Status of Civic Education and Imperatives for Transition

Kawive, Wambua

Executive Secretary,
Constitution and Reform Education Consortium (CRECO)

Date: 19th September 2012

A History

- Post independence and the nationhood project by the government – closed in 1965
- Religious Organisations: NCCK, CJPC and good governance projects from independence to date
- Underground organising – citizens' education on need for change – Mwakenya, February 18th Mvt, Mageuzi etc
- Legal and human rights education – from the 80's (Kituo Cha Sheria, LSK etc) and intensified in the 90's with many more actors
- The 90's: Constitutional education – the democracy projects and CSOs "projects"…many and uncoordinated

A history ...contd

- 1998/9: NACEFCO and Daraja initiatives – trying to collectivise action
- 1999: Consortia formation – CRECO, CEDMAC, the Gender Consortium, NAMCEC and ECEP
- 2000-2002: NCEP I – methods, content and mapping collectively agreed
- In later years:
  - NCEPII,
  - Yellow Movement,
  - National Response Initiative
- 2009-2010 : Katiba Sasa Campaign – collective CSO effort to ensure Kenya gets a new constitution
- 2010 to present: Jukwaa la Katiba – A national Platform for Constitutional implementation

Practice issues- what do we carry out?

- Community education
- Voter education
- Human rights education
- Legal education (paralegalism)
- Civic education
- Civic engagement
- Political education
- Education on the constitution
- Development education
- General life/public education

Constitution of Kenya provisions on CE

- Civic education is a requirement for national gvt and county gvts. It is seen as a pre-requisite for citizens' participation. Issues to address:
  - Chapter 6 and vetting of leaders– Social? Legal?
  - New framework for governments
  - New voter roles, guidelines and procedures
  - New roles for leaders
  - New political organising frameworks
  - Electoral offences – stipulated in Elections Act
  - Citizens' fora in counties – County Gvts Act

Initiatives existing today

- Kenya National Integrated Civic Education Programme (KNICE) – MoJNCCA and CSOs
- Uchaguzi bora - Uraia
- Amkeni Wakenya Voter education Programme
- CSOs projects – based on thematic and strategic niches

KNICE

Focus

- 16 areas of focus … derived from key issues identified from the constitution

- Thematic focus of the programme:
  - Human rights
  - Electoral issues
  - Land and environment
  - Devolution
  - Public finance
- Materials already developed – curriculum, trainer's manual, content book (Understanding the Constitution of Kenya), thematic guides

KNICE

- Supply side
  - Implemented by MOJNCCA, Gvt Departments and Institutions
  - 1000 officers in job group S & T already trained
  - 4000 officers in job groups P, Q &R targeted in phase 2
- Demand side
  - Implemented by NSAs
  - Challenge of financial arrangement – the government financial procedure is "reimbursement"
  - April – June 2012: 72 NSAs prequalified…but…less than half implemented
  - October – December 12: 94 NSAs prequalified

Uraia

- Uchaguzi Bora initiative
- Focus on preparedness for elections
- Falling within strategic objects of Uraia
- For some(about 20) CSOs contracting ongoing
- Capacity assessment for others ongoing (about 45)
- National and county based initiatives – intention to cover the whole country
- Starts by end of September and runs for 6- 9 months

Materials

- A civic education manual already developed in partnership with IRI…not yet mass produced

Features of Uchaguzi Bora I

- Ethical standards
- The campaign – civic education, voter education, civic engagement, democratic transformation education
- Rapid response component
- Employs Multimedia
- Has a grant making facility

Amkeni

- Closing the Quick Response Fund from 2010 in October 2012
- Have received and processed applications
- 49 Identified CSOs ready to begin work
- Initiative specific to voter education
- Not covering the whole country

Other CSO initiatives

- Similar to the CSO projects in the 90s
- Project based
- Aligned to CSO focus areas and themes
- Specifically targeted – audience and region
- Expected results not shared with all
- May be sustained or otherwise depending on strategy and funding arrangement
- Linkages with other initiatives neither established nor deliberately sought

Issues

- We have not learned any lessons from history – on organising and collective action
- Limited funds for civic education
- Not coordinated – same donors, different facilities etc
- Materials challenge… what authoritative materials do we use?
  - KNICE, Uraia/IRI, CRECO, CLARION, Katiba Institute, YAA, others… etc
- CE is starting late – may be marred by campaigns
- Problematics of content and methods –content and its focus not agreed on and methods not uniform

➢ **Ineffective? Confusing?**

What now? Questions for CSOs

- CSOs caught napping? What saving grace?
- Is it a political design to defeat effective citizens engagement?
- What will an informed and engaged citizenry do/offer? Who supports this? Who is against this?
- What is the focus of Civic education: Is it creating awareness or enabling citizens' engagement?
- Any impact possible now ahead of March 2013?
- So what after the elections?