

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING: WEST POKOT EXPERIENCE

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OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

- Introduction
- General strategy
- Organizational model
- Information and mobilization strategy
- PB consultations with communities
- Approval of the Budget
- Evaluation and Conclusion

GENERAL STRATEGY

COMMITMENT BY THE COUNTY IN PROMOTING
EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

AT THE WARD LEVEL

- *THROUGH*
- Budget transparency
- Just/fair redistribution of resources
- *COMMITMENT*
- Ward Specific Funds -

ORGANIZATIONAL MODEL

- Has been modelled along the Ward Development Fund. This is a fund managed under an Act.
- The Act proposes a Ward Committee to spearhead the process of prioritization of projects. The Committee has not been established therefore the County Treasury organized the process with the Ward administrators as facilitators.
- All citizens of a Ward are entitled to attend the forums and be heard.
- The Source of the funds is Ward Development Fund
- Process Re-Engineering - We fused the Ward Development funding and procedure of engagement with Participatory Budgeting to avoid redundancy and duplication
- WDF Act mandates that 11% of the County Revenue OR minimum of 31% of Development Budget is allocated to Ward Specific Projects which is more than the 1% of Development budget in the PB agreement.

CONTN...The Participatory Process in West Pokot County

- **Step 1 – Training MCA's and Ward Administrators on Participatory Budgeting (PB)**
- A joint training was held between all Members of County Assembly, Ward Administrators and Sub County Administrators and a few representatives from the civic society to; remind the participants on need for public participation, minimum requirements for PB. These training achieved 3 things:
- Public participation work plan and dates that was owned by MCA's, Ward administrators and County Executive - **2 parts of the 3-legged stool.**

- - POLITICIANS AND THE EXECUTIVE



- All finished and ongoing projects were identified by each Ward and confirmed.
- Mobilization strategy was done and the area Ward managers, area Chiefs and their assistants and Ward administrators were identified and designated to help in mobilizing the public in the various identified dates. Mobilization was done for 2 weeks in a local radio station and national newspaper to ensure full participation by the communities.
- Basic minimum requirements for PB agreed on i.e to be done in an open place, community to vote to choose their projects, choosing of representations from all sub locations and minority group, duration for mobilization.

Picture 1: Training of MCAs, Ward Administrators and Sub County Administrators on Participatory Budgeting



Step 2 - Public participation process

- This was done in all the sub locations of the county which are 168 where the process was led by the ward administrators, chiefs and sub chiefs. All projects status was shared to the public and given the opportunity to react. All members of the public were invited including civil society groups. These meetings achieved the following:
 - ❑ A list of all their project priorities.
 - ❑ Communities were requested to vote for the three most critical priorities.
 - ❑ They selected 1 delegate from the public to represent them at the ward level vetting
 - ❑ All priorities, the first 3 projects selected was documented and signed by the ward administrator, chosen delegate and sub chief.

Picture 2: Members of the Public giving their views in Orolwo sublocation (Kodich Ward)



Step 3 – Documentation of reports from the sub locations

- The County Budget and Planning Office co-ordinated the documentation of all the field reports including their three top priorities. With the support of technical teams from each department at the county level, they gave their inputs and separated county and national functions from the prioritised projects.
- **Step 4: MCA's meetings to nominate their delegates.**
- A meeting was held between the planning, budget office and county assembly (MCA's), where the MCA's were requested to choose 2 more delegates per ward of their choice to be present at the ward level vetting. This was to ensure that the politicians believe in the process and to reduce changes to the budgets once tabled in their parliament because they believe in them.

Step 5: Ward level Project Validation Meeting

- All elected delegates per sub locations, ward administrators, 2 nominated delegates by the MCA's per ward and MCA's attended the 20 wards vetting meetings that were held at sub county level. This meeting narrowed down the sub location priorities into ward specific projects/priorities and according to the available funds.
- The validation meeting therefore came with a final list of projects to be entered into the Budget.

Picture 3: Ward Validation Meeting in Pokot South Sub County: delegates from a Ward acknowledging their presence.



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- **Ward Validation Meeting in Pokot South Sub County: delegates from a Ward acknowledging their presence.**
- **Steps 6: Table the budgets in County Assembly on April 26th 2016**
- **Step 7: Approval of FY2016/2017 Budget on June 29th 2016**
- **Step 8: Sharing feedback of approved projects with communities –Ongoing through Ward Administrators. We plan to publish Citizens Budget when we received KDSP funding**
- **Step 9: Support Monitoring and Evaluation of implementation by the community members.**

3) INFORMATION AND MOBILISATION STRATEGY;

- The Mobilization Strategy entailed;
- Advertisement in the local FM station for two weeks;
(Advertised in the Standard and Star newspapers)
- Posted meeting schedule with dates and venue information at the Chiefs and Ward offices.
- Roadshow on market days
- Used chiefs and community mobilizers to contact people and make announcements at public baraza

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Some of the Informational materials used were;

- List of projects under implementation was prepared and presented to the forum.
- Maps indicating location of projects under implementation for equitable distribution of proposals
- The forum proposed a list of their Sub location priorities
- They then voted on the 3 priority projects and indicated that on a submission form which was signed by 3 participants.
- Their deliberations was best done using local dialect.

6. Evaluation and Conclusion

- **Achievements**

- All Wards prioritized their projects by voting for them.
- A list of all vetted and agreed upon projects was recorded per Ward
- The projects agreed upon per Ward has been costed and used to develop the final County budgets for 2016/2017.
- Ward administrators were able to ascertain first hand needs of the Ward which will assist them to develop strategic plans for the Ward.
- Citizens especially women were able to get their voices heard.
- Empowerment of the community to understand how to plan and balance their development.
- Improved relationship between MCAs and Ward administrators.

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Challenges

- Too many proposals and limited resources (unmanaged expectations will lead to discontentment)
- Lack of Project Management Committees might result in shoddy projects
- Conflict management amongst community members and amongst leaders on priority needs
- Political climate (upcoming elections)

- THANKS FOR LISTENING