

Neighbourhood Assemblies Sustainability

There are number of interventions that have been put in place to ensure that NAs are sustainable.

First, NAs are encouraged to establish joint platforms for lobbying, networking and support. Already, Joint Neighborhood Assemblies have been established in Vihiga, Hamisi and Chavakali. There are plans to establish such platforms in Emuhaya and Luanda districts. The established NAs and Joint Assemblies are now linked to the County under the Vihiga County Shadow Assembly which was established in December 2010.

Second, registration of NAs as Community Based Organisation has helped the groups to gain legitimacy and some are now accessing resources from the government and other development partners. Out of 100 established NAs, 61 are now registered, 25 NAs were registered in 2009/2010 representing a 41% increase. Such approach is in tandem with the government policies of empowering citizens through established and registered community groups. The following are few examples of NAs becoming sustainable:

- **Mkingi Neighborhood Assembly (CBO)** in Sabatia received funding of Ksh.120, 000 from the Ministry of Agriculture under *Njaa Marufuku* grants. The group has set up poultry unit.
- **Emanda Neighborhood Assembly** is currently running an adult education program where members make contribution of Ksh 200 per month to run the program. In 2010, group had received Ksh.120 000 to start up a tree nursery project and construction of a fish pond.
- **Bugina Neighbourhood Assembly (CBO)**, Busali East received Ksh.350,000 from National Aids Control Council (NACC) to run a AIDS Awareness program in the area. In addition, the NAs goats have been doing very well and now there is a prospect for each member in the NA to be supplied with the dairy goat. The NA agreed that members will pay a fee before they are given the goats. This will certainly ensure sustainability of the project.
- **Gambogi and Lwenya NAs** are in the process of implementing water and sanitation project at a tune of Kshs. 3 million in the area.
- **Emmpaka NA** established and registered in 2010 received a funding of Ksh. 350,000 to run a HIVAIDs program in Serem area. They have further received text books for their nursery school from HIVOS Humanist group which is currently in talk with the NA for the possibility of acquiring a parcel of land to build a school for the orphans. They have further communicated to APHIA plus western for possible extension and funding of the HIV&AIDS programs. This has glued members together and is a good study for the old NAs that have had a fixed mindset of getting all the help from CPDA.
- **Safi Ebusembe** is running a nursery school project. The children from the area are now saved the hassle of travelling a long distance. The project is funded from the community contributions. The enrolment is currently standing at 30 pupils. The NA women are also engaged in embroidery and jewellery. Women make different types of beads, bungles etc. There is a monthly contributions made by members to sustain the school project.
- **Gidagadi NA** members are utilizing the resource center to train youth on computer skills, adult education and women are engaged in making of fireless cookers. The funding is from internal savings and contributions from the members.

Since 2009, CPDA changed in establishing NAs and led to increased commitment and ownership of the initiatives. Previously there misconceptions that NAs were avenues to receive goodies/handouts from CPDA. Community attitudes and mindset are now clear on the importance of establishing NAs. The result as shown above is increased number of NAs receiving external resources and others have initiated income generating activities.

The presence of NAs as alternative avenues for community is now felt through the county. The NAs continue to be instrumental in agitating for good governance, accountability, human rights and addressing other social challenges. Some examples of petitions:

- **Chanda Neighbourhood Assembly:** Petitioned DC and CID over corruption among some Administration Police Officers in collaboration with the area Chief.
- **Mwoki Neighborhood Assembly** petitioned the District Education Officer over misappropriation of funds at Mwoki Primary School.
- **Larger Vihiga Reconciliation and Reforms** group petitioned the children office on child abuse in Sabatia.
- **Halombeve NA** forced the ministry to redone Vigege road which was poorly done.
- **New Mbale Neighbourhood Assembly** has unearthed misappropriation of fund the councilors meant to aid the poor students in school. The NA established that 65% of the fund's total of Kshs.300, 000 allocated to the all the councilors cannot be accounted for.

For more information

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