

# GOVERNANCE

Oxfam in Kenya's work on governance and accountability seeks to address the root causes of poverty and inequalities in Kenya by tackling the linked problems of poor governance, specifically tax inequality and the shrinking civic space.

## CONTEXT

Kenya is recognized as one of the fastest growing economies in East Africa and one of Africa's key growth centers. Despite the economic growth, inequality levels are still on the rise due to policies and practices which do not factor in redistribution of resources and wealth in the fight against poverty. Kenya has high levels of poverty and inequalities particularly in marginalized areas with 80% poverty prevalence in both Turkana and Wajir and 60% poverty levels in Nairobi. With positive economic growth and investment opportunities, Kenya has the potential to mobilize more revenues, provide improved public services to its people, and reduce inequality. To realise this, there is need for sustained campaigns to ensure that the voices of the less powerful are heard alongside the voices of the powerful.

### TARGET POPULATION



Marginalized communities, the poor, women and youth in Kenya.

### PARTNERS



Africa Voices Foundation (AVF), Arid Lands development Focus (ALDEF), B-Team, Dandora Hip Hop City (DHC), Development Initiatives (DI), Diocese of Lodwar, Fight Inequality Alliance-Kenya (FIA), Institute for Public Finance Kenya (IPFK), International Budget Partnership (IBP), Inuka ni Sisi Kenya, Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Kilimani Foundation, KPMG, Mukuru Youth Initiative (MuYI), Nairobi City County Government (NCCG), Strathmore University, University of Nairobi (UoN) Tsavo Labs, Turkana County, Wajir County and Youth Alive Kenya (YAK).

## OXFAM'S GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY WORK IN KENYA

Oxfam in Kenya is working with national partners towards; enhancement of a vibrant, dynamic civil society that maximises its public engagement space and holds government to account. Oxfam in Kenya with partners in identification and application of more progressive, equitable, transparent, accountable tax and expenditure regime that contributes to reduced economic inequality and improved quality of life.





## TAX JUSTICE; REVENUE, MOBILISATION ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE

Tax revenues are the biggest source of long-term financing for sustainable development, recognised by both the Constitution of Kenya and the Addis Tax Initiative. Oxfam in Kenya, is working with stakeholders to ensure Kenya has a more progressive, equitable, gender-responsive, transparent, accountable tax and expenditure regime. This will contribute to reduced economic inequality and improved quality of life for poor and vulnerable women, youth and marginalized groups.

### PRIVATE SECTOR

Oxfam in Kenya, in a bid to sustain inclusive and progressive tax policy advocacy recognises the position of influence played by corporate bodies in shaping fiscal policy in Kenya. This recognition is founded on the premise that both CSOs and Private Sector exist within the same civic space. Oxfam in Kenya, therefore, seeks to establish a neutral space for tax policy discourse between CSOs and Corporates. Oxfam in Kenya will work to empower CSOs to actively engage in advocacy dialogue with corporations and government officials to ensure responsible corporate tax practices and fair taxation of companies.

### GOVERNMENT

Oxfam in Kenya is working with government to ensure adoption of sustainable domestic resource mobilization policies, at both National and County level. Oxfam in Kenya seeks to influence government to reform regressive revenue raising policies and instead, identify, debate and adopt new progressive sources of revenue. Regressive tax policies increase the tax burden on vulnerable segments of the population and therefore this will be informed by equitable national tax policies.

### CIVIC SPACE

Oxfam is engaging with different stakeholders to establish and strengthen a vibrant, dynamic and organised civil society. This will work towards maximizing civic space and effectively mobilizing citizens to advocate for their rights and hold government to account on equitable raising, allocation and spending of financial resources. Oxfam's work on civic space involves establishing a legal and policy framework, in support of the citizens and civil society, online and offline participation in decision making. The programme also advocates for Government and duty bearers to operationalise citizen engagement mechanisms for meaningful participation, information sharing, collection and redress as required by law. Oxfam in Kenya will support citizens and social movements to increasingly exercise their constitutional rights by; participating meaningfully in public citizen engagement forums through public campaigns, music, creative arts and use of digital media.

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