

Makueni: Kaunti Kuimarisha Uendelevu

Information session recap



DATE: July 24, 2019

LOCATION: Kusyombunguo Hotel

TOTAL ATTENDEES: 123*; 39% women including

33 individuals

0 community-based organizations

5 county government officials,

17 private businesses

15 non-governmental organizations

2 youth groups

5 women's groups

3 cooperative societies

2 trusts

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

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED DURING MEETING

- **Political influence.** Some county and National leaders demand to be consulted even in smallest projects and demand publicity
- **Corruption:** Some public officers demand payments/kickbacks etc. reduces the amount budgeted and eventually affects the overall budget.
- **Poor development planning.** Poor coordination among community leaders/financiers and poor prioritization of development needs often leading to duplicated/unequal resources from donors in one area e.g. water while other areas of development are neglected. Unsustainable project implementation.
- **Youth unemployment.** Lack of economic hub to create employment to the youth and reluctance of youth to embrace agriculture and lack of technical skills among the youth.
- **Low agricultural productivity and market access.** Low adoption of modern farming techniques, poor management of post-harvest losses, and market access constraints, all of which contribute to food insecurity,
- **Health sector.** Limited human resources, inadequate health services, particularly to treat critical diseases such as HIV/AIDS leading to a heavy disease burden.
- **Other challenges.** These included poor infrastructure, human wildlife conflict, dependency syndrome and marginalization of youth, people with disabilities, women, and the boy-child (male children). Other challenges cited include alcohol and drug abuse, poor implementation of good governance and democracy policies, prevalent gender-based violence (GBV) and lack of reliable water supply.



PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- **Political influence.** Empowering the community and not depend on politicians
- **Corruption.** Participants proposed several solutions, including: effective project management to help close loopholes and ensure accountability, revamping civic education, reducing and where relevant eliminating political approvals in favor of donor reporting and community/organizational leadership with politicians responsible for oversight; continued and increased emphasis on integrity and accountability; all development partners implementing the bottom-up approach to ensure effective public participation and community ownership of projects; transparency in sharing project finances information; adopting and implementing a zero tolerance to corruption policy; establishing a robust community outreach and education system.
- **Poor development planning.** Encouraging and promoting direct communication with and active involvement and empowerment of the community throughout the project life cycle from inception and pre-concept stage to project design and implementation; ensuring high integrity in delivery of projects and incorporating private public partnerships in development initiatives.
- **Youth unemployment.** Ensuring independent and impartial parties oversee recruitment to prevent favoritism in recruitment; providing training opportunities to expose more youth to available opportunities, help promote positive changes in attitude and increase levels of awareness on all types of jobs (white collar and other jobs); encouraging entrepreneurship and investment in agricultural value chains; and educating the masses on the importance of value addition.
- **Low agricultural productivity and market access.** Diversifying farming; adopting climate-smart agriculture; establishing an exchange/learning program to benefit from each other's knowledge in the county; subsidizing farm inputs and equipment to help boost productivity; providing access to capital/financial services
- **Health sector.** Providing education on case management systems.
- **Other challenges.** To address climate-related constraints, participants proposed: investing in water supply infrastructure; combating climate change through tree-planting; drip irrigation; green energy; water harvesting technologies and treatment; and drought-resistant crops. Participants also proposed establishing strong legislative frameworks and educating the community on child protection, including the rights of the boy child. They also proposed carrying out advocacy and putting in place GBV response mechanisms. Participants proposed intensifying campaigns and enhancing government information systems to improve public participation and help address governance and democracy challenges.

For questions, please visit the full solicitation:

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