

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
/Literacy and democracy/***

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. Enhanced 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

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.
- Compilation of three study reports on results in both counties
- 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

- Engage one football club of boys and one of girls (age 12-15 years) in each county.
- Set-up the work-plan of the method development for cooperation between the direct target groups and indirect target groups.
- Inventory of needs and conditions of means and facilities/ digital tools (books, mobile phones, tablets, etc.).
- Start up reading groups and develop the method with the involvement of the young people. Start of method pilot.
- *Establish digital exchange between Västernorrland and Mombasa for intercultural dialogue and enhanced understanding. Test digital tool for own storytelling.*

Continued...

- Seminar and workshop in Västernorrland to share knowledge and experiences about the method development and their pilots in Västernorrland and in Mombasa. Meetings and discussions with the target groups especially with the young people to prepare the contacts between them.
- *Young people contact each other for presentation: sharing experience of every-day life and sport.*
- *Exchange of reading and writing own text and pilot the methods to promote literacy skills within the county and between the two counties.*
- Seminar and workshop in Mombasa to share knowledge and experiences about the method development and their pilots in Västernorrland and in Mombasa. Meetings and discussions with the target groups especially with the young people.

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.