

Evaluation of the Nairobi Office of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (2015-2017)

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Executive summary

The work of the Heinrich Böll Stiftung (hbs) regional office East & Horn of Africa is in line with hbs policies. The three components; sustainable development; gender democracy and regional and international dialogue are reflective of the regional political and social situation and incorporate the needs of the chosen partner organizations. The Gender oriented Project Planning matrix is clear and conclusive.

Aims and objectives are transparent and clearly spelled out, known to both the staff in the office and the partners. They are dynamic and adjusting to the challenges in Kenya which have been sufficiently identified. Indicators and lead questions are processed by the relevant team members.

Relevance: The hbs office in Kenya is contributing to relevant conversations amongst the Kenyan society, including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as well as administrators and decision makers on national and county level. It is building capacities of CSOs and facilitates conventions of various stake holders and audiences. Legislators, constitutional oversight institutions, parliamentarians, female politicians and local administrators in specific program fields are aware of hbs work and values.

With their signature event, the Gender Forum, hbs is defining its brand. Yet there are diverging opinions as of how much hbs should have more visibility. More visibility would bring more political clout but also more risk in an increasingly shrinking public space. There is potential for the office to make core hbs values and themes more known without appearing to impose an outsider, western stamp on their projects and partners by a continuous engagement with highly active and accepted partners – preferably beyond Nairobi. The hbs brand is highlighted in the various publications as well as the documentation of activities – hbs publications are considered starting points for broader conversations as well as references for Kenyan CSOs to use as influential source.

Effectiveness: The Kenya office has achieved most of its planned objectives in Component A Sustainable Development and in their gender work. The reach out to the target groups was achieved and new audiences have been attracted to the work of hbs. hbs Kenya shows a very high level of responsibility for their partners. Partner organizations are content with the cooperation and feel supported and accompanied and at the same time understand the financial limitations as well as the need for focus by the hbs office. However the breadth of components and projects with the attached partners can easily absorb more financial allocation, yet given the limited human resources in the hbs office, more focus on well-established cooperation would be advisable. Once, decisions are made on Component C and new staff is recruited more financial resources will be in order and will be absorbable.

Challenge: Unlike the other components, the third component *Regional and International Dialogue* has so far not developed an hbs specific narrative. A more coherent regional program reflecting core hbs topics should be designed. Given the lineout in Component A on the Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transport corridor, this could be an excellent possibility to define a regional program along a thematic line. In a modified way, Component A could be regionalized in other countries in East Africa, potentially in Tanzania, Uganda and Sudan.