

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT CENTRE

2012 ANNUAL REPORT



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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To the resource people and friends of CEEC who supported us in mobilization, facilitation, logistics, through encouragement and in any other way, we say thank you.

ABOUT COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT CENTRE

Community Education and Empowerment Centre (CEEC) is a national nonprofit making organization (NGO) based in Kenya, which was founded in 2009 and registered as an NGO in 2012. It strives to build the capacity of communities to be actors in their own development. Our **Vision** is 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, law, community peace building, leadership and governance

PROGRAMS

1. Community Peacebuilding

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 peacebuilding 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. This program aims at building the capacity of communities on gender and human rights issues enabling them to stand up against injustices for a just and peaceful society.

Objectives

- To equip communities with knowledge, information and skills in the areas of gender, law 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 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 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 mainly the victims. It is in view of this that this program specifically targets male youth with the aim of helping them interrogate the connection between negative masculinity 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
- Lobbying and advocacy
- Research and documentation
- Exchange Programs
- Mentorship
- Performing arts
- Development of IEC materials
- Community dialogue and outreaches
- Legal aid clinics

PART I. PROGRAMS REPORT

1. COMMUNITY PEACE BUILDING PROGRAM

1.1 Youth Empowerment for Harmonious Co-existence in Nairobi's Informal Settlements.

With support from Heinrich Boll Stiftung, East and Horn of Africa, CEEC trained 25 youth from the informal settlements of Kibera, Kawangware, Korogocho, Mathare, Mukuru, Dandora and Kiambiu on inter-ethnic dialogues/conversations. This was necessitated by



the simmering inter-ethnic tensions and early warning signs ahead of the 2013 general elections which included re-grouping of militia groups and an escalation of crime rate within the informal settlements. The project therefore aimed at proactively contributing to peaceful general elections in March 2013. After the training, the youth embarked on conducting community dialogue/conversations

forums within their respective informal settlements and the forums have been receiving a very positive response.



With ideas from the trainees, the project also developed

posters, stickers and key rings which the trainees have been using during the inter-

ethnic dialogues/conversations.

CEEC also carried out field visits to each of the seven informal settlements and attended at least one of each group's community dialogue/conversations sessions to offer moral support, assess the trainee's level of competence and to identify areas of further capacity building.

Outcomes

- ✓ The training provided a forum where members from different ethnic groups came together and openly discusses ethnic stereotypes in a safe environment. This was very powerful as the trainees were able to disabuse the stereotypes they held about other communities.
- ✓ The participants also resolved to become peace ambassadors and to preach the message of inter ethnic harmony. Indeed



the trainees are the ones who came up with the messages that were put in the IEC materials.

- ✓ The trainees have been holding community forums, incorporating what they learnt into their other activities as well as engaging other community members on a one on one basis.
- ✓ The communities from which the trainees were drawn welcomed the



community forums and appreciated the fact that contrary to what the youth had become infamous for, causing chaos, they were now engaged in a positive venture of promoting peaceful co-existence.



2. GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

2.1 Promotion and Protection of Human Rights within Nairobi's Informal Settlements

This project which was supported by Haella Foundation, brought together 31 youth, both



male and female, drawn from organized groups in the informal settlements of Mathare, Dandora, Kariobangi and Korogocho to acquire knowledge, skills and information on human rights to enable them become focal points on human rights issues within their communities. All the trainees confirmed that unlike other trainings they had attended, this was the first of its kind in that it moved from the international, national and then to the local level. They

appreciated the sound grasp of the law that the facilitators had which enabled them to relate human rights to the Kenya Constitution and other laws. The trainees also welcomed the fact that the training was in depth and addressed human rights violations prevalent in the informal settlements not only from a human rights perspective but also a legal one. They got an opportunity to clarify most of the legal questions that they had relating to human rights abuses within the informal settlements. The training was participatory and very engaging and offered a forum where some of those who had been violated got information on how to get redress. Coming under a new constitutional dispensation, the training was timely and responded to many of the queries that the participants had and helped affirm their human dignity as envisioned in the Constitution.

Another aspect of the project entailed establishment of help desks as the points of contact for community members who needed help on issues of human rights violations. After the training, community members started reporting cases at the help desks and since some of the trainees work at these organizations, there is always someone to receive the reports. In addition, the trainees agree on the days and times that they will be at the help desks to attend those who need assistance. It is worth noting that although the project is over, the community members have already gained confidence in the trainees and they are still consulting them.



The help desks were set up in four of the organizations that the participants were drawn from, one from each informal settlement.

At the end of the training, the trainees were linked with various referral institutions on human rights issues to enable them refer the cases that they are unable to handle. During monitoring of the project, it was evident that the communities experienced grave human rights violations, key among them: domestic violence, police harassment and unlawful arrests of young men, sexual offences against women, girls and to some extent boys, forced prostitution (including child prostitution), child abuse and neglect and forced eviction by the government since land ownership/tenure in the informal settlements is unclear. However with the increased intervention from the help desks, the violations that would have normally been swept under the carpet are coming to the fore and they are being reported to the relevant authorities for further action.



2.2 Promotion and Protection of Women's Inheritance Rights

The first phase of the project involved training on Family Law and Succession for 27 community leaders from Kandara, Central Kenya and it took place on 26th to 30th November 2012. Topics covered were Gender, Family

Law and Succession, court procedures as well as communication and conflict resolution skills. By the end of the training, the participants had a good grasp of the marriage systems in Kenya and how each marriage system impacts on ownership of property generally and specifically for women. One of the major learning was the fact that daughters are entitled to inherit from their fathers whether they are married or not. The participants also got to learn about the provisions of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and the new land laws as far as women and property are concerned. They also appreciated communication and conflict resolution skills due to the high number of property disputes that they handle mainly concerning disinheritance of daughters and widows. They felt the knowledge and skills they acquired would enable them assist the communities resolve conflicts amicably and also give legal advice from a point of knowledge. Most of the trainees



described the training, which was the first of its kind, as an eye opener. They stated that most of the women's rights violations that have been going on within the community relating to succession and inheritance can to a large extent be attributed to ignorance which the training had helped them overcome.

At the end of the training the participants organized themselves into groups according to their respective localities and developed action plans. The action plans entailed sensitizing community members on the topics covered in the training. The trainees were given a draft training guide which was developed at the beginning of the project and tested during the training, to assist them in their sensitization activities. The feedback we got from the trainees themselves was very positive and indeed they felt that it would be very important to reach out to as many community members as possible. They appreciated the mix of men and women due to the fact that as much as women need to understand their rights, the men are the gatekeepers and without taking them on board as allies, the women would find it harder to advocate for their rights and especially when it comes to engaging men. The next phase which will be implemented in 2013 will entail monitoring and follow up visits as well as publication of the final version of the training guide.



Some quotes from the participants

"I will now be able to demand my rights legally".

"I will make sure my property is in my name so that my children can fully inherit".

"I now understand my rights as a woman as far as inheritance is concerned".

"The training was beautiful if not splendid and it should be held from time to time".

"The training has enlightened me on how to write a will before I die".

"I now know how to address some of the issues that have gone wrong in my life due to lack of knowledge".

"The training will change my life and that of my family".

"I will now be able to advise other people within my reach on succession matters and also help them resolve conflicts".

"The training will help me work more effectively knowing what is expected of me".

2.3 STANDING UP FOR WOMEN'S INHERITANCE RIGHTS

This is a project on women's inheritance rights targeting women from different denominations in Kandara and Gatanga Sub Counties of Muranga County. The 1st



training brought together 30 women of faith for a four days training on introduction to law and human rights, gender and gender based violence, marriage systems and law, succession and inheritance, children's rights and skills building in conflict resolution and communication. This was the first time most of the participants were learning about the law and since the literacy levels of women in this area are very low, in certain instances we had to use the local Kikuyu language to explain some of

the concepts. This ensured that the women grasped the legal issues well so as apply them and also explain to other women and community members.

After the training and with support from the trainees and local leaders, CEEC held a legal aid clinic whereby CEEC staff alongside 5 pro bono lawyers (total 8) met with and gave legal advice to over 70 community members. The trainees had an opportunity to practice what they had learnt with the support of the pro bono lawyers. Just like the training, the legal aid clinic was happening for the first time and it was highly appreciated by the trainees, local leaders and community members. Most of the issues raised involved land, marriage, succession and inheritance while a few were of a criminal nature. Consequently, six needy cases



were taken up by CEEC for legal representation as scores of others were referred to relevant institutions.

The cases that CEEC took up for legal representation involved women who were in danger of disinheritance by their male relatives and were not in a position to take the matters to court due to lack of financial resources. When CEEC carried out monitoring and field visits, it was evident that the winds of change were blowing in that region that has historically been left out of any civil society interventions.

Outcomes

- ✓ Increased awareness and sensitivity by the community of human rights violations which cases the trainees have been forwarding to the police, local administration and CEEC for further action.
- ✓ Desire to learn more and keep themselves informed of new developments especially with the new laws under the Constitution.
- ✓ There is enhanced trust and confidence in the trainees by community members who have been approaching them with issues relating to human and women's rights violation.

Some stories of personal transformation

- Coming from a coffee growing area, men are the custodians of money from tea farming. However, five women have been able to talk to their husbands and have established joint accounts for the coffee payment.
- Increased productivity at homes as women and men are working together. One woman reported that her husband is now assisting with household chores.
- Improved self confidence and esteem by the women. As reported by several of them, "we feel worthy and valuable people in the community"
- Improved relationship with their spouses and children due to the communication skills learnt.
- Improved involvement and decision making powers by the women. "I am more interested in the properties that we have acquired"
- One woman reported that she advised her husband to register property bought together with friends as tenants in common as opposed to joint tenants because the former secured his interest and the latter results in interest in property devolving to the other joint owner if one party died.

3. POSITIVE MASCULINITIES PROGRAM



3.0 Positive Masculinities: Building a culture of Nonviolence within Nairobi's Informal Settlements

One of the project components was a five days training for 24 male youth from Nairobi's informal settlements of Kibera, Mathare, Dandora, Kariobangi and Korogocho on positive masculinities with a view to bringing about transformative change among them from negative to positive masculinities. The project was informed by the 2007/8 post election violence during which male youth from the informal settlements were mobilized into violence by the political elite.

The project sought to sensitize the youth on the masculanization of violence with a view to helping them become change agents who can bring about a paradigm shift towards nonviolence as way of dealing with conflict in general. Out of the project, a Training Guide has been developed for use by the trainees in their dissemination efforts. In addition, CEEC printed T-shirts with the message of positive masculinities on them which the trainees have been using as a dissemination tool. To capture the lessons learnt, challenges, best practices and recommendations, we developed a visual documentary covering the training itself and the monitoring visits.

At the end of the training, most of the participants had obviously moved from where they were when the training started and were able to appreciate how gendered violence is and also how much of victims of violence, including gender based violence, men are even as they try to act strong. The trainees also appreciated the sharing of experiences with youth from other informal settlements and welcomed the opportunity to join hands in working towards a culture of nonviolence. Some of them felt the training was a life changing experience and undertook to take the message out to others.

From the monitoring exercise, it was apparent that the training had made a huge impact on the trainees and most of them attested to a change of self perception and attitude towards women. One of the trainees said the training was a “turning point” which had led to personal growth and enhanced his self esteem. Others said they were more empowered, had their skills sharpened, had changed their attitude towards women and had become role models within their communities. Most of the trainees had learnt different ways of expressing themselves (healthy masculinities) and dealing with conflict in their homes, work and within the community. They realized that strength was not a sign of healthy masculinity when trainees, most of who CEEC still interacts with have been practicing what they learnt in their personal lives and families in addition to carrying out community outreaches and doing one on one sensitization sessions on positive masculinities. The target groups reached by the trainees include youth, community leaders, religious leaders, perpetrators of violence and women. CEEC has interviewed some of the community members that the trainees have been interacting with and they confirmed that in addition to learning from the trainees about positive masculinities which they did not know before, they had seen a tremendous change in the trainees. Some of these changes are;

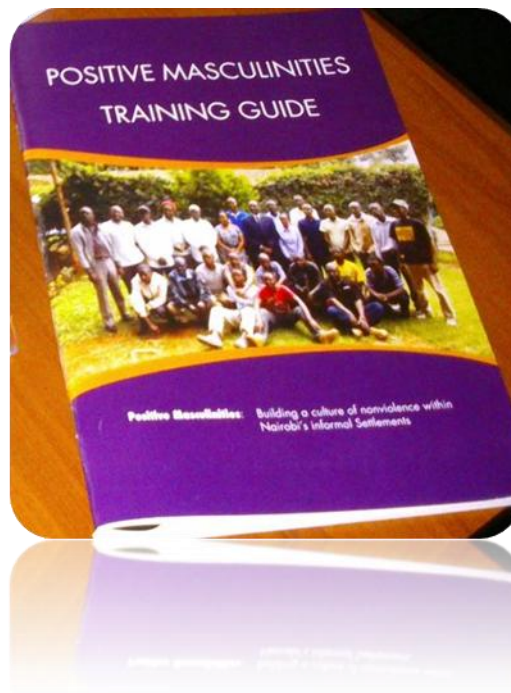


- Positive change in the trainees’ personal relationships as well as their treatment of the female members of their groups. In one of the youth groups, the female members attested to getting more respect from their male counterparts, feeling valued and protected. Unlike before, female group members are now sharing leadership roles with the male group members.
- One of the organization reached works with young mothers and the trainees are helping in getting more men involved in family planning.
- In the office of one of the youth groups, the group leader said complaints against some of the group members from their families had gone down.
- Trainees have become role models that other young people have started looking up to.



Although in some instances the age of the youth was working against them especially when dealing with elderly men, their involvement in a positive venture has to a large extent been a welcome change within the communities since they are usually perceived as trouble makers. The T-Shirts which the trainees are still wearing to date have greatly enhanced dissemination efforts since people usually get curious and ask questions on the meaning of the message printed on them.

The training guide has been a “first of sorts” being hailed as a simple and easy read which the trainees have found extremely useful. Noting that positive masculinities term is not well understood in the communities, the publication has come in handy to break down the concept in an easy and relevant way. Other stakeholders in the civil society note that incorporating the concept of positive masculinities into gender and peacebuilding work is an approach whose time has come since it goes to the very heart of the problems of gender inequality, gender based violence and violence in general.



PART II: STAFF DEVELOPMENT/NETWORKING

In the course of the year under review, CEEC has been involved in various capacity development and networking activities as highlighted below;

i) Gender Forums organized by Heinrich Boll Stiftung (HBS), East and Horn of Africa

The monthly Gender Forum provides a platform for different actors who include academicians, civil society, government representatives and students among others to engage in debate on topical issues from a gender perspective. The organizers bring together a panel of experts on the topic under discussion who gives presentations followed by a plenary session during which participants ask questions and also give their input. CEEC staff has been attending the forums which are not only very informative but also provide a networking opportunity. The gender forum enables CEEC to keep abreast of trends and developments in the field of gender. One of HBS's strength is in publications on different topics that fall in the thematic areas that they work in. HBS either does the publications at its secretariat or in partnership with other organizations and they share these publications during the gender forums. In addition, some of the gender forums are organized in conjunction with partners like Femnet and the Centre for Multiparty Democracy. During some of the jointly organized forums, the other participating organizations launch and share their publications as well. The forums are therefore not only a good source of accurate and up to date information but also resources.

ii) Making Democracy Real Dialogue: Asia Plateau, Panchgani India

The Programs Manager attended the dialogue which was a meeting of minds between politicians, civil society, students and ordinary citizenry examining the role of all players in society in making democracy real.

The dialogue was a unique opportunity of sharing experiences and insights from both old and young democracies. Lessons from the Arab spring to challenges in Asian and African countries were evidence that democracy is a journey and people have made sacrifices in search for democracy. However, democracy as one participant rightly pointed out, "does not have absolute standards within which we can compare but we can make standards that work for us". The Programs Manager had the opportunity to share her experiences in a panel discussion titled: ***Civil society and Elected Representatives: Power Struggle or Partnership?*** It was based on the role of civil society in Kenya especially around issues of constitutionalism and promotion of human rights using strategies such as petitions, coalition building, civil suits, lobbying and advocacy. The interactive session brought in a wealth of information and experience and provided a good learning opportunity. In particular the concept of social audit stood out since in a democracy, without the right to know, there can be no real right to exercise power and make the government accountable to its people.