

Decentralization & Local Governance

Nairobi, Kenya: 20th September – 1st October 2010

Advanced course on strengthening decentralization and local governance processes for rural development in Eastern and Southern Africa

Course focus

The increased focus on decentralization reforms and good local governance in East and Southern Africa is explained by its potential contribution to improving social service delivery, natural resources management, and local economic development, all factors that are important for achieving the MDG's and improving rural livelihoods.

Democratic decentralization, as well as other public sector reforms change governance relations between the central and the local level and between stakeholders at the local level and provides opportunities for establishing new forms of horizontal, vertical and social accountability. Local governments in rural areas face specific challenges related to land and value chain governance, natural resource management and productive services. They need to create an enabling environment where (customary) authorities, service deliverers, community based organizations, NGOs and the private sector meet, interact and work together. As this is new "territory" for most stakeholders, approaches are needed to facilitate institutional innovation at the local level. A specific focus on the inclusion of marginalized groups is required to enhance equity of local development outcomes.

The course covers recent thinking about decentralization, local governance and participatory and inclusive rural development and introduces the most up-to-date methodologies.

Aims and objectives

The aim of this course is to strengthen the capacity of development practitioners, policymakers, government line ministry staff and programme managers, to engage in complex local governance processes.

As a result of the course, the participants will be able to:

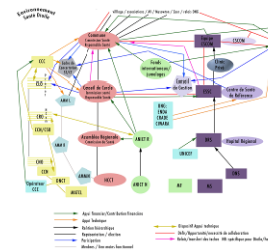
- Analyze the institutional context of decentralization and local governance with a specific focus on rural development, gender and power relations
- Develop strategies to improve the involvement of different actors in local governance and rural development (including social and productive service delivery, land governance, natural resource management, local economic development)
- Practice a broad range of methodologies and approaches to support learning, lobby and advocacy, citizenship and participation
- Challenge the impact of one's own intervention and identify opportunities to contribute to change



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Conducting a stakeholder analysis
in Madagascar



Example of a stakeholder map in
the health sector



A Maasai woman facilitating a
Community Resource
Mapping exercise in Narok,
Kenya



Community members making a
water pan to mitigate against
drought in Northern Kenya

Training methods

The course is highly interactive and builds on the participants' own experiences and cases. There will be active discussions, group assignments, role plays and mini-seminars. The participants will undertake fieldwork to explore a real-life local governance process. A wide range of methodologies and tools will be used by working on specific case-studies. The course facilitators follow a flexible programme that allows adaptation to the specific needs of individuals and the group.

Who can participate?

The course is designed for people who are involved in local governance and development processes in a rural environment in Eastern and Southern Africa. It is suitable for government officials of different levels, project and programme managers, policy makers, consultants, NGO staff, and staff from federations of community organizations or private sector organizations.

Candidates should meet the following requirements: relevant tertiary education, at least five years of experience in governance, decentralization processes or rural development programmes and competence in the English language.

Programme

The main topics of the course are:

1. Introduction to local governance; exploring underlying development paradigms and different perspectives. Investigating institutional trends and linkages between public sector reform, rural development, decentralization and devolution, privatization, strengthening and civil society, aid assistance, sector-wide approaches and MDG's
2. Institutional analysis. This explores the roles of different actors and their relationships. It deals with issues of inclusion, gender equity and participation in decision making, planning, monitoring and evaluation
3. Application of local governance analysis tools in a real-life case study
4. Facilitation of dialogue, interaction and partnerships between local governments, civil society organizations and the private sector in social and productive service delivery, natural resource management and local economic development; exploring accountability mechanisms and tools
5. Preparation of a personal action plan aimed at strengthening one's organizations position, roles and actions in decentralization and local governance processes

Application

Applications should be submitted electronically or in hardcopy to IIRR. The application deadline is 15 August 2010. Please send the following documents:

- A completed application form
- An up-to-date curriculum vitae

The full fee payment should be received by **1st September 2010**



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Additional course information:

Start date: 20-09-2010
End date: 01-10-2010
Duration: 12 days
Application deadline: 15-08-2010
Location: Nairobi, Kenya
Course fee: 2700 USD
(including training fees, materials, excursions, food and accommodation)

There are no fellowships available for this course. KIT and IIRR can not provide any funds to finance the participants.

Participants will be granted a Certificate of Attendance from KIT and IIRR

Contact for information requests and applications:

Regional Training Manager,
IIRR Regional Center for Africa
P.O. Box 66873 - 00800
Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: 254-2-442610/440991
Fax: 254-2448148
E-mail: training@iirr.org

Application forms can be downloaded from:

www.iirr.org
www.kit.nl/smartsite.shtml?id=22133

The Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), Netherlands, aims to contribute to reducing poverty and inequality and the promotion of sustainable economic development. The institute carries out research and provides advisory services and training in order to build and share knowledge on a wide range of development issues.

The International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) is a capacity building organization specializing in rural development with over 80 years experience, working in Africa, Asia and Latin America. IIRR promotes people-centered and participatory development through capacity building for poor people and their communities, development organizations and agencies. For more information – www.iirr.org