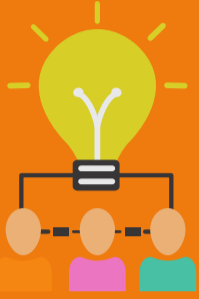


BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNT (2016-2020)

Best Practice 1

CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES TO LOBBY, ADVOCATE AND STRENGTHEN INSTITUTION SUSTAINABILITY



CSOs gained knowledge on the use of dialogue in addressing issues that concern their communities as an alternative approach of lobbying and advocacy. This approach has changed the mindset of duty bearers that CSOs are not always combative but want to reason together by meaningfully engaging with them.

INTERVENTIONS



1. Capacity development support of local and national CSOs;
2. Capacity strengthening of beneficiaries groups at local and where possible at the national level through empowerment, and increased voice and agency; and
3. Strengthening local resource mobilization of local organizations.

OUTCOMES



1. An enhanced partnership between CSOs, government and private sector. This has increased the CSOs political space in the discussion of critical issues affecting the communities.
2. Empowered CSOs (ADS-W) in Kakamega and Busia were heavily involved in the Nutrition Technical Working Group to represent the needs of marginalised communities including women, smallholder farmers, and youths towards the development of the County Nutrition Action Plan (CNAP). The developed CNAP has incorporated these needs.
3. There has been an increase in knowledge on the public participation process amongst grass-roots groups and they have actively participated in public participation forums during the bill making process of child rights in Busia County.
4. Smallholder farmers' produce and income has increased from mixed farming activities. Moreover, the farmers have the capacity from the value addition initiatives from their produce. They are now consuming foods free from cholesterol, i.e. use of ground peanuts to make peanut paste, consuming locally available food.
5. KCDF, ADS-W and Community Empowerment Development Organization were included in the task force to come up with the Busia County Civic Education and Public Participation Bill 2020. Today, there is a draft bill ready to be taken to the County Assembly for the first reading.
6. African Youth Trust (AYT) lobbied the National Assembly of Kenya to enact a law on youth access to government procurement opportunities, through a private member bill, which was later passed by the National Assembly.

RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Conduct more capacity building at the grass-root level to create a movement of empowered communities and CSOs to undertake initiatives to claim their rights.
2. There is a dire need for the CSOs to understand the county government processes including the budget-making process, stages when public participation occurs and the current bills that require public participation to enable the CSOs and grassroots organizations better prepare and voice their concerns towards creating an enabling environment for marginalised and vulnerable communities.
3. There is a need for grassroots friendly training both online and face to face to ensure the capacity building interactions can reach basic farmers at the grass-root level.