

# REPORT

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

EEP is a program by the GoK and UNDP under the Official Development Assistance framework covering the period 2013 – 2018. The projects main objective is to enhance and mainstream inclusiveness of the poor and vulnerable in the institutional and policy framework and private sector participation in job-rich and pro-poor growth and: empower the poor and the vulnerable particularly the women and youth, who are the main economic agents. The programme is aimed at supporting the government in achieving its MTP II target which focuses on shared and equitable growth. The programme is implemented under the framework of inclusive economic growth and social development unit of UNDP Kenya and the Ministry of Devolution and Planning leading other government agencies in program coordination, implementation and participation.

One of the key initiatives to address the challenges facing youth, women and small business is the establishment of the business development centers at the county levels. The target on youths has been outlined in MTP I through establishing of the YECs, equipping the centers and sensitizing the youth on the programmes.

The Ministry of Devolution and Planning, Social and Governance Division conducted the assessment activity of the established EEP programs (County Biashara Centers), sub-county information and documentation centers and YECs to establish the long term changes in the lives of youth, women, poor and marginalized; distinctive strategies and approaches adopted by various programs so as to contribute and create a timely mitigation and intervention measures for emerging challenges in the society; and to assess the outcome impacts and challenges in the operations and management.

The objectives of the assessment activity were:

- a) To determine the extent to which the various economic empowerment objectives have been achieved
- b) To propose one programme which can be used as one stop County Biashara Center to enhance service delivery for MSMEs in counties?

The assessment adopted open ended questions in a questionnaire and support information from key informants namely the youth officers at the county levels and the officers at the YEC and documentation centers. Two questionnaires were admitted in Kisumu County and three in each of Kakamega and Uasin-Gishu Counties.

### **1.1. BIO – DATA**

In Kisumu, the lead implementing agencies were the ministry of public service, youth and gender and the family health options Kenya. The collaborating agencies were the MOH, MOE, County government, FHOK and the ministry of Sports. The programmes are located at Kisumu central constituency.

Kakamega focused on YEC and the DIDC with the lead implementing agencies as the ministry of public service, youth and gender and the county planning office. Other collaborating agencies were the CDF, county women rep office and ADB. The program is run at Lurambi constituency in Kakamega central.

Uasin Gishu County reported on the YECs and the DIDCs at Soy constituency. The ministry of public service, youth and gender is the lead implementing agency collaborating with public administration, communities and youth organizations.

### **1.2 JUSTIFICATION**

The types of programme assessed were mainly the YECs and DIDC based at the county headquarters since they were geographically central, common and therefore a representative in each of the counties. Further, the centers tended to target larger population as compared to those in other sub-counties. The information was collected from the county and sub-county youth officers; the youth programme officers, information and Documentation officers at DIDCs, county director of planning for Kakamega and the targeted youth representatives.

The assessment, as earlier cited, was to have a participatory assessment and evaluation of the EEP including the empowerment centers, appropriate building technologies, assessing the strengths and the weaknesses, the evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs within the last three years so as to provide recommendations to inform on the entry point of the Biashara Centers Strategy.

### **1.3 DESK REVIEW**

A prior information /literature review of specific counties existing was done in each county to establish the existing and common empowerment programs in each county. Further information was sought on the location and distribution of the programs in each county. This process led the team to establish contact persons in each county, the county and sub-county youth officers, to act as pillar to the activity on the ground.

## **2.0 FINDINGS**

The key findings in the assessed county programs in the counties were more of similar experiences.

### **Kisumu County**

The services provided in Kisumu county at the YEC are the Talent Incubation, SRHR clinical and information services, family planning, drugs and substance abuse training, entrepreneurial training, ICT training, sport activities and theatre group meetings. The centers and the services are easily accessible with the target group far from the sub-county reached through outreach programs.

The main beneficiaries are the youth ages 10 – 35 years with approximately 100 individuals per day. There is good partnership between the centers and other programs categorized as the duty bearers ( MoH, MoE, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Public Service, Youth And Gender), and the collaborative partnerships such as the Plan International, KMET, LVCT, APHIA PLUS, WOFAK, youth assembly and youth Olympic of Kisumu. The vibrant services include the health relates services, entrepreneurial skills and legal AID, and the educational services.

The main challenge to the full realization of the program target is lack of financial and infrastructural resources to run the program and activities. There is further the dire need to expand the facilities to accommodate the large number of the target groups. The program has resulted to capacity building for youths in decision making at the county and sub-county levels. Though the marginalized groups are mostly reached through outreach programs, this is mainly for the health services. The facilities have the challenge of accommodating persons with disability in terms of the environmental accommodation.

There has been an effort to popularize the programs through community dialogue forums, IEC materials, barazas and other forums but the process is often hit by the challenge of inadequate funds. The programs have had impact on the lives of the target groups evidenced by gender mainstreaming in various activities, engaging young people in decision making and frequent community sensitization on gender issues an initiative that has yielded fruits.

The need to upscale the empowerment services provision was identified and some of the ways the respondents cited were the provision of the IT infrastructures, furniture and equipment, and the increase of the funding resources.

The respondent reports show that the BDC receded before they were known and felt and therefore there is need to utilize the existing youth empowerment centers; engage with the youth serving organizations and also a complete overhaul of the BDC to have all of these as an entry point to reviving the BDCs.

### **Uasin-Gishu County**

The main services provided in the YEC are the library services, internet services, theatre, playing ground, training halls and research programs. The services are easily accessible to youths due to its central location though it cannot accommodate the vast population. The existing partnerships are from the Youth council doing management and the CDF doing management and development. However, the objectives of the centers have not been satisfactory since there are only training including internship programmes and sporting activities that can justifiably be identified. As such few youths and women have been reached.

The history of the services leading to resilience of lives of the target group is scanty and therefore there is no clear information concerning it despite the fact that the program involved public participation. It was through public participation that a land and management committee was acquired and put in place respectively.

The services are not widely embraced though there has been creation of awareness through social media to address the situation. However, there has been a change in perception on the intention of the program for better. The existing services are barely few months in existence and therefore not fully realized. The respondents cited ways of up scaling the situation as follows: funding of the programme, strengthening the committees through training, offering of diverse youth friendly activities and internet connectivity to facilitate education and research.

The BDC are not widely known and therefore YEC and Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender could be used as the entry point whilst involving the stakeholders such as the local community and various officials at the grassroots level.

### **Kakamega County**

The county has well established YEC and the DIDC. The services offered at these centers are the ICT and internet services, library services and the business skills training. The main beneficiaries are the youth, women, students, government departments and local communities but there is a mixed feeling on the demand of the services. The services are easily accessible since the centers are open all through during the working hours.

There are quite a number of partnerships/collaborations where national government affirmative action fund, APHIA PLUS, NACC, NCP and KNBS provide various services/provisions. The specific youth and women services offered are the business and life skills training through extent of realizing the targets is low, rated at the range of 30-40 percent. There has been commendable change to those that have been able to access the services particularly to youths leaving school.

The degree of community/people awareness of these programs is wanting though there have been attempts to sensitize the communities on the same. The assessment of those who have used the services show that there has been a positive response from men since significant benefit of empowerment has been realized. Generally, the targets are found to be better off with the provision of the services in the empowerment programmes.

The challenges experienced while implementing the programs can better be addresses through constant sensitization, provision of an allocation to operationalize the information and documentation centers and employ/ capacity build more officers in the centers such as the case of librarians.

Setting up of ICT hub, provision of operational fund and provision of furniture and other facilities would help up scale the provision of the empowerment opportunities.

The BDC are well known for their provision of entrepreneurial services though the impact has not been felt. The respondents cited that the operationalization of the centers requires the use of the existing YEC and information and documentation centers as the entry point.

## **2.1 LESSONS LEARNT**

The implementers of the programs/ centers cited that the activities are a good initiative where the target groups are able and willing to take responsibility and get involved. However, there has been a challenge of ownership with the coming in place of the county governments. Challenges arising to operational fund management, the location and the provision of the space for the centers, power connectivity, and provision of the general infrastructure have been a challenge. Of the challenges cited, the assessment activity was able to identify availability of funds and the availability of infrastructure as the main challenges.

## **3.0 CHALLENGES ANDRECOMMENDATIONS**

Challenges for implementation of the project/programs were similar in all the counties and were as follows:

1. Lack of funding from parent ministry
2. Lack of internet and electricity connectivity
3. Catchment too large to effectively accommodate
4. Lack of complementarity from the county government
5. Expensive needs of the young people
6. Inadequate personnel to run the services
7. Negative attitude
8. Dependency syndrome

The preferred mitigation issues by the lead implementers/program/project manager were identified as:

1. Funding through provision of operational fund
2. Increase number of the centers
3. Internet connectivity
4. County government to complement the central government activities
5. Capacity building of the coordinating committees
6. Constant sensitization
7. Encourage saving culture and define the procedure of accessing government funding
8. Setting up of ICT hub
9. Ensure adequate staffing

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

The assessment was instrumental since it has been able to bring out the main programs targeting women and youth mainly through the YEC and the Information and Documentation Centers. The services provided have been outlined and the state of each of the existing program/project/activity. The challenges and the mitigation measures help identify the strengths and the weakness that currently exist.

The respondents reports particularly the implementers show that the YEC would be the desirable entry point to operationalization of the BDCs.

#### **5.0 REFERENCE**

Provide any reference for citation

#### **6.0 ANNEXUS-**

6.1.1 Questionnaire

6.1.2. List of Participants