EQUITY WEEK 2018

Concept Note

INTRODUCTION

One of the key objectives of devolution in Kenya was to reduce the glaring inequalities in access to basic services resulting from historical injustices in resource mobilization and distribution in Kenya. Supporters of devolution believed that changing the way resources are distributed and bringing that decision closer to citizens would be a progressive step towards equitable development in Kenya. As revenue distribution is now a key part of Kenya’s budget process, budgets are essential instruments that can play a key role in either reducing inequality or actively exacerbating it. Fortunately, the budget process is continuous and iterative, and presents many opportunities for deliberation around inequalities. Budgetary allocation and expenditure serve to redress both systematic and structural inequalities as an expression of policy investment rather than directive. In addition, emerging policy issues such as the proposed County Ward Development Equalization Bill, 2018 and the various Ward Development Funds at the county level are indicators of efforts to deal with inequalities. While many of the proposals have gaps, they have created useful platforms to discuss how best to resolve development deficits not only across the counties but also across wards within Kenya’s counties. Budgets can begin to bridge that gap by identifying particular groups who often bear the brunt of marginalization and often falling within multiple identifiers for instance gender, social-economic status and ethnic affiliation.

Against this backdrop, every year, the International Budget Partnership Kenya and its’ partners convene a national week of reflection to highlight issues of equity in resource mobilization and distribution in Kenya called ‘Equity Week’. Equity week aims to stimulate a broad-based conversation about how we share resources at national and county level through a series of events that highlight views and ideas related to equity that emerge from the academia, civil society, government, the arts community, development organisations, and citizens. This year, the Equity
Week 2018 discussion will be led by the Commission on Revenue Allocation, International Budget Partnership Kenya, Development Initiatives, Institute for Public Finance Kenya Centre for Innovations in Open Governance

Building on the success and lessons learnt from Equity Week 2016 and 2017, we are adopting a slight change in approach for Equity week 2018. In 2016, Equity Week was only held in Nairobi. Besides the central forums convened in Nairobi, Equity Week 2017 incorporated a one-day regional forum in Elgeyo Marakwet, co-hosted by the county government of Elgeyo Marakwet and our partner, the Centre for Innovations in Open Governance (CIOG). This regional forum brought together government actors, CSOs, development partners, academia and citizens from counties in the North Rift, Makueni and Busia to discuss their own experience and understanding of inequalities. The success of the regional forum showed why the discussion on inequalities should be done at lower levels and outside the common platforms in Nairobi.

Equity Week 2018 is slated for the week of October 22nd to 26th, 2018 and will include three regional forums in the North Rift, the Nairobi Metropolitan area and the Coast region. We hope to build more local conversations that can help improve current and past efforts to address intra-county inequalities. This year’s Equity week is quite timely as the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) just published a Marginalization Policy- which would guide the country in revenue allocation and starts to highlight the pockets of inequality within counties, which would otherwise be considered as better off.

We also bring an addition to this year’s events as beyond discussion on resource allocation, we start conversations about data on people and their deprivations and the data challenges that decision-makers face in the allocation of resources. The Marginalization Policy rightly highlights the data challenges in identification of marginalized areas and people along the Leave No One Behind-LNOB agenda.

AGENDA

Equity Week 2018 comes at a time when several key ongoing discussions on inequalities are happening:

1. CRA just released the second marginalized policy that will be used to identify and distribute the Equalization Fund to poor areas with a focus on service delivery being the
ward level. One of the key debates around the marginalization policy has been the place of the urban poor when it comes to the targeted use of the Equalization Fund.

2. The Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) is revising the second-generation equitable revenue sharing formula.

3. Universal Health Coverage (UHC) has become a key focus area in Kenya and thus how it can enhance access to health care for the most vulnerable in society.

To this end the proposed agenda items for Equity Week 2018 will cover the following key areas:

- A national discussion that will focus on the Universal Health Care Coverage (UHC)
- A national conversation on marginalization and data to leave no one behind
- A national conversation on urban poverty.
- Three regional forums that will focus on the marginalization policy.

**ORGANIZING PARTNERS**

1. **Commission on Revenue Allocation** – Leading discussion on the Second Marginalization Policy in the three regional forums.
2. **Various county governments** – Hold joint forums with CRA and civil society partners.
3. **Development Initiatives** – Leading the discussion in the Nairobi Metropolitan regional forum. In addition, together with Hakijamii and the #FightInequality Alliance participate in the national discussion on the urban poor.
4. **Institute for Public Finance Kenya (IPFK)** – Lead the Coast regional forum.
5. **The Center for Innovations in Open Governance (CIOG)** – Lead the North Rift regional discussion.
6. **Africa Medical Research Foundation (AMREF)** – Co-convener for the UHC forum.
7. **Aga Khan East African Institute** – Co-convener on marginalization and urban poverty.
8. **HENNET** – Co-convener for the UHC forum.
9. **Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)** - Wellcome Trust - Co-convener for the UHC forum.
10. **Oxfam** – Co-Convener for the urban poverty forum.
11. **International Budget Partnership Kenya.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When?</th>
<th>What?</th>
<th>Why?</th>
<th>Key Participating Institutions/Bodies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Mon, 22 October | **Health forum**  
- What is UHC and how should we understand it under devolution?  
- How to ensure issues of equity are considered as UHC planning and implementation kicks?  
- What budget questions should we ask as we implement UHC?  
- What lessons can we learn from other countries that have implemented UHC? |  
- Prominence around health and UHC; focus on resources at county level and benefits attached to it. |  
- Ministry of Health  
- Kenya UHC Package Advisory Panel  
- KEMRI Wellcome Trust  
- HENNET  
- AMREF |
| Tue, 23 October | **Urban poverty forum**  
- What are the root causes and drivers of urban poverty?  
- How do we identify and address the needs of the poor and marginalized in urban areas across the country? |  
- As Kenya invests in different ways to deal with poverty and marginalization, urban areas are rarely identified as areas facing these key challenges. |  
- Development Initiatives and IBPK to lead  
- Hakijamii  
- Fight Inequalities Alliance  
- Oxfam  
- Aga Khan East African Institute (TBC) |
| Wed, 24 October | **Nairobi regional forum**  
- including surrounding counties. Possibly Kajiado, Kiambu, Muranga and Machakos.  
- How do we identify the needs of the |  
- The publication of the 2nd Marginalization Policy has become a key debate in the country. CRA would like to add some perspective to this debate to give counties and the public a better view of |  
- CRA, IBPK and DI to lead  
- Hakijamii  
- Aga Khan East African Institute (TBC) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thu, October 25</th>
<th>North Rift regional forum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• How can the policy on marginalization look like if it was to work effectively in the region?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• How did CRA develop the criteria they used especially on the selection of the sub-locations?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fri, October 26</th>
<th>Coast regional forum –</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• How do we identify the needs of the marginalized in the region?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• What are the counties doing to deal with pockets of marginalization through their budgets and other policies?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                | The publication of the 2nd Marginalization Policy has become a key debate in the country. CRA would like to add some perspective to this debate to give counties and the public a better view of how the policy was developed. |

|                | CRA, IBPK and CIOG to lead |
|                | County Government of Nandi |
|                | County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet |
|                | County Government of Uasin Gishu |
|                | University of Eldoret. |

|                | The publication of the 2nd Marginalization Policy has become a key debate in the country. CRA would like to add some perspective to this debate to give counties and the public a better view of how the policy was developed. |

|                | CRA, IBPK and IPFK to lead |
|                | County Government of Kwale |