



A Khadi of the Uasin Gishu County makes submissions to the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) consultation during a public participation forum. Photo: FHI360

KENYA

SAFEGUARDING DEMOCRATIC SPACE IN KENYA

The Safeguarding Democratic Space in Kenya (SADES-K) activity partners with government institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the media to strengthen the country's governance reform agenda and secure democratic gains enshrined in the 2010 Constitution. SADES-K has three main objectives: strengthen social and ethnic cohesion; protect civic and democratic space; and conduct regular monitoring of the Building Bridges to Unity Initiative's (BBI) national dialogue implementation process and outcomes.

In addition, the activity facilitates data collection and tracking of citizen's views through public polling. The findings inform decisions on subsequent activities undertaken by the BBI and assists citizens and civil society in defining their engagement with government-led, cohesion, and reform initiatives.

OUR WORK

The SADES-K is grounded in a locally driven co-creation process with Kenyan stakeholders to: further the national dialogue process under the Building Bridges to Unity Initiative, promote social and ethnic cohesion, protect civic and democratic space, and monitor the implementation of national conversations. The project is anchored around four co-creation, local ownership, adaptive programming and sustainability. SADES-K will:

Strengthen and revisit Kenya's governance

architecture: SADES-K provides grant and technical assistance to the BBI Task Force, and a range of grants to local CSOs to advance national dialogue on governance reform.

Strengthen social and ethnic cohesion:

SADES-K provides grants to support civil society initiatives to promote social and ethnic cohesion across Kenya.

Protect civic and democratic space:

SADES-K supports civil society initiatives to promote independent media and advocacy campaigns aimed at the implementation of the Public Benefits Organizations (PBO) Act. SADES-K will build the capacity of local CSOs and media to improve their ability to deliver the results supported by SADES-K as well as prudently manage the resources allocated through the grants.

Monitor national conversation and implementation of outcomes monitored for accountability, learning and scale-up: SADES-K supports research on and public opinion on the BBI process to inform decisions on subsequent BBI discourse and the reform agenda.

ACHIEVEMENTS

To date, SADES-K has:

- Supported 12 county-level conversations on the BBI in Kenya.
- Awarded 10 sub-grants to Kenyan organizations to facilitate community and national dialogue on reforms, protection of civic space and strengthening social and ethnic cohesion.
- Conducted 2 public opinion surveys on the BBI process and political economy analysis mapping out Movers and Shakers (power dynamics) of Kenya's economy, politics and reforms. The findings informed strategic programmatic positioning and citizen's engagement in the BBI process.

BUDGET: \$6.35 Million

DURATION: 2018 – 2021

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS
Nationwide

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER
Family Health International (FHI 360)

KEY PARTNERS

- Internews
- BBI Task Force
- University of Nairobi (Institute for Development Studies)

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