VOL 1 ISSUE 1 OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2023

KECOSCE

KENYA COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTER

ABOUT

Our CARE Approach:

- COLLABORATING
- ACCOMPANYING
- RESPONDING
- EMPOWERING

The Kenya Community Support Center **(KECOSCE)** was founded in 2006 and has been working in the coastal region of Kenya, it was established to respond to Peacebuilding and conflict mitigation, climate resilience and poverty eradication, and Inclusive governance, with a focus on the coast of Kenya. KECOSCE promotes a Just Peaceful and Progressive society. We currently have running programs in Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi and Tana River Counties with the Main office in Mombasa and two field satellite offices



A Just, Peaceful and Progressive society

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Message from the Executive Director



"Welcome to the quarterly edition of our newsletter. Kenya and our target population have experienced significant change in governance, human rights, utilization of natural resources and peace and security, This demands our continuous efforts in sustaining and deepening gains made so far. During this quarter, KECOSCE has implemented various initiatives contributing to major milestones towards the achievement our strategic objectives. Some key highlights include that We have reviewed the organizational Strategic Plan to respond to the new emerging trends, developed and adopted a robust Plan for Own Source Income Generation and Institutionalized our Presence in Tana River. with a permanent office. The K-Radio our community radio in Tana River has enhanced our visibility and brand. KECOSCE has launched the K-GRANT Program that supports 12 groups with local innovations. We have built alliances and partnerships and collaborated with Government and CSOs to achieve better results.

INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE DELIVERY

KECOSCE has worked to build and strengthen the capacity of both state and non-state actors to Effectively engage in public participation and mutual accountability mechanisms. This has helped avert social conflicts, enhancing delivery and enjoyment of services. Over 2000 community members have been sensitized on governance and accountability, the organization has facilitated interface forums between claim holders and duty bearers and supported over 200 people with Disability to be included in Key decision making platforms and processes. This program has influenced the Formulation of Key Policy documents through submission of Memoranda to expert panels and the regulations for Religious Institutions taskforces; these Include the Review of the Kenya Peace Architecture, National Strategy on PCVE, and Recommendation for Regulation of Religious Institutions



Women being sensitized on human rights and importance of public participation

"Contributed to improved service delivery by supporting 2000 people (Including Special interest Groups) to participate in local governance processes

"Our Members feel more empowered and confident enough to engage duty bearers on matters of interest to us"
Chairperson of the Network of PWDs in Kilifi

Increased Capacity of Leaders to engage in governance processes In Kilifi and Tana River

100 People With Disability (PWD) have been trained on their rights and supported to participate in key processes including the acquisition of Identity Cards in Tana Delta, and Malindi subcounties with support of ECCESS program funded by USAID through ACT.



KECOSCE budget champions are tracking project implementation through UNDP Kenya, As a result 3 new Project Management committees have been formed through inclusive processes. The committees are providing oversight to Projects prioritized in the FY23/24



50 members of the Network of Persons with Disability have been included in various development and Project Management Committees as a result of our sensitization and joint lobby efforts .





120 Community leaders have been sensitized on the County Engagement Framework for Citizen participation in Kilifi as provided for in the Public Participation and Civic Education ACT 2020. Now public participation structures are being set up

Counties Operationalize Public Participation Processes

"The governor Kilifi County expands avenues for citizen oversight to County government project implementation

HE Governor Gideon Mung'aro has put in place mechanisms to for Citizen oversight on project implementation in the county to ensure Value for Money is achieved and prevent corruption in government projects. This is a result of KECOSCEs leadership in mobilizing Civil Society to hold the county government to account. The Governor has set up Project Management Committees for every project the county government of Kilifi shall undertake during his reign. He said this during the Inaugural Governors Roundtable with over 60 Civil Society organized jointly by KECOSCE and CSOs Network in Kilifi. Now communities feel more included in the governance of Kilifi County

PEACEFUL AND COHESIVE COMMUNITIES

Communities take active roles in resolving local conflicts

Disco Matanga (one of the repugnant traditional practices) has been a key contributor to insecurity in Kilifi. The Resilience Peace and Stability Program has supported 3 joint outreaches between police, local administration and communities to help in building relationships for bolstering security. These partnerships between the public and police have helped reduced instances of insecurity associated with Disco Matanga and the killing of elders in Kilifi. Additionally the County Commissioner has now outlawed the practice of Disco Matanga in the county as a result of public demand. This preventive action comes in handy when children are at home during the long holidays of December.





Dialogue forum in Ganda with community leaders, NGAOs and ward administrators on preventing political conflicts

Accelerated implementation of County Action Plans on PCVE

KECOSCE Has led in the remodeling of the Kilifi, Mombasa, Kwale and Tana River County. Since the launch of the-newly remodeled plan, KECOSCE has supported the training of County PCVE Engagement forums to fact track implementation.

We are now partnering with county based stakeholders to implement the CAPS through a multi stakeholder approach. We are thankful to the ARRVE Program that is now supporting implementation of the CAPS. KECOSCE has supported training of Law enforecemnt officers in

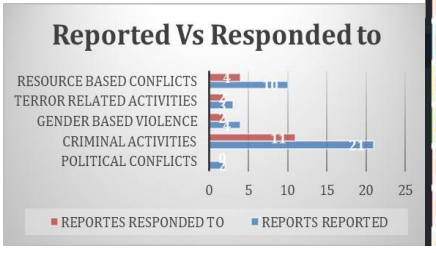


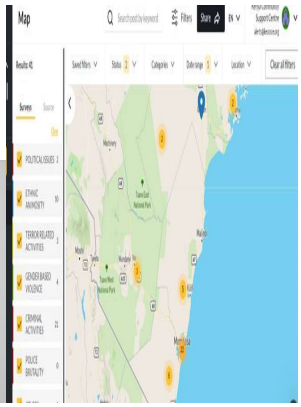
Community leaders sensitized on the current the current directive by County Commissioner to ban 'Disco Matanga' which have contributed to insecurity in Kilifi County

"Inspectorate officers are now more vigilant and understand their roles in County Action Plans using Human Rights based approaches in policing" Director Inspectorate Kilifi

EWER Mechanism and Increased response by the State Actors

KECOSCE is still in charge of the EWER hub, which is an essential community platform for exchanging information about conflict indicators, security alerts, and incidents within the community for prompt response and resolution. The majority of reports that are received at the hub are summarized and promptly shared with the appropriate state actors for action. KECOSCE then follows up on all of the reported cases and takes specific action, such as increasing patrols and arresting juvenile gang members in Ganda. This has also fostered confidence in the community that initially reported the alerts.





Early Warning alerts as of October 2023

Enhanced cooperation and trust between communities and government agencies (esp. police) based on respect for human rights and good governance

Improved coordination among the local peace structures such as the Community policing, Nyumba Kumi, the village elders and the NGAOs that has resulted in improved response to security concerns. We have trained the community policing members on the need to collaborate with other peace structures and with the NGAOs during the community policing training workshops. In the past, the community policing members was reported to be working alone and masquerading as vigilante groups which did not collaborate with the area chiefs and the police. However, the training that was led by IPOA and the KNCHR exposed the community policing committee members to the importance and benefits of collaborating with not only the local peace structures but also with the NGAOs. This coordination saw a successful arrest of a cow theft suspect in Chonyi sub county.





Capacity-Building workshops for community policing members on trust building between police and communities

Increased anchoring of at-risk individuals in the communities through improved linkages to livelihoods and enterprise funding

KECOSCE has partnered with the National and County Governments to Increase awareness on existing government opportunities for funding and livelihood programs. The county and national affirmative action fund managers have been facilitated to reaching out to and engage 60 youth groups in Mombasa and Kwale with the information on the funds. These youth will then be supported to start Income Generating activities and shall be mentored on entrepreneurship. This is being made possible through the Resilience Peace and Stability Program that contributes to Prevention of Violent Extremism in the Coast Region. Similar Drives are also being implemented under the Joint Initiative for Strategic Religious action for Kwale and Mombasa and Tana River Counties .An additional 80 groups are being engaged in the program

KECOSCE is making efforts to instill a collective culture of saving and investment for the youth to be anchored in society through entrepreneurship

"140 youth groups across 4 Coastal Counties sensitized and link to government funding opportunities for Strengthening Small Scale enterprises"

Entrenchment of human rights centered approaches to Policing

KECOSCE jointly trained Police and Community Policing committees on human rights, complaints handling mechanisms and community policing committee members in Kwale, Mombasa and Kilifi counties. During the trainings, the KNCHR sensitized the duo on human right approaches to security issues and the best practices to adopt during the public order management for the police. Community Policing Committees have now increased their trust and working with law enforcement in mitigating crime and resolving local conflicts. Following these efforts, the incidences of crime, juvenile gang attacks and gender based violence have reduced in Kwale, Mombasa and Kilifi according to the KECOSCE Early Warning Early Response Mechanism. Issues of vigilantism among the community policing to extort money from the community members have also significantly decreased

There is also an expanded space for the respect of freedom of belief and the protection of minorities by law enforcement agencies



Training workshop for police and the community policing members

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

KECOSCE contributes to reduction of Greenhouse gas emissions in the region

Kenya recently reviewed is Nationally Determine Contributions and has been a global leader on the campaigns to reduce green house gases, the institutionalization of carbon markets and the paradigm shift in the discourse on Loss and damage towards Net Zero Emission in COP 28. In contribution to this KECOSCE head the rallying call by HE the President of Kenya to plant 15 Billion trees by 2032. During this quarter KECOSCE has participated in tree planting ventures in 4 Coastal Counties planting 500 trees of different species.

As an Organization KECOSCE has fully embraced Solar Technology to reduce reliance on fossil fuels to power its operations . All the KECOSCE offices now operate using Green energy, and as a policy measure KECOSCE has taken key steps for the organization to improve its Carbon Hand Print towards a more Carbon Positive future.

The organization has also launched its small grants program the K-GRANTS which is supporting 12 local groups to implement programs on climate justice, poverty alleviation and peaceful societies. The Grants shall have a bi annual cycle for activities in the Coast Region



Joint Tree Planting session between the Police and the youth in Kwale

Supporting counties to implement Climate Change Action Plans for adaptation and mitigation measures

Through the Resilience Peace and stability Program KECOSCE has supported the County Government of Mombasa to conduct public validation forums for the County Climate Change Action Plan. Members of the Public and civil society got an opportunity to input in to the Critical county documents and prioritize actions to be undertaken by state and non state actors towards realization of climate resilience. KECOSCE was also a major stakeholder during the Launch of the Mombasa County Climate Change Action Plan and is part of the County committee tasked with the coordination of its implementation and reporting
This program is also supporting the Kilifi and Kwale Climate Change action plans by building

3 counties supported to operationalize the plans towards enhancing Climate resilience at the

Amplifying Voices of the Silenced

KECOSCE in Partnership with Act Change Transform and the Danish Embassy in Kenya is implementing the Resilience Peace and Stability Program has conducted a series of town hall meetings between local women leaders and top security officers to address women concerns in peace and security. This in line with the implementation of the National Action Plan on women in peace towards actualizing UNSCR 1325. The leaders have been able to raise key issues including Violence against women and girls and the killing of elders in Kilifi, enforced disappearances in Kwale and human rights violations
The police have taken action on some of the concerns raised and given feedback and facts on some of the ongoing cases on SGV

According to the KECOSCE Early Warning Early Response Mechanism. Issues of SGBV reported this period are significantly lower compared to the same period last year indicating an improvement in security that can be attributed to these interventions



PHOTO GALLERY FOR KEY EVENTS DURING THE QUARTER



Community Sensitization Forum on Budget Tracking : one of a series of Inclusive governance activities supported by by UNDP Amkeni Wakenya



Youth sensitization forum on available government funding opportunities and linkages for livelihoods ; A series of activities supported by our JISRA Program, through Mensen Met eeen Missie



Civil Society Sensitization forum for the adoption of a self Regulation Framework, Being supported by the UNDP



Women Town hall forum in Malindi on enhancing their participation in security supported by Act! and USAID

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Inaugral governors round table with civil Society in Kilifi



Launch of the Mombasa County Climate change Action Plan

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The Kenya Community Support Center (KECOSCE) was founded in 2006 and has been working in the coastal region of Kenya, it was established to address democratic governance, socio-economic and youth concerns with a focus on the coast of Kenya. The organization is registered in Kenya by the government as a Non-Governmental Organization under Section 10 of the Non-Governmental Organizations Coordination Act vide certificate number OP.218/051/2006/0324/4307 dated 6th September, 2006. KECOSCE takes re-cognizance of the fact that the majorities of citizens have not been recognized or effectively involved in public policy processes that impact on their social, economic and political lives.

To facilitate an equitable and secure society by promoting Peaceful coexist-ence, good governance and sustainable social-economic development at the national and local level

A PEACEFUL, JUST AND PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY

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A human Interest story ENHANCED INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

Persons with disability have over the years expressed their dissatisfaction in matters inclusion and service delivery due to issues such as lack of a sign language interpreter for the deaf that has often caused misdiagnosis or misinformation, lack of ramps for accessibility in most areas for public participation, untrained staff and underrepresentation in major decision making processes. Due to these constraints, the PWDs in Shella ward, Malindi Sub-county lobbied for inclusion during the construction of a PWD empowerment center at the Malindi Sub-County Hospital.

Civic education through forums we have conducted has imparted information and created awareness of rights and responsibilities by all members of the society regardless of their ability or disability in participating in the budget process. Their interaction with the project has created awareness on the Kilifi County Persons with Disability Act 2022 and Kilifi County Citizen participation and civic education Act 2020 that enabled them to understand their responsibility in public participation and their right to access better services. Through civic education, PWDs have gained knowledge and confidence to voice out their demands to both government and private institutions who are now recognizing and addressing their needs. There has been improved engagement with duty bearers who are now rallying the communities to elect project management committees to take ownership of projects implemented in Malindi and other wards. This was made possible by resilience among PWDs to ensure that restrictions placed by society for persons living with disability that deny them an opportunity to fully participate in governance are voiced and addressed by duty bearers.



A PICTURE AFTER: Public participation forum at the PWD empowerment centre in Malindi Sub-county hospital