

Community Initiative Action Group-Kenya (CIAG)

Capacity Statement 2023



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Ants, Bees and Spiders; Our Roots

Ants, Bees and Spiders is the theme of the 2019-2024 CIAG Strategic Plan. In it, CIAG will transform the vulnerable (ants) into an army that demands their rights. They will be able to use their constitutional rights and powers (bees) to hold their leaders to account. It will network with other organizations (Spiders web) to achieve a dignified and just society.

Community Initiative Action Group-Kenya (CIAG-K) is a non-state agency and not-for-profit organization founded in 2008 with main purpose of implementing dynamic and innovative programs that have greatest change in the lives of communities living at the pyramid and organizations that target this group in Kenya. It is registered under the Laws of Kenya as Trust. CIAG-Kenya's' main goal is to support citizen's efforts in order to build a self-sustaining alternative sector in Kenya and to raise the competence of community institutions and their representatives for quality service delivery. The initiative focuses on creating long lasting positive impact by implementing programs in four strategic areas namely; Democracy and Good Governance, Promoting Equity, Diversity and Inclusion,

Environment and natural Resource Management (protecting environment, promoting climate change adaptation strategies and sustainable practices in the extractive sector); and promoting and Defending Rights. The initiative conducts evidence-based research, analysis, training, and advocacy and facilitating debates in different aspects of civic duties and responsibilities, social justice, economic, human rights and social policy areas. The initiative does this by building relationships with stakeholders and tapping into alternative systems of social justice in order to develop social capital.

CIAG seeks to become people's voice in counties in which it operates. CIAG capitalises on open engagement strategy that will involve dialogue with

duty bearers including gate keepers and opinion shaper. It will apply pressure through social media and by leveraging the opinions of its constituent that comprise over 150 community groups and 190 advocacy and social change champions that are a key resource to CIAG-Kenya.

Vision: The organization's vision is *a just and dignified society in which citizens realize their full potential and basic needs are met for all.*

Mission: CIAG's mission is *Empowering communities, organizations and social interest groups to transform societies for the benefit of the vulnerable and marginalized.*

Our competencies

We are guided by our core values the initiative believes will provide the impetus to achieve results.

Our Core Values:

- ♦ **Integrity-** We will always uphold honesty, transparency, reliability and consistency in our conduct, actions and dealings.
- ♦ **Transparency and Accountability-**We always remain accountable to our membership, communities and partners. We promote openness and look into and self-discipline ourselves and learn from our shortcomings with a view of improving and avoiding repeating the same mistakes.
- ♦ **Support for recognition of equity, social justice and human rights-**Driven by people center-development principals, we work towards increasing visibility of vulnerable communities' members
- ♦ **Recognition, Respect for indigenous knowledge, creativity and innovation-**We value local knowledge systems seasoned into wisdom over many years of practice and thoughts. We also believe that a fundamental requirement for growth and development lies in inspiring creativity and innovations among the rural communities and those who

work with them.

- ♦ **Commitment to Action, result and impact:** Unless we create positive change, CIAG-Kenya has no cause to exist. We are committed and determined to bring about the upliftment of rural communities so that they lead better dignified lives.
- ♦ **Partnership, Networking and Collaboration-**We recognize the roles played by other development partners. We believe that for sustainable development, we must link and work with other partners at County, national, regional and international levels.
- ♦ **People Centered Development -**We aspires to carry out development that is rooted in the interests, hearts and minds of communities we work with. Their deep participation is central to our work founded on the premise and believe that people are capable of thinking and changing their destinies.
- ♦ **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in development-**We live and work to remove all forms of discrimination, gender disparities, unfair practices and promote equity, inclusion and rights-based approach in development.

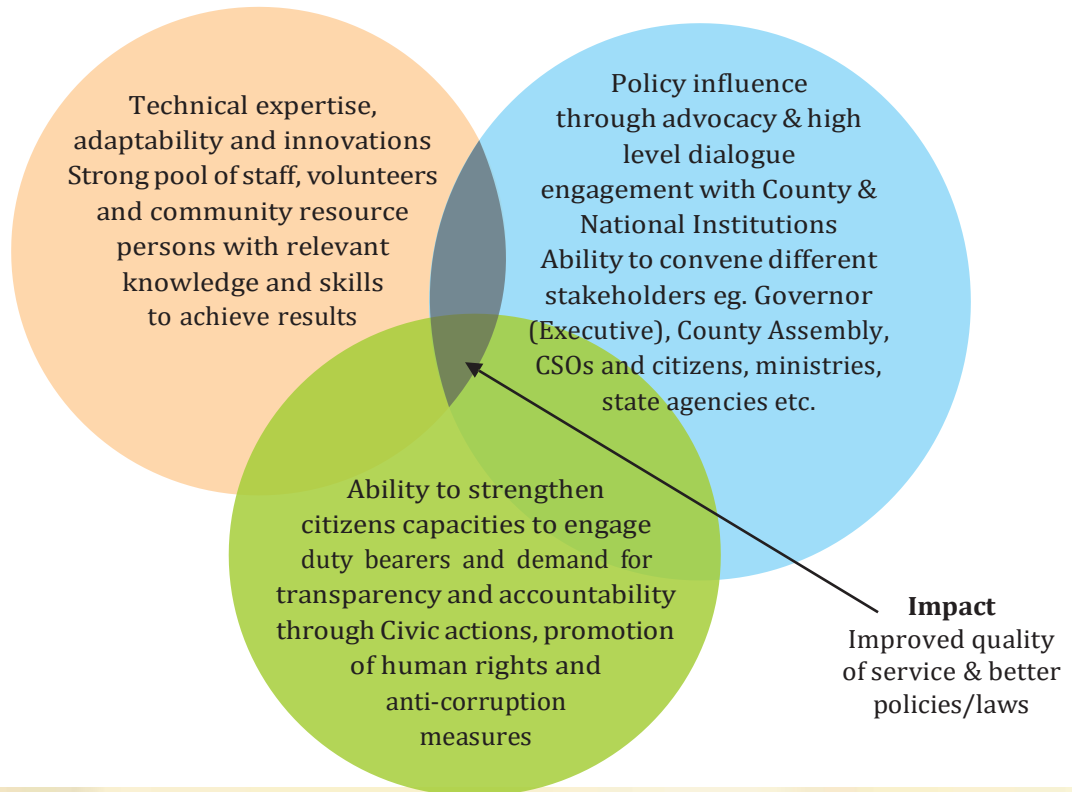
Our key our strengths and competencies lie in CIAG-K's ability to deliver results. We have;

- i. Highly staff with technical expertise and capable pool of volunteers/resource persons with ability to facilitate communities to demand for their rights and to participate in the budget and decision making and governance processes.
- ii. Ability to influence policy and convene stakeholders to engage with duty bearers to voice their issues through engagement structures like the Ward Accountability Forum, County Budget and Economic Forum, Sector/Thematic Working Groups, Governors' and Speakers' Round Table mechanisms, and
- iii. Greater community presence with adequate capacity to strengthen citizens call to action

and exercise their civic duty and rights by generating citizen actions to demand for transparency and accountability in the

planning, allocation and utilization of public resources for better service delivery.

Our strengths and competencies



Our strategic focus

We create in impacts four strategic areas of focus namely;

- i. **Democracy and Good Governance.**
- ii. **Promoting Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**
- iii. **Environment and natural Resource Management** (protecting environment, promoting climate change adaptation strategies and sustainable practices in the extractive sector)
- iv. **Promoting and Defending Rights**-ensuring key institutions uphold the rule of law, human rights social justice and land rights and access to quality services in education, Health, livelihood and Social Services sectors.

Our approaches:

CIAG-K will continue using advocacy as its signature approach. Advocacy will be complemented by other approaches including partnerships development, capacity building and civic engagement.

Advocacy: CIAG-K undertakes evidence-based advocacy aimed at improving the policy and legislative environment that would enhance better service delivery, integrity and accountability of leadership and institutions to the public.

Civic engagement: CIAG-K engages the public through a variety of ways aimed at ensuring that the public understands the full meaning of corruption and can take action to curb it. Our civic engagement approaches include sensitization and education,

public interest litigation and public petitions.

Partnerships: CIAG-K has been and will continue to strengthen partnerships with a variety of stakeholders ranging from small community support groups, religious organizations, civil society organizations, government institutions and international networks with whom we share the common vision to deliver our mandates which include; promoting good governance, transparency and accountability, civic engagement and action; strengthening the rule of law anti-corruption measures.

2019–2024 Strategic focus priority sector and impact

We aim to contribute to nine (9) sustainable development goal (SDGs) by creating impact in seven sectors.

These are:

1. Sustainable development goal # 1-No poverty.
2. Sustainable development goal # 2 -Zero Hunger.
3. Sustainable development goal # 3-Good Health and Well Being.
4. Sustainable development goal # 4 Quality Education
5. Sustainable development goal # 6 Water and Sanitation
6. Sustainable development goal # 10-Reduced Inequalities
7. Sustainable development goal # 12-Sustainable Consumption and Production
8. Sustainable development goal # 13-Climate Action.
9. Sustainable development goal # 16-Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Our actions seek to reduce poverty and inequalities in communities we work in, thus cuts across all the sectors.

The Seven Sectors we create impact are presented below:

Education and Growth Sector: The education sector

is by all means one of the most important sectors, mainly because it has a direct relation to all other sectors, and therefore risks that compromise its quality have direct implications on the quality of service provided in other sectors. With the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 the education sector has to reform and adjust to the demands of the constitution. Our approach involves working with oversight bodies and civil society organizations to increase government and stakeholders' responsiveness and improve accountability in the planning, allocation and approval processes in the utilization of educational resources both financial and non-financial targeting to benefits pre-school children, primary and secondary school learners and youth in vocational training institutes. We therefore seek to lobby for the implementation of Education for all (EFA) goals as articulated in the Jomtien Declaration in 1990 and the Dakar Framework of Action 2000 and we work towards the implementation of sustainable development goals.

Water Sector: Governance in this sector is particularly important, not only ability to rise out of poverty, but because if service provision is neglected, it can result in devastating declines in social and economic welfare and reverse gains made on this front. Lack of access to portable water has a direct impact on the health of people and nations. Safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030 requires we invest in adequate infrastructure, provide sanitation facilities, and encourage hygiene. Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems is essential. We will work to improve governance in the sector that is anchored on a strong policy and legal framework that entrenches citizen participation, transparency, accountability. To promote good governance in the water sector and provide a unified framework for activity at different levels of the governance agenda, efforts will go beyond tracking of the outcomes of these processes. This will contribute to sustainable goal # 6 (Water and Sanitation).

Extractive Sector: The extractive industry includes the development and exploitation of natural resources including renewable (water, forestry, wildlife, and fisheries) and non-renewable natural resources (coal, oil, gas and minerals). We target streamlining governance and sustainable management of natural resources by supporting and influencing development of effective policies and legislation, strengthening management in relevant public institutions and promoting civic and private sector engagement. (which SDG does this fall).

Climate Change Finance Governance Sector: Climate change has been identified as the worst disaster facing the world today. Kenya is among developing countries worst hit by its effects. CIAG-K will continue to work with public institutions involved in climate finance with the aim of putting in place stronger governance systems and enhancing transparency and accountability in processes addressing climate change. We will engage with government to ensure implementation of the National Climate Change Policy and the National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan. This sector will contribute to sustainable development goal # 13 (Climate Action)

Health Sector: We endeavor to improve management health facilities by strengthening the capacity of citizens to monitor health service provision and demand quality services. Health of citizens is key in achieving results in all the other sectors. As the saying goes, “a healthy nation is a wealthy nation”, we work with communities to undertake social audit processes in health facilities so as to improve access to quality services by identifying gaps and challenges faced by health workers and health service users with a view of making recommendations on how best this can be addressed by duty bearers thus contributing to sustainable development goal # 3 (Good Health and Well Being).

Food security and Livelihoods: We strive to work with communities to engage government to develop

mechanisms that will make the community to be more food secure by developing measures that will protect the livelihood of the community by safeguarding their socio-economic base. Our spans the areas of agriculture, where we works with national and devolved institutions to formulate and implement policies that provide small holder farmers with necessary incentives and subsidies so that they establish sustainable food production systems enough to feed their families and extra to sell. In trade we work with small-scale traders including mama *mbogas* and roadside hawker to engage the government to provide necessary infrastructure and conducive environment to run their businesses thus contributing directly to sustainable development goal # 2 and # 12 (Zero Hunger, and Sustainable Consumption and Production).

Democracy, Governance, Rule of Law and Land Rights Sector: We work to open up new democratic



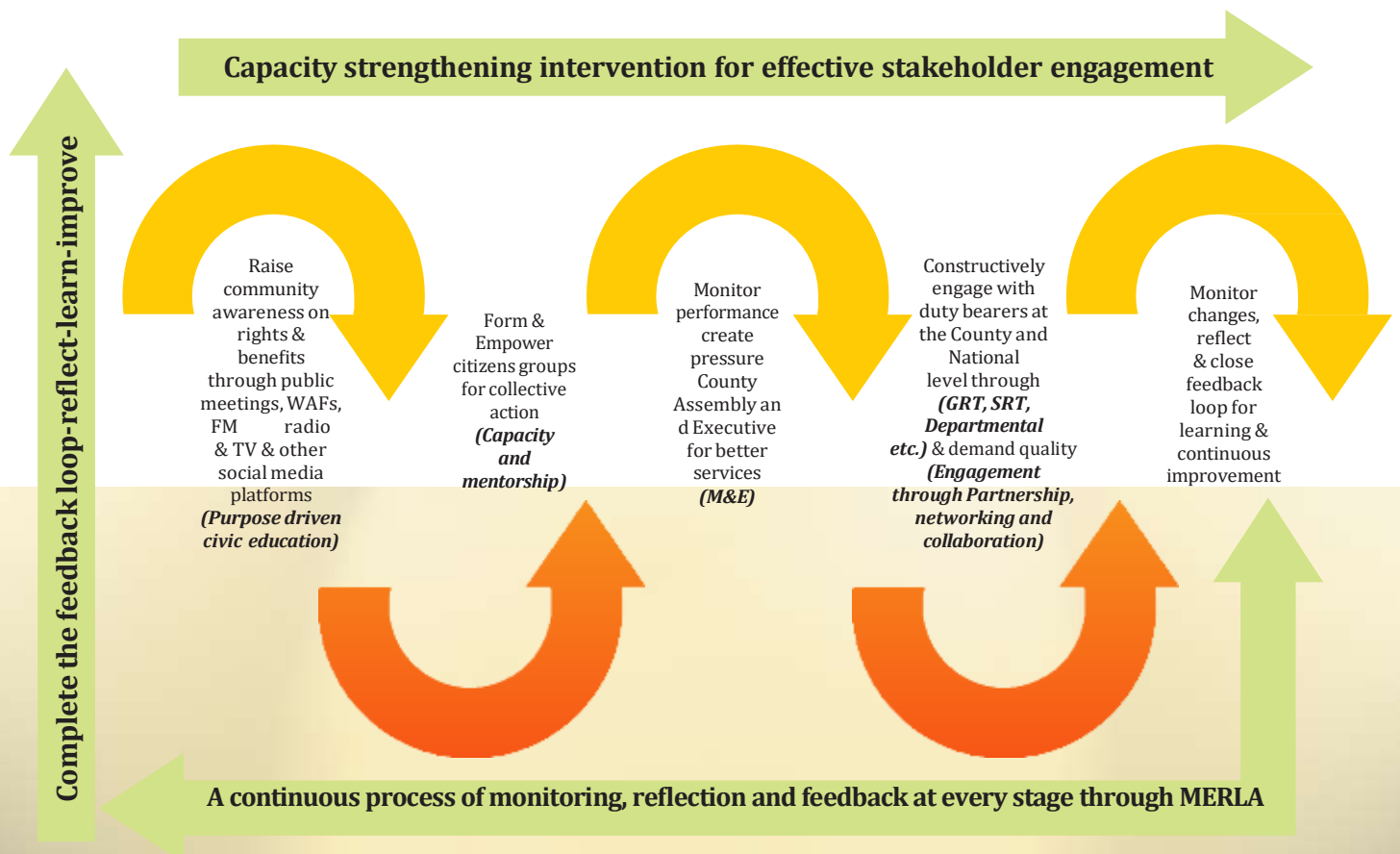
and strengthen existing spaces that foster good governance, preserve the rule of law, protect property and land rights by ensuring access to justice. We work to have strong institutions that are effective, accountable and transparent institutions that promote responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. Strong and vibrant governance institutions remain key determinants that facilitates success in all the sectors that we work in. This will contribute to

Sustainable development goal # 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

CIAG-K believes that effective citizen participation can only occur in an environment where mechanisms and avenues exist and citizens can air out their views openly whenever they want to influence policy changes, development priorities, budget and governance processes.

To achieve its long-term goal and vision, CIAG-K theory of change therefore seeks influence policy

change, promote citizen engagement and action and demand for transparency and accountability in the use of public resources and provision of services to citizens. CIAG-K recognizes that low levels of awareness and ignorance among citizens on the roles and responsibilities in the county budget-making and governance processes are major obstacles that limits the realization of the full benefits of devolution as envisaged in the Constitution of Kenya 2010. This denies citizens opportunities to reap maximally with respect to public participation spaces provided and have no capacity to hold their leaders to account for their actions.



Key:		MERLA:	Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, Learning and Adaptation
FM:	Frequency Modulation	TV:	Television
GRT:	Governors Round Table	WAFs:	Ward Accountability Forum
SRT:	Speakers Round Table		

There are three elements to CIAG-K's theory of change which will contribute to the overall vision:

1. Influencing policy change
2. Citizen Engagement and Action

3. Promoting Transparency and Accountability

1. Influencing policy change

We advocate for Government to develop and

implement evidence-based policies that promote accessibility, equity and inclusive quality Service delivery for all in a friendly and protective environment.

Strategies for policy influencing

Developing an Evidence Base: CIAG-K generates evidence-based advocacy through research, policy and budget analysis, and by piloting innovative initiatives.

Government Engagement: We use evidence to develop policy and make budget recommendations to government. We engage government directly through conferences, policy forums, and strategic dialogue meetings through house committees and round tables to stimulate national debate and seek commitments from citizens and their leaders.

Creating Awareness: CIAG-K produce evidence-based media campaigns targeting both citizens and policy makers with messages and calls to action. We utilise a number of platforms including publications, television, national and local radio, and social media.

CIAG-K's advocacy influenced contributed to the drafting and enacting of the following legislations.

1. Siaya County Public Participation and Petitions Act 2015
2. Siaya County Participation regulations 2021
3. Siaya County Health Service Act 2018,
4. Siaya County Education Bursary Act, 2016:

5. Siaya County Early Childhood Education Bill
6. Siaya County Disability Bill 2018
7. Adolescent and Maternal Health Bill 2021
8. Siaya County Project Management Bill 2019
9. Establishment and constitution of CBEF in 2019
10. Lake Region Economic Block Bill
11. Siaya County Finance and Appropriation Bills 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21
12. Kisumu County Finance and appropriation bills 2019/20 and 2020/21
13. Siaya County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2019/20 and 2020/21
14. Kisumu County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2019/20 and 2020/21
15. Siaya County Village Administration Bill 20219

2. Citizen Engagement and Action

We promote citizen participation in the provision and monitoring of equitable, inclusive and development.

We work through our grassroots network of citizens groups (Community based organizations and individuals who volunteer their time and skills to transform service delivery) we empower and enhance the voice and participation of all citizens particularly the marginalized because of their gender, socio-economic status etc. so that they can assume ownership of their development and to advance democracy. We achieve this by:

Engagement platform/structure	Key Outcomes/achievements
	Accountability fora in 12 out the 30 wards in Siaya County
	WAF have become uniting point where residents from all villages consult and quality-of-service delivery at the ward level.
	Initiated the process of registering WAFs in six (6) wards namely; Ukwala, North Ugenya, East Gem, West Gem, North Alego, West Alego and West Uyoma
	The quality of citizen participation and input in key budget documents improved. For instance, the community made submissions in the development of 2018-2022 CIDP, budget estimates for the period 2017/2018/ and 2019/2020, formulation of CFSP for the period 2018/2019, 2020/201.

	For the very first time, citizens from Nyalenda ward held a meeting on 26 th April, 2019 in Joel Omino Hall in Kisumu County with their ward administrator whom they have never met before and raised their issue
	Increased number of civic action cases: a number of civic actions and corruption cases reported or highlighted by citizen
	Reduced discrimination of any nature within our communities
	Increased Civic responsibility and high level of awareness of citizens on how Government works and the role of citizens in making sure that they get quality service delivery.
	Improved communication and feedback on issues raised by citizens and CSOs through civic action resulting in responses from duty bearers to more than 200 civic actions raised.
	Improved school performance of girls (due to improved attendance (in some schools, girls are in the top 10 learners for first time ever)
	Men and boys speaking up for girls' and women rights
	Improved learning environments in early childhood development education centres and vocation training centres
<i>County CSO Network (SCCSON) and Kisumu County Coalition for Good Governance:</i>	Highly coalesced and better coordinated CSOs in Siaya and Kisumu County that speak with one voice instead of pursuing a fragmented approach previously applied where CSOs engages with the CG resulting in greater harmonization of CSO work plans and reduced competition and duplication efforts.
	Capacities of more than 25 CSOs strengthened that enabled them to engage with duty bearers in over 75 high level dialogue meetings as a result of increased ability to engage end influence decision-making using evidence-based advocacy skills
	Better understanding of the network through development of network Operational Plan 2020-2022 to support and guide the network advocacy work
	Increased CSOs participation and input in formulation of specific policy and budget documents as demonstrated in their increased contributed to the formulation of County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2017-2022), Budget Estimates, County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP), finance bills 2018/19; 2019/20; 2020/21; and 2021/22, Annual Development Plans (ADPs) for the year 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/202, and reviewed quarterly budget implementation reports
	Improved the working relationship between CSOs and the Siaya and Kisumu County Government.
	Increased responsiveness and adoption of input and action on petitions from CSOs due to improved quality input.
	More than 15 policies and laws were enacted and operationalized due to increased engagement and CSOs' influence
	Improved working relationships between the executive and CSOs where for the first time CIAG-K together with SCCSON engaged the county government from a point of mutual understanding and cooperation as opposed to the usual adversarial and antagonistic stand where the county treats CSOS with suspicions and mistrust.
	Increased citizen and CSOs participation in the County budget and development planning and implementation due to recognition of the complementary work undertaken by CSOs. For example, Siaya County Government has since 2018 invited CSOs to work with the Directorate of Public Participation during public participation events on the county budget
	6 sub-county accountability forums facilitated by budget champions and organized by the CSO's Network which provided platforms for the leaders (MCA's, Sub-County Admins and Ward Admins) to have feedback sessions with the citizens in Siaya.

<i>Governors Round Table</i>	Facilitating high level engagement by through 4 GRTs (2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021) to discuss the state of devolution and service delivery to citizens in SC and how the County can leverage on interventions by CSOs
	As a result of GRTs, over 90% of the issues raised during the round tables were addressed.
	CBEF was constituted and now operational,
	Three (3) annual 'State of the County' address to Siaya County Assembly were made by the Governor which the CSO advocated for
	Enhanced National and County leadership that is effective, accountable and transparent, responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
<i>Land Rights Campaign advocacy</i>	Hosting legal aid clinics on land rights within Siaya and Kisumu Counties
	Enhancing Civic Education on land rights within the communities
	Facilitating discussions between Court user committees and the communities
	Working with the media to create awareness on the issues of land rights
	Documenting various form of land rights issues for the purposes of advocacy
	Working on Public land grabs in Kisumu and Siaya Counties

3. Transparency and Accountability

We promote and advocate for transparency and accountability in the provision of quality services to citizens. Our approach aims to increase government and stakeholders' responsiveness and openness in their actions. Our approach involves working with oversight bodies and CSOs to improve the transparency in budget planning, allocation and implementation phases and influence the approval and expenditure of public resources/budgets towards effective service delivery.

We work with communities to hold the duty bearers (County and National government and and leaders)



accountable by engaging citizens through Ward Accountability Forum to implement Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) and Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETS) tools to monitor accountability levels specifically on the utilization of resources allocated by the government against funding spent on activities or projects planned. This is aimed at combating mismanagement of public resources. We engage County Executive and MCAs before, during and after the budgeting process to influence budget allocation, approval and disbursement. We conduct pre and post budget engagements and share the reports with MCAs to inform their discussions during budget sessions. Once budgets are approved, we focus on oversight bodies, such as Local Government Authorities (LGAs), head teachers and school committees and boards of management, building their capacity to understand policies, budget making processes and their roles in implementation.

Key strategies

- ♦ Use of social accountability tools particularly SAM and PETS
- ♦ Administration of community score cards

- ♦ Pre and post budget hearing
- ♦ Developing Petitions, memorandum and complain letters.

Key Achievements:

- ♦ Petitions submitted to the County Executive on stalled or delayed projects, sub-standard work done by contractors especially on infrastructure projects, and low investments in the youth skills development that had stalled or delayed fast tracked and completed, action was taken against contractors doing shoddy work and in some cases contracts terminated; and renovated nine (9) VTIs in FY 2020/21.
- ♦ Increased budgetary allocation to youth empowerment and skills development projects like vocation training education. For example, Siaya County increased budgetary allocation through VTIs training from Ksh 3 million to Ksh 10 million-the highest amount was ever allocated to vocational training.
- ♦ Established Directorate of Public Participation and equipped it with staff to lead the citizen engagement between rights holders and CSOs on one hand and respective County Ministries and Departments as a result of the Governor directing CECs and departmental heads to follow up on issues that cannot be tackled in GRT plenary and provide feedback within specific timelines.
- ♦ Developed status reports from 5 sectors which documented the status of sectors namely; Health & Sanitation, Agriculture, Food, Livestock and fisheries and Education, Youth affairs and social service; and which were used to engage the Governor to address accountability and service delivery issues in Siaya and Kisumu County.
- ♦ Community Score Card (CSC) reports on Rabar Health Centre and state of service delivery in Siaya County were also disseminated. Improved the quality of services provided to citizens due the county taking actions to enact and implement at 15 legislations and policies and more than 15 petitions
- ♦ Strengthened Transparency and Accountability at the County and national level: Our interventions have led to improved transparency and accountability and reduced corruption in service delivery While at the national level budget transparency improved between 2017 and 2018 – 2019 saw a shift as the government joining the Open Government Partnership.
- ♦ CIAG-K provided free legal aid clinics and reached more than 3,000 people through its outreach programs with legal advice on land succession cases, human rights and abuse case and corruption cases; handled more than 200 succession and land cases in Siaya County.
- ♦ WAF's and civil society networks developed structures for transparency and systems to expose and take action against those who misuse funds or engage in corrupt dealings.





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