

Project Title: Haki Kwa Wote (CadaaladaDhaman) Project

Location: Mandera County, Kenya

Start Date: 1ST March 2019

End Date: 29 Feb 2020

Project Partners: UNDP, EU

INTRODUCTION TO AMKENI PROGRAM

The project targets Neboi and Township wards of Mandera East Sub County and Ashabito and Rhamu wards of Mandera North Sub County of the larger Mandera County, Kenya. Being a semi-arid area, the poverty level is high (85.8% of the population) and most of the residents rely on pastoralism as the source of income.

The poor and marginalized citizens in Mandera lack access to justice due to lack of resources to engage legal representation, low knowledge if any on legal options, access to legal information and advice, illiteracy, cultural and societal trappings against women children, people with disability and the poor to mention but a few.

Legal empowerment approaches, through legal aid, can help contribute to the development of legal avenues to claim basic human rights, to ensure liberty and due process, access to public services, legal identity, physical security, security of ownership of land and property, inheritance, and other matters.

Majorly a patriarchal society, there are often cases of stigmatization and discrimination of the disabled, people affected with HIV/AIDS. Through this program, NAPAD seeks to ensure such persons have access to legal services.

The project seeks to promote legal aid awareness and access to justice and ensure actualization of ADR mechanisms in meeting of justify through community

WHY AMKENI

Access to legal aid and assistance is a major issue facing most Kenyans, especially those living in marginalized and vulnerable members of the society. High prevalence of poverty and marginalisation has consequently led to increased number of people unable to access justice which necessitates the need for legal aid.

The government of Kenya developed National Legal Aid and Awareness Policy (NLAAP) with an aim of facilitating access to justice through a sustainable and quality legal aid framework in line with the Kenyan constitution and human rights standards. Pegged on this, the Kenyan government in partnership with other stakeholders seek to ensure that the citizens acquire civic education on matters of legal aid and have access to legal assistance.

OUTCOMES

- Marginalized and vulnerable members of community in Mandera county are informed and can access justice through localized legal aid awareness (Legal Aid Act of 2016), legal assistance and engagement of citizens
- Alternative and traditional dispute resolution structures with capacity contributing to legal aid service delivery to the marginalized and vulnerable communities in Mandera East and Mandera North sub county.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Marginalized and vulnerable members of community in Mandera East and north have been mobilized and informed on localized legal aid opportunities through legal aid acts 2016 and legal assistance that they can get from paralegals as well as through the Alternative Dispute Resolution approaches through community and religious leaders.

200 community members, 800 students, 720 citizens have been mobilized and sensitized on access to legal aid and assistance through community caravans, Legal Aid clinics and IEC materials while an estimated 250,000 people were reached with legal aid messages during discussions held through a local radio station.

The community is also informed of a legal aid center established at Neboi, Mandera East Sub County where the community members are able to visit and seek advice and information on access to legal aid and assistance. The Legal Aid materials and services are beneficial to persons who have visual or hearing impairment.

Local clan and religious leadership now have capacity to effectively administer Alternative and traditional dispute resolution approaches for the delivery of justice to the marginalized and vulnerable communities in Mandera East and Mandera North. Those with the skills are 6 trainers of trainers and 2 council of elders and 2 council of religious leaders who have been trained on ADR mechanisms.

