## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT





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#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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We are also grateful to the Members of County Assembly (MCAs) and youth who participated in the "Youth and Devolved Governance Project" popularly known as *Sauti Mtaani*. These were MCAs and youth from the following wards; Dandora 3, Mlango Kubwa, Ngei, Baba Dogo, Karura, Laini Saba, Umoja 2, Mowlem, Lower Savannah, Kwa Njenga, Korogocho, Viwandani, Zimmerman, Kangemi, Mutuini, Kayole North, Kahawa, South B, Land Mawe and Waithaka.

To the men and women from Kamuyu, Rukuini, Kagongo, Barekeiywo, Ndungulu, Lingway, Chuiyat and Rironi/ Kaplelach farms in Burnt Forest we say a big thank you! You demonstrated remarkable commitment and resilience as you engaged in the very difficult task of gender based violence prevention and response.

Laituchu Women Group from Burnt Forest, you have broken down the barriers of gender and negative ethnicity and demonstrated that it is possible to unite as women from different communities and work together to improve your livelihood. Kudos!

To the young men from Uthiru, Sigona, Karai, Nachu and Kikuyu wards in Kikuyu Sub County, thumbs up! Your passion in combating gender based violence is remarkable. You are proof that negative masculinities can indeed be deconstructed to build healthier individuals, families, communities and ultimately a stronger nation.

### 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 registered as an NGO in March 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 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 embrace participatory and inclusive peace processes.

### 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.

### 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. Another challenge is the exclusion of some population groups, notably women and youth. Of necessity, good governance needs to be inclusive and when some population groups are locked out, sustainable peace and development cannot be realized. This program seeks to strengthen the capacity of communities to effectively exercise their civic rights and duties thus contributing to participatory and inclusive 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. However, this does not mean that men are born violent and nor does it mean that violence is the hallmark of manhood. On the other hand, it is true that women are not born peaceful and indeed there are many women who are perpetrators of violence. This program seeks to bring about a paradigm shift among men from negative to positive masculinities. The converse is helping women to embrace positive femininities in recognition of the fact that both men and women contribute in constructing flawed masculinities.

### **Strategies**

- Trainings and awareness raising forums
- Research and documentation
- Development of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials
- Advocacy
- Mentorship
- Exchange programs
- Community dialogue and outreach forums
- Legal aid clinics
- Income Generating Activities (IGAs)
- Use of ICT as a governance tool
- Use of theatre for social change

### PART I. PROGRAMS REPORT

### **GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

### i) Alleviating poverty in Burnt Forest through women's economic empowerment

Since July 2014, CEEC has been working with women, community leaders and village elders from Burnt Forest on a gender based violence prevention and response project. As in many other parts of Kenya, gender based violence is a serious problem with far reaching implications on women, girls and men. Although men experience gender based violence, women are disproportionately affected due to unequal power dynamics. Forms of gender based violence include physical attacks, verbal abuse, lack of decision making powers both in the private and public spheres, denial of property rights including disinheritance of girls and women as well sexual violence.

The problem of gender based violence is compounded by alcoholism which is prevalent in the target area. The affected men spend meagre family resources earned from agriculture, which is the main economic activity, on illicit brews leaving the women with the responsibility of taking care of the families' basic needs leading to feminization of poverty. In addition, men who take the illicit brews more often than not result to violence as a way of dealing with their sense of disempowerment. Others who have sunk into addiction are violated by their family members who do not understand that alcoholism is a disease.



In view of the foregoing, the women from the target area requested for an income generating project to empower them economically. The aim was to reduce women's vulnerability to gender based violence by helping them become less dependent on the same men who violate them. Such a project would also uplift their status not only economically but also socially and politically.

The project which was supported by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Nairobi ran from October to December 2015. By helping the women get a source of income, the project not only contributed to reduction of gender based violence cases but also poverty reduction and improved living standards of not only women but also their families.

The project activities were a training of 26 women on how to run an income generating activity after which they were given 5 sewing machines, 2 over lock machines, accessories

as well as other materials that are necessary for a tailoring business. The women were also trained on bead work and given the necessary materials to start them off.



To get buy in from the women's male significant members of family, a one day



sensitization meeting was held with them. They included husbands, fathers, brothers and other key decision makers in the family. The aim of the meeting was to help the men understand the project better so that they can support the women. The men agreed to help the women with family chores in order to give them time to participate in the project. They also promised to place personal orders with them and those who are in school boards pledged to help the women get orders for school uniforms.

The trainees, who registered under the name Laituchu Women's Group then went on a learning visit to a very successful group known as Sonata Women Group in Gilgil where they visited their sewing, screen printing and beadwork departments to see a diversity of skills and products. The aim of this visit was to learn from Sonata Women Group's experiences, particularly the challenges they had encountered along the way and how they had dealt with them. The two groups also discussed the possibility of working together since Sonata women group already had ready markets for their products.



Feedback received from the direct beneficiaries indicated that the project had made a big difference in their lives. The knowledge and skills that the women acquired enabled them to start a tailoring and bead work business based at Kamuyu shopping centre. They hired a shop and started meeting some of the community's tailoring and bead work needs. The women also confirmed that the project had considerably reduced their vulnerability to

gender based violence since they are now able to generate their own income. The mobilization of the women deliberately targeted the two main communities, Kalenjins and Kikuyus in order to mitigate against the prevalent suspicions between the two communities. The fact that the women are working well together is a pointer to enhanced inter ethnic harmony.

# ii) Building the capacity of communities in Burnt Forest to prevent and appropriately respond to Gender Based Violence (GBV)





This project started in 2014 following a request by women in the area and it was supported by The women GIZ/CPS. identified gender based violence as a serious threat to peace within families and the entire community. Although the vice is perpetrated mainly against women, reports reaching CEEC confirmed that men were also being violated by their wives but most of them did not speak out for fear of being ridiculed stigmatized. Further, it emerged that gender based violence is





closely interlinked with alcoholism. Illicit brew dens,

popularly referred to as "Mama Pima" were rife in the target area causing a myriad of social and health problems. Feedback received from the community indicated that the illicit brews contribute to or worsen gender based violence. Men who are unable to discharge their "manly" duties of caring for their families go to the illicit brew dens to escape from their problems. If questioned by their wives about family upkeep, they become violent, using alcohol as an excuse for their behavior. On the other hand, there are cases where men who have become addicted to alcohol are violated by their wives and other family members because they are considered "not men enough".

A needs assessment confirmed the above scenario and consequently, CEEC conducted two trainings for male and female community leaders respectively in 2014. The trainees came from eight farms in Burnt Forest namely Lingway, Kamuyu, Rukuini, Kaplelach, Ndungulu, Chuiyat, Kagongo and Barekeiywo. The trainings were not only on gender based violence but also on alcohol and substance abuse as well as male disempowerment. The aim was to help the community members understand the dynamics involved in

gender based violence and recognize the forms of violence perpetrated against both men and women. In addition, the community's awareness of flawed masculinities and femininities and how they are linked to gender based violence was strengthened.

In 2015, the trainees with the support of CEEC conducted sensitization sessions in their respective farms. The trainees shared with the community members what they had learnt



about gender based violence and alcoholism. During these forums, CEEC traversed the eight farms and confirmed the enormity of based violence gender perpetrated against women and vice how the has been internalized as part of the community's culture. The seriousness of the problem of illicit brews was also apparent from the presence of many dens as well as the number of people



affected by these brews. It was therefore apparent that a lot of work needed to be done to address the twin problem. Recommendations from the community included working with stakeholders who have the authority to take action or to influence opinion. These included chiefs, village elders, religious leaders as well as the police.

The project culminated in a celebration that was held on 15th February 2015, at Kamuyu Secondary School. The celebration brought together about 200 Community members who included 67 trainees from the eight farms. The chief guest was the Acting Deputy County Commissioner, Chuck Masua. Chief Bitok and his assistant Biwott from Oleinguse



Location were also in attendance. Specialists on alcoholism from Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital also attended the celebration to enlighten the community on the adverse effects of alcohol. In response to requests from the community, a VCT desk was also set up to respond to issues of HIV/AIDS and conduct counseling/tests for those who were interested.

The chief guest as well as the local leaders lauded the project for making the work of the government easier. The Acting County Commissioner pointed out that issues of gender based violence and alcoholism fall squarely under the government's mandate but due to limited capacity, it was not possible to effectively address them. Any assistance was

therefore very welcome especially due to the huge negative impact of the two vices on families, community and the country as a whole. All the speakers called on the community members to change with the times and stop clinging to retrogressive cultural practices that were pulling them behind.

An evaluation of the project indicated that there was an improved understanding of gender issues generally and gender based violence in particular. In addition, the community had started appreciating the seriousness of alcoholism and for the first time understood that it is an illness. Family members of those affected realized that they needed help and not condemnation. Unfortunately, one of the main challenges was the fact that rehabilitation is very expensive and thus beyond the reach of many. All the same, the community members appreciated the information since they were now able to raise awareness within their families and community from an informed position. The male youth who the community described as "an endangered species" are the most affected and the new knowledge would save them from sliding into the menace of illicit brews. This, together with the knowledge on gender and male disempowerment would help stem the many cases of gender based violence. Although the project hardly scratched the surface due to the magnitude of the problem, it nonetheless changed the collective community mindset and brought about a paradigm shift.

# iii) Building the capacity of village elders in burnt forest to prevent and appropriately respond to gender based violence

In the course of gender based prevention and response work in Burnt Forest, one group that emerged as a key player was the Village Elders. Being the symbol of authority at the lowest level, the Village Elders are the ones cases of gender based violence are first reported to. Yet, most of these elders who as the name indicates, are advanced in age, are heavily influenced by culture while discharging their duties. They have limited understanding of the law and almost no understanding of gender issues. In a highly patriarchal society, it then follows that it is very difficult if not impossible for women who are violated to get any justice in cases presided over by these elders. The need to train the elders came out strongly from the community members generally and two village elders from Oleinguse Location specifically who participated in a previous training. This was the premise on which this project which was supported by GIZ/CPS was based.

In February 2015, 31 village elders from Oleinguse Location were trained not only on issues of gender based violence but also alcohol and substance abuse. The elders appreciated just how ignorant and disempowered they were. They not only realized that they were committing criminal offences by presiding over criminal cases but also how they were violating girls and women both in their personal lives as well as in their official capacity. They also admitted that they were not proactive in gender based violence

prevention and response but rather dealt with cases if and when they were taken to them. Another eye opener for them was the fact that alcoholism is a disease which not only required medical attention but also the input of different stakeholders. They committed to become agents of change and champions against gender based violence and illicit brews. This, they asserted, would be in their personal lives, at the community level as well as in their work.



An evaluation of the project brought out the changes that had started occurring among the village elders. These included the ability to handle gender based violence cases more professionally as well as improved relationships with their wives and children. The elders also confirmed that they had now become ambassadors against gender based violence and alcoholism and in this capacity, they were taking every opportunity available to sensitize community members on these two vices.



The eight farms that CEEC has been working with fall under three locations, Oleinguse, Tarakwa and Chuiyat. After training the elders from Oleinguse, CEEC received another request to train elders from Tarakwa location. Consequently, a similar four days' training was conducted with the support of GIZ/CPS in October 2015 for 31 village elders from Tarakwa location. Fortunately, the chief and his assistant were part of the training. Given that these two are the ones that the village elders report to, their presence enhanced the credibility of the project. At the end of the training, the elders were given a referral list consisting of institutions that they could refer cases beyond their scope to. These included human, women and children's rights organizations as well as institutions that

offer medical, psychosocial, legal and administrative support. Rehabilitation centres were included in the list to help deal with issues of alcoholism.

# iv) Working with community leaders in Burnt Forest to promote non-violent, gender and ethnic inclusive communities

This project was in response to recommendations made to CEEC during the



implementation of previous GIZ/CPS supported projects since 2014. One such recommendation was to have a core group of community leaders who can spearhead gender based violence prevention and response work once CEEC pulled out. This would ensure sustainability of the work that CEEC was doing. One issue that had emerged as a major impediment to peaceful co-existence was interethnic suspicions and hostilities. In this regard, CEEC's mobilization for all projects was very deliberate in ensuring that the two main communities in the area, Kalenjins and Kikuyus

were equally represented. To further forge inter-ethnic trust, village elders from Oleinguse and Tarakwa locations had requested for an exchange visit to Central Kenya not only to share their work experiences but also to enable the two communities learn each other's way of life.

In October 2015 a needs assessment was conducted to identify capacity strengthening gaps that the project needed to respond to. This was in view of the fact that those who were going to be part of the project had previously participated in other CEEC projects. Training needs identified included family law, law governing gender based violence, succession and inheritance as well as children's rights. They also requested for skills building in the areas of communication, mediation and facilitation. Alcoholism and its connection with gender based violence also came out as an area for further capacity strengthening. To respond to the expressed needs, the two main activities that were going to be conducted were a Training of Trainers (ToT) and village elders exchange visit with Central Kenya elders. These activities were scheduled to take place in 2016.

### POSITIVE MASCULINITIES PROJECT

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

This project which was being supported by DKA Austria was informed by some of the recommendations that came out of a previous phase carried out between June-December 2014 in five wards within Kikuyu Sub County namely - Kikuyu, Sigona, Nachu, Kinoo and

Karai. The overall goal was to have youth in Kikuyu Sub County of Kiambu County embrace a culture of positive masculinities as a way of combating gender based violence. Activities carried out in the previous phase were training on positive masculinities and community sensitization forums. The forums which were carried out in all the wards targeted male youth since this was the group that was identified as the main perpetrators of gender based violence.

In this phase, theatre was used as the medium of communication upon recommendation by the youth. In this regard, 27 male thespians from the five wards were trained on positive masculinities in November 2015. Together with trainees from the previous phase and with the support of CEEC, they traversed their respective wards sensitizing fellow youth on positive masculinities during the 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. The methodology used in the sensitization was travelling theatre which turned out to be very effective due to its "edutainment" nature. Given that the target was young men who are very visual, the skits that were performed greatly appealed to them and they were able to engage with the topic.













#### LEADERSHIP AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

# Youth and devolved governance: Enhancing Youth Participation in Devolved Governance through the Sauti Mtaani Platform within Nairobi County.

CEEC with the support of Heinrich Boll Stiftung East and Horn of Africa has been implementing this project since October 2013. The project aims at promoting civic engagement between youth and their Members of County Assembly (MCAs) in Nairobi County through a platform known as Sauti Mtaani. The platform operates though a short message service (sms), website as well as a facebook page and group. The platform is very unique in that it facilitates a two way communication between the youth and their leaders within their wards which is the lowest level of the governance structure in Kenya.

In this phase, the MCAs and youth who had joined the platform were taken through induction to help them understand how the platform

works. To spread awareness within the wards, the trainees were supported to carry out popularization activities. In addition, a jingle was developed with instructions on how the platform works and played in a local radio station, Ghetto radio. The participating wards in this phase were, Dandora 3, Mlango Kubwa, Ngei, Baba Dogo, Karura, Laini Saba, Umoja 2, Mowlem, Lower Savannah, Kwa Njenga, Korogocho, Viwandani, Zimmerman, Kangemi, Mutuini, Kayole North, Kahawa, South B, Land Mawe and Waithaka.

Socialization events were held as a way of encouraging competition among the wards. A total of 3 socialization events were held in 2015. The events provided the youth with an opportunity to share experiences, challenge each other, network and generally to relax and have fun. Activities included various games that aimed at enhancing team spirit, communication skills, strategizing capabilities, mental preparedness as well as problem solving. Gifts that included caps, t-shirts, bags, key rings and bracelets, which served as advocacy tools were awarded to the winning teams. Since the wards were picked based on the number of messages they sent, this acted as an incentive for the youth to step up their popularization efforts.



### PART II: STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND NETWORKING

## i) Gender forums organized by Heinrich Boll Stiftung (HBS) East and Horn of Africa

CEEC has been attending the monthly Gender Forums hosted by Heinrich Boll Stiftung at the Nairobi Safari Club. These forums have been of great benefit to CEEC by providing both information and networking opportunities. The forums provide a platform for members of public from different sectors and very able panelists who are experts in the topics under discussion to engage in discussing pertinent national social issues from a gender perspective. The forums provide CEEC with a platform to keep up to date with emerging gender issues and to network with other players in the field.

## i) Workshop on Facilitating Participatory Action Research (PAR)

The Programs Manager and the Executive Director attended a workshop on Participatory Action Research (PAR) held on 9<sup>th</sup>- 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at Brackenhurst Retreat Centre, Limuru. The objectives were; Learning experiences from participatory approaches; Building facilitation skills and attitudes; Understanding of PAR approach and practicing

tools; Planning for possible fieldwork scenarios and risk assessment. The workshop which was organized by GIZ (CPS) for its partners facilitated sharing of experiences and challenges as well as brainstorming on ways of overcoming the challenges using the PAR approach. It covered in a very practical way some of the skills, attitudes and attributes that are required for practitioners working with communities. An important aspect of the workshop was an examination of our own identities and how these identities affect our work. This was a very useful workshop for CEEC whose main target is communities at the grassroots level.



### ii) Trauma Sensitivity and Self care

GIZ (CPS) organized a 5 days training on trauma sensitivity and self-care for its partners

which was held on  $16^{th}$ -  $20^{th}$  March 2015 at Jumuia Resort, Mombasa with a follow up session at the same venue on  $20^{th}$ -  $25^{th}$  September 2015 . This was out of the realization that partner organizations are working in traumatized environments with exposure to violence and traumatized individuals.





Dealing with trauma, frustrations and helplessness among the people we work with can be draining and in many cases leads to secondary trauma. We can only help others if we are able to take good care of ourselves thus the need to "care for the carer". The training which was attended by both the Executive Director and Programs Manager, was an eye opener to the daily challenges that we face in our work that can lead to trauma and burn out. Understanding key concepts of trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, effects of trauma, trauma intervention and protection were covered in detail. The training offered space to share our experiences, offer care and support to each other and be in touch with our inner selves, particularly our vulnerabilities and also harness our strength. The group left each of the two sessions re-energized, more alert to stressors and with new ways dealing with them.

### iii) Joint Sector Group Meeting



Between 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May, the Programs Manager attended the joint group sector meeting of AGEH, CPS and PBI at the lake Elementaita Lodge, Nakuru. The meeting was a follow up to the conflict analysis and strategy process of AGEH, PBI and

GIZ (CPS) which took place in 2013. The meeting aimed at looking at the current situation as well as sharing the monitoring and evaluation methods which help measure impact.

The meeting brought together the partner organizations of the three organizations and it provided an opportunity to look back on the work that the partners have done during the period under review, their achievements as well as recommendations for the way forward. It was an opportunity for the partners to participate in a strategic review of the donors and recommend necessary adjustments moving forward.

## iv) Kenya DAAD Scholars Association Annual Conference and AGM

The Executive Director, Jane Maina participated in the Kenya DAAD Scholars Association Annual Conference and AGM that was held at the Kenyatta University on 28th - 29th May, 2015 on the theme "Kenya's Constitutional Provisions and the Citizen's Rights: Are we on track?" At the conference, Jane spoke on the topic "Youth participation" drawing from CEEC's work of promoting youth civic engagement through the Sauti Mtaani platform. Previous speakers had spoken on the problem of marginalization of some population groups from governance processes notably youth and women and Jane's presentation was an example of a very practical solution to this problem. She explained the rationale behind the **Youth and Devolved Governance Project** as enhancing youth engagement with leaders at the lowest level of governance, the Members of County Assembly (MCAs). Under this project, CEEC with the support of Heinrich Boll Foundation has developed a platform known as **Sauti Mtaani** (Voice in the Hood). The uniqueness of the platform lies in the fact that it facilitates a two way communication between the youth and their MCAs. Some of the factors that were taken into account in its design included the inability of the youth to reach their leaders physically as well as the fact that most youth spend their time on their phones/online (including social media sites like Facebook. The platform therefore comprises of an sms service via a short code, a website, a Facebook page and a Facebook group. The conference participants confirmed that Sauti Mtaani is a platform that has made youth participation easier than ever before and if possible, it needs to be scaled up to all levels of governance.

## v) Just Governance for Human Security - Caux Conference Centre, Switzerland

Jane Maina, CEEC's Executive Director attended the **Just Governance for Human Security conference** from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at the Caux Conference Centre, Switzerland under the theme "Trust Building". The conference provided the 230 delegates from over 40 countries from around the world with an opportunity to share experiences and learn from each other. The powerful stories of personal and collective struggles to reach out to "the other side", to forgive, reconcile and commit to the cause of peace were very inspiring. Discussions at plenary and small workshops brought home the role of exclusion and marginalization in conflicts all over the world. The link between good governance (which of necessity must be inclusive and participatory) and peace came out very strongly. CEEC



has been working with two traditionally marginalized groups, women and youth, with a view of enhancing their participation in governance. Jane was able to share the success stories from this work and especially the use of ICT as a governance tool.



## vi) Facilitating Community Processes

On July 21<sup>st</sup>- 22nd 2015, The Executive Director and Programs Manger attended a workshop on Facilitating Community Processes organized by GIZ (CPS) at Amani Gardens, Nairobi. The 2 days' workshop lay emphasis on the necessity for a change in attitude towards identity and leadership in order to sustainably transform social conflicts. The workshop that used both

theory and practice covered topics on

fundamentals of facilitation, practicing facilitation skills, handling group dynamics; participatory decision-making; promoting full participation and fostering inclusive solutions. The workshop resulted in increased knowledge and skills on the concepts and practice of facilitation through participation, observation, reflection, group work, sharing of experiences, analysis, and peer feedback.

### vii) GIZ/CPS sector group meeting

CEEC has been receiving support from GIZ/CPS since 2013 to implement projects in Central Kenya and Rift Valley. In addition, GIZ/CPS gives CEEC salary support for one project staff member, referred to as a Local expert. GIZ/CPS organizes periodic meetings during which Local Experts from partner organizations and other project staff share experiences and insights from their work. Between 8th and 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015, the CEEC Local Expert attended such a meeting at Amani Gardens, Nairobi. The meeting did not only provide a networking opportunity but also a forum to discuss conflict trends and emerging conflict dynamics in Kenya which information is very useful in CEEC's work.

## viii) Basic Counselling Training

Following the trauma sensitivity and self- care workshop, GIZ (CPS) partner organizations identified the need to be equipped with basic counselling skills. It is in this regard that the CEEC Programs Manager attended a basic counselling training which was held on 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at Jumuia Hotel, Limuru. It covered topics on self-awareness skills, basic counselling skills such as active listening, questioning, feedback, understanding the role and responsibilities of participants when working with traumatized groups and use of case studies. The workshop provided practical tips and knowledge that will be useful in CEEC's activities.