where the PeaceNet Kenya/KLA project was being implemented. The farms are *Lingway, Kamuyu, Rukuini, Rironi/Kaplalach, Ndungulu, Chuiyat, Barekeiywo and Kagongo*. The exercise confirmed what the women had said, that indeed gender based violence is a very serious problem that needed agent attention. The problem is compounded by alcoholism which contributes to or makes the problem worse. Feedback received from the community indicated that men sometimes use alcohol as an excuse for violating their wives, claiming they did not know what they were doing. Others use meagre family resources on alcohol leaving their families without basic needs like food, clothing and even school fees. On the other hand, gender based violence perpetrated against men leads to alcoholism as an escape route.



From the needs assessment, it was evident that although gender based violence mainly affected women and girls, in some cases men were also violated but due to their socialization, they did not speak up. Besides, no women empowerment project can be effective without male allies since men are the gatekeepers within the community and also being the main perpetrators, they also hold the key to the solution. Consequently,

the recommendation during the needs assessment was that any intervention that CEEC came up with should target both men and women. This is what informed the implementation of this project which targeted both male and female community leaders from the eight farms.

A total of 36 women and 31 male leaders were trained on issues of gender which included concepts, social construction of gender, types, causes and consequences of gender based violence, cycle of violence, psychosocial and legal responses to the vice.



In addition, the male trainees were also trained on masculinities and the connection between flawed masculinities and gender based violence. In addition, both sets of trainees were taken through some skills building sessions which covered communication and mediation.





A specialist on alcoholism from Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital also made a presentation during the trainings on the social, economic and health hazards of alcoholism. The trainees, men and women alike, were shocked to learn that alcoholism is a disease with far reaching health and social

effects.

The women trainees were also sensitized on opportunities available to them which can help them get empowered economically thus reducing vulnerability to GBV. These included Uwezo Fund and Women Enterprise Fund. At the end of the trainings, both groups of trainees got together and came up with joint action plans on how to disseminate what they learnt to other community members in their respective farms.

Feedback received from the trainees indicated that this was a project that was long overdue. The two issues that the project addressed, gender based violence and alcoholism touch the very core of the communities living within the eight farms. The two are intricately intertwined and appropriately addressing them would go a long way in restoring peace and harmony within families and the community. The trainees realized this and those who were culprits vowed to make amends. All the trainees committed to become champions against gender based violence and alcoholism within the community. The fact that the project design was informed by a needs assessment has to a large extent contributed to the high level of success since the needs it is addressing are those identified by the community.

ii) VGIF external evaluation

In 2012-2013, CEEC implemented the project *Promotion and Protection of Women's Inheritance Rights* in Central Kenya with the support of Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF). The project which was concluded in May 2013 resulted in the enhanced capacity of 27 community leaders on issues of family law and succession as well as development of a Community Trainers Manual. On 7th January 2014, an external evaluation meeting was held at Kandara Development Office, bringing together group leaders representing the 5 areas of project reach. Feedback received indicated that the project which was the first of its kind in the area had very profound outcomes on the



had in addressing men on issues of women's rights.

trainees themselves as well as other community members. This was evident from increased joint registration of property by married people, writing of wills, a reduction in disinheritance of women and girls and a decrease in property disputes. These were facts that were confirmed by the Senior Chief who was a key player in all property and succession matters. The fact that the project had male participants helped to overcome the barrier that women

2. LEADERSHIP AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

i) Youth and devolved governance

This project is being implemented with the support of Heinrich Boll Stiftung, East and Horn of Africa and it has been running since October 2013. The aim of the project which is being implemented in wards falling under low income areas in Nairobi County is to promote civic engagement between the youth and their respective Members of County Assembly (MCAs) through an online platform known as *Sauti Mtaani* (Voice in the Hood). The activities that were implemented in 2013 were;

- ❖ Design of a *Sauti Mtaani* platform
- ❖ MCAs' training
- ❖ Youth training
- ❖ Development of posters, stickers and wrist bands to popularize *Sauti Mtaani*
- ❖ Launch of the platform

In February 2014, CEEC carried out *Sauti Mtaani* monitoring to determine the level of uptake of the platform, success stories, challenges and recommendations. The exercise involved field visits, phone calls as well as online monitoring. Feedback received indicated that the platform was an innovative and unique way of helping the youth interact with their leaders at the lowest level. The MCAs on their part appreciated the fact that the platform helped them reach all corners of their wards, something they could otherwise not manage to do through physical meetings. They lauded the platform for making their work easier. Some of the issues that the MCAs are able to address through the platform include youth unemployment, insecurity, poor road networks, broken sewers and lack of street lighting. The youth are also able to get information on opportunities available to them like the Uwezo Fund, Community Development Fund and Youth Fund as well as the procedures involved and the offices to visit.

The use of the platform in phase one was riddled with challenges particularly the design which both the MCAs and the youth complained was rather cumbersome. It was for example difficult to follow the conversation threads and to determine what answer was to which question. The youth also complained about having to use their air time at the normal Safaricom rate to send messages and requested for a service that was free of charge. These challenges led to the re-designing of the platform to a more user friendly and cost effective one. This involved moving to a short code **21393** instead of using normal Safaricom numbers. A Sauti Mtaani website (<http://sautimtaani.co.ke>) was also developed which clearly displays all the conversations between the youth and the MCAs. The youth are now able to send messages to their respective MCAs who in return are able to respond from any web enabled device at a minimal cost. This means that even after the exit of CEEC, it will be easy for the MCAs to continue with the project.

In addition to re-designing the platform, more MCAs wanted to join the platform and phase 2 therefore involved training those who were coming on board as well as the youth from their respective wards.



The aim of the trainings was to help them understand the rationale behind civic engagement between the youth and MCAs as well as how they can use Sauti Mtaani as a tool for this engagement. The MCAs' needed to understand their mandate within the new devolved system of governance and particularly their duty to promote youth participation. The youth on the other hand needed to understand what their civic rights, duties and responsibilities are. This understanding would help the two groups effectively engage through Sauti Mtaani. The participating wards in this phase were Korogocho, Ngei, Pipeline, Kwa Reuben, Baba Dogo, Mlango Kubwa, Karura, Dandora 3, Umoja 2, Zimmerman, Roysambu, Kahawa, Laini Saba and Kasarani. The re-designed Sauti Mtaani Platform was launched on 26th September 2014 at the YMCA, State House Road. The IT



consultant who designed the platform took the youth and the MCAs through a practical induction process after which they tested the platform and confirmed it was up and running. Speakers lauded the platform as a very effective way of helping the youth actualize the legal provisions of citizen participation. The youth were encouraged to use the platform constructively in order to enjoy the gains provided for in the Constitution. The MCAs were on the other hand encouraged to embrace the platform since it would make their work easier.

To help the youth popularize the *Sauti Mtaani* platform, banners, stickers and wrist bands with instructions on how to use the platform were developed. These materials which were ward specific were used during popularization activities in all the wards. A variety of activities were carried out in all the wards to popularize Sauti Mtaani among the youth. These included road shows, theatre, cleanups and youth meetings. The custom made banners were left in the wards and the MCAs and the youth continue to use to sensitize youth on the platform.



ii) Women and Devolved Governance project

Kenya promulgated a new Constitution in August 2010 which among other things provides for a devolved system of governance which system was ushered in by the March 2013 General Elections. This system of governance is supposed to bring governance closer to the people and enhance participation of all population groups including women and youth. However, for citizens to effectively participate, their capacity needs to be strengthened especially the historically marginalized groups like women and youth. This was the basis of this project which was supported by GIZ (CPS). The project sought to strengthen the capacity of both women and Members of County Assemblies (MCAs) from Kandara Sub County of Murang'a County for effective civic engagement.



Women trainees



MCAs' and CEEC

The project components were training of women from the six wards in Kandara Sub County as well as their respective MCAs and ward based civic engagement forums. CEEC trained a total of 30 women drawn from all the six wards (Ng'araria, Muruka, Kagunduni, Gaichanjiru, Ithiru, and Ruchu) on devolved governance in February 2014. In addition to devolved governance, the women were also trained on gender to help them understand the reasons behind women's general marginalization and specifically their lack of participation in governance. The women's training was followed by one of the MCAs in March 2014 on the rationale for women's participation, challenges that women face and ways of enhancing their participation in devolved governance.

After the trainings the women mobilized other women from their respective wards to attend ward based forums. All the six MCAs attended the forums in their respective wards and responded to the concerns raised by the women. The women were very happy with the forums especially given that some of them did not know their MCAs and those who did had never seen them after they voted for them. They felt the forums had opened up channels of communication between them and their leaders and they would now be able to continue engaging with them. The MCAs on the other hand appreciated the fact that the forums had provided them with an opportunity to engage with a big segment of their constituents. They affirmed the important role that women play and pledged to work with them to ensure that there was gender inclusive governance in their respective wards. The MCAs and the women requested for more such forums so that women from all parts of their respective wards could be reached.

In response to the request for more Women Civic Engagement forums, CEEC again with the support of GIZ (CPS) assisted the women and MCAs from the six wards to organize

follow up forums between 23rd and 30th August 2014. Just like the first phase, the second round of forums was also very successful and some women who did not even know their MCAs got to meet with them and to present their issues. One of the nominated women MCAs representing People with Disabilities attended one of the forums and enlightened the women on what the County Government is doing to assist people with disabilities. The forums in this phase were better attended than the previous phase. Being a predominantly agricultural area where women are the main source of labour, having leaving their daily chores to attend meetings on issues of governance was testimony that the women in the area are starting to become aware of the need to participate in public affairs. The quality of discussions was very impressive and demonstrated the women's growing awareness of the need to hold their leaders accountable.

Reports reaching CEEC indicates that there is continuous engagement between the women and their MCAs and most of the issues raised are being addressed. Many of the women from the target area have also gained confidence generally and they are engaging other local leaders where they feel things are not going right. CEEC has received reports of women staging demonstrations against illicit brews which are destroying their sons and which the local leaders are not doing enough to address. In addition to the demonstrations, the women are also liaising with relevant offices like NACADA and the Ombudsman on issues of concern. It is apparent that the project has led not only to enhanced confidence among women but also a change of attitude towards governance issues. They now appreciate the fact that if they want things to change, they need to be proactive. (a short documentary attest to this change can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBWZQpDv4ehLRjyFtXZodNQ>)

3. POSITIVE MASCULINITIES PROJECT

Positive Masculinities: Working with young men to combat gender based violence in Kiambu County

This project which was supported by DKA Austria was informed by requests received from various stakeholders who were concerned about the high levels and nature of gender based violence in Kikuyu Sub County of Kiambu County. The goal was to promote a culture of positive masculinities among male youth in Kikuyu Sub County as a way of combating gender based violence. In recognition of the false dichotomy of perpetrators versus victims, the project aimed at bringing out the fact that men are also losers even when they perpetrate gender based violence. That indeed gender based violence is not a problem of men or women but that of the entire society which socializes boys and men to be violent. The project also sought to help the men own the problem because it is only then they can see that they have a role in looking for a solution. Once they got to understand the connection between flawed masculinities, they would appreciate the need to embrace healthier masculinities which do not make them lesser men. It was also important for the young men to understand that the dysfunctional

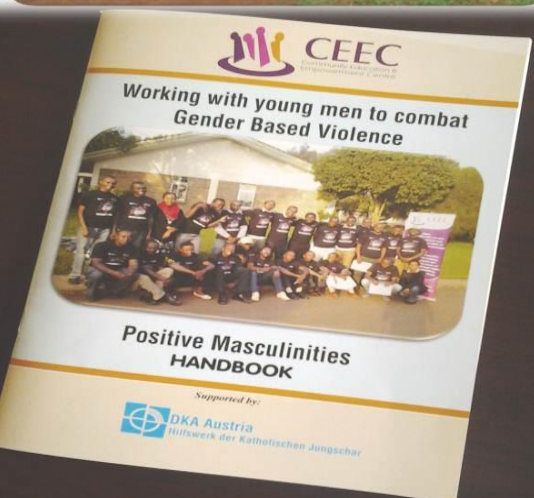
ways of being men that they consider natural are actually learned and they can be unlearned.



Against the above background, CEEC trained 27 male youth from the five wards in Kikuyu Sub County (Kikuyu, Sigona, Nachu, Kinoo and Karai) in July on “Positive Masculinities and Gender Based Violence”. CEEC enlisted the help of local church leaders and administrators to mobilize youth who were opinion leaders among their peers to ensure that the knowledge and skills acquired got back to other young men in their respective wards. The training was an eye opener for the youth who were able to make the link between flawed masculinities and violence. The young trainees, who thought it was natural for men to be violent were surprised to learn that violent masculinities are not in their DNA but rather are a result of socialization. They also got to understand how gender based violence affects not only women but also men and children. With this in mind, they were able to appreciate the role they can play to combat this vice starting with personal change before reaching out to others. At the end of the training, they resolved to become champions against gender based violence. They came up with action plans outlining how they would raise awareness and mobilize fellow youth in their respective wards to campaign against the vice.

One of the awareness raising activity that the trainees came up with was ward based *Positive Masculinities Forums*. Each group of trainees held sensitization forums within their churches, youth groups, family meetings as well as during other gatherings within their community. CEEC attended one forum per ward to assess the trainees’ grasp of issues and also offer support where necessary. It was evident that the male youth and the community members were very happy to have a project targeting young men. There was a lot of concern that all efforts are being directed to the girl child while the young men are neglected. It was also apparent that there is a masculinity crisis and although the explanation from most men that it is due to over empowerment of girls is missing the point, what is not in dispute is that a lot more work needs to be done with men. Thankfully, the trainees and the young men who

attended the forum got to understand how the various agents and institutions of socialization are disempowering them. These include family, religion, media and even peers.



At the beginning of the project, CEEC developed a draft handbook which was tested during the training. The handbook was further improved upon during the ward forums and a final version was launched at the end of the project. Representatives of

the trainees also came together to share success stories, challenges, lessons learnt and recommendations. Feedback received included stories of personal transformation as well as the roles they were playing within their families, youth groups, churches and community as male champions against gender based violence. It was clear that the project had brought a lot of positive change not only for the trainees but also within their families and community.

PART II: STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND NETWORKING

i) Making Democracy Real Dialogue - Panchgani Asia Plateau, India.

From 10th to 14th January 2014, CEEC Executive Director Jane Maina and Programs Manager Nelly Njoki attended “Making Democracy Real 2014” Dialogue organized by Initiatives of Change India and held at Asia Plateau, Panchgani, India. The dialogue which brought together about 200 delegates from around the world facilitated a sharing of success stories, challenges and best practices.



Jane Maina making a presentation

The delegates also brainstormed on next steps on democracy’s journey and underscored the need for continuing the process of dialogue and reflection and to trigger new strategies and a new determination to act.



The dialogue was organized into morning plenary sessions with panelists known as “Dialogue Initiators” and afternoon break away sessions. CEEC’s Program Manager Nelly Njoki was a dialogue initiator in a session dubbed “**Empowering the marginalized: What can we learn from one another**” on 12th January 2014 where she shared CEEC’s work of empowering women in rural Central Kenya.

Nelly Njoki making her presentation

CEEC Executive Director Jane Maina was a Dialogue Initiator in the session “**Next Steps on Democracy’s Journey**” and she spoke about the need for promotion of citizen participation, with an emphasis on inclusion of all population groups notably women and youth who are in most cases left out of governance processes. To ensure effective participation, Jane pointed out the need for platforms for engagement between the citizenry and the leaders and she shared CEEC’s experience in the **Sauti Mtaani Initiative**, an e- participation platform for youth in Nairobi’s informal settlements.

ii) International Workshop on Ethics in Public Governance



From 14th to 17th January 2014, CEEC Executive Director Jane Maina and Programs Manager Nelly Njoki participated in a workshop organized by the Initiatives of Change Centre for Governance (ICCFG) on ‘**Ethics in Public Governance**’. The workshop that brought together around 30 participants at Asia Plateau, Panchgani aimed at helping participants evolve a personal paradigm of ethical leadership and governance. One major outcome of the workshop was an idea that was mooted to start a Centre for Governance for the East and Horn of Africa region.

iii) Africa Coordination Group Consultation Workshop

From 5th - 10th March 2014, CEEC Programs Manager, Nelly Njoki attended Initiatives of Change (IofC) consultation organized by the IofC Africa Coordination Group in Debre Zeit, Ethiopia. The consultation brought together over 30 participants from 9 countries in Africa to share about their work within the IofC community in Africa. The consultation resulted in the development and adoption of a Strategic Framework for IofC in Africa under three goals of Trust Building, Ethical leadership and Sustainable living. Nelly facilitated a session titled: “**Encouraging youth leadership and its relevance to local situation**” with another youth Kimanthi Mbindyo from Kenya. The session opened a discussion on promoting and mentoring youth leadership within IofC Africa activities.



IV) International Peace Builders Forum and Caux Scholars Reunion

The Programs Manager attended the international peace builder's forum in Caux Switzerland in August 2014. The objective of the forum was to link the levels of peace building, from the personal to the organizational level. Different themes such as how to address compassion fatigue, cultivating inner peace and creating spaces where peace builders could interact and network were discussed. The forum provided an opportunity to learn new peace building models, and experiences in peace mediation and conflict transformation.



The forum was preceded by a Caux Scholars Reunion which brought together alumni as far back as 1992 and still having the conviction of personal change and transformation. Nelly having been a Caux scholar in 2010, had the opportunity to share both in formal and informal sessions, how the Caux Scholars Program had impacted her personal life and work.