



REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE INTERVENTIONS UNDER THE FLLOCA PROGRAM IN BUNGOMA COUNTY

SUBMITTED TO THE CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT FORUM (CEF) NATIONAL OFFICE
BY: CHAIR, BUNGOMA CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM (BCSF) – CONVENER AND FLLOCA FOCAL POINT FOR BUNGOMA



1. *Group members testing the energy savings jiko burning chamber and H E Kenneth Makelo Lusaka fishing at Sitabicha water pan in Siboti ward, Bumula Constituency 2. Management Committee at the centre with the PMC MEMBERS inspecting tree planting targeting the rehabilitation of the degraded areas around Khalaba dam in Tuti/Marakaru ward*

1. INTRODUCTION

The Bungoma Civil Society Forum (BCSF), operating under the Kenya Devolution Civil Society Organizations Working Group (KDCWG), has been at the forefront of championing locally led climate action through the Financing Locally-Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) program. This comprehensive annual report covers the period from December 2023 to January 2025, detailing the progress, achievements, challenges, and strategic recommendations that underscore Bungoma County's commitment to climate governance, social accountability, and sustainable development.

The report aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the county's climate resilience initiatives, highlighting the role of civil society in fostering transparency, citizen participation, and effective governance mechanisms that support sustainable environmental outcomes.

2. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

Bungoma County faces multifaceted challenges posed by climate change, including escalating water scarcity, degradation of vital ecosystems, and heightened vulnerability to neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) that disproportionately affect marginalized communities. The FLLoCA program, supported by the World Bank, development partners and the national government, offers critical financial resources through grants and matching funds to empower counties in implementing climate-resilient projects.

The Bungoma Civil Society Forum (BCSF) has played a pivotal role in ensuring that these resources are utilized transparently and accountably, fostering robust citizen participation in the design, implementation, and monitoring phases of climate projects. This approach not only enhances project effectiveness but also strengthens community ownership and sustainability.

3. LOCALLY LED CLIMATE ACTION

Bungoma County has made significant strides in implementing locally led climate initiatives that address environmental degradation and enhance community resilience. Key projects include:

- 3.1 Rehabilitation of Degraded Areas Around Khalaba B Dam:** This initiative involved extensive afforestation efforts, engaging local communities in tree planting and maintenance activities to restore ecological balance and improve watershed management. Community oversight committees were established to monitor progress and ensure sustainability.
- 3.2 Rehabilitation of Sitabicha Water Pan:** The project focused on restoring this critical water source to improve water security for households, schools, and health facilities.

Measures included desilting, embankment reinforcement, and the introduction of water conservation practices.

- 3.3 **Upgrading of Kotiem Water Spring:** Located in the Mt. Elgon region, this upgrade provided clean and reliable water access to surrounding communities, reducing waterborne diseases and supporting agricultural activities.
- 3.4 **Market Infrastructure Improvements:** Enhancements at Cheptais Market included the construction of an auction ring, sanitation blocks, and water points. These improvements integrated climate resilience features to support economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods.

Each project incorporated participatory approaches, ensuring that community voices guided implementation and oversight.

4. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Effective public engagement has been central to the success of FLLoCA projects in Bungoma County. Activities included:

- 4.1 **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):** Over 311 participants across 12 projects engaged in FGDs to provide feedback, identify challenges, and suggest improvements. These discussions fostered inclusive dialogue and strengthened community trust.
- 4.2 **Mobilization of Committees:** Market Committees, Project Management Committees (PMCs), and Ward Climate Change Planning Committees (WCCPCs) were actively mobilized to participate in budget tracking, project oversight, and advocacy efforts.
- 4.3 **Advocacy and Memoranda:** BCSF developed and submitted detailed memoranda to the County Executive and Assembly, demanding enhanced transparency, accountability, and improved service delivery in climate-related projects.

These outreach efforts have enhanced citizen participation and reinforced social accountability mechanisms.

5. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

To strengthen local capacities, BCSF implemented targeted training programs focusing on:

- 5.1 **Participatory Expenditure Tracking (PET):** Training PMCs and Market Committees on PET methodologies enabled communities to monitor financial flows and ensure proper utilization of funds.
- 5.2 **Climate Justice and Carbon Trading:** Capacity building sessions raised awareness on climate justice principles and the potential for carbon trading as a sustainable financing mechanism.
- 5.3 **Participatory Budgeting:** Empowering local committees to engage in budgeting processes fostered greater inclusivity and responsiveness.
- 5.4 **Health and Climate Change:** Specialized training highlighted the impact of climate change on health, particularly neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), equipping stakeholders with knowledge to advocate for integrated health and climate interventions.

- 5.5 **Technical Skills Development:** Strengthening CSOs' technical skills in oversight, advocacy, and governance enhanced their effectiveness in holding duty bearers accountable.

6. County Engagements

BCSF's strategic engagements with county government structures have yielded significant outcomes:

- 6.1 **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework:** Through active participation in the FLLoCA County Steering Committee, BCSF influenced the development of a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework to track project performance and impact.
- 6.2 **Access to Key Documents:** Advocacy efforts secured community access to critical documents such as Bills of Quantities (BoQs), budget allocations, and FLLoCA workplans, promoting transparency.
- 6.3 **Advocacy for Fund Allocation:** Persistent lobbying resulted in the county committing to a 100% allocation of the FLLoCA matching fund, ensuring full utilization of available resources.

These engagements have strengthened governance and accountability at the county level.

7. RESEARCH, KNOWLEDGE, AND COMMUNICATION

BCSF has prioritized evidence-based approaches through collaborations and documentation:

- 7.1 **Partnerships:** Collaborated with the Lake Region Budget Hub and UNICEF to conduct research on Facilities Improvement Financing (FIF), exploring innovative financing models for sustainable health and climate interventions.
- 7.2 **Agricultural Innovations:** Partnered with Generation Africa to promote adoption of maize disease-tolerant varieties, enhancing food security and climate resilience.
- 7.3 **Case Studies:** Documented detailed case studies on market infrastructure and water projects to inform national learning and policy formulation.
- 7.4 **Communication:** Developed communication materials to disseminate findings and raise awareness among stakeholders.

8. POLICY ADVOCACY, POLITICAL GOODWILL, AND INVESTMENT INFLUENCE

BCSF's advocacy efforts have influenced policy and resource allocation:

- 8.1 **CSO and Government Engagements:** Organized regular FLLoCA CSO meetings and engagements with county government officials to foster dialogue and collaboration.

- 8.2 **Policy Submissions:** Submitted memoranda on carbon credit regulation and forest policy in collaboration with NECSA, NAKOFA, and WWS Kenya, contributing to national policy discourse.
- 8.3 **Budget Advocacy:** Successfully advocated for a KES 5 million budget allocation to combat neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), transitioning from zero allocation to a dedicated budget line.
- 8.4 **Investment Influence:** Engaged with investors and development partners to attract funding for climate-smart agriculture and health initiatives.

9. STRENGTHENING CLIMATE GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

BCSF has implemented robust mechanisms to enhance governance:

- 9.1 **Accountability Structures:** Established structured oversight and grievance redress mechanisms to hold duty bearers accountable.
- 9.2 **Transparency Initiatives:** Advocated for the publication of Bills of Quantities (BoQs) and detailed project information on the county website, promoting open access to information.
- 9.3 **Community Monitoring:** Facilitated community-led monitoring to ensure project quality and timely completion.

10. REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

BCSF's active participation in regional and national coalitions has amplified Bungoma's voice:

- 10.1 **Coalition Memberships:** Engaged with the National Agroecology Coalition, Right to Food Coalition, Lake Region Food Systems Network, National Environment Civil Society Alliance (NECSA), NACOFA, KPCG, PACJA, VI Agroforestry, NEMA, and PELUM Kenya.
- 10.2 **Policy Influence:** These platforms have enabled Bungoma to contribute to national climate policy development and resource mobilization efforts.
- 10.3 **Networking:** Strengthened partnerships with diverse stakeholders to enhance collaborative climate action.

11. RESULTS, OUTCOMES, AND IMPACT

The FLLoCA program and BCSF's interventions have yielded significant and measurable results that have positively impacted Bungoma County's climate resilience, governance, and community well-being. This section provides a detailed analysis of the key outcomes, their broader implications, and the transformative impact on local communities and governance structures.

11.1 Water Security and Environmental Restoration

11.1.1 Rehabilitation of Water Sources: The restoration of Sitabicha Water Pan and the upgrading of Kotiem Water Spring have substantially improved access to clean and reliable water for households, schools, and health facilities. These interventions have reduced water scarcity, improved hygiene, and lowered incidences of waterborne diseases.

11.1.2 Ecosystem Rehabilitation: Afforestation and rehabilitation efforts around Khalaba B Dam have contributed to the restoration of degraded ecosystems, enhancing biodiversity and improving watershed management. These environmental gains support agricultural productivity and climate adaptation.

11.2 Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods

11.2.1 Market Infrastructure Improvements: Upgrades at Cheptais Market, including the construction of auction rings, sanitation blocks, and water points, have enhanced market functionality and hygiene. This has led to increased market activity and revenue collection, with weekly county revenue rising from KES 2,000 to over KES 10,000.

11.2.2 Sustainable Livelihoods: Improved infrastructure and water access have supported climate-smart agricultural practices and small-scale enterprises, contributing to economic resilience among vulnerable populations.

11.3 Governance, Transparency, and Accountability

11.3.1 Enhanced Community Oversight: The mobilization of Market Committees, Project Management Committees (PMCs), and Ward Climate Change Planning Committees (WCCPCs) has strengthened community-led monitoring and expenditure tracking. This has improved transparency and accountability in project implementation. **Access to Information:** Advocacy efforts have secured community access to critical project documents such as Bills of Quantities (BoQs), budgets, and workplans, fostering informed citizen participation and oversight. 4 PMC s were able to access critical documents.

11.3.2 Grievance Redress Mechanisms: The establishment of structured grievance mechanisms has empowered communities to report concerns and seek redress, enhancing trust and responsiveness. One was with Khalaba dam and the contractor resumed work after GRM chaired by the chief officer environment

11.4 Capacity Building and Knowledge Enhancement

11.4.1 Skills Development: Targeted training programs on participatory expenditure tracking, climate justice, carbon trading, and health-climate linkages have enhanced the technical capacity of CSOs, community committees, and local government officials. 6 project management committees with a cumulative total of 60 members were trained. 10 market committees were trained on market sanitation and social accountability.

11.4.2 Evidence-Based Advocacy: Research collaborations and case study documentation have provided robust evidence to inform policy advocacy and program design. 3 success stories were developed and shared with partners and stakeholders.

11.5 Policy Influence and Resource Mobilization

11.5.1 Budget Allocations: Successful advocacy has resulted in the allocation of dedicated budget lines for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and climate-smart agriculture, reflecting increased political commitment. Over 5 policies have been influenced and participating in the drafting e.g. the water policy, Land use policy, land hire guidelines, The food safety policy, the forest policy among others.

11.5.2 Investment Attraction: Engagements with investors and development partners have mobilized additional resources for climate resilience and health initiatives. AMREF, Lake region budget hub, ACT! PACJA, PELUM Kenya, Kimaeti Farmers among others.

11.6 Social and Environmental Impact

11.6.1 Improved Health Outcomes: Enhanced water access and climate-sensitive health interventions have contributed to reduced prevalence of waterborne diseases and NTDs in target communities.

11.6.2 Community Empowerment: Inclusive participation and strengthened governance structures have fostered a sense of ownership and empowerment among local populations.

11.6.3 Climate Resilience: The integrated approach to environmental restoration, infrastructure development, and governance has built adaptive capacity to climate shocks and stresses.

11.7 Broader Implications

The cumulative impact of these outcomes demonstrates the effectiveness of locally led climate action supported by strong social accountability frameworks. Bungoma County's experience offers valuable lessons for scaling similar initiatives across other counties, emphasizing the importance of community engagement, transparency, and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

The FLLoCA program and BCSF's interventions have yielded measurable outcomes:

11.7.1 Water Security: Improved access to clean water through rehabilitation of Sitabicha Water Pan and upgrading of Kotiem Spring.

11.7.2 Economic Empowerment: Increased county revenue collection at Cheptais Market from KES 2,000 to over KES 10,000 per week following infrastructure improvements.

11.7.3 Transparency and Accountability: Enhanced community oversight has improved transparency in project implementation.

11.7.4 Collaborative Governance: Strengthened collaboration between civil society organizations, county government, and national partners.

- 11.7.5 **Full Fund Allocation:** Achieved 100% allocation of FLLoCA matching funds, ensuring optimal resource utilization.
- 11.7.6 **Policy Impact:** Secured new budget lines for NTDs and climate-smart agriculture, reflecting successful advocacy.

12. CHALLENGES

Despite successes, several challenges persisted:

- 12.1 **Project Delays:** Implementation delays caused by contractor inefficiencies and logistical constraints.
- 12.2 **Afforestation Survival Rates:** Low survival rates of seedlings in afforestation projects due to climatic and environmental factors.
- 12.3 **Technical Capacity Gaps:** Limited technical skills among some Project Management Committees (PMCs) hindered effective oversight.
- 12.4 **Political Interference:** Instances of political interference disrupted public participation and project transparency.
- 12.5 **Resource Limitations:** Financial and human resource constraints affected project scale and sustainability.

13. LESSONS LEARNED

- 13.1 **Community participation is critical:** Empowering PMCs and community members enhances project oversight and ensures timely and high-quality execution. Fostering a collaboration between the PMC and the contractor enhanced smooth operation of the project. The PMCs were able to explain to the community in detail concerning the project and this promoted ownership of the project. The Collaboration between the government and citizens enhances the cost-effective monitoring of public services. The partnership between the County Government of Bungoma and citizens under the leadership of the Project Implementation and Management Committees delivered benefits to both parties. While the government received real-time information on the progress of implementation and emerging complaints that enabled them to take timely corrective actions, the citizens benefitted from quality services.
- 13.2 **Training and mentorship:** Effective advocacy delivers positive results on timely project implementation and quality. Upon their selection, the PMCs were trained on advocacy skills by the BSCF and mentored to build relevant experience during the piloting period. The skills enabled the members to mobilize and organize their communities for meaningful oversight of the development project.
- 13.3
- 13.4 **Transparency fosters trust:** Public access to project details, including BQs, enhances accountability and improves project acceptance.
- 13.5 **Stakeholder collaboration improves outcomes:** Engagement between CSOs, government agencies, and local leaders facilitates better project implementation.

- 13.6 Continuous capacity building is necessary:** Training on project monitoring and climate resilience helps communities actively engage in conservation efforts

14. RECOMMENDATIONS

To address challenges and enhance impact, the following recommendations are proposed:

- 14.1 Community Sensitization:** Intensify efforts to raise awareness on climate accountability and citizen participation.
- 14.2 Stakeholder Collaboration:** Strengthen communication channels among stakeholders to foster coordinated action.
- 14.3 Improve Resource allocation transparency:** Ensure timely publication of all budget allocations and expenditures related to climate projects.
- 14.4 Monitoring and Audits:** Implement rigorous monitoring and audit mechanisms to track project progress and financial integrity.
- 14.5 Climate-Smart Adaptation:** Integrate adaptive strategies that enhance resilience and sustainability of climate interventions. Collaborate with climate experts to integrate locally-led climate adaptation solutions in FLLoCA projects.
- 14.6 Capacity Building:** Expand technical training for PMCs and community groups to improve project management and oversight.
- 14.7 Political Engagement:** Advocate for political commitment to safeguard participatory processes and reduce interference.
- 14.8 Integrate Climate Adaptation Strategies:** Promote climate-smart solutions in afforestation projects to improve seedling survival rates.
- 14.9 Policy Advocacy and Institutional Support:** Advocate for policy reforms that strengthen social accountability frameworks within county governance. Support institutionalization of social accountability practices through policy guidelines and capacity building for county officials.

14. KEY NOTE

The Bungoma Civil Society Forum’s implementation of social accountability and climate resilience interventions under the FLLoCA program has delivered measurable improvements in water access, environmental restoration, market infrastructure, governance, and community empowerment. By integrating participatory approaches, capacity building, and policy advocacy, BCSF has strengthened climate governance, enhanced transparency, and built adaptive capacity in Bungoma County.

The lessons learned and recommendations outlined in this report provide a roadmap for scaling locally led climate action and social accountability frameworks across Kenya. Sustained investment,

political goodwill, and active citizen participation remain essential to building resilience against the adverse impacts of climate change and achieving sustainable development goals.

Submitted by: Ezekiel Odeoh Chair, Bungoma Civil Society Forum (BCSF) FLLoCA Focal Point – Bungoma County

Submitted

by:

Ezekiel Odeoh

Convening Chair, Bungoma Civil Society Forum (BCSF)

FLLoCA Focal Point – Bungoma County



Sitabicha Multi-purpose water pan

