

## **Elimika Project impacts communities in 5 counties**

The Construction of Knowledge Societies- Elimika Project has recorded significant impact in empowering communities in five counties by equipping them with knowledge on pertinent issues as enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

In a report presented to the stakeholders during the validation workshop held at the University of Nairobi on March 9, 2017, it emerged that the project had achieved varied results in the five target counties of Nairobi, Kwale, Turkana, Homa Bay and Makueni.

While officially opening the workshop, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, said that the Elimika project has emerged as an important link between the University of Nairobi and the communities where the project was implemented.

“The shifting of the learning space from university lecture theatres and seminar rooms to local communities is a significant step in bridging the divide that has traditionally characterized the relationship between the university and ordinary citizens,” he said.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Lucy Irungu, commended the Elimika team for succeeding in identifying the research gaps which will form a basis for further research.

“The Elimika project has demonstrated that the goal of high quality research underpinning knowledge creation and technology transfer at the county level is within our reach,” she noted. “The University of Nairobi is a research intensive university with a reputation for excellence and a strong and vibrant research culture. It is our objective to ensure that our research, across all disciplines remains relevant by positively impacting the community and the region.”

The Elimika lead consultant and the UoN UNESCO/UNITWIN Chair, Prof. Judith Bahemuka said that the baselines yielded important information on areas of priority and gaps in each of the counties.

“This knowledge is an important resource for researchers, the county governments as well as other policy actors in the five counties,” she said.

Elimika has generated several knowledge products including: a comprehensive literature review that guided the baseline studies; baseline studies in the five counties; a training manual in both English and Kiswahili, and several pamphlets on Governance and Devolution, Philanthropy, Leadership and Integrity, and Bill of Rights; and an edited volume drawing from the findings that was being finalized at the time of this evaluation.

The project has awarded five partial scholarships, including one to a PhD student and four internship opportunities.

Elimika is being implemented by UoN's UNESCO/UNITWIN Chair in partnership Ford Foundation, K-Rep Development Agency, United States International University (USIU), the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Devolution and Planning, Ministry of Health, Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution (CICC), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Commission on Revenue Authority (CRA) and the county governments of Makueni, Kwale, Turkana, Homa Bay and Nairobi.