



Municipal Partnership

Västernorrland in Sweden and Mombasa in Kenya

Municipal Partnerships are Sida-financed and designed to contribute to the development of well, and efficiently functioning, democratic local authorities in both the partner countries and Sweden.

The aim of a municipal partnership is to increase civil influence by strengthening local and regional political governance organizations within one or more of the following core areas:

- Equity/inclusion
- Transparency
- Possibility to demand accountability
- Citizen participation

Background:

A preparatory project of Västernorrland County Council, Sweden, and Mombasa County, Republic of Kenya, was successfully implemented within the Municipal Partnership Program in 2014-2015

The aim of the inception phase was to establish a solid ground for a long-term cooperation between Västernorrland and Mombasa.

During the inception, the partners identified the following co-operation areas of mutual interest:

- Culture and its role in regional development
- Education of young adults
- Environment and energy
- Young people's participation in a democratic society



Cooperation Agreement (December 2015)

Aim:

Successively broaden the areas of cooperation between the two counties in order to improve conditions to reduce poverty and achieve a sustainable global development in the partner regions.

This aim will be achieved through joint developments of projects within the potential areas of cooperation.

Project:

Building capacity to address literacy challenges and enhance democratic engagement in Västernorrland and Mombasa

The main problem that the project aims to solve:

The project emanates from identified insufficiencies at organizational level to cope with rapid changes in literacy proficiency of children and youth in society. Poor reading proficiency is a threat to equity and inclusion and may have severe consequences both for the individual and for the society.

Project objective: Increased capacity in the partner organizations to address rapid changes of reading habits and abilities of youth in the society

Intermediate objectives:

1. Increased knowledge about “cause and effect” in the field
2. Developed methods to increase reading abilities by cross-sectoral collaboration
3. Enhance collaboration between stakeholders to increase motivation and allocate time for reading among young people



The overall objectives of the project are:

- Increased capacity and ability to understand and use written information and knowledge
- Improved school results
- Reduced drop-out rates
- Increased youth employment
- Increased social inclusion
- Increased participation in democratic life in society
- Reduced poverty



Activities:

- Through cooperation between the County Library Västernorrland, public libraries, Västernorrland Sports Federation / SISU Sports Education, IFK Timrå football and the corresponding organisations in Mombasa develop and test different methods and models where sport and culture combine to create favorable conditions to attract more young people to learn and thereby increase their reading skills.
- Seminars and workshops will be organized in order to exchange knowledge and experiences of best practice, facilitating an active participation and ensuring a focus on persons in vulnerable situations with specific attention to gender issues.
- Guidelines for cooperation methods will be compiled

Overview of project activities

Year 1

Goal: Increased knowledge about “cause and effect” in the field

- Inventory and analysis of best practices to increase reading skills and reading comprehension inclusive of non-formal education and spare time activities in Västernorrland and in Mombasa.
- Inquiries and interviews of the indirect target groups to identify their needs and enhance understanding of the “cause and effect” problem.
- Seminars, workshops and study visits in Västernorrland and Mombasa to exchange knowledge and experiences within the field.

Year 2:

Goal: Developed methods to increase reading abilities by cross-sectoral collaboration

- Based on the results of the inventory of best practices, study visits, seminars and workshops as well as the results of interviews during the first year of the project, the project will proceed by developing a joint methodology to increase literacy skills including the detailed activities, literature, and tools, such as internet-based resources, social media, etc.
- A pilot of the methodology will be conducted with selected groups. Follow-up and evaluation seminars will be carried out in Västernorrland and in Mombasa.

Year 3:

Goal: Enhanced collaboration between stakeholders to increase motivation and allocate time for reading among young people

- On the base of the results of the pilots and the evaluations, revise and finalize the methodology and implement it in a broader scale of the target groups.
- Study report/guidelines and dissemination of the final results and outputs.