CEDGG ANNUAL REPORT 2015

http://www.cedgg.org/

CedggNgo
1.0 Executive Summary

This annual report focuses in highlighting important outputs, outcomes and in some cases impacts that were achieved by Centre for Enhancing Democracy and Good Governance (CEDGG) within 2015, the period under review.

We have highlighted the following as some of the results:

- The report details the success of residents' associations as a key mid-term impact;
- It argues the impact of social audits on government policies and on development as one of the key milestones by CEDGG;
- Additionally, CEDGG has transformed the way communities engage with state actors which has moved from confrontation to petitioning and advocacy.
- Furthermore, it notes that mobilization of communities to participate in county planning and budgeting processes succeeded tremendously in 2015.

The report starts with an explanation on the reporting format hereby referred to as "Insight into the Reporting format which explains the philosophy driving this style of (results-oriented) reporting. The reporting is basically modelled around the KRAs which are the guiding principles as provided on CEDGG’s current Strategic Plan; it also interrogates key objectives by relating them to key results thus gauging their level of achievement within the reporting period.

The immediate section highlights key projects implemented while summarising some of the important outputs realised thereof. Additionally, the report narrates some success cases encountered in the course of CEDGG’s work across various counties and in its interaction with various partners and projects’ beneficiaries. It is important to also note that the report is interlaced and supported with views and opinions of informants carried out inform of informant interviews. There is therefore a section summarising these views and observations. The importance of this section is that it speaks to the success and challenges of CEDGG as an institution and a leader in areas of community empowerment, social audits and advocacy.

Immediately following the success stories are a few challenges coupled with lessons learnt which have been deliberately highlighted for purposes of learning. Furthermore, the report is interlaced with quotes from the informant interviews. The report finally ends with a brief profile of the CEDGG.
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## 2.0 Important Acronyms and Abbreviations

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BACSOF</td>
<td>Baringo Civil Society Organisation Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDF</td>
<td>Constituency Development Fund</td>
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<td>CRECO</td>
<td>Constitution and Reform Education Consortium</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisation</td>
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<td>DFID</td>
<td>Department for International Development (UK)</td>
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<td>ECDs</td>
<td>Early Childhood Development Centre</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>GIZ</td>
<td>German Development Corporation</td>
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<td>KAS</td>
<td>Konrad Adenauer Stiftung</td>
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<td>KRA</td>
<td>Key Result Area</td>
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<td>MCAs</td>
<td>Members of the County Assembly</td>
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<td>OSIEA</td>
<td>Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa</td>
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<td>PLWHIV/AIDS</td>
<td>People Living With HIV/AIDS</td>
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<td>PWDs</td>
<td>People with Disabilities</td>
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<td>RBM</td>
<td>Results Based Management</td>
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<td>TISA</td>
<td>The Institute of Social Accountability</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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3.0 Governance Messages, CEDGG 2015

On Management, from the CEO

The year 2015 marked the third year in the implementation of our current 2013-2017 strategic plan. CEDGG made significant strides in implementing the strategic plan with impressive results. The organization was able to consolidate gains in its governance and devolution through strengthen civilian oversight as witnessed in the sustained activities of residents/neighbourhood associations, county CSO networks and improved working relationships with the county governments in target areas. The successful petition of the CDF Act 2013 through a landmark high court ruling in February 2015 was a remarkable step in streamlining resource allocation and accountability under the devolved system of government.

The organization registered success through gains in the enactment of legal statutes geared towards promoting social accountability mechanisms i.e. public participation and civic education law in the target counties and the setting up and strengthening of the county budget and economic forums.

Through new partnerships, the organization was able to expand its program coverage to the new counties of Kericho, Elgeyo Marakwet and West Pokot and has continued to explore constructive engagement in governance and development processes.

Internally, CEDGG was able to streamline and strengthen governance through successful changes in its board of directors and capacity building in corporate governance leading to improved oversight and overall improvement in organization performance.

Cornelius Oduor
4.0 Report Section 1: Insight into the Reporting

As is the norm, to achieve our goals, we work through a short-term to a medium-term five year strategic plan. The current strategic plan covers the period between 2013 and 2017. This strategic plan is however not engraved on a stone but is subject to frequent reviews. Moreover, based on this plan, we operate guided by four key strategic areas. These strategic options are hereby referred to as Key Results Areas (KRAs) and are the drivers through which CEDGG progressively realises it’s the key objectives below.

Explaining the Strategic Approach

It is on the basis of these objectives that the mid-term impacts of CEDGG’s work are reported and analysed. Furthermore, this is a results-oriented report, where we provide key highlights on the KRAs, brief reports on projects that were carried out during the period under review under each KRA and provide a concrete status on progressive realisation of the following objectives.

Moreover, the reported results are not realised in a vacuum rather CEDGG engages in various strategies aimed at efficiency and cost-effectiveness. In 2015, the following strategies were extensively utilised:

i. Co-planning and collective implementation of projects with target beneficiaries;

ii. Utilised existing platforms for legitimacy and wider outreach e.g. Residents Associations which CEDGG helped create and has been part of;

iii. Working closely with the county governments officials thus effectively influencing various policies e.g. PP County Act, Baringo; National CDF Act, Budget policies

The Objectives

1) To raise awareness and empower the vulnerable and marginalized groups on their rights and privileges enshrined in the legal and constitutional frameworks;

2) Advocate for formulation of policies that are responsive to the current and emerging needs of the vulnerable and marginalized groups and communities.

3) Undertake peace building and conflict resolution mechanisms among the vulnerable and marginalized groups and communities.

4) To facilitate the creation and strengthening of community level advocacy and accountability forums/ networks that would robustly engage with county governments to promote accountable exercise of power.

5) To research, document and disseminate the innovative best practices on emerging social, economic and political issues of the marginalized and vulnerable groups.

6) To enhance the implementation capacity of CEDGG through the adoption and implementation of RBM practices in its work and better result measurement practices.

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1 See the CEDGG Strategic Plan (2013-2017) for more details on (Homepage-Downloads).
SECTION 1.1: PROJECTS’ IMPACTS: Mid-term Impacts worth noting, 2015

In terms of impact there is noted improvement and concretisation of outcomes from what was realised in the last annual year 2014. For example, where there was improved knowledge and awareness levels in 2014, there are now clear cases of informed citizen participation; there are clear cases of citizens petitioning the county governments by themselves i.e. without having to involve CEDGG; there are citizens asking the right questions regarding governance; there are citizens participating in budgeting and asking the county governments to prioritise on urgent needs like street lighting as mitigation to insecurity; there are projects which have been initiated as a result of intervention by community residents with logistical and information support from CEDGG; there are cases where renovations have taken place on amenities (dispensaries, public resident halls…) and so forth. The impact of CEDGG has also been captured in this report via informant interviews, interviewees who were randomly selected.

In this regard, this section highlights these impacts in their most “original/natural” form but projects them against targeted objectives as envisioned in CEDGG’s Strategic Plan. This way, the report insists that there is continuous/progressive realisation of the organisation’s goal.

#GeneralImpact1: Awareness raised and vulnerable and marginalised groups empowered on their rights and privileges

A. Success of the residents’ and neighbourhoods’ associations – a timely innovation whose success was clearly highlighted in 2014 and whose impact this year can be termed as “the embodiment of CEDGG’s work” in Nakuru and related counties. These associations, following intensive capacity building by CEDGG over the years, have taken over engagements with county governments through social audits, petitions and memoranda with a view to informing and shaping government policies, as exemplified by the following cases:-

- During the period, for example, the residents petitioned the government to carry out repairs on Muthaiti-Makongo Mugaa Road, which had received allocations from a previous budget but work had not been carried out. The road was graded and constructed with murram (laterite) soil following this pressure and advocacy from the group. This is a clear case of empowerment via information and modelling where members of the resident associations are now able to monitor county budget cycle and also point out specific aspects of service delivery without necessarily having to involve CEDGG.

“They also link up very well with National level CSOs. We’ve been following the work they have done on PIL around CDF…that was very good… And then promotion of social audits as a methodology and the partnerships with TISA a national level CSO…that’s very good. They are also very active in CRECO.”

#GeneralImpact1: Awareness raised and vulnerable and marginalised groups empowered on their rights and privileges
B. Social audits have continued to impact positively on various development agendas of the target county governments as indicated by:

- Shortage of staff in various hospital facilities addressed and more funding allocated in some cases. For example, Sirata Dispensary of Mukutani Ward in Baringo County received an extra nurse following advocacy from the Illchamus, a previously marginalised community in terms of empowerment. The advocacy was carried out during a monitoring and advocacy visit where the participants also conducted a “civilian arrest” on a stranger who was collecting drugs from the same dispensary.

- A number of ECD centres were equipped as a result of direct petitions by community members motivated by results of social audits (e.g. Nakuru Community Residents’ Association, and Rhonda Community Residents Association).

C. Media engagement and capacity development as a success:

- A number of journalists were recruited to the Kenya Correspondent Association as a platform for continuous capacity-building, support and mentorship especially in the area of story mapping.

- Engaging the media has enhanced the capacity of the organisation to an expert-opinion-base where the media consults on various county issues especially on devolution and good governance. Some of our activities are found in the following links:

  1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUzjwFLX_4M

#General#Impact2: Innovative best practices on emerging socio-economic and political issues of the marginalised and vulnerable implemented

I. Petitioning county governments (as opposed to confrontation), a strategy widely advocated for by CEDGG has gained popularity, for example:

  ➞ Bondeni Community petitioned the County Lands Board on unfair allocation of land, Ngubereti Citizen Forum petitioned the County Government on access to water at Ngubereti Health Centre, Kabartonjo Citizen Forum petitioned the department of health on poor service delivery in Kabartonjo District Hospital.

  ➞ The Bondeni Maternity health facility committee received formal appointment letters following a petitioned to the Ministry of Health demanding official appointment, amid fears of disbandment.

  ➞ A bridge that connects Kapkures and Kaptembwa was reconstructed following a petition by the residents. See the photos.

II. There is continued success in mobilising communities to participate in various county planning and budgeting processes in the target counties, especially through civic education. This has also been achieved through astute innovations like the “Jibusishe SMS platform which has seen CEDGG bring both communities (their representatives) and governments on to one platform, achieving the following:

  ➞ Impact on turn-out to budget forums: this has improved from an average of 60 participants per forum to more than a 100 (see CEDGG’s progressive reports January to December 2015). In Baringo for
example, Numberes ward produced over 60 participants while Mochongoi Ward had 100 participants in Budget Hearings 2015/2016. It is notable that such zones were earlier passive in matters of public participation in governance and development.

Residents able to draft memoranda and petitions by their own to the county governments.

*For example, 15 citizen memoranda were produced by the citizens on the 2015/2016 Budget to the Baringo County Assembly Budget and Appropriation Committee, an indicator of organised informed engagement. See the above sample petition.

#General#Impact3: #Facilitated the creation and strengthening of community level advocacy and accountability forums/networks that are robustly demanding accountable exercise of power

A. Consolidated various platforms for the marginalised in the target counties viz:
   i. Baringo Civil Society Organisations Forum (BACSOF)
   ii. Vijana Youth Group, which is a network of youth groups in Nakuru County
   iii. Various residents’ associations

Further, the BACSOF platform supported a number of engagements geared towards effective public participation. For example, with BACSOF’s support, a second Baringo governor’s round table was convened; it further influenced the county government to formulate a policy for participatory monitoring and evaluation...as a result some members of the Forum have been incorporate in citizen committees such the county policing committee, county peace committee, county assets and liabilities audit committee, county HIV/AIDS strategic planning committee, and county disaster prepared and response committee.

Accordingly, the various residents’ and neighbourhoods’ associations engaged in humongous activities related to social audits, advocacy and petitions as reported throughout this report. We have of course supported them in various respects.

4.2 Section 1.1 Concluding Summary and Critic

A bridge after renovation following public petition

Training in progress...
The above milestones indicate a continued consolidation of CEDGG’s vision of “A society that respects and protects marginalised and vulnerable peoples”. In this regard, the previously identified problems of low participation due to low capacity of individual members of these groups are indicatively progressively being resolved. Nonetheless, not all objectives as defined in the SP were realised during the period, as the organisation concentrated on three out of the five target objectives. We are working to ensure that our realisation of objectives is not derailed especially taking into consideration recommendations from the mid-term SP evaluation report.

See the last section on CEDGG profile for more on these objectives which have also been highlighted at the beginning of this section.
4.3 Section 1.2: Key outputs from partner Projects period under each KRA

This section majorly highlights important outputs under each KRA but more specific to each implemented project. Because in most cases these projects were partner/donor driven, we equally and unequivocally highlight both the donor/partner and the period of implementation.

**KRA I: The Governance and Devolution Programme**

In order to achieve the objectives of this KRA the following projects were implemented:

1. **“Strengthening the capacities of marginalised and vulnerable groups to engage with the county government in Nakuru”**: This project funded by TROCAIRE started in Oct 2014 and ended in September 2015, and is credited for achieving the following outputs-

   - #12 community sensitisation meetings;
   - 3 training workshops for vulnerable groups including women, youths, PLWDs and HIV and AIDS;
   - evaluated an average of 8 development projects and 12 institutions through the community social audit strategy.

2. **Promoting Public Participation in County Governance through budget monitoring**: A two year project funded by OSIEA, ends in Oct 2016 and is progressively credited for the following outputs-

   - Building the capacity of over #650 residents’ association members and local youth and women advocacy groups enabling them to participate in various budget processes in Nakuru;
   - 10 forums organized on public participation leading to development of 20 memoranda petitions on budgetary allocations;
   - average of 10 CDF and 10 county projects social-audited in Nakuru county;
   - 3 radio talk shows held on Radio Amani 88.4 FM in collaboration with trained community.

3. "Active Citizenship project": carried out in partnership with SID/Kenya Dialogues Project between Oct 2014 and Aug 2015, and credited for the following key outputs:

- Dialogue forums between communities and public service providers implemented where 1034 people participated; all inclusive results-oriented budget forums conducted attracting 1080 members of the public and produced 18 memoranda on budget prioritisation; a reflection meeting with various county officials held thus improved partnership.

4. "Institutionalising public participation/Social Accountability under County Governments": Implemented with support from DFID (Drivers of Accountability Program) through TISA between April 2014 and June 2015, exclusively in Baringo County. This project is credited for the following key outputs in 2015:

- Monitored budget public consultative meetings based on a normatively standardised checklist; 5 members of ward public participation steering committees trained on county planning and budget process; 10 community conversation meetings held; 60 participants including 20 MCAs, 5 members of the executive, 30 members of the Baringo county CSOs Forum mobilised to participate in a meeting of opinion leaders; 21 ward-based civic educators inducted in Jihusishe SMS Outreach Platform.

5. "Jukumu Letu Initiative": A one year (May 2014 to May 2015) project promoted effective citizen and CSOs participation in governance at the county level; funded by HIVOS through CRECO Secretariat, and which during the reporting period is credited for the following key outputs:

- Community members trained on community social auditing following which they evaluated the status of 18 public-funded projects in Baringo County; round table dinner meeting held with the governor discussing various governance issues including those raised by the auditor general regarding the county. The picture below indicates a civic education session in Kabartolojo market.
“Tujumuike, tushirikiane tujenge Baringo”: A project carried out in partnership with Uraia Trust between Nov 2014 and Nov 2015 in the County of Baringo with the following outputs attributable during the reporting period:

Civic education on devolution, bill of rights public participation and public finance …implemented reaching out to around #11,994 people directly; 45 county officials including, the director of public administration, the County Head of Human Resource, 5 subcounty administrators, 33 ward administrators, 3 officers from the county civic education department and 2 county research coordinators trained on national values and various principles of governance; in conjunction with the County government of Baringo facilitated a training on the role of women in devolution and governance;

Ilichamus ward civic educator leading a community conversation to identify community priorities in preparation to the County Budget Consultative meetings in March 2015
7. “Strengthening the capacities of state actors and non-state actors for effective devolved governance”: Project co-funded by EU and Konrad Adeneur Stiftung for period between March 2015 and March 2018 and targets Baringo, West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet and Nakuru counties. We highlight the following as the key outputs so far:

- 12 local journalists from target counties trained on devolution, public participation; 4 training forums conducted for staff, associates, and volunteers of target CSOs;

8. “Empowering the citizenry to promote efficient and effective service delivery in education and health sectors through detection and prevention of corruption and abuse of power”: This project is funded by German Development Corporation (GIZ) and implemented in Baringo, Kericho and Laikipia Counties from Nov 2014 to Nov 2016. A highlight of key outputs is as follows:

- 20 community sensitization and action planning forums held reaching out to over 8000 members of various community organized groups. Of these, 100 volunteered for training to conduct social audit; rapport building meetings with national institutions of oversight (EACC, Ombudsman, Auditor General’s Office, DPP
KRA II: Human Rights and Access to Justice

CEDGG continued to stand with the vulnerable during the period. We continued to empower through partnership and engagement with various groups like the Endorois Welfare Council. The issues of some of the groups were presented to the economic and social council of the UN (ECOSOC). Furthermore, following the landmark ruling on CDF in 2014 for which we were co-petitioners, we followed this up with a presentation before a task-force that had been set up to review the legal disposition of CDF based on the high court’s ruling. CEDGG therefore submitted a memorandum.

Accordingly, CEDGG convened Nakuru Human Rights’ Defenders thus consolidating its position on human rights.

KRA III: Partnership Networking and Knowledge Management

A number of important outputs were achieved under this KRA in an effort by CEDGG to play a role both at the county level and the national level. CEDGG maintained its relationships at the national level by participating in various networking meetings and workshops. By partnering with CRECO we are assured of continued visibility in areas of advocacy and electoral processes; by partnering with TISA we are guaranteed of visibility and access to any new developments in various areas ranging from public resource management, public service delivery and especially management of devolved resources. For example, as a result of networking with TISA the previously mentioned CDF petition was born.

Moreover, CEDGG remains a learning organisation and therefore new knowledge is acquired and more generated annually. Today, we have a number of video clips running on You Tube were we talk about various aspects of community mobilisation and engagement; where we share knowledge on the importance and effects of social audit methodology; and our historic process in working to empower vulnerable and marginalised communities in both urban and rural areas, as indicated here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41ZqycA4jUM. Furthermore, during the reporting period CEDGG continued to share information on public participation based on the publication below:


During the period CEDGG also participated in various networking fora which involved knowledge sharing and exchange. Key among these were a devolution forum organised in Nairobi where experience in engaging the devolved system was shared and best practices exchanged among the participants.

Our participation in the Oil and Gas CSOs roundtable, a new field in our case has generated more knowledge in a sector where our beneficiary communities will be affected in one way or another. Furthermore, CEDGG acknowledges the potential social, environmental and economic impacts this sector might have for the entire country.

Further, CEDGG is hosting Baringo County CSOs Forum (BACSOF), which brings on board more than 30 CSOs from various sectors. This Forum caused a lot of impact in various ways in the county. For example, it hosted the second governor’s round table in Baringo and did a lot of community mobilisation in 2015. DAP via TISA, CRECO and Amkeni Wakenya strengthened this relationship.
Accordingly, the social audit process has improved towards institutionalisation which involves state and non-state actors. This is an important achievement for organisations involved in utilising this methodology.

Likewise, we participated in CRECO’s strategic planning process; took part in a devolution forum organised at the national level by TISA and CRECO. We take such forums seriously as part of sharing strategic approaches on strengthening devolution and also enhancing our capacity by learning from others.

KRA IV: Organisation Development

The capacity of CEDGG has improved tremendously as depicted by the following indicators:

- Cut down on transport and mobility costs: Procured a Nissan Xtrail (KCA 884C) with support from EU/KAS; Improved safety of assets: Safe and petty cash box procured; Our internet server was upgraded and backup for organisational data carried out; We also procured an additional digital camera thus enhancing our ability to collect and disseminate data and especially uploading quality photos on our social media sites and the CEDGG website; insured assets; office expanded; a project office in Baringo County; changes at the board;

Other results under this KRA include:-

- A capacity audit report implemented during the period
- Enhanced the internship program thus responding to a gap identified under the report above
- M&E capacity improved following recommendations from the mid-evaluation of the Strategic Plan.
- Publicity and media interaction was extensively enhanced as reported under mid-term impacts.
- Fundraising: increase in financial base and commitments made in 2014 honoured from orgs like the EU. This has made it easier for CEDGG to meet its institutional objectives.
5.0 CEDGG in Quotes: Informant Interviews

The informant interviews were categorically sculptured to inform this annual report and were conducted between March 15th and 1st of April. The questionnaire basically aimed at interrogating the performance of CEDGG by asking various groups to comment on the organisation’s work based on their interactive experience. Three key questions guided the tool in application as mentioned below. Nonetheless, the interviews were orally administered and were biased towards confirming or rejecting the achievements of the CEDGG in the year 2015.

i. What is your relationship with CEDGG and what can you state to be the most important (or the biggest) achievement by the organisation based on your interaction?

ii. What areas do you think CEDGG can improve on? Or do you think CEDGG has done enough?

iii. Do you expect the relationship to continue?

In this regard two partners or their representatives were interviewed in Nairobi, three in Nakuru and two in Baringo. Of those interviewed in Nairobi one was a donor while the other was a partner to CEDGG. Those contacted in Nakuru, two were beneficiaries of the organisation especially belonging to residents’ and neighbourhoods associations’, with the third being from the Nakuru County Government’s budget office; while the respondents in Baringo worked with the civil society or the government or both. All these respondents were deliberately picked.

Feedback Analysis

In all cases, the respondents said they were happy with the work of CEDGG; the residents’ association respondents indicated that they had benefited tremendously from the organisation through various supports including capacity development in respect to information empowerment, various trainings, logistical support in terms of hiring venues and providing water to participants in organised forums. Generally in respect to the first question all the respondents were comfortable and or inspired by the good work of CEDGG. Additionally, they felt that CEDGG had excelled in:

- Mobilising participation on county level budget processes
- Monitoring the work of county government, promoting integrity at the county level, holding county leaders accountable
- The social audit method
- Informing the people on various aspects of governance as envisaged by the constitution
- In linking up very well with the national NGOs e.g. TISA and CRECO
- The petition on CDF was commendable
On the question of areas in which the organisation can improve the arguments were as follows:

- There was need for the organisation to expand its reach as it has operated in Nakuru for too long.
- Work on financial stability and governance especially at the board level
- Make civic education a continuous process especially ensuring sustained participation at the budget cycle.
- Even though the residents are able to carry out social audits independent of CEDGG, there is still need to continue the support facility regarding various logistics et al.

In regards to the last question all respondents were eager to have the relationship continued. The community (residents) section want continued logistical support, continued civic engagements and facilitating access to information from the government – there is agreement from the residents that information from the government is hard to come and therefore required assistance from CEDGG to gain access to such. Nonetheless, there was hope that the residents’ associations should at some point be self-sustaining either via fundraising or with support from the county governments, since they too are a statutory requirement.

On the other hand, the office of budget planning in Nakuru County challenged CEDGG to be transparent in respect to its financial probity especially on issues like their source of funding, the amount…this was basically a question of the maxim “what is good for the goose is good for gander.”

Further, the following quotes summaries most of the key issues raised:

“CEDGG has a great impact in Baringo south. I remember in those days the communities didn’t know their rights. Even in the budget. They always don’t participate in the budget. You find budgeting it always involved leaders…but nowadays the community have the a right be engaged in such budget planning committees. Nowadays they are involved and they fight for themselves.”

“We have been doing social auditing since 2010 within the county including the municipality and CEDGG has also moved out in areas like Molo, but for us we have always been within the municipality. We believe we have succeeded and can now see our fruits. Before, it was difficult.”

“They should consider operating in other counties that have serious human rights issues… (Why are they not in Uasin Gishu?). They should consider expanding to such counties. But also they should do it in a sustainable way.”

“They are good friend of ours; they assist with books and pen so that people can follow.”
6.0  Success Stories & Important Lessons Learnt in 2015

6.1  Success Stories

A.  Our engagement in social media is proving to be very substantial and a huge accomplishment. So far we have #401 followers on Face Book, have posted a variety of 5 videos (one which has already received more than 45 views and one share). On tweeter we have more than #300 followers, while we have posted a number of video clips on You Tube one which already has received more than 55 views. Our followers are range from democratic governance champions like Ndung’u Wainaina, prominent lawyers, politicians, human rights defenders, researchers, journalists, ordinary Kenyans, and different local and international organisations, among others. This enables us to reach out to a variety of voices and opinions.

B.  Civic engagement leads to a completion of a stalled road project in Kabasis, Sacho ward

During the financial year 2014/2015, Kabirmoi-Kapkwang road in Sacho ward, kabasis area was allocated 2 million to repair a one-kilometer stretch of the road using murram. In the month of September 2015, the designated contractor started the construction of the road after establishment of project committee to monitor the works. After construction of half a kilometer, the construction work stopped suddenly. The community members led by ward public participation committee wrote a petition to the Baringo county government department of roads and infrastructure raising serious questions concerning the status of the project through the office of the sub county administrator. This resulted in sharing of BQs of the project by the relevant department with the community project management committee and the following information was confirmed:-

- The contractor was tasked to open up and murram a kilometre from Kabirmoi to kapkwang road from the main road but the contractor had done only half a kilometre of the road
- 2 million was the total cost of the road
- T9 dozer was to be used in opening up and levelling the road but the contractor employed a T6 dozer to open up and levelling of the road which led to poor road construction works

Based on the revelation above, the community members demanded that all the concerns raised on the project be clarified by the county roads engineer immediately. The ward administrator was tasked to convene a community meeting to be attended by the county engineer and other duty bearers. In a week’s time, the community meeting was conducted at Kabasis Chief’s ground.

During the meeting, Community members tasked the county engineer and the Sub-county Administrator to clarify the above mentioned project concerns.

After a lengthy community engagement with duty bearers it was agreed that:-

We invite our readers to join us via the following links:

Face Book: https://www.facebook.com/cedgg.ngo
Tweeter: https://twitter.com/cedggngo/
You Tube: https://www.facebook.com/cedgg.ngo
- The road construction be continued to completion and should cover a kilometre
- The contractor to employ T9 dozer to open up the road
- County government to increase funding of the road to enable road construction to cover 5 kilometres

As at the reporting period, the contractor had resumed work and the ward public participation steering committee was monitoring progress. All this was made possible as a result of on-going civic education activities facilitated by ward public participation committee which was established by the community members after receiving quality civic education from CEDGG.

C. **Quality civic education** has worked to shape attitudes of Government officials towards civic education

Prior to the RDP (Uraia) project, CEDGG had lobbied for establishment of a civic education department in Baringo County. As soon as the department was established CEDGG embarked on a mission to strengthen the office. Through RDP CEDGG exposed officials in the department to civic education, equipped them with IEC materials from Uraia Trust and lobbied for allocation of resources to the department.

Today, the level of appreciation among Government officials on the need for civic education has increased considerably. For instance, it helps citizens to engage with them from an informed position. They also view civic educators as agents of community mobilizations well as linkage between citizens and government. As reported above some have even been elevated to the position of leadership e.g. in public barazas they are given time to speak as part of the process of promoting value-based leadership.

### 6.2 Lessons Learnt and Challenges

Some of these have been posed by our partners and beneficiaries during the informant interviews and range from sustainably expanding to cover other regions to providing more work in terms of civic education to the people of Baringo to continued support for residents’ and neighbourhood associations in terms of capacity building etc. Other lessons learnt and challenges are as follows:

i. **Civic education heightens demand for more**... The concerns of such groups identified during the civic education meetings also formed basis for discussions fronted by CEDGG in the county budget consultative meetings, the Governor’s roundtable with CSOs and CSOs alternative report to the African Commission on People and Human Rights.
Having appreciated the potential of civic education in changing lives of communities the demand for civic education increased. During the reporting period CEDGG received phone calls and letters from individuals, communities and government officials to conduct civic education for groups that were yet to be reached. The following groups for example send such requests:

1. Barwessa community
2. National Youth Council- Baringo Branch
3. Maendeleo ya wanawake- Baringo County Network
4. Chesongo Primary School
5. Koibatek Community Forest Action Network
6. Mogotio Citizen Action Network
7. Nyimbei Community led by the water project committee

ii. **Support for organisational institutions**: There is need to put energy in institutional development because there is too much focus on project implementation and little attention on the supporting institutions.

iii. **Regular stakeholders’ forums** are a critical component for Social Accountability. It is through such forums that each stakeholder group accounts for its actions towards Social Accountability.

iv. **Partnerships** (especially with county governments) approach to Advocacy has proven to be more effective strategy. Nonetheless, unnecessary competition among Civil Society Organizations is a great impediment to partnership.

v. **Packaging of civic education**: In a community that is cultural and traditional-oriented, the packaging of civic education information should be treated with caution lest it be mistaken for incitement.

vi. **Challenges from adverse conditions**: In the face of livelihood challenges encountered in Baringo County, i.e. drought and famine, insecurity, the residents may not attach as much value to civic education as expected. Therefore it becomes necessary to coin the objectives of civic education as an empowerment initiative that will facilitate communities to pursue solutions to their primary concerns.

vii. **Inadequate IEC materials**: The pocket size constitutions and devolution laws were on high demand yet supply was limited. Related to this is inadequate financial resources compared to vastness of the target counties.

viii. **Evidence-based advocacy** and objectivity has guarded the Governor’s roundtable with CSOs from infiltration by political warfare.

ix. The **change of strategy among Civil Society Organizations** towards coordinated and collaborative engagement occasioned change of attitude among the duty County Government officials Civil Society Origination. For instance, the county officials began to honor invitations to engagement meetings organized by CSOs.

x. There is **need to hire more staff** to enable CEDGG achieve more objectives as defined in its strategic document and more so implement the recommendations CEDGG’s capacity assessment report.
7.0 Critical Observations and Conclusion

The above projects, outputs and outcomes (mid/term impacts) are indicative of a commitment by CEDGG to achieve its 6 key objectives guided under the KRAs as provided for in the SP (2013-2017). In this regard, with support from the highlighted partners empowerment of marginalised and vulnerable groups was enhanced. Additionally, CEDGG facilitated the “…creation and strengthening of community level advocacy and accountability forums/ networks [that are currently robustly engaging with county governments thus promoting accountable exercise of power] and by extension promoting the spirit of the constitution and the rule of law.

Based on the above achievements and especially from the informants’ feedback we draw the conclusion that CEDGG is now able to discharge its institutional mandate more effectively, efficiently and sustainably.

Nonetheless, it is clear that most of the results have been drawn from the devolution and governance key result area. This was the case in the last annual report and is a fact that was captured by the mid-term SP2 evaluation, that: “At least 10 out of 31 outputs were linked to achievement of outcomes related to devolution. This is perhaps explained by the fact that resources received by CEDGG were earmarked for devolution projects”. This is therefore an area that CEDGG needs to work on especially by answering the challenge posed by one of the informant interviewees – what resources (other than donor funding) does CEDGG inject into the institutions and how does it track its impacts?

There is need, therefore to balance resource investment in programmes and strengthening the institutional infrastructure for sustainability reasons.

In some cases there are huge expectations from the counties especially in regard to education and mobilisation. These are turning out to be overwhelming due to limited resources. Moreover, while on one hand, governments are shying away from social audits especially because they are geared towards auditing government-funded projects. There is fear that this may affect their standing among the public. On the other hand, same governments are embracing dialogues and civic education. However, there is now recorded general competition from the county governments, which are also offering similar services following passage of necessary public participation policies. The challenge of a government-offered civic education is that it can be biased towards support for the government agenda as opposed to be objective and critical of poor governance. This is basically CEDGG’s general operating environment.
8.0 A Brief Highlight on CEDGG’s Profile

8.1 CEDGG: PROFILE, MISSION STATEMENT & PROJECT REPORTS

8.2 CEDGG: A BRIEF HISTORY
The Centre for Enhancing Democracy and Good Governance (CEDGG) is a grass root civil society organization that works to empower vulnerable and marginalized citizens to claim their rights in local development and governance processes. CEDGG has been in operation since the year 2001 and legally exists as a Non-Governmental Organization. Our head office is in Nakuru Town – Nakuru County, in the Republic of Kenya. Our Programme work covers mainly the mid Rift Valley region i.e. Nakuru, Baringo and Kericho Counties.

The core problem that CEDGG seeks to address in the society is a low capacity of the marginalized and vulnerable groups to engage with and participate in decision making processes around the constitutional reform agenda and the development process in general. Thus, the mandate of CEDGG is that of empowering vulnerable groups through training, advocacy, networking and linkages in areas of human and constitutional rights, cultural heritage and equitable distribution of resources. Beneficiaries of CEDGG include disadvantaged ethnic minorities, women, youth, children, displaced persons and the poor. For more details on the organisation’s profile visit our website www.cedgg.org.

8.3 THE MISSION STATEMENT

8.3.1 Vision
We have adopted and agreed our vision to be “A society that respects and protects marginalized and vulnerable peoples’ rights in all social, political and economic development processes”.

8.3.2 Mission
In this regard our mission is to develop the capacity of marginalised and vulnerable communities in Kenya to demand, adopt and implement sustainable best practices in democratic good governance through advocacy, information dissemination, research and networking.

8.3.3 Our Motto
We foster “Safeguarding the Rights of the Vulnerable and Marginalized Citizens”

8.3.4 Core Values

Further, we base our core values on the internationally recognised principles that human rights are universal, inalienable and are based on the rule of law. In fostering the realization of the human rights of marginalized and vulnerable people in Baringo and Nakuru counties, CEDGG therefore subscribes to the following core values: team work, social justice, professional excellence, integrity, and tolerance.
8.3.5  KEY RESULT AREAS (KRAs) AND PROJECT REPORTS FOR 2014

To achieve our goals, we work through a short-term to a medium-term five year strategic plan. The current strategic plan was developed and adopted in 2013 and covers the period between 2013 and 2017).

8.3.5.1  KEY RESULT AREA I: The Governance and Devolution Programme

The main target outcome for this KRA is behavioural transformation and change in attitude among duty bearers on one hand and on the other hand rights holders. Rights Holders are in this case considered to be the vulnerable groups, and the change expected is such that the vulnerable can “… pro-actively claim their rights by advocating and actively participating in the decision making and resources allocation processes at county and national government levels” (CEDGG (popular version) SP 2013-2017, 10). Moreover, for the duty bearers, the expected change should enable “…pro-active consultation and consideration of the felt development and welfare needs of the vulnerable groups in the three counties during decision making and resources allocation processes” (Ibid. 10). In summary, this key result area aims at “[promoting] participatory issue-based decision-making processes in the devolved system of government within the 3 counties of Baringo, Nakuru and Kericho” (Ibid. 10).

8.3.5.2  KEY RESULT AREA II: Human Rights and Access to Justice Programme

This is the second KRA. Its key expected outcomes are two-fold i.e. first is raised awareness levels of the marginalised/community on their rights and justice system; secondly is increased capacity of the target groups to demand for respect, protection and fulfilment of their rights and access to justice. Furthermore, this KRA aims at “[facilitating] vulnerable and marginalized groups and communities to access justice and secure their rights” (Ibid. 11).

8.3.5.3  KEY RESULT AREA III: Partnership, Networking and Knowledge Management Programme

This is the third KRA whose target outcome is a joint action taken by like-minded organisations under the leadership of CEDGG. Consequently, the objective of this result area is “to promote synergy and leverage other [sectors’] actors in delivering the organization's mandate” (Ibid. 12).

8.3.5.4  KEY RESULT AREA IV: Organisational Development Programme

This is the forth and the last KRA whose objective is “to build internal capacity of CEDGG to competently implement its mandate” (Ibid. 13). It therefore focuses in attaining a well-developed and operationalized CEDGG internal operational system and procedures.

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2 See the CEDGG Strategic Plan (2013-2017) for more details on (Homepage-Downloads).