

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



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## **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**

## **I.LEADERSHIP AND GOOD GOVERNANCE**

*Building the capacity of Women MCAs from Nairobi and Kiambu Counties to Promote Gender Inclusive Governance*

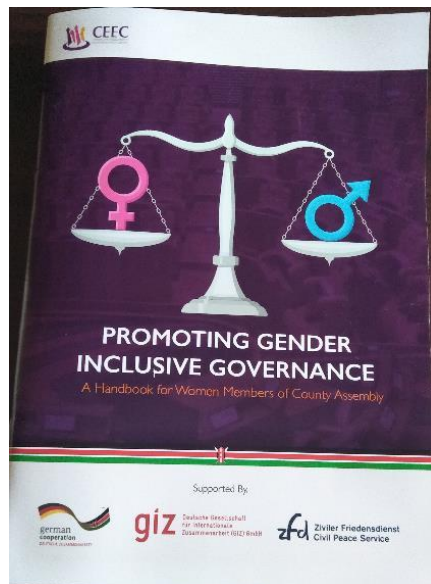


CEEC has with the support of GIZ/CPS been working on *Women and Governance* projects since 2014 with the aim of not only enhancing women's civic engagement but also building their capacity to take up political leadership positions. CEEC's work has mainly been at the county level and target groups include community leaders, both male and female, Members of County Assembly (MCAs), both male and female, as well as women MCA aspirants. CEEC has used different strategies including facilitating engagement between women and their MCAs in community forums, building the capacity of women MCA aspirants to vie for office as well as strengthening the capacity of those already in office to effectively discharge their mandate.

The rationale behind this work is the fact that women are very disadvantaged when it comes to political leadership. All manner of odds are stacked against them and unless conscious effort to uplift them is made they will continue lagging behind. Case in point is the fact that in Murang' a County where CEEC was working with women aspirants in 2016/7, only two women were elected Members of County Assembly (MCAs) out of 35. This is not an exception but a reality that is reflected throughout the 47 counties. Unfortunately, even when women get leadership positions (through election or nomination), the challenges they were facing on the campaign trail follow them to the County Assemblies and some become worse. The women legislators cite lack of understanding of the law and house procedures, lack of skills, gender discrimination, sexual harassment and patronizing behavior by their male counterparts as some of the challenges they face. The situation is particularly bad for nominated women who are taunted with the fact that they do not have a "portfolio" .



The above background informed the work that CEEC did in 2018 with women MCAs from Nairobi and Kiambu counties. In June and July 2018, a total of 38 Women MCAs were taken through a training on how to effectively discharge their three roles of legislation, representation and oversight. The training also included skills building in areas like networking, lobbying, resource mobilization, working with the media, strategizing as well as harnessing social and political capital. In addition, a Women MCAs Handbook entitled



***“Promoting Gender Inclusive Governance: A Handbook for Women Members of County Assembly”***

was developed for use not only by the trained women MCAs but also other legislators, both female and male, from other counties. The Handbook contains general information on MCAs’ mandate as well as tips on political survival for Women MCAs. The launch of the Handbook which took place in October 2018 brought together women MCAs not only from Kiambu and Nairobi but also Makueni, Murang’a, Baringo, Machakos and Kirinyaga.

As a result of the project, the Women MCAs had enhanced capacity and confidence to discharge their mandate as was evident from post training evaluation, Hansard reports from Nairobi and Kiambu County Assemblies as well as

feedback from the legislators themselves. There was an increase in the number of women who were contributing to debate, moving motions and even tabling bills in both assemblies on issues such as water, health, bursaries and conservation of riparian land. Due to the skills they acquired, the MCAs were able to infuse gender considerations (including the 2/3 gender rule) into house proceedings for example lobbying for gender inclusion in the leadership of House Committees and the Executive. A Kiambu MCA who had given up on a political career due to the challenges she was facing changed her mind due to the new found capacity and confidence that she gained from the project. Consequently, she decided to vie for a higher office in 2022. Another positive outcome of the project was increased visibility for the Women MCAs in their respective wards. Hitherto, the Women MCAs were afraid of going to the ground for fear of their elected counterparts who claimed that the nominated MCAs were encroaching on their turf. After acquiring skills on building social and political capital, the trainees were now more involved in community projects like supporting the elderly and orphaned children as well as partnering with well wishers in the private sector to donate school supplies like books and uniforms to needy children. In addition, they had learnt how to work with their elected colleagues without making them feel threatened and they were now able to solicit for bursaries for needy children from them.

The project facilitated networking and experience sharing between Women MCAs from

Nairobi, Kiambu, Makueni, Murang'a, Baringo, Machakos and Kirinyaga Counties. The women legislators learnt some valuable lessons from each other and particularly from Kirinyaga County which is headed by a female governor and which has a culture of gender inclusive governance ingrained in it. Some of the best practices from the county were the presence of two male MCAs (dubbed "He for She") within the Women's Caucus and a general support for women's leadership by male MCAs.



**Yvonne Waweru, MCA Kiambu County**

*When I got into politics, I was very naïve and assumed that since I am a lawyer with wide experience, being an MCA would give me an opportunity to contribute to the development of my community and County. Little did I know how hostile the environment would be to me as a woman and as a professional. I contemplated resigning many times to go back to my professional career and by the time the CEEC project came to Kiambu, I was on the verge of giving up. I appreciated the training we got very much because even as a lawyer, there were things about the way the assembly business is conducted that I found quite confusing especially because my area of specialization was marine law. I also benefited a lot from the soft skills as well as political survival techniques that I acquired from the project. Tips on lobbying and tactics to use to garner support for motions (e.g. reciprocity) have served me very well because I have now been able to table motions which have been successful and even received support from male MCAs. Whereas I used to get very offended by some comments from my male colleagues, I am slowly learning not to take things personally and also to counter some of their arguments, particularly on gender issues, with facts. One example was the nomination of a woman as the County Executive Committee Member (CEC) for health. I was able to integrate arguments in*

*favour of gender inclusivity into the debate and although my arguments alone were not the reason the CEC was appointed, I felt happy that I had contributed substantively. Similarly, I was able to integrate gender concerns into the budget making process and particularly on the need to allocate resources to gender issues. I have also been very impressed by some of my female colleagues who never used to talk in the Assembly and who are now actively participating in debates. At a personal level, one of the major changes that occurred for me is changing my mind about a political career. As a result of the project, I have decided to vie for a higher office in 2022. I am convinced that with my strengthened capacity, I am going to make valuable contribution in the promotion of gender inclusive governance and ultimately gender equity/equality.*

## **II. COMMUNITY PEACEBUILDING**

### *Building the Capacity of Communities in Burnt Forest to Take Responsibility for their Lives and Generate Local Solutions to the Challenges they Face*

CEEC has been working in eight farms in Burnt Forest, Uasin Gishu since 2014 on gender based prevention and response as well as governance projects. These projects are designed in such a way as to respond to expressed needs and to incorporate a sustainability component. Unfortunately, communities do not always take ownership of the projects they are involved in and they are not pro-active in generating local solutions to their problems thus posing the danger of dependence. It is for these reasons that CEEC's staff and 25 key leaders from Burnt Forest went through a People Fist Impact Method (PFIM) Training in 2018. Under the theme, *"Giving Communities a Voice"* the overall objective of the exercise was to help the communities in the target area have an increased capacity to drive change through homegrown solutions. The 25 participants were community leaders that CEEC had previously worked with on different projects and they were residents of eight farms within Burnt Forest namely, Lingway, Kamuyu, Rukuini, Kaplelach, Ndungulu, Chuiyat, Barekeiywo and Kagongo. The mobilization exercise ensured that the two predominant communities, Kikuyus and Kalenjins, were equally represented.

One of the major outcomes of the training was the realization by the participants that it was not necessary to look to external actors to bring about change within the community. The trainees realized that they have a lot of local resources, the main one being human resources, to address some of the challenges they were facing. For issues that were beyond them or which were under the government's mandate, it was possible to use the same human resource to lobby and/or demand accountability. This was a powerful realization that opened the trainees' eyes to how much they were captives of the 'saviour syndrome' which was self defeatist. It was expected that after the training, the communities would be able to utilize local resources in coming up with sustainable strategies of addressing the issues that they were dealing with. In keeping with CEEC's motto, the communities would indeed become "actors in their own development". Part of the PFIM training involved facilitation of community conversations with eight thematic groups which comprised of village elders, People Living with Disabilities, youth, single mothers, farmers, religious leaders, business community and Boda Boda operators. The participation of CEEC staff, who were interacting with the approach for the first time, was necessary for follow up purposes. This was in view of the fact that, using the skills acquired, the trainees were supposed to conduct a series of community conversations.

In the course of 2018, the PFIM trainees conducted three sets of follow up community conversations bringing together a total of 133 community members. All the follow up conversations were conducted with the initial groups of village elders, people living with



disabilities, youth, single mothers, farmers, religious leaders, business community and Boda Boda operators who were mobilized by the trainees. The group members identified the challenges they were facing and came up with strategies for addressing those challenges.



Out of the community conversations, 3 of the groups registered as Self Help Groups or Community Based Organizations, 2 were waiting for their certificates and 3 were in the process of registering. In addition, the groups initiated projects which included poultry, dairy and horticultural farming, table banking, community sensitization on illicit brews and formation of a football club. The Boda Boda operators had ensured that all members got the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) card and also that they were all trained and had licences. Overall, the community members had started taking responsibility for their own lives by for example working together to unclog the drainage system and carrying out repairs on bridges and some impassable roads instead of waiting for the government to do it. The fact that the groups themselves came up with the projects they wanted to do as well as the modalities of implementing them increases the chances of sustainability.

Apart from the communities' practical needs, the project was also expected to contribute to conflict prevention, cohesion building and harmonious co-existence in the long term. For one, the relationship between the two communities involved in the project implementation the Kikuyus and Kalenjins has been characterized by hostilities for a long time. These hostilities usually flare up into violence during electioneering periods with dire consequences. Working together on common challenges made them realize how similar they are. Secondly, the PFIM trainees themselves formed a welfare group and registered a self-help Group comprising of membership from both communities. These experiences served the role of connecting them thus contributing to a reduction of hostilities and suspicions. Further, inability to meet basic needs alongside feelings of exclusion lie at the

heart of most conflicts. The groups that were formed during the PFIM exercise were representative of the general population within Burnt Forest including the traditionally marginalized groups like women, youth and Persons with Disabilities. This means the projects that were initiated will cater for the needs of different sections of the population, contributing to inclusivity and thus conflict prevention.

*One of the success stories that the PFIM trainees reported on involved a person living with disability who was wallowing in abject poverty and self-pity in one of the farms. After the community conversations, he expressed interest in registering with the government in order to access the funds set aside for People Living with Disabilities. He however did not know which office to go to and did not have the means to get there. The group members contributed money to pay for his transport to Eldoret town and took him to the relevant office where he applied for a certificate which will enable him access special government funds. At the time the project ended, he was waiting for his certificate but the trainees reported that his self- confidence and self esteem had improved tremendously. He had also given hope to other people living with disabilities by showing them that they can take responsibility to bring about the desired change into their lives.*

### **III.POSITIVE MASCULINITIES**

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

CEEC with the support of DKA Austria has been implementing the project ***Positive Masculinities: Working with young men to combat gender based violence in Kiambu County*** since 2014. The project was informed by a high incidence of gender based violence in the county which was reportedly perpetrated mainly by men against women, children as well as fellow men. In the course of project implementation, this information was confirmed as well as the fact that the perpetrators were in the youth age bracket. CEEC' s hypothesis that male disempowerment lies at the root of the vice was also confirmed and the youth that CEEC worked with admitted that there is a "generation of lost young men" who need help to reclaim their dignity, self-worth and develop a healthy sense of masculinity. Between 2014 and 2017, a variety of methodologies was used at each phase of the project in order to reach a wide audience of youth. These included dialogue forums for male youth, travelling theatre and soccer tournaments. The male youth rightly pointed out the fact that women are as much to blame as men for constructing and perpetuating flawed masculinities and it was therefore necessary to include female youth. CEEC took up this recommendation and trained female youth bringing the total number of trainees to 106 who included youth leaders, soccer players and thespians.

During the last phase of the project, CEEC in conjunction with the youth who had participated in the project since 2014 organized a road show, dubbed *Positive Masculinities Caravan* which took place in March 2018. The Caravan traversed the project area with the message of embracing positive masculinities and femininities as a way of combating gender based violence. The thespians came up with a skit which demonstrated the connection between negative masculinities/femininities and gender based violence<sup>1</sup>. The caravan made stop overs at the main shopping centres during which the skit was performed as a way of starting discussions on issues of negative masculinities/femininities and gender based violence. The trainees would then engage the audience on the various forms of gender based violence prevalent in their localities, what they thought were the causes and strategies of combating the vice. This caravan was a very effective way of reaching a lot of people in a wide geographical area within a limited time. Theatre was also a powerful tool due to its ability to entertain while at the same time educating.

One of the realities that became apparent in the course of project implementation was that a major contributing factor to Gender Based Violence is Alcohol and Substance Abuse. Consequently, CEEC had integrated seminars on the subject into the previous phases of the project. The resource person was a recovering alcoholic working in a Rehabilitation Centre who not only presented the facts about this very serious problem but also shared his experiences. Having such a person talk to the youth was very effective in the sense that he had the relevant information and he was also living proof that it is possible to get out of the problem with the necessary help. The seminars continued into 2018 and they brought to light the dire and urgent need for a multi pronged approach to the problem. The seminars themselves were a welcome intervention which the youth highly appreciated but it was evident that alcohol and substance addiction is a very serious problem which requires other responses including affordable rehabilitation centres. For the less serious cases where addiction has not set in, income generating activities and recreational activities would be very useful strategies of arresting the frustration that comes with unemployment and idleness. Another intervention that would come in handy is support groups like Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous.



<sup>1</sup> The skit (in Kikuyu) can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/ceeckenya/videos/1637881786249785/>

## *ii) Baseline Survey on the Prevalence and Effect of Alcohol and Substance Abuse and Effectiveness of Intervention Models in Kiambu County*

Between 2017 and 2018, CEEC with the support of DKA Austria conducted seminars on alcohol and substance abuse in the five wards in Kikuyu Sub County. CEEC's observation as well as feedback received from those who attended these seminars pointed to the enormity of the problem of Alcohol and Substance Abuse not only in Kikuyu Sub County but the entire county. To get credible and scientific data which would form the basis of future interventions, CEEC conducted a baseline survey in Kiambu County to establish the magnitude of the problem and the effect not only on the users/abusers but also on other members of the community.

The survey findings revealed that almost half of the County's population of young people aged between 13-35 years (48.1%) have at one point in time abused alcohol or other substances. Reasons include peer pressure (67%); idleness (55%); the desire to have fun/adventure (54%); stress and frustrations (51%) and unemployment (48%). Alcohol and substances most abused in Kiambu County are Marijuana (64%), spirits (56%), beer (54%) and cigarettes (49%). Others that were mentioned were second-generation alcohol (41%), kuber (38%) and miraa/muguka (33%). The study further established that alcohol and substance abuse has negative impact on the family institution as well as the development of the county. Adverse effects include escalating poverty levels, declining birth rates, increased cases of violence within families, family break up and high rates of crime. CEEC has used the findings to design a project that seeks to address the root causes of the problem as well as supporting those who are in recovery. The project includes income generating projects to deal with youth idleness and unemployment as well as Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous to facilitate peer support for those in recovery.



## IV GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS

### *Gender training for Peace Committee Members from Nyeri County*

CEEC in collaboration with GIZ-CPS Nyeri office, offered a one day workshop on gender and gender based violence for 23 members of the Nyeri County Peace Committee. Peace Committees are community representative institutions that facilitate peace forums at the various governance levels. They comprise of traditional dispute resolution mechanisms which include village elders, religious leaders, community members and security agencies. At the community level, peace committee members are tasked with handling family disputes (e.g.



marriage, domestic violence, property, custody and maintenance of children). Therefore, an understanding of gender is important to help them effectively discharge their duties. After the workshop, the participants reported that where hitherto their decisions on gender based violence cases were clouded by their patriarchal interpretation of culture and religion, they were now making decisions without gender

biases. They highly lauded the training which they recommended not only for those handling gender based violence cases but also anyone involved in conflict resolution as well as other community processes. They observed that most people involved in informal mechanisms at the community level were not only perpetuating gender based violations and inequalities but also breaking the law due to ignorance.



## **PART II: STAFF DEVELOPMENT NETWORKING AND COLLABORATIONS**

### *1) Horizon T3000 Training on Policy Dialogue*



CEEC's Executive Director Jane Maina and Programs Manager Nelly Njoki attended two trainings on Policy Dialogue organized by Horizon T 3000 in Kampala, Uganda on 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 respectively. The overall goal of the trainings was to improve the capacity of CSOs to effectively engage in Policy Dialogue through peer learning and expert input. CEEC was included in the training by virtue of being a partner of DKA Austria which works closely with Horizon T3000. The CSOs that participated in the training are either partners of DKA Austria or Horizon T3000 from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. CEEC's participation in the training was informed by the fact that the organization has entered into a new funding phase under the support of DKA Austria which runs from 2018 to 2021. The project that CEEC is implementing in this phase is focusing on the problem of Alcohol and Substance Abuse among children and youth in Kiambu County and it has a Policy Dialogue component. The trainings were therefore very useful to CEEC specifically in regard to that project but also CEEC's work in general because it involves policy issues.

## *ii) CPS Kenya Strategy Paper Development*

Under a consultancy from GIZ-CPS, CEEC participated in the development of the joint Cross Agency Country Strategy (2019 – 2023) of the Civil Peace Service Programme in Kenya. The



process started with a Kenya Conflict Analysis which was conducted by CEEC followed by a strategy development workshop attended by the coordinators of the four CPS agencies implementing the Civil Peace Service Programme in Kenya namely Association for Development Cooperation (AGEH), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Peace Brigades International (PBI) and Weltfriedensdienst e.V. (WFD) as well as their partner organizations. CEEC compiled the workshop report and in liaison with the coordinators of the four CPS agencies, synthesized the ideas generated from the workshop as well as the findings of

the conflict analysis to come up with a draft Strategy Paper. The process of compiling the draft included an articulation of key context developments, peacebuilding needs, outcomes, actors and approaches. The draft was then handed over to the CPS Coordinators who polished it and came up with the final version.

## *iii) People First Impact Method (PFiM) Training*

As part of partner capacity strengthening, CEEC's staff participated in a PFiM training for 25 community leaders in Burnt Forest, Uasin Gishu. The leaders were mobilized from the communities that CEEC has been working with since 2014 and the objective was to strengthen their capacity to generate local solutions to their problems. The training took place in March 2018 after which the trainees conducted community conversations in their respective areas. Having completed the PFiM exercise, CEEC's Executive Director and Programs manager participated in a Training of Trainers in September 2018 to further strengthen their capacity to be PFiM trainers. The 5 days training aimed at deepening the participants' understanding of the PFiM approach as well as how to integrate it in their work. The PFiM approach places emphasis on agency which calls for its contextualization in order to serve the specific needs of each target community. This was evident from the communities in Burnt Forest who participated in the exercise and thereafter came up with initiatives to address the challenges they were facing as well as the necessary resources to implement them. The importance of giving agency to the was evident and this enhanced the sustainability of the projects that were initiated. CEEC has since incorporated the PFiM approach into the organization's programming.



#### *iv) GIZ - CPS Mombasa Conference*



On 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018, CEEC's Programs Manager, Nelly Njoki and Executive Director, Jane Maina participated in the GIZ-CPS regional conference held at Mombasa. As one of the partners of GIZ-CPS, the conference provided a good opportunity to share the work that CEEC has been doing generally and in particular "Gender and Peacebuilding" as well as "Positive Masculinities" projects. In this regard, Nelly Njoki was a panelist on the topic "Gender and Peacebuilding" which was facilitated by Jane Maina. In addition, the two facilitated workshop on "Positive Masculinities" during one of the Open Spaces.