**Target Theme: Policies services that achieve good outcomes for children**

**Abstract**

**Title: Realizing more equitable social development in Kenya: experiences from community social budgeting process and social intelligence reporting.**

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The Kenya Vision 2030 pursues equitable economic, social and political development and transformation of the country with human rights principles into a globally competitive middle income country. As part of this initiative, the government launched the social budgeting guidelines in 2010 to ensure citizens participation in the budget processes of allocation, decision-making, implementation and accountability. However, without proper tracking and documentation of all funds allocated, it remains unclear on how budgets are able to transform into results for the citizens. While periodic surveys and studies are available to examine the progress in the social outcome indicators e.g mortality, school drop-out etc, they fail to reveal the real-time obstacles that prevent children from participating in the development process and deriving maximum benefits from public investments such as the devolved funds. This paper shares experiences of implementing the social budgeting guidelines and operationalization of the social intelligence reporting (SIR). The SIR reporting process engages duty bearers, independent observers and community members (including children and women) who are the primary beneficiaries of social investments through a participatory approach. Results are presented as case studies. Preliminary findings from selected districts and sectors (health, education, water, protection) indicate that SIR offer real-time solutions to; a) identifying obstacles to citizen rights to basic social services; b) identifying service delivery gaps in quality and quantity; c) examine gender responsiveness; d) promote transparency and efficient use of funds; e) facilitate devolved accountability and opportunities to correct shortcomings; f) provides quick feedback on whether public social policies and investments are working towards achieving results for the poor and marginalised.

Clearly social budgeting and SIR have the potential to promote good governance and the culture of accountability at all administrative levels. Investing in social budgeting could impact positively on citizen participation, delivery of equitable social services and enhance the culture of public accountability.