

# West Pokot: Kaunti Kuimarisha Uendelevu

## Information session recap



**DATE:** July 30, 2019

**LOCATION:** Horizon Resort, Kapenguria

**TOTAL ATTENDEES:** 69\*; 30% women

41 individuals  
4 community-based organizations  
0 county government officials  
2 private businesses  
1 non-governmental organizations  
5 youth groups  
2 women's groups  
4 cooperative societies  
0 trusts

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

### DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED DURING MEETING

Participants cited the following development challenges in order of priority:

- **Poor Governance.** Characterized by poor service delivery, lack of public participation in public decision and planning, and unequal distribution of resources.
- **Low literacy levels.** Overall low literacy rates and prioritization of girls' education.
- **High levels of insecurity.** Largely arising from frequent border conflicts.
- **Retrogressive Cultural Practices.** These include female genital mutilation (FGM), gender-based violence (GBV), forced and early marriage, and abductions.
- **Other challenges.** These include water scarcity/drought, environmental degradation, unemployment, food security, and poor infrastructure.

### PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- **Poor Governance.** Participants proposed advocacy in governance, accountability of public resources, resource mobilization to bridge financing deficits, civic education and community capacity-building, and ensuring equity in resource distribution
- **Low literacy levels.** Supporting and promoting adult education, increasing and improving school facilities, carrying out sensitization and awareness campaigns on the importance of



education (education promotion), training more teachers, constructing and equipping more schools and employing more teachers (county government).

- **High levels of insecurity.** Peace-building initiatives, eliminating community boundaries, more peace-building dialogue meetings among stakeholders involved in conflict, involving county governments, local leaders and councils of elders in security administration, inter-community and intra-community peace dialogue, and formation of peace committees.
- **Retrogressive Cultural Practices.** Participants proposed advocacy against harmful cultural practices and equipping reformed members of the society to serve as champions for progressive practices; enforcing anti-FGM laws through the National Anti-FGM Board; and mobilizing local CBOs, NGOs to work together in FGM advocacy; engaging more men in fighting FGM including men who are beneficiaries of early marriages; stepping up education on human rights and on opportunities for girls to support them in earning a living as a means to reducing GBV; and supporting victims of GBV to report incidences.
- **Water Scarcity, drought and environmental degradation.** Initiating water harvesting mechanisms such as rock harvesting and construction of dams, putting in place mitigation and adaptation programs, tree-planting, and building capacity on climate change for resilience.
- **Unemployment.** Teaching entrepreneurial skills, diversifying livelihoods, providing soft loans to help boost entrepreneurship, strengthening cottage industries, establishing innovation centers, and facilitating access to microcredit for women groups.
- **Food Security / Agriculture.** Linking local farmers to markets, exploring alternative sources of income, addressing the issue of climate change, and engaging in sustainable community development activities.
- **Poor Infrastructure.** Constructing roads for improved access to remote areas, sensitizing the community to participate by providing land for construction, providing locals with basic skills training on roads maintenance.



For questions, please visit the full solicitation:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?opId=317009> or email [kauntiaps@usaid.gov](mailto:kauntiaps@usaid.gov).