

Kenya 2020-2021



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WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

In Kenya, *Advancing Equality through Human Rights Education* focuses on promoting women's right to participate in decision-making. The active and meaningful participation of women in decisions that affect their lives is a key factor for their empowerment, as well as a crucial step for advancing gender equality. The project is implemented in Nakuru and Bomet counties by Women's Empowerment Link (WEL), in partnership with Equitas - Centre for International Human Rights Education.

Between October 2020 and June 2021, 18 grassroots organizations from Nakuru and Bomet counties participated in a capacity-strengthening program offered through *Advancing Equality through Human Rights Education*. The participants learned about human rights and gender equality, and how to mobilize their communities through community actions.



Advancing Equality through Human Rights Education is funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.

ADVANCING EQUALITY THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

2019-2024

Advancing Equality through Human Rights Education is a global project implemented in Burkina Faso, Haiti, Kenya, Senegal and Tanzania with the ultimate aim of increasing empowerment of women and girls for the advancement of gender equality in their communities.

LEARN MORE

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WHAT ARE COMMUNITY ACTIONS?

Community actions are activities that advance gender equality at the grassroots level. They are planned and implemented by women, men and gender-diverse people from community organizations, who act as leaders in their communities. First, these leaders collectively identify human rights and gender equality issues in their communities, such as barriers to women's participation in decision-making. Then, they plan and implement an activity to address the issues, such as a rally, a petition, an information session or an art installation.

Community actions enable community members to put into practice leadership and life skills such as critical thinking, empathy and communication, while taking action to promote human rights and advancing gender equality.



COMMUNITY ACTIONS 2020-2021

Nakuru West

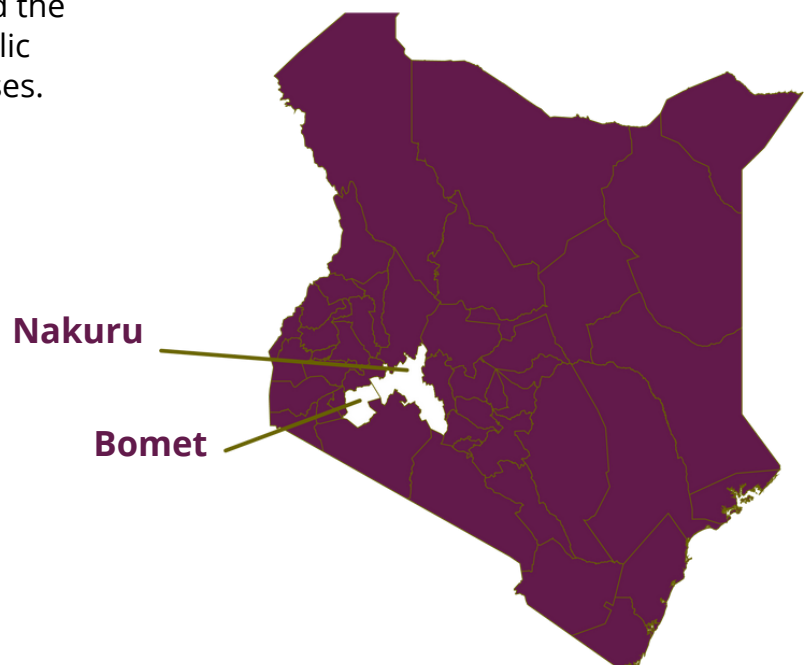
With an aim to increase the participation of women and girls in governance and development processes, the focus of the community action in Nakuru West was the sensitization of target groups on the county budget process and the mobilization of women to participate in the public participation forums and in governance processes.

Organizations involved:

- Wakili Mashinani
- Centre for Democracy and Good Governance (CEDGG)
- Midrift Hurinet
- REPACTED
- People living with Disability Network (PWDN)

Implemented activities:

- Community sensitization forums
- Training on budget process and media
- Media advocacy





Nakuru East

The community action aimed to ensure women and girls are aware of the human rights, laws and policies affecting them.

Organizations involved:

- Young African Women Initiative (YAWI)
- Legal Resources Foundation (LRF)
- Haven of Dreams
- Psychiatric Disability Organization (PDO)
- Community Empowerment Programme (CEP)

Activities implemented:

- community sensitization forums
- training relevant stakeholders on human rights
- radio talk shows
- awareness raising in chief barazas

Bomet Central

The community action aimed at creating awareness of human rights targeting women and girls in Singorwet ward in Bomet Central.

Organizations involved:

- Blessed Assurance
- Big Heart Group
- WIKA
- Kiprurugit

Implemented activities:

- Stakeholder awareness forum on human rights with a gender perspective
- Sensitization forums on human rights targeting women and girls

Sotik

The community action aimed to sensitize and raise awareness of human rights targeting the Sotik Community.

Organizations involved:

- I Choose Life Africa
- Kapletundo
- Kipketii Initiative
- Fountain of Hope

Implemented activities:

- stakeholder engagement forum on human rights
- sensitization forums on human rights and women involvement in decision making targeting women leaders in Sotik sub-county
- awareness creation forums targeting women and girls in the community



PRINCIPLE OUTCOMES OF THE COMMUNITY ACTIONS

For community action leaders:

- 1 Enhanced **skills in mobilization** of communities.
- 2 Improved **participatory facilitation** and training techniques.
- 3 Enhanced **knowledge** on integration of human rights-based approach with gender perspective.
- 4 Enhanced **networking and collaboration** skills.
- 5 **Revisions and development of policies** such as a human resource policy and prevention of sexual harassment measures that are guided by human rights with gender perspective.
- 6 The community action leaders in Nakuru are now **resource persons** in the county and have been supported through joint resource mobilization to **conduct trainings on human rights** with a **gender perspective** targeting different clusters within the Nakuru civil society cluster.



For community members:



Communities are more aware of human rights which has led to the increase of human violations cases reported such as gender-based violence in Nakuru County.



More women participated in the 2020-2021 budget making process in Nakuru County.



Links made between women and girls and existing social fund opportunities both at the county and national level such as, Uwezo, AGPO and youth fund.



Women are motivated to take up decision making positions and four women have expressed interest in vying for elective posts in the 2022 general elections



More women participated in the Chief Baraza in both Nakuru and Bomet counties.



Women are now more aware of their rights which has enabled them to feel empowered, make decisions and take action . For instance, a woman in Bomet County used her savings to buy a cow, and another made the decision to sell a family cow and take the daughter to school.



Change of attitude and acceptance especially from men to support eradication of gender-based violence.



Acceptance and buy-in of stakeholders on the importance of ensuring women participate in decision making spaces. This facilitated the appointment of a woman as sub-chief in Sotik and three women leaders appointed to be village elders in Nakuru East.



Four women were assigned the role of village elders in flamingo ward in Nakuru as a result of the chief participating in the forums.