



**Bomet County Capacity building workshop for Women, Youth and
Marginalized groups on county budgeting processes**



Held on 24TH JUNE 2021,

Twiggs Hotel, Bomet.

www.seafkenya.org; info@seafkenya.org



Table of Contents

Table of contents	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Acronyms	3
Introduction	4
Agenda setting and overview of workshop objectives	4
Opening remarks	4
Keynote address and official opening	5
Understanding the county budgeting and planning process	6
Bomet county priorities for Women, Youth and Marginalized groups	8
Plenary	9
Fostering Social Accountability in Public Finance under Devolved Governance	10
Next steps	12

Acronyms

CBOs – Community Based Organizations

CIDPs – County Integrated Development Plans

CSOs – Civil Society Organizations

CSR – Corporate Social Responsibility

KCCWG – Kenya Climate Change Working Group

KTDA – Kenya Tea Development Agency

LTC - Leading The Change

REREC – Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation

SEAF-K – Sustainable Energy Access Forum Kenya

WRUA – Water Resources Users Association

WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature

Introduction

SEAF-K is a national network of civil society organizations, development partners, individuals, and practitioners advocating for access and use of clean, affordable, and modern energy services and products. The establishment of the forum aimed at addressing a couple of challenges facing the energy sector in terms of limited level of multi-stakeholder engagement by providing a platform that brings various stakeholders on board to advance energy issues. SEAF-K delivers her mandate through four working groups namely; Research and development/policy advocacy, membership outreach and capacity building, Information communication, and knowledge management.

The establishment of the forum aimed at addressing a couple of challenges facing the energy sector in terms of limited level of multi-stakeholder engagement by providing a platform that brings various stakeholders on board to advance energy issues. The four key areas that the network intends to address include; data and information accesses, Technology for production and utilization of energy services and products, policy frameworks development, and capacity both at the institutional and individual level.

Agenda setting and overview of workshop objectives

Elizabeth Wanja – Coordinator, KCCWG

Ms. Wanja gave a brief background of the workshop and began by noting that meaningful citizen participation is key to successful devolution and good governance. The county governments through the county planning units should facilitate the establishment of modalities and structures for public participation in governance process including participation in county budget making process. This could be through ICT based platforms, meetings, budget preparation and validation forums where citizens contribute to the content of the budget and development project sites where citizens participate in managing the projects and provide implementation mechanism.

She further pointed out that as the 2020-2021 financial year was nearing the end, it was crucial that citizens especially women, youth and marginalized groups are capacity built to make meaningful contributions to the budget making process as their voices have not been incorporated in the past. The county budget should also take into consideration the gender disproportionate impacts of Covid by ensuring that counties and the citizens build back better

and in a low carbon development pathway. She then took the members through the programme of the day for a better understating of what was to be expected at the end of the workshop.

Opening remarks

John Kioli – Chairman SEAF-Kenya and Member of the National Climate Change Council

Mr. Kioli acknowledged and thanked the participants that consisted of the County Government of Bomet representatives, CSOs and CBOs and the youth. In his opening remarks, he noted that energy issues play an important role in the day-to-day life of every citizen. This therefore calls for a holistic approach when addressing issues of energy so as to incorporate the views of all affected. He reckoned that women play an important role when it comes to energy access as they take charge of handling cooking at the household level. Women groups have in this sense taken the center stage in advancing clean cooking alternatives as they better understand the effects of using dirty fuels not only on their health but also on the environment. Further, he noted that the youth are very innovative and have greatly contributed to coming up with clean energy solutions to advance energy access.

On County budgeting and planning, Mr. Kioli pointed out that youth, women and marginalized groups have the responsibility to know and understand the processes. It is important to know the budget cycle – when is public participation, what proposed activities the government has put in place, when will the budget be read, when will the implementation begin and when will monitoring and evaluation take place to review what had been planned for. Without this knowledge, it will be difficult to hold the government into account. He encouraged the participants to get hold of this important information as it guides them on their responsibility to participate in government processes. Once these processes are understood, they will be able to share on the priority areas they want the government to focus on. He also encouraged other stakeholders to be brought onboard such as the private sector and development partners and also do more resource mobilization as in most cases government allocations are not sufficient.

Keynote address and official opening

Paul Towett – Director Department of Energy, Bomet County

In his remarks, Mr. Towett welcomed participants to the workshop and acknowledged that the meeting was timely as the new financial year was just about to start. He thanked SEAF-K for considering a workshop for this important cluster groups which have in most cases not been fully involved in various development process. On matters energy, he noted that the county had developed its renewable energy policy and had come up with a draft that is now awaiting validation. The county has also developed the Bomet County Energy Asset Plan which provides an outlook of the resources in the county. The county is richly endowed with a variety of potential energy resources such as hydro, solar, wind and bio-energy. The county energy plan that is being developed assesses issues of energy access highlighting the current and future energy plans for the county. The plan factors in current trends and barriers hindering access to energy and how they can be addressed so as to realize the set targets. The plan also set standards and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to guide in reviewing the progress of implementation against achievement of targets.

The county government of Bomet has been implementing three key projects on energy; installation of flood lights, supporting clean cooking projects and working with REREC to support transmission of electricity to rural areas in the county. The county is also working closely with the county department of Agriculture and home economics to assist various institutions such as schools, hotels, and households on the use of clean cook stoves. This is a measure that will lead to the eradication of smoke which has health effects and other hazards such as fire outbreaks. On some of the challenges facing the energy docket in the county, Mr. Towett noted that inadequate budgetary allocations had made it difficult to implement most of the priority activities planned for. This is coupled up with late disbursement of resources that also affects timely implementation of planned activities and this has a ripple effect on service delivery to the citizens. There is therefore need for political goodwill and more mobilization of resources so as to enhance the capacity of the department to effectively deliver on its mandate. He also pointed out on the need to have an energy center to coordinate delivery of energy projects in the county.

Understanding the county budgeting and planning process

Ronald Kipng'eno – Director County Budgeting, Bomet County

County budgeting and planning is an elaborate process that is well anchored in the law and all the 47 counties guided by this process throughout the budget cycle every financial year. In

helping the members understand the budgeting and planning process, Mr. Kipng'eno began by noting that counties are mandated by the constitution to develop County Integrated Development Plans, which is a five year plan for the counties that gives an overall framework for development. The CIDP should contain information on development priorities that inform the annual budget process, particularly the preparation of annual development plans, the annual county fiscal strategy papers, and the annual budget estimates. The CIDP shall reflect the strategic midterm priorities of the county governments. The CIDP will contain specific goals and objectives, a coasted implementation plan, provisions for monitoring and evaluation and clear reporting mechanisms. It will contain information on investments, projects, development initiatives, maps, statistics, and a resource mobilization framework.

Some of the important dates in the fiscal year include;

- i. Annual county development plan – This is tabled by 1st of September every year to guide in the budget making process.
- ii. County budget review outlook paper- reviews the implementation of the previous financial year budget done before by 30th September of every year.
- iii. County fiscal strategy paper – realigned with that from the national government. This is done by February of every year to inform the county budget process. The paper is then approved by the County Assembly by Mid-March.
- iv. County budget proposal – This is submitted to the county assembly by the end of April every year and paves way for debate making of changes to the proposed budget estimates.
- v. Budget signing and appropriation – This is done by June where the county finance bill is passed and once the budget is signed, the appropriation process begins.

Mr. Kipng'eno further noted that public participation takes place during the budget estimates process where the public is allowed to share priority activities that will be implemented in subsequent financial year. He challenged the participants to use that opportunity and actively participate in the process. He last acknowledged that there are provisions for a supplementary budget which allows for the realignment of the budget to accommodate any changes as may be necessary. The mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation are also well laid out for assessing the

achievement of the prioritized activities against the plans and informs the upcoming budget process.

Bomet county priorities for Women, Youth and Marginalized groups

Rose Chepkorir- Director Social Services, Bomet County

In her remarks, Ms. Chepkorir began by defining gender as the social differences between males and females throughout the life cycle that are learned, and though deeply rooted in every culture, they are changeable with time. On gender equality, she noted that it is the act of promoting equality between men and women in all aspects of development. It is about giving people opportunities to build better lives for themselves. There is therefore need to advocate for gender responsive planning and budgeting and to see to it that it is implemented and not just existing on paper. Some of the key action areas include;

- Gender responsive planning - This calls for the applying the results of gender analysis to bridge the gaps and inequalities between women and men through the planning process.
- Gender responsive budgeting – The analysis of the impact of the county expenditure and revenue on women and girls as compared to men and boys. This helps in deciding how policies need to be adjusted and where resources need to be reallocated.
- Gender analysis – Understanding how the population is affected, what they need to be addressed and what they can do for themselves.
- Gender mainstreaming – it is a strategy towards realizing gender equality. It involves the integration of a gender perspective into the preparation, design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of policies.

In the county of Bomet, the department of gender and social services has prioritized various activities such as;

- i. Designing and facilitating programmes and projects that promote gender equality
- ii. Coordination of gender mainstreaming in ministries/departments in the county
- iii. Promotion of gender-social economic empowerment.
- iv. Coordination of programmes for elimination of Gender Based Violence
- v. Community mobilization for gender related activities.

Ms. Chepkorir remarked that the county through her department is partnering with various partners to spearhead issues of women and the youth in the county. For instance, the county has partnered with the Women Enterprise fund to provide readily accessible credit to women groups for economic development activities. The program has training and capacity building focus areas to empower the women on clean cooking projects and how they can market their products to enhanced income generation. The program has in place monitoring and evaluation mechanisms where they make follow-up visits to those trained to assess their level of progress and offer any assistance as may be required. The county is also engaging development partners so as to acquire additional resources to address priority projects targeting women, youth and marginalized groups in the county.

Plenary

Q&A

1. Do you follow-up to assess if the training was effective?
2. Do you have a place for young innovators in your projects? There is need to create space for young innovators.
3. How can we achieve political goodwill so as to increase the resources allocated to environment and energy departments in the counties?
4. Why doesn't the government partner with KTDA to install biogas plants for energy production to the community CSR?

Reflections

- There is need to do capacity build on concept development for additional resource mobilization
- Young people should be empowered to engage in income generating activities. They can come up with innovative ideas that can be presented before development partners or even the county for possible funding.
- There is need to lobby for development projects from partners such as KTDA that are aimed at benefiting the community. Organizations and corporates that heavily depend on communities for their business operations should be compelled through policy to also implement CSR programs that benefit the community.
- The Women Enterprise Fund program has a record of all its beneficiaries and it maintains regular communication with them to find out the progress made and if there is any support that needs to be provided. It is due to this close monitoring which has ensured that the fund is successful.

Fostering Social Accountability in Public Finance under Devolved Governance

Paul Rono - Mara WRUA

Mr. Rono kicked off his presentation by noting that Kenya's devolved system of governance presents County Governments with the opportunity to enhance service delivery at the local level, and the citizen in the devolved units with numerous opportunities to engage in governance processes. The objects of devolution enshrined in the Constitution give powers of self-governance to the people and enhance the participation of the people in the exercise of the powers of the state and in making decisions affecting them; and to recognize the right of communities to manage their own affairs and to further their development. To this end, citizens have a responsibility to participate in policy formulation, development planning including the identification of development projects and programmers for implementation using public funds, budgeting for the use of public funds, and monitoring the implementation of public funded development projects, activities and programmers.

On social accountability, Mr. Rono pointed out that it is an approach towards building accountability that relies on civic engagement where citizens and/or civil society organizations participate directly or indirectly in exacting accountability from those in leadership and/or decision making positions. This actions are supported in the law through the following provisions;

- The constitution - Article 1 of the Constitution vests all sovereign power to the people of Kenya and Article 35 gives citizens the right to access information held by the State.
- The County Government Act 2012 outlines the principles of public participation
- The Public Finance Management Act 2012 provides for public participation in the various stages of the budget cycle. The act lists the documents that should be availed by the county government for public scrutiny at the different stages of the budgeting cycle including the County Fiscal Strategy Paper and the Budget Review and Outlook Paper among others.

To achieve this, there are various social accountability tools and mechanisms to be employed by the citizenry;

- i. Participatory policy formulation - This involves direct participation by citizen or civil society in the formulation of public policy.
- ii. Participatory budgeting - This is the process through which citizens participate directly in budget formulation, decision making and monitoring budget execution.
- iii. Participatory output monitoring - local actors can monitor the achievement of stated projects or policy outputs against identified indicators
- iv. Participatory budget analysis - This involves the review of budgets in order to assess whether allocations match the government's announcements as expressed, for instance in a County Integrated Development Plan.
- v. Participatory public expenditure tracking - This involves monitoring, scrutiny, follow up and evaluation of the budgeting process right from planning, allocation, disbursement, implementation and impact assessment.
- vi. Citizen report card - The process involves the collection of survey data on the quality and/or quantity of a public service, and awareness-raising and broad-based advocacy based on the results of the survey.
- vii. Community scorecards - The process combines quantitative surveys and community meetings that bring together consumers and service providers to jointly deliberate on service delivery challenges. Through community score cards, citizens provide immediate feedback to service provider
- viii. Social audits - Social audits are designed to build accountability and transparency in the use and management of public resources through citizen monitoring, analysis and evaluation of government performance. It involves public scrutiny of public funded projects in a public forum.
- ix. Public revenue monitoring - Refers to the tracking and analysis of the type and amount of revenue that a government receives.
- x. Public forum - This involves the establishment of public forums by government or any other organization to provide space for public debate and discourse on undertakings by government.

In his concluding remarks, he noted that social accountability tools and mechanisms can lead to improvement in service delivery, effective use of public resources and a reduction in corruption and leakage of resources thereby contributing to poverty reduction.

Next steps

- SEAF-K in partnership with MAMACOFF and Mara WRUA through the LTC support will work together to support capacity building activities on county budgeting and planning for Bomet county on an annual basis.
- SEAF-K, MaMACoFF and Mara WRUA to engage further on how they can facilitate the validation workshop for the draft Bomet County Renewable Energy Policy.
- The county government through the departments of gender and social services and energy to support the formation of a CBO network for the various groups represented. The network will coordinate their participation in county processes and activities and also be supported through trainings and resources to run their activities.
- There is need for more capacity building on gender responsive budgeting and planning
- There is need to bring the private sector on board to help address the issue of collaterals which hinder women from accessing loans to procure or engage in clean energy related enterprises