

## **Designing a framework for analysing the capacity needs of grassroots rural institutions – an experience from East Africa**

Clinton Muller, George Oketch, Rick Kamugisha, Douglas Bwire, Verrah Otiende, Siddharth Mohan, Joseph Tanui, Jeremias Mowo

### **Abstract:**

Grassroots rural institutions possess a breadth of indigenous knowledge and skills acquired through experience, training or local innovations, but often have limited capacity to effectively implement their knowledge and skills in order to strengthen the group's activities. This paper traces the steps of a methodology used to strengthen the capacity needs of grassroots rural institutions through the development of a capacity needs analysis framework. This framework identifies the capacity development activities required in order to strengthen grassroots rural institutions. The framework was designed by employing a systematic capacity development methodology, encompassing participatory processes, to produce a decision support framework. This framework identifies the capacity needs of grassroots rural institutions at a group, platform and enterprise development level, in addition to identifying pertinent external enabling environmental factors. The methodology was tested in 6 sites across Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania in East Africa with the objective of strengthening grassroots rural institutions. The application of the framework involved a series of data mining exercises including a measurement of group maturity, identification of site wide environmental factors and the outputs from a participatory group workplan development workshop. This example demonstrates the working applicability of the framework to analyse capacity needs to strengthen grassroots rural institutions.

**Key words:** capacity development, capacity needs analysis, grassroots rural institutions