



Africa Sports & Talents Empowerment Program  
 P.O BOX, 7075 Eldoret. Kenya. Telephone: +254 723 637 920 /+254 720 887 030  
 Email: [africastep@hotmail.com](mailto:africastep@hotmail.com) ,  
[www.astepafrica.org](http://www.astepafrica.org)

Grantee Organization: A-STEP Youth Group  
 Grantee Activity Title: Strengthening the role of Youth in Conflict prevention in Uasin Gishu  
 Grant Number: CHXELD066  
 Close Out Final Report  
 24<sup>th</sup> Jan to 15<sup>th</sup> April

## A-STEP/KTI CLOSE OUT REPORT APRIL 2013.

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Africa Sports & Talents Empowerment Program  
 P.O BOX 7075 Eldoret, Kenya. Telephone: +254 723 637 920/0720887030  
 E-mail: [africastep@hotmail.com](mailto:africastep@hotmail.com).  
[www.astepafrica.org](http://www.astepafrica.org)

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## 1.0 Executive Summary.

A-STEP has been implementing a three month activity with Kenya Transition Initiative. This started from 24<sup>th</sup> January to April 10<sup>th</sup>. The main objective was strengthening the roles of youth in conflict prevention in Uasin Gishu County. Since the skirmishes of 2007/8, Uasin Gishu County has been living in fear and though peace has really been preached, there was need to strengthen the roles that youth in this county play to prevent any eruption of violence because they were the direct perpetrators of violence in the last post election violence. The approach to implement this was more of interactive debates that created a platform for youth and the society to participate. This methodology was among the best because it gave youth the chance to speak out underlying issues and engage themselves for solutions to these problems. There was an intensive training before the start of the debates. Six debates were organized, with each constituency hosting one each. Though the intended plan was supposed to be twelve, i.e. two per constituency. After a review by the KTI, it was realized that following the recently concluded elections, petition rules, peace was achieved and there was need to shift focus to the new dispensation. This was agreed after consultation with A-STEP Youth Group as a grantee organization.

## 2.0 Activity Description

This was designed to reach a youthful constituent; it was tailored in a way to allow youth to participate in the process of understanding the negative ethnicity that has been rooted, and cultivating a culture that embraces cohesion. The strategic training was conducted built capacities of A-STEP staff and some youth who will assist in reaching out to communities in constituencies and assist in disseminating the right information to the entire youth and the society at large. Debates were organized in all constituencies to help communities to tackle and understand some issues about conflict and its consequences and the importance of peace.

**2.1 Strategic Training-** this was held from 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> February at the Klique Hotel. It brought together 60 youth from all over Uasin Gishu County. As a precise, 10 youth were drawn from every constituency. The training was packaged to enrich the participant with knowledge of conflict management, understanding constitution, peace building, youth advocacy, and general knowledge of the Kenyan accord established in the year 2008 by Mr. Kofi Anaan and other eminent.

## 2.2 Debates

**1<sup>st</sup> debate**- The first debate was held at Turbo Constituency, Kapchumba Youth centre on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2013. It brought together about 320 participants. The moderator and the facilitator were well set to conduct the session and assist the members of the public to understand some thematic areas before the general elections. The region was hardly hit by 2007/8 violence, and this necessitated an activity that fosters unity and coercion. The thematic areas included;

- Roles of youth in post primaries electoral process.
- Tolerance and modesty: post results period.
- Taking personal initiatives and building a community of peacemakers.

The views, questions and reactions of the participants were taken into account and were dealt with fully and to public satisfaction by the facilitator of the day Mr. Wesaya Jonathan.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Debate**- it was held at soy constituency Kidiwa Social Hall, on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013, and attracted 311 participants. The venue was urban setting and a cosmopolitan society. It attracted participant of different caliber, others were drunk and arrogant, others were purely confused and kept on piping at the window to focus on what's happening around. All thematic areas were tackled and questions were dealt with soberly. Having been a slum and more so a mixed tribe area, there was need to discuss more on the importance of cohesiveness and the importance of it in enhancing development and coexistence.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Debate**- This debate took place in Kesses Constituency, Langas Location, Word Harvest Church on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013. There were a total of 320 participants who were recorded though others decline to register when they realized that there is no provision of allowance. It was the unique of all. This was more technical because participants had traditions of collective demand of the allowance/transport before the start of the debate. This generated a hot debate that resulted to a delay in the programme. It was unless after the intervention of all A-STEP staff, facilitators that this was turned down. A-STEP learnt that most youth in the urban setting e.g. slum dwellers suffer a lot because they are more vulnerable to a lot of issues like poverty, drugs, unemployment. The debate started at around 12pm when participants were contended of the activity without transport and allowance. The presents of IEBC voter educators steered the debate because there were more issues targeting IEBC. Among the issues raised was the possibility of electronic voter transmission and the IEBC gadgets that were meant to be used for transmitting results.

**4<sup>th</sup> Debate**- It was held at Moiben constituency, Kimumu Location Kimumu P.C.E.A church on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013. The total registered participants were 305. The moderator and the facilitator engaged the participants with issues pertaining the right democracy and decision making in achieving sustainable peace. They introduced the use of active non violence as a right methodology to address violence. All participants who were present agreed in unison with the facilitators on the importance of peace as a tool for effective development.

**5<sup>th</sup> Debate** – The fifth debate was held in Ainabkoi Constituency, Kipsinende Primary School, on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013. The total participants registered were 320. it was achieved after wide consultation with the participants who propose the change of venue to reach out to a bigger population. The venue was later changed from the previous Kipsinende R.C.E.A church to just its opposite, Kipsinende primary. Though it was held on an open ground, participants were patient and enjoyed the session a lot, this was characterized by the activeness and the interactive participation. All thematic areas were tackled with and all questions asked by the participants were well answered and dealt with properly.

**6<sup>th</sup> debate**- The sixth and final debate was held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at Kesses Constituency, Gospel Foundation Church Burnt Forest. The participants registered were 311. This area was one of the hotspot and the choice to hold this debate at the place was timely. History shows that almost during every general election there's violence in the region. It was established that there is persistent conflict among the communities living in Burnt Forest and its environs. After a one hour comprehensive sharing by the facilitator, he ushered in the moderator to take over the questions and reaction time. Almost all participants were new to so many issues. These range from the scenarios of the presidential elections and its timelines on swearing in and the re-run issues, the 50%+1 issue and the 25%. This generated a big debate because there are some participants who said that it was mischief to deny a candidate a chance to be president and one has garnered over 50% in total vote. All issues were dealt with amicably and more emphasis from the facilitation team to A-STEP was to create a follow mechanism to ascertain the realization of a mutual society that embraces humanity and unity.

### 3.0 Achievements

The following are some achievements recorded:

- The average total participants reached during the six debates were estimated to 2000, this is because every debate recorded above 300 participants.
- Though not all members were reached through the sms phrase, the message conveyed by the sms was powerful and it really preached to the participants.
- Capacity building of A-STEP staff. This was achieved during the strategic training that involved nine A-STEP staff and the experience gained in coordinating and participating in all debates.
- A-STEP also got an opportunity to network with other organizations implementing KTI programs and share experience and challenges, e.g. young women forum and Uasin Gishu Youth Forum.
- The county held a peaceful election on forth April and still maintained peace and patience before the results were announce. Youth were also tolerant during the process of tallying, announcing of results and the entire petition period. This was achieved as a result of the comprehensive debates that exhausted all procedures of presidential exercise and scenarios.
- The program has also exposed the organization to the rural communities that had not heard about A-STEP before and this has created more plat form for A-STEP in implementing its activities.
- A-STEP also received equipment from KTI. These include office equipment such as office cabinet, office chairs, office desks, printer, internet modem, desktop computers, a laptop and digital camera. This has uplifted the status of the office to better standards. Other equipments include full public address system and generator. These have enabled and simplify communications in holding debates because of the high turnout of the participant.
- The welfare of grantee staff and its Mobilizers have also been improved through the monthly stipends that were paid by KTI.
- The society has also responded positively by embracing each other in the community and others who never worked together have shown the spirit of tolerance and could engage together in their activities.

### 3.1 Dumishaamani (sms) responds

The sms given to A-STEP by KTI on 19<sup>th</sup> February for the participants had mixed reactions. Participants had several feelings about the state of peace that was due, it was also learnt that fears dominated the whole county in preparation of the next general elections. Some of the responds included, how violence has destabilized Kenyan economy. It was also observed that participants are embracing peace as the pillar to development and cohesive existence. Others were directing all blame to politicians who incite their communities to trigger violence. The sms still was an indirect way of achieving the feelings that was hidden because participants had an opportunity to write out what was perceived as reserved feeling. The sms may not have reached the threshold because of the time we received the communication of the sms.

### 4.0 Challenges

- Other debates attracted politicians because it was campaign period. Political candidates could trespass and request for some time to greet the audience with an intention to woo participants to vote for him/her. This was recorded in two stations; Moiben and Kesses.
- The technicality of implementing an in kind grant was another challenge. A times service providers like suppliers of snacks and refreshment fail to understand the procedure of payment. Venue arrangement was also challenging because it entail a lot of procedures and explanations, especially on situations of using public halls that have regulations of paying first.
- The adjustment of the activities from twelve to six was also a challenge. This is because constituencies were prepared to receive two debates each but ended up getting one. Especially on other constituencies where mobilizations had been done e.g. Soy and Ainabkoi Constituencies.

### 5.0 Recommendations.

- Sustainability measures should be put in place by both parties, KTI and A-STEP to ascertain that the culture of coexistence and cohesiveness among communities living in Uasin Gishu is cultivated. This will entail close monitoring of the progress of peace and assessing the impact of the debates done in all constituencies.
- Proper measures should be done in addressing issues that trigger violence. Among the issues that youth is struggling with is the issue of unemployment, drug abuse, idleness among others. A-STEP has been in forefront in championing the talent identification of youth in Uasin Gishu and tapping this for development of the society and the benefit of an individual. In this regard, KTI should consider supporting organizations that initiate and run programs that engage youth in transforming the county using the energies, expertise and talents of the youth.
- Relevant government Agencies should address long term historical issues that have been protected since 1963. The first is the land issue and the relocation of IDPs, which has been the basis of violence in Uasin Gishu County

## 6.0 Lessons learnt.

Among the lessons learnt in implementing the activity include:

- How to implement an in kind grant. A-STEP has partnered with several organizations in implementing several activities but it was the first time to implement an activity funded in kind. And this was a good experience to A-STEP.
- A-STEP has also learnt that it's possible to propagate for effective and peaceful society that embraces each other and value human rights. This was made possible by the nature of the recently concluded elections that created a peaceful platform to the constituents.
- A-STEP was able to learnt that there are still underlying issues that have not been addressed from time immemorial. These include the land issue and other historical injustices. This signals that a lot needs to be done and soon to curb the scenario that may arouse violence.
- It was also learnt that people do not understand more about constitution especially devolution, since this was a new system of government.

## 7.0 Wayforwad.

The strong relationship between KTI and A-STEP should continue through regular updates and communication in ascertaining the proper sustainability and mutual engagement even after the close out.

## 8.0 Conclusion

The implementation of the program has packaged the organization and enriched it to suit national standards. This has shaped A-STEP and challenged our mission statement that we really need to reach out to our youth with activities that assist this constituent to speak out issues. This has created a holistic objective in running A-STEP activities that have majorly been approached through sports.

**NOTE:** *photos captured in this period are indicated in this report.*



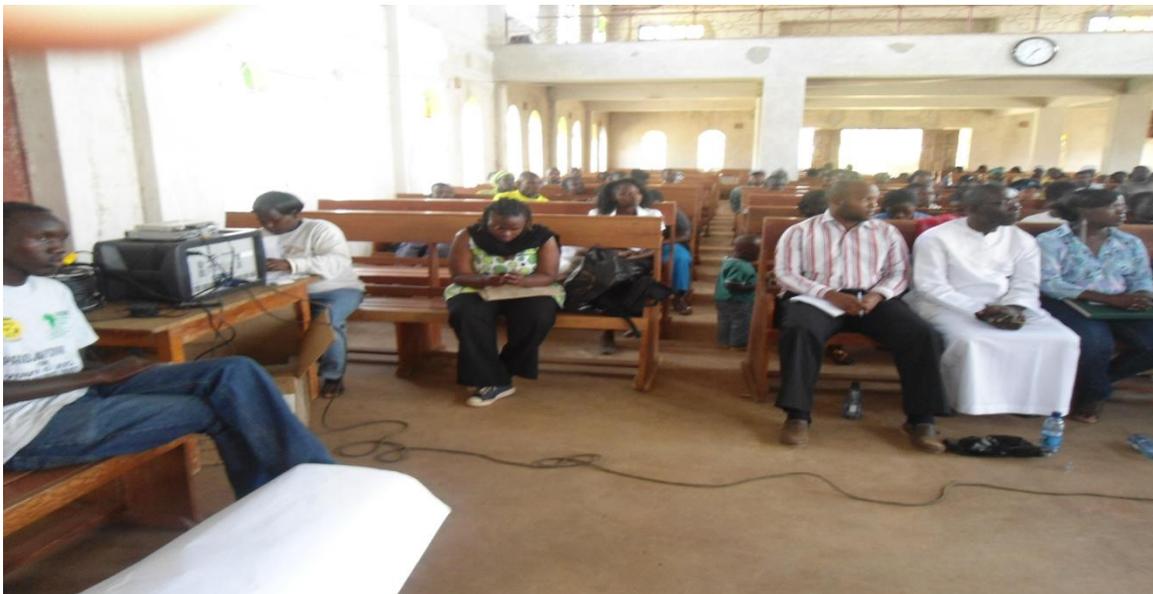
Section of the participants at the training, addressing in front is Richard, facilitator.



First debate held at Kapchumba on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2013. An elder is seeing a clarification electoral process.



2<sup>ND</sup> Debate held at Kidiwa on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013. Standing behind is a participant asking a question on Devolved Government.



3<sup>RD</sup> Debate in progress. Seated in front from left, Gladys, P.O. A-STEP, Ms Suki, grant Manager KTI, Kemboi, rapporteur KTI, Odongo, debate moderator and a participant following the session.



A participant is challenging the moderator over a re-run issue at the 4<sup>th</sup> debate held at Langas estate.



5<sup>th</sup> Debate conducted at an open air, Kipsinende Pry. School. Mr. Odongo a moderator is reaching out to a participant over a clarification on the issue of 50%+1 and 25% in 24 counties.