

Learning from the Field

1. Where are we going? How long have you been working there?

Bungoma County is the third most populous County in Kenya after Nairobi and Kakamega with an estimated 1.7 million people, half of them being persons under the age of 18 years. Bungoma is strategically located on the southern slopes of Mt. Elgon which also forms its border with Republic of Uganda to the North West. It also borders 3 other counties including Kakamega to the south, Trans Nzoia on the north and Busia on the west. Though the county is highly recognised for its agriculture as its main economic activity, 53% of the population are living below the poverty line.

The field visit will take place in Bungoma town, headquarters of Bungoma County, which is one of the 7 counties project areas of KAACR. Bungoma town is where the visitors will meet with the members of Bungoma Child Right Network (BCCRN) a grassroots structure that KAACR has sensitised and capacity built to address issues of VAC. KAACR has been operating in Bungoma County since 1998 but have been working with the BCCRN since 2012.

Bungoma has 804 primary schools and 207 secondary schools. The teacher-pupil ratio is estimated to be 1:50 in primary and 1:29 in secondary school.

2. Why is it special? What is the context of the place (geographical, historical?)

It is proximity to Malaba-Kenya, Uganda Border and being one of trans-African highway connecting Uganda to Nairobi provides a lot of activities of human interaction from Kenya and Uganda. The communities are farmers and boasts of rich cultural background in traditional beliefs and practices as regards initiation of boys into adulthood through circumcision, early marriage and use of children as source of labour being rampant. The County reports some of the highest number of violence against children some of which are culturally accepted. On the other hand, KAACR has managed to build the capacity of CSOs in the county, launched the BCCRN and the network has become one of the most active networks with a very high level of involvement in policy advocacy on Child Protection.

3. Who are the people/institutions participants will interact with?

Our guests will interact with BCCRN members who constitute CSOs representative, County Government child-related officials, Officers of National Government responsible for Children matters (DCS), Judicial officials, teachers and children representatives.

4. What is the one thing you would advise people to look out for?

The working relationship between CSOs and government (County & National) on:

1. How they are addressing VACs,
2. What the BCCRN has been doing over the years and how they were able to reach where they are right now?
3. How BCCRN participate in policy reform and innovations they come up with to get a breakthrough on Child Protection matters and Voices of Children.
4. The practical information they have.

5. What is the distance from Kisumu and travel time to the field visit site?

The distance from Kisumu to Bungoma is 77 km, road transport is 97.8 km (61 miles). By bus, it takes 0221hrs, while by small car it takes 0131hrs.

The bus will depart from the Hotel at 7:00 am.

6. Where shall we have lunch?

To avoid unnecessary movements and save on time, we have organized an outside catering firm to provide lunch at one of the member organization Child Welfare Society of Kenya – Kanduyi Branch.

7. Where shall we have the field visit reflection meeting?

At Kanduyi Children Home, managed and run by Child Welfare Society of Kenya - one of our member partner in the Bungoma Child Rights Network.

8. What is the expected time of return to the hotel in Kisumu?

Participants will return to the hotel at 1730 hours (5:30pm).

9. What is the draft Agenda of the field visit on November 1st?

It is from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

Time	Duration	Activity	Place
10:00 am		Visitors arrive in Bungoma County and are received by BCCRN officials at County Headquarters Grounds	
10:10 am	20 mins	Courtesy call to the Governor, Bungoma County	Governor's Office
10:30 am	30 mins	Meet BCCRN members introduction & brief on BCCRN	CWSK Office, Kanduyi Branch
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	90 mins	The visiting team will be split in 6 small groups based on interest to visit key offices of the network members and county structures for 90 minutes	
		Simba Group: Visit Child Care Centre (Kanduyi Children Home) run by Child Welfare Society of Kenya. While there, the visitors will be able to see the abandoned children who were born out of Incest. In the past such children were killed but with such facilities people throw them away so that they can be picked and taken to these institutions	<i>Kanduyi Children's Home (Vice chair of the network)</i>
		Chui Group: At the County Assembly, the visitors will meet the Finance Committee and learn on how BCCRN has been working closely with the County assembly in Finance Bill	<i>Bungoma County Assembly</i>
		Kifaru Group: DCS is the overall national child protection structure in Kenya. Visitors will learn on how BCCRN is involved in various Area Advisory Council (AAC), a devolved structure of the National	<i>Department of Children Services office</i>

		Children for Children’s Services which is the policy organ for children, and how BCCRN pushes the children agenda	
		Nyati: Interact with members of the Court Users Committee (UCU) and learn on how BCCRN work closely with the courts for the purpose reporting and following up on matters of children for cases that are within the justice administration system (courts)	<i>Court Users Committee - Judiciary</i>
		Tembo Group: Visit one of the schools with Child Rights Club to learn and share how members of CRC have worked in Bungoma County and how these clubs have assisted children know their rights and how they have resisted violence that children face	<i>Moi Primary Child Rights Club</i>
		Sungura Group: Visit James Ryken and share and learn on how street children are rehabilitated and reintegrated to their families, the challenges encountered and the lesson that can be shared for improvement	<i>James Ryken - Street Children Rehabilitation Centre</i>
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	60 mins	Assemble at Kanduyi Children’s Home for debriefing (comments, questions, findings, clarifications)	CWSK office, Kanduyi Branch
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	60 mins	Lunch and adjournment of the visit	CWSK office, Kanduyi Branch
3:00 pm		Departure for Kisumu – <i>Kwa heri</i>	

Contact person - John Oduor
0733920339 (cell phone)
john.oduor@kaacr.com (email)

Maximizing Your Learning during the Field Visit

Below are some questions for you to consider as you making the field visit. Jot down your thoughts as is helpful.

1. *What piece of information was especially important for you to hear today – ideas/head?*



2. *What moved/touched/deeply impacted you at the heart level – attitudes/heart?*



3. *What will you and/or your organization/group/company do or investigate doing in the next year to strengthen financial inclusions for youth – actions/body?*



4. *What more do you want to learn about?*



Tips for to Help Deepen Your Field Test Experience

[Fiona, you can add the tips here]