

THE VISION

Resource Rich communities in control of their development and natural resources.

THE MISSION

promote social responsibility of governments, International Finance Institutions, Corporate Organizations and individuals in East Africa through capacity building, advocacy, networking, research and technical support for a just and equitable society.

THEMATIC AREAS

- Agriculture, Food Security and livelihoods
 - IFIs and Gender issues
 - Finance for Development
 - CSO for coalition on AfDB
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Editorial

This is the inaugural newsletter of Jamaa Resource Initiatives dubbed the “**TRUTH BE OUT**”. Jamaa is a Swahili word meaning community. Jamaa Resource Initiatives is thus a civil society organization advocating for communal participation and management of resources from resource rich communities. We work to explore the idea of self-reliance and community-led and resourced development. Jamaa Resource Initiatives has come into existence by understanding the need to reduce dependence on foreign aid. The work involves research, focused discussion, and debate on sustainability of development efforts by stakeholders throughout Africa. Jamaa Resource Initiative's distinctive niche is based on one of the greatest challenges that confront the civil society sector. That of raising adequate resources to support development work.

Jamaa Resource Initiative promotes and facilitates collaborative links within and among communities, individuals, and local businesses to increase efforts in pooling resources together from various local sources. Jamaa Resource Initiatives has a vision which is: **Resource Rich communities in control of their development and natural resources. Jamaa Resource Initiative believes that for development to truly reflect the needs, wishes and aspirations of local communities, it must also be supported by the resources controlled by these communities.**

On that Plight, our mission statement is the we **exists to promote social responsibility of governments, International Finance Institutions, Corporate Organizations and individuals in East Africa through capacity building, advocacy, networking, research and technical support for a just and equitable society.**

The underlying rationale of “Truth Be Out” is a concern the International Finance Institutions is brought base and that the people living within the projects funded by the IFIs are aware on how they can engage the IFIs if the implementing agencies violate the IFIs safeguard policies. The people living within the projects funded by these institutions must be consulted during the project design. The implementations of the projects are at times opaque as the implementation agencies are always willing to release the Environmental and Social Impact Summary of the project where potential projects impacts and problems are mentioned while they are reluctant to let the people access the Environmental and Impact assessment Plans where mitigations are addressed.

Editorial Team

Maureen Akinyi (Convenor), Maurice Ouma Odhiambo (Editor), Vincent Oloo, Daisy Olondo

In this inaugural Issue, Maureen Akinyi Otieno kicked it off by reporting on the CSOs outreach meeting with the identified projects impacted people from the IFIs projects areas. She gives an account of the happenings within the meeting in Naivasha. Maurice Ouma Odhiambo then gives an overview of the problems associated with the Expansion of the Olkaria IV in Naivasha which led to the indigenous Maasai Communities in Naivasha, Kenya to file a complaint with the Inspection Panel.

The third article is about the said “success” of the geothermal project in Menengai, Nakuru, Kenya. On May 28, 2015, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) co-hosted an open dialogue session in the AfDB's Civil Society Organization (CSO) Forum in the margins of its Annual Meetings in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. In the session, which the Executive Director of Jamaica Resource Initiatives participated, participants used as a jumping-off point the CIF's unique multi-stakeholder approach, with the AfDB serving as a key implementing agency and partner. All these were said in a workshop in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The situation on the ground needs to be verified as participants from Menengai who participated in our Naivasha outreach were thinking otherwise as they could not access the Environment and Social Assessment Plan against the Information disclosure policy 2011 of the African Development Bank.

The last article is on Working for a world free of poverty by the IFIs investments and is touching on the proposed thematic areas of the annual Meetings to be held in October in Lima Peru. The Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund will be held in October of this year in Lima, Peru and present an opportunity to highlight messages around the development of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as other regions in the world. In this regard, the annual meetings should be understood in a broader framework of world discussion about guidelines and principles that will be governing the Development Agenda as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21), both will be held in the last months of this year

CSO Outreach Workshop in Naivasha, Kenya

*By Maureen Otieno
Programmes Officer, jamaa Resource Initiatives*

The Jamaa Resource Initiatives with support from Global Green Grants Fund recently concluded an inception workshop Empowering Kenyan Women Facing impact of International Financial Institutions. The workshop brought together delegates from key energy projects in Kenya such as Olkaria IV project in Naivasha, Menengai Geothermal Development Company in Nakuru and Chemususu Dam in Baringo where Internationally Financial Institutions (IFIs) funded projects had negatively impacted the community, livelihoods and environment. The meeting took place at a critical time when the civil society organizations are actively engaged on progressive discussions regarding the future of the extractive industry, land issues and human rights issues in connection to IFIs investments who are the greatest financers for on-going projects.



Frechia Waithera highlighting on negative impacts of I.F.Is in G.D.C

Speaking at the workshop, Mr Maurice Ouma Odhiambo, the Executive Director at Jamaa Resource Initiatives, said the workshop would be geared towards community engagement on the negative impacts of IFI funded projects. While recognizing the importance of foreign investment and funding in Kenya's energy and infrastructure sector in facilitating exploration and production of energy, the implications of these projects on the community and the environment are quickly forgotten. This workshop was aimed at delivering deeper into the impacts of IFI funded projects on the community and particularly women and children in the society.

It was noted with concern that poor compensation packages, forceful evictions, non-implementations of the IFIs safeguards and harsh environmental impacts are still issues of critical concern surrounding IFIs investments. To effectively cope with these challenges Jamaa Resource Initiatives identified the crucial role that women empowerment plays in dealing with these impacts.

Mr Odhiambo cited that through empowerment, women in the affected areas will be able to drive constructive advocacy towards ending harmful environmental pollution, better compensation schemes, making sure that the IFIs safeguards and implemented, project affected people have accessed information in accordance to the IFIs access to information policy and active community involvement.



Plenary discussions during CSO outreach in Naivasha June 24th-25th 2015

Indigenous Community in Kenya file a complaint against the World Bank Problem Project in Kenya

*By Maurice Ouma Odhiambo,
Executive Director, Jamaa Resource Initiatives*

On October 26, 2014, the Inspection Panel received a Request for Inspection raising concerns related to the “Kenya: Electricity Expansion Project” which is jointly financed by the World Bank, European Investment Bank, and other donor agencies. The complaint was filed by indigenous Maasai communities living within the Hell's Gate National Park in the Rift Valley. The Panel registered the Request on November 13, 2014, and pursuant to an eligibility assessment, recommended that an investigation be carried on the alleged issues of harm and related non-compliance with Bank Policies. On February 13, 2015, the Board approved this recommendation.

The project in question has financed the construction of a geothermal plant which is geared to addressing Kenya's growing demand for electricity. For Kenya, geothermal energy has the added benefit of reducing dependency on fossil fuels, being climate friendly, and lessening dependency on hydro-power resources. This complaint, filed with the Inspection Panel and EIB's Complaints Mechanism, relates to harm caused to the Maasai as a result of resettlement required by the new Olkaria IV geothermal power plant. Due to their proximity to the plant, four Maasai villages were resettled in the fall of 2014 affecting their livelihoods and traditional life style.

The Panel is in the process of drafting the Investigation Report, following an extensive document-review and an extensive field visit during which the team met with the Requesters and village residents, government and project officials, and staff from the World Bank and other donor agencies. The Report will cover the Requesters' concerns as they relate to the identification of project-affected people, application of the Indigenous Peoples policy, livelihood restoration, benefit-sharing, and land-titling, as well as redress through the Project and implementation support for it. The analysis will also ascertain whether the resettlement and other project-related actions complied with the World Bank's safeguard policies.

Expanding engagement with civil society to advance Africa's climate-smart development

*By Maurice Ouma Odhiambo,
Executive Director, Jamaa Resource Initiatives*

On May 28, 2015, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) co-hosted an open dialogue session in the AfDB's Civil Society Organization (CSO) Forum in the margins of its Annual Meetings in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in which our Executive Director was in attendance. In the session, participants used as a jumping-off point the CIF's unique multi-stakeholder approach, with the AfDB serving as a key implementing agency and partner. The session with more than 60 representatives of CSOs explored ways to effectively engage stakeholders, consider their views, and measure their influence as the [CIF-AfDB African portfolio](#) expands, particularly through the CIF's *Program for Scaling Up Renewable Energy in Low Income Countries (SREP)*. The commitment of the AfDB and CIF partnership to increase transparency and accountability in policies and programs was highlighted. In particular, [Kenya's innovative Menengai geothermal project](#) was explored as a best practice example for CSO engagement on key points.

First, stakeholder engagement requires a multilevel effort. Zhihong Zhang, CIF SREP Coordinator in the CIF Administrative Unit, and Joseph Kitilit, Deputy Manager, Corporate Planning and Strategy for Kenya's public developer Geothermal Development Corporation (GDC), confirmed that in this project, the engagement occurred at the multilateral development bank (MDB), national, and local levels.

Second, early civil society participation is important to ensure a project achieves its economic and development goals. Alex Rugamba, Director of the AfDB Energy, Environment and Climate Change Department, declared that “Consultation with CSOs is crucial in the earliest stages of project design, as it allows a project to gauge potential local support for, or opposition to, different options and alternatives. It allows the identification of key issues and concerns that might affect the viability of a project before too many decisions are made.” For Menengai, early engagement with civil society helped GDC improve project operations, allowing the company to address issues before they occurred in the project's implementation phase.

Third, CSOs provide another layer of oversight. Judy Ndichu, UNDP Kenya representative and former CIF Observer, noted that CSOs perform the necessary function of articulating the complaints and grievances of local communities that relate to a project's design and implementation. Kitilit said that this grievance mechanism exists in the Menengai project and that the GDC stakeholder policy demands that all local grievances be accounted for and responded to.

Finally, effective knowledge management can help proliferate the use of best practices. Moderator Lisa Elges of Transparency International asked the panelists whether the success of the Menengai project could be replicated elsewhere, and if so, how. In response, Ndichu pointed to effective knowledge management tools. For example, the proposed stakeholder advisory network (SAN), is a platform for stakeholders in different countries to share their experiences. Also, pilot country meetings facilitate knowledge exchange between countries. Adding to this, Kurt Lonsway, Environment and Climate Change Manager and CIF coordinator at the AfDB, stated that the Bank already has a knowledge management function in its CIF activities. Through this function, new pilot countries benefit from stories and experiences of previous projects' teams. However, Lonsway noted that AfDB could do more to build the capacity of CSO to gain this specific knowledge.

However, all the issues raised above are true to the successful implementation of a project. Other questions come to mind though. CSOs in this meeting were represented by an International organisation based in Nairobi about one hundred and fifty kilometres away from Nairobi. This gap comes to mind when one participant during our outreach meeting in Naivasha registered their concerns about community participations. The concerns of these participants from the project areas needs to be verified

Working for a world free of poverty?

From bank On Human Rights, Jamaa Resource Initiatives are members of Bank on Human Rights

The Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund will be held in October of this year in Lima, Peru and present an opportunity to highlight messages around the development of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as other regions in the world. In this regard, the annual meetings should be understood in a broader framework of world discussion about guidelines and principles that will be governing the Development Agenda such as Sustainable Development Goals or the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), both will be held in the last months of this year.

The objectives of these working for a world free of poverty is to Coordinate the articulate the organization and social movements from civil society interested in attending and monitoring the Annual Meetings. Through the organization of an alternative event in which the participants could expose their work related to the monitoring of the World Bank investments and a broader development agenda, through different spaces as panels, round-table, workshops and videos, among others. At the same time, the alternative event will serve to consolidate the positions of civil society toward the World Bank; in such a way that will show clear messages to the Bank around his safeguards operational policies and funding.

Participants will be representatives of civil society and social movements from different regions worldwide. The organizations and social movements that are interested in attending may call officials of governments of member countries of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund and officials of these institutions during the alternative event in order to get involved in the spaces proposed by civil society and social movements. There are several thematic areas where participants will align themselves with. These thematic areas are:

- **Theme 1: Climate Change, Sustainable Cities and Food Sovereignty**

This year, there must be a need to approve a new binding and global agreement that gives responsibilities to all the countries to adopt effective measures in order to reduce the global warming. To achieve this, there is need for several options to the current model of consumption. The cities consume two thirds of world energy and are responsible of the 70% greenhouse gas emissions. For this reason, the civil society has been pushing local and global process which aimed at generating sustainable urban development policies. Moreover, we live in a context where it becomes increasingly evident that the rural communities are victims of violations of human rights who have a great relation with the current models of economic development promoted by the big financial international institutions. Despite that, the smallholder agriculture is the epitome of the food global systems and the small farmers are those who constitute the majority of the persons who suffer hunger and access restricted to basic services. This way, the Food Sovereignty becomes an articulator axis of diverse social problems and that, simultaneously, orientates those questions on which it is necessary to affect revert the situation of structural inequality that the rural communities of the world see submitted. In response to this, the civil society has demanded to the diverse governments to take agreements and binding decisions in the matter.

- **Theme 2: Transport Investments, Indigenous People and Socio-Environment Safeguards.**

One of the topics that worries civil society and to the social movements as is the guarantee of the human rights at the moment to implement projects of development. In this respect, it is sought that financial international institutions rely on strong standards that guarantees the respect of human rights. In case of the World Bank, the process of update and review of the safeguards policies is very important. Each of the operational policies of the World Bank has to mitigate the impacts of the IFIs investments in such a way that they do not cause environmental and social harm to the people living adjacent to the project areas. In addition, there exist criticisms worldwide on the role that IFIs plays in support to countries that violate human rights. In this respect, this axis is aiming to be a space of reflection and discussion among the representatives of the civil society, academy, officials and social movements about the consequences of the current economic model and the alternatives that are aimed towards a more just and sustainable global society.

- **Theme 3: SDG's and Human Rights: Gender, LGTBIQ, Education and Health.**

Every year the World Bank and IMF destine projects and budgets to realize public policies to try to give solutions to these problematic projects by international organizations. These approaches can be questioned in several countries by the public restriction of rights and the inability to generate autonomous policies of agreement to every reality.

For more details, do not hesitate in contact: eventoalternativo@plataformanacional.com

Feedback

This being the inaugural issue of the Truth be Out, There is no feedback as yet. We would welcome any feedback after going through the “truth be out “vol 1

News

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CSO outreach June 24th-25th 2015
at the Lakeside hotel Naivasha



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