



SUMMARY

Improving performance of urban areas in the context of Kenya's devolved government

Proposed by the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA-Kenya) and the Agile Harmonized Assistance for Devolved Institutions (AHADI)

INTRODUCTION

In 2010, Kenya reformed its constitution and introduced devolution as a mechanism of governance. Given that some urban areas in Kenya are growing at far higher rates than the overall population growth, the performance of urban areas is key to Kenya's longer-term growth. This project seeks to implement a 12-month project of research and policy engagement to focus public attention on an index that measures and compares the performance of urban areas in provision of public services.

WHAT THEY WILL DO

This project aims to facilitate the monitoring and assessment of local government performance in areas such as increased efficiency, accountability, and citizens' engagement. This broad objective will be accomplished by the modification of the Municipality Performance Index that was successfully developed and deployed by the Lithuanian Free Market Institute (LFMI). The Index will be used as an instrument to inform evidence-based social and economic policies. The project aims to use the results of the research and analysis from the index to develop public support for reforms based on free choice, private enterprise, and efficient use of public resources in Kenya.

HOW THEY WILL DO IT

This project will replicate the use of the award-winning Municipality Performance Index that has been successfully used by LFMI. The partners in this project will review the index and adapt it to Kenya's policy context. The research and data collection will be undertaken in the six most populous urban areas in Kenya. This data will be analysed to create customized policy reform proposals for each urban area, and an overall ranking. Meetings will be held with leadership, professional groups and residents of these areas to discuss findings. The analytical report will be launched at a public meeting in conjunction with the Council of Governors to present the award for the urban area with the best public services for citizens.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The index will provide an empirical basis for initiating policy engagement on reforms to improve the quality of services provided in the six urban areas. In addition, the index will inform the urban development policy for both the national and devolved governments in Kenya. Finally, the project outputs will improve the research capacity of the staff of the Institute of Economic Affairs in Kenya. Communications activities will be embedded in all activities throughout the project and will include press releases, data and charts, blog posts, opinion articles and thematic targeted publications.