

KENDREN PROGRESS REPORT

Under the CCAA project, in the past Quarter we have carried out a number of Activities:

1). Debt Clinics

Within the overall KENDREN programmatic intervention, Economic Governance is one of the key 3 pillars. Within this, public economic literacy is a major delivery tool. Debt Clinics are essentially community engagement forums where we catalyze discussions and engagement across a wide range of contemporary issues and mainly as they relate to the national development strategy, national economy and the broader developmental and political economy issues.

With the ongoing reform agenda in the country, Governance has become a recurrent theme of discussion. Mainly our clinics are around Public Resource Management and Public Finance Management. In this regard we have held 2 clinics specifically on water governance both as a resource and as it fits within the broader financial management structure.

This has greatly been informed by the whole devolution framework that is underway. We have sought to facilitate a discussion and dialogue that unpacks the issues for citizenry understanding and engagement.

A core output of these clinics has been the formation of a loose network within the Huruma community that is focused on issues of water access and management and is engaging the city council water directorate in this regard.

We have also been able to facilitate a meeting with the local administration, the local councilor and with the water services board.

2). Climate Change Teach-ins

After the PAR Training, we have had a Climate Change Teach – in session in Huruma. The main outputs of this teach in, was multi fold:

- To reflect on the PAR training especially the experience, lessons and appreciation of how this can inform the work that they are engaging in.
- In 2009, in the run up to the Copenhagen Summit, we held a live interactive virtual teleconferencing from Huruma with delegates at the Conference and Kilimaforum CSO space. This meeting was an exploratory consultation on the opportunity to do the same in the run up to Durban.
- This teach in agreed that while climate change was a major challenge especially for

the vulnerable, it was still important to continue the community initiatives that were building capacity on the understanding around climate change and especially the political dimensions of the debate, since lately a lot more organizations were active on the ground all talking about climate change.

- Another core output of this was understanding the community expectations' more specifically after the PAR training. This is as relates to the set of expectations highlighted during the PAR Training and rationalizing this to concrete achievable and attainable outputs.
- We have also met with the core community organizations that are directly working in relation to this project. These are namely the Youth Garbage Collection Initiative, the Car Wash team at Kambi Moto Village and at Kiamaiko and the Muungano wa Wanavijiji.

The student seconded to KENDREN by the university has already held planning and coordination meetings with us and has been on an immersion and induction visit to Huruma.

A joint work plan has been developed with the student and it has equally been agreed that he will be involved during the debt clinics and other activities that KENDREN carries out in the area. This has also been amplified through joint meetings that have continued to be held by the whole CCAA team in Nairobi mainly under the stewardship of Prof. Ndegwa at UON.

Thus far, the project has elicited a number of challenges through experiences in implementation:

- The delayed engagement with student in terms of immersion in the local community and liaison/partnership with the organization has meant that this has slowed down the progress at the inception level. This has now happened and things are moving smoothly between KENDREN-Student-Community.
- The PAR training whereas it served to inform and generate an understanding with the community members, it has also raised expectations of which some might not be tenable within the lifetime of the project.
- Some community members have been reluctant to be involved feeling that they are the object of study.
- In Huruma, water is viewed as a market community and there are major contestations around this. This has in a big way slowed progress since we first have had to navigate through these deep seated community dynamics.

In terms of lessons learnt:

- It is important to involve the community in the process of designing the project so that they have a clearer understanding of their roles and responsibilities.
- University – NGO – Student working framework is a new model that is both innovative and interesting. But all the same it is good to give some lead time to deal with the teething issues.
- Broadly, there is need to have a framework of deliverables that the community feels is beneficial to them. Whether it facilitating access to information, to decision makers, etc. Communities all too often measure progress on tangibles.
- There is need to document project outputs and successes in way that is easily consumable to the community.
- A recurring question is on what happens beyond the project expiry in terms of

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sustainability.

Conclusion

The project now has the hindsight of lessons learnt and intends to move forward in the next implementation phase in a more coordinated and smooth manner.

Consistently a backward forward information sharing mechanism will be established in the upcoming phase so as to make sure that outputs are readily realized.

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