

Spring 2023 Professional Fellow

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Country: Kenya
Job Title and Employer: Program Officer, [United Disabled Persons of Kenya \(UDPK\)](#)
Project Title: **Using Budget Champions to Facilitate Meaningful and Inclusive Engagement of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities in the Public Budgeting Process in Kenya**

Problem: Kenya's Constitution of 2010 recognizes public participation as a vital principle in the budget cycle. Even so, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and their representative organizations are underrepresented in budgeting. Disability programs often receive just a small proportion of allocation in the budget. Additionally, PWDs and OPDs are not consulted in the development of programs and are only engaged during handing-over ceremonies (Nyagaka, 2022). Public engagement opportunities in the budget process are often limited for PWDs who face inaccessible physical and virtual platforms, knowledge, and other barriers (International Budget Partnership, 2021).

Project Objective: Erick aims to train six OPDs from Homa Bay County to participate in a meaningful and inclusive manner in the public budgeting process.

Project Description: Erick will recruit 12 PWDs, all leaders from local OPDs, and train them to become 'Budget Champions' in their respective communities. Compared to neighboring counties, Homa Bay County has a well-structured local OPD network. Erick will identify six OPDs from this network and ask each to nominate two individuals in leadership roles to participate in his project. Before the training, project participants will be asked to create a one-minute video on what they currently understand about the budgeting process.

To develop the training, Erick will utilize content and material created by UDPK and Uraia Trust and customize them to the needs of the OPDs. He will work with existing Budget Facilitators who will co-train the 12 OPD leaders. After the training, the OPD leaders, or "Budget Champions," will submit a memorandum to Erick's project where they describe their organization's commitment to fully and effectively engage in the local budgeting process.

Following the training and memoranda, Erick will organize civic forums with the six OPDs and local policy makers, including the Homa Bay County Disability Inclusion Advisor. At these events, the Budget Champions will have the opportunity to lobby for OPDs' inclusion in the governance processes and prioritization of disability issues.

References:

International Budget Partnership (2021). Kenya's County Budget Transparency Survey 2021. Retrieved from: <https://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/CBTS-2021-County-Summaries-FINAL.pdf>

Nyagaka, M. (2022). From disability budget commitments to budget execution in Kenya: Matching disability approved allocations to actual spending and performance (webpage). Retrieved from: <https://devinit.org/resources/matching-disability-approved-allocations-actual-spending-performance/>

