KECOSCE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER (APRIL - JUNE 2026)

Highlights of the Quarter (April-June 2026)

Between April and June 2026, KECOSCE strengthened peacebuilding, community resilience, human rights, and Women, Peace and Security (WPS) initiatives In four counties of the Coast region.

Key achievements include advancing Policy reforms on Freedom of Religion and Belief in Tana River, operationalizing the Jasiri Village Resilience Model, deepening women engagement in peace and security through training and deployment of 60 additional women peace champions in Tana Delta, and empowering youth-led peacebuilding initiatives in Tarasaa.

KECOSCE launched the **IMARISHA Project** that is strengthening women's leadership in peace and security governance, expanded strategic partnerships with academic institutions, and enhanced community-led conflict prevention through the Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) system, contributing to more resilient, inclusive, and peaceful communities.



Strengthening Freedom of Religion in Learning Institutions :

In Tana River, education stakeholders convened under the Together for Religious Freedoms (ToFORB) Project, supported by Search for Common Ground, to develop policy recommendations aimed at enhancing Freedom of Religion and Belief within Learning Institutions.

Key deliberations focused on practical and inclusive strategies, including harmonizing the dress code in schools with religious attire such as the hijab, and ensuring schools are equipped with appropriate spaces and facilities for religious practices like prayer. Stakeholders also emphasized the urgent need to eliminate stereotypes and prejudice in learning environments, while strengthening the recruitment of teachers for Religious Education.

The forum further underscored the importance of equitable bursary allocation to ensure all learners have fair access to education opportunities. Guidance on proper complaint handling procedures was also provided by the Commission of Administrative Justice.

The meeting concluded with the development and issuance of a joint communiqué outlining agreed resolutions, which was shared with duty bearers and the media to drive accountability and implementation.



DRIVING POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN TANA RIVER COUNTY



During the reporting period, KECOSCE lobbied county-level stakeholders and Independent Commissions including the County Security and Intelligence Committee, County Executive Committee Members, civil society actors, religious leaders, and members of the Fourth Estate to support for policy, institutional, and administrative reforms aimed at advancing Freedom of Religion and Belief and the broader enjoyment of human rights in Tana River County. 3 policy briefs were developed and presented to policy makers. Administrative actions have since been taken at the county level. The briefs have alsoe been shared with policy makers at the National Level



Deliberations examined the intersection of human-wildlife conflict and drivers of violent extremism, highlighting how resource-based tensions affect communities. Stakeholders noted that these conflicts are further intensified by their intersection with political and religious identities, deepening grievances. Key concerns raised included delayed and inequitable compensation for affected persons, instances of duty bearer overreach, and administrative malpractice.



The engagement culminated in the development of targeted policy recommendations and priority institutional reforms. Stakeholders committed to fast-tracking these actions to enhance justice, strengthen accountability, and safeguard human rights across Tana River County and the Boni enclave.

KENYA COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE PROGRAMME (KCERP)

Youth leading communities to reject violent extremism and crime in Tarasaa, Tana River





In Tarassa, once marked by youth inaction and vulnerability, a powerful shift is underway. Years of exclusion, poverty, unemployment, and human-wildlife conflict had left many young people exposed to crime and radicalization, deepening mistrust between communities and security actors.

KECOSCE with support by GCERF through Act!, trained youth who gained skills in critical thinking, conflict resolution, and advocacy sparking a new wave of grassroots leadership.

One such youth, Samuel Amuma (28) from Ngao, turned knowledge into action by mobilizing peers and revitalizing the Tarasaa Youth Chapter in peace and security. Under his leadership, the group has held over six community forums, reaching more than 200 people with messages on peacebuilding, early warning, civic participation, and countering misinformation.

These efforts are already delivering results. Collaboration between youth, communities, and security agencies has improved, trust is growing, and young people are increasingly reporting threats and preventing violence.

As Samuel puts it: "I feel more empowered now because I can see my community taking steps towards peace and security. I am now more confident and i am working closely with my local Officer Commanding Police Station"

KENYA COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE PROGRAMME (KCERP)

Fostering collective action to secure communities: Rights based approach to compensate surivors of violent conflict in Tana River





A multi-stakeholder forum is turning dialogue into tangible results. Communities now receive direct feedback on reported incidents, strengthening trust and accountability between citizens and state actors.

Key outcomes are already visible: six community wildlife scouts have been recruited to track elephants and prevent conflict that emanate from interactions between people and wildlife in Tarasaa, while KES 62 million has been allocated for compensation to affected families. Collaboration has also deepened—youth are working with police to curb crime, and community leaders have successfully relocated alcohol outlets to designated areas away from schools and worship spaces. This initiative has prevented conflicts between revellers and communities



Conflict resolution skills are taking root, with disputes now settled peacefully through dialogue instead of escalation. At the same time, youth and women are stepping into leadership positions within local peace and security structures , with several preparing to vie for elective positions in the forthcoming elections over 10 youth have now been included in the peace and security structures in Tarasaa.

Together, these shifts signal a growing culture of accountability, cooperation, and community-led solutions to insecurity and vulnerability.

KENYA COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE PROGRAMME (KCERP)

Jasiri Village a model PCVE Resilience infrastructure for institutionalizing community led reponse to Violent extremism





The KCERP Project successfully operationalized the ***Jasiri Village*** Resilience Model in Shirikisho, Ngao Location, Tana Delta, bringing together women and youth groups, religious leaders, traditional leaders, and local administration to strengthen community-led peacebuilding and resilience efforts.



A key achievement was the development and adoption of joint work plans that now guide coordinated action among stakeholders, enhancing collaboration, and supporting the prevention of violent extremism. While the model puts women and youth at the center of prevention efforts, Its accellerates response actions by law enforcement through Early Warning from community leaders. The initiative has strengthened government-community partnerships through coordination by the Deputy County Commissioner .

KENYA COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE PROGRAMME (KCERP)

✦Strengthening Grassroots Women's Leadership and Agency for Peace and Security in Tana Delta✦

Through the KCERP Project, 60 additional women from Shirikisho Location in Tana Delta were equipped with knowledge and skills on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), further strengthening the existing localized WPS working groups. The WPS owrking groups are now a movement of 100 women leaders. This expanded the pool of women peace champions capable of influencing community decision-making, promoting social cohesion, and supporting efforts to prevent radicalization and violent extremism.



The newly sensitized women bring diverse experiences, networks, and resources that will enhance grassroots advocacy and community-led peacebuilding initiatives. Their integration into the WPS structures is strengthening early warning and response mechanisms, improving community engagement on peace and security issues, and has increased women's participation in local governance and peace processes.



A key achievement of the engagement was the co-development of a localized action plan outlining priority interventions and collaborative actions to address community vulnerabilities and emerging security threats. The plan provides a practical roadmap for sustained community action and reinforces the role of women as critical agents of peace, resilience, and development in Tana Delta.



Peacebuilding has come of age: PEACEBUILDING @20 IN JUNE 2026

Women at the Heart of Peacebuilding and Community Resilience

During Peacebuilding Week 2026, KECOSCE amplified the message that sustainable peace can only be achieved through the meaningful participation of women. Through the #MwanamkeNiAmani campaign, women were recognized as key agents of peace, bringing unique perspectives, leadership, and solutions to community security challenges.

The campaign Increased the awareness of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, enhanced recognition of women's leadership in peacebuilding, and inspired greater community support for women's participation in decision-making and peace processes. It also highlighted the importance of women's economic empowerment, including technical skills development, as a pathway to building resilient and peaceful communities.

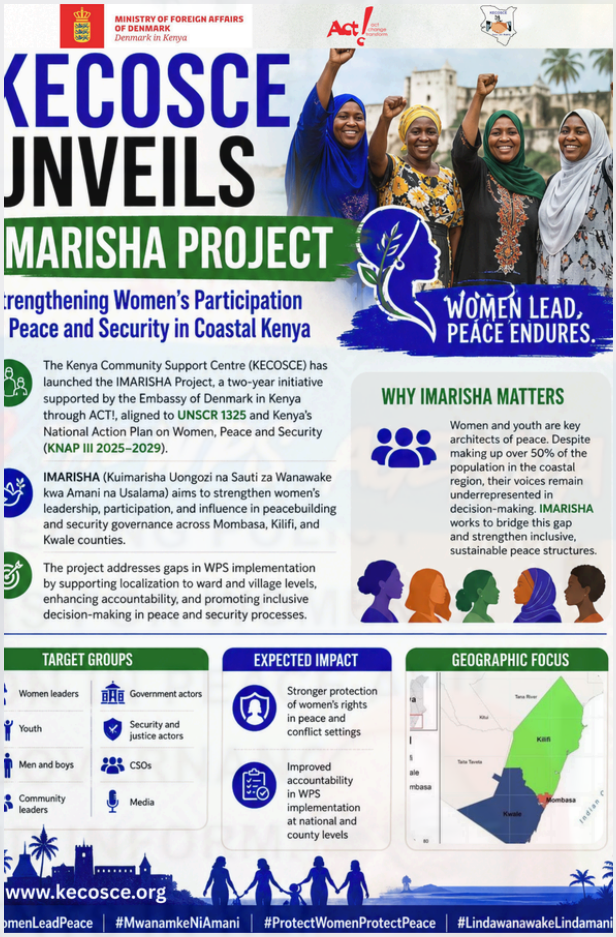






NEW PEACE HORIZONS KECOSCE -UNVEILS IMARISHA PROJECT

KECOSCE Unveils IMARISHA PROJECT: Strengthening Women's Leadershipand Voices in Peace and Security in Coastal Kenya Mombasa, Kenya – 16th June, 2026 The Kenya Community Support Centre (KECOSCE) has launched IMARISHA, a bold three-year Women, Peace and Security (WPS) initiative **funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark in Kenya through Act, Change, Transform (ACT!).** The project is designed to localize UN Security Council Resolution 1325 across the coastal counties of Mombasa, Kilifi, and Kwale. The project leverages on the commitments by the Ministry of Interior and National Administration and the State Department of Gender and Affirmative Action on providing leadership and building national consensus for WPS implementation in Kenya. KECOSCE invites stakeholders, donors, and partners to support IMARISHA and advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda in coastal Kenya. Together, we can build safer, more inclusive communities where women's leadership is central to peace and resilience.













KECOSCE- IMARISHA PROJECT

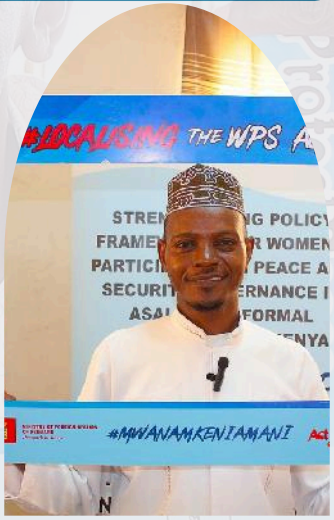
Chiefs Unite to Advance Women, Peace and Security at the Grassroots

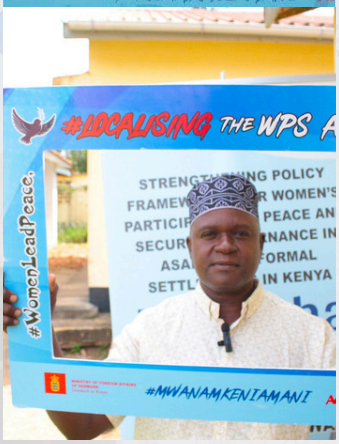
Recognizing Chiefs and local administrators as trusted community leaders and influential gatekeepers for social change, KECOSCE, through the IMARISHA Project in partnership with Act! and with support from the Embassy of Denmark in Kenya, successfully conducted sensitization workshops in Kilifi, Mombasa, and Kwale counties. The forums brought together Chiefs, Assistant County Commissioners (ACCs), Deputy County Commissioners (DCCs), and County Gender Department representatives to strengthen local ownership and implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. Chiefs will now identify and mentor Male allies in the women Peace and security agenda

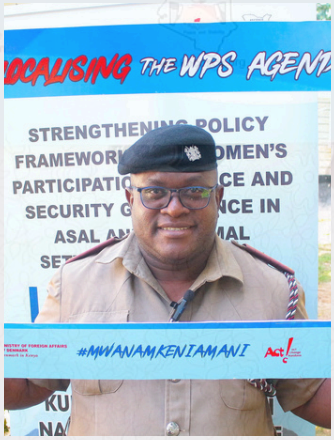


As a result, local administrators and county stakeholders strengthened their commitment to champion gender-responsive governance while implementing the Kenya National Action Plan 3 on UNSCR 1325, Chief are now supporting women's meaningful participation in peace and security initiatives, and foster collaborative, community-led approaches that advance gender equality while upholding the principle of "Do No Harm." The engagement also laid the foundation for stronger coordination among local actors in driving sustainable peace, security, and inclusive development across the three counties.









KECOSCE- IMARISHA PROJECT

Harnessing local leadership to support Women, Peace and Security agenda

Through the IMARISHA Project sensitization in Kilifi North Sub-County, the Kilifi County Department of Gender, Culture and Social Services reaffirmed its commitment to advancing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda by strengthening collaboration with Chiefs, Ward Administrators, and other community stakeholders.



The engagement enhanced the capacity and commitment of local leaders to champion gender equality, promote male allyship, strengthen referral pathways for survivors of violence, and support the rollout of Kenya National Action Plan (KNAP III) at the grassroots level. As trusted community gatekeepers, Chiefs and Ward Administrators are now better positioned to challenge harmful social norms, respond to emerging security threats, and foster inclusive, peaceful, and resilient communities where women and girls actively participate in peace, security, and development processes.





STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIP

KECOSCE and Technical University of Mombasa Forge Strategic Partnership for Research, Learning, and knowledge management

KECOSCE officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Technical University of Mombasa, marking a significant milestone in strengthening collaboration between academia and civil society. The partnership will be implemented in close collaboration with the Department of Social Sciences, home to the Centre for Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding.

The partnership provides a framework for joint initiatives in research and knowledge generation, community engagement and outreach, as well as attachment and internship opportunities that will equip students with practical skills and real-world experience.



The MoU establishes a sustainable platform for collaboration that will enhance research, strengthen community-based interventions, and create opportunities for students and young professionals to apply their knowledge in addressing social, peacebuilding, and development challenges. The partnership is expected to contribute to evidence-based programming, capacity building, and the development of innovative solutions that promote sustainable and inclusive community development along the Coast region and beyond.





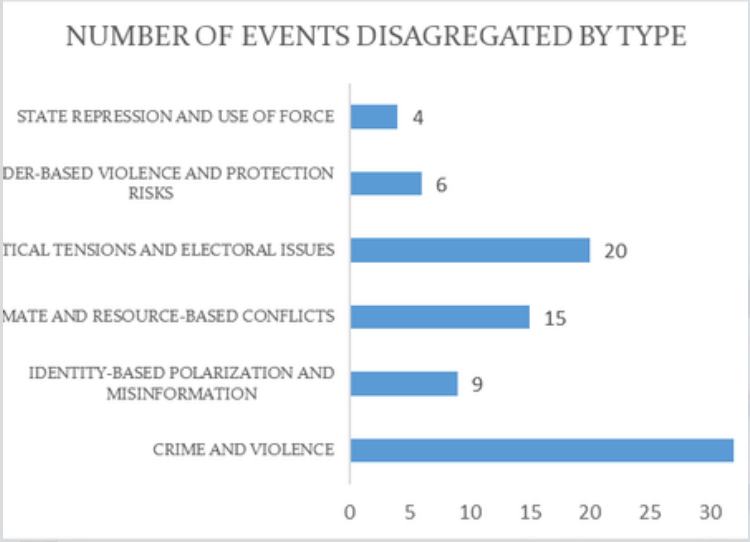
Partnership Dialogue Leads to a Commitment to Joint Research and Co-Creation Initiatives.

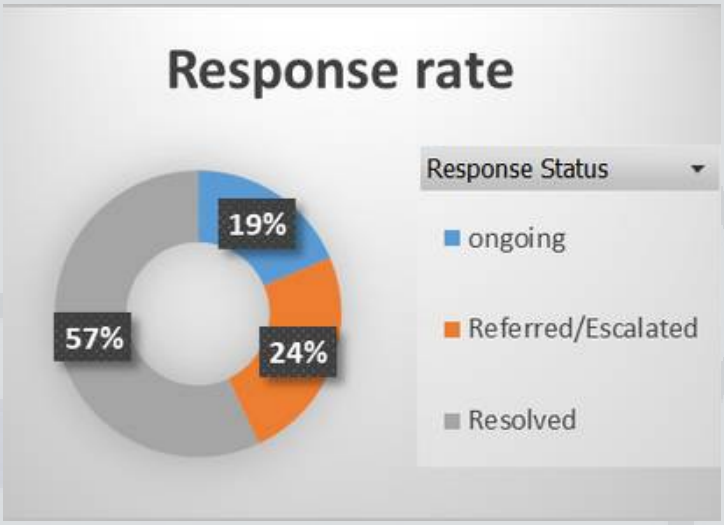
During #PeacebuildingWeek, KECOSCE strengthened its partnership with Politecnico di Torino through a structured dialogue focused on advancing research and co-creation initiatives that promote the rights of marginalized and refugee communities in the East African region. The engagement resulted in a shared commitment and mutual understanding to deepen collaboration on research, innovation, and learning objectives, laying the foundation for future joint initiatives and knowledge-sharing efforts.





STAYING AHEAD OF RISKS: Turning Early Warnings into Action: How Communities Are Preventing Violence Along the Coast



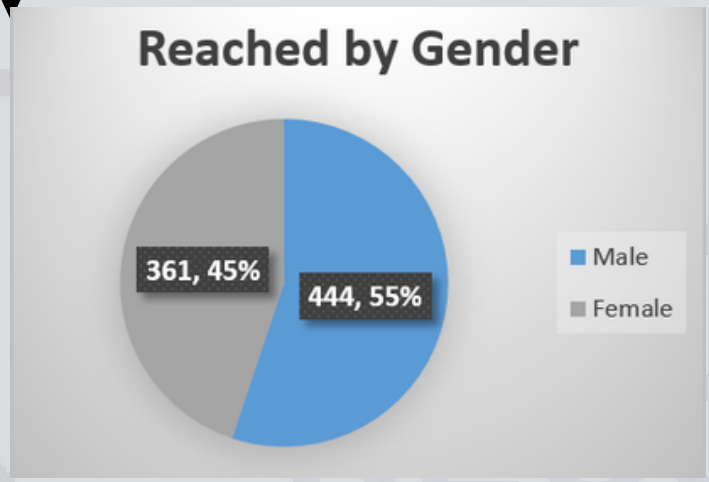


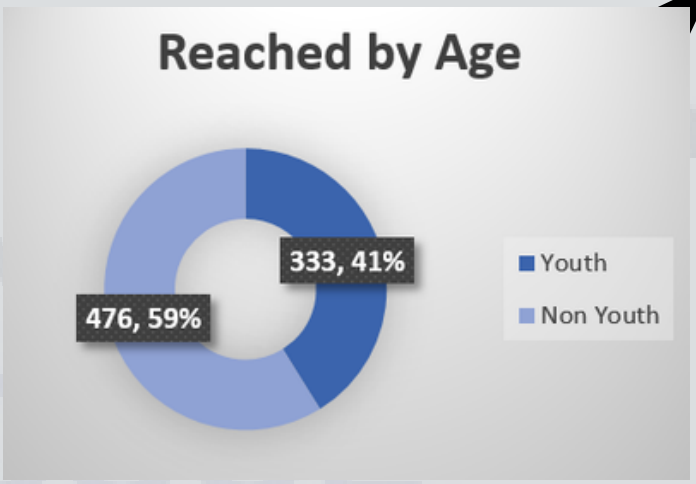
Between April and June 2026, the KECOSCE Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) mechanism recorded 86 conflict alerts and incidents across the coastal region, providing timely insights into emerging security and social cohesion risks. Crime and physical violence remained the dominant concern, accounting for 32 incidents, followed by 20 political and electoral-related tensions, reflecting heightened political activity and localized grievances. The system also documented 15 climate and resource-based disputes, 9 cases of identity-based polarization and misinformation, 6 gender-based violence (GBV) and protection concerns, and 4 incidents involving alleged police misconduct and use of force.

Despite the complex conflict landscape, the EWER mechanism continued to demonstrate its effectiveness in translating early warnings into coordinated responses. Community-generated alerts informed security operations that disrupted criminal activity, strengthened responses to militia threats, improved preparedness for climate-related risks, and enhanced accountability through law enforcement and judicial action. Community-led interventions—including dialogue forums, peace messaging by interfaith leaders, child protection referrals, and youth resilience initiatives—helped address underlying conflict drivers before they escalated.

The quarter's findings underscore the growing value of community-based early warning systems in strengthening collaboration between citizens, government institutions, and civil society. By enabling timely, evidence-based responses, the EWER mechanism continues to reduce violence, build public trust, and strengthen community resilience across Kenya's coastal counties.

QUARTERLY MILESTONE AT A GLANCE:





During this quarter, KECOSCE directly engaged 805 community members, maintaining an inclusive gender balance with (444) 55% men and (361) 45% women 45 (5%) PWD, while reaching beneficiaries across age groups, including (333) 41% youth and (476) 59% adults.

Idirectly our social media and digital platforms KECOSCE reached and estimate of 10,000 people throught social media posts, dissemination of Public service Announcements (PSA's) via KECOSCE-Radio.

These engagements reflect KECOSCE's commitment to fostering intergenerational participation and ensuring that diverse community voices contribute to sustainable development outcomes.
Through the KECOSCE Radio about 15,000 people were reached by media programs on peace and security including radio talk shows and public service announcements

LEARNING AND FORWARD OUTLOOK

LEARNING AND FORWARD OUTLOOK

The quarter demonstrated that community-led action, inclusive dialogue, and strong partnerships are critical to advancing peace, resilience, and human rights. Building on these lessons, KECOSCE will continue strengthening grassroots peace structures, expanding Women, Peace and Security initiatives, promoting policy reforms, and enhancing early warning and response systems to foster safer and more inclusive communities.

OUR PARTNERS

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK
Denmark in Kenya

GCERF
Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund

Search for Common Ground

Act! act change transform

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- Kwale
- Lamu
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