



## EVENTS

### Voice for Change (V4C) Programme

The V4CP is a partnership between SNV and a consortium of civil society organisations (CSOs) aimed at enhancing the capacity of CSOs to advocate for emerging issues within different thematic areas. As part of the Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) thematic area, SNV has partnered with CUTS, Society of Crop Agribusiness Advisors (SOCAA) and South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) to ensure compliance with food safety standards for locally consumed products and enhance consumer demand for quality food. The focus is on horticultural and dairy value chains. In its advocacy, V4CP takes an evidence-based approach focused on stakeholders' collaboration, inclusivity, seeking solutions and building on already existing systems.



### Developing Terms of Reference

CUTS in partnership with the county government Nakuru and the Nakuru Dairy Platform held a dairy workshop in Naivasha on December 10-11, 2019. The objective of the meeting was to develop Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Nakuru Dairy Platform. The ToR would guide the operations of the dairy platform. The platform offers a good opportunity to champion for safe and quality milk and milk products, introduce and activate the Community of Practice as well as share the Nakuru Dairy Strategic Plan with stakeholders.

### Addressing Food Safety Issues

CUTS in partnership with SNV and national consumer organisations held a National Public Forum in Ongata Rongai, Kajiado County on December 20, 2019. The purpose of the forum was to provide a platform for consumers to directly engage and get feedback from the regulatory bodies and private sector on their actions to address food safety issues in the dairy and other key sectors. The forum brought together diverse stakeholders and experts on food safety from the private sector,



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## EVENTS

public sector, farmers, knowledge institutions, development partners and civil society: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); Kenya Dairy Board (KDB); Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS); County Government of Kajiado representatives; CSOs; Consumer Organisations; Ministries of Health, Trade and Agriculture and the media among others.

### Devising Dairy Strategic Plan

CUTS, SNV and the county government of Murang'a and Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP) held a policy workshop on November 12, 2019. The objective of the workshop was to hand-over the Murang'a Dairy Strategic Plan to the county government. The Strategic plan proposes to improve the productivity of the dairy sector as well as safety in the dairy sector.



## The Strategic Partnership 'Green and Inclusive Energy'

The Strategic Partnership 'Green and Inclusive Energy' in Africa programme commenced in 2016 and will conclude in 2020. It is aimed to catalyse realisation of people's energy needs through green and inclusive energy systems that create economic opportunities for women and men while mitigating the effects of climate change. The programme is supported by Hivos East Africa through financial resources and capacity development on Lobby and Advocacy to CSOs. CUTS Nairobi is part of this strategic partnership working to ensure that consumers are equipped with information on RE and social accountability tools to demand Renewable Energy (RE) while policymakers and leaders at the county and national level get relevant information, knowledge, and skillset to create appropriate policies to enhance access to RE.

### Renewable Energy Strategic Plan

CUTS in partnership with the county government of Homa-Bay held a meeting with the County Reference Group (CRG) members to hand-over the final copy of the draft Renewable Energy Strategic Plan in December 2019. Charles Asiyo, Director of Energy, Homa-Bay County commenced the meeting. The strategic plan was officially handed over to the county government. The next step of the strategic plan was to deliver a presentation to other county executive committee, after the Strategic plan document has been approved by other executive members. If approved, the policy will be used to inform programmes that the department will implement to realise the big four agenda.

### Public Expenditure Tracking on Renewable Energy

CUTS held a meeting with the county government officials drawn from the Department of Energy, Economic Planning, Trade, Agriculture, Livestock, Environment, Industry and Gender to discuss the public expenditure and budget tracking toolkit on October 31, 2019. The toolkit provides a methodological approach for tracking public budgets and expenditures allocated for RE at the county and national level. It was agreed that the county would share the latest budget to inform more analysis and areas where more allocation is needed.





## EVENTS

### Road Shows

CUTS in partnership with the county government of Homa-Bay held a roadshow in Homa Bay County on December 07, 2019. The purpose of the roadshow was to sensitise as well as engage communities on the different sources and benefits of RE and to create awareness on the benefits of trees and need to plant trees, including fruit ones. Key outcomes from the roadshow were: distribution about 50 tree seedlings and 70 Branded T-shirts; and created awareness on renewable energy and benefits of planting trees.



### Capacity Building Workshop for Opinion Leaders

CUTS in partnership with the county government of Homa-Bay held capacity building workshop for opinion leaders on October 24, 2019. The training module was developed by CUTS in partnership with technical NGOs working on RE.

### KPMG Zambia's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Budget Discussion for 2020 Fiscal Year

Following the Minister of Finance's budget speech on September 27, 2019, CUTS was invited to present its views. The panel that was moderated by Godfrey Mutizwa, African Journalist; and discussants included Chenai Mukumba, Coordinator, CUTS International Lusaka; Sokwani Chilembo, CEO Chamber of Mines; Leonard Mwanza, CEO Bankers Association of Zambia; and Chipego Zulu, Vice President, Zambia Association of Manufacturers.

Mukumba stated the fact that only 10 percent of domestic revenues is what the country has to spend on expenditures after debt payments and salary payments is putting Zambia in a precarious situation and soon we will all begin to feel the pressure.

# Model Public Procurement Framework for the EAC Region

With funding support from Hivos Regional Office for East Africa, CUTS Nairobi is currently implementing the Open Contracting project within the EAC. The project's main objective is to develop a model public procurement framework using the open contracting and beneficial ownership approach for the EAC region.

### Forming Public Procurement Watch Group

CUTS held a one-day project inception meeting to introduce the project to stakeholders and form a public procurement watch group for the EAC region on October 24, 2019. The meeting brought together stakeholders from like-minded CSOs from the six EAC countries and the government. The main achievements from the meeting included: introduction of the Open Contracting project to relevant stakeholders, formation of the EAC public procurement watch group and their envisaged roles, discussion of the project objectives and activities, review and adoption the study ToRs as well as presentation the preliminary findings from the desktop review.



### Discussion on the Status of Public Procurement

CUTS was invited by East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) to make a presentation to the EALA Members of the Assembly and Public Procurement Committee on Open Contracting and Beneficial Ownership on November 25, 2019. This provided an opportunity to introduce the project to the East Africa Community, discuss the status of public procurement in the region and also propose a way forward in efforts to harmonise procurement policies among the member states.

## Integrating the Voices of CSOs in EAC Intra-Regional Trade and the AfCFTA

This project, funded by the Incubator for Integration and Development in East Africa (IIDEA) seeks to enhance the effective participation of CSOs within EAC intra-regional trade and AfCFTA.

### Launch Meeting

CUTS held a one-day project inception meeting on December 10, 2019 which brought together stakeholders from like-minded CSOs, private sector, academia and the government. It was suggested that more collaborations and partnership are required between United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and other CSOs. During January 13-24, 2020 CUTS will begin data collection in Kenya and Uganda and Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI) will coordinate the Uganda survey.



### Kenya Markets Trust Policy Compendium

CUTS recently won a consultancy for Policy Compendium of the Kenya Market Trust's Sectors of Operation (Livestock, Agricultural Inputs and Water). The consultancy seeks to review the national policies and regulations thereof, underlying formal and informal rules that guide the operations of the livestock, agriculture inputs industry and water sectors. The report was finalised and shared with Kenya Markets Trust.



## NEW PROJECTS

### Influencing Policy on Debt and Agriculture in Zambia

As Zambia faces high debt levels, slowing economic growth and climate change, work on this project will revolve around the importance of the e-voucher as an essential tool for government to respond to the three key challenges the country faces and urge government to commit to scaling back up and developing a roadmap to return to 100% e-voucher coverage.

Following Government of the Republic of Zambia's decision to implement the e-voucher in 60 percent of districts and traditional FISP, CUTS will work to prevent a backslide on its implementation and make the case for reverting to the e-voucher for all districts. This will entail working with Kivu on policy research, advocacy and convening of key stakeholders to create a broad-based, informed and active coalition supporting the e-voucher.

### Analysis of the Legal and Policy Environment Governing Debt Acquisition in Zambia

CUTS and ZIPAR are carrying out an analysis of the loans and guarantees act in relation to refinancing to ensure best practices are followed as the country plans to restructure its debt. This project seeks to consider the legal framework guiding the accumulation of debt in Zambia as well as the provisions and terms in the legal framework needed to restructure/refinance the debt.

An in-depth analysis of the Loans and Guarantees (Authorization) Act, and other pieces of relevant domestic and international legislation and covenants governing debt issuance, management and redemption, will be undertaken to identify any gaps that will need to be addressed in order to prevent accumulating debt at unsustainable levels in future.

### Fair Tax Monitor

CUTS Lusaka in collaboration with Oxfam is carrying out a Fair Tax Monitor (FTM) for Zambia. The FTM project commenced in December 2014 and was developed by Oxfam Novib and Tax Justice Network – Africa.

### SADC Non-State Actor Engagement in the CFTA Processes

CUTS Lusaka under the 'Enhancing SADC Non-State Actor Engagement in the Continental Free Trade Area Processes' project is focusing on interventions on non-state actor (NSA) engagement into the trade policy making process under the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) by engaging in activities geared towards ensuring a meaningful consultation, transparency for comprehensive CFTA negotiations and implementation through a NSA engagement forum. It will be backed by evidence-based research, capacity building/awareness generation and networking among the African NSAs on the CFTA issues.

### Capacity Audit of Sagnerigu and Zabzugu Districts

CUTS Accra with support of Oxfam/NORSAC is implementing a project entitled 'Capacity Audit of the Revenue Units of the Sagnerigu and Zabzugu Districts' to assess the existing capacity at the selected district assemblies towards revenue mobilisation.

### Investment Facilitation for Sustainable Development in Ghana

CUTS Accra with the support of the World Economic Forum is implementing a project entitled, 'Project Management Support for Investment Facilitation for Sustainable Development in Ghana' to understand how investment facilitation can lead to sustainable development in Ghana.

### Towards the Development of a Sustainable Food Policy

Although sustainable food systems encompass both production and consumption, at present most of the current efforts towards promoting a food secure global economy have tended to focus on sustainable production efforts. Sustainable food systems therefore could be further supported if current projects were able to work to promote markets for sustainable foods. This project seeks to put policies in place at both the local and national levels in such a way that they will influence both the consumption of sustainable diets. The project will focus on two key areas. The project involves working with the Lusaka City Council to develop a food policy that harnesses the potential within the informal market sector.

### Social and Economic Impact at the Ghana-Burkina Faso Border

CUTS Accra in collaboration with Boarderless Alliance and with funding support from the World Bank Group is implementing a project entitled 'Social and Economic Impact Assessment at the Ghana-Burkina Faso Border on the Tema Ouagadougou Corridor'. The main goal of this project is to assess the impacts of reforms in Customs transit system along Tema Ouagadougou corridor and its social and economic impact along the corridor.

### Mobile Insurance Sector in Ghana

CUTS Accra in collaboration with Nielson Ghana and funding support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is implementing a project entitled 'Market Research and Diagnostic Surveys on Information Disclosure and Transparency, Fraud, Customer Recourse and Client Needs Assessments in the Mobile Insurance Sector in Ghana'. The principal objective of the project is to undertake a market survey in selected cities to understand the banking financial space in Ghana to enable a deeper understanding of the Ghanaian mobile insurance market as well as increasing usage of financial services by low-income households and MSMEs.

## NEW PROJECTS

### Post Advocacy of COMPAD I

CUTS Accra with funding support from the Business Sector and Challenge Fund (BUSAC Fund) is implementing a project in Ghana called, "Post Advocacy of COMPAD I." The aim of the project is to ensure that the gains made in COMPAD I is sustained and to see to the full operationalisation of the Competition Policy. The project implementation duration is 8 months.

### Petition on Consumer Protection

CUTS Accra is undertaking an initiative with its internal resources is implementing a project titled 'Petition on Consumer Protection Law to be passed in Ghana'. The goal of the e-petition is to fast track the passage of the Consumer Protection Law in Ghana through civil action and advocacy with 20,000 signatures. At present, there are 2190 signatories.

## REPRESENTATIONS

**Appiah Kusi Adomako** attended the official ceremony of the 10<sup>th</sup> African Ministers of Trade organised by the Ghanaian Ministry of Trade and Industry in Accra on December 14, 2019.

**Clement Onyango** attended a meeting with in Hague with SNV representatives to discuss the design of the next bid to the Dutch Government on Dialogue and Dissent Programme during December 10-13, 2019.

**Martin Mulwa** attended attended the National Fodder Commercialisation Conference in Makueni on December 10-11, 2019.

**Shadrack Nii Yarboi Yartey** attended a meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Child Protection organised by Participatory Development Associates in Ghana on November 26, 2019.

**Collins Owegi** and **Idah Kinya** made a presentation to the EALA Members of the Assembly and Public Procurement Committee on Open Contracting and Beneficial Ownership in Arusha, Tanzania on November 25, 2019.

**Shadrack Nii Yarboi Yartey** attended a Pan African Convening on Abusive Lending Practices in the Context of Inadequate Social Protection in Nairobi, during October 31-November 02, 2019.

**Daniel Asher** attended a meeting with KDB officials to discuss the areas of collaboration on consumer safety in the dairy sector on October 29, 2019.

## PUBLICATIONS

### The Poverty and Utility Revenue Trade-Offs of the Proposed Residential Electricity Tariffs Adjustments in Zambia: A Household Based Analysis

This study explores options to increase residential tariffs in light of government's intention to import power to reduce load shedding. It is a working document for discussion with key stakeholders. The analysis identifies a feasible tariff increase which would enable residents to share the cost of importing power proportional to usage (estimated at 30percent) while cushioning the impact on vulnerable households.

<https://cuts-lusaka.org/pdf/policy-brief-poverty-and-utility-revenue-trade-offs-of-the-proposed-residential-electricity-tariffs-adjustments-in-zambia.pdf>

### The Effect of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Bill No. 10 of 2019 on Public Financial Management and Debt Management

One of the major components of the proposed amendment is a revision to Zambia's systems of financial accountability. With current debt statistics at US\$10.23bn external debt and K60.3 billion CUTS has sought to understand the implications of the proposed revisions on the country's debt contraction and public financial management.

<https://cuts-lusaka.org/pdf/policy-brief-effect-of-the-constitution-of-zambia-amendment-bill-10-2019-on-public-financial-management-and-debt-management.pdf>

**Kangwa Muyunda** attended the Zimbabwe Multi Stakeholder Public Debt Conference in Zimbabwe on October 29, 2019.

**Clement Onyango, Collins Owegi** and **Idah Kinya** attended Open Contracting Inception Meeting on October 24, 2019.

**Appiah Kusi Adomako** attended a meeting on GCAA Consumer Protection Directives organised by the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority in Accra on October 22, 2019.

**Jane Zulu** participated in the commemoration of the World Food Day under the theme Circular Food Systems for Food Security, at Netherlands on October 16, 2019. She shared the work done by CUTS under the SD4All project and spoke on the importance of indigenous food being incorporated in local diets.

**Appiah Kusi Adomako** attended a High Level Meeting of African Presidential Dialogue organised by United Nation Development Project on November 07, 2019.

**Daniel Asher** and **Idah Kinya** attended a validation meeting of 3R's Milk ATM study in Nakuru on October 01, 2019.

**Ishmael Zulu** and **Njavwa Simukoko** in partnership with Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute with support from Kivu undertook a field visit to five districts, namely Chirundu, Chongwe, Choma, Kafue and Kalomo during October 21-24, 2019. The monitoring visits are aimed at informing policymakers about the level of preparedness for the e-voucher and understand the factors that might contribute to poor delivery in 2019.