



Experience by Jesuit Hakimani Centre (JHC)
In Kajiado County / Kenya (Magadi and Ewaso O Nkidong'I wards)

Background:

While both wards in the project area face challenges regarding land rights the circumstances differ. Magadi sits on undivided communal land whereas Ewaso O Nkidong'i has already been subdivided into private land. In Magadi people are unaware of the Kenyan Community Land Act 2016 (CLA) and traditional practices and customs keep women and other marginalized groups from accessing, using and owning land. In Ewaso O Nkidong'i the overlapping of boundaries causes unrest and threatens the peace in the community.

The solution was (...)

- To improve knowledge and community attitudes of the Community Land Act 2016 (CLA)
- To build skills and social support towards CLA 2016
- To cooperate with leaders and Alternative Dispute Resolution Committees

Experience description

Using the expectation sizing tool a pre-project consensus of expectations was reached. A Community Land Act 2016 information campaign and sensitization in Shompole area was realized through awareness creation-based workshops. In addition fora were held to collect community recommendations to the act and to present these recommendations to county government officials. To resolve the issue of boundary overlap, the project worked with Kajiado County Alternative Dispute Resolution Committees (ADRs) to ensure that the pending cases are reduced. JHC worked closely with the department of lands and is currently pushing for adoption of the recommendations given and made to the Act by communities.



Other characteristics



IMPACTS

- land issues on access and ownership propagated to the community
- improved number of women take part in decisive meetings
- community recommendations to CLA 2016 collected



CHALLENGES

- changing political context
- gender stereotypes and gender roles that keep women from participating in project activities
- ethnic/tribal differences
- bureaucracy of policy development and reshuffles within county departments



LESSONS LEARNED

- utilizing local and international instruments
- focus on women and youth as change agents
- collaboration with gatekeepers, civil society and religious leaders improve decision-making processes and contributed to ownership by communities