

Project number	39907233
Title	Landsbygdsutveckling

Countries

Summary

The evaluation of a development project in the West Pokot and Turkana districts of North-Western Kenya was too short to provide an in-depth or accurate analysis of the project's relevance and long term impact. The report therefore offers a series of impressions gathered during the field trip, which may serve as a basis for further reflection and help partner develop the next phase of its programme.

On the basis of discussions with the project's main beneficiaries in two of its project sites, Marich and Kakong, the report shows that several concrete results have been reached by the partners activities in the four sectors of intervention (literacy, HIV/AIDS awareness raising, peacebuilding and tree planting). Local community representatives report that their newly acquired literacy and numeracy skills have enabled them to participate more actively in the life of their families and their communities, and to develop small-scale revenue generating activities complementing their pastoral activities. HIV/AIDS awareness workshops have broken the taboo associated with the disease, which is now discussed openly within the community. Although it is reported that prevalence rates have decreased as a result of the workshops, there is no hard data to support this claim. Serious blockages to a neutral tackling of the issue still seem to exist, with some religious leaders supporting stigma-reinforcing rhetoric within the community. Games and sporting activities have contributed to a clear rapprochement of the Turkana and Pokot communities, who come together to discuss common challenges and collaborate where they did not previously. Activities in the tree planting sector, finally, have proved unsuccessful, probably due to a faulty needs analysis or the wrong choice of strategies.

The report suggests that it is currently impossible to analyse the relevance and overall long term impact of this project for several reasons. First of all, there seems to be some confusion around the ultimate objective of the programme: described at times as a peacebuilding program, it is treated in the project documents and in the field as a predominantly developmental program with unclear links between the various sub-objectives. This confusion is probably due to the absence of a solid contextual analysis which might have enabled the partner to elaborate a coherent program framework and choose appropriate and relevant strategies to reach the overall and intermediary objectives. The absence of this analysis means that the partner is currently not equipped with the appropriate tools and systems to assess the impact of what it does in the field, and the structural changes it might be contributing to.

The report recommends carrying out an in-depth internal reflection to clarify the overall objective of the programme, and to determine how far it wishes to go in reaching that objective. Its Board should be fully involved in clarifying the institutional mandate and the organisation's strategic positioning on some of its key sectors of intervention like peacebuilding, literacy and HIV/AIDS. Finally, PMU should commit and invest in supporting the partner both financially and technically in conducting this reflection and in consolidating the next phase of the program

Recommendations

- Robust and systematic technical support should be given to partner in carrying out this reflection and elaborating the next phase of the program. Technical support could be offered in the form of an external facilitation for the institutional reflection, as well as regular and tailor-made capacity-building in program planning (logical framework, indicator development, monitoring systems etc.).
- It is imperative that partner have a strong interlocutor in Sweden to discuss the

program's objectives before the start of the program, and adjust the planning as it goes along when reductions in the budget push it to cut down on certain activities.

- PMU should reflect on the scope and quality of the projects it wishes to support, and offer corresponding financial means to execute it.
- A serious internal reflection should take place within PMU to determine what the exact function of an external evaluation is for the partner's projects. If the aim is to offer an in-depth and meaningful tool for partner organizations to refine and improve their program, then sufficient financial means should be planned to enable longer evaluation missions in the field. More time should also be allowed for in-depth discussions on the ToR and the planning before the start of the evaluation mission.