

HAKIJAMII NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2018





ABOUT US

We are: A society that guarantees the protection, promotion and fulfillment of all rights for people.

We aim to: To amplify the voices of vulnerable individuals and groups to effectively and directly participate in advocating for the realization of their Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Kenya and live in dignity.

and we are always



Economic & Social Rights Centre - Hakijamii

'Putting people first'



DIALOGUE FORUMS TO DISCUSS THE RIGHT TO LAND IN KISUMU

After the dissemination of our report *State of Housing in Kenya Kisumu Informal Settlements Network (KISNET)* being a network of informal settlements rights defenders organized for a meeting with duty bearers and Hakijamii to discuss the housing challenges faced by Bandani informal settlement. Bandani hosts a population of over 10,000 people and experiences a myriad of challenges including poor housing, interruption of electricity supply, poor sanitation, etc. The residents of Bandani led by KISNET held a forum whose theme was “Keja Poa, Ombi Letu”.

During rainy seasons, the houses which are generally mud-walled in nature are washed away leaving poor occupants in agony. In addition, pit latrines cannot stand the weak soil and underground water hence collapse within a short time after construction. This leaves the community with only one crude option to carelessly manage the sewerage products. Bandani has no direct road network connecting it to the Kisumu – Busia Road. There are no sustainable water supply services as nearly all KIWASCO pipes bust during road construction. During rainy seasons, residents rely on rain harvesting



from highly rusted corrugated iron sheets. Bandani is a designated flight path for Kenya Airports Authority. Some of the Aircrafts fly so low that they interfere with the electricity cables, at times causing perennial blackouts. To make progress, Bandani residents convened the meeting and invited the Kenya Airports Authority, County Director of Housing, County Commissioner and several Civil Society Organizations so as to discuss the issues and find a solution to the challenges.

TRAINING ON RESETTLEMENT PROCEDURES AND BENEFIT SHARING IN THE MINING SECTOR

Hakijamii organized a training for residents of Kwale County who have been affected by various mining activities. The areas targeted included Mafisini, Vidungeni, Vumbu and Nguluku communities. These communities are at different stages in terms of engagement with the mining sector. In Mafisini, the main area of discussion was the resettlement process. It was however evident that Base Titanium Company has taken strides in organizing community meetings as well as establishing various committees to fast track the process. In Vidungeni community, the training established absence in cohesion between the land owners and the youth engaged in mining the sand.

Vumbu communities are still grappling with tapping the benefits which have been accrued from the mining sector. In Nguluku, the discussions zeroed in on community organizing through identification of problems. This was to assist in building a cohesive community that would then engage with the mining company proactively.

JKIA-RIRONI ROAD PROJECT PAPs MEETING WITH KENHA CONSULTANT

On 17th May 2018, Kenya National Highway Authority (KeNHA) held a meeting with the JKIA-Rironi Project Affected Persons (PAPs). The PAPs through Westlands Informal Settlement Resident Association (WISEREA), an umbrella body that represents informal residents had several issues they needed clarification on.

Some of the issues include:

- 1 Lack of engagement and participation of the community in the project implementation.
2. They felt need to disclose the resettlement action plan, road designs and the necessary maps.
3. Need to seek a solution for the traders who were evicted without a proper resettlement plan or compensation.

The former consultant conducted an enumeration (which formed the basis for the RAP) which will be shared in a future meeting that will be convened by the KeNHA. They also promised to provide the requested designs and maps.



BWITI ECD FURNISHED BY KWALE COUNTY GOVT.

Bwiti ECDE Centre which was officially opened on 17th June 2017 had since been operating without tables and chairs for the children forcing them to sit on the floor while learning. Msukumo Bora and Hakijamii conducted advocacy on the same by each separately writing to the County Executive Committee Member Education.



Msukumo Bora is a committee made up of 14 members (9 men and 5 women) who are affected by the currently ongoing Base Titanium mining project. The members come from Bumamani, Magaoni, Mwaloya, Nguluku, Nora, Kibwaga, Miembeni, Vumbu and Bwiti. Mskumo Bora was formed by Hakijamii to enable residents of Kwale (especially the project affected persons) to be able to speak with one voice on matters of budget and public participation and to enable them to actively participate in the budget processes so that their villages can also be included in the County projects.

The advocacy efforts bore fruit as the County Government of Kwale has now furnished the school.

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE REPORT "THE TENSION BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS & DEVELOPMENT"

In May 2017, Hakijamii conducted a research study along the LAPSSET corridor with affected communities to establish the effects of the project on their livelihoods and access to socio economic rights. The research study led to development of a report entitled “The Tension between Human Rights & Development: The Case of LAPSSET in Isiolo County”. The study established that the communities along the LAPSSET corridor projects had not been sensitized about the projects. They were not informed about the impacts that the project would have on their lives. In addition, they were not adequately involved in various stages of project implementation.



Although information dissemination forums were organized occasionally in Isiolo Town by LCDA, majority of the residents are still speculating on the main route the corridor will be taking, who among them would be affected and how they would be compensated.

The study established that the mega projects had not enhanced any basic social services; instead, these services are further threatened through effects like noise pollution and strained access to basic services due to the influx of people. The organization organized for a dialogue forum with the County Government of Isiolo including the Executive and County Assembly. The meeting had the objectives of disseminating the findings of the report to the key County Government departments and leadership as key actors in the LAPSSET project to inform their future engagements, provide a platform for the County Government and Isiolo Multi-Stakeholder Forum to dialogue and create sustainable working relationships and to identify key action points of convergence from the recommendations especially those directly under the obligation of the county for collective redress.

REPORT ON DIALOGUE FORUM ON STATE OF HOUSING IN KENYA: Will government Strategy Deliver on Social Housing?

Hakijamii seized the earliest opportunity to interrogate the national government policy on social and affordable housing in Kenya. This was done with the aim making the policy better towards protecting the right of Kenyans to access affordable housing.

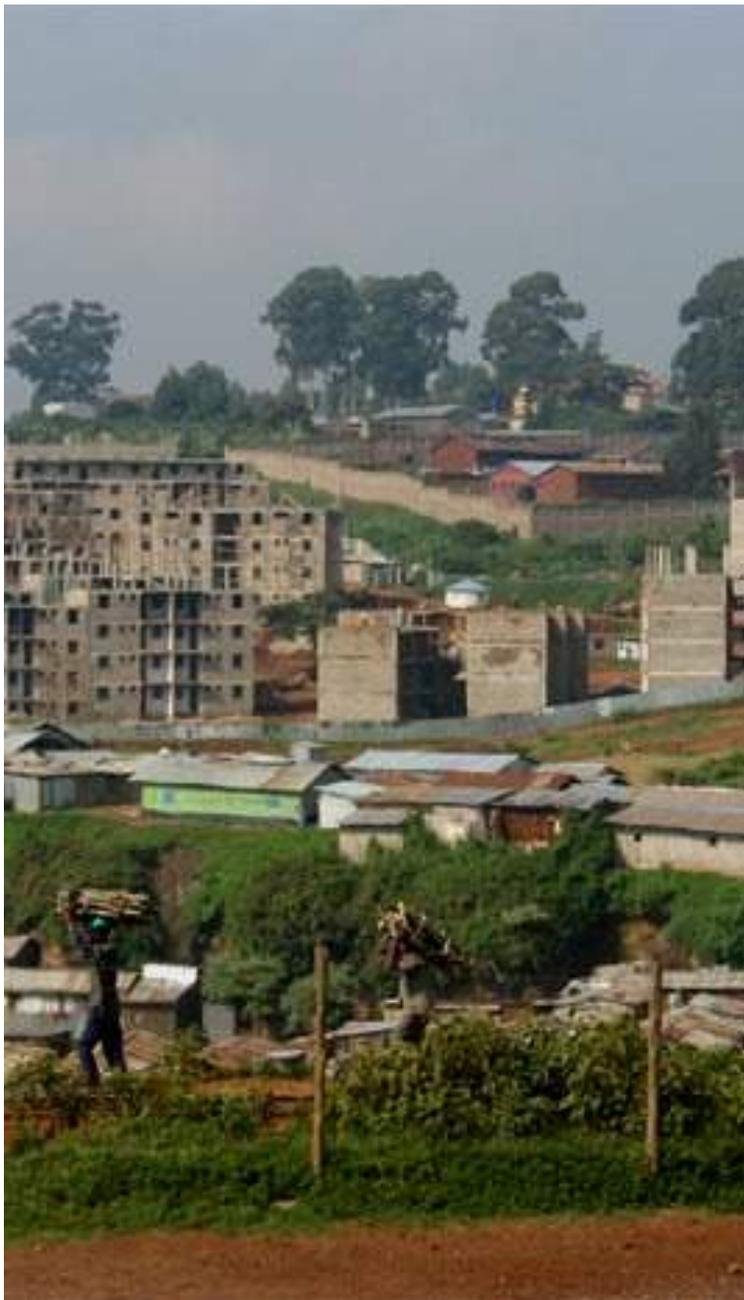
We pointed out the inconsistencies even when it comes to defining the difference between affordable and social housing in Kenya's strategy to deliver an excess of 500,000 housing units by 2022.

Secondly, we raised a red flag on financing housing agenda which was found to be largely vague in nature. The report recommended that the government should explore alternative models of financing social housing other than focusing on Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) which may not be appropriate for this type of housing. Finally, the issue of public participation on policy making was discussed in great details because people felt like the housing agenda is being pushed down their throat without their adequate participation at the beginning. For instance, the national treasury introduced a new tax to provide resources for the National Housing Fund. This was a surprise move that many people heard for the first time after the Cabinet Secretary for Treasury read his budget speech for Fiscal Year 2018/2019. These are just but some of the issues which were discussed during the dialogue forum.



REPORT ON THE RAP SENSITIZATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES FOR ADVOCACY MEETING

Kenya National Highways Authority after interventions by the community to release the RAP document published the document on its website. The affected persons therefore asked the intervention of Hakijamii and Pamoja Trust who convened the meeting with an aim to sensitize and identify issues for advocacy in the Relocation Action Plan published by KeNHA. The meeting was attended by 18 participants 5 female and 13 male all drawn from Project section; Uthiru.



KAKAMEGA DIALOGUE FORUM ON THE HEALTH ACT 2017

Hakijamii in partnership with Kakamega County Health Reference Group conducted a study in the county to determine the impact of government procurement procedures on realization and enjoyment of health rights including access to essential drugs and commodities.



Hakijamii thus conducted a three day meeting with the Kakamega County Health Reference Group in which day 1 involved building their capacity on the Health Act, day 2 involved sharing the findings of the research study with the group and officials from the County Government and day 3 involved building the group's capacity on social accountability and particularly on health funds tracking using tools like simple monitoring, social audits and public forums.

The same enabled network members understand the contents of the Health Act and identify new opportunities for advocacy at the county level. It also enabled the study findings shared with network members and duty bearers elicit action points by the duty bearers to improve procurement processes for health services and commodities. Finally, network members understood funds tracking and are now able to meaningfully use social accountability tools to track the utilization of health budgets at the county level.

MISEREOR URBAN PARTNERS WORKSHOP

This year's theme for the workshop was "Re-thinking the housing agenda in Kenya: The role of Social Movements and Non state actors in redefining Social Housing". Hakijamii among other member organizations had the chance to get into in-depth discussions and analyze the housing sector in Kenya. We also got to look at the national and county budgets, the Housing Fund and opportunities for advocacy.





SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN DUBBED #MAKAONIHAKI

After the forced evictions in Kibra informal settlement, Hakijamii together with other CSOs and residents from informal settlements all over Nairobi came together to demonstrate against the threat of forced evictions.

The campaign "MakaoniHaki" which translates to housing is a right was a chance for the residents of the affected informal settlements to stand in solidarity and voice their grievances. They also presented a petition against the forced evictions to relevant government bodies.