



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**



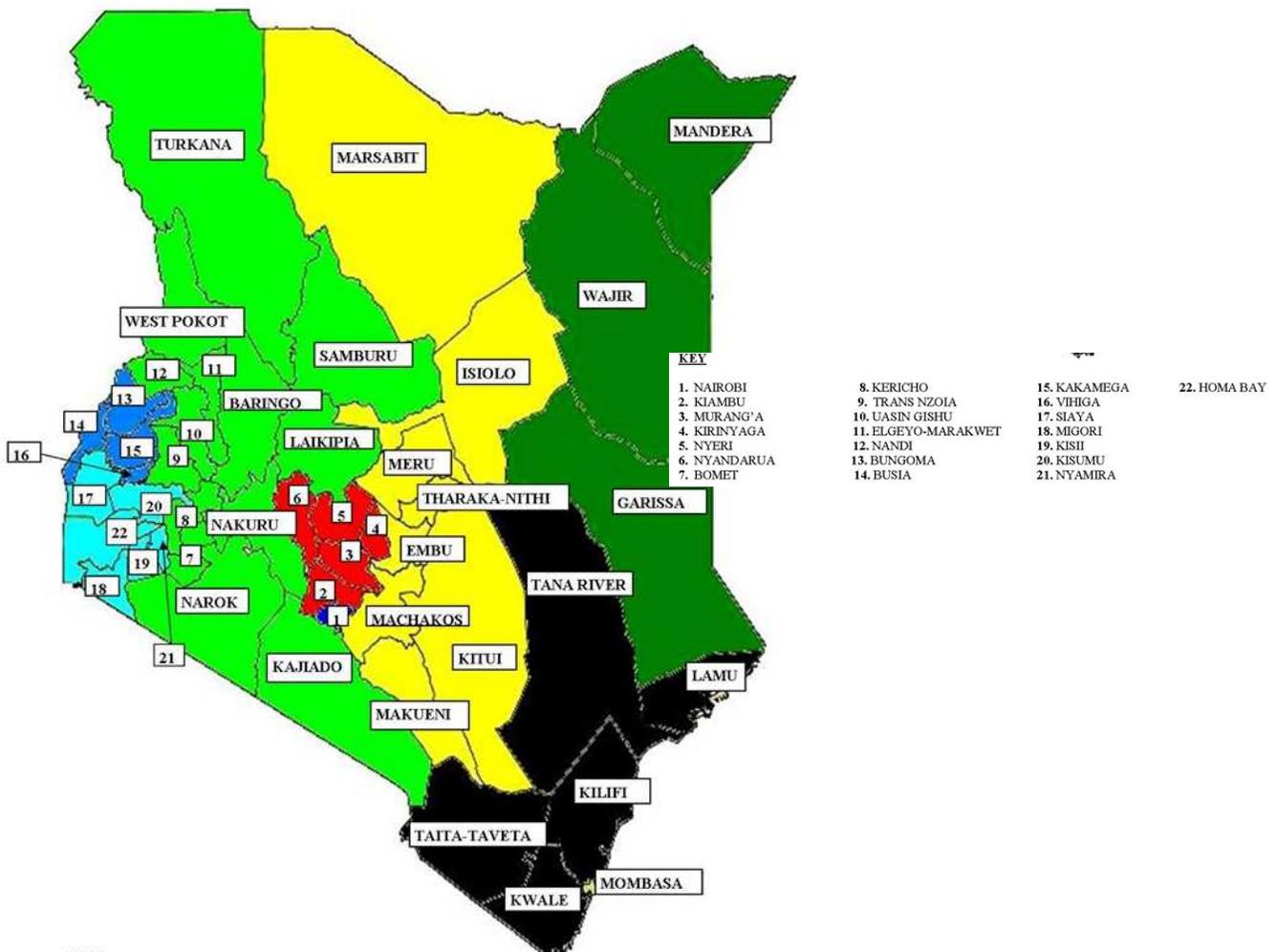
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COUNTIES OF KENYA



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Readers,

Thank you for taking interest in and supporting our project "Partnership for Transformational Devolution (PTD)"! We are delighted to present you the second edition of the Newsletter. The first year of the project ended in May 2016 and we already achieved a lot. Our three project goals remains:

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.

Remarkable progress has been made in the first two afore-mentioned. In addition, ten Citizen Oversight Forums (COFs) were established in our target regions by February this year. In this edition of the newsletter we shall share more on four out of the many implemented activities (for more information about our activities please follow us on Facebook or check out the project Website).

All this would not be achieved without your involvement and teamwork towards the EU-co-funded project on devolution. Our Partnerorganisations CJPC, MAPACA and CEDGG have also shared their positive narrative in this Edition. We welcome your comments.

We hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter!

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/>

THE THIRD ANNUAL DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE

The PTD project team participated in the third annual devolution conference that drew more than 5000 participants from National Level and from all of the 47 Counties. Under the theme “The promise of devolution: Consolidating the gains after transition and looking into the future” the participants and speakers evaluated critically the achieved results and the ongoing challenges. It was apparent from most speakers that devolution indeed was a game changer. For instance Mandera County residents are proud to have the first ever tarmac road under the auspices of devolution.

His Excellency, Gov. Peter Munya (Chair of the Council of Governors) pointed out:

“...identifying the challenges with a view to collectively addressing them and looking into the future with a determination to make the promise of devolution work for the long term stability, cohesiveness and economic prosperity of our country”.¹



KAS and its partners are highly aware of the fact that Devolution remains the most important gateway to Kenya's prosperous future. It behooves all of us, whether in government, in civil society or as private citizens to make it work.

During the Conference we had an opportunity to present a policy paper called “Walking through the Journey of Devolution” to Governors and Deputy Governors who assured their support for the EU-Co-funded Project. This paper mentioned clearly the status of implementation of Devolution in Kenya and mentioned risks, challenges, achievements and provided suggestions for the same.



Meru National Polytechnic in Meru County from 19. - 22. April 2016



¹ Remarks by H.E. Peter Munya, Chairman, Council of Governors and Governor Meru County: <http://devolution.cog.go.ke/index.php/event-program/third-annual-devolution-conference/2016-devolutuion-conference-speeches>, p. 3f.

Annual Best Practice Conference in Mombasa



The best practices and lessons learnt conference in Mombasa on the 9th June 2016 was organized to assess the continued relevance of the PTD project and the progress made towards achieving its planned objectives. The conference was a platform for stakeholders, representing the three target regions, and the PTD Team to share their experiences, achievements and challenges in implementing the PTD project. It was a platform which afforded the attendees to network with each other to voice their ideas of modification to project design, strategies and activities to maintain its

effectiveness, relevance and responsiveness. Among the 86 Participants was Jack Muriuki, a representative of the Ministry of Devolution & Planning, who noted that civil society organizations have a mandate to oversight and hold county governments to account. Dr. Francis Kalama Fondo, from the Inter-governmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC) gave brilliant presentation on their work, and some of the gaps envisioned such as the lack of the devolution policy.



Project Director Gregor Jaecke addressing the media at the event

The participants agreed that the PTD project is on the right track and can achieve its goals during its operation time



Breakfast Meeting with Senators and Members of Parliament

During the breakfast meeting on the 28th July 2016 at Serena Hotel, Nairobi, the 34 Participants discussed the current state of affairs of Devolution in Kenya. Senators and Members of Parliament as well as government agencies, which included representatives from the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA), were invited to share thoughts and experiences on the problems, challenges and successes of the process. Among the speakers were Commissioner Rose Osoro and Senator Beatrice Elachi, who both emphasized the essence of a civic education program for citizens.

Furthermore Hon. Dr. Gideon Ochanda and Hon. Senator Lagat made in-depth analysis of the process of Devolution from the point of view of the National Assembly and the Senate respectively.

The participants agreed in the plenary discussion that Devolution is needed in Kenya and that in some areas positive effects have already been achieved. However the complex reform agenda is just in its fledgling phase and the current problems have to be addressed and solved. Key recommendations were made from the legislators: the outstanding one was the enhancement of public participation which was mentioned by a number of speakers. It is one of the constitutional requirements needed to achieve a successful devolved system of governance. The participants therefore expressed their wish that more NGOs like KAS, assist the Counties to conduct a framework of engagement. This activity confirmed once more the aspired goals of Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation.



Breakfast Meeting with Journalists in Nairobi

On the morning of the 29th September 2016 KAS implemented a very successful Breakfast Meeting with Journalists from Nairobi at Serena Hotel. The objective was to establish Media Partnerships and involve the Editors on topics concerning Devolution.

There is no denying the fact that Journalists are very important multipliers and valuable opinion leaders, especially when it comes to the budgeting process in the 47 Counties (which was the main topic of this Breakfast Meeting):

"Journalists can only fulfill their role as a 'watchdog' (their oversight role) properly when they understand the topic of Devolution", Gregor Jaecke, Director of the Program on Devolution.



Furthermore, it was pointed out that Devolution in general is such a highly complex and new reform agenda, that there is a great need to inform the people. There is no doubt: Information is the prerequisite for participation, therefore the participants agreed on the fact that it will take informed citizens to hold both the County and National Governments to account.



Dr. Conrad Bosire (Devolution Expert) addressing the participants



Word from the implementing partners: CJPC



The PTD Coast Region team is pleased again to interact with stakeholders in this second edition of *PTD Newsletter*.

To ensure better service provision, a lot of infrastructural development in the Kenya Coastal Counties has taken center stage. The constitution of Kenya 2010 and other legal structures provide a robust and legitimate pillar for citizen participation in all matters affecting them.

One year since the implementation of the PTD project, the project team and the Citizen Oversight Forums (COFs) at the Coast region attest to the fact that the benefit of such a measure or approach is a bottom-up participatory mechanism, a key ingredient in having development projects that benefit local communities. Involving the citizenry in project implementation ensures ownership, sustainability and consequently, favorable outcomes from investments.

Through participation, the PTD project has made tremendous efforts in ensuring that the communities are guided in identifying the hazards they face, the vulnerable amongst them and existing capacities and gaps that require external support. This tool has provided an entry point for both the government and partners in helping communities to bridge existing gaps to ensure better living standards.

The stakeholders in the project implementation are satisfied with the approach of engagement and partnership rather than confrontation that has been the case with many civil society organizations. The engagement has ensured efficient and effective application of scorecard by Citizen Oversight Forums (COFs) for health performance assessments and most importantly the support and willingness to partner together from the county leadership, a key stakeholder for the PTD project.



Youth discussing Community Scorecard at Ganda

The PTD project Coast Region would like to sincerely appreciate the continued support offered by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), the Citizen Oversight Forums (COFs) through the County Liaison Officers in the three Coastal Counties (Mombasa, Kilifi and Tana River) without forgetting the County leadership on their role in promoting partnerships and public participation in discharge of public functions.

The PTD project team Coast Region is looking forward to the continued partnership.



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Community Awareness Forum at Mtondia Village



Introduction of Project Team to the Community at Mtondia Dispensary by the Area Administrator



Women discussing Community score card at Ganda

Word from the implementing partners: CEDGG

Social accountability is the key strategy of the Partnership for Transformational Devolution project. The members of the Citizen Oversight Forums (COFs) are the key drivers of this strategy. In the last one year, CEDGG through the project has worked to strengthen the capacity of the forums in all four of its target counties through training on the various tools and mechanisms for social accountability including social audits, community scorecard, citizen's report card and public expenditure tracking surveys among others.

The project adopted community scorecard (CSC) as the main social accountability tool. CSCs are community-level monitoring tool, where community members and service providers come together to provide feedback on service delivery. CSCs not only provide feedback on service quality but also include a dialogue



CEDGG staff addressing participants during Community Sensitization at Nakuru West Constituency, Kapkures Health Centre Nakuru on 21st July 2016



Community sensitization forum on Scorecard Methodology as means of enhancing service delivery held at West Pokot County, Kapchebar Health Centre on 11th August 2016

process in which community members and service providers together discuss their impressions and work together to improve how services are delivered. CSCs are targeted around specific services and so work best at a local level, where the 'community' and the service being evaluated can be fairly well defined. Services and projects that might be included in this are local health centres, local schools, administrative units, or projects that have a specific target community². For our case, we chose to pick on health services and therefore focused on health services facilities.

After an intensive training on the CSC methodology, the COFs identified two health facilities for each of the target Counties. In Nakuru, Kapkures and Sachangwan Health Centres were picked while in Baringo, Molo-Sirwe Health Centre and Eldume Dispensaries were the focus. On its part, the COF for Elgeyo Marakwet County picked Kaptalamwa Health Centre and Kapchebar Dispensary. Serewo Health Centre and Cheptya dispensary were selected in West Pokot County.

Hitherto, key steps in the scorecard process including mobilizing and sensitizing the beneficiaries and duty bearers as well as conducting Focus Group Discussions with the two teams (beneficiaries and duty bearers) have been undertaken. Notably, the process has provided an opportunity for residents and users of the selected facilities to discuss with the management, service delivery gaps that they want addressed. In almost all cases, service users have complained about lack of drugs, unavailability of service providers due to staff shortages, negative attitudes of health workers and poor emergency and referral services. On their part, health workers have seized the opportunity to share their challenges with the community and educate them on health and hygienic practices.

² http://www.unicef.org/vietnam/Community_TA.pdf : Community Scorecard Manual

Importantly, the CSC process has been able to link facility level challenges with county planning and budgeting processes. In Eldume dispensary, residents and the service providers agreed to prioritize access to road, drainage, and additional staff (support staff) in the 2017/2018 budget process.



Participants during Community level Civic Awareness/Sensitization forum on County Governance processes at Elgeyo Marakwet County, Kapchebar Dispensary Ground on 22nd September 2016

In Kapkures, the Facility Management committee was taken to task to explain why it was not involving residents in the management of the dispensary.

Overall, the scorecard process has so far enabled duty bearers to appreciate the need for involving communities and to share information. Also important, community members now appreciate the challenges duty bearers face in their day to day work. This way, the CSC has enabled participatory planning and budgeting, helping to curb disputes and misunderstanding and promoting human rights based approach to health services delivery. The community scorecard process is expected to be finalized by mid of October 2016.

**Masese Kemunche, Regional Coordinator, CEDGG
Centre for Enhancing Democracy and Good Governance
(CEDGG) – 23rd September 2016**



Community harmonization forum on Scorecard meeting held at Baringo County, Ilchamus Ward Eldume Park on 20th September 2016

Word from the implementing partners: MAPACA



Regional Trainer-Lower Eastern discussing with the citizen of Mutituni Ward-Machakos County on Community Scorecard on Health

The gains of PTD projects has grown hand in hand with the gradual freedom of expression and participation which this country has begun to enjoy since 2010 after getting the peoples constitution. Kenyans are enthusiastic about democratizing all aspects of their social, political and economic life.

The PTD project has brighten the future of lower Eastern region citizenry (Makueni, Kitui and Machakos) counties by creating enabling environment between duty bearers and right holders with a solid objective of making the state actors at the county levels be transparent, responsible and accountable to the right holders.

The current state of affairs of the three counties in relation to PTD project is worth a smile, to mention a few progress made:

Through PTD project we have managed to bond with the three county governments hence improved levels of cooperation between state actors and non-state actors. There is enhanced civic awareness, sensitization and public engagement which offers couple opportunities to ordinary citizenry to share ideas among themselves on issues affecting them hence make informed, meaningful and focused decisions and contributions during public participation forums among other avenues of sharing thoughts.

Formations of community oversight forums (COFs), from each county has enhanced the ownership and sustainability of the project even beyond our expectations thus creating permanent resource center's from within, for which information dissemination will be easily provided by locals to lower cadres through public awareness/ sensitization.

Training of community members on scorecard method as one way of gauging standards of service delivery has received overwhelming support from both the duty bearers in and the right holders in the three target counties and also by extension the national government.

The exemplary idea of screening documentaries on devolution and staging skits in rural areas has advanced public awareness, engagement and participation approaches particularly to the ill-educated masses. These methodologies have added advantage in the hard to reach area and also easily understood by both the literate and semi-illiterate.



Left: Dr. Isabella - Officer in-charge Kauwi Sub-county Hospital – Kitui County, taking us through the health facility and introducing the project team to the staff.

Right: Nurse showing the MAPACA Project team a Maternity wing under construction.

The debate all over the three counties in Lower Eastern is how to embrace devolution of power and the kind of structures that should anchor desirable, accountable and transparent devolution for the benefit of "Wanjiku".

The current fiscal decentralization systems are premised on the need to enable communities to make decisions over their development needs which is one of the key objects of devolution as per article 174(c) (d) of the constitution of Kenya 2010 and also the overall objective of PTD project. In this way, development projects at the local levels will be based on the real development need of the community as a result of "KIJIHUSISHA".



Citizens of Kaunguni Sub-ward in Makueni County participating in community scorecard focusing on Health sector

Finally, as we approach the forth coming general elections, lets us remember that we are born with immense reservoirs of energy and faculties to get us what we want in life. The powers inherent in us are inexhaustible and we MUST exploit them for the benefit of our counties and our beloved nation KENYA. It is our prayer that GOD will lead and guide us as we continue with the implementation of this project since we know that *"Many are the plans in human heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails (Proverbs 19:21).*

By
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Regional Trainer Lower Eastern



Left: Veronicah Mwende – H.O. Ndalani dispensary-Machakos County and DR. Zipporah – Director Public Participation Makueni County addressing the participants on Health issues and Public participation respectfully



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