

Basic Training of the Public Expenditure Tool on Social Accountability

On the 29th and 30th of May, 2019, KAS held a training at the Everest House Hotel in Kisumu on the public expenditure tool (PET) and with extension, on social accountability to help build the capacity of the social auditors on public expenditure tools. The aim of the training was to improve on the present quality of public service delivery in Siaya, Vihiga and Kisumu Counties. This training was deemed necessary since counties have been accused of poor financial management and service delivery. During the training, participants were taken through the broader concept behind social accountability and tools such as community report cards, community score cards, budget analysis, social accountability, and public expenditure tracking were shared with the participants.

The next sessions helped to position the tools based on three phases namely; during planning/before implementation, during implementation of public programmes and after implementation of the programmes or projects. The participants learnt that budget analysis was the most appropriate during planning phase, while public expenditure tool (PET) and score cards were important during implementation and evaluation phases.

The training later on dwelt on the PET, and how this approach generated the evidence for subsequent lobbying and advocacy, particularly while dealing with the government institutions. Key steps for implementing the PET was discussed including some of the political realities that would make PET exercise easier or hard to conduct. In conclusion, the participants pointed out that while PET was more convincing as it entailed 'following the funds' it was more difficult to implement it in Siaya and Kisumu due to the hurdle Civil Society Organizations go through in respect to access to information as compared to Vihiga County. Therefore it was generally agreed that Kisumu and Siaya would learn from one of the local organizations (Transform Empowerment for Action Initiative -Team) that was in the process of implementing a PET exercise in Homabay. Their experience will thereafter inform the possibilities of implementing similar exercises through networks at least in Kisumu County.

For Vihiga County, there was a desire for more engagement around PET especially on how to conduct the most pivotal component which is the resource flow risk maps. To this end, KAS will therefore continue to intensify such trainings in counties like Vihiga where PET can work well while conducting similar trainings on social audit, and community score cards in Counties like Kisumu and Siaya.



Photos of some of the participants at the event in Everest House Hotel, Kisumu