DaCCA advocacy activities advancing in Kisumu and Homabay counties

In the months of May and June 2018, the Devolution and Climate Change Adaptation (DaCCA) programme in Western Kenya partners organized a series of community advocacy meetings on the importance of citizen participation in the county budget making process. The partners also conducted community visits to monitor the climate change adaptation methods and best practice models used by farmers in Kisumu and Homabay counties. In addition, the month of June, marked the global yearly celebrations of the World Environment Day.

Public participation forums were carried out in Homabay County in Rangwe, Ndhiwa, Homa Bay and Rachuonyo sub counties, where community groups working with SusWatch Kenya under the DaCCA program actively participated and had some of their submissions on climate change recognized in the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP 2018-2022).

In addition, on the 5th of June, the County government of Kisumu in partnership with SusWatch Kenya and other stakeholders organized the World Environment Day which had a series of activities.
These included a three day conference organized by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), clean-up at Kibuye market, tree planting at the Kachok dump site and a clean up and bamboo tree planting along river Auji.

This was closely followed by a series of community advocacy meetings in Kisumu and Homa Bay County. In Kisumu County, the community groups reported on the poorly conducted public participation process and that tenders were being issued before the public could raise concerns on the budget estimates. The Kisumu County Civil Society Organizations (CSO) network recognized the ongoing crisis and called for a media brief and aired their grievances concerning the poor public participation forum, citing non-compliance with the law. (On YouTube-Kisumu county Civil Society Organizations criticize County’s budget making process).

Sequentially, on the 21st of June monitoring visits were done in Wang Chieng ward in Homa Bay County organized by Community Rehabilitation and Environment Protection Program (CREPP), where the farmers displayed various techniques they use to adapt to climate change in their farms. Some of which included; improved poultry farming, intercropping, introduction of drought resistant crops, proper use of pesticides due to the increased pest pressure as a result of climate change and goat cross breeding.

The same was observed at Umante trust on the 26th of June in Chuowe Beach in Homabay County where a youth group displayed some of the best practice models such as water filtration method using life straw, ecological farming- where one farmer had adopted aquaponic farming and nurturing of tree nursery beds. The youth of Chuowe have also taken the water filtration as a business and are now suppliers of clean filtered water with options of bottling for commercial sale at affordable prices of 10 shillings for a 40 liter water can, and bottled at 30 shillings per 500 ml.

Osienala also conducted a monitoring visit on the 28th of June in Wawidhi ward in Kisumu County where the community groups displayed a series of best practice models including energy saving stoves, Ecosan toilets, tree nurseries, improved solar panels and community saving and loaning schemes (COSALOS).