

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

2017 was a difficult year, not only for CEEC but also for Kenya. A lot of the drama surrounding the General Election slowed down activity in all sectors. Before the General Election, all energy was focused on campaigning, leaving little room for other activities. The annulment of Presidential results by the Supreme Court threw the country into a state of limbo further adding to the uncertainty. Due to these factors, the support that CEEC received in 2017 was considerably less than expected which cut into half the projected work for the year. All the same, CEEC did its small bit with the limited resources and in this regard, we would like to express our gratitude to all those who made it possible for us to achieve what we did.

To our funding partners DKA, GIZ/CPS and HBF, we say a very big thank you! Without your support, we would not have been able to implement our projects in Nairobi, Murang'a, Kiambu and Burnt Forest. Youth from Kikuyu Sub County, you continue to amaze us. You are living testimony of what positive masculinity is. You have proved that it is indeed possible to be a man in ways that do not hurt others and self. You have broken from the mould and decided to swim against the tide of cultural expectations by declaring that healthy masculinities are not a sign of weakness. That, to build healthy societies, men need to embrace positive masculinities. Keep spreading the word!

Women aspirants from Murang'a and Nairobi, we salute you! Your courage and bravery is admirable. You plunged into the murky waters of politics, weathered many storms and came out stronger. Most of you did not make it but you did not let that break your spirit. You are now wiser and you live to fight another day. *Aluta continua!* For those who made it, our heartfelt congratulations. You demonstrated that women can still make it against all odds.

To the communities in Burnt Forest, working with you is always a humbling experience. Your enthusiasm and eagerness to learn new things in order to bring about change in your community make working with you a very rewarding experience. A lot of appreciation for your commitment and dedication not only during the Anti-Bias training but also in the making of the documentary "We Are". Aspirants and youth from Nairobi County who engaged each other through the ***Sauti Mtaani*** platform, many thanks. Your engagement was not only proof that ICT for governance has come of age but also that the youth can indeed shape the governance agenda.

Kikuyu Sub County Soccer Family, kudos! You used what you do best, soccer, to reach out to your peers with awareness on a very important issue that touches the core of the society, gender based violence. Sensitizing other young men on how to combat gender based violence by embracing "Positive Masculinities" was not easy but you did it in all the five wards in the Sub County. We applaud you for your bravery in taking up this momentous task head on.

To Murang'a and Nairobi County Assembly women aspirants who were part of the project "*Giving Women a Voice*", utmost respect! You not only swam against the tide by vying for political office but you were also courageous and selfless enough to have your experiences recorded in the publication *Walk the Talk*. In so doing, you ensured that the women's voice is heard by electoral duty bearers in a bid to break down the barriers that stand in the way of women's political leadership.

To you all great people and anyone else not mentioned here who contributed in any way to the work of CEEC in 2017, we extend our most sincere appreciation. We could not have done it without you!

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 peacebuilding, leadership and good 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 embrace participatory and inclusive peace processes.

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

LEADERSHIP AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

i] Women and Governance: Building the Capacity of Murang'a County Assembly Women Aspirants to vie for the 2017 General Elections



The project was funded by GIZ/CPS and the first phase was implemented in 2016. A total of 18 women aspirants from six Sub Counties namely, Gatanga, Kandara, Kangema, Mathioya, Maragua and Kiharu in Murang'a County went through a 5 days' training after which they were supported to hold civic engagement forums within their respective wards. The aspirants were also supported to record campaign features at Inooro Radio for live radio shows. This helped them reach wider audiences in their respective wards thus gaining publicity.

The second phase of the project took place from February to April 2017. This phase had 13 women aspirants from 11 wards, in 5 Sub Counties, Murang'a County. The wards the aspirants were drawn from were Kakuzi/Mitubiri (Gatanga), Kamahuha, Kambiti, Kimorori Wempa, Ichagaki (Maragwa) Ruchu, Muruka, Kagunduni (Kandara), Kangari, Kahumbu (Kigumo) and Mugoiri (Kiharu). The activities in this phase were similar to those in phase one with the exception of civic engagement forums. The women were taken through a five days' training which encompassed not only the electoral process but also how to overcome the social, cultural, economic and legal barriers that hinder women from ascending to political leadership. Some of the identified barriers were lack of resources, gender stereotypes, ignorance, lack of support from their parties and electoral gender based violence. The training also included practical skills building sessions to help the women mobilize resources, both human and financial, brand themselves, fundraise and run political campaigns. The Murang'a Woman County Member of Parliament shared her own personal experiences with the aspirants and gave them tips on how to deal with some of the challenges they were encountering on the campaign trail.

Just like the aspirants in phase one, the women in this phase cited inability to engage the media due to lack of resources as a major disadvantage especially in comparison to their male counterparts who were well resourced. Yet, media is one of the most effective campaign tool due to its ability to reach a wide audience. In response to this concern, the aspirants were supported to record features at Inooro Radio which were aired between March and April 2017. The radio station is very popular in Murang'a County and having the features aired



on it gave the women aspirants the publicity they required. Most of the women aspirants were new to politics and were not familiar with how house business is conducted in the County Assembly. To familiarize themselves with Assembly

procedures, the trainees were taken on a learning tour to Murang'a County Assembly. The Chief Sergeant at Arms and the County Assembly Communications Officer explained to them the mandate, roles and functions of the County Assembly, the law making process, the link between the legislative and executive arms of county governments, the devolved functions of the county assembly vis-a-vis the national assembly, decorum in the assembly and the general operations of the house. Apart from the learning itself, the visit also demystified the County Assembly which some of the women were visiting for the first time. The women who hitherto found the County Assembly intimidating due to all the formalities surrounding it had their questions answered on how to conduct themselves if they were successful in their bid for political leadership.



The aspirants lauded the project for giving their political careers a much needed boost. Some of them confessed that before participating in the project, they were not sure of themselves and they had considered pulling out of the race due to the many challenges they were facing. They asserted that the project had enhanced their confidence to run for political office by not only equipping them with relevant knowledge and skills but also creating a forum where they were able to encourage each

other. They also appreciated the fact that they were able to educate the community not only on devolved governance and the electoral process but also on gender and women's leadership. This gave them mileage within the electorate since they came across as knowledgeable and focused on issues. The media strategy was particularly effective since it enabled the women to articulate their agenda to a wide constituency, something they would not have been able to do due to financial constraints.

ii] Giving Women a Voice: Advocacy against Electoral Violence towards Women Candidates

This project was implemented against the backdrop of the General Election that took place on 8th August 2017. As part of the preparation process, primaries were held in April 2017 across the country. In some areas, some political parties gave direct nominations to particular

candidates while others used dubious methods like polling the most popular candidates. Regardless of the methods used, one thing that was common among all the political parties was that the exercise was shambolic. There were numerous reports from across the country of gross irregularities and malpractices which included stuffing of ballot papers, missing names, propaganda, sexual harassment, bribery and outright rigging. If the situation was bad for male candidates, it was far much worse for their female counterparts. Women aspirants' experiences across the country were similar, varying only in nature and magnitude of the violation.



The "Giving Women a Voice" project aimed at amplifying women aspirants' voices so that they are heard by the institutions that are mandated with promoting gender inclusive political processes. These include political parties, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) and security forces. It was important for these institutions to become aware of the

role they played in locking women out of political leadership either by commission or omission during the 2017 General Election. The main focus of the project was women's experiences during the party primaries due to the important role of the exercise as a precursor to the General Election. In most areas especially party strongholds, getting the party ticket is equivalent to clinching the seat at the General Election. This demonstrates the key role parties can play in promoting gender equality through proper and gender responsive processes. Unfortunately, most political parties do not have the necessary goodwill to do this. Some of the women who participated in the project went up to the General Election and they confirmed that the malpractices that were witnessed during the primaries continued all the way.

To capture the women's experiences, CEEC organized a story telling forum for seventeen women MCA Aspirants from Murang'a and Nairobi Counties on their experiences during the 2017 primaries. The forum took place at Sagana getaway Resort on 18th – 20th September 2017. The women discussed the challenges they faced before, during and after the primaries/general election and gave recommendations for the various actors involved in the electoral process. These challenges included, corruption, favoritism, lack of guidelines on the nomination process, lack of finances, voter expectation of handouts, sexual and gender based violence, and gender stereotypes. There was general consensus that there is need to continuously improve the environment within which women candidates operate for there to be increased participation and representation of women in Kenya's political leadership.

Recommendations to election management duty bearers included streamlining and

standardizing the nomination processes across all political parties; putting in place mechanisms that firmly deal with electoral violence against women; IEBC to be charged with the responsibility of conducting political party primaries; IEBC and ORPP to ensure enforcement of code of conduct; ORPP to have a representative in the political party tribunals; an emergency number to be provided for women to report security challenges facing them during campaigns and civil society to undertake civic education targeting communities on the need to accept and support women's leadership.

The women aspirants' stories were compiled into a publication titled *Walk the Talk: A call by Women to Electoral Duty Bearers*

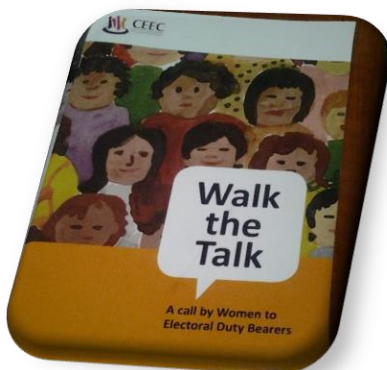


which was launched on 30th November 2017 at the Hilton Hotel, Nairobi. In attendance were 16 women whose stories featured in the publication, leaders of political parties, representatives from the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) and Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNHCR) as well as practitioners from media houses. All the leaders

present acknowledged the need for electoral duty bearers to "Walk the Talk". The general consensus was that mere provisions on gender equality in political leadership are not enough unless those charged with actualizing them have the goodwill to do so. Political parties need to change the way they conduct their affairs and those charged with oversight roles need to crack the whip on errant parties and individuals. If this is not done, the legal provisions on gender equity and equality in political leadership will remain mere rhetoric.

iii] Youth and Devolved Governance: Enhancing youth Participation in Devolved Governance through the Sauti Mtaani platform within Nairobi County

CEEC has been implementing the *Youth and Devolved Governance* Project in Nairobi County since 2013 with the support of Heinrich Boell Foundation East and Horn of Africa, with the aim of increasing youth participation in governance. Youth have a role to play in ensuring that the leaders they elect have the necessary capacity to efficiently carry out their duties, while at the same time holding them accountable. They also have a right and a duty to discharge their civic duties. In this regard, the project targeted



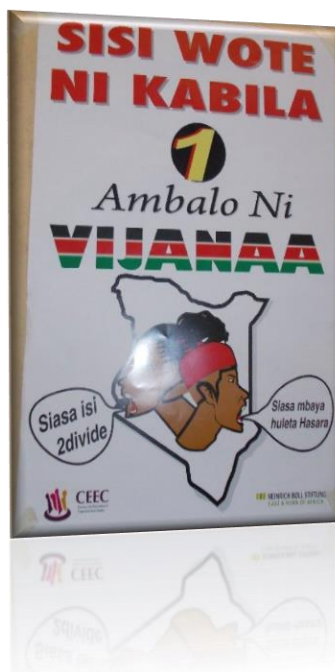
youth from Nairobi County with a view of enhancing their capacity to enjoy their civic rights and discharge their civic duties. Under the project, an online platform dubbed *Sauti Mtaani* (Voice in the Hood) platform was developed to facilitate a two way communication between the youth and their Members of County Assembly (MCAs). The platform enabled the youth to draw the attention of their leaders to issues that needed to be addressed and to follow up on progress from the comfort of their mobile phones and at no cost. The MCAs on the other hand were able to respond to the issues that were raised even when they were away from their wards and indeed even out of the country. During the period before the 2017 General Election, the platform was used to link the youth with MCA aspirants. This enabled the youth to interrogate aspirants' pledges and to make informed choices at the ballot. In both phases of the project, the youth and the MCAs/aspirants appreciated the project because it made it provided an easy and unique two way communication free of charge. The project was lauded as a good example of how ICT can be used to enhance good governance.

COMMUNITY PEACEBUILDING

i] Promoting Political and Ethnic Tolerance in Nairobi's informal Settlements through Dialogue.

August 2017 presidential polls proved beyond reasonable doubt that Kenya is yet to learn from her past electoral challenges. It awakened ethnic and political rivalry that was experienced in the 2007 polls with political leaders being at the forefront. Instead of uniting Kenyans and fighting their own political battles, politicians manipulated the youth to fight for them triggering violence and hatred across the country. Hostility between the two political divides, Jubilee and National Super Alliance Coalition [NASA] became a stumbling block to the country's peace and stability. Events that followed the Supreme Court's ruling over presidential election results and the eventual swearing in of His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta for the 2nd term in office pitted supporters of the two political divides against each other resulting in destruction of property, maiming, displacement, loss of businesses and even death. As is always the case during civil strife, the conflict took on an ethnic angle with the main perpetrators of violence being the youth at the behest of the political elite.

It was against this background that CEEC with the support Heinrich Boell Foundation East and Horn of Africa implemented the project *Promoting Political and Ethnic Tolerance in Nairobi's informal Settlements through Dialogue*. The project targeted NASA and Jubilee affiliates between ages 18-35 and the aim was to promote tolerance among the young people irrespective of their ethnicity or political affiliations. The project was implemented in the informal settlements of Mathare, Korogocho, Dandora, Kibra and Kawangware which were some of the hot spots of ethno political violence. . Five dialogue initiators from each of the target area were trained on how to conduct the dialogue sessions which they did with the support of CEEC, reaching about 750 youth.



The youth from the two divides appreciated the dialogue sessions, saying that it was the first time they had sat face to face with each other since the electoral tension started building up earlier in the year. They felt the sessions were more useful than the other peace projects that were being implemented because the youth were able to go to the root of the



problem by tackling the stereotypes and prejudices that were tearing them apart head on. In addition to the dialogue forums, the youth participated in community radio talk

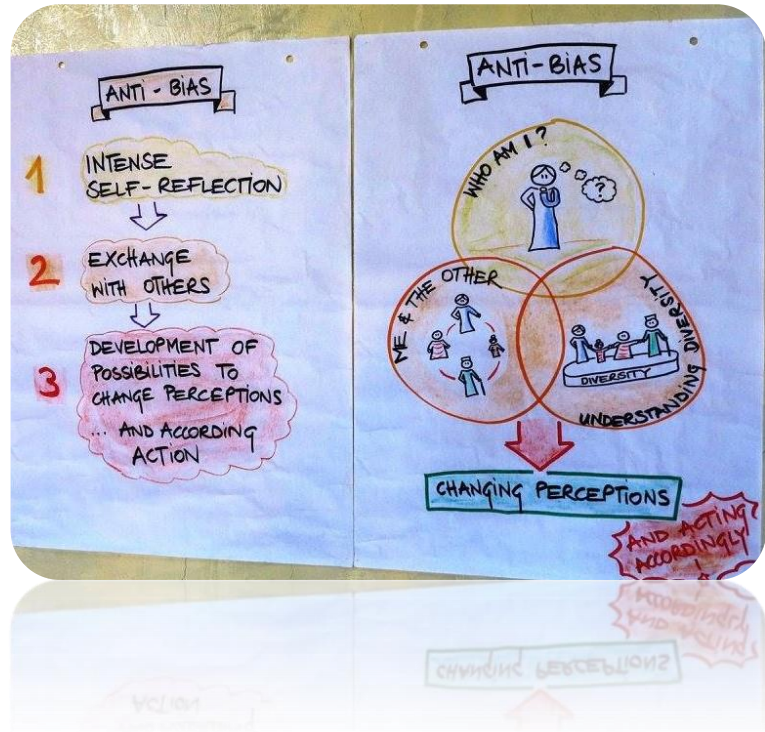
shows during which they appealed to their peers not to allow politicians to divide them. Using the hash tags *#Siasa isi 2 divide#* (politics should not divide us) and *#Siasa Mbaya Huleta Hasara#* (Bad politics cause loss), the trained youth impressed upon their peers that their tribe should only be one – that of the youth. Feedback reaching CEEC indicated that the project was very helpful in diffusing tension within the informal settlements.

ii] Anti-Bias Training- Burnt Forest

From 19th to 23rd June 2017, CEEC supported GIZ/CPS to conduct an Anti Bias training that took place in Burnt Forest, Uasin Gishu. In this regard, CEEC mobilized the participants, assisted with in the facilitation of the training as well as filming of the process which helped in the compilation of a short documentary. The training aimed at helping communities to

acknowledge their biases and learn how to either overcome them or co-exists regardless of these biases. The two main communities in the target area the Kalenjin and Kikuyu have lived in perpetual hostility for decades due to recurring electoral violence every five years. A welcome break to the vicious cycle of violence that leaves in wake death and destruction was brought about by the fact that the President and his deputy are from the two communities. The area has therefore been spared electoral violence during the last two General Elections. However, this does not mean that the animosity, suspicion,

mistrust and biases between the two communities are over. The relative “peace” being enjoyed in the area is very fragile especially because underlying grievances have not been addressed. This was the background against which the training was conducted.



Two similar trainings were conducted in Mombasa and Kisumu respectively and all the three trainings culminated in a short film entitled “We Are” which can be found on <https://youtu.be/te8nEGTe2yU> (Available in both English and Kiswahili). In a nutshell, the theme of the training which was captured in the short film was *“It is not about overcoming our differences - it is about acknowledging them. We can all learn to acknowledge and appreciate our diversity, if we are ready to critically reflect on our stereotypes and prejudices about each other. Peace is the respect for freedom and diversity. #WeAre”*

POSITIVE MASCULINITIES

Positive Masculinities Project: Working with young men to combat Gender Based Violence in Kiambu County, Kenya

CEEC has been working with young men in Kiambu County on a *Positive Masculinities* project since 2014. The decision to work with male youth was informed by concerns from various stakeholders that gender based violence was rampant in the area and the main perpetrators are a lost generation of young men who are suffering from flawed masculinities. As much as women and girls are the ones who are disproportionately affected by the vice, inevitably the perpetrators of gender based violence also hurt themselves in the process. The project therefore aimed at helping the young men redefine masculinities and

embrace a positive sense of manhood that does not hurt them and others. The project adopted different methodologies to reach the youth in the different phases Including travelling theatre, dialogue forums and soccer.

In 2017, CEEC worked with the Kikuyu Soccer Family to sensitize the youth through soccer tonourments. A group of 26 male soccer players were taken through a positive masculinities training during which they begun to understand how negative masculinities are linked not only to gender based violence but also to male

disempowerment and violence in general. After the training, the youth from the five wards held soccer tonourments within their respective wards during which they sensitized their peers on flawed masculinity, male disempowerment and gender based violence. The ward based tonourments culminated in a Sub County tournament, cumulatively reaching a total of 2200 young people. In the course of the project implementation, the youth realized that one of the factors that contributes to male disempowerment and gender based violence is alcohol and substance abuse. According to the soccer team leaders, it is also a problem that



is threatening to wipe out a whole generation of youth. They therefore requested for seminars on the topic to enable the youth understand the problem better. They were therefore treated to an eye opening experience during a seminar which was held at Lusengeti Social Hall on 9th June 2017. Most of the 50 young men who attended the seminar easily identified with the experiences described by the facilitator who is himself a young recovering addict. The youth appreciated the fact that for once, someone was not condemning or stigmatizing them but instead

acknowledged and understood the challenges they were going through as they tried to get out of a problem that the society does not understand. It was particularly helpful for them to learn that their inability to get out of the addictions they were battling with was not a reflection of weakness on their part. They realized that they needed professional help and called on CEEC to follow up with more initiatives that would help them reclaim their lives.

Upon requests by the male youth, CEEC brought female youth on board to facilitate an understanding of how women contribute to the problem of flawed masculinities. The 27 female youth also began to understand how negative masculinities and negative femininities are two mutually reinforcing sides of the same coin. During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, the male and female trainees held a series of inter gender forums. The forums were held in the five wards in the Sub County and they reached a total of 304 male and female youth. The methodology involved holding separate male and female youth meetings and then bringing the two groups together to dialogue. From the joint dialogue sessions, the participants were able to differentiate some of the gender myths from facts. They were also able to see the connection between flawed masculinities (and femininities) and gender based violence. Both male and female youth agreed on things they could do together to combat gender based violence in their respective wards. These included creating awareness on the vice within their families, work places and in the community, becoming role models of positive femininities and masculinities, mentoring those younger than them and socializing their children to embrace healthy masculinities and femininities.

PART II: STAFF DEVELOPMENTS AND NETWORKING

i) Nairobi Tech Week

From 22nd to 25th of March 2017, the CEEC IT Project Officer attended the Nairobi Tech Week organized by Moringa School at Strathmore University. The event brought together IT experts and learners from Kenya with the purpose of learning from each other and sharing experiences. The Project Officer who was managing the CEEC online platform *Sauti Mtaani* gained a lot from the interactions with fellow developers. He learnt the new trends including designing applications for mobile phones. Considering that the users of most online platforms including *Sauti Mtaani* are the youth whose mobile phones are almost an extension of their arms, applications that can be used on their phones are very appropriate for them. The Project Officer's participation in the event therefore added a lot of value to the implementation of the "*Youth and Governance*" project.

ii) Gender Forum

In the course of the year under review, CEEC's staff attended the monthly Gender Forum organized by the Heinrich Boell Foundation. The forum which brings together panelists and other actors with expertise on gender issues provides a good learning opportunity on topics such as "*Role of Political Parties in promoting Women's Leadership*" and "*Progress by Women in Political Leadership*". The forum also provides CEEC with a good networking opportunity as well as up to date information on topical gender issues.