

# COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT CENTRE

## 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



Community Education and Empowerment Centre (CEEC)

P.O. Box 103077-00101 Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254 704 606992 or 787 6488666

Email: [info@ceec.or.ke](mailto:info@ceec.or.ke) Website: [www.ceec.or.ke](http://www.ceec.or.ke)

## Acknowledgements

2013 has been a remarkable year for CEEC. With modest resources, we were able to touch the communities that we work with – men, women and youth, in a very special way. This was to a large extent possible due to the generous financial and technical and support of the following funding partners;

- ❖ Women World Day of Prayer- German Committee
- ❖ Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund
- ❖ Heinrich Boll Stiftung, East and Horn of Africa Office

To you we say a very big *Thank you!*

We would also like to thank all those who participated in our projects and specifically the women and men from Kandara and Gatanga Constituencies in Murang'a County, Members of County Assembly (MCAs) from Nairobi and youth from Nairobi's informal settlements of Kibra, Mukuru, Korogocho, Dandora, Mathare, Kawangware and Kiambiu. We would not have done it without you.

A lot of gratitude also goes to the resource people and friends of CEEC who supported us in mobilization, facilitation, logistics and words of encouragement. The same goes to all those who contributed in whatever way in making 2013 such a successful year.

To all of you, much appreciation!

## **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, law, community peacebuilding, leadership and governance

### **PROGRAMS**

CEEC has four main 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 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 with a view to promoting a just and peaceful society.

##### **Objectives**

- To equip communities with knowledge, information and skills in the areas of gender, human and legal 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 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 and awareness raising forums | ▪ Mentorship                      |
| ▪ Civic education                        | ▪ Development of IEC materials    |
| ▪ Lobbying and advocacy                  | ▪ Community dialogue and outreach |
| ▪ Research and documentation             | ▪ Legal aid clinics               |
| ▪ Exchange Programs                      | ▪ Administration of seed grants   |

# **PART I. PROGRAMS REPORT**

## **1. COMMUNITY PEACE BUILDING PROGRAM**

### **Youth Empowerment for Peaceful Pre and Post Election Kenya**

The project was supported by Heinrich Boll Stiftung, East and Horn of Africa Office and it ran from February to June 2013. It sought to and indeed did contribute to peaceful elections in March 2013 through inter ethnic dialogue sessions among youth in seven informal settlements in Nairobi namely, Kibra, Kawangware, Mathare, Korogocho, Mukuru, Dandora and Kiambiu. The project targeted 33 members of theatre groups and sought to build their capacity to contribute to a peaceful pre and post election Kenya. The project components were training, travelling theatre, radio shows, printing of Information, Communication and Education (IEC) materials and monitoring and follow up.



After training the youth, they embarked on a series of travelling theatres in their respective informal settlements on the theme of peace before, during and after the general elections with an emphasis on inter ethnic harmony. In addition, some of the youth participated in radio talk shows in two community Radio Stations, Koch FM in Korogocho and Pamoja FM in Kibera. Since the other informal settlements do not have community radios, some trainees from there

participated in talk shows in the two stations. To enhance the effectiveness of their dissemination efforts, the trainees used Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials like posters, stickers, key rings and wrist bands. The project activities were conducted in two sets, the first one being before the elections and the second after. Before the elections, the focus was on peaceful electioneering process while after, the aim was to focus was to promote inter ethnic cohesion building.

The impact of the project on the youth can be summed up in the following statements from both the trainees and other youth within the informal settlements;

- *The ethnic biases and stereotypes we hold blind us to the strength and diversity in all of us and lead to a lot of suffering to individuals, families, communities and the country at large.*
- *If we can accept ourselves as we are, embrace diversity, appreciate and harness all the positive qualities from each community there will be harmonious co-existence which will lead to peace and greater economic growth.*
- *It is important for the youth to unite and speak with one voice for their own development; say No! to manipulation.*



- *Negative ethnicity is not an insurmountable challenge; it is people who have created it and it is therefore possible to eradicate it. A good way of doing this would be to emulate children who have no biases and prejudices.*
- *We need to watch our mouths because they are capable of causing a lot of destruction.*
- *I have learned to respect different ethnic groups.*
- *Regardless of the fact that we belong to different tribes, we still need each other because we are one people who share similar problems.*
- *Youth can become peace ambassadors after their lives have been transformed.*
- *I understand the need to build broken trust with other ethnic groups.*
- *Negative ethnicity creates hatred and enmity.*
- *I understand why we fought during the last general elections and I have decided to maintain peace.*
- *When there is no peace, no development will take place.*
- *Parents should also be sensitized because they play a big role in inter ethnic violence. They do this by teaching their children to hate people from other tribes when they speak ill of them in front of their children.*
- *I realized that I need my neighbour who comes to my aid when I am sick while the politicians only come when they need votes.*
- *The skits reminded me of the negative consequences of bad politicking and how politicians take us for granted.*
- *Peace starts with me*
- *“Usibleed ndio mwingine a lead” – Do not bleed so that another person can lead.*

There were some factors that made the project successful. The first was the timing which was very apt as it helped diffuse the tension that was there during the electioneering period. Secondly, working with youth to reach out to fellow youth was an effective strategy since the other youth were able to relate to the trainees. The skits were also a very powerful visual medium of putting the message across which helped the youth realize that politicians are not the only ones to blame for electoral violence. The youth were able to see that they also have a responsibility to say “No” to manipulation. Lastly, the IEC materials enhanced the effectiveness of message delivery. The slogans were easy to understand and they appealed to the youth especially because they were formulated by the trainees.



It is possible to say with confidence that the project definitely contributed to the relative peace that was experienced in the informal settlements before, during and after the

general elections held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013. This conviction is based on the feedback we received from the trainees themselves as well as our one on one interaction with other youth and community members in the informal settlements. Some of the youth who joined the travelling theatres were self confessed perpetrators of violence and who in their own words were now “transformers” who were transforming others. The older community members expressed their pleasant surprise that instead of throwing stones, the youth were carrying posters bearing peace messages.

## **2. GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM**

### **2.1 Promotion and Protection of Women’s Inheritance Rights**

This was the second phase of a Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF) funded project which aimed at building the capacity of 27 community leaders, two thirds women and one third men, in Central Kenya to promote and protect women’s inheritance rights. During the first phase, the community leaders were trained on gender, family law and succession, communication and conflict resolution skills. A training guide



was also developed which the trainees were given to use in their dissemination efforts. At the end of the training the participants organized themselves into groups according to their respective localities and developed action plans to sensitize other community members on the topics covered in the training. The second phase of the project involved monitoring and

evaluation of the project.

The main outcome of the project was strong champions of women’s inheritance rights in the target area leading to a reduction of violation of women’s inheritance rights. The trainees took on the role of advising their parents, siblings, other relatives, workmates and neighbours on the need to include their daughters while sharing out property and the steps to take to avoid unnecessary inheritance disputes. From the monitoring visits and evaluation meetings, CEEC received powerful stories of transformation on a personal level as well as within families and the community at large. In a community that is highly patriarchal, the project led to change in the conduct of affairs within families and the community leading to enhanced protection of the property and inheritance rights of women and girls. The following points are a demonstration of this change;

- Many men have set things straight with their spouses through streamlining the registration of their properties in the right way to ensure the interests of the wives and children, both male and female are safeguarded.
- The area Senior Chief informed CEEC that as a result of the project, there is an increase in requests for letters which are necessary for applying for letters of administration. The requests have been mainly from women who hitherto had no idea where to start in claiming their inheritance. The pro bono lawyers that CEEC works closely with have also reported receiving an increased number of women wanting to file succession cases.
- The chief also stated that the project has restored faith in institutions like the courts. Due to ignorance, many people were accustomed to dealing with brokers who he referred to as “false prophets” who would con the community members of their money and not help them. The project has changed this by making the community aware of the succession law and procedures.

Involving the local administration, especially the Chief and his assistants during the design and implementation was a major boost for the project since they are the first point of call when inheritance disputes arise. Besides, when filing succession cases in court, a letter from the chief is mandatory. It is therefore important for the chief and his assistants to buy into the project and if possible undergo the training in order to have a good grasp of the issues. For this project, the chief was involved right from the beginning to the end of

the project and he is the one who launched the Training Guide. In appreciation of the value of the project, he sent his assistant to the training and both of them were very helpful throughout the entire project.



A very powerful lesson from this project was the need to get men on board in promoting women’s rights. Male allies are necessary so that violation of women’s inheritance rights does not appear to be a women’s issue but a society issue which has far reaching consequences on women, men and children. It was also apparent that some men will

listen to fellow men but not to women. In addition, men are the gate keepers and decision makers so if they are not convinced that women’s inheritance rights should be respected and promoted, all the awareness in the world will not help women.



## 2.2 Standing up for Women's Inheritance Rights in Murang'a County

This project was supported by the Women World Day of Prayer - German Committee and it aimed at building the capacity of 60 women of faith from Murang'a County to safeguard women's inheritance rights. The first phase took place in June- December 2012 and the second one in January – May 2013. The project components were;

- Two trainings of 60 women of faith from Murang'a County.
- Two Mobile legal aid clinics
- Production of a community handbook entitled *Standing Up for Women's Inheritance Rights*.
- Support for legal representation for 13 women on succession matters
  - Monitoring and follow up



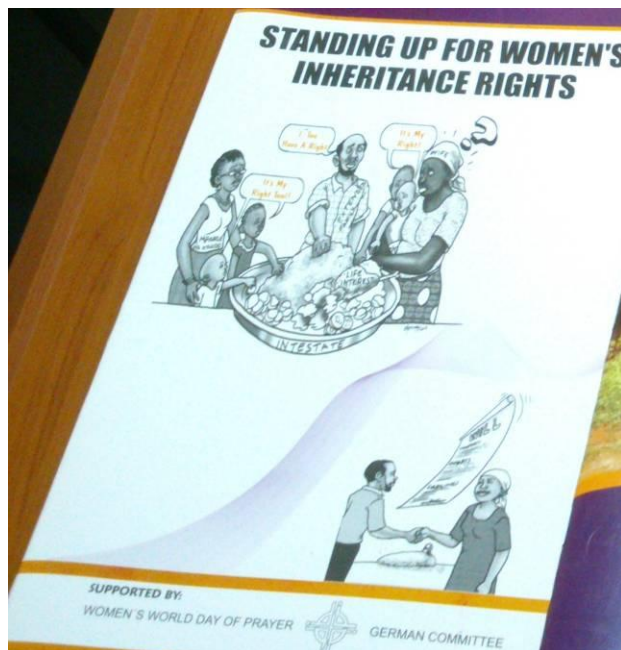
The first training was conducted during the first phase while the second one was carried out during the year under review bringing together 35 women of faith. Similarly, the first legal aid clinic took place during the first phase while the second one took place in February 2013. During the second legal aid clinic, a total of 120 members of the community got their legal questions answered by a team of pro bono lawyers. The project also supported 13 women to file succession cases. These were women who were at risk of disinheritance due to either ignorance, lack of resources or both. Some project

outcomes are;

- Increased awareness of and sensitivity to women's inheritance rights specifically and human rights violations in general.
- Improvement engagement between the community and service providers like the police and local administration.
- A general elevation of the status of women in the community. Due to the general human rights awareness, women are now more respected by their male counterparts. The women themselves have become more confident and where they would have kept quiet in the face of injustice, they are now able to speak up and the men are listening to them.
- Election of a woman Member of Parliament which the trainees attributed in part to the project. Indeed the MP is the one who officiate over the launch of the handbook *Standing Up for Women's Inheritance Rights*.

- Enhanced harmony within families and in the community due to the communication and conflict resolution skills the trainees acquired.
- Although the project was targeting women, men also benefited indirectly through the legal aid clinics and the community outreaches. Though slowly, the men are coming round and some are not only writing wills but also including their daughters. Others are appreciating the need to give property to all their children, both male and female, while still alive to avoid inheritance disputes.

This project together with *Promotion and Protection of Women's Inheritance Rights in Central Kenya* were implemented at the same time and they had a profound impact on



the community. They complemented each other in the sense that while one was targeting women only, the other one had both male and female participants. The men who were concerned that the *Standing up for Women's Inheritance Rights* project was only working with women and that it would incite them against their husbands were pleasantly surprised to learn that the *Promotion and Protection of Women's Inheritance Rights* project was working with men too. In addition, the legal aid clinics and legal representation under the *Standing up for Women's Inheritance Rights* project benefited direct and indirect beneficiaries

of the *Promotion and Protection of Women's Inheritance Rights*. The two projects were the first of their kind in the region and they were highly lauded by the community members and the local leaders. The senior Sub chief summed up the impact as *Mwamko Mpya* - a new awakening.

### **3. LEADERSHIP AND GOOD GOVERNANCE**

#### **3.1 Youth and Devolved Governance: Building the capacity of youth in Nairobi's informal settlements for effective civic engagement in devolved governance**

This project which was supported by Heinrich Boll Stiftung, East and Horn of Africa Office was implemented against the background of the work that CEEC has been doing with youth in Nairobi's informal settlements in the areas of gender, human rights, peacebuilding and positive masculinities. In the course of CEEC's work, it became glaringly clear that there was a connection between the exclusion of youth from governance and the youth crisis which is manifested in factors such as high levels of unemployment, grinding poverty, involvement in crime, alcohol and drug abuse, general violence (including gender based violence) and other forms of anti social behaviour. The project therefore sought to build the capacity of youth in 12 wards within four informal settlements in Nairobi namely Mathare, Dandora, Korogocho and Mukuru to participate in devolved governance. It also aimed at providing platforms for engagement between the youth and the MCAs as well as building the capacity of MCAs to promote youth participation.



The youth training took place in October 2013 and it brought together 36 youth leaders, 19 male and 17 female. The focus was on the duties and responsibilities of the MCAs vis a vis citizens'

(in this case the youth) civic rights and responsibilities. Gender was a cross cutting theme throughout the training due to the need for inclusion of female youth in governance processes. The youth were also trained on the use of the mobile phone platform and Facebook application. The youth were very enthusiastic about the platforms and they expressed a lot of optimism that finally they were going to be able to reach their leaders which would hopefully translate into their issues being addressed.

The MCAs' training was held in November 2013 and it provided them with space to highlight some of the challenges they are facing under devolved governance which include limited resources, too many responsibilities, lack of understanding of the devolved system of governance and power struggle among MPs, Senators and Governors. Despite the challenges, the MCA's were optimistic that devolution was the right path for Kenya if well implemented.



The training covered issues of leadership, the MCAs mandate and strategies for promoting youth participation including the E-Platforms. They lauded the project as one way of bringing governance closer to the people through youth participation which has been lacking.

After the two trainings, a refresher session was held for the moderators during which they were given log in details and taken through a practical induction of the moderation process. Each ward has two moderators, one of who is the MCA's personal assistant. This is due to the fact that when the MCA is busy, he delegates the responsibility of responding to messages to the personal assistant. Unfortunately, all the personal assistants are male so the youth were urged to nominate a female moderator to ensure that gender concerns were addressed. The platforms dubbed *Sauti Mtaani* which can loosely be translated into "Voice in the Hood" were officially launched in November 2013.

Due to the Christmas holiday, there was not much time between the launch of the platforms and the end of the year for the youth to engage with their MCAs. However, there was a considerable number of issues that were raised across the wards which were more or less similar given that the youth in the informal settlements face the same kind of challenges. The issues that came up included joblessness, insecurity, poor roads, broken sewers, gender based violence, bursaries and requests for information on the Uwezo Fund. Feedback from the youth indicates that the MCAs are addressing some of the issues they have raised and some of the youth who were interviewed stated that they had appointments to see their MCAs.

**news**

## Looking for your County Rep? Here is a number to text him

**“** Ngei: We are already engaging the electorate. The digital County Reps are finding it easy”

**BILLY MUIRURI**, NairobiNews  
bimuiruri@ke.nationmedia.com

**Y**ou will now be able to contact your elected leaders through a coordinated SMS service. New hotlines have been released in a new initiative that targets public participation in development and governance matters. Already, twelve hotline numbers are operational in wards that have a huge presence of low income earners.

*Dubbed Sauti Mtaani; Bonga na Mhesh*, (Voice in the hood; Talk to your elected leader), the initiative will keep County Reps on their toes.

“When a message is sent to the number, the County Rep will receive a notification on his mobile phone number. Then he will log in just as one does with face book,” said Ms Jane Maina, the executive director of Community Education & Empowerment Centre.

Pipeline County Rep Samuel Kagiri, pictured, said: “We are already engaging the electorate. The digital County Reps are finding it easy.” Ngei County Rep Dan Mutiso lauded the new platform, “We are now getting instant information on what is happening at the estates. It will improve public participation.”

Ms Maina said the service will soon be rolled to other wards.

**The numbers**

Ward	County Rep	Hotline	Ward	County Rep	Hotline
Hospital	George Ocholla	0729 833 076	Korogocho	Maxwell Ochieng	0729 833 059
Mathare North	Oscar Otieno	0724 977 770	Kwa Reuben	Elkana Mauti	0729 833 014
Ngei	Dan Mutiso	0714 074 889	Kiamaiko	Jaes Kinuthia	0729 832 968
Mabatini	Willfred Ocholla	0729 833 067	Dandora 1	Peter Nyoike	0721 947 773
Pipeline	Samuel Kagiri	0729 833 044	Dandora 2	Stephen Kambi	0729 397 348

Both the youth and the MCAs have commended the project as very innovative and apt. The MCAs are happy that the platforms are alerting them on the problem areas in addition to reducing the flow of traffic to their offices and homes. On the other hand, the youth feel that the platforms are useful because they have given them easy access to their MCAs. They also appreciate the fact that the project is facilitating youth

participation in an area that they are most at home in – the social media. In addition to the platforms, trainees are using the knowledge they gained to get involved in issues affecting them for example attending meetings discussing development issues. Previously they would have ignored such meetings but now they appreciate the need to have their voice heard.

## **PART II: NETWORKING**

### **1.1 Meetings**

#### **i) Participation in a Global Consultation organized by Women Peacemakers Program – Hague**



From 26th to 29th May 2013, CEEC Executive Director, Jane Maina attended a global consultation organized by the Women Peacemakers Program (WPP) in the Hague on the topic *"Peace: Men and Women as Allies"*. Jane participated in the consultation both as an alumnus of WPP as well as in the context of CEEC's partnership with WPP in a Positive

Masculinities Project targeting youth in Nairobi's informal settlements. On 28th May 2013, Jane was part of a panel discussion held at Humanity House during which over 15 activists, men and women from all over the world shared their personal experiences on gender-sensitive active nonviolence from a positive masculinities perspective.

#### **ii) Participation in an (CEWARN IGAD) organized Engendering Early Warning and Response System**

The CEEC Executive Director attended a meeting of gender specialists from the Horn of African region on 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013 which aimed at *"Delivering a Gender-Responsive Conflict Early Warning & Early Response Mechanism for the Horn of Africa"*

One of the main points of discussion is the ambiguity surrounding the term gender with most gender, peace and human rights activists equating it to women. There was general consensus that as much as there is need for women specific interventions due to their disadvantaged position in the society, gender work must of necessity be about both men and women.

