

RE-IMAGINING NEW COMMUNITIES

MAY 2023

KYATUNE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

SUMMARY REPORT



Background

Facilitating open, inclusive, and constructive conversations among diverse stakeholders within a community is very critical for community development. These spaces provide an opportunity and platform for the community members and every stakeholder to come together in sharing their perspectives and understanding the needs of their community while offering solutions.

Community dialogues offer an avenue for respectful and empathetic exchanges, fostering mutual trust and uncovering of shared goals. It enables the identification of root causes of conflict, helps address grievances, and co-creates sustainable solutions that reflect the collective wisdom and aspirations of the community.

Through the RNC Community Dialogue program, Re-Imagining New Communities, collaboratively, we hold dialogues within the communities we work in. These community dialogues come together with stakeholders living and working there to deliberate. These deliberations focus on participatory planning, asset mapping, capacity building, stakeholder mapping and engagement, conflict transformation among other issues.





KYATUNE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

In Kyatune Location, Kitui County, our approach to working with diverse stakeholders on community dialogues is deeply rooted in understanding the local context. Through extensive field assessments and conversations with community leaders, we identify pressing issues such as access to clean water that impact the community's well-being. We engage a wide range of stakeholders, including chiefs, religious leaders, elders, youth groups, women groups, and other representatives, who hold valuable insights into these challenges.

In the first phase of our engagement with the local community in Kyatune Location, we held three initial field assessment meetings with the chief and local players. After the meetings, we held one community dialogue in the month of May 2023. This dialogue brought together 15 stakeholders from 10 Sub-Location with Kyatune.

The stakeholders and Sub-Locations that participated in the community dialogue

Senior Chief
Four assistant chiefs
Village Admins
Religious leaders
Youth representatives
Women representatives
Village elders
Community health worker
CBO representatives

Vamusemba sub-location
Ngwani Sub-location
Mutyawa sub-location
Miumbuni sub-locatoion
Munathi/ Nzouni
Maimu village
Ndatani/ vote sub-location
Kyatune
Yongela sub-location
Kyambusa village





PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

Through active participation and conversations, community members explored the underlying factors contributing to the problems they face in their communities while thinking of sustainable solutions.

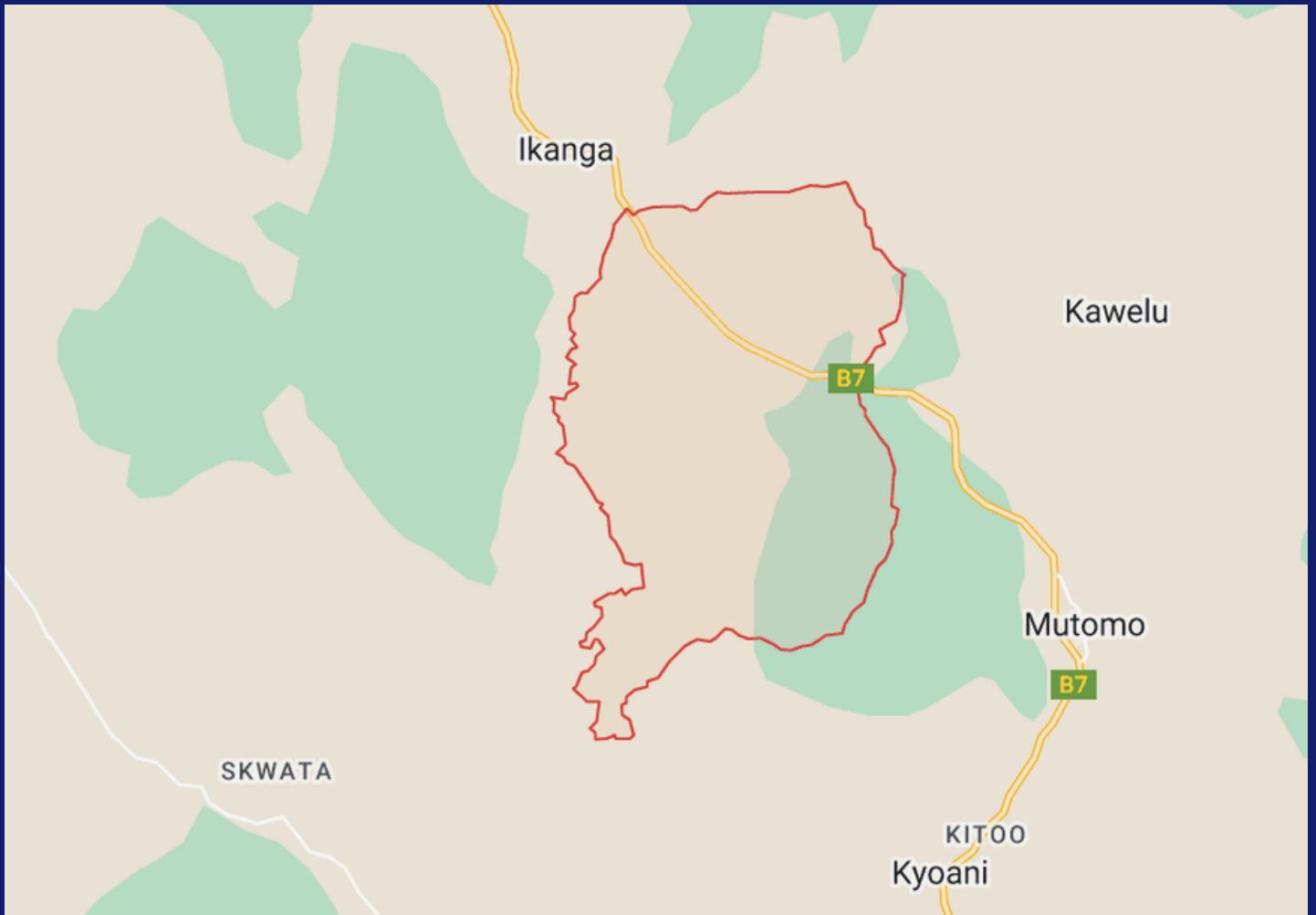
This dialogue process doesn't end with conversation. We empower participants to collectively devise action plans. For instance, empowerment of youth emerged from our dialogues to restore those youth involved in substance abuse with a focus to providing them with mentorship and skill-based support.

There were a number of issues that emerged from the dialogue which reflect a complex tapestry of challenges that require focused attention and collaborative efforts to address effectively.

These issues are:

- **Substance Abuse:** There is the pressing concern of substance abuse among the youth of Kyatune Location which had led to detrimental impact on them, their families, and the community at large.
- **Water:** Access to clean and reliable water sources is a fundamental human right that everyone should have. However, that is the case in Kyatune Location as most households lack clean and reliable water. There is an urgent need to explore innovative solutions to this issue considering that the location is semi-arid and experiences drought.
- **Gender-Based Violence:** Challenging cultural norms and fostering a safe space for survivors of gender-based violence is a big stride in securing our communities and safeguarding the safety and lives of the survivor. GBV emerged as an issue that affected the majority of households and is linked to substance abuse and other factors discussed here. Therefore, it is important to find ways of dismantling harmful stereotypes and fostering a community of respect and equality.
- **Violence Against Children:** There is a raising concern of child abuse and negligence by their children especially those orphaned. VAC has a long lasting impact on children that can affect their adulthood. Creating an environment where these children can thrive, free from violence and exploitation is action that needs to be prioritized.





Kyatune location



Strategic Prioritization

To ensure clarity and positive results, strategic prioritization stands as the compass guiding effective action, channeling efforts toward the most urgent matters for the community. The dialogue explored how the community can commence their cause of action by tackling pressing issues first, potentially, harnessing their energy and resources efficiently, preventing exhaustion and fostering sustainable progress.

Immediate Action Points:

As we continue, exploring better and sustainable ways of engaging the community in addressing challenges bedeviling their communities. The stakeholders identified immediate actions that they can start with

Asset Mapping: The participating stakeholders and community members would be to carry out asset mapping in identifying local resources with their community. In doing these, members will be activating self-sufficiency when they, finally, embark on addressing their issues.

Unified Alliances: One of the most immediate actions that was identified is the need for partnerships with stakeholders who share similar aspirations. By infusing supplementary resources, expertise, and a robust support network, members will be able to amplify problem-solving capabilities.



Conclusion

Our commitment to Kyatune goes beyond isolated sessions; we seek to establish ongoing dialogue platforms and support networks. Through a structured manner, we hope to establish a culture of open communication and collaboration between and among all the key stakeholders within the community, ensuring that the voices and aspirations of Kyatune's people continue to shape the community's journey toward a more harmonious and prosperous future.



New Communities