

Improving Community Safety & Cohesion

KEY FACTS

Region: Kisumu County
 Period: December 2016 – May 2018
 Partner: Act Change Transform (ACT!)
 Donor: Danish International Development Agency - DANIDA

CONTEXT

In Kisumu county, the large numbers of unemployed youth lack access to economic opportunities as well as opportunities to participate in dialogue on issues affecting their communities. This has often resulted in violence and crimes, especially during election times. Young people are often manipulated and hired by politicians to intimidate their rivals and cause violence. Women remain largely excluded from playing an active role in conflict resolution processes.

PROJECT AIM

To enhance community safety and security by reducing criminal/organized gang activities. Improved communication, collaboration and trust between the police, the county government, local politicians, the civil society and youth at risk of violence and crime.

APPROACH

Multi-stakeholder dialogue forums and tailor-made trainings aimed at strengthening positive collaboration between state and non-state actors so that authorities become more accountable and effective in responding to violence.

Communities, civil society organisations, private actors and youth at-risk are enabled to constructively and non-violently participate in political processes and address issues affecting their lives.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1'428 representatives from the national and county government, the police, the Council of Elders, the media, as well as religious, youth and civil society leaders participated in a series of networking and problem-solving forums.
- Improved communication, levels of trust and confidence between police and youth at risk groups leading to increased violence and crime reporting.
- 25 women were trained in mediation and became actively involved in mitigating land conflicts and political incitement.

Boda Boda taxi drivers renounce violence & engage in peace work

The associations of motorcyclist taxi riders (Boda Boda riders) are the most important networks of everyday mobility in rural areas. They emerged as a powerful criminal force and their ready networks for mobilization of political violence. We successfully trained boda boda leaders and empowered them to renounce violence as champions of EWER with and enterprise skills and employment programs.

