KECOSCE Quarterly Newsletter from Jan-March 2026

During this Quarter from January- March 2026 , KECOSCE strengthened community resilience and social cohesion by empowering youth, women, and community leaders with skills in peacebuilding, human rights, and prevention of violent extremism. Enhanced collaboration with government, security actors, and civil society improved coordination, trust, and early warning reporting. These efforts increased inclusion of vulnerable groups in governance and continue to drive sustainable, community-led solutions for peaceful and inclusive communities.

Quarterly Highlights

- Strengthened Community Resilience & Social Cohesion
- Improved Conflict Prevention & Response
- Enhanced Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration on conflict prevention
- Increased conflict Early Warning & Reporting
- Greater Inclusion of women in Governance & Peace Processes













TOGETHER FOR RELIGOUS FREEDOM (TOFORB)

Kenya Community Support Centre (KECOSCE), in partnership with Search for Common Ground, Muslims for Human Rights, and Kesho Alliance, has been actively implementing the Together for Religious Freedom (ToFORB) project in Tana River County. The 18-month initiative, also being carried out in Garissa and Lamu counties, aims to advance Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) among marginalized religious communities across coastal and northeastern Kenya. Through this project, KECOSCE has continued to promote inclusion, dialogue, and protection of religious rights at the community level. The following are the results archieved during the period:

STRENGTHENED COHESION AND HARMONY IN TANA RIVER COUNTY



Before our intervention, Tana River County experienced recurring religious tensions, including intra-faith disputes and interfaith land conflicts in areas such as Malakoteni.

“Through the Tana Ulamaa peace platform that was formed by KECOSCE through the ToFORB Project which has more than 25 members, as a reult the community has made significant progress in resolving more than 2 long-standing religious conflicts and strengthening unity. Guided by Muslim scholars and a trained FoRB champion, the initiative has created space for peaceful coexistence successfully addressing both internal Muslim disagreements and an interfaith land dispute in Malakoteni in Garsen. Today, the platform is widely trusted and continues to play an important role in mediation and building lasting peace within the community,” **says Ustadh Hussein Guyo, Tana Delta**

WOMEN AND YOUTH LEADING TRANSFORMATION IN SERVICE DELIVERY FOR MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES IN TANA DELTA



"In Tawfiq and Daresalam Village in Garsen which has more than 600 households with a population of almost 5,000 people, access to essential services has improved and become more equitable following the shift toward more inclusive village leadership. Through peaceful engagement, 10 trained women champions led community dialogues. These dialogues increased women's participation in peace and security ensuring diverse voices are now included in local governance. This has set a strong example for fairness, inclusion, and shared decision-making within the community." **Says Maka Abdullah**

PROMOTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN SCHOOLS



"Twenty Muslim girls in a private school can now confidently wear the hijab as part of the official school uniform, marking a significant step in addressing discrimination and upholding their right to freedom of religion or belief. This change, achieved through the proactive engagement of a ToFoRB champion with the school management, has not only resolved a critical concern but also strengthened inclusivity, dignity, and mutual respect within the learning environment—benefiting the wider student community. "**Says Pastor Edwin Kipsang**

CALM RESTORED THROUGH FAITH BASED MEDIATION IN TANA DELTA

"In Garsen, 2 potential violence and unrest during the Soko la Mbuzi relocation were successfully prevented through inclusive public forums that brought all parties together reaching out to 50 traders. Project Champions played a key role in mediating between the Tana River County Government and traders which brought together more than 50 stakeholders, helping to ease tensions and build mutual understanding. While dialogue is ongoing, especially around revenue transparency and site readiness—the process has laid a strong foundation for a peaceful and sustainable resolution." **Says Deputy OCS Garsen Police Station**





K-RADIO A MOUTHPIECE FOR PEACE IN TANA RIVER

K-RADIO in Tana Delta-Mininjila has emerged as a powerful platform for community engagement, reaching over 30,000 listeners daily across Garsen and Tarassa Sub-Counties. Through talk shows and interviews which involved more than 30 people from diverse community members including leaders, youth, women, and security actors have come together to discuss security matters, importance of community policing, and religious tolerance.

These conversations fostered trust, strengthened collaboration with security agencies, and promoted early warning systems while encouraging peaceful coexistence and protection of vulnerable groups.

“We are not just sharing information we are building understanding and empowering communities to take responsibility for peace,” says Hadia Jilo a K-RADIO presenter.







THE KENYA COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE PROGRAMME (KCERP)

KECOSCE is implementing the KCERP in Tana River With support from Act Change Transform (Act!) and Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), we have continued implementing the Strengthening Locally Led Resilience to Violent Extremism project in Tana River County. Over the last 3 months the project achieved the following resluts:

WOMEN RISING FOR PEACE: GRASSROOTS ACTION DRIVING CHANGE IN TANA RIVER

Women in Tana River are now at the forefront of building safer, more resilient communities. Following the training conducted by KECOSCE reaeching 40 women leaders in recent months, they have stepped up to lead localized Peace and Security forums aligned with KNAP III. These forums have created inclusive spaces where women are actively engaging in participation, strengthening protection efforts, preventing harm, and supporting survivors of climate-induced conflicts and violent extremism.

Through working groups formed by KECOSCE under the KCERP initiative, in partnership with Act! and with support from GCERF, these efforts are now well-coordinated and community-driven. What has emerged is a vibrant grassroots movement of women who are not only responding to local drivers of violent extremism but also championing resilience and sustainable peace from within their communities.



WOMEN PIONEERING PEACE ON THE FRONTLINES

More than 50 Women at the grassroots level in Tana River are transforming their communities by addressing the root causes of radicalization—unmanaged emotions, deep-seated resentments, and ethical gaps. Through KECOSCE's capacity-building workshops and structured dialogues, they have reclaimed their role as custodians of socio-cultural norms, mentoring others and fostering resilience.

"Before these forums, we felt powerless to influence what was happening in our community. Now, we guide our youth, help families resolve conflicts, and build understanding across different groups. Our voices are finally being heard," **says Ridhisha Haigwo, a grassroots women's champion.**

Today, these women are not just caregivers, they are community guardians, driving sustainable peace and strengthening the social fabric for future generations and reaching out 50-100 women in their localities.





YOUTH DIALOGUE RESTORING HOPE IN TARASSA

In Tarassa, Tana River County, 15 youth are turning conflict and frustration into opportunities for peace. Trained by KECOSCE in critical thinking, conflict resolution, and civic engagement, they are leading dialogue and locally driven solutions to address farmer–herder tensions, human–wildlife conflict, and youth idleness.

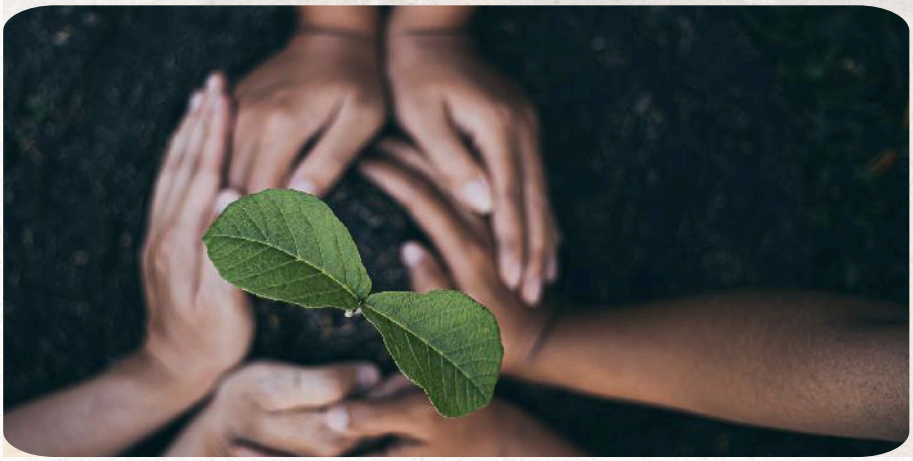
One trainee, **Mr. Dulluh Igwo, saw an unconventional opportunity: grave-digging gatherings. "I never knew that when youth are gathered together to dig graves, it could be a powerful opportunity for dialogue. The training opened my eyes to see opportunities where I never imagined," he says.**

Through structured discussions,15 youth leaders identified economic hardship as a key driver of drug abuse and extremism. Together, they embraced kitchen gardening as a livelihood alternative, fostering income, purpose, and community cohesion.

The transformation is real: youth who once harbored anger and frustration are now engaged in dialogue, contributing to their community, and working constructively with local authorities—turning vulnerability into hope.







BUILDING TRUST FOR PEACE AND BOLSTERING SECURITY IN TANA DELTA



In Tana Delta, stronger collaboration between communities and security actors is driving progress in preventing violent extremism. A joint forum of 40 participants brought together the Sub-County Security Team, county officials, and diverse community representatives including youth, women, elders, and persons with disabilities to openly discuss key concerns such as human–wildlife conflict, drug abuse, theft, and emerging juvenile groups.

The dialogue also highlighted local peace efforts, including WPS initiatives and #Jasiri villages led by youth.

“This is the first time we have openly shared our challenges with security teams and felt heard. It gives us hope for real change,” shared a community leader.

The forum strengthened trust, secured commitments from authorities to act, and led to the development of a joint action plan marking a key step toward inclusive and sustainable peace.



WHERE WATER FLOWS, EQUALITY GROWS

On 22nd March 2026, KECOSCE marked World Water Day under the theme “Water and Gender: Where Water Flows, Equality Grows,” highlighting the link between water access and gender equality.

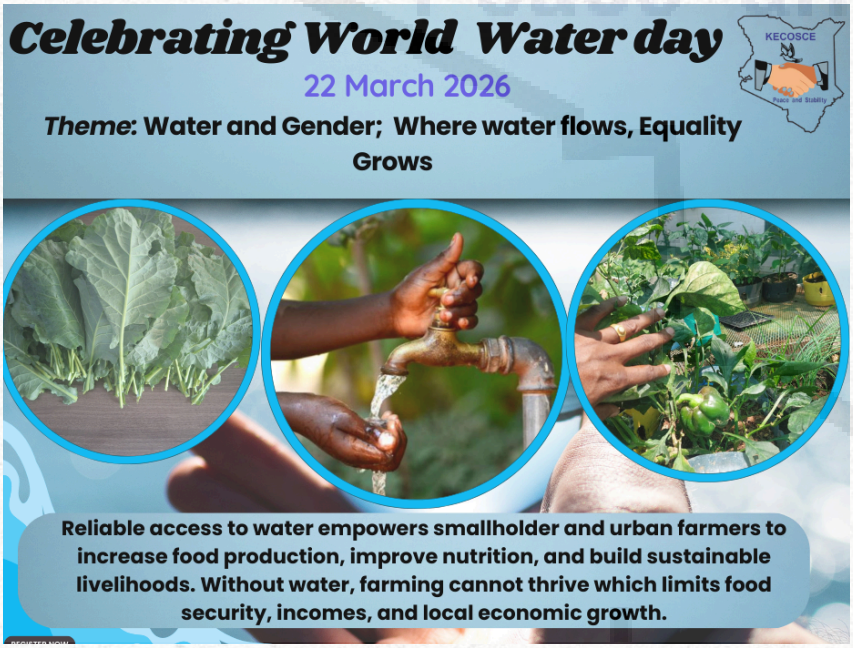
KECOSCE led a public awareness campaign through posters and a Public Service Announcement (PSA), educating communities on water, sanitation, hygiene, and gender inclusion reaching to more than 10,000 people. The campaign emphasized the impact of water scarcity on women and girls while calling on the government to uphold access to water as a constitutional right.

Aligned with its ongoing WASH initiatives, KECOSCE continues to champion inclusive and equitable access to essential services.

Call to Action: We urge the government and stakeholders to invest in accessible, safe, and affordable water for all because where water flows, equality grows.







EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR PEACE AND INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP

KECOSCE marked International Women's Day 2026 through a dynamic webinar and also attended the commemoration events in the event to celebrate with women under the theme "Give to Gain," bringing together government, civil society, and community actors to advance women's leadership in peace and security. The discussions highlighted the critical role women play as first responders, mediators, and drivers of community resilience, particularly at the grassroots level.

The webinar reached out to 50 people emphasized the localization of Kenya's National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (KNAP III), calling for stronger collaboration, increased investment in women's participation, and the creation of safe, inclusive spaces for engagement. Stakeholders also underscored ongoing efforts in mentorship, community sensitization, and strengthening gender-responsive systems to address challenges such as cultural barriers and rising cases of gender-based violence.

The event served as both a reflection and a call to action urging institutions and communities to move beyond recognition and actively support women's leadership for sustainable peace and development.

Quote: "When women are given spaces to lead, especially young women communities become stable and flourish."









STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY–SECURITY COLLABORATION TO PREVENT VIOLENT EXTREMISM





KECOSCE participated in a Community–Security Sector Dialogue on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE), convened by the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) with support from the European Union under the NSPCVE 2025–2030 framework.

The dialogue provided a platform to strengthen community resilience, build trust between communities and security agencies, and promote early warning and response mechanisms. It brought together community leaders, youth, civil society, and government actors to jointly address security challenges.

KECOSCE's participation reinforced its role in bridging communities and security institutions, while advancing coordinated, community-led approaches to preventing violent extremism.

REDUCING PUBLIC BENEFIT ORGANIZATIONS (PBO) VULNERABILITY TO ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS AND TERRORIST FINANCING



KECOSCE participated in the 4th session of the NPO Working Group to address emerging concerns around illicit financial flows, money laundering, and terrorist financing.

Participants reflected on progress within the sector, noting recent legal reforms that have removed Non-Profit Organizations from the list of reporting entities, while emphasizing the continued need for strengthened self-regulation. The enactment of the Public Benefit Organizations Act was recognized as a key step toward enhancing accountability.

The session also provided a platform to review draft guidelines on preventing terrorist financing and money laundering, and to explore rights-based oversight and monitoring frameworks. KECOSCE's participation underscores its commitment to promoting transparency, accountability, and compliance within the civil society sector.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT (NSC)



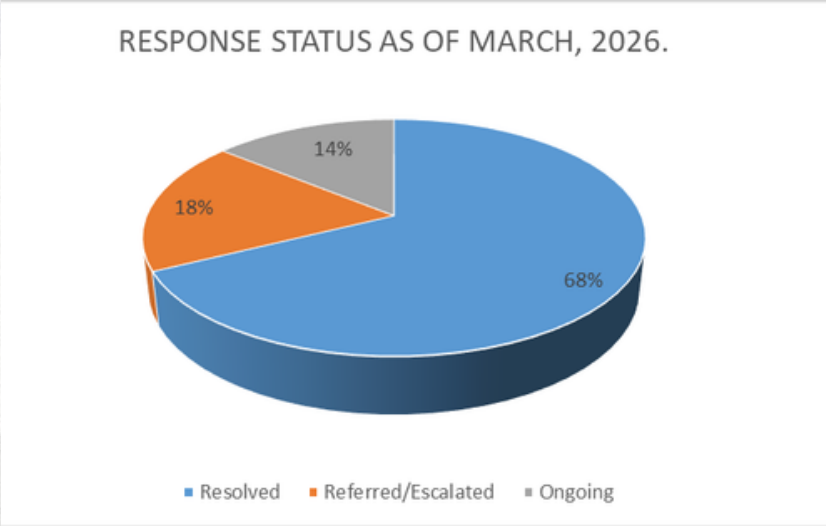


During the quarter KECOSCE conducted a courtesy visit to the National Steering Committee (NSC) to strengthen coordination, benchmark practices, and create structured synergy in conflict detection, information triangulation, and timely response, as Kenya enters a sensitive pre-election period 18 months before the polls.

Discussions focused on formalizing multi-source data triangulation combining NSC monitors, peace committees, and KECOSCE's community-based analytics to enable proactive monitoring, particularly during festive seasons and election periods, while countering political hype and divisive narratives. Emerging risks such as resource-based conflicts and technology-facilitated tensions were also examined.

Special emphasis was placed on youth, who make up 75–80% of Kenya's population, recognizing their potential to serve as peace ambassadors through digital influence and blogging. The meeting also explored sustainable peace financing, including the proposed Peace Fund, as outlined in Kenya's Peacebuilding Architecture, to ensure long-term, community-driven stability.

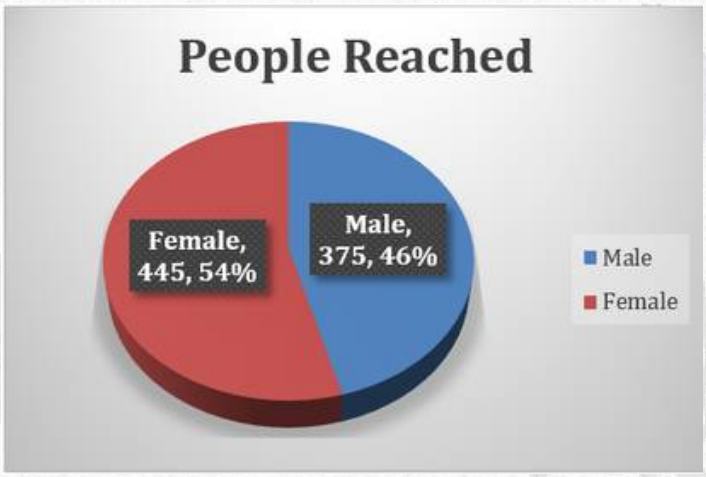
IMPROVED CONFLICT EARLY WARNING REPORTING BY COMMUNITY TO KECOSCE EWER SYSTEM

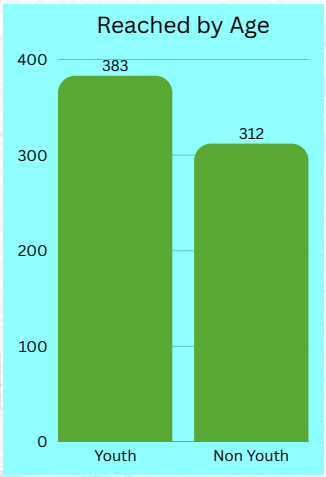


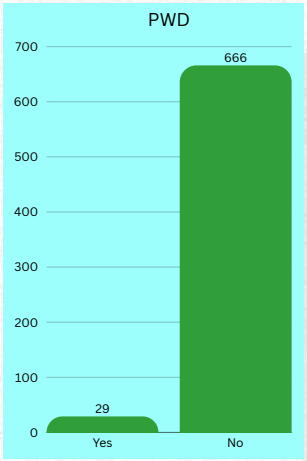
KECOSCE continues to leverage its robust Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) system to strengthen collaboration between communities and state actors in addressing emerging security and safety concerns across Tana River, Kwale, Taita Taveta, Lamu Kilifi, and Mombasa counties. During the quarter (January - March, 2026), a total of 71 reports were received in KEWER system, the conflicts were analysed and categorized into 32 crime and violence reports, 3 protests (over service delivery and security related concerns), 7 Sexual and Gender Based violence, 7 reports on radicalization and polarization concerns and 21 climate induced and resource-based conflicts (human wildlife, land, farmer-herder disputes). In addition, 12 fatalities were reported. These included deaths from wildlife encounters and crime-related attacks.

So far 68% of the incidents reported have been successfully responded to, contributing to a relatively calm and stable situation on the ground. Notably, sustained community engagement forums facilitated constructive dialogue between residents and agencies such as the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the National Police Service (NPS), with human-wildlife conflict emerging as a key concern, particularly in Tana River County. Following community grievances raised, KWS has since operationalized targeted interventions, including the deployment of rapid response teams to manage stray wildlife, ongoing community sensitization on safety and coexistence measures, and strengthened coordination through structured reporting mechanisms like EWER. These efforts, alongside commitments to address compensation claims for affected households, demonstrate the value of responsive, community-informed approaches in mitigating risks, addressing grievances, and preventing the escalation of tensions that could contribute to radicalization.

QUARTERLY MILESTONE AT A GLANCE:







820 (375M, 445F, 383 Youth, 29PWD) Beneficiary directly reached through training and sensitization workshops, community awareness forms, engagement forums with law enforcements officers, coalition dialogues and review meetings.

LEARNING AND FORWARD OUTLOOK

This quarter, KECOSCE strengthened community resilience and social cohesion through targeted engagements, capacity building, and partnerships. Empowering youth, women, and community leaders with skills in peacebuilding, human rights, and prevention of violent extremism has enhanced communities' ability to identify risks, respond to conflicts, and promote dialogue.

Collaboration with government, security actors, and civil society improved coordination, trust, and early warning systems, while increasing the participation of vulnerable groups in peace processes.

Going forward, KECOSCE will focus on scaling community-led initiatives, strengthening partnerships, and enhancing early warning mechanisms to sustain peace and build inclusive, resilient communities.

TALK TO US

Talk To Us On:

@kecosce

Kenya Community Support Centre (KECOSCE)

@kecosce

info@kecosce.org
kecosce@kecosce.org

Kecosce Mombasa

FIELD OFFICES

Malindi Town-Kilifi County
P. O. BOX 42944-80100
E-mail: malindioffice@gmail.com
www.kecosce.org

Minjila/Garsen-Tana River County
P. O. BOX 42944-80100
E-mail: tanaoffice@gmail.com
www.kecosce.org

MAIN OFFICE

P. O. BOX 42944-80100
Pembeni Road/Nyali, Mombasa
Mob: +254716777230/ +254022435408
www.kecosce.org

Where we work:

- Mombasa
- Kilifi
- Tana River
- Kwale
- Lamu
- Taita Taveta