



MID-TERM EVALUATION REPORT

ABRIDGED

KENYA ELECTORAL CONFLICT MITIGATION AND CIVIC/VOTER EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

2023



Prepared For:

**Act Change Transform
(Act!)**

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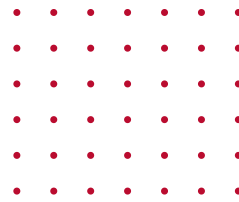
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BACKGROUND



Chapter 1

BACKGROUND



Who We Are

Act Change Transform (Act!) is a not-for-profit non-governmental organization that was established in Kenya in September 2001 focusing on building the capacity of individuals and communities, thus empowering them to get involved in the decisions and management of their development.

Act! approaches its development work through three broad programmatic areas:

- 1. Peace Building and Conflict Transformation
- 2. Democracy and Human Rights
- 3. Environment and Natural Resources.

Act! through its Democracy and Human Rights (DHR) program received funding from USAID KEA to implement a 3 (three) year Kenya Electoral Conflicts Mitigation and Civic/Voter Education Support (ECCES) Program. Act! and Uraia Trust are implementing the program as a consortium while also partnering with eighteen (18) local Civil Society Organisations spread across 18 counties in the country.

Program Goal

The overall goal of the ECCES Program is to ensure civil society and youth successfully participate in democratic process, lead voter/civic education and implement local strategies to mitigate and prevent electoral violence.

Specific Program Objectives

To achieve its broader goal; the program responds to the following outcomes:



#1
Politically Instigated Violence in Kenya Is Prevented And Mitigated



#2
Citizens Effectively Participate in Democratic Governance and Constitutional Processes Through Independent And Informed Decisions



#3
Inclusion of Women, Youth, And PWDs In Democratic Governance and Decision-Making Processes



#4
Electoral and Governance Institutions Are More Accessible, Accountable, And Effective



#5
Strengthening Capacity of County-Based Partners For Enhanced Community Resilience through Civic/Voter Education



For the last one and half years, Act!, Uraia, and the County local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have partnered with women, youth, special interest groups, local community peace structures, national strategic institutions on elections and peacebuilding, local national and county administrations to implement thematic activities in the realization of the outcomes.

Local interventions encompass various activities, including but not limited to forming partnerships with IEBC and other stakeholders to conduct extensive voter/civic education campaigns, reinforcing initiatives aimed at involving and empowering women, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and young individuals in political and electoral spheres, organizing citizen-led forums to demand accountability from elected leaders regarding their manifestos, implementing in-school mentorship programs for young people to actively engage in democratic processes, offering technical support to NSC and NCIC for election/political conflict monitoring, disseminating peace messages, and supporting cohesion and peace-building activities at the local level.

The need to determine progress made concerning changes made in CSOs, Women, Special-Interest Groups, and Youth, and the need to understand emerging lessons and the flexibility of the program to adapt triggered this evaluation.



Purpose and Objectives of the Mid-term Evaluation

Overall, the mid-term evaluation aimed to gauge the program's impact in the below key areas, providing insights into its effectiveness and areas for improvement.

Specifically, the assessment responded to the following objectives:

1

Assess the extent to which civil society organizations, women, youth and PWDs are successfully participating in democratic processes, leading voter/civic education, and implementing local strategies to mitigate and prevent electoral violence.

2

Evaluate the adoption and institutionalization of structures, strategies, plans, policies, and networks established through the program.

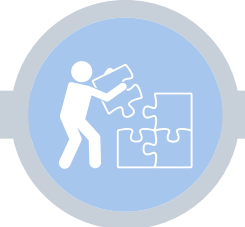
This assessment aims to determine the effectiveness of these measures in providing sustainable responses to political and election violence, as well as promoting the inclusion of women and youth in democratic processes over the short, medium, and long term.

3

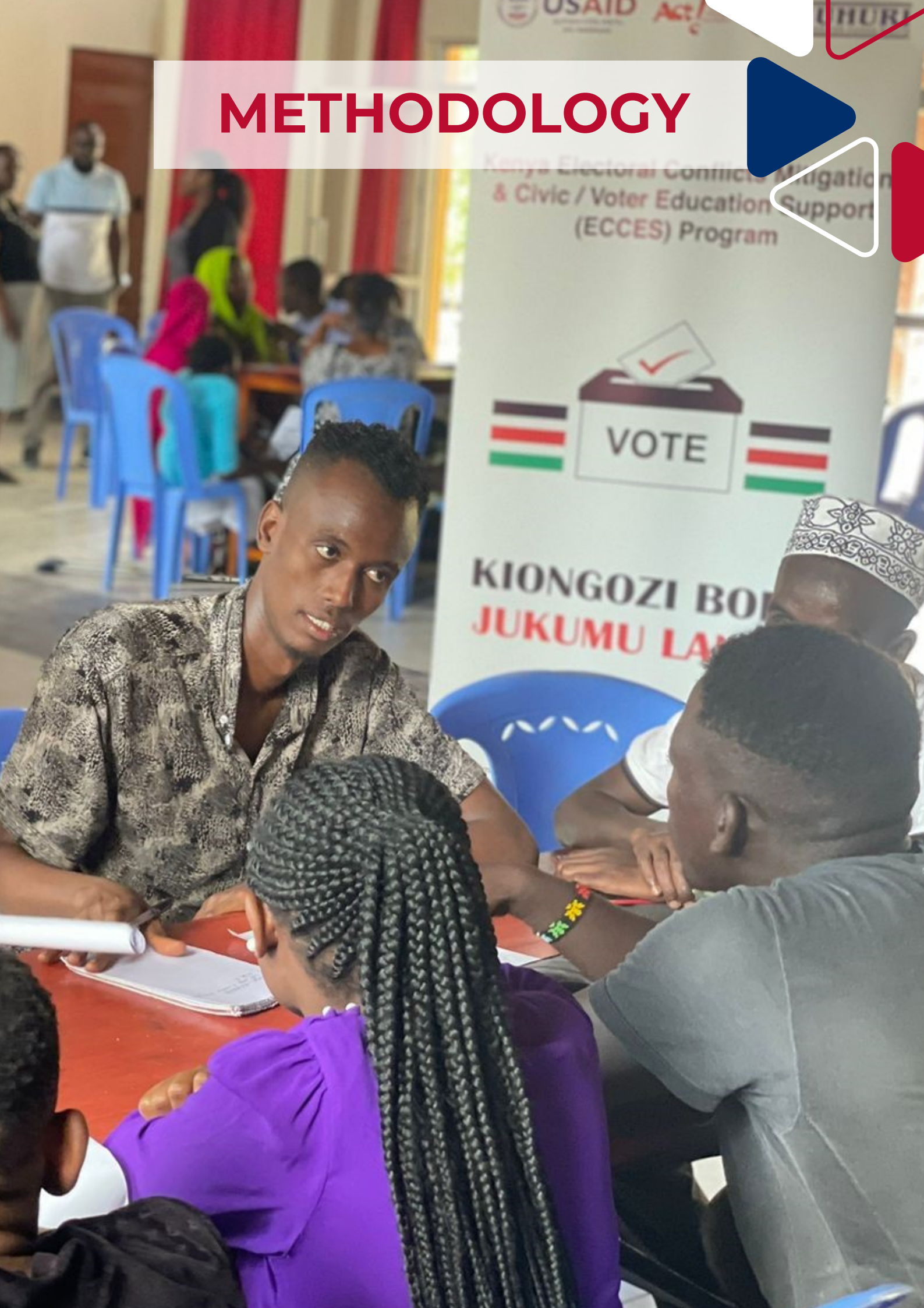
Assess the extent to which approaches/strategies and tools adopted by the program have been effective in building community resilience.

4

Evaluate the effectiveness of ECCES's organizational and technical capacity building approach in cultivating a cadre of civil society organizations (CSOs) capable of fostering societal strength through voter and civic education.

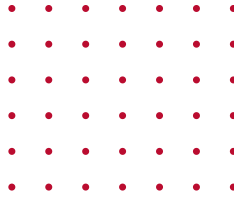


METHODOLOGY



Chapter 2

MID-TERM EVALUATION METHODOLOGY



Study Design

The mid-term evaluation employed a cross-sectional study design that used mixed methods involving the use of quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques: Structured questionnaires targeting program participants/beneficiaries that included women, youth, and PWDs, Key Informant Interviews, and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs).

Primary data was backed by a secondary data review to provide a complete analysis of the mid-term evaluation data to enhance convergence and complementarity.

Sample Size Determination

To determine the sample size required to generate reliable estimates on program indicators for the different segments of the program participants that included women, youth, and PWDs, the prevalence of maximum variability of 50% ($p=0.5$), with an assumed margin of error of 5% was adopted.

The assumed prevalence ($p=0.5$) with a margin of error of 5% ($m=0.05$) and a 95% confidence level ($z=1.96$) with a design effect of 1.5 was used in the calculation of the sample size (n). Therefore, a sample size of 384 participants was determined.

The sample for the 384 program participants included women, youth, and PWDs who were selected from CSO target participants which formed the clusters of interest.

Each CSO that was sampled produced a list of the program participants from where the sample was selected.

Participants for KIIs and FGDs were sampled from a list provided by the program.

The selection of the KIIs and FGDs sample was purposive based on the role they played in the program, these included groups of youths, women and PWDs, and national election stakeholders' representatives. In total, the program listed 18 CSOs that were implementing the program.

From these CSOs, 11 CSOs representing slightly over two-thirds of the total CSOs were sampled to participate in the evaluation.

EVALUATION FINDINGS



Kenya Electoral Conflicts Mitigation & Civic / Voter Education Support (ECCES) Program



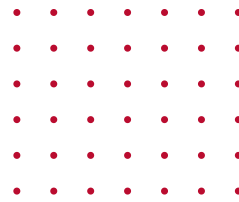
KIONGOZI BORA
JUKUMU LANGU

Act!



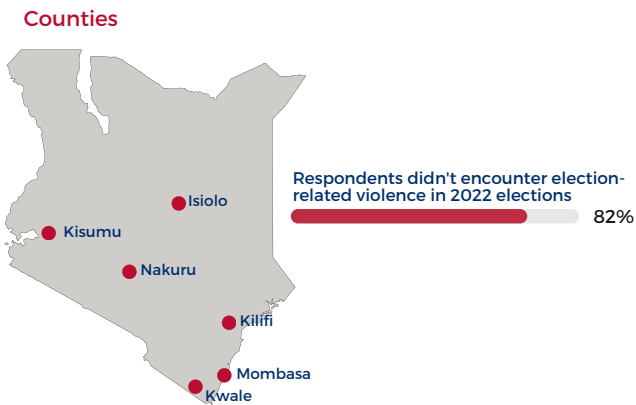
Chapter 3

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS: PROGRESS TOWARDS GOAL



a) Politically Instigated Violence in Kenya is Prevented and Mitigated

The Extent to Which the Program Contributed to Peace: The program was successful in fostering peaceful elections. This underscores the program's key role in enhancing the overall election experience and fostering greater inclusivity in the political sphere. This positive outcome was consistently observed in Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, Isiolo, Kisumu and Nakuru.



Strongly disregard violence as a way of solving problems (mid-term) **87%**

Strongly agree that violence is a way of solving problems (mid-term) **2%**

Strongly disregard violence as a way of solving problems (baseline) **80%**

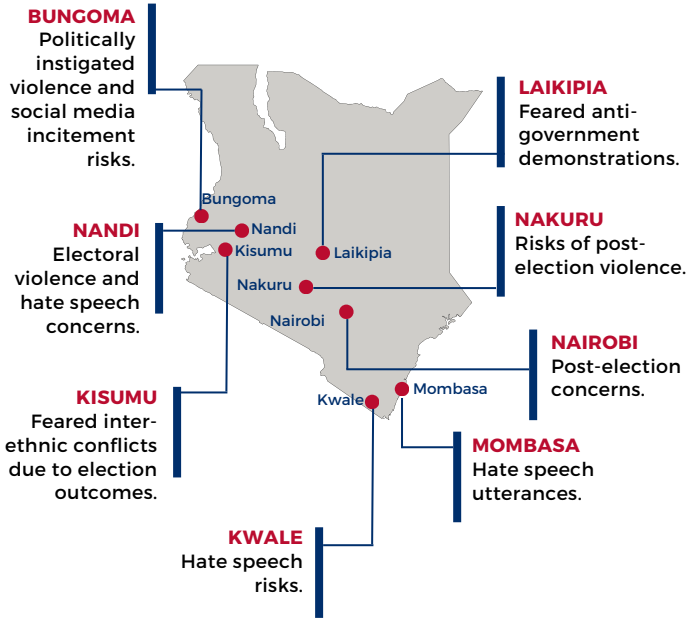
Acknowledged prevalence of hate speech (Kwale and Nakuru) **10%**

Confrontations between supporters of different political parties were also a recurrent issue in Kisumu, Nairobi, Laikipia, and Nakuru.

Cited gang-related disruptions during political gatherings with anecdotal evidence (Mombasa and Kilifi) **4%**

Concerns/Risks to Peace and Security Following the 2022 Elections:

In the aftermath of the 2022 elections in Kenya, various counties faced distinct challenges.



81%
Reported no concerns or risks to peace and security

19%
Worried about political violence, incitement, & intolerance

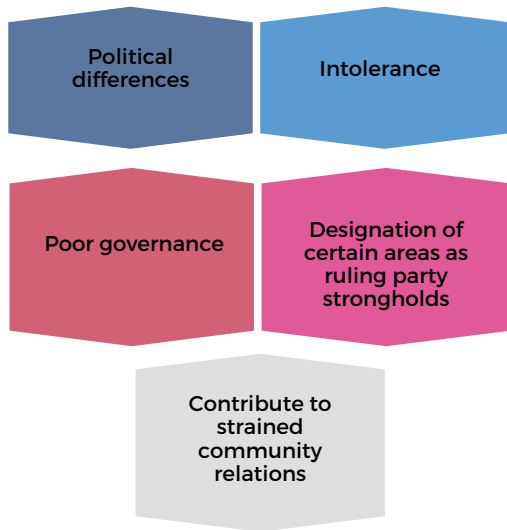
Citizens' Perception of Peace, Cohesion, and Positive Intra and Inter-communal Relations:

The decline in positive inter-communal relations can be attributed to lingering grievances from past elections, the opposition's non-acceptance of results, early to mid-year demonstrations that resulted in the national dialogue, and voting patterns triggering feelings of betrayal among ethnic groups.

Decline from 89% compared to the baseline **69%**



Political differences, intolerance, poor governance, and the designation of certain areas as ruling party strongholds further contribute to strained community relations. This underscores the importance of the program to address these triggers and barriers to prevent potential electoral violence.



Contributing Factors to Peaceful Election:

Study findings confirmed that coordination between CSOs, local leaders in the communities including religious leaders, IEBC officials at the counties, and the participation by different election actors, including politicians contributed to the peace experienced during the election. Additionally, the involvement of several stakeholders for example; County Commissioners across the country chairing election task teams that coordinated security and organized peace meetings also contributed to peace. The government also activated the National Joint Operation Command Centre to reinforce the Early Warning and Early Response Mechanisms.

The findings further revealed that **peace conversation forums were mostly used to mitigate conflicts** as noted by 35% of the respondents, local dialogues at 33%, early warning and reporting structures at 27%, and other mechanisms at 5%.

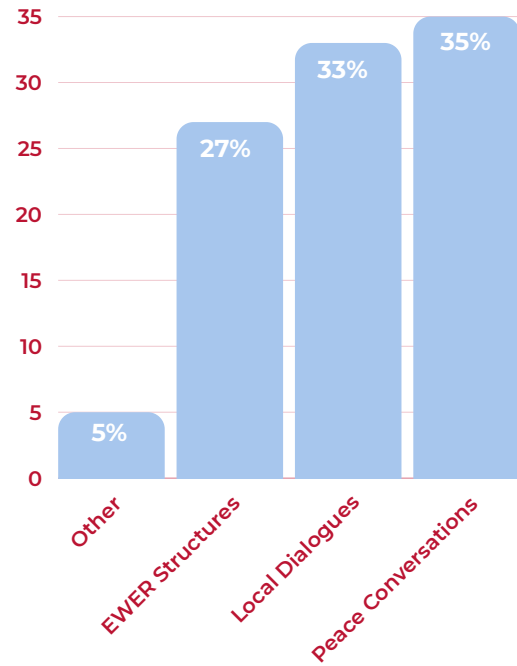


Figure 1: Mitigation of conflict

Role of Community Conflict Mediators:

Mediators played a crucial role in addressing issues falling outside the primary scope of their duties under Election Dispute Resolution (the EDR). The top five mediators included religious leaders (36%), community elders (34%), peace monitors (32%), chiefs (27%), and peace committees (25%). The selection of mediators varied by county, emphasizing the importance of effectiveness and relevance in preventing and mitigating election violence across diverse Kenyan counties.

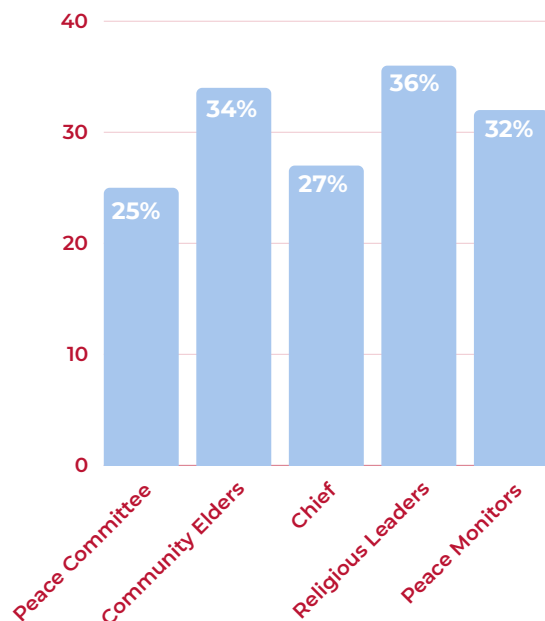
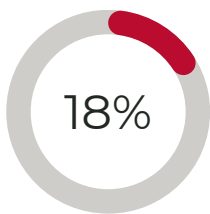
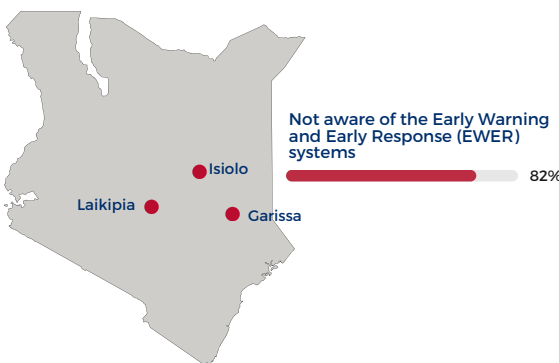
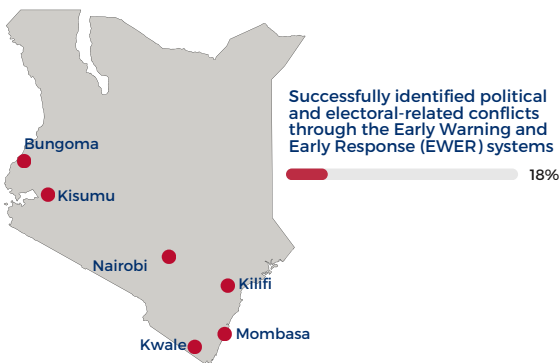


Figure 2: Individuals who mitigated conflict.

These mediators comprised members from various community sectors and played a critical role in fostering dialogue, reconciliation, and conflict resolution. **Notably, each county demonstrated variations in the selection of conflict mediators, reflecting the specific dynamics and preferences within their regions.** The utilization of mediators based on their effectiveness and relevance was a key strategy in preventing and mitigating election violence across diverse Kenyan counties.



Successfully identified political and electoral-related conflicts through the Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) systems.



A significant 82% of respondents from diverse counties, such as Garissa, Isiolo, and Laikipia were not aware of these Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) systems highlighting the need for improved awareness and utilization of EWER mechanisms.

Moving forward, the program should consider focusing on sustaining peace negotiation processes and ensuring effective agreement implementation.

Complementing formal negotiations with grassroots peacebuilding initiatives can enhance communication, inclusivity, and long-term impact. Special attention is required in pastoral and county borderline areas communities vulnerable to climate change-triggered conflicts. Collaboration between formal and informal institutions can promote alternative livelihoods and mitigate potential conflicts.

Acknowledging the pivotal role of the media is crucial. Media institutions' diversity can generate content that promotes social resilience, mitigating the future risk of electoral violence linked to the spread of fake news and misinformation through mainstream and social media channels.

b) Citizens Effectively Participate in Democratic Governance and Constitutional Processes Through Independent and Informed Decisions

The results show that 39% of the respondents participated in voter registration, 26% engaged elected officials and constitutional offices, 23% participated in by-elections, and 9% participated in election law reforms by contributing i.e. the Boundary Delimitation Process/National Dialogue Committee.

Compared to the baseline values, those who participated in voter registration and engaged elected officials and constitutional offices seem to have improved. This could likely have been attributed to the sustained civic education undertaken by the program.

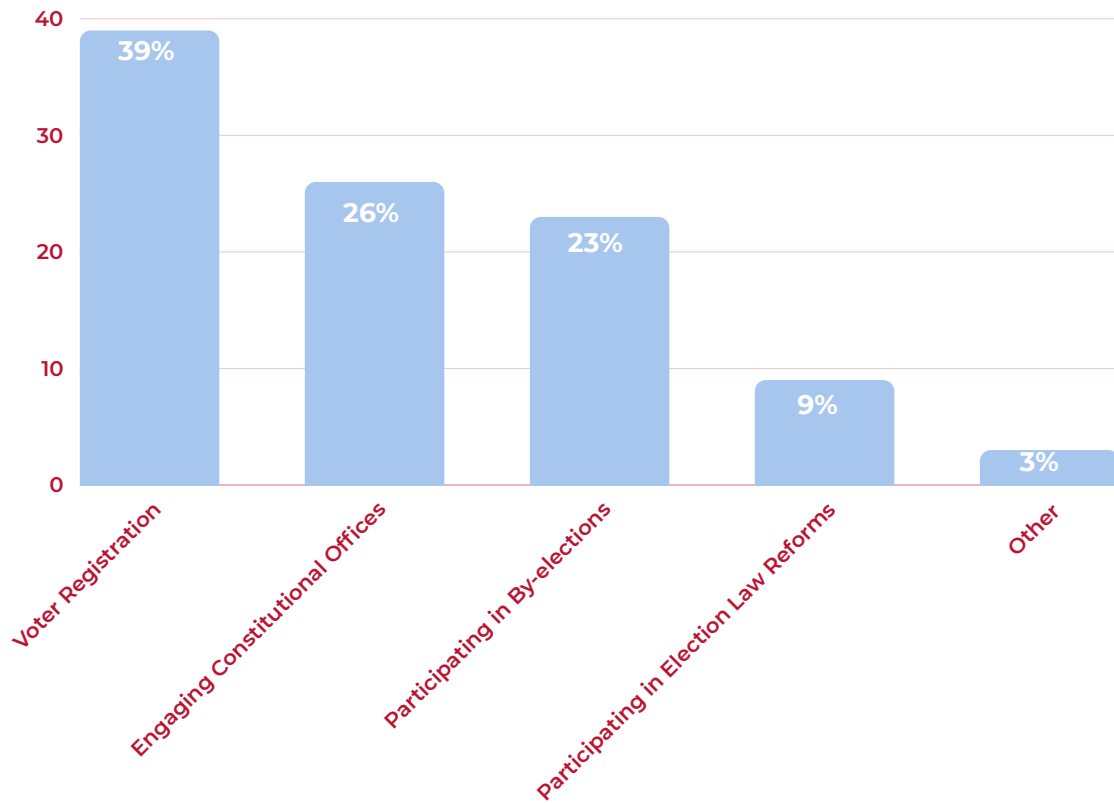


Figure 3: Citizen's participation in democratic process

The majority of the respondents (63%) noted a lack of motivation to participate in elections by the general population as a reason for low voter turnout. Other reasons include insufficient voter/civic education among citizens at 31%, voter intimidation at 29%, lack of transparency and credibility by electoral institutions at 23%, and poor election planning and organization. Further, 12% of the respondents noted other unspecified reasons that led to low voter turnout.

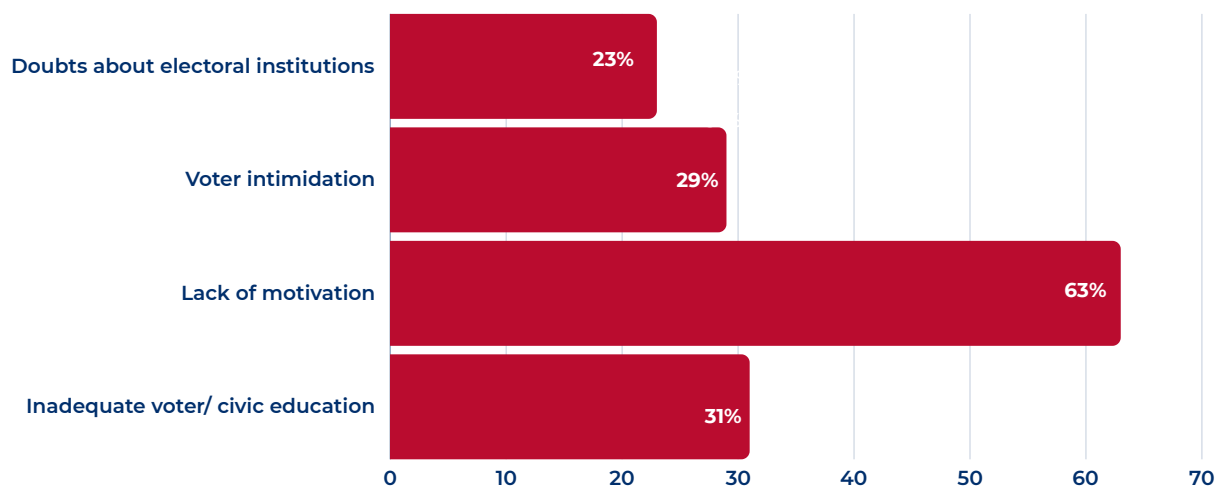
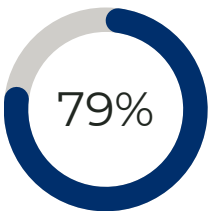
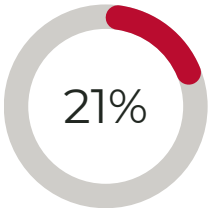


Figure 4: Low Voter Turnout contributors



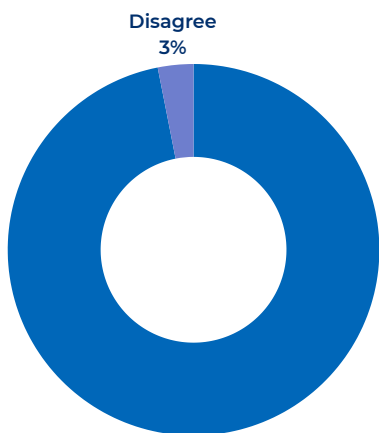
Agree there was adequate civic education to influence citizens to vote



Civic education was inadequate to influence citizens to vote

Findings further revealed **civic education was adequate to influence citizens to vote** as noted by 79% respondent of the while 21% thought that civic education was not adequate to influence citizens to vote.

The inadequacy could have been attributed to some shortfalls in civic education that the respondents mentioned across the evaluated counties with Mombasa and Nairobi highlighting the need for more time and broader outreach, while respondents in Nandi and Nakuru noted **there were gaps in effectively educating and engaging special interest groups** underscoring the importance of tailoring civic education programs targeting SIGs and communities.

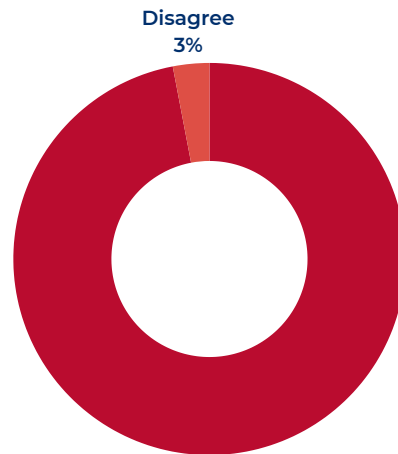


ECCES program improved youth participation 94%

The program improved youth participation in democratic governance and decision-making as attested by the majority (94%) of program-targeted beneficiaries while a paltry 3% had a different opinion.

Respondents observed that more youth turned out to vote, participated in elective positions, were registered as voters, were involved in public participation in developing laws and electoral-related plans, participated in sensitization on post-election issues, and engaged in electoral and constitutional processes.

Furthermore, respondents noted that **youth maintained peace and shunned being used for political gains by politicians**. They received knowledge on how to get prequalified for tenders set aside for the youth and PWDs, making them feel empowered to engage in economic activities.



ECCES program improved women's participation 97%

The program improved women's participation in democratic governance and decision-making processes as attested by the majority of the respondents 97% while an insignificant 3 % disagreed. The program reached and responded to women's needs regarding their participation in elections.

This was achieved through; gender-sensitive voter education, capacity building, and leadership development that promoted women's representation and addressed barriers to women's participation and discrimination.

Other gains achieved include educating women on election rights including the right to run for an elective office and their right to vote; women got empowered and gained more confidence in leading and speaking out; women participated more in meetings, gave out their opinions, and were involved in political advocacy and dialogues.



The program empowered persons with disabilities (PWDs) by providing them with knowledge about their voting entitlements and potential candidates for political offices. This knowledge instilled confidence in PWDs, encouraging active participation in both the voting process and public engagement on crucial bills addressing their specific needs. For example,

How ECCES Empowered PWD

In Kisumu, FGD participants felt that there was a change in the way PWDs engaged in democratic governance processes as compared to before the ECCES program. Reportedly, PWDs for a long time were not able to participate in anything because they were not involved but this is gradually changing as now they are being accommodated.

In Kilifi County, the PWDs were instrumental in making contributions to the PWD bill during public participation. The program also strengthened the Kilifi County Disability Network. Through the network, participants advocated for the establishment of a PWD Resource Center at the county which had been envisaged more than 10 years ago.

In Isiolo, there was increased inclusiveness of marginalized groups - more women, men, youth, and PWDs were involved and participated in electoral activities, and more PWDs were registered as voters.

c) Inclusion of Women, Youth, And PWDs In Democratic and Decision-Making Processes

The participants in the study identified **several structures, plans, initiatives, and networks that were formed or strengthened focusing on youth, women, and PWDs as a result of the program.**

These include peace committees, social protection networks, advocacy initiatives, conflict management panels, and community self-help groups. When asked whether they had actively participated in the creation of these structures, the results revealed that 63% of the participants had played a role in their development. Conversely, 37% of the respondents indicated that they had not been involved in the establishment of these structures.

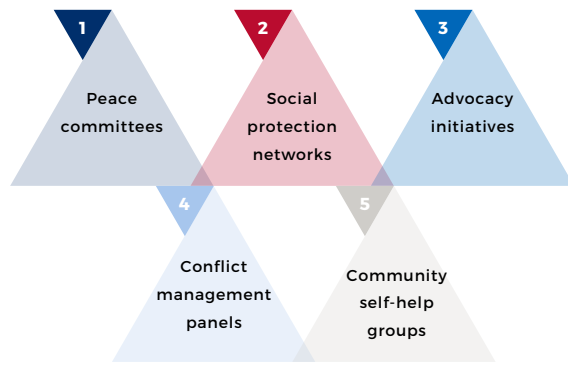
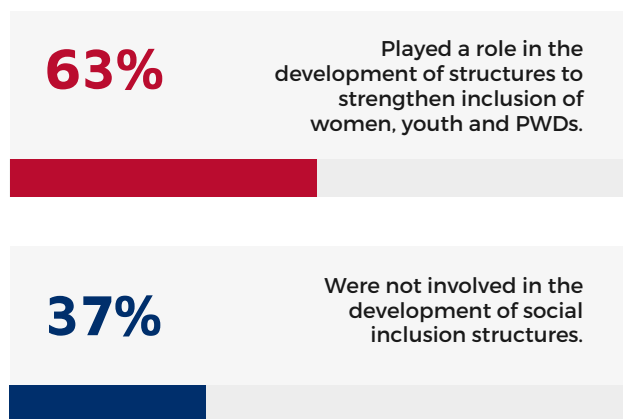


Figure 5: ECCES established Social Inclusion Structures



The findings revealed that there were varying degrees of engagement among respondents in the management and functioning of the community structures, including Peace committees, EWER, and Conflict management panels.

The majority of them (53%) were actively and meaningfully involved in these structures with a significant role in initiating and sharing decisions alongside key duty bearers.

The ECCES program significantly contributed to creating a conducive environment for Special Interest Groups through initiatives such as civic and voter education (72%), community peace dialogues (59%), and political forums (36%). Notably, women, youth, and PWDs (98%) reported enhanced participation showcasing the success of the program. Overall, 54% achieved favorable involvement in decision-making, emphasizing the need for ongoing support for such impactful programs.



This comprehensive approach, encompassing education, sensitization, and structural support has been instrumental in enhancing the inclusivity and effectiveness of democratic processes in Kenya, particularly for Special Interest Groups. The success of these initiatives underscores the importance of continued support and development of such programs to further strengthen democracy and governance.

These initiatives resulted in a significant uptick in democratic engagement among women, youth, and PWDs, with 39% participating in voter registration, 26% engaging with officials, and 9% contributing to election law reforms. The success underscores the program's impact in amplifying the voices of Special Interest Groups in democratic governance.

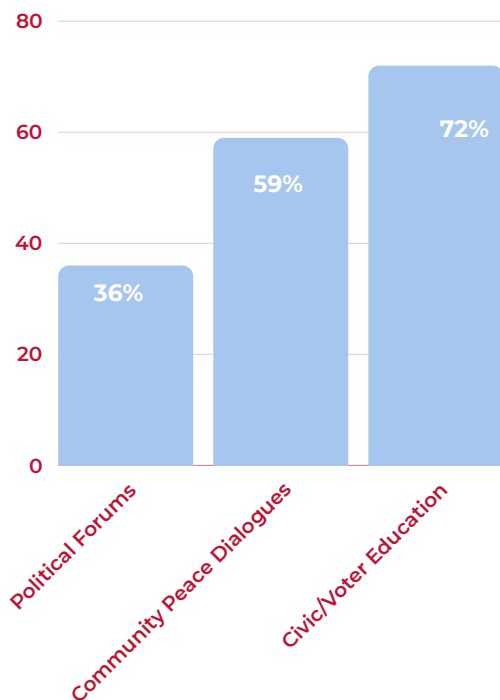


Figure 6: Enhancement of environment to participate in democratic and decision-making processes

In summary, the study revealed that **ECCES activities have significantly contributed to the establishment of local structures that empower women, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and youth. This has strengthened inclusive governance and played a crucial role in community peacebuilding efforts.**

The program's diverse interventions, such as involvement in local peace management structures, gender-sensitive voter education, capacity building, and addressing barriers for PWDs and women, collectively fostered positive change and promoted peace and inclusion within the community.

d) Accessibility, Accountability, and Effectiveness of the Electoral Governance Institutions

The study sought to establish the performance of key actors in the Kenyan Electoral Institutions from the program participants' view. The findings note that the perception of different government actors is based on the sampled respondents who in this case are program participants who have benefitted from the ECCES program.

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC):

- **Satisfaction Levels:** 62% of program participants expressed satisfaction with the IEBC's conduct during elections, praising its transparency and effective collaboration with stakeholders.
- **Concerns:** 21% of respondents expressed dissatisfaction, citing issues such as disputes among IEBC commissioners and election cancellations in specific regions.



The National Police Service (NPS):

- **Positive Perception:** 68% of participants were satisfied with the NPS's role in creating a conducive environment for elections, noting a less combative approach compared to the past.
- **Concerns:** 16% expressed dissatisfaction, citing perceived favoritism and instances of harassment by the NPS.

The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP):

- **Satisfaction Levels:** 66% of participants were satisfied with the ORPP's conduct, especially in managing party registrations and policy creation.
- **Concerns:** 10% of respondents raised issues such as double registration and limited platforms for dialogue.

The Judiciary:

- **Satisfaction Rate:** The Judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court, received a satisfaction rate of 55% from participants, focusing on approval of the Supreme Court's rulings.
- **Concerns:** 19% of respondents expressed dissatisfaction, citing concerns over decision-making styles and language used in the rulings.

Table 1: Performance of various actors in the 2022 General elections comparison

Baseline and mid-term comparison on % of citizens reporting confidence in key electoral and governance institutions and processes indicators	Baseline (%)	Mid-term line (%)	P value (t-test)	Interpretation
Judiciary	39%	54%	0.000	Significant Improvement
IEBC	29%	62%	0.000	Significant Improvement
ORPP	29%	63%	0.000	Significant Improvement

Perceptions of Electoral and Governance processes in Kenya: 53% now view them as fair and peaceful, marking a notable decrease from an earlier 80% positive perception. Conversely, 31% express dissatisfaction, indicating concerns about the integrity and peacefulness of these processes.

Despite the drop, there have been significant improvements compared to the baseline assessments, suggesting overall progress. These mixed perceptions highlight the complexity of the electoral and governance landscape, emphasizing the ongoing need for efforts to enhance fairness, transparency, and peacefulness to maintain public trust and ensure system legitimacy and stability.



Table 2: Baseline and mid-term comparison of respondents who felt that the electoral and governance process was fair and peaceful.

Baseline and mid-term comparison on electoral and governance process fair and peaceful indicator	Baseline (%)	Mid-term line (%)	P value (t-test)	Interpretation
% citizens who reported that the electoral and/ or governance processes were justly and peaceful	86%	53%	0.000	Significant Improvement

These initiatives resulted in a significant uptick in democratic engagement among women, youth, and PWDs, with 39% participating in voter registration, 26% engaging with officials, and 9% contributing to election law reforms. The success underscores the program's impact in amplifying the voices of Special Interest Groups in democratic governance.

In summary, the study revealed that ECCES activities have significantly contributed to the establishment of local structures that empower women, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and youth. This has strengthened inclusive governance and played a crucial role in community peacebuilding efforts.

The program's diverse interventions, such as involvement in local peace management structures, gender-sensitive voter education, capacity building, and addressing barriers for PWDs and women, collectively fostered positive change and promoted peace and inclusion within the community.



SUSTAINABILITY AND PROGRESS ADOPTION



Chapter 4

THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE STRUCTURES, STRATEGIES, PLANS, POLICIES AND NETWORKS ESTABLISHED THROUGH THE PROGRAM HAVE BEEN ADOPTED AND INSTITUTIONALIZED



The Kenya ECCES Program's sustainability was evaluated based on the structures, strategies, plans, policies, and networks established. The focus was to determine if these elements were sufficiently institutionalized to continue post-program and whether beneficiaries were prepared to take ownership of outcomes and awareness of the program's exit strategy.

The program initiatives led to the development of local structures that aimed to mitigate politically instigated violence.

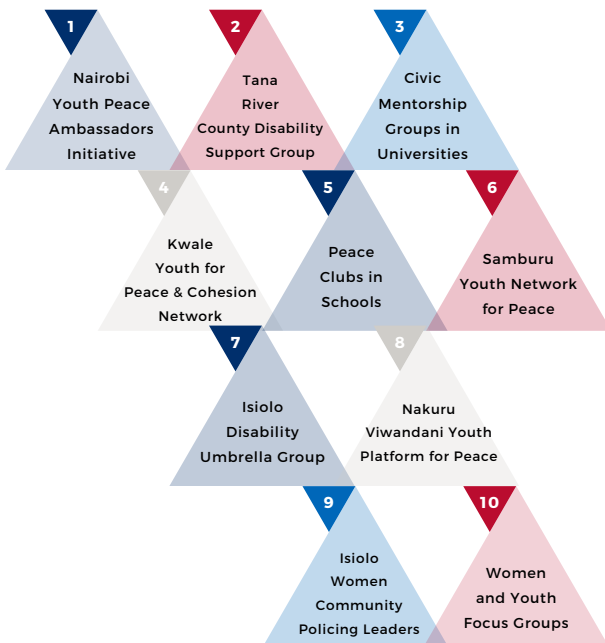


Figure 7: Sustainability structures formed through ECCES program

The majority of respondents (61%) made proposals to change existing policies/strategies/plans while 39% did not. 82% of the respondents who made proposals shared their views through public participation forums while 13% did so through memos.

Policies, structures, and systems that the program participants aimed to change/develop included proposals for security, and to enhance the inclusivity of Special Interest Groups in democratic and decision-making processes.

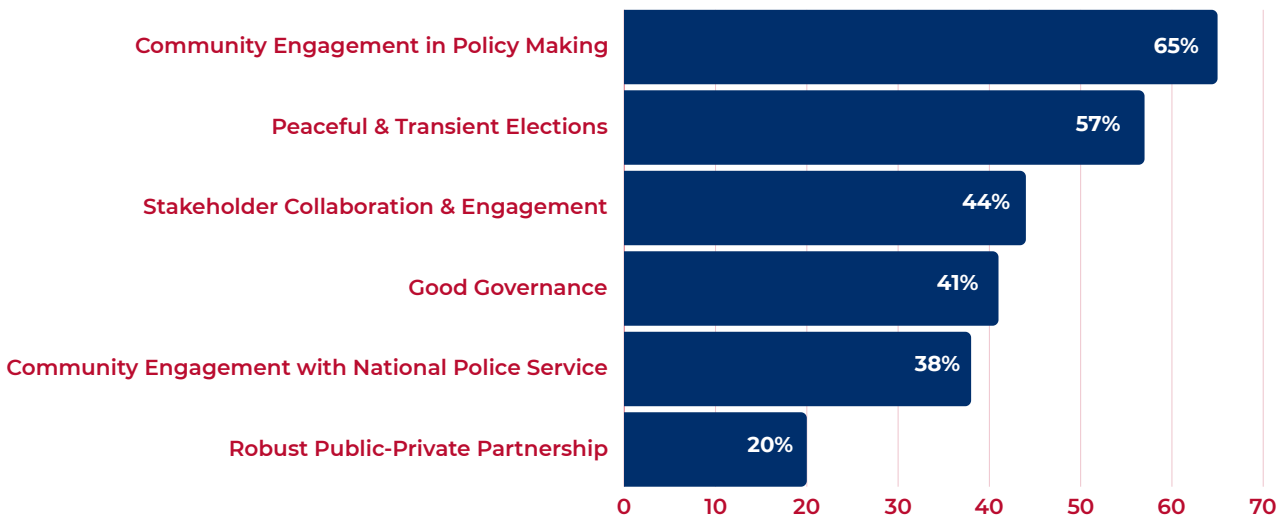
The program was effective in supporting community members taking initiatives towards advancing the changes they need about participating in electoral governance and decision-making processes and mitigating politically instigated violence. This type of change where program participants undertake self-initiatives is informed by shifts in consciousness.



For such change to occur, it means changes occurred at the individual and community level which could have been contributed by the program. The program may have enhanced self-awareness of attitudinal and behavioral changes.

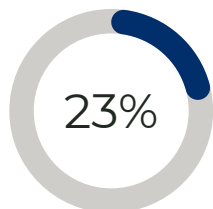
The majority of the respondents (65%) noted that the benefits arising from community engagement in policymaking are the most likely to continue beyond the life of the program, followed by peaceful and transient elections at 57%, stakeholder collaboration, and engagement at 44%, good governance at 41%, and community engagement with national administration and security institutions at 38%, partnership, and community-led organizations at 31%.

Figure 8: Benefits beyond the ECCES program

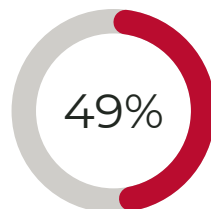


These percentages indicate a strong belief in the program's lasting impact, fostering participatory governance and ensuring peaceful elections. The high level of anticipation for continued benefits suggests the program has effectively ingrained sustainable practices and positive attitudes, influencing future community and electoral engagements.

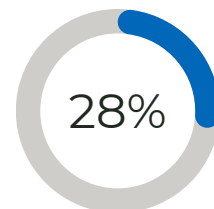
Awareness of exit strategies: Only 23% of respondents were aware of the program's exit strategy. 54% of those aware were uncertain if the strategies were formally part of the program design. **CSOs in various counties confirmed formal exit strategies in place.** Strategies included community sensitization, strengthening local structures (Conflict Management Panels, peace committees), and training peace champions.



Citizens are aware of exit strategy.



Citizens are not aware of exit strategy.



Don't know/ Not sure.

Figure 9: Sustainability



Improved Knowledge in Political/Electoral, Social Cohesion, and Civic Education: There was an increase in understanding with 92% of respondents reporting improved knowledge of violence prevention and mitigation, and 84% indicating enhanced knowledge of electoral processes and democratic governance. The program's use of diverse mediums for civic education, such as print, radio, TV, and in-person contact contributed to transforming citizens' knowledge and practices. CSOs expressed a desire for continued support emphasizing the program's positive influence. There's a recognized need for deeper engagement and follow-up for sustained impact in the future.

Perceived Sustainability of Benefits: Findings highlight an overwhelmingly positive perception of the sustainability of benefits from the program in enhancing community social cohesion and peace in Kenya. An impressive 93% of respondents believe the program's benefits will endure beyond its closure, reflecting strong trust in its long-term impact. The widespread expectation of the program's benefits persisting long after its conclusion is a significant indicator of its success and positive impact on promoting social cohesion and peace in Kenyan communities.

Institutionalization and Sustainability: The sustainability of peace and social cohesion initiatives is strategically addressed through local CSOs, community involvement, local peace structures, and partnership and collaboration with different stakeholders. In regions like Garissa, Nakuru, Nandi, and Laikipia, local CSOs have formal exit strategies showcasing a commendable level of preparedness for program closure. This will ensure a seamless transition and long-term impact even after program completion.

Community Involvement led by local resource persons remains crucial for sustaining initiatives and ensuring ongoing grassroots awareness about peace and social cohesion. This community-driven approach will likely contribute to the initiatives' longevity. The strengthening of local structures such as Conflict Management Panels and peace committees plays a vital role in managing conflicts and sustaining peace efforts in their respective communities. For instance, in Nandi, an innovative approach involves self-sustainable structures like Amani Clubs in schools, engaging the younger generation in peacebuilding and civic engagements. This ensures that peace values and civic responsibility are ingrained in the community's fabric from an early age.

The Relationships between Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and the Government are key for the initiatives' continuity providing crucial support and recognition for their sustainability and effectiveness.

Sustainability of Established Networks and Strategies: Sustainable peacebuilding and community engagement through the ECCES program show promise, with active structures and digital initiatives expected to endure. Notably, the POTUKISA peace group, uniting diverse communities, exemplifies success through WhatsApp-based coordination, demonstrating adaptability in Laikipia. At the county level, Nakuru stands out with ongoing collaboration among CSOs supported by established relationships and peace committees. National support from Act! has strengthened institutions like NCIC and NSC in early warning and response systems contributing to national stability. These examples showcase the successful establishment of enduring networks and strategies for peacebuilding in Kenya addressing current challenges and laying a strong foundation for future initiatives.

The AMAYA Triangle initiative in Baringo, Laikipia, Samburu, and Isiolo Counties represents a strategic approach to addressing the unique challenges and conflict dynamics in the region. Additionally, the Program's collaboration with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) ensures the integrity of elections by sharing insights and strategies to manage associated risks. These initiatives collectively showcase a comprehensive and proactive approach to peacebuilding and governance in Kenya. They not only address immediate concerns but also lay the foundation for long-term stability and security.

National and County Level Engagements: Substantial strides have been made in national and county-level engagements, thanks to Act!'s support. The organization plays a crucial role in strengthening early warning systems, supporting institutions such as the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) and the National Steering Committee (NSC) to identify and address potential conflicts, particularly during sensitive periods like elections.

Mainstreaming of ECCES themes by CSOs: The integration of themes from the program by the county-based CSOs is a significant operational aspect acknowledged by 67% of the respondents. This strategic incorporation showcases CSOs' concerted efforts to infuse key principles of election integrity, community security, and capacity strengthening into a wider array of activities.

This not only enhances the program's impact but also ensures its integration into broader social and political discussions. The emphasis on capacity strengthening is key to empowering communities and individuals with the skills needed for active and contributory involvement in secure and fair electoral processes.

Furthermore, the **focus on advocacy** within these integrated programs is vital. Through advocacy, CSOs are playing a crucial role in raising awareness, influencing policies, and mobilizing support for elections and community security issues. This advocacy role is essential in fostering an environment conducive to free and fair elections, ensuring community voices are considered in decision-making processes.

Some of the strategies employed by the program and county CSOs to enhance sustainability include:

- **Strategic Plans Alignment:** Select CSOs have aligned program components with their strategic plans, enhancing the likelihood of continuous impact.
- **Training of Trainers (TOTs):** TOTs are established for ongoing education at the village level.
- **Local structures and peace initiatives** established by the program are poised to continue, fostering sustainable peace and social cohesion.
- There is a clear indication that the **benefits of the program** particularly in community engagement and peaceful elections will persist.
- The program has facilitated **effective engagements at both the national and county levels**, enhancing early warning systems and promoting peaceful coexistence.
- **Long-term reforms in social and electoral justice systems are expected**, focusing on the inclusive participation of marginalized groups.
- **The mainstreaming of ECCES themes into other programs by CSOs** suggests a continued focus on capacity building and advocacy post-program.

In Summary, the ECCES Program's approach to sustainability appears robust, with established structures and strategies likely to continue fostering peaceful and inclusive democratic processes in Kenya.

The involvement of CSOs in mainstreaming the program's themes further ensures the long-term impact and relevance of its objectives. The continuation of these efforts relies on the active engagement of community members, local structures, and strategic partnerships.

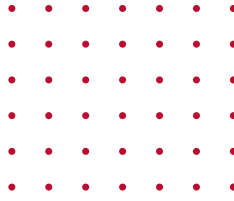


**PROGRESS ON
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**



Chapter 5

THE EXTENT TO WHICH APPROACHES/ STRATEGIES AND TOOLS ADOPTED BY THE PROGRAM WERE EFFECTIVE



Evaluation of Strategies

1. Community Peace Dialogues and Conversations

- **Effectiveness:** This strategy demonstrated a 44% effectiveness rate, playing a crucial role in fostering peace and harmony among diverse groups.
- **Area for Improvement:** There is a need to increase the adaptability of this approach to local contexts, especially for audiences with limited literacy, ensuring that messages are understood and impactful.

2. Sports for Peace

- **Effectiveness:** With a 25% effectiveness rate, this approach has been particularly useful in promoting non-violent conflict resolution among youth.
- **Area for Improvement:** The program should address gender and disability inclusivity to ensure broader participation. Additionally, establishing quantifiable impact measures will help in better evaluating the success of this strategy.

3. Community Civic/Voter Education Messaging

- **Effectiveness:** Achieving a 12% effectiveness rate, this strategy was effective in sensitizing voters and promoting peaceful elections.
- **Area for Improvement:** There's a need for greater contextualization and adaptability of the messaging to meet the diverse needs of various communities.

4. Radio Programs

- **Effectiveness:** The effectiveness of radio programs has been limited due to changing media consumption habits and issues with reach and neutrality.
- **Area for Improvement:** The program should explore innovative formats and partnerships to enhance the reach and impact of radio broadcasts.

5. Social Media Activities

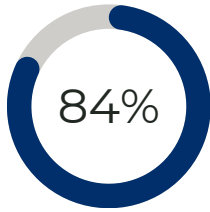
- **Effectiveness:** Social media has been effective in reaching youth, but its impact is limited by internet access and smartphone ownership.
- **Area for Improvement:** Developing strategies to reach non-digital populations and focusing on inclusive content will enhance the effectiveness of this approach.

6. Technical Support to EWER Structures

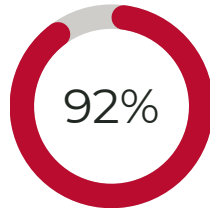
- **Effectiveness:** This strategy contributes significantly to strengthening conflict mitigation structures.
- **Area for Improvement:** There is a need for continuous support and adaptation to the evolving needs of community structures.



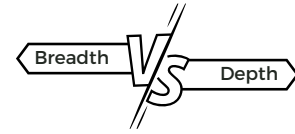
Key Statistics



Improved Knowledge of Electoral Processes: 84% of respondents reported improved knowledge, indicating a significant impact of the program in educating citizens.



Enhanced Understanding of Violence Prevention: 92% of respondents felt that the program enhanced their understanding of political and electoral violence prevention and mitigation.



Training Depth Concerns:

There were concerns about the breadth vs. depth approach in civic education, suggesting a need for more in-depth training.

Areas for Improvement

1. Tailoring Content to Local Contexts

- The program should consider materials in pictorial forms or simpler formats for low-literacy areas and focus more on local fundraising and organizational development for smaller CSOs.

2. Inclusivity and Gender Balance

- Addressing gender imbalances in sports and other activities and including persons with disabilities more effectively in all strategies is crucial.

3. Enhancing Radio and Social Media Impact

- Adapting radio content to suit changing listening habits and increasing social media reach to communities with limited digital access will enhance effectiveness.

4. Feedback and Adaptation

- Incorporating stakeholder feedback more actively into program design and adapting strategies based on ongoing evaluations and changes in the political landscape is essential.

5. Diversifying Engagement Approaches

- A mix of approaches, including digital, in-person, and community-driven activities, will help in maximizing reach and impact.

6. Quantifying Impact

- Developing more robust metrics to quantify the impact of strategies, particularly for initiatives like sports for peace, is necessary.

7. Addressing Training Content and Delivery

- Ensuring that training materials are tailored and responsive to the needs of varied CSO profiles and using community facilitators effectively to enrich dialogues and training sessions will improve outcomes.

Conclusion

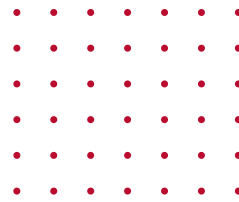
The ECCES program has demonstrated considerable success in enhancing community resilience and understanding of electoral processes. However, **to achieve greater impact, it needs to focus on inclusivity, adaptability, and innovative engagement strategies.** Continuous feedback and data-driven adaptations will further strengthen the program's effectiveness in achieving its noble objectives.

PROGRESS ON CAPACITY BUILDING



Chapter 6

THE EXTENT TO WHICH ACT!'S ORGANIZATIONAL AND TECHNICAL CAPACITY BUILDING APPROACH WAS EFFECTIVE IN STRENGTHENING CSOS



Act!'s organizational and technical capacity-building approach significantly strengthened county-based Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Kenya, through the ECCES program.

Capacity Building Strategies

- **Technical Capacity Support:** Collaborative interventions with Uraia Trust empowered CSOs in tailoring efforts to local needs. Thematic in-house training covered vital areas like monitoring, evaluation, communication, branding, and financial management, fostering program understanding. Field visits provided hands-on support.
- **Institutional Capacity Strengthening:** Act! conducted assessments for six partners, identifying areas for improvement. Support in developing organizational documents and thematic training enhanced governance, leadership, project management, human resources, administration, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, external relations, and sustainability.

Collaboration and Partnerships

- **Engagement with Government Officials:** Effective collaboration with National Government Administration Officials and county IEBC officials facilitated mobilization and civic awareness, emphasizing the importance of government-CSO cooperation.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Leveraging partnerships enriched civic education and community resilience. CSOs formed strategic relationships with government entities and other organizations, amplifying the program's impact.

Act!'s multi-faceted capacity-building approach encompassing technical support, institutional strengthening, and strategic partnerships significantly enhanced CSOs' capabilities.

Collaboration with government officials and stakeholders further solidified CSOs' roles positioning them as key contributors to community resilience and democratic engagement. The demonstrated success underscores the importance of continued collaboration and partnerships for sustained program outcomes in the future.





Challenges Experienced by ECCES Implementing Partners: The mid-term evaluation of the ECCES program identified challenges faced by implementing partners and their strategic responses:

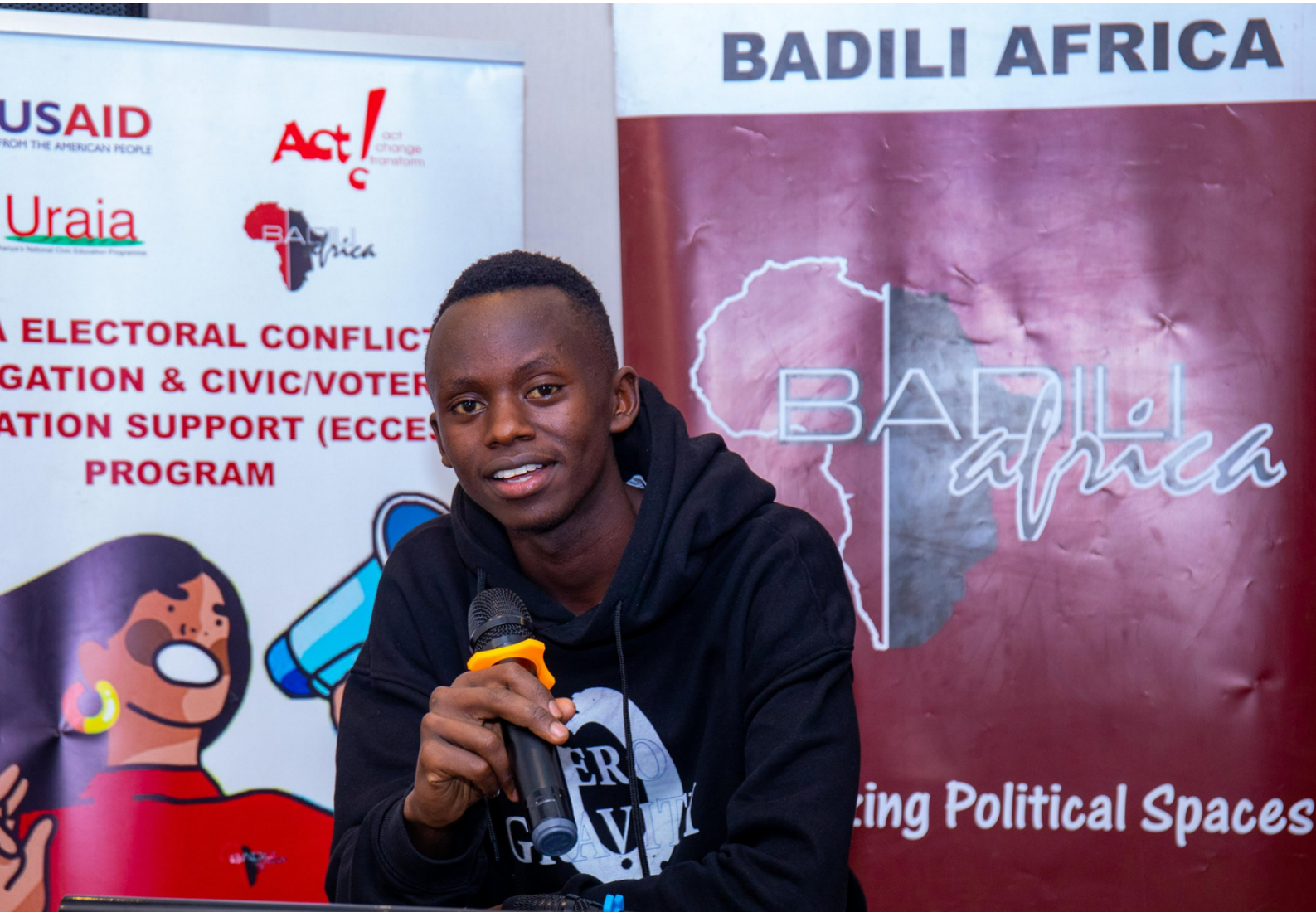
- **Funding Disbursement:** Monthly disbursement challenges prompted consideration for a quarterly schedule, aiming for more efficient financial management.
- **Resource Limitations:** Limited resources led CSOs to involve local experts, optimizing resource use for program objectives.
- **Navigating Political and Tribal Realignments:** CSOs sensitized stakeholders to foster harmony amidst changing political and social dynamics.
- **Disparities in Operation Areas:** Despite disparities, CSOs maintained collaboration, recognizing the strength of collective efforts.
- **Logistical Difficulties:** Challenges in distant regions led to community-oriented approaches, incorporating councils of elders for conflict resolution and sustainable peace promotion.

In summary, CSOs adapting to financial, communication, political, and logistical challenges demonstrated resilience and commitment in effectively implementing the program.

Program Lessons Learnt: The evaluation revealed crucial lessons for peacebuilding, civic engagement, and organizational resilience:

- **A sustainable contribution of the program has been to encourage collaborative linkages among stakeholders, especially through multi-stakeholder platforms but their sustainability depends on the willingness and interest of its members and the availability of funding.** Creating or joining multi-stakeholder platforms was a major strategy pursued by the program to enable great partnership and inclusion of the program participants including youths, women, and PWDs at the county level. However, while some relationships between partners and stakeholders might continue on a bilateral basis, the sustainability of the functioning of some multi-stakeholder platforms is not always ensured, especially those at the county and national levels.
- **Active and meaningful public participation is key to having a critical mass to influence policies/laws:** Civic education emphasizes clear learning and having a voice in democratic and governance processes and decision-making committees is key. This learning is confirmed in Kilifi where PWDs have worked quite well with the duty bearers to champion an Act that addresses the rights of PWDs. Initially, it was not easy for CSOs and program participants to become involved with and integrated into decision-making structures.
- **Building Productive Relationships with Duty Bearers Requires Time and Commitment:** The mid-term evaluation highlighted the time-intensive nature of engaging with duty bearers such as the IEBC, NCIC, ORPP, and Members of National and County Assemblies. Implementing partners emphasized that successful collaboration with these entities demands a dedicated effort from rights holders. For many partner organizations that were relatively new to governance, advocacy, and social accountability programs, this proved to be a challenging but essential aspect of their involvement.
- **Empowering Communities for Sustainable Change:** Civic education emerged as a powerful catalyst for fostering support towards peaceful elections and driving lasting change. ECCES program participants, including those who underwent training or received information on civic education, acknowledged their past struggles in navigating effective and sustainable change. The program has succeeded in instilling a sense of empowerment, with participants recognizing that the ability to drive change rests in the hands of the most affected communities, encompassing youth, women, and persons with disabilities. This marks a shift from a reliance on experts or decision-makers to a more inclusive and community-driven approach.

The program's evaluation stresses the significance of multifaceted approaches, holistic empowerment, stakeholder engagement, and organizational resilience in peacebuilding. Challenges in internal organization, duty bearer engagement, and sustained funding underscore the need for strategic partnerships and continuous capacity building for long-term impact and success.



CONCLUSION



Chapter 7

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Conclusively, the program significantly contributed to peaceful elections in Kenya over the last one and a half years. By collaborating with a broad range of stakeholders at national and county levels, the program achieved economies of scale and expanded its reach, leading to substantial progress in peaceful election efforts. The program was instrumental in increasing the participation of women, youth, and PWDs, with notable gains such as the development of a framework for voter education, communication, and partnership.

The 2022 general election was largely peaceful, reflecting the maturity of Kenyan democracy. However, continued efforts are needed to address the grievances of those dissatisfied with electoral outcomes and to maintain the momentum of civic and social cohesion initiatives.

The program's multifaceted approach encompassing a wide range of stakeholders and initiatives has been key to its success. Looking ahead, it is crucial to sustain the progress achieved by fostering strategic partnerships, robust financial planning, and ongoing civic education. Prioritizing legislative reforms, tailored educational initiatives, and comprehensive early warning systems are essential elements for ensuring continued peaceful and inclusive democratic engagement in Kenya.



Recommendations to Civil Society Organisations

1. **Long-term Civic Education Programs:** Develop comprehensive civic education programs targeting both duty bearers and rights holders to promote a culture of peace.
2. **Baseline Surveys for CSO Capacities:** Assess CSOs' capacities to influence laws/policies through advocacy at various levels.
3. **Sustainability and Scaling Up:** Strengthen partnerships to upscale program gains, integrating ECCES achievements with other ongoing programs.
4. **MOUs with National Government Actors:** Develop MOUs with key institutions like IEBC and NCIC to leverage existing partnerships and ensure the adoption of developed frameworks.
5. **Financial Sustainability:** Address financial sustainability challenges and develop a roadmap for maintaining and scaling up program gains.
6. **Integrated Work Planning:** Develop a coordinated work plan across all outcome areas to optimize resources and avoid duplicated efforts.
7. **Strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation Systems:** To improve partners' data quality assurance systems and learning mechanisms.

Recommendations to National Government Actors

1. **National Surveys:** Conduct surveys to identify new electoral hotspots and barriers to democratic participation.
2. **Electoral Legislation and Reforms:** Prioritize electoral law reforms and engage with policymakers to reintroduce and pass critical bills.
3. **Adapted Civic and Voter Education Programs:** Tailor IEBC's voter education programs to suit different demographics, particularly youth, women, and PWDs.

Social Media Platforms Recommendations

1. Improve transparency in content moderation to address misinformation and disinformation specific to the Kenyan context.
2. Allocate additional resources to effectively combat the spread of false information.

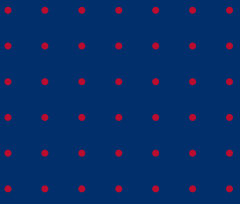
Funding Partners Recommendations

1. Fund and encourage civic education focused on educating the electorate about detrimental digital behaviors.
2. Prioritize funding for sustainable initiatives that engage stakeholders and promote awareness.

County Government Actors Recommendations

1. Establish and strengthen County Integrated Early Warning Early Response (CIEWER) mechanisms.
2. Ensure these established mechanisms prioritize gender sensitivity and inclusivity in their design and implementation.





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