

Questionnaire

POLICY DIALOGUE Experience Capitalization

Relevant Positive Experience

Clarification: The term “experience” used in this questionnaire includes “experiences”, “good practices”, “methods” or similar kind of “knowledge” that can be shared with other organisations working in similar fields.

1. General Information

What is the name and the geographical region of your organisation or institution? <i>Please include postal address here</i>
<p>Development Education Services for Community Empowerment (DESECE)</p> <p>Address: P.O. Box 29 – 50207, Misikhu-Kenya</p> <p>Bungoma County</p>
What is the purpose of your institution and area of work? <i>(max. 3 lines)</i>
<p>The programmes aim at motivating and empowering the target population to take active responsibilities of transforming their own life situations and facilitate their own development Processes by setting their own goals and organizing for action to address their development needs.</p>
What is the name of the experience you want to share? Or what name describes the experience best? <i>(max. 10 words)</i>
<p>Formation of Social Audit groups</p>
Why do you think this experience could be relevant for other organizations in our consortia project and network? <i>(max. 10 lines)</i>
<p>As policy dialogue is geared towards involvement and active participation of all stakeholders including the community members in policy formulation, implementation and review and as the constitution also stresses on community participation, it is paramount for community members to be able to keep the government on truck with policies and project implementation and for them to be able to do this they need to trained on social audit which is tool and accountability mechanism which enhance community members capacity to; Evaluate impact of government projects, Determine how well the government is living up to the values they are to, with their participation help the government Improve their strategic planning process by identifying potential problems before they come up, and Increase their capacity to make sure the government are transparent and accountable to the services they provide.</p>

2. Context of the Experience

<p>What is the geographical range where the experience has been made? (<i>Country, region, province, district and town/village</i>) if possible, add a map. (max.5 lines)</p>
<p>Kenya, in the 9 Sub-Counties of Bungoma County</p>
<p>When was this experience made? <i>Period during which the experience/ practice has been carried out.</i></p>
<p>2015-2016</p>
<p>What was the reason for the experience/ practice to emerge? What was the context (the initial situation) and challenge(s)? <i>Narrative description of the initial challenges and the reason(s) why the experience did emerge. (max. 10 lines)</i></p>
<p>Governments have been coming up with policy decision and projects in the counties which have been unrealistic and without the participation of the members of the community. This led to increased rates of corruption and lack of transparency and accountability within the governments. Example is purchasing of wheelbarrow for more than Ksh.120,000, purchasing of a gate for millions of Kenya shillings and purchasing of a chair for over Ksh. 2 million</p>

3. Description of the experience

<p>WHAT WAS PLANNED? Describe what was initially planned to address the challenges and implement your experience! <i>(objective, activities, methods/ instruments and steps to be taken)</i></p>
<p>The objective was to empower representative from the local community with skills on carrying out a social audits and letter form social audit groups within their respective communities which will help the community truck project progress within the communities. Training on social audit and accountability was conducted and there after two social audit groups were formed.</p>
<p>WHAT REALLY HAPPENED? Which activities/ steps/ methods did you end up doing/ implementing? <i>Please indicate chronologically what really happened</i></p>
<p>I identification of participants from different sub-counties to be trained on social audit and accountability, conducted a training on the same with 27 participants, from the training 2 social audit groups where formed in the community and 1 formed by a school management committee</p>
<p>Which parties/ institutions and groups of people were mainly involved in this experience? <i>Please indicate for each stakeholder the motivation for their participation, their tasks and responsibilities.</i></p>
<p>Local Administration who took part as trainees, Representatives from the Community including church leaders as trainees, 3 DESECE staff as trainees too and a consultant.</p>

4. Results/ Impact of the experience

<p>What has been the impact of this experience? What has improved through the presented experience on the level of individuals, and on the organizational level?</p>
<p>From the training there were 2 social audit groups which were formed and are working closely with</p>

other community members in monitoring of project formulation and implementation within their communities. They are taking active part in project formulation and other county open forums like budget hearing process within the county. The groups questioned the county on village demarcation which was done unconstitutionally with political intention, the issue was taken up to the governors' office and the law courts and the demarcation was halted resulting to community input and participation. The process was done again with the consent of the community members and now the village are demarcated with the consensus of the community members. They have also questioned the county government on infrastructure in one sub county that prompted the county government to start construction of one feeder road and plans are underway for a medical centre to be constructed in the area.

5. Resources

What kinds of resources were needed to carry out/ implement the experience? How much of every resource was needed?

Resources could be: human, material, time, finance, knowledge, methodology, etc.

Fuel for participants mobilization, transport for participants, trainings materials (notebooks, pens, written handouts, masking tapes, felt makers, projector), accommodation, food, consultation fee and time for the trainings and follow ups.



6. Lessons learned - the most important part!

What are the key messages and lessons learned from the experience?

What went well and should be repeated? What would you do differently, if you could start again from the beginning?

The most important learning is that if community members are empowered with skills on Social Audit and Accountability and are able to form groups within their communities and speak in one voice with the support of CSO's, Churches and other stakeholders the county governments will be able hear their outcry and deliver services to them more effectively and efficiently than CSO's doing the talking on behalf of the community members.

What would you suggest to someone in a similar situation/ planning a similar intervention?

Empower their target beneficiaries with relevant skills so that they are able to articulate their grievances by themselves and stand firm with their decision.

7. Further Information / Links

Name and contact details of the author?

Mengo Kay
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Is there any kind of related documentation to the experience available? Are there pictures available?

(Please send us at least 1 pictures - not in this Word Document, but as attachment to your E-Mail. For other types of documentation, please attach the document and/or write down the name of the file, UR)

Yes

Thank you very much for sharing your knowledge!