



PTD Newsletter

Partnership for Transformational Devolution

ARE YOU INVOLVED?...
JIHUSISHE!

**Strengthening the capacities of state and non-state actors
for effective devolved governance in Kenya**



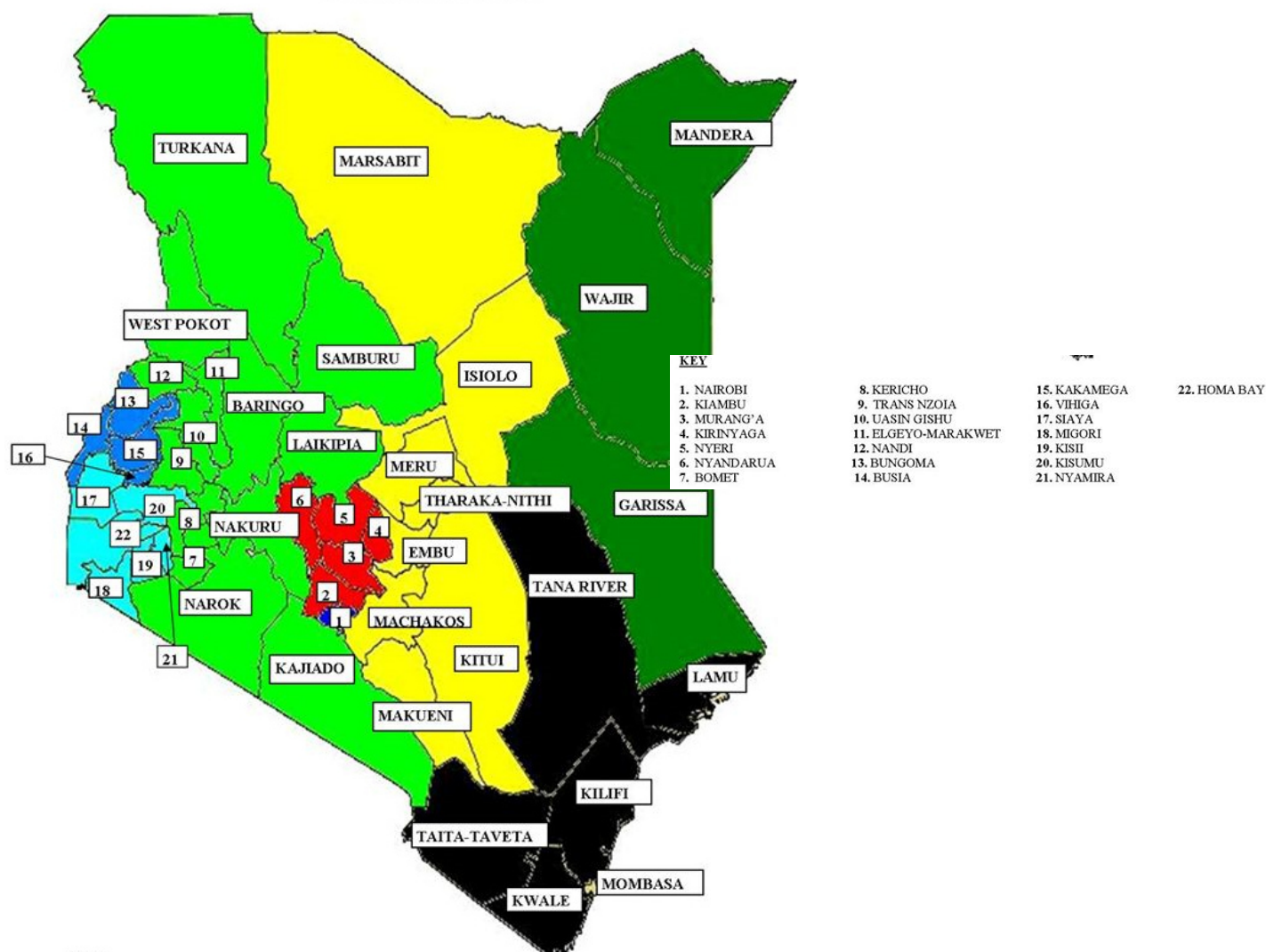
Konrad
Adenauer
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Word from the Editor's Desk.....	Page 3
Word from the Director.....	Page 4
KAS Project Team.....	Page 5
Word from the implementing partners CJPC, CEDGG, MAPACA.....	Page 6
Activities on Devolution.....	Page 8
Impressions from the Coast Region.....	Page 13
Impressions from the Lower Eastern Region.....	Page 14
Impressions from the Rift Valley Region.....	Page 15
Contact Details.....	Page 16

COUNTIES OF KENYA



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Readers,

Thank you for your interest in and support for the project "Partnership for Transformational Devolution (PTD)". In order to keep you posted on the current progress of our project and future activities, we are distributing our newsletter with background information on the process of devolution and with pictures from the activities implemented in the ten target Counties. This is for now the premier edition of our newsletter, which will be published three times a year during the whole project period until the beginning of the year 2019.

First of all, we would like to introduce the project and sum up its aims for you:

The European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development-funded project "*Strengthening the Capacities of state and non-state actors for effective devolved governance*" (abbreviation: "*Partnership for Transformational Devolution – PTD*") was launched in May 2015 and covers overall 16 different activities in the ten target Counties namely Mombasa, Kilifi, Tana River, Makueni, Machakos, Kitui, Elgeyo Marakwet, Baringo, Nakuru and West Pokot.

The EU project is implemented by a Consortium led by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V. (KAS) in three different regions together with three co-applicants: Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (KCCB-CJPC/Region Coast), the Centre for Enhancing Democracy and Good Governance (CEDGG/Region Rift Valley) and the Mobilization Agency for Paralegal Communities in Africa (MAPACA/Region Lower Eastern).

The project's overall objective is to contribute to an accountable, transparent and participatory County governance system in Kenya in accordance with its Constitutional rights. Specifically, the project will strengthen the capacities of citizens as well as County governance institutions to effectively execute their democratic mandates – so the main focus of the project lies on capacity building.

The three specific expected results are:

1. Awareness about devolution & citizen engagement opportunities substantially increased
2. Citizens Oversight Forums (COF) established, understanding their roles and holding County Governments effectively to account
3. Through increased participation more effective and efficient decision making tailored to the needs of the local population

The project operates on national as well as on regional level with different target groups, e.g. the Council of Governors, County Authorities, journalists in the regions, Court User Committees & local offices of the Ethics & Anti-Corruption Commission, County Budget & Economic Forums (CBEF), as well as different actors of the civil society.

Enjoy our first edition!

Warm regards,

The PTD-Project-Team

Further information about the project and activities as well as pictures can be found on the Facebook page "Partnership for Transformational Devolution": <https://www.facebook.com/Partnership-for-Transformational-Devolution-888510551219713/>

Please also visit our Website: <http://www.kas.de/dezentralisierung-kenia/en/>

WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Sir/Madam,

Kenya's decentralization is among the most rapid and ambitious devolution processes going on in the world. Promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 marked a momentous point in country's history. Notably, the Constitution provided for a major devolution — not only of resources and functions, but also creating a whole new layer of County Government.



There is no denying the fact that devolution has a great impact on the lives of ordinary Kenyans, not only those living in traditionally marginalized and peripheral regions of the country.

Regarding devolution, there are two aspects, which always should be kept in mind:

1. Devolution is a complex and new reform agenda and therefore there is a great need to inform the people. And we all are aware of the fact that information is the prerequisite for participation. It will take informed citizens to hold both the County and National governments to account.
2. Many Kenyans believe that devolution will bring dramatic changes overnight: upgraded infrastructure, more jobs, opportunities and better services. The process of devolution is so specific in every country in the world, it can hardly be compared. But it is clear that efficient devolved structures have never been established overnight. They had to incrementally grow – because as we all know, change never culminates to success overnight, but happens rather gradually.

We are facing a huge and challenging project and we do need the contribution of the governments – on national and County level. We will assist them to help the people. And we do need the support of the people to get involved with the activities of the project:

This is also why the tagline of the EU-project reads *"Are you involved? JI – HU- SI - SHE."*

Let us pull together and bring devolution in Kenya one step further, or better: many steps further.

Gregor Jaecke
Director Program on Devolution Kenya

KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

KAS PROJECT TEAM



Courtesy Call to the Chairman of the Council of Governors:

Gregor Jaecke, Director Program on Devolution Kenya, met H.E. Peter G. Munya on 24th February 2016 in Nairobi for an informational exchange based on consent about importance of strengthening the capacities of state and non-state actors in Kenya for a devolved governance.

His Excellency the Governor of Elgeyo Marakwet County, with the PTD Project Team of Jane Murutu (PTD Project Manager, KAS), Evans Kibet (Rift Valley Regional Trainer, CEDGG), Edwin Ronoh (Elgeyo Marakwet County PTD Liaison Officer) and Hezan Asievra (right; PTD Technical Assistant, KAS): In February 2016, the PTD team paid a Courtesy Call at his office and gave background information about the project. The Governor committed to support the initiative and confirmed his appreciation of the potential of partnering with CSOs. He singled out the need for the project to train both government actors and citizens on rights based approaches to governance and development.



In August 2015, the KAS Project Team (Jane Murutu, Project Manager & Samuel Mugambi, Accountant, KAS) met with the regional partners for further planning of the upcoming steps of the project (here: Joseph Kioko, Regional Accountant & Joyce Mulu, Regional Coordinator, MAPACA).

WORD FROM THE PARTNERS



In promulgating the new Constitution of Kenya 2010, Kenyans made a bold statement on how they wanted their country to be governed. They wanted a system of governance that would entrench representation, community participation in decisions that affect them, transparency, accountability and ensure a realization of basic human rights that addresses existing inequalities in distribution of wealth and resources. This heralded a new dawn for the country because the Constitution lays emphasis on the centrality of citizens in all spheres of public life as well as putting a high

premium on citizens' participation and involvement in governance and development process at both County and national government levels. The new Constitution appreciates Public Participation as one of the key hallmarks of democracy and good governance. The EU & KAS co-funded project on devolution will definitely afford citizens the structures, avenues and opportunities to exercise their sovereign power envisaged in article 1 of the Constitution. Article 174 clearly stipulates the objectives of devolution key among them being self-governance actualized through participation.

Festus Rotich

Catholic Justice & Peace Commission (CJPC)

Regional Coordinator, Coast Region



On 27th August 2010, Kenya formally gave unto herself a new Constitution. The journey towards this new Constitution had been bumpy, torturous and indeed very costly. And so it was with a sigh of relief and renewed hope and energy that many Kenyans received the new Constitution which came with among other things, a new promise for equity, equality, human rights, human dignity, social justice and general well-being of Kenyans. These promises are encapsulated, primarily in devolution. Kenya, like many African Countries adopted devolution as a

strategy to improve governance and remedy institutional deficiencies that highly centralized governments have engendered.¹ This is basically what informs the objects of devolution as captured in Article 174 of the Constitution. Even with this clarity, the County Governments' efforts so far to deliver on the benefits of devolution have been marred with a myriad of challenges including but not limited to low levels of awareness among citizens on how devolution would be working leading to unrealistic expectations, limited financial resources, limited capacity among County staff to conceptualize novel and creative approaches to realizing the principles and objectives of devolution and governance conflicts between the two levels of government and or the various organs of County Governments. The problem, especially of low awareness levels is usually more pronounced in rural and pastoralist Counties where average literacy rates are low. Due to this, residents in these Counties often do not engage their governments and are left out of critical processes in the County. The above are among the pressing challenges that the Partnership for Transformational Devolution project sought to address through sustained

¹ Annette Omolo: Devolution in Kenya, a critical Review of the Past.

community sensitization and organization, capacity building for County Government structures and civic engagement. One year into implementation, CEDGG is happy to report that in the four Counties of Nakuru, Baringo, Elgeyo Marakwet and West Pokot where it is implementing the project, it has managed to create awareness among organized community groups, facilitated the establishment of the Citizens Oversight Forums (COFs) and helped to establish working relations between COFs with respective County authorities. The net effect of this has been increased Citizen Participation in key processes such as planning and budgeting and responsiveness of County Governments to citizen demands and needs. The idea of COFs has been appreciated by both government and civil society from across the Counties as an effective mechanism for promoting engagement and consultation with government. Hitherto, it is clear that the PTD is progressively addressing the identified challenges and it is our belief at CEDGG that the project shall go a long way in furthering the realization of the objectives of devolution. There have been a few challenges which include high expectations of government and communities, difficulties in accessing information, harmonizing the project calendar with community and government calendars and supporting COFs to address demands from communities that are beyond the realm of the project. We are however grateful to governments in all the four Counties for their continued support that has helped lessen the toll of the challenges on implementation of the project.

Paul Masese

Centre for Enhancing Democracy and Good Governance (CEDGG)

Regional Coordinator, Rift Valley Region



MAPACA

It is with great pleasure that we have the PTD project in the Lower Eastern Region. The project lays more emphasis on the sovereignty of the people and more importantly functions as an eye opener. The County and National Authorities are quite appreciative as the project is intensively supplementing their mandate. Mobilization Agency for Paralegal Communities in Africa (MAPACA) - Trust, is the leading, resilient and pace-setting grassroots Democracy, Governance and Human Rights Advocacy Organization in Makueni County, with a progressive presence, visibility and audibility in Machakos and Kitui Counties.

Vision – MAPACA envisions: “A just society rooted on Constitutionalism and good governance”

Mission - MAPACA exists: “To promote Constitutional culture and accountable governance thorough civic awareness, training and advocacy.”

Joyce Mulu

Mobilization Agency for Paralegal Communities in Africa (MAPACA)

Regional Coordinator, Lower Eastern Region

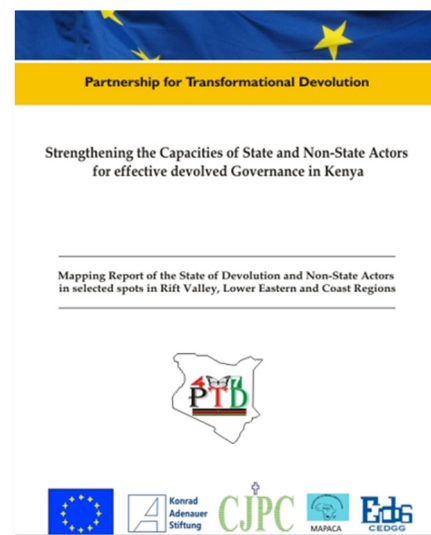
ACTIVITIES ON DEVOLUTION

The Mapping Study

This study is a fruitful basis for our work on devolution in the next years because it aims at assessing the environment in which CSOs are functioning and operating: it scans the CSO landscape in the ten selected target Counties. The target groups for the study are CSOs, FBOs, and CBOs at national and County level, County Authorities and local based media organizations. The key civil society actors in the sectors relevant for the project were identified and their capacities and needs with regards to engaging in policy dialogue(s) at national and County level evaluated.

The study sets its focus on four aspects:

1. Types of civil society organizations in the Counties engaged with devolution
2. The capacity of these organizations to further the objective of the project
3. Challenges, opportunities and gaps that the organizations experience
4. Recommendations and conclusions



Regional Project Launches

In October 2015 the project was officially launched in each region during festive events in Eldoret (Rift Valley Region), Machakos (Lower Eastern Region) and Watamu (Coast Region). The launches were to present and explain the project's objectives to stakeholders, the general public and media in order to generate a broad understanding and acceptance of the project in the respective Counties of implementation. Not only were the results of the mapping study presented, the event also enhanced the networking between the CSOs and County Authorities in order to share information on regional specific devolution issues.



Registration of participants at the Coast Region Launch



Lower Eastern Launch Event

Rift Valley Launch: His Excellency Dr. Gabriel Lagat, Deputy Governor, Elgeyo Marakwet County, delivering the keynote address to the audience.



National Project Launch

A fascinating conference with more than 130 participants, among them high-ranking policy-makers, took place in Nairobi on 15th October 2015 to introduce the project to the public on national level. The main topics of the political, economic and demographic situation in selected Counties were discussed. Thereby, the conference aimed at providing the participants with important information on those topics and stimulating mutual exchange of experiences as well as networking opportunities. Conclusively, the conference made a great contribution to raising people's awareness for good governance and devolution as important topics to be included in the participants' daily political agenda.



The Project Team consisting of Gregor Jaecke, Hezian Asieva (left), Samuel Mugambi (Project Accountant) and Jane Murutu (Project Manager) on the right



Mombasa Women Rep Mishi Mboko giving her speech



Bruno Pozzi, Deputy Head of Delegation of the EU in Kenya



Senator Hassan Omar Hassan (Mombasa County)



Joyce Mulu and Antony Ndolo (Regional Coordinator and Trainer Lower Eastern Region), Hon Gideon Ochanda, M.P Bondo, William Wambua Mulumba (Steering Committee Member) and Phillip Mulili from Makueni County



Cornelius Oduor, CEO CEDGG giving a word of thanks



Theatre Group 'Vuka' from Machakos County in action



Dr. Arne Wulff (Director Rule of Law Program, KAS), Senator Hassan Omar Hassan (Mombasa County), Gregor Jaecke (Director Program on Devolution, KAS)



Fred Owako, Chairman of PWD

Establishment of Media Partnerships

A breakfast meeting for fifteen selected editors both from print and electronic media took place in Nairobi on 5th October 2015. This activity was meant to lobby the editors to follow the project carefully and get more involved in County affairs.

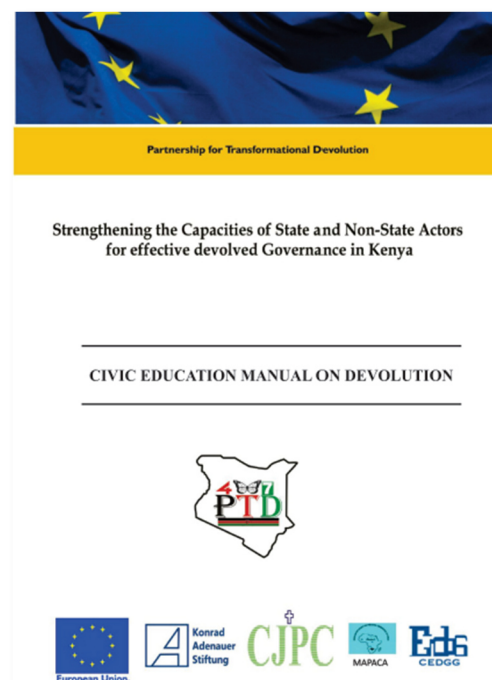
Within the following weeks, journalists, mainly working for local FM radio stations, were trained for two days in each of the three regions. The workshop focused on transferring further knowledge on devolution, media ethics, conflict and sensitive reporting as well as skills for hosting professional talk shows, thematic debates and call-in shows.

Furthermore, the activity also sought to make the media representatives understand the meaning and importance of the complex devolution agenda, using a language which is easily understood by the listeners. Moreover, the local journalists as key actors of civil society, were equipped with clear and specific information about the legal framework, legislation process at County level and on how to initiate public debate on issues relevant to public needs. This activity was extensively supported (both the training and logistics) by the Media Council of Kenya (MCK).

Training of Staff, Associates and Volunteers of Target CSOs & Set Up of Citizens Oversight Forums

One of the key activities of the project is the foundation of ten Citizens Oversight Forums (COFs) (one per County) primarily seen as the advocate of the people with its main interest in participating in the budgeting and planning process of the Counties for ensuring improved service delivery by the County authorities. The cooperation and networking of the COFs with local organizations and committees leads to mutual information sharing and therefore responds to the devolution process as a still new and highly complex reform.

These activities took place from November 2015 to February 2016 in each of the target Counties. They sought to empower members of the target CSOs identified through the mapping study with knowledge and skills that would sharpen their civilian oversight. Furthermore, they were informed about constructive engagement with the duty bearers so as to ensure public resources are utilized effectively and hence enhance public service delivery. In the first instance, the training activities were to increase the CSOs' awareness about devolution and citizen engagement opportunities by using the Civic Education Manual, which consists of five training modules that was developed in conjunction with the Kenya School of Government (KSG). Once trained, the target CSOs were also expected to roll out community level civic awareness forums on devolution in their respective Counties to prepare ground for the establishment of the Citizens Oversight Forums (COFs).



Capacity Building of Members of COFs: Training on & Application of the Scorecard Methodology

From 22nd to 24th March 2016, twenty selected representatives of the Citizens Oversight Forum from the ten target Counties were trained centrally together in Nairobi by specialists on the Scorecard approach. The Community Scorecard is the most important tool to measure State Actors' service delivery. Therefore the Citizens Oversight Forums in each County will develop a Scorecard report, which



will measure and rate the performance of County Government institutions in specific fields, e.g. budgeting process, responsiveness to public proposals for County planning and the delivery of certain services. Therefore the COFs will seek meetings with the County Governments after the publication of the Scorecard reports in order to brief them in more depth on the findings and suggest recommendations for future improvements.

This should also serve as an incentive to improve the scoring in the following year. Scorecards will become an easily understandable tool of holding the various arms of the County Authorities to account.



After this activity, called "Training of Trainers", the trained representatives of the ten COFs shared their knowledge (in terms of the 'multiplier effect') with the other COF-members: Up to mid-April 2016, they implemented trainings for the COFs at County level on the Scorecard Methodology and guided their local communities to administer the Scorecard at the identified wards in their Counties.

Workshops and Liaison with County Authorities

The target group of these half-day meetings (which already have taken place in Tana River, Mombasa, Machakos, Nakuru, Makueni and Kitui in March and April respectively 2016) were Senior State Actors from County Governments and National Government, e.g. members of the County Assembly, the County Executive Committees and the Senators. The PTD Team, COF-members and County Liaison Officers of the respective Counties came together with the target group to introduce the project's approach of Public Participation support and Citizen oversight in order to solicit understanding and appreciation among the State Actors also with the aim of increasing awareness and appreciation of the work that the Citizens Oversight Forums accomplish.

The envisaged objective is to establish an environment of trust, collaboration and mutual support.

During the meeting, the State Actors were also familiarized with the Scorecard approach and its purpose as well as with the COF's role as citizens' advocate and the benefits of an accountable, transparent form of governance not only for the greater public good but also for the state actors as it raises their legitimacy and enhances their chances of re-elections and reappointments.

Capacity Building of State Actors

The project aims at encouraging constant dialogue mechanisms between the Project Team as well as the regional partners (co-applicants)/COFs and senior State Actors at County Level.

Therefore PTD's activities reach out to State Actors directly by addressing the County Authorities and offering support to capacity building on key areas that are relevant to their roles and functions with specific focus on mechanisms for Citizen Participation. With the objective of sharing information and strengthening mutual understanding, there will be follow-up-meetings organized, bringing important State Actors from County Governments together with representatives of the COFs. By now, these activities have been implemented in some of the Counties in the Regions Rift Valley and Coast in March and April 2016.

Technical support to and cooperation with County Budget & Economic Forums (CBEF)

This workshop, that already has taken place in Elgeyo Marakwet and West Pokot, will also be implemented in other Counties where County Budget and Economic Forums (CBEFs) have been established. The CBEF is the most concrete legally mandated (Public Finance Management/PFM Act 2012, section 137 (1)) form for Public Participation at County level. Nevertheless, the PFM Act does not specify how this participation shall be structured and conducted. During this training, the COFs seek cooperation and offer technical support to the CBEFs. Hence the activity intends to facilitate working relations between COFs and CBEFs by creating synergies as well as establishing and using avenues of Public Participation jointly.

IMPRESSIONS

FROM THE COAST REGION



Scenic view of beautiful landscapes in Tana River County



Scorecard Training of COF-members in Tana River in March 2016



From the left: Shk. Badaw, Ust. Mahmud Jaffer and Fr. Malasi; Different faith groups represented at Regional Launch in Watamu



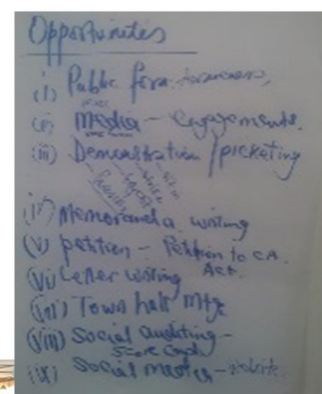
Training of CSO members in Tana River in November 2015



Training of CSOs and Foundation of COF in Mombasa in February 2016



Group photo of CSO-members in Mombasa County, February 2016



Foundation of COF in Kilifi in February 2016

IMPRESSIONS

FROM THE LOWER EASTERN REGION



Two-Day-Training of the COF-members on the Scorecard Methodology in Makueni County in April 2016



In April 2016, the PTD Project Team paid a Courtesy Call to the office of the Governor in Makueni County, emphasizing the already well-working relations with County Authorities



New schools and improved infrastructure: Progress of devolution can be seen in many corners in the Lower Eastern Region



Scorecard Training of the COF-members in Machakos County in April 2016

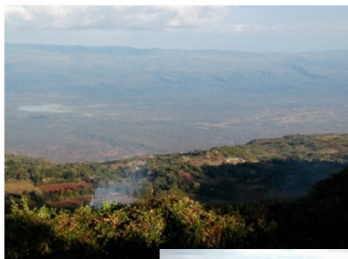


Members of CSOs trained on Public Participation in Kitui County in November 2015



IMPRESSIONS

FROM THE RIFT VALLEY REGION



Mountains, lakes and unique views – Rift Valley Region is famous for its breathtaking landscapes



Highly engaged participants during group work at CSO training in Elgeyo Marakwet County



CSO Training and foundation of the COF in Nakuru County



Capacity Building with State Actors in Elgeyo Marakwet in March 2016



Training of members of CSOs and foundation of the COF in Baringo County in February 2016

Training of members of CSOs and foundation of the COF in West Pokot County, November 2015 and February 2016





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