

## Draft

# ***Enhancing the capacity of communities to have a voice in rural transport services for poverty alleviation***

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### ***Introduction***

The International Forum for Rural Transport and Development (IFRTD) is implementing a project funded by the Civil Society Challenge Fund of DFID. The project is aimed at gauging the extent to which the Government, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) developed by several countries in the South address poverty from a key development area: transport services.

The Kenya Network for Draft Animal Technology (KENDAT) and the National Forum Group (NFG) of Kenya are conducting a rural transport services project with a key aim of building partnerships for enhanced uptake of intermediate means of transport and other transport services. KENDAT has helped from community parliaments, where civil society members are helped to plan for own interventions that influence positively their transport service development agenda. Through these parliaments the NFG in Kenya has an opportunity to establish the status and possibilities regarding involving civil society in poverty alleviation processes.

The work proposed here has three elements:

- Discussions with communities regarding their view towards poverty and the role of transport.
- Training selected communities on their spelt-out opportunities and implied rights, with an aim of gauging their capacity to demand resources and services.
- Forums for discussion with stakeholders and leaders, aimed at defining actions needed towards emancipating civil society towards gaining their rights.

### ***Overview of the Community Parliament System***

Communities in the rural areas experience problems that hinder their development. Some of these problems include; poor transport infrastructure, poor agricultural marketing structures, general lack of community organization etc. If communities worked around

solving some of these problems, poverty would be gradually alleviated and their living standards would gradually improve. In response to the need to deal with these problems, communities in Lari Division in Kiambu District, Mwea Division in Kirinyaga District and Matayos Division in Busia District, have been guided by KENDAT coalition to come up with Community Parliaments, which would facilitate effective and efficient problem-solving mechanisms at community level.

The Community Parliament in each locality is composed of representatives of a wide variety of groups of people including farmers, businessmen and women, transporters, artisans etc. The members of Community Parliament are elected from the constituent groups that they represent. The main role of the Community Parliaments is to sit and discuss “motions” which are brought from the community by the Members of Parliament. The “debates” in the Community Parliaments are mainly centered on community development issues and matters pertaining projects to be implemented, the procedures of project implementation and identification of resources to be used in project implementation.

### ***Strengthening the Community Parliaments***

The Community Parliaments have proved to be important institutions that the community could use to steer development and alleviate the prevailing poverty levels. This is because at Community Parliaments level priority projects are identified and their implementation agenda taken up by their local “Cabinets”, who are charged with ensuring that the identified projects are implemented. The Community Parliament (CP) system attracts massive collaboration and participation from across the community members who feel part of the projects being implemented because they have representatives at local parliament and cabinet levels. The stability of CPs depends on the capacity to maintain a vibrant action programme with tangible benefits hence a sense of belonging for key stakeholders.

### ***Objectives***

The overall objective of the process proposed here is to strengthen the capacity of the established Community Parliaments, in Lari, Busia and Mwea, so that they are able to articulate the role of transport services in their development programmes and know their rights as well as how to demand of them from government and other local development institutions.

The specific objectives are:

- Receive opinions and concerns of civil society regarding poverty and the extent to which transport services have a mitigating role.
- To train the members of Lari, Busia and Mwea Community Parliaments about PRSPs and the spelt-out opportunities therein as well as any implied rights.

- Create opportunity for discussion with stakeholders and leaders, aimed at defining actions needed towards emancipating civil society to demand their rights in an organized and sustained manner.
- To facilitate the expansion of existing partnerships and enabling them to design programmes which help secure resources, to further implement community-based projects which advance the poverty alleviation process.

## ***Activities***

The activities will be implemented at three levels:

### **1. Community discussion fora**

- Facilitated community parliament discussions in three localities across the country

### **2. Training of Community Parliaments**

- Training on PRSP contents, commitments, capacity to voice needs and associated development implications.

### **3. Stakeholder and Leaders fora**

- Stakeholder and leaders forums which reflect on status, needs and partnership interventions that bring about sustained change. This can go upto a meeting with relevant national parliamentary committees.
- A national workshop may be organized to bring together the current partners of the Community Parliaments and also to allow for creation of new partnerships that will see the communities coming up with new initiatives. The workshop will have keen interest in developing new partnerships with the private sector, which would provide a wide range of business opportunities for the communities.

## ***Implementation Plan***

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Status definition and exposure <b><i>Community fora</i></b>	Mid October	NFG members, IFRTD, KENDAT, ITDG, ILO/ASIST.
Training Module <b><i>Understanding PRSPs and in-built poverty strategies, relevance and rights</i></b>	Mid - November	NFG members, IFRTD, KENDAT, ITDG, ILO/ASIST.
Training Module 3 <b><i>Participatory forums for sensitizing local leaders and other development</i></b>	Mid - January	NFG members, IFRTD, KENDAT, ITDG, ILO/ASIST.

<i>stakeholders.</i>		
<b><i>National Stakeholders/Partners Workshop</i></b>	End of February	NFG members, IFRTD, KENDAT, ITDG, ILO/ASIST.

### ***Budget Estimates***

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Cost Items</b>	<b>Estimated Budget (Kshs.)</b>	<b>Estimated Budget (£)</b>
Status definition and exposure <b><i>Community fora</i></b>	Full cost of the 1-day meeting in three localities (transport, allowances, facilitation fees, food and accommodation etc).	90,000	608
Training Module <b><i>Understanding PRSPs and in-built poverty strategies, relevance and rights</i></b>	Full cost of the 1-day training in three localities (transport, allowances, facilitation fees, food and accommodation etc).	90,000	608
Training Module 3 <b><i>Participatory forums for sensitizing local leaders and other development stakeholders.</i></b>	Full cost of the 1-day meeting at central location (transport, allowances, facilitation fees, food and accommodation etc).	90,000	608
<b><i>National Stakeholders/Partners Workshop</i></b>	Full cost of the 2-day workshop (transport, allowances, facilitation fees, food and accommodation etc).	200,000	1351
		<b>470,000</b>	<b>3,175</b>

Exchange Rate: 1£ = Kshs. 148