

# SNV

**VOICE FOR CHANGE PARTNERSHIP (V4CP) KENYA**

**STORIES OF CHANGE**

**2016-2020**

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# V4CP

## Focus Areas

Food & Nutrition  
Security

Resilience

Renewable Energy

Water, Sanitation &  
Hygiene (WASH)



# INTRODUCTION

## Voice for Change Partnership (V4CP)

Civil society organisations (CSOs) represent citizens at a local, national and international level. Through the Voice for Change Partnership (V4CP), SNV strengthens the capacities of CSOs to effectively voice their views in a dynamic and increasingly global context through evidence-based advocacy. Together, we contribute to structural change and effective solutions to ensure that the interests of low-income and marginalised communities are included in government and business policies and practices.

The V4CP set out in 2016 and is an initiative implemented by a strategic partnership which includes SNV, the International Food Policy and Research Institute (IFPRI), the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including the Embassies of the Kingdom of the Netherlands), and 52 locally based civil society organisations (CSOs).



# STRENGTHENING CSOs CAPACITIES

The programme addresses four themes: Food and Nutrition Security, Renewable Energy, Resilience, and Sanitation, while also addressing gender balance and climate change mitigation as mainstreamed themes. The programme is implemented in in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya and Rwanda.

## V4CP in Kenya

The V4CP supported national and sub-national CSOs to foster collaboration among relevant stakeholders, influence agenda-setting and hold the government and private sector accountable for their promises

and actions. This publication narrates the five-year journey by documenting the work and achievements of the V4CP programme in Kenya, where we partnered with nine civil society organisations and various CSO networks at county level. These stories of change illustrate how CSOs contributed to improving the enabling environment for policy, social accountability and civic driven actions.

Together with IFPRI and local research institutions, CSOs were trained to use evidence such as research, data and lessons learned to back up their advocacy strategies. We look forward, even as the project comes to an end, to see these CSOs continue their civic engagement interventions.



**John Masinde**

Programme Manager, V4CP Programme  
SNV Netherlands Development Organisation

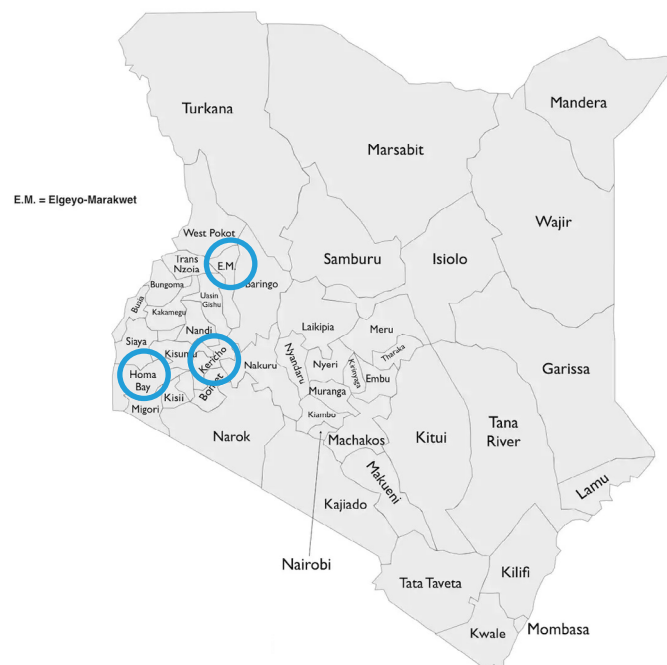


**WATER,  
SANITATION  
& HYGIENE  
(WASH)**

# The role of evidence in advocacy: Targeted evidence to improve sanitation in Kenya

## Background

This story is about how the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) and county-based Civil Society Organisations networks (CSO networks) used locally generated evidence on poor sanitation in Kericho, Homa Bay and Elgeyo Marakwet counties to advocate for improved sanitation. Below map shows Counties targeted.



## Low priority for good sanitation

Access to sanitation in Kenya continues to be a major challenge.

### Overall sanitation coverage in Kenya<sup>1</sup>

**31%** Average coverage **32%** Rural coverage

**27%** Urban coverage

The low levels of access to improved sanitation have been linked to low levels of investments and a lack of prioritisation for the sanitation sector. This is coupled with a lack of accountability and transparency mechanisms and poor inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms between the Ministries of Water & Sanitation and Irrigation, of Health, and of Environment and Natural Resources.



*Sewage waste in Homa Bay County. Photo by the V4CP.*

1. This is according to a 2018 analysis conducted by the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation.

## Building WASH capacity

The goal of the Voice for Change Partnership (V4CP) programme is to increase access to improved sanitation in Kenya by enhancing the capacity of CSOs to generate evidence and advocate for change.

While the IEA were experts in research and budget tracking, they did not have previous experience in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector. They attended capacity building workshops organised by SNV, read various policy documents and reports on WASH and attended national and international conferences to

*A resident at Shauri Yako talking to CSOs in Homa Bay about sanitation. Photo by V4CP.*

improve their thematic knowledge on sanitation. IEA also actively participated in research on the effects of poor sanitation, which increased their knowledge of sanitation issues in Kenyan counties.



*"It was inspiring to see how the evidence generation process awoke the realisation on how important sanitation is. After conducting the research I heard IEA staff talk about sanitation matters with passion and conviction while launching the study findings during the 41st WEDC Conference at Egerton University."*

Reinilde Eppinga, SNV WASH Advisor.





## Strengthening local civil society



Sharing results of the sanitation study during the SNV, IEA & Centre for Population Health Research and Management (CPHR) during the 41st WEDC Conference. Photo by V4CP.

## Study on sanitation

Poor sanitation is linked to diarrhoeal diseases, which are among the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in children under the age of five. In Kenya, according to the Water and Sanitation Programme (2012), an estimated 19,500 people die every year because of diarrhoea. This includes 17,100 children. In nearly all of these cases, the diarrhoea is attributed to poor sanitation and hygiene practices. Water and sanitation-related diseases in Elgeyo Marakwet, Homa Bay and Kericho counties impact the lives of people in many ways.

People that die every year because of diarrhoea in Kenya

**19,500**

Which includes **17,100** children

Through working with the CSO networks on the ground it was evident that the correlation between poor sanitation and effects on well-being, health and the environment was poorly understood.

Therefore, V4CP commissioned research work on the state of sanitation at the county level to produce evidence that would increase awareness and lead to prioritisation of sanitation at both the community and government level.



*"In Kericho County, the issue of sanitation was the worst. The number of sanitation facilities in the market was not enough to serve the huge population."*

Winnie Korir (left). Kericho County Community leader. Photo by ADRES Group.

The case-control study understanding the effects of poor sanitation on public health, the environment, and well-being in Kenya was conducted in 2018 by the CPHRM in close collaboration with SNV, IEA and the local CSO network members and county government representatives. It found that poor sanitation and related illnesses have an impact on farming and income-generating activities, with adult caregivers reporting that diarrhoea in children disrupted their normal economic activities and incurred extra household expenses.



Poor sanitation at the Kericho open-air market. Photo by V4CP.

The study recommended the need to ensure universal access to improved sanitation, strengthened community-led sanitation initiatives, monitoring as well as improving the quality of water at source and household level. It also called for the promotion of handwashing with soap and providing financial and social support for socially excluded persons to be able to access sanitation and water services.

### Using evidence to advocate for improved sanitation

Evidence collected was validated with CSOs and government representatives to increase ownership. Key information and messages were packaged in a series of advocacy-ready products ranging from the Synthesis and County Report to Geographic Information System (GIS) booklets, Shit Flow Diagrams (SFDs), policy briefs, case studies and factsheets. Each of these products had their target audience and occasion for sharing.

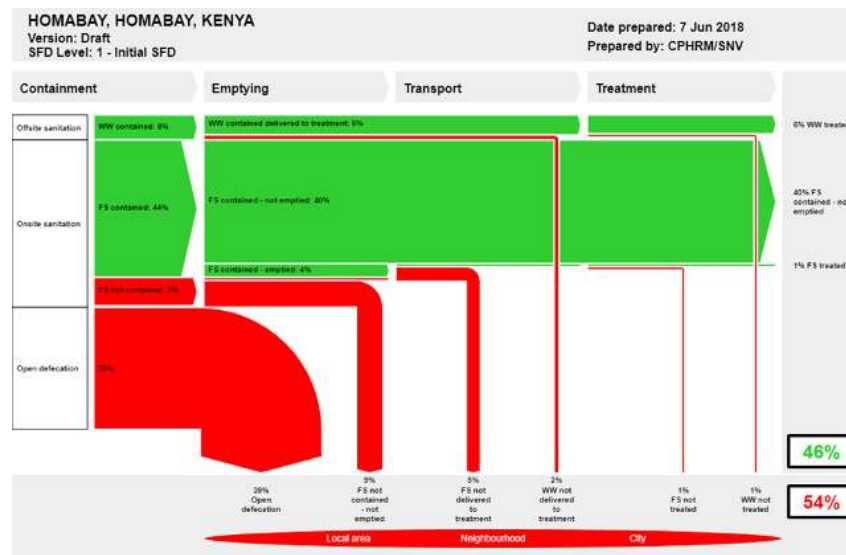
*“Before this project, sanitation in Kericho was extremely poor. Some people did not have latrines and pooped in bushes, while others consumed dirty water without treating it. The elderly and children were the most affected by diseases related to poor sanitation. So, I got interested in preventing diseases associated with poor sanitation. After attending several training sessions by IEA, I helped people to mitigate crises by showing them how to treat water for domestic use.”*  
Grace Cheptoo, a community leader, Kericho County.



A participant (left) making a presentation during the advocacy training in Kericho County in September 2018. Photo by IEA.

*“Evidence generation was of value. We attended public participation forums on sanitation, and it opened our eyes that there are a lot of issues that we should talk about and address. A lot of community members have been the value of this project because they can see things from a different perspective.”*

Joseph Kosgei, a community member, Elgeyo Marakwet County.



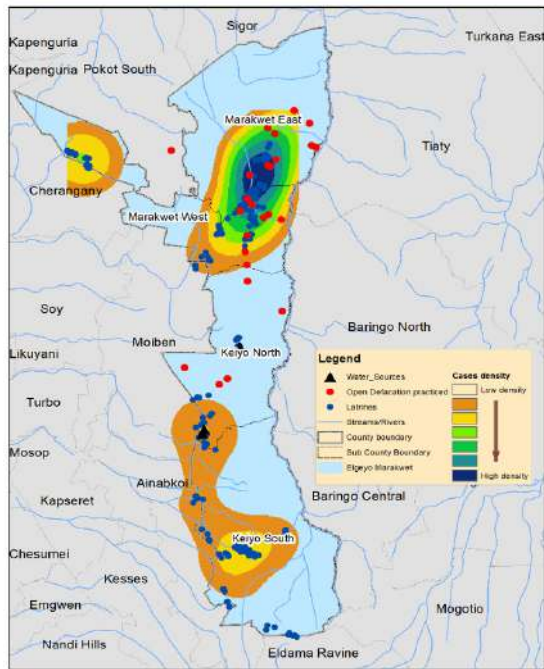
An example of an SFD used in Homa Bay. By VACP.

### Shit Flow Diagrams (SFD)

IEA made presentations to Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) and County Executive Committee (CEC) members on SFD, a tool used to show local governments how all excreta generated in a city is or is not contained as it moves from defecation to disposal or end-use. This process increased awareness on the quantities of sludge ‘disappearing’ into the environment and communities.

### GIS maps

Presentations were also made using GIS maps showing the distribution of diarrhoea cases and controls in each county. This made it possible for the Public Health Officers to identify potential areas of diarrhoeal diseases and cholera outbreaks for targeted interventions to prevent outbreaks.



An example of a GIS map showing Elgeyo Marakwet diarrhoea cases. By V4CP.

## Evidence-based proposals

CSOs have continuously used the evidence generated to share proposals for improved sanitation during public hearings and other key county-level forums as well as with individual decision-makers and MCAs.

The sanitation study highlighted the need for local information. The CSO networks have continued generating their evidence to address emerging needs. The V4CP programme supported the creation of advocacy factsheets by CSO networks with the support of a communication expert. According to the members of the Litare Beach Management Unit in Homa Bay, for example, this resulted in policymakers to realise the poor state of sanitation at the beach despite its huge contribution to the counties revenue.

## Local leaders appreciate advocacy efforts

In June 2018, an increased sanitation budget of Ksh. 50 million (roughly 400,000 EUR) was allocated in Kericho County, with the Members of the County Assembly attributing this to the project's study findings

and subsequent advocacy efforts. As a result of the sanitation advocacy work, members of the community became more aware of sanitation issues and how to avoid contracting diseases related to poor sanitation.

When the Elgeyo Marakwet County government realised that there was the need to improve water quality by conducting regular water testing in their county, it requested for the development of water testing guidelines as part of the study's outputs. The water testing results in Kericho led the government to explore options on how to improve water testing and ultimately water quality.

**SNV**

Guidelines for Water Quality Testing and Monitoring  
A Practical Guide to the Design and Implementation of Drinking Water Quality Studies and Monitoring Programme



*"The study into the effects of poor sanitation and subsequent validation and dissemination forums highlighted the relationship of poor water quality and sanitation-related diseases in Kericho County. This awareness led to the county government to prioritise water quality."*

Ruth Wambui, the Africa Regional Manager at Wagtech.

SNV linked the county government to Wagtech Africa who organised a water testing demonstration and field-testing day in Kericho County, with participants from all relevant ministries, and institutions such as the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and CSOs. The water testing exercise showed contamination in the water consumed by the county residents, resulting in a commitment to allocate budget for more water testing kits in the subsequent financial year.



*Ruth Wambui (top) collecting water samples during the field-testing demonstration. Photo by VACP.*

### Media supports awareness creation

In May 2019, CSOs networks in collaboration with informed county government officials brought to the fore issues of water, sanitation, and hygiene in their counties for a media feature story. After reviewing the sanitation study report, Dr Mercy Korir, a Health Reporter visited Elgeyo Marakwet, Homa Bay, and Kericho County to collect sanitation stories and used the same to develop a health documentary titled 'The Price of Poop', which was aired on Kenya Television Network (KTN) prime time. KTN is one of the most-watched television channels in Kenya.

The documentary led to awareness creation around the poor state of sanitation in Keiyo valley, Elgeyo Marakwet, and the lack of sanitation facilities in Shauri Yako slums,

Homa Bay County. Similarly, it highlighted the lack of sanitation facilities in the Kericho town open-air market. As a result, the Kericho County government put up latrines in the market.

### Lessons learnt

During the WASH advocacy activities in the three counties, CSOs learnt that it is important to involve all key stakeholders in the data collection, validation, and dissemination phases of evidence generation. This ensures ownership and increases the level of use of the generated evidence. The validation process gives room for correction of misinformation to avoid misreporting. It is also important to work closely with critical and local change agents such as policymakers to achieve change at the community level.

There is a need for localised information and data. 'Own' data has power when it comes to creating an understanding of 'our' problem and challenges. Localised information also makes the situation more relatable and real. It prompts intervention from the policymakers for policy interventions and behaviour change for members of the community since it gives a feel of "our problem our solution."

Evidence generation will be a continuous process which can be picked up by local civil society. The case study fact sheets are an example of localised evidence creation for advocacy purposes.

To ensure sustainability in advocacy work for increased access to improved sanitation, it was crucial to involve, train and expose local CSOs on how to do evidence-based advocacy. This leads to increased skills and capacities that ensure continuous and sustainable advocacy efforts using locally generated evidence. Value-adding evidence is demand-driven evidence.

The use of vernacular and local languages is important in advocacy and awareness creation. This ensures no one is left out during advocacy especially in the rural areas.

The media is also a powerful partner in the dissemination of information. They can reach a critical mass of people and influence decisions if used well. However, there is a need to sensitise the media on reporting for various thematic sectors and cross-checking information before reporting. This avoids misreporting which interferes with the authenticity of research findings, uptake levels and influence.

### Future plans

IEA and CSO Network members now have the knowledge and skills to continue with evidence-advocacy activities to ensure increased access to improved sanitation. In Kericho, Homa Bay and Elgeyo Marakwet counties, CSO networks will ensure that WASH issues will remain a priority on the agenda.

*Newly constructed toilet (below) in Kericho town following CSO and community members' water and sanitation advocacy campaign. Photo by ADRES Group.*



A photograph showing four men standing in a slum area. They are positioned around a concrete well. The man on the far left is wearing a yellow shirt and a white cap, and is gesturing towards the well. The other three men are wearing shirts in shades of purple, blue, and white. The background consists of makeshift buildings made of corrugated metal and wood. In the foreground, two white ducks are visible on the ground.

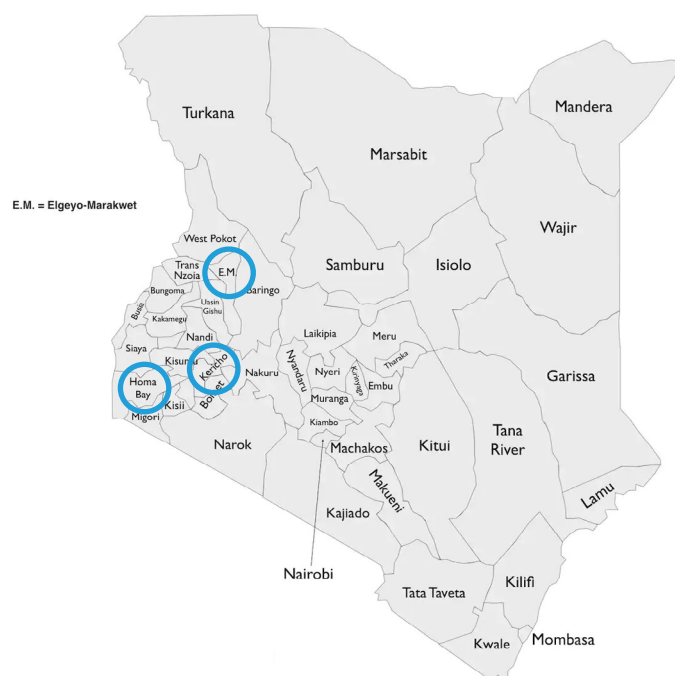
**EVIDENCE  
GENERATED &  
USED TO INFORM  
ADVOCACY EFFORTS  
FOR IMPROVED  
SANITATION**

*Photo by V4CP*

# Civil society uses social audits as a powerful tool to advocate for improved sanitation in Kenya

## Background

This story is about how the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) in partnership with Civil Society Organisations networks (CSO networks) advocated for improved accountability and transparency in Homa Bay, Kericho and Elgeyo Marakwet counties. Using social audits, the organisations advocated for improved sanitation projects. Below map shows Counties targeted.



## Need for social accountability

SNV and IEA, through the Voice for Change Partnership (V4CP) programme, used evidence-based advocacy to increase awareness on the need to prioritise sanitation, improve stakeholder participation and coordination, influence sanitation policies and increase budget allocation. The role of civil society does not stop with the allocations of funds, though. There is a need to ensure funds are allocated and used for the intended purpose.

Low levels of investments in sanitation, as well as the lack of accountability and transparency mechanisms within the county governments, have hindered access to improved sanitation in Kenya. Given that sanitation is a devolved function, CSOs have the opportunity to push county governments to be answerable for the implementation of sanitation projects at the county-level.

*"The IEA mobilised CSOs in Kericho, Homa Bay and Elgeyo Marakwet Counties to meet their respective public health officials and relevant stakeholders in charge of sanitation to discuss problems facing the locals. What came out was very clear, there was no sufficient budget allocation towards sanitation in the previous year."*



Raphael Muya (right), Program Officer, IEA.  
Photo by ADRES Group.

IEA and CSO networks have collected sanitation proposals through pre-budget hearings and shared budget memos during round-table meetings to push for increased budget allocations. The CSOs have also participated in public hearings organised by county governments to discuss budgetary allocations and ensure community priorities are included. To ensure proper utilisation of funds allocated towards sanitation, IEA and CSO networks identified social audits on sanitation projects as a measure to hold their local governments to account.

Through social audits, the CSO networks have been able to evaluate commitments, allocations, and expenditures and stimulate quality, efficiency and build cooperation with the local authorities to improve sanitation projects in the three counties.



CSO network representative conducting an audit of a pit latrine at Cheptobot Health Facility in Elgeyo Marakwet County. Photo by VACP.

### The first round of social audits

In November 2018, CSO networks in Elgeyo Marakwet, Kericho and Homa Bay counties formed audit teams and conducted the first social audits focused on identified sanitation facilities. The key findings of the audit were shared during the exchange visit forum between Kenya, Indonesia, and Ghana in Kericho County on 5th December 2018 held in Kericho.

It revealed several shortcomings in sanitation projects such as poor workmanship, very few pit latrines in primary and Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) centres, and lack of procurement and monitoring and evaluation records. All these made it a challenge to ascertain amounts spent on projects.

### The second round of social audits

The second social audit work was conducted in May and June 2019 and reports finalised in November 2019. The reports revealed that there was low supervision during the implementation of sanitation projects since all the sub-county programme officers were based at the county headquarters.

### Increased budgetary allocation in Kericho County

David Ruto, the CSO network Coordinator in Kericho, shares that CSOs have identified that ECDE centres, health facilities and local markets require social audits to ensure sanitation is well taken care of.

*“Members of our network have gained the capacity to undertake social audits because of the various training on information capturing, analysis, verification, identifying recommendations and reviewing them for submission to the county government. We have also developed a good rapport with county officials who now understand us.”*



David Ruto (right). Photo by ADRES Group.

At Ainamoi Health Centre, the toilets were not used because there was no water at the facility. Due to the recommendations from the social audit report, the county government of Kericho has established sub-county offices and the latest projects, due to close supervision, are well executed. After the social audit with the recommendation to have water supply from Kericho Water and Sanitation Company (KEWASCO), the county government allocated KSh.2.5 million (about 19,500 EUR) to ensure that water was connected to the facility.





*"We did the social audit for Kericho open-air market and this led to the building of two ablution blocks which can serve 150 people daily and 1,000 people during market days."*

Winnie Korir (left). Kericho County Community leader. Photo by ADRES Group.

Social audits undertaken on six sanitation projects led to the allocation of

**KSh 6,350,000**

(almost 50,000 EUR) to improve sanitation at the Kericho open-air market.

More funds were also set aside for the construction of latrines at Kiletien ECDE centre in the financial year 2019/2020.

### Increased awareness in Elgeyo Marakwet County

In Elgeyo Marakwet, empowered community members demanded improved sanitation from the government after capacity building and social audit training organised by the V4CP programme. In 2019, there were a total of eight facilities that were assessed in the county.

These were: Kapkessum dispensaries septic tank, Kapchebar dispensary toilet, Kapkayo market toilets, Kamwosor market toilets, Matira dispensary toilets, Kapcherop incinerator, Chesongoch market toilets and Chesoi sub-county hospital septic tank.

Based on the social audit report, the following results were realised:

- Installation of a handwashing facility at Kewapsos public toilets
- Installation of clean piped water at Kewapsos Dispensary
- Fencing and bush clearing at Kewapsos dispensary
- Construction of a new maternity ward at Anin dispensary
- Construction of a new toilet at Kapchebar dispensary



*New toilets at Anin Dispensary in Elgeyo Marakwet County. Photos by ADRES Group.*



Social audit processes have enhanced the capacities of the communities to undertake social audits themselves and follow-ups to ensure the construction of better sanitation facilities and allocation of more funds to improve sanitation in the three counties.

Since 2018, the CSO network has audited 16 sanitation facilities. The social audits have been a blessing to Iten Integrated Environmental Conservation (IIEC) network, the convening organisation of the CSO network, as it has boosted the credibility of the organisation. The audit has also provided IIEC and the network with an opportunity to constructively engage with the county government officials since the process has been seen as objective and devoid of partisanship.

As a result, several CSO members were nominated to various forums at the county. The CSO network Coordinator Kenneth Kimaiyo was nominated to the County Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Open Governance while the network's Secretary Sheila Suter was nominated to the County Budget and Economic Forum.



*"Several facilities such as the Kapsessum dispensary septic tank which had cracked have been refurbished by the Elgeyo Marakwet County government, as a result of the social audits. The county is now working hard to ensure that they implement projects according to work plans and budgets because they know there is a watchdog."*

Kenneth Kimaiyo (left), the Elgeyo Marakwet CSO network Coordinator. Photo by

ADRES Group.

## Focus on water and sanitation needs in Homa Bay County

The social audits in Homa Bay brought to attention the Shauri Yako slum area where toilet facilities are lacking and the sewerage system inadequate. The audits have also emphasised the need for adequate water supply in Homa Bay.

*"The Homa Bay County government is now prioritising sanitation issues and increased allocation of funds to KSh.2 million [about 15,600 EUR] as a result of the first social audits by community members."*

Samuel Odhiambo, the CSO network Coordinator in Homa Bay County.

In June 2019, the Ministry of Health, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) allocated KSh.2 million (about 15,600 EUR) each towards the construction of 200 latrines in Shauri Yako slums, Homa Bay County. This came after the CSOs' social audit further highlighted the poor state of sanitation facilities in the slums. Homa Bay Water and Sanitation Company (HOMAWASCO) constructed the toilets. At the time of writing this story, Sofia and Makongeni areas in the county had been earmarked for the next phase of toilets construction.



Toilet unit constructed in Shauri Yako slum area. Photo by ADRES Group.

As a result of the advocacy activities by members of the community and CSO networks, the county government commenced the construction of an expanded water storage facility to ensure constant water supply to households.



*Construction of a new water storage facility to increase clean water supply in Homa Bay. Photo by ADRES Group.*

### **The third social audit**

The social audit work for the year 2020 started in February. Even though COVID-19 disrupted the movement of people across the country, the CSO networks and county government officials have been keen not to let the work stop and all validation meetings have been held observing government protocols and with virtual participation of IEA. Social audit reports have been shared during round-table meetings with key decision-makers in September 2020.



*A validation meeting organised by SNV during COVID-19 period. Photo by VACP.*

### **Lessons learnt**

The IEA learnt that CSOs at the county level can keep their local government to account using social audits. For that to happen, it is important to build their capacity through training.

The CSOs learnt that social audits can lead to greater cooperation and joint agenda setting between civil society and government, as was witnessed in the three counties when county officials started prioritising sanitation through budgetary allocations. The social audits also led to tangible results such as the refurbishment of poorly constructed sanitation projects, construction of public toilets and increased budgetary allocations.

### **Challenges faced**

The social audit process had some challenges that include inadequate information for the social audit projects based on either lack of cooperation from the county staff involved, bureaucracy in government and push back by some individuals who may have benefited from such unprofessional practices.

However, this has been mitigated by having the process driven by the members of the community, being transparent in all undertakings and the consistency in doing the audits every year since 2018.

Paul Agwanda, Homa Bay County government's Water and Sanitation Coordinator also said the social audit process did not reach the entire county, despite the mentioned success stories.



*“There is the need for more training of CSO networks especially on monitoring and evaluation, transparency and accountability as well as the establishment of offices where members of the public can approach them in the county,”*

Paul Agwanda (top). Photo by ADRES Group.

### **Future plans**

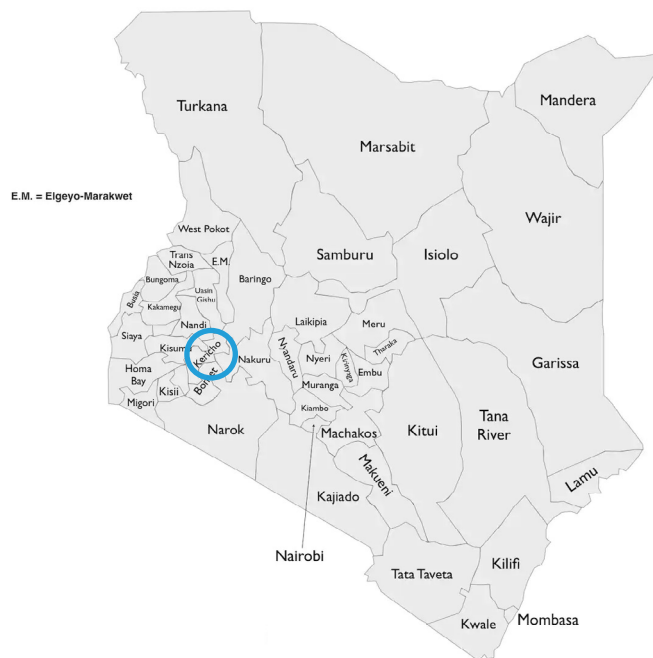
IEA is committed to continue using educational materials and training to stimulate citizens to keep their governments to account and ensure sanitation projects meet the required construction standards. CSO networks in Elgeyo Marakwet, Kericho and Homa Bay counties are ready to ensure proper use of funds for sanitation in their counties.



# Alternative budget memos: CSOs influence sanitation budget allocations in Kericho County

## Background

This story is about how the Kericho CSO network and the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) influenced sanitation budget allocation through pre-budget hearings and round-table meetings in Kericho County, Kenya. Below map shows Counties targeted.



## The challenge of low prioritisation

Access to improved sanitation in Kenya continues to be a major challenge and it is linked to low levels of investments. This has led to ill-health, high mortality rates, poor long-term health and education outcomes, limits on future employment opportunities, workdays lost to ill-health, and threats to the environment, including the safety of water resources. The inclusion of the right to water and sanitation in the Constitution of Kenya puts demands on all actors to deliver on their obligations and ensure access by all. One of the factors contributing to low access to

improved sanitation is the lack of political will from the county government officials who play a big role in county budget allocations to invest in the sanitation sector. Low investments in the sanitation sector are also attributed to institutional fragmentation, with different elements of the sanitation supply chain being in the hands of different players. This fragmentation has led to a lack of proper coordination of sanitation services and hindered a holistic approach to sanitation financing.

The lack of information by members of the public on their right to access sanitation services makes it a challenge for communities to demand increased prioritisation of sanitation issues from their government. Activating this civic voice is what will contribute to increased prioritisation and budgetary allocation to the sector.

## Programme response and impact

When the V4CP programme started, there was limited information on budgetary allocations towards sanitation in Kericho, Homa Bay and Elgeyo Marakwet counties. IEA conducted a budget analysis for the counties to track investment in the sanitation sector. This information was published in a Sanitation Brief and used to set the stage for advocacy towards increased sanitation budgetary allocations.

## Alternative budget memos

The budget analysis documents, which exposed inadequate resource allocations towards improving sanitation in the counties, were supplemented with alternative budget memos.

The memos were developed yearly through collecting budget proposals from the ward level with respect to sanitation during pre-budget hearings.

*“IEA shared training manuals on the budget process, developed a simple toolkit on the process of pre-budget engagement and established CSOs grassroots networks across the three counties to ensure network members’ capacity on the budget-making process was improved.”*

Raphael Muya (right) Program Officer, IEA. Photo by ADRES Group.



A round-table meeting was organised to share the alternative budget memos with the Kericho, Elgeyo Marakwet and Homa Bay County governments. Key proposals in the 2020/2021 Kericho budget proposal included proposals for each sub-county.

Sub-counties prioritised proposals for public sensitisation, water supply, management, and construction of public toilets in marketplaces, sanitation facilities in ECDE centres, the inclusion of access for people living with disabilities, toilets in health facilities, waste collection and more.

At the national level, IEA has a long-standing tradition of developing the Citizen Alternative Budget. The Alternative Budget seeks to influence Government decisions and help Civil Society develop viable alternatives to Government policy. Equally, it provides a complementary avenue for deepening participatory budgeting, given the legal basis for public participation in government planning and budgeting processes. As the country transits to a Devolved System of Government,

it is envisaged that, through the IEA Pre-Budget Hearings and Citizen Alternative Budget, there is likely to be an increased Civil Society engagement in County Government planning and budgeting.

### **Increasing understanding of the budget cycle**

*“Before this programme, we had no information on budget allocations towards sanitation. We learnt about budget-making processes, presentation of proposals, public participation and adoption of proposals during the training.”*

Hellen Chepkorir (right), a community member from Kericho County. Photo by ADRES Group.



The IEA identified and trained CSO network members in the three counties so that they could influence budget-making processes to increase resource allocations to improve the quality of sanitation facilities.

IEA in collaboration with CSO network members organised sanitation and budgetary allocation sensitisation forums involving community members and used evidence from a study into the effects of poor sanitation, which was commissioned by V4CP and undertaken by the Centre for Population Health and Research Management (CPHRM) in close partnership with SNV, IEA, CSO network and government representatives to encourage the community to get involved in advocacy to improve sanitation.

*"Most members who underwent training and took part in public participation forums now have a good understanding of budget tracking processes. Our knowledge of sanitation has also improved since the V4CP programme started in Kericho."*



David Ruto (right), Kericho County CSO network Coordinator. Photo by ADRES Group.

The findings of the research indicated the widespread prevalence of diarrhoea in Kericho County. Even more surprising, within the vicinity of Kericho town, the main contributor to the perennial infections was Open Defecation (OD).

Having received training on advocacy and the budget-making process from the IEA, the Kericho County Civil Society network embarked on advocating for more funds to be allocated to the most critical sanitation projects in Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) centres and public markets. Most public markets in the county were in a poor state and lacked enough decent toilets, hence the cases of OD.

### Round-table meetings

IEA organised yearly roundtable meetings with Kericho County's Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) and other county government officials to advocate for better partnership and improvement of resource allocation toward sanitation and adoption of sanitation investment plans. The alternative budget allows communities to influence government decisions and also help CSO network members to develop viable alternatives to government policies in the budget-making process. Through IEA's leadership, CSO network members were provided with information on decisions, policies, and budgets. This resulted in CSOs increasingly being

consulted in the decision-making processes and formulation of county documents like development plans, policies and budgets. CSOs have also observed an improved working relationship between various county departments to ensure improved sanitation services and budgets.



*Kericho CSO networks share alternative budget memos during MCAs Round-Table meeting in Kericho County, September 2020. Photo by V4CP.*

### Increased budgetary allocations

As a result of the advocacy activities by the CSO networks and the IEA, the county government of Kericho allocated KSh.3, 850,000 (30,000 EUR) towards the construction of 70 ablution blocks in ECDE centres for the financial year 2019/2020. An example of a socially inclusive toilet is the one at Mureret Primary School which was built after advocacy from CSO network members in from Ainamoi sub-county. Going forward, the Kericho CSOs network shall advocate for the inclusion of sanitation facilities for people living with disabilities in all future constructions.



*A toilet for persons with disabilities constructed in Kericho County. Photo by V4CP.*

The county government also allocated funds for the construction of a modern toilet complex at Roret Market and water supply and construction of toilets for the traders who were part and parcel of the programme.

### **Lessons learnt**

Over the implementation period, the IEA and CSO networks have learnt that it takes time to influence and create change. Being politicians, the policy implementers and decision-makers are looking for physical and tangible projects that can easily give them political mileage during campaigns. It is also important to work closely with government stakeholders to be successful in advocacy work.

The sanitation sector has to be packaged in a manner that shows results or effects that can be pointed out easily. This can only be done through research and analysis that brings out the effects of poor sanitation on the livelihoods of the community hence bringing the need for prioritization of the sector closer home.

*“Majority of our members still don’t understand budget analysis because, in Kericho County, there is no specific department for sanitation projects so it has been a challenge to track expenditure.”*

David Ruto, Kericho County CSO network Coordinator.



Understanding the budget cycle and utilising the entry points for public participation is a process. Identifying the multiple actors involved in sanitation sector investment successfully and increased transparency and public availability of budget and policy documents is a continuous process.

### **Future plans**

There is the need to continue training more local CSOs on the analysis of budget documents to enable them to participate meaningfully in budget-making processes.

The creation of alliances with influencers and decision-makers such as governors and County Executive Committee (CEC) members in charge of water and sanitation is critical in pushing forward the sanitation agenda. Having legally binding arrangements in the form of memorandums of understandings will also ensure the sustainability of advocacy activities in the counties.





# RESILIENCE



# Civil society organisations drive resilience and climate change agenda in Isiolo and Marsabit counties

## Background

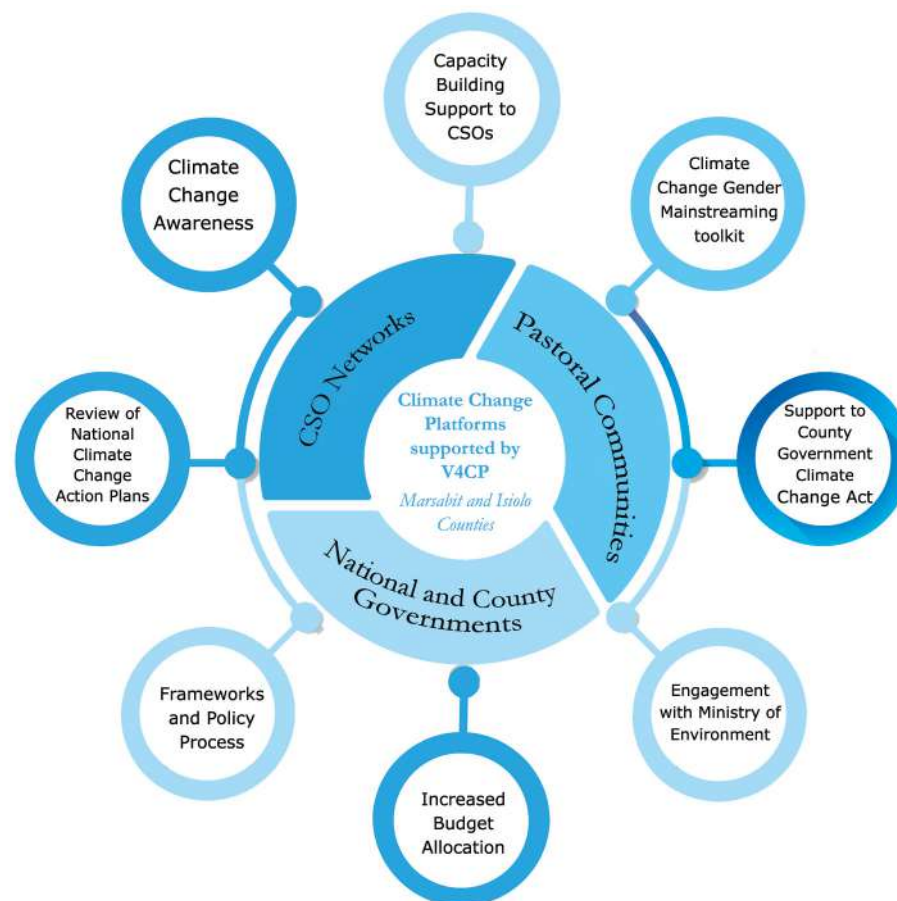
This story of change illustrates how the three civil society organisations (CSOs) in the V4CP partnership organized county-level CSO platforms to enhance the voices of pastoral communities in Northern Kenya.

Through evidence-based advocacy, the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Kenya Livestock Marketing Council (KLMC) and the Centre for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE) worked with CSOs, pastoral and marginalised communities, county, and national governments on different thematic areas to build Climate Change Governance (CCG) in Isiolo and Marsabit counties. Below map shows Counties targeted.



Climate change remains an important subject in the Northern arid and semi-arid regions of Kenya. Conflicts, drought, and disease outbreaks are some of the climate change-related issues affecting communities in the region.

According to the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), farmers in arid and semi-arid areas have reported reductions in livestock productivity and higher susceptibility to disease and death. They lack water and fodder due to climate change-induced factors. It is against this background that the V4CP CSOs partnered with county governments to address systemic issues related to environment and climate change.



*Resilience conceptual framework.*

## Situation before V4CP programme

Before 2016, CSO coordination was lacking in Isiolo and Marsabit. There were disjointed efforts not only on matters of climate change but also in all other needed actions.

*“The County Government has been setting aside funds for environment related projects, but we have often been focusing on hardware instead of policies and law.”*

Janet Ahado, Director, Environment and Natural Resources, Marsabit County.



Livestock traders selling their livestock in Isiolo County. Photo by V4CP.

Very few CSOs worked on matters of the environment and for these few, they appreciated the fact that climate change was an issue but did not know how to effectively coordinate among themselves and engage their county governments.

Their level of awareness on matters of climate change was low, rendering their climate change actions ineffective.

*“When we started working with PACJA, we realized the importance of having a climate change law in place. Our partnership with CSOs in Marsabit County has been enhanced since we started working with PACJA. This is because, during the process of finalizing the Climate Action Plan, we held several joint consultation forums.”*

Janet Ahatho, Director (right), Climate Change Directorate at Ministry of Environment, Marsabit County. Photo by ADRES Group.



For the county governments, more capacity and support was needed to put in place critical climate change legislation.

## Formation of Climate change platforms

*“When the project started, we did not have the platforms that we are talking about. PACJA believes in a ‘bottom-up’ approach to climate governance. Wherever we go, we try to form a momentum that can be a vehicle through which mostly the public and CSOs work with the government.”*

Collins Oduor (right), from PACJA. Photo by ADRES Group.



To strengthen local ownership in climate change dialogue, PACJA facilitated the formation of the Marsabit Climate Change CSOs platform and Isiolo Civil Society Network.

These platforms brought together youth, women and marginalised communities at the county level to engage with their county governments on issues of climate resilience. These platforms and networks stimulated the linkages between the county governments and the national Ministry of Environment, which is the institution responsible for climate change policy.



Ongoing policy formulation consensus building forum for CSOs in Isiolo County. Photo by V4CP.

PACJA organised several awareness-raising sessions targeting local CSOs and county government officials on climate change. They successfully organized a learning and exchange visit that saw Marsabit CSOs learn from Isiolo CSOs on how to lobby and advocate for climate change legislation with the county government.

This exchange also involved county officials from Isiolo to share their experiences while developing climate change instruments. As a result, the working relationship between the county governments and the CSOs was improved.

Through the engagements, the Marsabit County government gained more knowledge on environment and climate change and the work of the CSO networks.

### Increased awareness of climate change effects

Awareness on matters of the environment and climate change among the CSOs, county governments and the community members has increased due to the support from the programme. Abdullahi Shande, a community member from Isiolo County, who had been involved in climate change policy formulation advocacy for eight years said that adverse effects of climate change such as droughts and floods forced them to form a caucus and push for legislation to address these recurrent challenges.

*"I have benefitted from the workshops and training on climate-related issues. As a community, we have been able to push for policy formulation through the 'One Programme Initiative'. This has given us the strength and synergy to influence the government to put in place relevant legislation. For example, the Isiolo County Climate Change Act which has ensured allocation of funds to address our problems."*



Abdullahi Shande (right), a community member from Isiolo County. Photo by ADRES Group.

### Minorities included in the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) review

The three CSOs jointly identified NCCAP as a good entry point to address pastoralists' concerns about climate change. The action plan sets out climate change adaptation and mitigation actions across all sectors. Armed with their knowledge on climate change and strengthened advocacy skills obtained through the V4CP programme, the CSOs were in a good position to address issues of inclusiveness in the plan.

They approached the Climate Change Directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, who appointed the CSOs to become members of the task force that is responsible for reviewing the plan.

With support from the task force, the CSOs drew the attention of the directorate on the importance of including vulnerable communities in the review process to ensure effective adaptation actions. The directorate determined that the marginalised communities needed to be engaged in the NCCAP review and asked PACJA and CEMIRIDE to spearhead the process of inclusion.

The two CSOs organised community and county forums in Kajiado, Marsabit and Isiolo. The forums included pastoral communities, youth and, more importantly, women who are often not been represented in policy and decision-making processes.

Issues that were prioritised during the forums included increasing structural representation of pastoralists and minorities, meaningful engagement in the task force, and policy review. Other issues included improved access to livestock insurance, ensuring the recognition and implementation of pastoral land rights and tenure, capacity strengthening of pastoralists on climate change adaptation and mitigation, providing access to well-managed markets for pastoralists, enhancing access to water, and construction of county feedlots.

On 26th June 2018, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry presented the final draft of the NCCAP 2018-2022, incorporating the views and aspirations of pastoralists and other indigenous minorities as submitted by CEMIRIDE. The formal recognition of pastoralists and other indigenous communities in the Plan was instrumental in enhancing their resilience to the adverse effects of climate change.

## Building capacities of local CSOs

PACJA built the capacities of CSO networks in Isiolo and Marsabit counties through training on climate change, strengthening their evidence-based advocacy skills.



*A session on policy advocacy and learning workshop in Isiolo County. Photo by VACP.*

Moreover, CSOs from the Northern Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) counties, including those from Marsabit and Isiolo, were trained by PACJA on Green Climate Fund (GCF) at a workshop held in Isiolo County. The training covered modalities to access the GCF and a proposal was developed by the counties to access funds from the National Treasury that would go towards addressing the effects of climate change.

## Gender: Women empowerment in climate change resilience

Women are the most affected population by climate change because of the defined gender roles among pastoral communities.

PACJA with support from the V4CP programme developed a Climate Change Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit to be used by Marsabit and Isiolo counties and nationally in mainstreaming gender into climate change resilience projects. The toolkit was validated and adopted by Marsabit and Isiolo counties on 25th June 2019, during a workshop organised by the CSOs. Collaboration between the CSOs and the gender department in Marsabit County through the Gender Toolkit empowered women and encouraged them to participate in matters of legislation that concern environment and climate change.

An example of a women empowerment initiative on climate change is the one in Maikona, a village located 100 km from Marsabit town. The women from this village used to walk 12 km to access water for domestic use. They had been attending county budget planning processes but whenever they raised the concern of water, they were not heard.

However, during one of the 2018 budget consultation meetings, one woman who had been raising the water access problem for three



consecutive years stood up in the meeting and refused to sit until her concerns were heard. *"Mpaka mtoe jerrican kwa mgongo yangu, sitakaa chini"* (unless you remove this jerrican from my back, I will not sit down), said Ms Lokho Abduba, ACET CEO, Marsabit County. Photo by ADRES Group.

### Influencing budgetary allocation

In 2019 PACJA, through the Isiolo Network for Civil Societies, contributed to the development of a Climate Change Finance Act which provided for 2% budget allocation of total county funds to climate change.

*"Building onto the work of Adaptation (ADA) Consortium, the PACJA and KLMC formed platforms were engaged to inform the process of adoption and signing of the Isiolo County Climate Bill. The bill enabled the formation of the county level finance mechanisms for increased budgetary allocation and service delivery."*

Collins Oduor, Program Officer, PACJA.



Photo by ADRES Group

Additionally, through the PACJA created Isiolo platform, a partnership was formed with the ADA Consortium to undertake a study on how to build climate resilience in Isiolo town. The Isiolo CSO network established accountability and budget tracking mechanism to ensure better service delivery in Isiolo County in partnership with KLMC.

### Challenges faced

Among the challenges experienced in the advocacy process was the difficulty in implementing the gender mainstreaming toolkit in Isiolo and Marsabit counties. This was due to lack of enough funds as well as communication barriers resulting from high illiteracy levels among the locals.

### Lessons learnt

Success can be achieved by building on government initiatives and forums. For example, in Marsabit County, the project began by putting in place a CSO forum to collaborate with an existing government-led forum to discuss climate change issues. PACJA also built on the legislation making process that had already been initiated by the county assembly of Marsabit. Partly, this explains why the V4CP Programme was able to make significant progress towards achieving its objectives.

### Future plans

With support from the V4CP, there is evidence of strategic planning by the two counties on matters of climate change which will translate into tangible solutions to address the problems that the communities are facing. For example, resource documents such as Climate Action Plan and Climate Change Policy for Marsabit County and the Climate Finance Bill for Isiolo County vital for the project are under development. Moreover, the awareness and skills acquired by CSOs on climate change, policy advocacy, fundraising (specifically through the Green Climate Fund Training) and the

strengthened partnerships among the CSOs and with the county governments had the potential to see the project continue to influence key decision-making processes by the leadership.

*"We want to see these CSO platform members represented as part of the technical working group involved in the policymaking and implementation processes. They are also pastoralists and know the issues affecting them."*

Victor Gathogo (right), Advisor, Renewable Energy and Climate Change at SNV. Photo by ADRES Group.



Mr Gathogo added that SNV will use the lessons learnt in Isiolo County to support Marsabit County, community members. This will ensure they actively participate in climate change advocacy and push for better policies to improve their livelihoods.

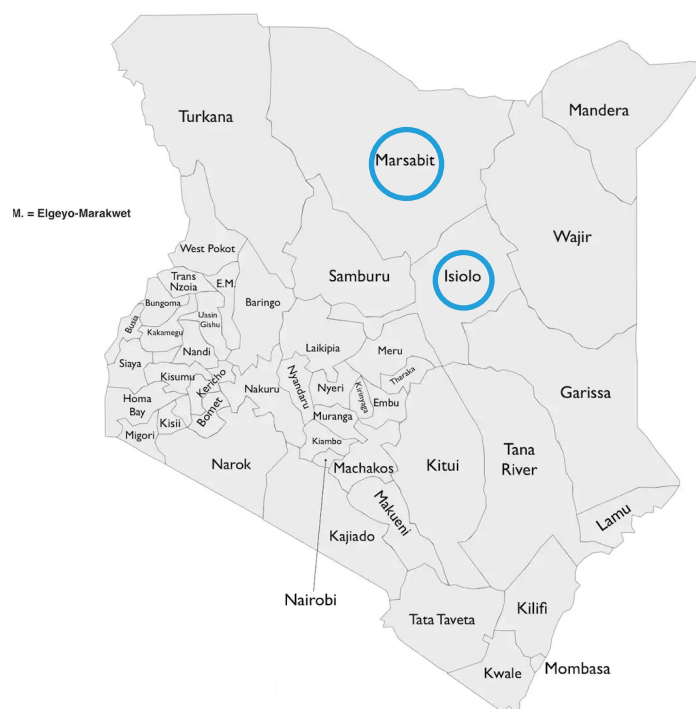


*Goats on sell at the Isiolo livestock market. Photo by ADRES Group.*



# CSOs influence budgetary allocation and policy formulation to improve pastoralists' livelihoods in Isiolo and Marsabit counties

This story is about how the Kenya Livestock Marketing Council (KLMC) with support from the Voice for Change Partnership (V4CP) programme engaged in budget tracking activities in Isiolo and Marsabit counties. The goal was to ensure a good financial governance process, to serve pastoralists' interests, including increasing resource allocation to address climate change effects to reduce the burden on pastoralist communities. Below map shows Counties targeted.



Furthermore, CSOs' budget tracking efforts aimed to monitor the government's progress in implementing the African Union Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) target to allocate at least 10% of public expenditures to agriculture.

## The disconnect between climate and pastoralist agendas

Policymakers and citizens have expressed concerns about the effectiveness of public programs in arid and semi-arid (ASAL) counties. While efforts such as performance assessments have been helpful, initiatives have often had a limited impact on funding decisions. Nonetheless, the importance of using resources wisely has never been greater, particularly given the devastating effects of climate change on the livelihood of the pastoralists' communities and long-term government goals.



*Camels at a local market in Merille, Marsabit County. Photo by Galgalo Jillo.*

Historically, pastoralist regions have been marginalised in development processes owing to factors such as underlying systemic challenges, climate change leading to cyclic droughts, livestock morbidity and mortality. Other factors are inadequate markets, poor infrastructure, poor or no access to finance, and non-availability of reliable supplies of essential inputs and services. These and other social-cultural factors such as resource-based conflicts have made pastoralist regions and their products uncompetitive and unattractive to investors.

### Programme response and impact

Through the V4CP programme, SNV Netherlands Development Organisation provided capacity building to KLMC to engage in budget tracking activities in Isiolo and Marsabit counties. The CSO undertook qualitative studies to assess resource allocation trends in the two counties over five years. This evidence was used to advocate for increased allocation of resources to the livestock sub-sector.

The CSO reviewed secondary and primary sources of literature in the counties to support advocacy for building pastoralists' resilience to climate change. The review was focused on budgets for the financial years - 2013-2014 and 2016-2017, and the implementation of livestock strategy 2015-2020. It was aimed at understanding the criteria used in budgetary allocations to serve the interests of pastoralists. Besides, KLMC joined hands with other like-minded partners such as Concern Worldwide, a humanitarian organisation that was keen on ensuring increased budgetary allocations towards agriculture and livestock to improve the livelihoods of pastoralist communities.

### Budget tracking

In June 2019, KLMC under the V4CP framework commissioned a budget tracking study in Marsabit and Isiolo counties to assess the level of resource allocation

to climate-sensitive sectors. The emerging evidence of the budget allocation analysis was packaged and presented to relevant stakeholders - including county directors and chief officers, decision-makers (county executives and assembly) and the public through targeted meetings.

The organisation facilitated their members to synthesise evidence for radio audiences and supported media campaigns to sensitise the public on the need for investments in climate change resilience programmes. They disseminated the evidence on budget trends, policy and administrative gaps on public participation and effective planning and the budgetary process in both Isiolo and Marsabit County to the public through local FM stations.



*Isiolo Livestock Market, Isiolo County. Photo by ADRES Group.*

Thanks to their advocacy and sensitisation efforts, there was an observed increase in appreciation and demands from the public for a repeat of similar programs to educate them on public participation, governance, resilience, and policy engagement.

### Increased budgetary allocations

Following the advocacy activities by KLMC and Concern Worldwide, the county decision makers saw that there was the need to increase allocations towards agriculture and livestock departments.

*"We organised sensitisation forums for community members in Isiolo County on budget tracking and policy frameworks. This helped us in addressing policy gaps that led to low budgetary allocations towards livestock farming."*

Abdullahi Shande (right), a community member from Isiolo County. Photo by ADRES Group.



*"The advocacy meetings were an eye-opener to the various leaders as they got to appreciate the need for an increase in budget to Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (DoALF) as the main revenue generator. This is evidenced by the increased budget allocation."*

Tabitha Njeri, Manager (right) ASAL Livelihoods, Concern Worldwide, Marsabit County. Photo by ADRES Group.



8.7 respectively against a baseline of 6% and 5%, due to KLMC's advocacy efforts.

So far, the Marsabit County government has passed a resolution that the ceiling of agriculture will be 10.3% following a series of lobby meetings.

"More budgetary allocations mean supporting more development activities within the communities, and also means improved livelihoods for Pastoral Communities in Marsabit County," said Njeri.

### Challenges faced

When KLMC and Concern Worldwide commenced advocacy activities in Isiolo and Marsabit counties, they faced a backlash from county government officials, who were not willing to share more details about the budget allocations and how money was spent on various projects.



Public Participation forums in Leisamis Ward, Marsabit County. Photo by V4CP.

Budget estimates for the financial year 2019 -2020 for the DoALF in Isiolo and Marsabit increased to 9.9% and



*KLMC's Nadhifa Mohammed (right) discussing with a farmer in Isiolo County on the resilience priorities captured in the plan, and budgetary allocation around that and the impact on the community. Photo by V4CP.*

*"The county officers were not willing to share a lot of information on matters around budgets and how the allocations were spent but because of our resilience, we managed to advocate for more allocations to impact the lives of pastoralists."*

Nadhifa Mohammed, Official, Kenya Livestock Management Council (KLMC).

Therefore, it was difficult to track the budget processes and allocations towards livestock and agriculture. However, the CSOs demonstrated resilience and gathered adequate information on previous budgets. They shared these with the county decision-makers, who were convinced that there was a need to increase the allocations towards agriculture.

### Lessons learnt

Engaging in resilience advocacy in Isiolo and Marsabit counties has taught us several things. First, the use of

evidence is critical. Concrete evidence enabled KLMC to compel government officials to listen to the issues we raised and acted on them through policy formulation.

Second, the CSOs learnt that mobilisation of stakeholders in agenda setting is critical as it ensures that people speak in one voice to push for change. Through public participation forums, they were able to bring together pastoralists to air out the challenges they faced as a result of poor policies that did not take care of their interests and needs.

Finally, the CSOs learnt that evidence-based planning at the county level still requires continued support through the generation of strategic information to advance devolution goals.

### Future plans

KLMC intends to use the lessons learnt through budget tracking and mobilising Isiolo and Marsabit community members to advocate for more budgetary allocations towards agriculture and livestock farming in other ASAL counties. This will ensure improved livelihoods of pastoral communities who live in regions that face harsh climatic conditions.



*Photo by ADRES Group*



# Including pastoralists' voices in formulating climate-related policies in Kenya

This story illustrates how the CSOs worked with the national and local government in Kenya to ensure that the voices of pastoral communities are included in the review of one of Kenya's key climate change policies, the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP).

Their close collaboration with the government enabled the CSOs to take the lead in organising several participatory forums at county level, which ensured that the priorities of these vulnerable communities were included in the strategic objectives of the second NCCAP.

## Climate change and pastoralists

Pastoralism is a livelihood that supports over 10 million people in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands, contributing to more than 7% of Kenya's GDP and providing over 75% of the meat consumed nationally. The mobility of pastoralists, which allows them to adapt effectively to variability in pasture and water resources, is increasingly under threat.

The growing intensity and frequency of extreme weather events, especially droughts, compromises their ability to cope with - and recover from - shocks, and this could lead to an increase in poverty and vulnerability. Other external pressures, including the privatisation of resources and the fragmentation of grazing lands, further compromises the traditional pastoral livelihood and adaptation strategies.

Despite their significant contribution to the economy, pastoralists are rarely consulted in the development of policies and regulations that affect their way of living, and that can strengthen their resilience in the face of

climate change. This is why, in 2016, the V4CP started working with three local civil society organisations (CSOs) - the Kenya Livestock Marketing Council (KLMC), Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and the Centre for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE) - to ensure that the concerns of pastoralists are included in both national and local policies.

## Voice for change: Kariankei Loware, pastoralist in Kajiado county

Kariankei Loware (43) looks out over the crowd of people and livestock gathered in the Bissil livestock market in Kajiado County, 110 km south of Nairobi. He has been a pastoralist in this semi-arid country all his life. Every Friday, he joins 300 other pastoralists, livestock buyers and traders, here to trade. Today, he hopes to sell two of his cows to the dealers.

Kariankei has seen many changes affecting his way of living over the years. This includes the increased encroachment on pastoral rangelands, shrinking grazing space and new administrative boundaries, all of which have restricted the movement of pastoralists in search of water and pasture.

With climate change putting further pressure on these scarce resources, Kairankei is keen to see action by the government - especially action that recognises the unique characteristics of the pastoral way of life.



*Pastoralists trading at the Bissil livestock market in Kajiado County. Photo by V4CP.*



### **Strengthening CSOs capacities to respond to climate change**

In 2016, V4CP started to train the CSOs on the developments in climate change policies and processes at the international and national level, as well as their interlinkages. This knowledge enabled the CSOs to shape their advocacy priorities, to embed and prioritise advocacy work within their organisations, and to increase their credibility. V4CP's capacity strengthening support, which includes advocacy and communication skills, as well as leadership and organisational sustainability, also contributed to more effective advocacy as well as the long-term strength of the organisations.

*"The training and the capacity building of the CSOs was important to enable the organisations to be effective champions of climate change issues, equipping them with knowledge and enhancing their technical capacity necessary to shape policies that are addressing the real issues of pastoralists."*

Mary Njuguna, V4CP Programme Manager Kenya.

In addition, the CSOs carried out a review of important policy documents, which revealed that many policies inadequately address pastoral issues or have been

shaped by fundamental misunderstandings of the workings of pastoral systems. Evidence provided by IFPRI, on the role of the pastoralists' traditional institutions in climate change resilience, equipped the CSOs with sound research to further underpin their advocacy messages.

A key policy identified by the CSOs was the NCCAP, which sets out climate change adaptation and mitigation actions across all sectors of the economy. This plan was soon to be revised at the end of its five-year implementation cycle, which created an opportunity for the CSOs to ensure that it included truly inclusive and effective policies for pastoralists, and that it supported those most vulnerable to climate change.

### **Connecting to key policy makers**

Their thorough knowledge on climate change, along with their strengthened advocacy skills obtained through V4CP, has enabled the CSOs to expand their network and to become credible partners for key actors at both national level and in several dryland counties.

This put the CSOs in a position to address issues of inclusiveness in the NCCAP with the Climate Change Directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, who appointed the CSOs to become members of the taskforce that is responsible for reviewing the Plan.

While the review of the NCCAP should be a participatory and inclusive process that considers inputs from all stakeholders, the CSOs noticed that pastoralists - as well as other marginalised communities - were not engaged in it. With support of the taskforce, the CSOs brought this to the attention of the directorate, emphasising the importance of including vulnerable communities



in the review process in order to ensure effective adaptation actions. The directorate determined that the marginalised communities needed to be engaged in the NCCAP review and urgently agreed that PACJA and CEMIRIDE should spearhead this process of inclusion.

*“Most policies are formulated by men. These policies are silent about the vulnerabilities of women and climate hazards. Ignoring the realities and the needs of half of this society undermines the viability and effectiveness of any response”*

Juliana Rono, Chairperson of the Nasaru Women Group Kajiado.



*Women selling milk, cream and ghee in the market. Photo by VACP.*

At the consultation forums, key priorities that will enhance pastoralists’ adaptive capacity were identified, such as: increasing structural representation and meaningful engagement in the taskforce and policy review; improving access to livestock insurance; ensuring the recognition and implementation of pastoral land rights and tenure; providing capacity strengthening for pastoralists on climate change adaptation and mitigation; providing sufficient and well-managed

markets for pastoralists to sell their livestock; enhancing water availability; and the construction of county feedlots.

### **Driving change**

The listed issues and priorities were included in the strategic objectives of the second NCCAP 2018-2022, as confirmed by the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.



*“With this inclusive action plan, we hope that we can kick-start the implementation by catalysing private sector innovation and investment; strengthening climate change governance and delivering climate resilient development to our people – especially the most vulnerable.”*

Mr Ali N. Ismael CBS, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Through the stakeholder forums and workshops at county level, the CSOs achieved significant progress in closing the knowledge gap among policy makers regarding pastoralism, as well as the dynamics of dryland ecosystems.

This has also improved the political will of the County Steering Committees to address climate change. Kajiado, Isiolo and Marsabit counties have expressed their commitment to start the process of formulating policies at county level to support pastoralists.

Mr Kwese Mapena, a member of the National Steering Committee for Climate Change from Kajiado, looks back at the good working relationships that the CSOs have built with the county government:



*“We recognise the need of involving community voices in the development of policies at county and national level. The collaboration between civil society actors and policy-makers has proven to be an effective way to shape sound and well-informed, inclusive policies.”*

Mr. Kwese Mapena, National Steering Committee for Climate Change, Kajiado representative.



*Pastoralists at the Bissil livestock market in Kajiado County. Photo by VACP.*

## Looking forward

Now that the CSOs have been able to ensure the integration of pastoralists’ priorities in policy documents, their attention will shift towards the effective implementation of these policies at national and county level.

Kajiado county is clearly struggling to adjust to the rising temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns and other consequences of climate change. Yet pastoralists like Loware at Bissil livestock market, whose livelihood is increasingly under threat, can feel positive about the new climate change policies because they now adequately address the struggles of the pastoral way of life.

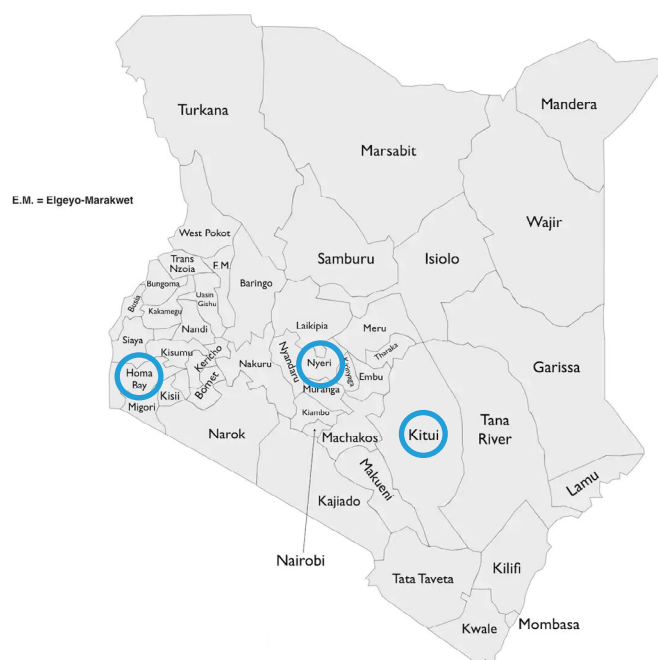


# RENEWABLE ENERGY

# The role of community health volunteers and community health extension workers in sensitising households on household air pollution in Kenya

## Background

This story is about how SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, through the Voice for Change Partnership (V4CP) programme, supported the Clean Cooking Association of Kenya (CCAK) to champion for the adoption of clean cooking methods across the country.



In Kenya, 75% of households rely on charcoal and firewood as their primary source of energy for cooking and heating. Similarly, 93.2% of rural households use firewood or charcoal as their primary fuel. This results in exposure to harmful pollutants emitted from burning wood and charcoal. About 21,560 deaths in Kenya are attributable to Household Air Pollution (HAP) annually, according to the Ministry of Health. Adopting clean cooking solutions is the best remedy for reducing these deaths. However, there has been a low awareness of the

benefits of these clean, lifesaving solutions. The use of clean cookstoves and fuels is still limited.

At the national level, the CCAK has influenced policy formulation to ensure the adoption of renewable energy technologies thus reducing the number of deaths associated with HAP. In some counties, the organisation has worked closely with Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) and Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) to sensitise community members on clean cooking methods to reduce HAP-related deaths.

## The situation before V4CP programme

Before the clean cooking agenda supported by CCAK under the V4CP programme started in Kenya, there were several reported health issues related to HAP. In Nyeri and Homa Bay counties, several cases of breathing problems and chest pains were reported at health centres. These were likely related to inhaling smoke from firewood and charcoal.

Previously, CHEWs and CHVs had been trained by the counties' health departments on several health complications associated with HAP that were reported in the community. Through their regular visits to homesteads and eateries, they were able to gather evidence of pollution such as dark walls in eateries and homes, which are caused by smoke from firewood and charcoal burning. However, they did not know how to measure the real impact of HAP.

*“We suspected that the health issues were caused by smoke from firewood, and this only became clearer to us after the training by CCAK and the Ministry of Health.”*

Magdalene Nderitu (right), a Public Health Officer and Community Health Extension Worker (CHEW) in Tetu sub-county, Nyeri County.



### Capacity building and HAP training

To effectively disseminate information on the benefits of adopting clean cooking technologies among community members, CCAK with support from the V4CP programme provided capacity building and training on household air pollution to community health workers and volunteers in Nyeri County.

The organisation sensitised the health workers on how they can teach communities to improve their lives, by switching from traditional and harmful cooking methods to modern clean cooking technologies such as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) gas and improved cooking stoves (jikos) that emit less smoke and consume less solid fuel. They were also trained on how to identify and measure HAP, and the need to educate members of the community to use renewable energy cooking methods. With their capacities on household air pollution enhanced, the community health workers trained several volunteers, who are now sensitising community members on the importance of clean cooking.

Currently in Tetu sub-county, Nyeri County, there are 35 CHEW units, which have 350 CHVs. So far, 12 CHEW units are working with the county government of Nyeri to sensitise the community members and prevent diseases related to HAP in homesteads and eateries.

*“Since CCAK trained us on household air pollution, I have been sensitising community members on clean cooking by making and selling modern jikos (cooking stoves).”*

James Njagi (right), a CHV in Nyeri County. Photo by ADRES Group.



### Increased awareness

CHVs have been able to reach many community members and educate them on how they can improve their living standards. Several community members who were using the three-stone cooking method are now switching to energy-saving cookstoves and LPG gas.

*“We are very grateful for the training that we received. Previously, I was using a charcoal jiko but now I use the LPG gas. I’ve realised that it is cheaper than charcoal. I have also made my mother stop using firewood for cooking,”* said Magdalene Nderitu.

Their kitchens are also more aerated, better arranged to reduce accidents and accumulation of toxic smoke in the houses. All these have led to reduced cases of breathing and chest pain problems. The community members have also become more aware of health issues associated with old cooking methods. Some community members have also realised that it is cheaper to use clean cooking methods compared to the old ways of cooking.

*“We are now using less firewood because energy-saving jikos consume very little fuel.”*

Marion Mwangi (right), a CHV in Nyeri County. Photo by ADRES Group.



## Supporting local enterprises

Before CCAK intervened in Homa Bay County, women were spending a lot of time travelling long distances in search of firewood and young girls were being taken out of class to go and fetch firewood for their parents.

To address the situation, the organisation, through one of its members, Nyalore Impact, started using locally available materials to manufacture efficient clean cooking stoves which reduce the amount of charcoal or firewood that households need to cook their meals. This would address not only HAP but also retains girls in class and save women some time to engage in other meaningful activities.

*"We came up with the idea of using locally available materials to manufacture efficient clean cooking stoves which reduce the amount of charcoal or firewood that households need to cook their meals."*

Dorothy Atieno (below), Nyalore Impact CEO. Photo by ADRES Group.



Nyalore Impact makes complete stoves out of clay moulded by local women groups and metal cladding from the local artisans.

Apart from making modern cooking stoves, the group has also been involved in different forums at the county level especially on the issues dealing with environment and energy. CCAK has also supported its members in lobbying the government on clean cooking standards and labelling of the locally made and imported cooking stoves. This has helped the local producers of fabricators of the cookstoves to continue innovating and coming up with new ideas to improve on what the group had started.

*"We are involved in these discussions and were allowed to air out our issues and what we would like to see in the standards so that it incorporates both the local artisan cooking stoves and what is imported into the country,"* said Dorothy.

She noted that with the persistence and the education that they have received and the support of the partners such as CCAK, they have been able to educate the community and have realised the benefits of the modern cookstoves. Although Homa Bay community members have started seeing the benefits of using improved cooking stoves such as reduced fuel costs, a lot of sensitisation is still required to achieve the goal of the clean cooking agenda.

## HAP manual

CCAК has been co-convening the Climate Change, Health and Energy Technical Working Group (TWG) comprising the Ministry of Health, sector players and health institutions such as AMREF to address HAP.

The TWG, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, initiated the development of a HAP manual, curriculum, and job aid to address the problem.

The organisation advocated for the incorporation of the revised curriculums and manuals in the primary health care strategy framework. It provided inputs in the development of the strategic framework for primary health care during the engagement with the TWG.

The strategic framework enhances primary health care, focusing on three main areas: empowered people and communities; multispectral policy and action; and primary care and essential public health functions as the core of integrated health services in Kenya. It is against this backdrop that the organisation is now engaged in the development of CHEW/CHV manuals and guidelines which include HAP.

*“We are hoping there will be increased adoption of clean cooking solutions by consumers. We are going to achieve it through household air pollution manuals and curriculum.”*

Paul Ayalo (right), CCAK’s Programme Officer. Photo by ADRES Group.



In September 2019, a three-day meeting was held to take the trainers through the final HAP manual. The training was conducted for the community health workers and volunteers in three universal health coverage pilot counties - Machakos, Kisumu and Uasin Gishu. The following month, the trainers undertook a pre-test for the draft HAP manual in three counties.

So far, the HAP manual has been developed and adopted as one of the modules for training CHEWs and CHVs. HAP has also received recognition from the health community workforce and public health officials.

This initiative has also seen other organisations scale up their work around HAP and clean cooking, while others such as the Africa Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) and the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) have started adopting the measures.

### **Influencing clean cooking agenda**

In May 2019, the Ministry of Health nominated CCAK to be part of the organising committee for the Climate Change and Health conference, which focused on the effects of climate change on health.



*Briquette making in Homa Bay County. Photo by ADRES Group.*

The Ministry of Environment and KEMRI also took part in the conference which provided an opportunity for stakeholders to advocate for mainstreaming and integration of climate change into the universal health coverage planning, programming and implementation. Currently, the Ministry of Health is prioritising the need to train more CHEWs and CHVs who will then sensitise community members on clean cooking methods.

The inclusion of HAP manual into the curriculum and manuals for CHEWs and CHVs will enhance the understanding of the clean cooking concept amongst the trainees as well as help disseminate the clean cooking agenda into various grassroots activities. This will be implemented under the clean kitchen or healthy cooking initiatives to reduce ill-health among the communities.



*“Our development partners, government, and the community have been instrumental in the wins that we have had as CCAK. However, there is still a need for various stakeholders to support the sector to reach maturity.”*

David Njugi (left), CCAK’s CEO.  
Photo by ADRES Group.

CCAK is also planning for the final validation of the HAP manual by the TWG. The final HAP manual and curriculum currently under quality checks will be edited by the University of Liverpool, a WHO collaborative centre on HAP.

In 2020, CCAK through the support of the V4CP programme facilitated a pre-test in Nyeri County to train more CHEWs and CHVs. The launch and roll-out of the manual to other counties will depend on the COVID-19 situation in the country.

### Challenges faced

With support from the V4CP programme, the organisation has influenced policymaking and created awareness on clean cooking in some counties, but the advocacy journey was slowed down by the low level of awareness on the need to switch to clean cooking methods to reduce HAP-related diseases.

It took a lot of sensitisation forums to get policymakers and community leaders on board. One major challenge that CHVs are facing is the difficulty to convince people to abandon the traditional methods of cooking which results in household air pollution and diseases.

### Future plans

CCAK will continue to reach out to the majority of the households in the country to increase awareness of the benefits of adopting clean cooking solutions.



*Youth modeling briquette in Homa Bay County. Photo by ADRES Group.*

# Kenya's clean cooking champions

This is a story of how a grassroots female-led group – comprising of a Kenyan CSO network under the V4CP programme – is working to advocate the benefits of adopting clean cookstoves and fuels in order to reduce the health problems associated with traditional cooking methods.

## Inspiring a women-led movement

Nearly 3 billion people worldwide still cook using open fires or inefficient stoves fuelled by kerosene, biomass, or charcoal<sup>1</sup>. When used in confined spaces, this cooking method can have severe health consequences; it is estimated to cause 4 million deaths a year<sup>2</sup>. In Kenya, biomass - particularly wood - provides 68% of the country's energy needs and accounts for over 90% of fuel used by rural households<sup>3</sup>, with significant detrimental impacts on the climate (due to deforestation and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions) and on human health.

Although improved cookstoves and cleaner fuels can reduce indoor air pollution and its associated health problems, it is not easy to change the way communities have cooked for generations, and better stoves and fuels are not affordable for everyone. The V4CP programme advocates for increased adoption of clean stoves and fuels in Kenya through the inclusion of clean cooking initiatives in national and county plans and budgets.

GROOTS Kenya - a network of grassroots, community-based organisations and a partner in the V4CP programme - has found that by engaging its 3,000 women-led community-based groups, it is inspiring a

broader female-led movement that is advocating for safer and healthier cooking methods both at household and policy level.

## Evidence for advocacy

This story begins in 2016, when GROOTS Kenya, with support from the V4CP programme, embarked on a study to generate high-quality data about the use and health impacts of traditional cooking methods in Kitui county, eastern Kenya.



*Clean cooking champions with the Kitui County Minister for Environment, Aug 2018. Photo by V4CP.*

The aim of the community-led study, which surveyed 455 households across the county, was to gather solid evidence in order to convince the county's decision makers of the need to promote clean cookstoves and fuels. The study showed that approximately three quarters of the households surveyed were aware of the availability of clean and efficient cookstoves. However, 50% of those were unable to afford the initial financial investment. Of the households that had already

1. World Health Organisation, May 2018.  
2. World Health Organisation, May 2018.  
3. Government of Kenya, 2015.



purchased a more efficient stove, 73% did not use it for everyday cooking due to the high cost of fuels. Although traditional, open fires were still used by 67% of households, 74% expressed interest in purchasing an improved stove - such as the Kenya Ceramic Jiko (a low-emission charcoal stove) - in the future, which indicated a desire to practice clean cooking. As part of its evidence gathering, GROOTS Kenya also reviewed existing policy frameworks for the clean energy sector at both the national and county level. This, coupled with the household data, formed the basis of a convincing advocacy case for clean cooking.

### **Towards clean cooking**

Given its experience of community-led advocacy, GROOTS Kenya knew that the most effective way to present its evidence-based case was to support local women so that they could influence their communities, as well as county policy makers, as citizens. In light of this, it mapped and identified 40 women (one from each district in the county) to become clean cooking champions. By influencing county governments to allocate budget to clean cooking, GROOTS ensured that the identified women received training from their county on the health problems associated with traditional cooking methods, how to construct and install clean cookstoves, as well as on a wide range of related issues, such as the county government's planning and budgeting cycle

### **Igniting political awareness**

GROOTS Kenya's journey is not only revealing some of the challenges faced by poor households in accessing clean energy, it is also highlighting opportunities to integrate the promotion of clean cookstoves within the policy agenda. Building on the relationship established with county-level actors, the CSO has continued to seize opportunities for collaboration in scaling up renewable

energy projects in the county. In October 2018, for example, GROOTS Kenya participated at the launch of the Inpower initiative, a joint effort of the National Environment Trust Fund (NETFund), Kitui county and three Kitui-based CSOs.<sup>4</sup>

Yet the CSO wanted to provide the champions themselves with a platform within local government to stimulate political leaders to act. Since 2013, all counties in Kenya have had to prepare County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP) to guide development over five-year periods. The second CIDP for 2018 – 2022 was in the public consultation phase, when citizens can contribute their views. GROOTS Kenya facilitated the participation of the clean cooking champions in Kitui county's CIDP forums, as citizens, to present their case to decision makers.

*“Creating a network of clean cooking champions was a strategy to help us reach the county governments. Under the new devolved government structure, citizens have a big role in decision making at county level. The clean cooking champions are local citizens who have the right to participate in meetings and validate county budgets. We felt that involving the champions would be better than talking on their behalf, as the leaders have to listen to those who voted for them.”*

Jael Amati, Programme Co-ordinator, GROOTS Kenya.

Under the public consultation activities, GROOTS Kenya organised for the champions to meet with representatives of relevant county departments, such as the Environment and Forestry, Energy, Public Health, Kenya Forest Service and the Office of the Governor, to encourage them to prioritise policy plans and budgets aimed at increasing demand for clean cookstoves.

4. See media story on the launch at: <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2018/10/08/kitui-ngos-partner-to-promote-clean-and-sustainable-energy>

In addition, it helped the champions organise public awareness forums in their county districts on the health impacts of traditional cooking methods and the benefits of adopting clean cookstoves and fuels.



*Mary Mbole, Clean Cooking Champion, Kitui County. Photo by V4CP.*

As a clean cooking champion, Mary Mbole travels to different parts of the county to construct improved stoves and to raise awareness of clean cooking technologies. Since being trained as a qualified clean cooking artisan Mary, mother to 11 children, has been able to diversify her source of income and increase her confidence.

“When I joined GROOTS, I learnt about clean cooking and how to explain to others how to make improved jikos. Clean cooking teaches us about health. Traditional stoves brought a lot of illnesses like TB and eye problems. It also took a lot of time to collect firewood and watch the fire. After the training, I started to inform others. This is how I met customers who wanted me to build a jiko for them. Our cookstove is safe. You cannot get burnt and you do not only have to use wood. It also burns the dry stalks that remain after harvesting.

GROOTS also encouraged us to go to the county government to explain what changes we would like to see. We told them we are clean cooking champions but we don't have enough skills. We asked them to support our training to talk to others about clean cooking. Madam Rachel (the County Assistant Energy Director) wrote everything down. One month later, the county invited some of us for the training. This was a refresher course for me. I was later selected as part of the team to build stoves for vulnerable households in eight wards. I made 10 jikos in Kitui south sub-county. Here in Mwingi, I have built 50 jikos. Later I was invited to accompany the Energy Director when she visited west Kitui. On that trip, I built more than 20 jikos.

*After the visit, I was asked to train two young men in Mwingi. The two young men I trained are also champions. I saved my money from the trip and used it to buy two goats.”*

Mary Mbole, Clean Cooking Champion, Kitui County.

### **Transforming policy into action**

Impressed by the initiative, in 2017 and 2018, the Kitui County Department of Energy included 15 of the champions in their training on how to construct and install rocket stoves, an efficient wood burner that can be fuelled by crop residues and other materials that are readily available on farms. Thereafter, the trained champions, with support of artisans from the energy centre, constructed 80 rocket stoves for vulnerable households in the county.

Today, the Department has indicated that it is willing to extend the training to all 40 clean cooking champions and others. Clean cooking has been adopted as an explicit goal in Kitui county's policy frameworks and the CIDP contains specific interventions that will contribute towards this. Furthermore, funds have been allocated to advance clean cooking in the 2018 budget. The county intends to pilot a project to provide subsidised

LPG cylinders and to increase awareness and training for communities on the installation of clean cooking stoves, which will help generate further demand.

In an effort to explore alternatives to charcoal burning (which causes deforestation, emits significant amounts of GHG, and contributes to serious health problems), the county plans to raise awareness of producing alternative wood products for fuel, such as briquettes and wood pellets for use in improved cookstoves, a move which could also diversify livelihood options for women and young people. Recently, the Department of Energy procured 20 machines for briquette-making as an income generating activity, and purchased 800 energy saving Maendeleo Jikos - simple and fuel-efficient firewood stoves - to distribute to poor households in urban centres.

### Scaling up impact to influence national energy policy

Through this programme, GROOTS Kenya has established good working relationships with a broad range of Kitui county departments. As a result, the county's Kenya Forest Service recently provided some of clean cooking champions and their groups with free tree seedlings so that they can establish woodlots. Kitui's Department of Health has also expressed interest in including clean cooking in their guidelines for public health officers, by applying World Health Organisation standards on domestic indoor pollution.

As part of the V4CP programme, GROOTS Kenya collaborates with the Clean Cookstoves Association of Kenya (CCAK), to jointly advocate at a national level for clean cooking as a viable contribution to the country's clean energy policies and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, GROOTS Kenya's growing reputation as a credible source of evidence-based advocacy is enabling it to contribute to national policy debates. For example, in October 2018, it was invited to participate at sessions of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Clean Cooking (assembled by CCAK), which is currently developing a proposed action plan for ministries to further the agenda

in Kenya. It also participated at a national workshop on renewable energy, held in December 2018 in Diani Ukunda, where Kitui county scooped the top award for its efforts in creating an enabling environment for clean cooking and the adoption of renewable energy. Furthermore, the organisation's success in developing a network of clean cooking champions is being emulated by other CSOs working on Energy, Food and Nutrition Security, Resilience, and Sanitation, not only across Kenya, but also in other countries.



*Improved Kenyan Jiko (stove). Photo by V4CP.*

### Driving policy change: lessons learnt

GROOTS Kenya has found that contributing to transformational change requires patience and long term-commitment, as well as the agility to respond quickly to emerging opportunities. In January 2018, the Governor of Kitui County, Charity Ngilu, gained national attention when she announced a ban on charcoal burning to prevent further destruction of forests. For her plan to work, the county needed to find alternative employment opportunities for the thousands of people - especially youth - that earn a living burning and trading in charcoal.

During the build-up to this announcement, the need to find viable solutions to this challenge provided GROOTS Kenya with an opportunity to engage her and other county leaders and make a case for clean fuels and cooking technologies. One such opportunity was an informal breakfast with the Governor in September 2017, convened by an alliance of Kitui-based CSOs.

### Stimulating demand for the future

The V4CP programme continues to create evidence, for example on the use of biomass cookstoves and fuels in Kenyan institutions, in collaboration with Kenya's Energy Regulatory Commission. The outcomes are expected to contribute to the ongoing discussions on the need to have regulations governing biomass and the use of clean cookstoves country-wide.

*"For us, advocacy does not mean activism on the streets. It's about boardroom negotiation and influencing. Our contribution to the biomass study means that we will also be able to have an input into energy bills that regulate the use of biomass country-wide. So we work along – not against – government at both national and county levels."*

Mary Njuguna Kimwadu, Coordinator, V4CP Kenya.

If the county-wide clean energy programme allocates funds to promote alternatives to charcoal burning and subsidises clean cookstoves, it will stimulate demand from poorer households. This, in turn, will generate further demand for GROOTS Kenya's network of trained community cooking champions in the future and help them create a secure livelihood.

*"These are issues we have somewhat factored in our Country Development Plans... what GROOTS Kenya is doing is helping the county to move further in terms of development, in terms of wealth creation, in terms of women and youth empowerment, in every area."*

John Makau, Environment Minister, Kitui County.





*Photo by ADRES Group.*

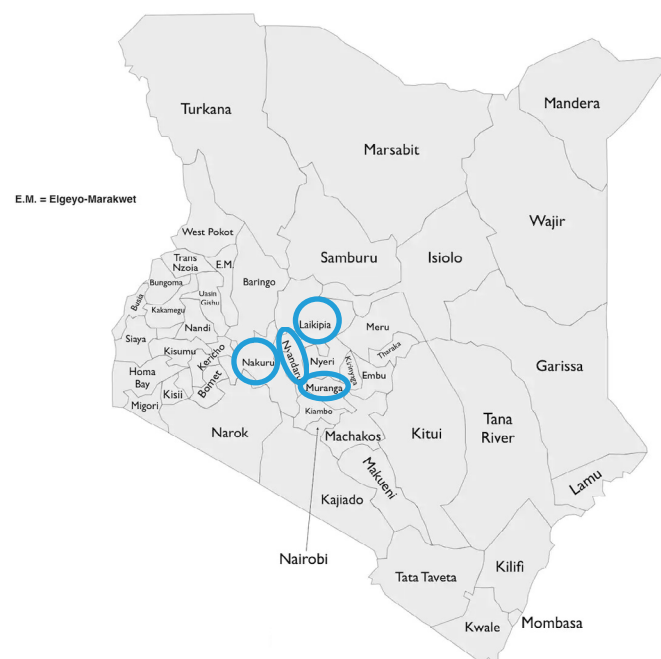


# FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY

# Champions of potato produce: Building alliances to foster strategies for addressing post-harvest loss in the potato value chain

## Background

This story is about how the V4CP programme, through the Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programme (SACDEP), a local CSO in Kenya advocated for awareness on the effects of post-harvest losses on the socio-economic status of value chain actors in the horticulture potato sub-sector. Below map shows Counties targeted.



Post-Harvest Loss (PHL) in Kenya is estimated to be as high as 50% of total produce, mainly due to poor storage and handling of harvests, according to a review report produced by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) through the V4CP programme. The report indicates that PHL affects the incomes of farmers in rural areas, where poverty rates are highest. From the research findings above, SACDEP, through the V4CP programme, advocated for awareness on the effects of PHL on the socio-economic status of value chain actors in the horticulture potato sub-sector.

The advocacy work pushed for the implementation of National Crop Irish Potato regulations that provides strategies to address post-harvest losses.

A key component of the advocacy work was to integrate the voice of smallholder farmers and farmer cooperatives in decision-making processes at both the national and county levels.

## Post-harvest loss in Kenya

50%

## Programme response and impact

At the inception stage, SACDEP conducted a rapid assessment study in Nyandarua, Nakuru, Laikipia, and Murang'a to identify the major crops that were heavily impacted by PHL. From the assessment, it was identified that Irish Potatoes, the leading staple food crop in both Nakuru and Nyandarua counties experienced losses of up to 25% during pre- and post-harvest.

## Irish potatoes in Nakuru and Nyandarua counties pre and post-harvest loss recorded

25%

Rapid assessment report, V4CP programme



*Potatoes after harvest. Photo by ADRES Group.*

Discussions with the County Directors of agriculture in the two counties brought to light the need to address potato losses, in Nakuru and Nyandarua. Back then, no guiding regulations were implemented at both the national and county levels to safeguard the production, marketing, and losses in the Irish potato value chain in the country.

The lack of implementation of the drafted National Crop Irish Potato regulations and county potato strategies continued to create systemic challenges in the value chain, pest and diseases during production, market dynamics, support services and post-harvest management.

*"It is important for the regulatory space to accept the advocacy*



*aspect from CSOs, specifically, looking at the agriculture sector to make policymaking processes more inclusive. That means including the farmers and civil society to make sure whatever policies are being made are inclusive."*

Brenda Mareri (left), Advisor, Food and Nutrition at SNV. Photo by ADRES Group.

### **Forums to address post-harvest loss**

In December 2017, SACDEP organised various capacity building forums for community champions in Nakuru and Nyandarua counties to sensitise them on the effects of post-harvest loss on potatoes. The forums guided on



how to explore value addition technologies. As a result of the capacity building of the community champions (lead farmers), were included in the Nakuru County technical working group on the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP). The group drives the development agenda at the county level. PHL was identified as a key area of attention in the CIDP, prompting government readiness to focus on post-harvest loss interventions and recognised the need to increase the budget allocation. V4CP also identified that there was the need to push for the newly drafted Irish Potato Regulations which would address the major issues farmers were facing. The champions were equipped with relevant technical skills and knowledge to address advocacy issues in dairy and horticulture farming. Awareness creation was critical in the process to overcome the PHL.

*“The counties that we worked with had never looked at it as a problem that would need a solution. They used to think that giving inputs like fertilizer would solve the problem. Another issue is that the information is not out there. Even if it is out there, they will talk about incurring losses of 40% but they are not looking at how we can solve this 40%. After working with the county governments, the counties are looking to see how they can allocate a budget towards ensuring that the post-harvest losses are controlled.”*

Elizabeth Kung'u, from SACDEP.

At the national level, in May 2019, SACDEP signed a joint partnership with the National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK) and the Agricultural Council of Kenya (AGCK) to push for the policy implementation of the National Crop Irish Potato Regulation (2018). The regulation was subsequently approved and released in April of the same year.

The partnership led to improved capacity of stakeholders on the interpretation of the National Crop Irish potato regulations to refine and develop county potato strategies. It also provided SACDEP with access to platforms at the county and national levels that

focused on the potato value chain. SACDEP through the partnership with NPCK and AGCK engaged with Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA), a government body responsible for the Irish potato regulations and shared inputs on the implementation of pending regulations.

### **Review of the Nakuru Potato Strategy**

In Nakuru County, the V4CP programme through SACDEP and AGCK were co-opted into the Nakuru potato technical working group formed by the county government and NPCK in April 2019. The technical working group consisted of regulatory agencies such as the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate (KEPHIS), Pest Control and Poisons Board (PCPB) as well as the ministries of Health, Trade and Agriculture. The working group's mandate was to review the Nakuru Potato Strategy and SACDEP's inclusion was vital to ensure the PHL agenda was well represented.

SACDEP gave inputs on the draft strategy covering infrastructure and implementation of the new Irish potato regulations that would support the streamlining of the value chain regarding weights, market prices and post-harvest management. Nakuru County Agronomist and Extension Officer Lynette Echesa said the involvement of the V4CP programme led to increased awareness among farmers, extension officers, the county assembly and county officials on the need for implementation of the national Irish potato regulations.

### **CSOs influence enforcement of Irish potato regulations**

In Nyandarua County, SACDEP was invited again to be part of the existing Nyandarua Potato Strategy Implementing Committee that was responsible for the development of an implementation matrix of the potato strategy for the county. SACDEP was able to invite farmer champions to participate in the discussions that shaped the implementation matrix.

The partnership between the V4CP programme, AGCK and NPCK supported the county governments of Nakuru and Nyandarua in the review of their potato strategic plans, which domesticated the regulations from the national government.

Due to the CSOs' involvement, especially at the county level, the Nyandarua County government resolved to immediately commence the enforcement of the Irish Potato Regulations.



Fresh Irish potato produce from the farm. Photo by ADRES Group.

### Increased awareness of post-harvest loss

Elidjia Njeri, a community leader and farmer in Nyandarua County who was involved in PHL advocacy activities since 2018, appreciated the value of the workshops organised by SACDEP noting that they were instrumental in creating awareness among farmers in the region.

Following the work that AGCK, NPCK and the V4CP programme had accomplished in creating awareness, they resolved to develop awareness materials to

continue educating stakeholders in the potato value chain on the regulations. The three organizations organised and facilitated workshops in December 2019 and developed guide booklets and training manuals on the national Irish potato regulations in partnership with the Nakuru County government. The booklets were developed to enhance an easy understanding of the regulations. The training manuals were important for trainers working with farmers as well as extension officers and others who were willing to share information on the regulations.



*"Now, I don't have to wait for the government to help me with everything because the V4CP programme training helped me to be aware of how to fix things and help other farmers to address post-harvest loss. Many potato farmers now know how to use things like pesticides, store farm produce, as well as package farm produce for transportation to reduced losses."*

Elidjia Njeri, a community leader and farmer from Nyandarua



A farmer in a potato storage facility inspecting her harvest. Photo by ADRES Group

Through the partnership of the CSOs, they were able to pool their resources together to amplify their voices towards the improvement of the existing policies and supported both the county and national governments. Working with various stakeholders in the potato farming sector also improved the capacity of SACDEP.

### Lessons learnt

Addressing policy implementation and value chain actor sensitisation in Nakuru and Nyandarua counties led to considerable success due to the partnerships between organisations with varying competences. SACDEP was able to venture into a sub-sector that needed more technical expertise and policy knowledge that they lacked. Their technical knowledge was boosted by the competencies that AGCK and NPCK offered.

### Challenges

Although the partnerships initiated by SACDEP in Nakuru and Nyandarua counties yielded great results such as policy formulation to address the PHL of potatoes, they still experienced a few challenges. SNV's Advisor Ms Mareri noted the main challenge was difficulty in narrowing down on post-harvest loss as an agenda. It was not a leading priority in national-level strategies. It was noted that the limited of technical knowledge on PHL by SACDEP led to the creation of alliances to build their capacity in this area. Many people did not understand the gravity of the PHL issues which is why the V4CP programme focused on creating awareness to achieve the desired change.

### Future plans

The V4CP programme supported partnership that led to stakeholders such as SACDEP, NPCK, AGCK and the county governments to establish a working relationship. This has laid a firm foundation for the implementation of County Potato Strategies and the National Irish Potato regulations. The strong partnerships at the grassroots level will ensure that the process of developing potato strategies in Nakuru and Nyandarua counties add value to harvests, thus,

ensuring food security.

The programme is also in the process of implementing a similar strategy to reduce post-harvest loss in Nyandarua County. A potato strategy has already been developed and the process of creating an implementing unit that will oversee the implementation of the strategy is underway. SACDEP is part of the team together with farmers in Nyandarua County.

Elizabeth Kung'u, a SACDEP official, is optimistic that the partnerships between her organisation and county government stakeholders will address the challenges facing farmers, specifically, PHL in the potato value chain. She also acknowledges that the support from the V4CP programme was an eye-opener. The knowledge acquired from the project will enable SACDEP to train more farmer champions to advocate for continued support from the government.



*Photo by ADRES Group.*

# Multi-stakeholder platforms as a vehicle for coordination of food safety initiatives in Kenya

## Background

This story is about the V4CP CSO Society of Crop Agribusiness Advisors (SOCAA) and how they are working with both national and county governments to facilitate and support the coordination of food safety initiatives through the use of multi-stakeholder platforms.



*Sweet potato farm in Nyandarua County. Photo by ADRES Group.*

## Food safety in the horticulture sector in Kenya

Kenya's horticulture sector has traditionally focused on food safety regulations and investment towards export markets, which accounts for 5% of production. Consumer awareness and demand for safe food has influenced compliance by value chain actors, with governments playing a surveillance role. In the domestic market, which accounts for 95% of production; horticulture production and marketing is largely fragmented and disorganised. In addition, the lack of organised value chain services leads to lack of transparency and accountability in supply chains

and increases risks of contamination of produce from microbial, heavy metal and chemical contaminants. It is against this background that SOCAA through V4CP has been advocating for establishment of coordinated initiatives at both county and national levels between players handling the legislation and implementation of food safety initiatives.



*Local market selling fresh fruits and vegetables. Photo courtesy of Unsplash.*

## Programme response and impact

When initiating their advocacy planning and strategy, SOCAA through V4CP undertook a context analysis of the existing policies and institutions addressing food safety in the horticulture sector in Kenya. From this they were able to establish that food safety mandates were fragmented among different national and county departments and agencies.

This affected the harmonisation and implementation of policies, regulations, standards and initiatives aimed at improving food safety. Various institutions such as the Pest Control Product Board (PCPB), Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), and Horticultural Crop Directorate (HCD), regulatory agencies such as Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS) including national and county line ministries played a role in surveillance and monitoring of food safety in the horticulture sector. The lack of coordination between National and County governments as well as regulatory agencies added to the complexity of managing the food safety issues in horticulture.

Following initial meetings with key actors within the various counties, multi-stakeholder platform inception meetings were held in 2019 in Nakuru, Nyandarua, Laikipia and Murang'a. The key goal was to stimulate discussions on the lack of coordination within the counties in addressing policy and initiatives on food safety through sharing of evidence and case studies generated by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

Participants were drawn from communities of practice, public sector, private sector as well as other civil society organisations with interests in food safety. From these inception meetings, the formation of multi-sectoral food safety committees was agreed upon. The formation of the food safety committees was aimed at promoting coordination of food safety activities and development of an accountability system that will ensure horticultural produce can be produced, distributed and traded in a safe manner.

### **Establishment of food safety committees in the counties**

In April 2019, the county executive committee member of agriculture of Nakuru embraced the formation of the Nakuru Food Safety Committee and endorsed it

as a strategic initiative for the county in championing food safety issues. The members of the committee were drawn from various county department and line ministries such as Ministry of Health., Trade, Agriculture and regulatory bodies such as Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS).



*Farmer preparing land for cultivation to provide food for the community. Photo courtesy of Unsplash.*

*"We would like to get to the point where the same standards applied to export market are applied to the food locally consumed. The discourse is that every market in Kenya should sell food that would be at equal level to what we export."*

Dr. Immaculate Maina, County Executive Committee Member, Agriculture Nakuru.

The committee came up with objectives that would guide their operations within the county and developed a food safety action plan to be utilized over the next three years. One major objective of the committee was to develop a food safety policy which would be key in addressing food safety in Nakuru.

In Nyandarua, SOCAA engaged with the various county ministries and institutions to facilitate the formation of a food safety committee. SOCAA provided technical support in the development of an annual strategy for the committee and mapped out an action plan for the county. Nyandarua embraced the idea of development of a food safety policy which would serve to coordinate food safety initiatives in the county.



*Celebration of the World Food Safety Day on 7th June 2018 in Nakuru. Photo Courtesy of Chams Media.*

Laikipia and Murang'a counties formed food safety committees with technical backstopping from SOCAA as well and developed action plans to coordinate activities of community champions, county departments and enhance consumer awareness on food safety.

### Successes of the food safety committees

Through the food safety committees, Nakuru County has developed a draft food safety policy and Nyandarua County has plans to develop a food safety policy as well. These policies will act as frameworks to address food safety issues in the county in a coordinated manner.

The development of the food safety committee in Nakuru has resulted in a great willingness for different county ministries to work together to create awareness on food safety. For example, the successful celebration by Nakuru County of the first UN declared World Food Safety Day marked on June 7th 2018 and themed "Food safety, everyone's business" was organised and conducted by the committee. The County showed its support through the county executive committee members of agriculture and trade, who pronounced the county government's support in promotion of food safety initiative in the county.

### Conclusions & Lessons learnt

A multi-stakeholder process approach is key to achieving consensus, increased accountability and inclusivity. More concerted efforts are required to align different horticulture stakeholder's interests for more sustainable interventions that encourage self-regulation and traceability for the local markets. Multi-stakeholder platforms thrive when we realise every stakeholder's opinion matters and has a role to play.

Anchoring the food safety platforms within the County Governments has provided credibility to the food safety committees and creates an avenue through which various partners can join and support in pushing the set agenda forward. The food safety committees have created a platform for discussions to be propelled into action, but more needs to be done to ensure continuity and mechanisms to ensure support from the various department within the county ministries to use the committees as a tool for engagement and coordination.

Through V4CP, SOCAA, was able to highlight the need for coordinated efforts at both county and national level to minimize on duplicated efforts by institutions and regulators. This resulted in the formation of food safety committees that designed implementation frameworks that are serving as roadmaps to achieving

key food safety initiatives in the county. The Food Safety committees have been instrumental in the drafting of the county food safety policies that will encourage multi-sectoral approaches in addressing food safety cutting across all value chain players; producers, transporters, processors, traders and consumers.

With the success that has been realised by V4CP in the formation of the food safety committees, there is a need to strengthen the existing committees by

further inclusion of private sector and local community organisations to represent the voices of a broader stakeholder sub-group. In Nakuru and Nyandarua, V4CP through the food safety committees plan to continue offering technical support to finalise the development of the food safety policies to promote food safety practices by all value chain actors. In Murang'a and Laikipia, SOCAA continues to provide guidance on the development of food safety policies and the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach.



*A farmer harvesting his produce. Photo by Rifky Nur Setyadi /Unsplash.*

# Creating a level playing field: A CSO's journey pushing for traceability in Kenya's domestic horticulture market

## Background

This story is about the V4CP CSO Society of Crop Agribusiness Advisors (SOCAA) and how they worked to highlight the gaps in the Kenya national food safety control system and the need for the implementation of Traceability standards in the domestic horticulture system.



Photo by ADRES Group.

## Traceability and Food Safety Control Systems in the Domestic Horticulture sector in Kenya

Kenya has effective systems for food safety controls that meet global standards for export horticulture commodities but has no such working system in the domestic market.

In 2017, agriculture generated of Kenya's GDP

(2018 Economic Survey)

# 31.5%

The horticulture sub-sector comprised a third of agriculture's contribution (Agriculture and Fisheries Authority, 2017), and mostly consisted of crops consumed locally. For the 5% of horticulture produce that is exported, Kenya implements stringent mechanisms for food safety controls. These meet global standards and are characterised by strict regulations. However, when it comes to the horticulture supply chains for domestic consumption, controls and accountability are severely lacking. This results in increased probability of contamination and exposure of domestic consumers to foodborne disease in addition to increased market access problems.

Through V4CP, the Society of Crop Agribusiness Advisors of Kenya (SOCAA) along with other civil society organisations (CSOs) advocated for an improved enabling environment for safe food production and markets. Using evidence generated with the support of IFPRI, SOCAA advocated for the coordination of regulations and frameworks to ensure domestic produce is handled at the same standards as export produce.



Fresh vegetables being sold in an open air local market. Photo courtesy of Unsplash.



### **Program response and impact: Civic engagement in addressing food system gaps**

The food supply chain is long and horticulture in particular is complex in Kenya. Most players along the food chain have no established traceability systems in their operations. The informal nature of trading and high number of intermediaries also means tracking systems would be difficult to introduce and to implement. Although there were some private sector efforts in the past, these were fragmented and disjointed.

A successful tracking system would have to consider the different needs of horticulture producers. In an effort to address traceability issues in the domestic market, the food safety standard KS1758 was developed by the Horticulture Crops Directorate in 2016 to ensure domestic horticulture products were produced safely and potential issues could be tracked through the value chain. The standard is a code of practice ensuring production, processing, distribution and marketing of horticulture produce in line with global food safety standards.

As a first step, SOCAA, engage with key actors in the horticulture value chain and established relationships by bringing them together in a multi-stakeholder platform to rally behind the implementation of KS1758 standard. Several important players were engaged such as the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), a body that represents private sector at national level; Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) which represents private sector at county level; horticulture industry associations such as Fresh Producers Exporters Association of Kenya (FPEAK) which represents growers and exporters; the Fresh Produce Consortium (FPC) that represents trade associations; and the Retail Traders Association of Kenya (RETRAK) representing the voice of retailers. The focus of the multi stakeholder platform was to champion for the implementation of the domestic food safety standard KS1758. Creating awareness of the Standard would be

vital to bring about an enabling environment for the adoption of KS1758, and was a key part of SOCAA's strategy.

In 2017, SOCAA, presented the KS1758 standard at the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) Agriculture Sector Board on food safety and advocated for the inclusion of food safety as a key engagement point between KEPSA and the government at the Presidential Round Table. This ensured that the food safety agenda would be included at the highest level of private sector agenda. In order to demonstrate application and support the implementation of the KS1758 Standard, SOCAA in early 2018, engaged the Kenya National Technical Working Group for Horticulture (KNTWG) for support. KNTWG comprises of technical experts from private sector, research and government. In collaboration SOCAA and KNTWG worked on the development of implementation tools such as implementation manuals, checklists and training modules that would guide the release and implementation of the KS1758 standard. In order to demonstrate uptake and application of the standard within the market, SOCAA worked in collaboration with SNV Kenya Market Led Horticulture Program (KMHP), private sector service providers (off-takers) such as Green Rhino and Electronic Production Management Systems (E-prod). In this regard, SOCAA supported both Green Rhino and E-prod to institutionalise the required checks and guides to match with the KS1758 requirements.

### **Successes in building sector awareness and implementation of KS 1758 standards**

In June 2018, SOCAA developed and distributed over 500 copies of simplified quick guide booklets on the KS1758 standard in conjunction with the Horticultural Crops Directorate to create awareness to value chain actors on the standard and the key principles guiding KS 1758.

Moreover, a series of sensitisation meetings were organised in Nyandarua, Laikipia, Murang'a and Nakuru counties, called Communities of Practice (COPs) to sensitize on the existence of domestic standards with focus on the aspects of traceability. SOCAA worked together with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) County Chapters to build awareness among members on the current food safety situation and the KS1758 standard. As a result, all four participating county governments (Nakuru, Murang'a, Laikipia and Nyandarua) put in place food safety committees to steer food safety policy development in counties with traceability as a key aspect in addressing food safety.



*Fresh tomatoes from the farm being sold at a market. Photo courtesy of Unsplash.*

In February 2019, SOCCA, supported the formation of a public-private partnership called the National Horticulture Transformation Technical Working Group (NHTTWG) following concerted engagements with key

officials in the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA), Horticultural Crops Directorate (HCD) and key officials from Public Health and Trade. NHTTWG was formed with the overall mandate to synergise the efforts of various stakeholders working in the horticulture space and therefore reduce duplication of efforts in addressing food safety.

The National government continued to actively address food safety and in May 2019, the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) published the Crops (Horticulture Crops Regulations, 2019) which aimed at promoting compliance with international and national standards, including KS1758. SOCAA took part in the public reviews of the proposed regulations and presented recommendations from key actors and evidence generated through V4CP which informed gaps in the standard that directly addressed food safety and the need for multi-sectoral coordination.

In their continued efforts to address traceability, SOCAA in October 2019, shared evidence generated by IFPRI on the major issues identified on traceability of fruits and vegetables with the Ministry of Agriculture to build a strong case on the need for multi-sectoral coordination to achieve food safety by addressing traceability. Following various stakeholder engagements, the Multi Agency Food Safety Technical working group was established, commissioned by the permanent secretary of Agriculture.

In November 2019, SOCCA was invited to join the Technical working group due to the recognition they had garnered in the civil society space as an expert in the horticulture sector. The mandate of the technical working group is to develop a food safety framework that will guide the establishment of the Kenya National Food Safety Agency currently under discussion at the national level. This marked an important indication of the good will by public sector towards a collaborative



*Photo by ADRES Group.*

approach with stakeholders on the national food safety system. SOCAA through the technical working group continued to champion for the implementation of the KS 1758 standards to enhance traceability in the domestic horticulture sector at National level.

### **Conclusion and lessons learned**

Traceability of fruits and vegetables is a key component in realizing a successful food safety system. Implementation of the Crops (Horticulture Crops Regulations) and KS1758 will bring the largely informal agricultural sector in Kenya under regulation and address food safety along the value chain. SOCAA has worked with public, private sector and consumer organisations to create momentum among horticulture stakeholders to address traceability in the domestic horticulture market. This has been through the formation of multi stakeholder platforms such as NHTTWG, county food safety committees and development of implementation tools for the KS1758 standard. SOCAA's contribution to review of the Crops Horticulture Crops regulations and membership in the Multi-Agency Food Safety Technical

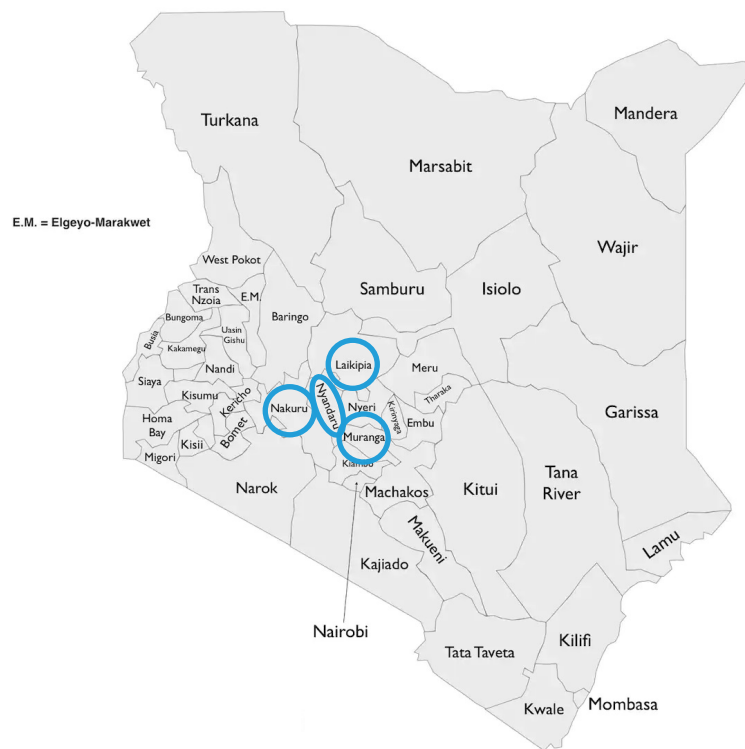
working group have provided the CSO with platforms to showcase their expertise in the horticulture industry and directly engage with National and county governments to continue advocating for traceability in food safety.

As a result of these engagements, SOCAA and other CSOs in the V4CP programme are now recognised by industry actors within the field of food and nutrition security. Consequently, civil society are invited to key sector forums by both the Ministry of Agriculture and the horticulture regulator and their voice is heard in industry discussions on the establishment of a national traceability mechanism. There is now a strong push in the public sector, led by the Horticultural Crops directorate, towards ownership of policy implementation and uptake of KS1758 standard by private sector to achieve traceability in the food safety system. SOCAA recognizes that implementing a traceability system for domestic horticulture is a long-term process, and results are expected gradually. SOCAA plans to continue engaging both public and private sector to support the implementation of the KS1758 standard.

# Strategic evidence-based advocacy by a CSO for milk safety in Kenya

Milk and dairy products are some of the foods most frequently implicated in foodborne disease occurrence. This story demonstrates how the Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS), using knowledge and evidence generated by the V4CP programme promoted inclusion of consumers' voice in policymaking at the county level to address milk safety. This is a story about how CUTS championed collaboration on the issue of milk safety across responsible government departments and value chain actors.

CUTS advocacy efforts enabled analysis of the dairy value chain with a safety lens in Murang'a, Nakuru, Laikipia and Nyandarua counties resulting in key sector policy documents for all counties.



## Background

Milk safety and quality have been a growing concern, threatening the growth of Kenya's dairy sector. Recent research studies indicate the presence of poor quality and unsafe dairy products in the market. Local media have also reported unscrupulous value chain actors engaging in activities that compromise the safety of milk by introducing contaminants. Among the underlying systemic issues is the fact that Kenya's market is driven by volumes as opposed to quality. Poor compliance to milk standards along the chain, weak enforcement of regulations, limited consumer awareness and demand for food safety have worsened the situation.



*Milk collection cans belonging to Miharati Farmers' Cooperative Union in Kipipiri sub-county, Nyandarua County. Photo by ADRES Group.*



CUTS organised consultative meetings between the dairy platform members (in Laikipia, Nyandarua and Nakuru counties) and the Kenya Dairy Board (KDB) ahead of the official planned stakeholder sessions to allow an in-depth review of the Draft Dairy Industry Regulations 2019. The regulations are intended to enhance milk safety and quality in the country.

With support from CUTS, in March 2020 dairy platform leaders across the three counties presented memorandums to the national task force collecting views on the proposed Dairy Industry Regulations.



One of the Nakuru engagement meetings ongoing. Photo by V4CP.

CUTS further supported the dairy platforms to document their activities in newsletters. The wide circulation of the newsletters will promote mutual accountability from the dairy stakeholders and government on sector commitments and policy.

### Promoting inclusion in the dairy platforms

In October 2018, CUTS was introduced to Safe Communities and Safe Consumers Organisation (SACOR) by the Nakuru County Government's Department of Youth, Gender, Culture, Sports and Social Services. SACOR is a community-based organisation in Nakuru County that brings together women, youth, men, and persons with disabilities on various social and development matters.

Through CUTS advocacy on milk safety and quality, SACOR was included as a member of the Nakuru dairy platform representing consumers.



*"CUTS signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Safe Communities for partnership on food safety. They are considered a part of the dairy stakeholders' platform in Nakuru County, representing the consumer node. From the MoU, the Safe Communities set up a desk that allowed consumers to engage the county government, regulators and public health officials."*

Idah Kinya (left), the Assistant Programme Officer at CUTS. Photo by ADRES Group.

The milk safety awareness campaign jointly executed by CUTS and SACOR on 1st June 2020 was very successful and recognised in the 2020 Global Dairy Platform report.



*"We are now able to sensitise the community on consumer rights, milk quality and safety having participated in the training and forums organised by CUTS."*

Stephen Ogutu (left), SACOR Board Member. Photo by ADRES Group.

### **Influencing policy change at the county level: Nakuru, Laikipia and Nyandarua**

Since CUTS started supporting and engaging the county governments through dairy platforms in 2019, trust has been built and fast action realised. There is also more willingness from governments to contribute to joint processes. This is true for Nakuru and Nyandarua counties in the development of the County Dairy Sector Strategic Plan and Laikipia for the County Dairy Sector Development Policy.



*Launch of Nakuru Dairy Strategic Plan 2019-2023 with Nakuru County Governor  
Photo by V4CP.*



*"We had 45 members participating in the platform discussing issues such as value addition to avoid post-harvest loss. Engagements with key stakeholders such as the Kenya Dairy Board were successful."*

Virginiah Ngunjiri (right), Ag. Director of Livestock Production, Nakuru County Government. Photo by ADRES Group.

The county government of Nakuru in collaboration with CUTS began a process of developing the Nakuru County Dairy Strategic Plan in April 2019 to prioritise interventions for safety and post-harvest loss for allocation in the annual budget. The process integrated inputs from ASDSP II, KDB, 3R Kenya Project, the National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth



*Unveiling of the Laikipia County Dairy Development Policy. Photo by V4CP.*

CUTS was also involved in the drafting of Laikipia County's Dairy Development Policy. The policy spells out post-harvest loss management and promotion of the safety of dairy products as key policy objectives.

*"CUTS enlightened us on the importance of food quality and safety. Previously we never factored in it the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) because we never knew it was crucial."*

James Kariithi (right), Coordinator, ASDSP, Laikipia County. Photo by ADRES Group.



Farmers, private sector, and cooperatives; members of the dairy platform were facilitated to participate in the validation of the policy document which was formally handed over to the county in July 2019.



*Nyandarua dairy forum group picture. Photo by V4CP.*

In February 2019, the County Government of Nyandarua and CUTS, began review meetings on the County Dairy Strategic Plan. CUTS provided inputs to draft plans and facilitated workshops to collect and consolidate views from the private sector, farmers and cooperatives and members of the dairy stakeholders' platform. Nyandarua County Dairy Value Chain Strategic Plan 2020- 2024 was formally launched by the County of Nyandarua in September 2020.

*"CUTS helped us to develop a newsletter that has assisted in sensitising farmers on food safety and quality. They also guided in developing the Nyandarua dairy value chain strategic plan 2018-2022. We now have a watchdog group called Nyandarua Consumers Watch Group which has helped us revive dairy platforms and make consumer voices heard when engaging with key stakeholders."*

Joseph Rukwaro (right), Deputy Director of Livestock Production, Nyandarua County Government. Photo by ADRES Group.



### **A voice to the dairy platforms**

CUTS continues to encourage the platforms to be vocal on issues and solutions for the dairy sector and has shared relevant evidence with members. Through joint efforts between CUTS and dairy platform members, several media articles have been published on local print media on various issues concerning safety and the dairy sector as a whole. The V4CP programme has provided public platforms (radio, TV, webinars) to the dairy platform members to influence key policy-makers on the milk safety agenda.



## Challenges faced

Notwithstanding the successes achieved by the V4CP programme in the four counties, challenges such as the slow implementation of policies and frequent change of leadership by the county governments derailed engagements. Also, farmers were hesitant to discuss the issue of milk safety because the poor milk farm gate prices was a more pressing concern for them. However, with continuous engagements through the dairy platforms, the farmers started to see the opportunity to access better markets while contributing to health and nutrition by investing in milk safety.

## Lessons learnt

Activities undertaken through the dairy stakeholders' platforms shows why the government-private sector-CSO partnership is key for any public policy process. Without the collaborations, it would not have been possible to deliver the rigorously reviewed and widely accepted dairy policy documents. Professional and well-experienced staff from the government are a great resource that may be overlooked when external expertise alone is engaged for policy development. Officers from The County Division of Livestock Production and the Kenya Dairy Board have been very instrumental in steering and providing technical support in policy processes facilitated by CUTS. They were able to draw the participation of all actors across the value chain and consolidate these inputs into policy documents.

Inclusion in policymaking promotes a holistic approach to sector issues and encourages stakeholders to work towards a common good. The inclusion of consumers in sector policy development has raised the consciousness of value chain actors on consumer expectations and led to the prioritisation of food safety. Joint milk safety awareness activities between consumers and sector actors e.g. producers are enhancing interaction and influencing the way business is conducted.

## Future plans

CUTS' approach has been to support a strong local lobby through strategic county partnerships. CUTS envisions a future where County Dairy Stakeholders Platforms and county consumer watch groups continue to influence in dairy matters, driving the implementation of the sector policies developed for improved milk safety. The organisation will continue to advocate the dairy platforms' voice in the County Agriculture Sector Steering Committees (CASSCOM) and other key decision-making organs. CUTS will also promote knowledge exchange within and across platforms for a competitive dairy sector, leveraging milk safety.



*Murang'a County Dairy Strategic Plan 2018/19 -2022/23 handover to CEC, Department of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries. Photo by V4CP.*



*Nyandarua County Dairy Strategic Plan 2020-2024 launch with Nyandarua County Governor. Photo by V4CP.*

# Consumer-led alliances for improved milk quality in Kenya

This story is about the V4CP CSO - Consumer Unity Trust Society (CUTS) - and how they are actively engaging with public and private sector actors, as well as other civil society platforms, to ensure that consumer voices are heard and that food safety is put on policy agendas at both national and county levels.

## The food production market in Kenya

Kenyans are used to waking up to alarming headlines in the news. Some of the biggest stories in recent years have been about unsafe food on the market, such as maize contaminated with aflatoxin or sub-standard imported sugar, allegedly laced with mercury and copper.

More recently, concern is increasing about the quality and safety of milk consumed by millions of Kenyans every day.

The lack of quality control along the food value chain makes it almost impossible to know which products can be trusted. In addition, consumers' lack awareness of the prevalence and scale of unsafe food - and its health impacts - and there is minimal consumer lobbying to ensure that food safety is high on the public agenda.

Dairy products play an important role in the diet of infants and children under the age of five, providing proteins, calcium and other essential nutrients; it is an important contributor to health and nutrition security. With the recent relaunch of the free school milk programme across the country, which aims to enhance food and nutrition security, concern is growing about the safety of milk supplied to vulnerable children.

A recent study by IFPRI<sup>1</sup> (carried out under the V4CP) on the compliance to milk safety standards in Kenya, shows that between 43% and 96% of milk samples taken from various counties (Kisumu, Nandi, Nairobi, Kiambu) exceeded microbiological standards. Other contaminants found in the milk samples included aflatoxin, antimicrobial residues and harmful preservatives, such as hydrogen peroxide. This takes a high toll on public health as shown in another study by 3R Kenya Project (Ndambi et al, 2018) which estimates that, on average, 855 lives are lost every year in Kenya due to milk-related infectious diseases, such as brucellosis and salmonellosis, and that the related health costs amount to over 400 billion KES (over 3 billion euros).<sup>2</sup>

There are a number of reasons for these high contamination levels. These include inadequate practices at the farm level and lack of cooling facilities and equipment along the dairy value chain. Up to 80% of milk produced in the country is sold through informal markets so enforcement of quality standards is complicated. This, coupled with the high demand for milk, means that there is little incentive for actors along the value chain to adhere to these standards. In some cases, milk that has been rejected by dairy cooperatives and processors easily finds its way back onto the market.

1. IFPRI (2018). "Milk Safety in Kenya. Awareness and compliance with regulations among farmers and vendors"

2. Ndambi, A., R. Njiru, C. van Knippenberg, J. van der Lee, C. Kilelu & M. Ngigi (2018). "Private and public costs and benefits of implementing a quality-based milk payment system in Kenya," 3R Kenya Project Research Brief, Wageningen University and Research Centre.



*Approximately 855 lives are lost annually in Kenya due to milk-related infection.  
Photo by V4CP.*

With Kenya's dairy sector valued at an estimated 162 billion KES (US\$1.7 billion), accounting for 8% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), it is critical to secure the contribution and competitiveness of the sector by making sure that all sections of the value chain are aware of - and adhere to - safety standards.

*"There are some products that should not even be called milk."*

Paul Njagi, Acting Director, Livestock Production, Nakuru County.

### **What is CUTS doing?**

As one of the leading consumer organisations in Kenya, CUTS has been working through the V4CP to engage key players in the dairy industry in order to change the sector.

The V4CP programme provided capacity strengthening

to enable CUTS to mobilise a range of public, private and civil society actors that are committed to ensuring that food safety is taken more seriously. This support included basic technical knowledge of the dairy industry, advocacy skills and connections to dairy experts. Together with dairy experts, CUTS carried out field reconnaissance visits to farmers' associations, milk collection centres, processing units, and other key links in the dairy value chain.

Over time, the engagement of CUTS has expanded to informal elements of the sector, such as milk dispenser owners and motorbike milk collectors. In addition to the evidence generated by IFPRI on food safety, CUTS has also been able to tap into a large body of technical experience built up by SNV's Kenya Market-led Dairy Programme (KMDP). This process has made CUTS a credible and important partner for key actors in the dairy industry and has opened up opportunities for the organisation to represent consumer interests in this important economic sector.

*"V4CP plays a very crucial and very facilitative role, especially in reaching farmers groups. I've seen it bringing positive results."*

Paul Njagi, Acting Director, Livestock Production, Nakuru County.



## Every journey begins with a single step: Paving the way for transformation in the dairy sector

Building on an online portal (<https://safefoodkenya.com>) developed by CUTS that went live in December 2016, CUTS organised a consumer roundtable in September 2017 with support from V4CP. The event was attended by representatives of the Kenya Dairy Board, and other key actors in the dairy industry. One of the issues that was highlighted during the discussions was the need to ensure that consumers have better access to reliable information on food safety, and a platform to voice their concerns. Today, the portal serves as a “one-stop-shop” for consumers to access the latest information on food safety, and is also an accountability mechanism where consumers can lodge direct complaints to dairy regulators.

As CUTS became more visible in the sector, it began to receive requests from industry players at both national and county levels to provide inputs into the review of dairy regulations and policies. At the county level, some of the new policies that were created as a result of these efforts include the Laikipia Dairy Development Policy, Nyandarua Dairy Value Chain Strategic Business Plan and the Murang’a County Dairy Strategic Plan. CUTS was also invited to provide a consumer perspective on the first-ever Strategic Plan of the Kenya Dairy Processors’ Association. The strategy identifies collaboration with consumer organisations as a key objective in ensuring improvement in milk quality and safety standards in the country.

In other activities at the county level, CUTS has actively lobbied government departments to pay greater attention to food safety in their planning processes. As a result, three county governments have included issues of food safety that were outlined by CUTS in their County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs). County governments have also asked CUTS to support specific policy reviews aimed at promoting milk quality and

safety. The CSO is also working closely with the Kenya Dairy Board and other institutions to provide training on milk quality and hygiene for milk collectors, milk dispenser operators and other actors in the informal milk market.

*“Because of the support we got from CUTS and the Voice for Change Partnership, we were able to train our farmers on milk safety and have introduced procedures to trace contaminated milk. For the last two years I have not come across a single case of adulterated milk by our members.”*

Solomon Ndegwa, Vice Chairman, Laikipia Dairy Farmers Cooperative.

Consumer interest in food safety is growing. While the number of complaints to the online consumer portal is yet to pick up, the number of visits to the site are on the rise with enquiries coming in on issues such as how to get compensation for unsafe food products.

CUTS is also playing a leading role in mobilising other consumer organisations to lobby for safe food in the country. In response, the Kenya Consumer Protection Advisory Committee (KECOPAC) – a government institution mandated to protect consumers – has adopted food safety as a priority agenda and has indicated its commitment to support consumer organisations in this area.



*Pasteurisation of milk. Mr Mundai has participated at milk safety trainings.*

*Photo by V4CP.*



Staff of the Starlight Farmers Cooperative Society supported with trainings. Photo by V4CP.

## Lessons learnt

Whether at national or county level, an important lesson learnt is that better results are more likely to be achieved if food safety is taken up by a broad variety of actors across thematic sectors. Highlighting this lesson, James Kariithi, Coordinator of the Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP) in Laikipia county, gives credit to CUTS for strengthening linkages across sectors that previously operated in isolation.

For the first time, the department is reaching out to colleagues in the Public Health Department to raise awareness on food safety, which he directly attributes to the engagement with CUTS.

*"We value our partnership with CUTS and the Voice for Change Partnership. They have added value to our work by increasing our awareness that food security is not only about volume but also about*


*nutrition and safety."*

James Kariithi, Coordinator of the Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP), Laikipia County.

One of the most effective ways to promote food safety is to ensure that all actors, including producers, traders, cooperatives and processors, are well trained in safety and quality measures. This also helps to boost the limited capacity of regulators, such as the Kenya Dairy Board and the Kenya Bureau of Standards, in regulating the huge informal milk sector in the country. Inspired by the success of the clean cooking champions at the grassroots level, CUTS and its partners have recently embarked on a process to build a network of food safety champions to articulate consumer voices and to monitor quality issues in the dairy industry.

A partnership approach is also critical in generating high-quality evidence to inform advocacy efforts. Through close collaboration with the IFPRI, Wageningen University's 'Resilient, Robust and Reliable' (3R) project and other knowledge partners, CUTS has been able to gain greater access to cutting-edge evidence that is used in awareness raising and advocacy efforts.

However, it is also becoming clear that such knowledge resources need to be tailored to different contexts. By collaborating with its partners at the county level to generate locally relevant data, CUTS is helping to strengthen the consumer agenda in two important ways. Firstly, it demonstrates to dairy farmers and consumers that this issue is closer to them than they may think. Secondly, localised evidence of the impacts of unsafe milk is more likely to spur decision makers to act and it can also motivate authorities to compare their progress with other counties, which helps scale up quality improvements across the dairy sector.



### Looking ahead

Even though there is still a long way to go before all milk in Kenya's markets is completely safe, CUTS has been able to make considerable progress under the V4CP by tackling the multiple dimensions of milk safety. With enhanced awareness and knowledge on milk safety issues, consumers are becoming a driving force behind accelerating the food safety agenda and are putting pressure on policy makers to guarantee safe milk. Through its engagements with key actors along the value chain at county and national level, CUTS is also advancing the necessary policies, regulations and coordination mechanisms.

Consumers are starting to become more aware of the risks related to unsafe milk, as well as the policies and regulations that should be in place to tackle this. They now have an effective channel to find information and voice their concerns.

In this way, CUTS is making important steps towards enhancing the safety of milk, a product that is a crucial part of Kenyans' diets,. In doing so, it is helping to reduce the burden of foodborne diseases on the health of Kenyans and on the economy as a whole.



*Photo by V4CP.*



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