

## BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNT (2016-2020)

### Best Practice 2

#### MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT DIALOGUE FORUMS



The CEA programme emphasized on the need for stakeholder engagement by encouraging dialogue, collaboration and inclusive meaningful engagement with actors from different sectors including CSOs, national and county governments, private sector, community leaders, special interest groups among other stakeholders to address pertinent issues on food security and nutrition among the vulnerable and marginalized communities.

#### INTERVENTIONS



1. Engaging policymakers through lobbying and advocacy.
2. Advocacy through radio talk shows and on social media to address smallholder farmers' challenges.
3. Meaningful engagement of CSOs in the Nutrition Technical Working Groups through the provision of technical support, facilitating and coordinating the review meetings as well as supporting the launch of County Nutrition Action Plans in Busia and Kakamega counties.
4. Strengthening the Child Rights Support Network and initiatives aimed at addressing the gap of disjointed efforts in addressing child-related rights issues.
5. Advocated for the development of a Child Protection Information and Management System in Busia County where all CSOs are feeding into the system to track the progress of children in the county especially Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) and avoid duplication of efforts.

#### OUTCOMES



1. There is increased knowledge by the community on child rights and labour related issues which have contributed to the elimination of child labour and child work. The percentage of children engaging in child labour-related issues driven by the private sector like sugar cane farming has reduced by 30% (CRN Report, 2019).
2. A child protection unit in the police station was established to protect arrested children from mixing with adults.
3. There has been an increase in the number of people trained on Agri-skills because of the information shared among members of these forums through CBOs and community groups, reaching a wider audience. There has also been an increase in youth involvement in agricultural activities.
4. There has been an increase in the availability of nutritious foods at the markets as a result of increased knowledge, skills, and attitude change among the community members on agriculture. The farmers have outgrown traditional ways of farming, diversified their produce hence having more produce including soya and they add value to existing produce. Green leafy vegetable production has increased in Bungoma and Homa Bay counties from the smallholder farmers engaged in the programme.
5. As a result of the County Nutrition Action Plans and Annual Development Plans launched in Busia County that was immensely supported by the CEA programme, there was buy-in from members of the County Assembly resulting to an increased budget for the nutrition department from Ksh 2 million to Ksh 10 million. This will enable the county to address the urgent malnutrition issues amongst other nutrition needs of the community.
6. Use of a Lobby Log Book strengthened the monitoring and evaluation process and the documentation of lobbying and advocacy by capturing information about partners engaged, issues discussed, achievements made, issues taken forward for discussion, appointments made and key contact persons in seeking to address the ongoing issue.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Empower CSOs to understand each other's mandate and area of coverage.
2. Map out CSOs and their scope of coverage to avoid duplication of interventions.
3. Create a coordination structure with clear terms of reference to ensure organized committees to strengthen collaborations.
4. The projects should "run" with the government budgeting cycle to ensure proper synergy, especially where government support is required.