

Kisumu: Kaunti Kuimarisha Uendelevu

Information session recap



DATE: August 7, 2019

LOCATION: Ciala Resort

TOTAL ATTENDEES: 111*; 32% women including

13 individuals

47 community-based organizations

0 county government officials

9 private businesses

24 non-governmental organizations

1 youth group

0 women's groups

1 cooperative society

1 trust

* Expect a discrepancy in the total – only a sample of participating categories is listed in this box.

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED DURING MEETING

- **Youth unemployment.** Participants attributed this to a skills mismatch citing low employability skills, access to financial support, and financial illiteracy as factors
- **Poor health care.** Participants identified the prevalence of HIV/AIDS as a significant challenge along with poor health infrastructure, high disease burden and poor nutrition in the county.
- **Poor governance.** The issues highlighted included corruption, lack of social accountability, and lack of public involvement in government planning.
- **Other challenges.** These included food insecurity, poor agricultural practices, teenage pregnancies and high school dropouts. solid and liquid waste management, poor infrastructure, poverty and lack of reliable, safe source of water.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- **Youth unemployment.** Youth and women capacity-building on employability, entrepreneurship, income-generation skills and establishment of robust youth empowerment programs. Participants also proposed providing information on available and affordable financial support for businesses, establishing a business startup kitty, and promoting youth agribusiness. They also proposed promoting TVET for self-employment skills and creating employment through incubation hubs and expanding industries in the county.
- **Poor health care.** Participants proposed: influencing health policy and increasing financing for better services; implementing Universal Health Care and increasing the focus on primary



and preventative healthcare; and increasing the number of qualified personnel. They also suggested advocacy for better nutrition, sanitation, and health-seeking behavior, as well as behavior change campaigns to prevent new HIV/AIDS infections. They also suggested establishing more and well-equipped facilities, more focus on critical illnesses - diabetes, cancer, and mental health, and forming linkages between NGOs and government facilities.

- **Poor governance.** Civic education to empower the community to demand accountability; enhancing inclusive public participation, monitoring and evaluation of government programs at all levels of government planning, and ensuring a multi-sectoral approach engaging county government, county assembly, and private and public institutions on development. Participants also proposed creation of social audit and project management committees at the community level.
- **Food insecurity.** Participants proposed sensitizing farmers on new farming technologies, reducing food wastage through proper storage methods, introducing drought and flood-resistant crops and reviving irrigation schemes to help boost food security. They also proposed improving farmers' access to information, supporting them to embrace modern farming methods and linking farmers to the right markets for their produce. Also suggested: promoting water harvesting and irrigation mechanisms to reduce reliance on rain-fed agriculture; establishing additional agricultural projects (One Acre Fund cited); forming agricultural cooperative societies for better marketing; and encouraging community members to plant kitchen gardens.
- **Teenage pregnancies and high school dropout rates.** School feeding initiatives, counseling programs for retention; more schools and qualified teachers; community sensitization, rehabilitation centers and rescue plans for vulnerable children; resource centers.
- **Poor waste management.** Developing infrastructure for proper waste management; enhancing integrated waste management system; community involvement in and putting in place laws for waste recycling and reusing; solid and liquid waste management; innovation and involving the youth through competitions in creative waste management.
- **Poor infrastructure.** Developing housing for cottage industries and incubation centers and ensuring connectivity to electricity and water.
- **High poverty levels.** Addressing high levels of unemployment and food insecurity, and ensuring economic empowerment, access to affordable healthcare and access to information and technology.
- **Lack of reliable access to safe and potable water.** Providing safe water and sanitation at the household level and infrastructure development.

For questions, please visit the full solicitation:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=317009> or email kauntiaps@usaid.gov.