



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Global Communities Kenya makes strides on National Draft Cooperative Bill

(Nairobi, Kenya) ---- **28th January 2022**: Global Communities Kenya in partnership with USAID's Cooperative Development Program (CDP) and NCBA CLUSA has been working to support a broad and inclusive legislative review process to ensure that the needs and aspirations of local cooperatives are reflected. The Draft Cooperative Bill was greatly impacted by Global Communities' engagement with cooperatives across several counties. The Draft Bill was improved by:

- Capacity strengthening initiatives on the Cooperative Law and Regulation Initiative (CLARITY) tool which provided the taskforce with a lens through which they could review public comments/recommendations.
- Provision of technical expertise and advisory on enabling legal language to be considered by the taskforce.
- Best practice recommendations which were included in the draft Bill's provisions.

The Draft Cooperative Bill created a social media buzz and received positive reception from both the public and private sectors thanks to the deliberate offline and online public participation by different stakeholders. "The Cooperative Bill seeks to align with the 2010 Constitution and help in restoring the lost glory of the Cooperative movement," says Hon. Peter Munya MGH, Cooperatives (CS).

Global Communities is working to strengthen the Kenyan Cooperative enabling environment through the USAID Cooperative, Leadership, Engagement, Advocacy and Research (CLEAR) Program. This news comes in the wake of many recent accomplishments of the organization, including:

- Mobilization of public participation through targeted invitations and social media outreach, resulting in 306 formal comments submitted and 514 participants in 6 regional public participation meetings
- Ensuring a voice for cooperatives and innovating a more transparent and inclusive process.

Thanks to the collaboration between the State Department and the CDP partners, several positive steps forward have been seen including validation of the bill and its submission to the Cabinet Secretary. The Cabinet Secretary and the parliamentary committee have also expressed a willingness to actively push for a successful bill to be tabled in parliament.

Global Communities drafted a summary briefing sheet for Kenyan cooperators and stakeholders to understand the public participation process and key highlights of the Draft Bill more easily. The briefing sheet can be found here:

https://www.globalcommunitieskenya.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Briefing-Sheet_Cooperatives-Bill-2021_15.11.2021-2.pdf

About Global Communities: [Global Communities](#) is an international non-profit organization that works closely with communities worldwide to bring about sustainable changes that improve the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable. Development is not something we do for people; it is something we do with them. We believe that the people who understand their needs best are the people of the community itself. We make a difference by engaging with communities, governments, the private sector and NGOs as partners for good – bringing together complementary strengths and shared responsibilities to work toward common goals. We envision a world where everyone has the freedom, means and ability to live and prosper with dignity.

Contact: Kristin Wilcox: **Chief of Party, USAID CLEAR** | Olga Oyier: **Policy & Legislative Affairs Specialist, USAID CLEAR**

#####END#####