

Food Security and Disaster Management monitoring through empowered local structures

KAS Kenya held an ASAL Stakeholders Forum (ASF) for capacity development from 16th - 17th May 2019, in West Pokot. The focus of the forum was on political lobbying on food safety through disaster risk reduction. The aim was to assess the political trends and existing barriers to conducting food security advocacy campaigns in the region by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). Food insecurity was established as one of the leading disasters facing the County, hence a need to cascade it in the political and policy formulation discourse for better management.

CSOs were urged to focus their advocacy campaigns into food security and disaster management under ASF. This can be achieved through use of radio programs, chief's barazas, community disaster committees, social media, women economic empowerment groups/self helps, schools and churches. These forums can provide proper avenues where issues of community food security and disaster risk reduction can be discussed.

Some of the challenges that the CSOs identified to be in need of redress include governance and management. Mutual trust between CSOs and communities was presented as a fundamental base for effective policy outcomes. Some of the challenges that were found to be undermining credible and effective policy reform process include lack of understanding of food safety and disaster management concepts and poor human resource capacity. It was also accepted that there is a need for harmonization of policy documents and implementation.

Finally, it was agreed that there should be more focus on the campaigns and less on social media activities for awareness creation on food security and disaster management.



Photos of some of the participants on a discussion, during the event.