

# Kilifi Civil Society Organizations' Network

## Kilifi Civil Society's Week 2018

CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

AT PWANI UNIVERSITY – SEPTEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> – 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2018



Record of Proceeding, Discussions and Outcomes

Our Mandate, Our Struggles, Our Future

## **List of Abbreviations**

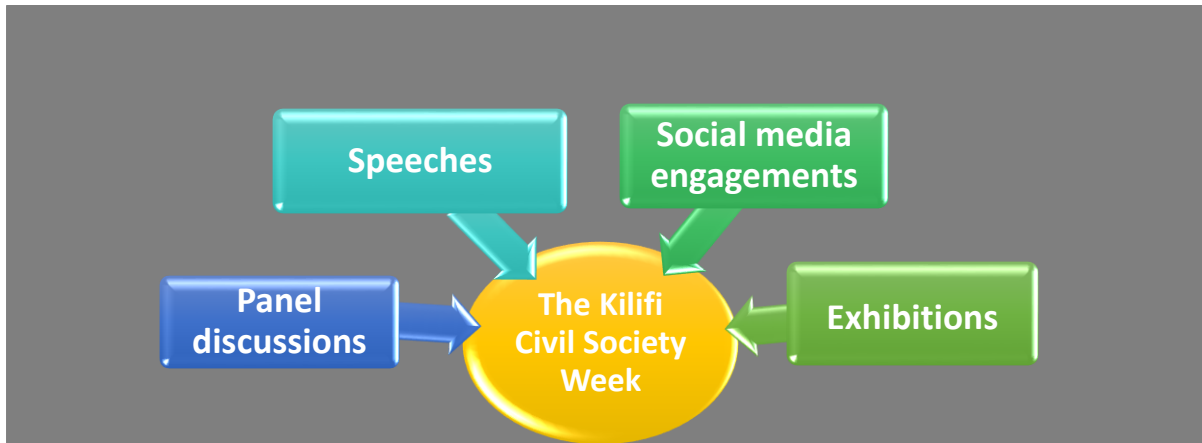
CBOs	-	Community Based Organisations
CEC	-	County Executive Committee Member
CSOs	-	Civil Society Organisations
CSRG	-	Civil Society Reference Group
FBOs	-	Faith-Based Organisations
HRDs	-	Human Rights Defenders
INGOs	-	International Non-Governmental Organisations
KCSW	-	Civil Society Week
NGOs	-	Non-governmental Organisations
PBO	-	Public Benefit Organisations
PWDs	-	People with Disabilities

## Introduction and Background

The civil society week was key gathering for civil society and other stakeholders to engage constructively in finding solutions to the local challenges. The Kilifi Civil Society Organizations' Network in partnership with Poverty Eradication Network (PEN) held an inaugural Civil Society Week event at the Pwani University from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September which provided an ideal platform for stakeholders' dialogue. The main objective of the civil society week was to provide a platform for civil society, government, corporates and other actors to discuss co-operation in their quest to promote the rights of the people in Kilifi County.

The 3 days' gathering highlighted some of their most relevant experiences, key discussions and calls to action by civil society leaders. It included activities that would profile and share the work, activities and achievements of local civil society organizations. The activities included;

1. An exhibition for stakeholders to showcase their work; and
2. A 2 days conference characterized by thematic panel discussions, presentations and speeches by various personalities as well as social media engagements.



The Civil Society Week was held under the theme; “*Our Mandate, Our Struggles, Our Future.*” The 3-elements theme represents the classification of the civil society content. Below is a breakdown of the theme.

1. **Our mandate:** Civil society organizations exist to address specific issues affecting their target constituencies through oversight, advocacy, and sometimes; direct interventions. Events under this element profiled and shared the work of individual CSOs and the network, their experiences and achievements in responding to the needs of communities in Kilifi.
2. **Our struggles:** Civil society in Kenya has not been spared by the global democracy crisis and the clampdown on people's rights by state organs that has greatly affected the progress of their social justice struggles. Civil society capacity to carry out their mandate has also been a source of debate recently. Events in this element explored trends in civic space and political participation of the people as well as how to enhance the capacity of CSOs actors to carry out their work.
3. **Our future:** The civil society deliberated on how it intends to rejuvenate and re-invent itself to reclaim and maintain the civic space while addressing its emerging challenges. This element explored strategies for pushing back the shrinking spaces, forging strategic networks and ensuring meaningful engagements.

The gathering attracted 62 participants from across Kilifi County representing the Civil Society Organizations working in Kilifi County and, the County Government. The event was also graced by the County Executive Member in charge of youth, sports, gender and social services who expressed appreciation to the support her department has been receiving from the civil society and the county government's commitment to partner and work with the civil society to improve the well-being of the residents of Kilifi County.

The CSOs week ushered in:

1. Increased co-operation between the civil society, the county government, the national government and other actors and stakeholders;
2. Co-operative and coherent approaches to avoid overlaps in activities amongst civil society actors;
3. More streamlined actions in implementing established policies, programmes and measures to enhance the well-being of the people of Kilifi;
4. Enhanced information-sharing among stakeholders in Kilifi County;

## 1.0 Preliminary Activities

### *Step 1: Welcome and Introductions*

The convener and chairperson of the preparation committee welcomed the participants and introduced the different groups who were invited to participate in the Kilifi CSOs week. They included; Local CSOs organizations, CSOs from other counties who carry out their work in Kilifi County, Government officials, co-conveners and partners who supported the event. Each of the participants had opportunity to share with others the following information;

1. *Name of the participant*
2. *Organization/Agency and Position*
3. *What they do*
4. *Expectations for the event*

### *Step 2: Initial description of the event*

This session was used to prepare the participants for what would occur in CSOs week. (*See Annex one: CSOs week schedule*)

The facilitator outlined the schedule of actions and learning objectives for the CSOs week and encouraged the participants to actively participate. Unfortunately, the procession which was expected to take place had to be cancelled due to the ongoing ASAL conference which was hosted by Kilifi County Government attended by the president.

### *Step 3: Opening remarks*

*By Adhiambo Odhiambo; Ujamaa Center, Ludivicus Omollo & Judith Gondi; PEN-Kenya*

### About the Kilifi Civil Society Network

The Kilifi Civil Society Network was re-launched in 2017 by local civil society institutions with support from Ford Foundation through PEN. The network aims at increasing the level of engagement and dialogue as well as cooperation among CSOs in the wider Kilifi County, strengthening the CSOs capacity to influence local and national policies and to increase the number and quality of partnerships and engagement. Currently the Network has a membership of 54 organizations including NGOs, CBOs and community groups working on different thematic areas in the County.

The Network is convened by 4 organizations namely, Ujamaa Center, Kilifi Civil Society Forum, The Institute of Human Rights (TIHURI) and Malindi Rights Forum (MRF). Since 2017, the Network has received substantial support from PEN/Ford Foundation and important partners. As a result, the Network gained more visibility and sustainability. The Network has also developed a partnership with CSOs Reference Group (CSRG) which aims to bring local discussions of the Network in the broader national context of development.

## About PEN – Kenya

PEN is a non-governmental organization that seeks to achieve a society where all people have access to a life of dignity, devoid of absolute poverty by promoting the creation of wealth and prosperity through value driven programmes that enhance capacity and sector coordination, sustainability and citizen's voices at all levels.”

This they achieve through,

1. Building a robust civil society sector (CSO) sector influencing development agenda in Kenya
2. Strengthening democracy and governance with increased response of governments to rights and needs of citizens
3. Enhancing resilience of citizens to environmental and economic shocks particularly those that are related to climate change.

PEN believes that a strong civil society is fundamental to the development of any country and its ability to have sustainable impact upon poverty. However, the Civil Society has not always played its role satisfactorily due to a myriad of challenges ranging from weak operational framework; weak capacity to demonstrate their effectiveness; capability question; inappropriate regulatory framework; and lack of common voice in the sector has undermined the role of the sector. As such, PEN focuses its work on strengthening the capacity of CSOs to address these challenges.

PEN also implements projects at local, national and regional levels that have positive impact on reduction, alleviation and eradication of poverty while stressing on holistic, people-centered, community-driven and rights-based approaches to development; emphasizing on self-reliance, lasting results and the optimum use of local resources for maximum impact.

Since sustainable CSOs do not and cannot exist in a vacuum and all organizations operate within a political, social and economic context and are subject to regulatory and institutional constraints, PEN holds that without addressing the issues related to the overall civil society environment, interventions at the organizational level alone do not produce optimal results to achieve sustainable development and hence their commitment to work towards creating an enabling environment robust enough for the organizations to operate in.

Through their Effectiveness of Civil Society Organizations programme, PEN has been supporting County-based CSOs Networks to develop their structural and technical competency to respond to the needs of their target populations.

## The Kilifi Civil Society Week 2018 (KCSW)

The Kilifi Civil Society Week is a key gathering for civil society and other stakeholders to engage constructively in finding common solutions to local challenges. For the first time in more than 20 years of convening, local civil society organizations organized a flagship event that is expected to be a key feature in the activities of the Kilifi Civil Society Network.

Holding KCSW 2018 in the Kilifi provides an ideal forum for civil society to meet and discuss their mandate, their challenges and the future they want. Activities will involve exhibitions by

different institutions (open to the public) from 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and a conference (by invites) from 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Both activities offer platforms for engagement, sharing and networking and consequently building a more effective and cohesive civil society. Other activities include social media engagements, photography and entertainment by local youth/theater groups.

## **2.0 Exhibitions**

Exhibitions was a key element of the CSOs week since it provided a platform for celebrating the achievements of Kilifi civil society organizations and civic activists, and social entrepreneurs. The exhibition also promoted peer learning and engagement amongst members of different organizations. It was also an opportunity for host and adjacent communities to:

1. Meet civic activists from around the county
2. Learn about campaigns for social change by different organizations
3. Experience social innovation by social entrepreneurs

## 1.0 Preliminary Activities

### 1.1 Salutations and opening remarks

*By Erick Mgoja; the Institute of Human Rights*

#### Step 1: Singing of the National Anthem

The Kenya National Anthem is not only a patriotic song but also a prayer in itself. The words of the national anthem are an appeal to God to unify the country and bless it. As such, the conference participants sang the national anthem as an opening prayer thereby sending their petition to God to guide the participants and bless the gathering to enable it meet all its objectives.

#### Step 2: Sharing of expectations

Every participant had the opportunity to share his/her own expectations for the conference. The participants' expectations were summarized in the banner below.

#### Participants Expectations

1. *To understand the mandate, challenges, and future of the Kilifi Civil Society Network.*
2. *To identify PEN participation towards strengthening the civil society network in Kilifi.*
3. *To strengthen the solidarity of Kilifi Civil Society Organizations to address issues of the county.*
4. *To network with other organisations and build contacts*
5. *To deliberate on the future of the civil society in the county*

#### Step 3: Introduction to the inaugural Annual Kilifi CSOs conference 2018

*By Adhiambo Odhiambo; Ujamaa Center*

The CSO conference is an exclusive engagement forum that brings together CSOs, government and other stakeholders for three days of deliberate conversations, executive development, and unparalleled networking. The conference provides a unique opportunity to have strategic-level discussions, explore the key drivers of change in the County and their impact on stakeholders work, and make invaluable connections.



## 2.0 Panel Discussion 1: Mandate and the struggles of the civil society

- Panelists:**
1. Harold Mwatua – Kilifi Citizens’ Forum
  2. Ludvicus Omollo – PEN Kenya
  3. Peter Mangi – Kilifi County Government

### 2.1 Presentations

#### **Mandate and Structure of Kilifi Civil Society Network**

*Harold Mwatua; Kilifi Citizens’ Forum*

The Kilifi Civil Society Organizations Networks was established to pursue aspirations for sustainable development as well as good and democratic governance that individual organizations cannot achieve alone. The Network enhances the power and influence of citizen voice in advocating for policies and improving governance. The CSOs Network also links service providers with one another to exchange information and resources or to develop coordinated delivery systems. Civil society networks have become partners of choice for governments and international development agencies seeking to maximize the reach, scale and impacts of their activities, projects and programmes.

Members of the Kilifi civil society network retain their basic autonomy, with their own identity, mission, and governance. The network is based on informal social relationships between the members who are convened by a team of 4 organizations that include; Ujamaa Center, Malindi Rights Forum, Kilifi Citizens’ Forum and the Institute Of Human Rights who organize and run all the network’s activities.

#### ***Mandates of CSOs Networks***

1. Networks are platforms for people to share experiences, express identities, discuss and debate needed changes and craft strategies for action
2. Provides linkages to facilitate communication and learning among groups and organizations with similar programs
3. Protection for those who are otherwise vulnerable to exploitation, abuse or retribution for speaking out
4. Jointly-governed bodies for coordinating campaigns and other kinds of joint action;
5. Legitimacy with policy makers and other institutional leaders in democratic contexts, due to the numbers and social identities of those seeking change

#### ***Achievements***

1. Improved capacity of CSOs actors in Kilifi as a result training
2. The network successfully petitioned the County Assembly to enact a law on public participation. It is currently awaiting the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in the house.
3. Improved relationship between the county government and CSOs due to a coordinated approach to engagement
4. Shared resources and platforms as a result of unity amongst CSOs actors

## **Challenges**

In practice, however, civil society networks can prove quite challenging, frustrating and disappointing rather than satisfying with significant results.

1. There is a widespread need for better understanding of the unique features of civil society networks and how to work in and with them successfully.
2. The lack of direct funding for network activities also limits its operational scope (Geographical and issues)
3. Conflict between individual organizations' policies and the networks' expectations and postures
4. Lack of commitment from members thus overburdening a few with responsibilities.

## **PEN's mandate with CSO Networks**

*Ludivicus Omollo; PEN-Kenya*

PEN's exists to strengthen citizens and citizen organizations by developing standards for CSOs and promoting the civic space in Kenya. Through partnerships with CSOs, CBOs, private sector and public institutions they promote a participatory engagement in the development agenda that nurtures a society where all people have access to dignity.

PENS three main areas of focus include:

1. Build a robust civil society sector that promote the effectiveness of CSOs in the development agenda. PEN recognizes the importance of CSOs in wealth creation, provision of services to citizens, building capacity among citizens, state and non-state actors, providing space for association, empowering and representing the poor, raising awareness of people's rights, improving transparency and accountability, tracking, monitoring and reporting on government policy. Therefore PEN aims to create an enabling environment for civic society through development and documentation of relevant laws, policies and practices that strengthen lobbying, capacity building and self-regulation through the Viwango Act of 2013.
2. Strengthen democracy and governance with increased response of governments to the rights of citizens. PEN enhances the fundamental principles of democracy to educate and increase citizen participation, encourage transparency and accountability. Some of the challenges experienced in this area are: lack of political education among citizens, limited citizen voice, ineffective use of public resources, variable application of the rule of law, impunity, limited participation of youth, women and minority groups at national and county level. They aim to enhance capacity of CSO to push for the involvement of citizens in the enactment of bills and laws as well as deepen the implementation of devolution and strengthen government.
3. Enhance resilience of communities towards environmental change. PEN works with citizens and governments to adopt measures that mitigate against the effects of climate change. Sustainable agriculture and strengthen capacity along the value chain to scale up production. Success: Viwango,

### **PENS mandate to strengthen the capacity of the Network:**

CSOs are the center of government and people's relations. Building the capacity of CSOs guarantees a voice that is inclusive and representative of the people.

1. Facilitate the network of CSOs to engage state actors and developing effective memoranda that are able to influence government decisions.
2. Improve modalities of engagement between Governments and CBOs/ CSOs.

### **Partnership between Governments and CSOs in service delivery**

*Peter Mangi; Kilifi County Government*

Both the government and civil society share a mission of bettering the community. Effective partnerships between them can enhance their social development impacts by extending their reach to poor and marginalized groups, expanding the scale of their programs or improving the quality of services.

In the past there was a strained relationship between CSOs and County Government of Kilifi government characterized by lack of trust and transparency which led to the development of policies that do not address the issues of the community. Over the years, however, the County Government has increasingly recognized the importance of coordinating with CSOs in the development of policies.

### **Plenary discussion**

- ⇒ ***Who is the target for capacity building*** – individuals, individual entities, networks? – For this program, PEN targets to strengthen capacity of CSO Network to engage with Government.
- ⇒ ***How does PEN engage youth in their programs?*** – PEN involves youth through their partner networks.
- ⇒ ***Has the County Government set aside funds to facilitate civic education?*** - Currently the government has no funds for civic education. Most of such programmes are supported by partners from the civil society
- ⇒ ***What is the origin of policies and legislations enacted in Kilifi County?*** - Adopt policies from the national government and customize them to suit the needs of the people in the county.
- ⇒ ***What is the response to the plight of communities in Magarini in reference to the ongoing mistreatment by investors?*** – Land issues in Magarini are addressed by the Ministry of Lands and Housing and the National Land Commission and not the County Government.
- ⇒ ***Who is responsible for policy making?*** – The Government has staff assigned to the policy making duty. This is done in consultation with the people as required by law.
- ⇒ ***Citizens have the feeling that they are only involved in budget hearings to rubber stamp the budget prepared by the government*** - A proposed budget is taken to citizens and their recommendations incorporated before submission to parliamentary review for its approval. Their opinions are taken in.

- ⇒ **Describe the relationship between CSO and Government?** – Partnership with the Government should not be seen as derailment rather it should be seen as an opportunity to capacity build CSO with relevant information for adopting new approaches to advocacy.

## **The Civil Society**

*A presentation by Adhiambo Odhiambo; Ujamaa Center*

### **What is it?**

Civil society in a descriptive sense is a concept while in a prescriptive sense it's a theory/model.

Civil society is a space, an arena, a sphere in which citizen's associate with each other independently of the state, creating a network of links and organizations to promote their collective identities and service and represent their group interests

### **They Include:**

INGOs, NGOs, CBOs, Foundations, Trusts, FBOs, Professional Associations, Trade Unions, Self-help groups (women, youth, PWDs), Cooperatives, Village welfare committees, and individuals acting on behalf of communities

### **State-society relations**

- ✓ How much individual freedom and autonomy does the state allow?
- ✓ How free are citizens to form associations?
- ✓ Does civil society challenge the state?
- ✓ The rise of civil society is an evolutionary, gradual process
- ✓ At some point, this evolution leads to a clash with the state
- ✓ A revolution to establish society's autonomy from the state (civil and political rights and liberties)
- ✓ No revolution involves the entire civil society – normally, it is led by specific social and political forces which seek to represent “the people”

### **In established democracies:**

- ✓ The need to defend civil society from the state
- ✓ Representation of interests means pressure on the state
- ✓ Every state policy evokes different reactions from civil society: some support, some oppose
- ✓ So, a degree of friction and tension between civil society and the state is a normal condition in a democracy

### **Relations within civil society**

- ✓ How divided is civil society?
- ✓ It is very diverse
- ✓ Inequality of power
- ✓ The associations may compete, but must not destroy each other
- ✓ Toleration of differences allows society to exist

### **Civil society as a model**

- ✓ Scope: developing countries, new democracies after the collapse of authoritarian regimes
- ✓ They view civil society as a good society:
- ✓ Civil society is autonomous from the state
- ✓ Civil society is Peaceful and pluralistic
- ✓ Visualises citizens enjoying civil and political rights

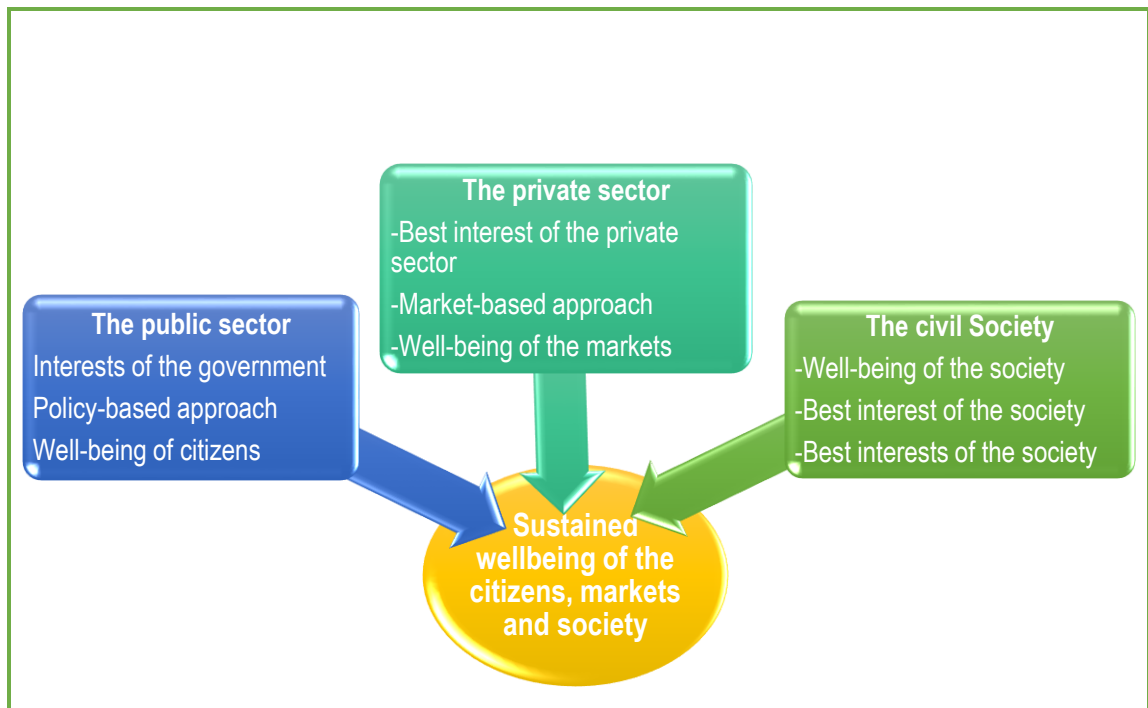
- ✓ Underpins political democracy

## Unlocking the Power of Partnership

*A presentation by Adhiambo Odhiambo*

### ***What is partnership?***

Partnership is more than just collaboration and ad-hoc projects. It is about moving beyond responsibility for independent results to a relationship that involves co-creation, shared risks and responsibility. Different sectors are increasingly understanding sustainability, citizens and market the same way.



### ***Characteristics of a partnership***

1. Joint decision making
2. Learning-based Organisational transformation
3. Scale and sustained impact

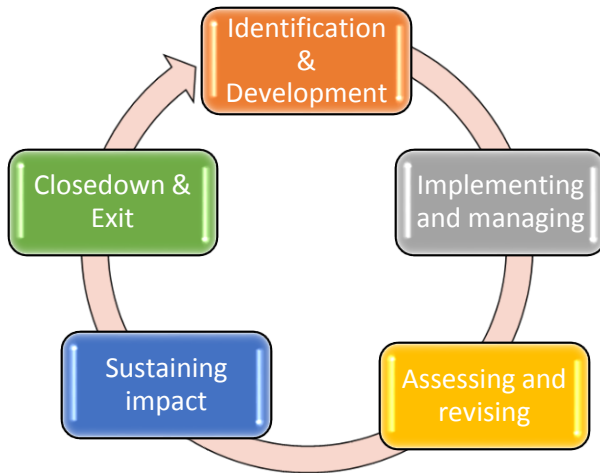
### ***Building effective partnerships***

*Key questions to ask yourself...*

1. Why partner?
2. How do you partner?
3. How do you identify partners?
4. How do you build trust?

5. On what issues will you partner?
6. What resources can you bring to the partnership?
7. How will you know if the partnership is successful?

### **Partnership life-cycle**



### **Core-values of partnerships**

1. Equity and respect
2. Genuine commitment
3. Transparency and accountability
4. Patience and persistence

### **Taking action: 8 factors for effective partnerships**

1. Establish the need for partnership and make the approach
2. Due diligence is key
3. Build and maintain trust
4. Set out clear vision, objectives, understanding of mutual benefits, roles and responsibility
5. Invest the time, people and resources to manage the relationship
6. Design for sustainability and implement for success
7. Hold each other accountable and learn from mistakes
8. Learn the art of exit

### **Closing thoughts**

1. Adoption of cross-sector partnerships sets a framework for new ideas, new models, new relationships, and new tools to deliver sustainable solutions to our many issues.
2. Let's embrace cross-sector partnerships and collaboration.

### **Plenary Discussions**

1. *There are many problems in partnerships regarding sharing of outcomes, this has broken many partnerships –*
2. *How do we handle issues of competition in partnerships?*  
*Define the purpose of the partnership, the specific roles for partners and the duration of the partnerships*
3. *A big mistake a lot of organisations make is entering into partnerships for the sake of partnerships. They get attracted by a bright, shiny big name and think they should immediately jump on it.*

*Don't fall into this trap. One of the pillars of being a good organisation's manager is knowing when to say yes to the right deal, and even more difficult, knowing when to say no to the wrong one.*

### **Skit: Challenges to activism**

*Exodus Youth Group; Malindi*



*Exodus group; a youth organization in Kilifi County making a presentation on the various challenges HRDs face when carrying out their mandate in the community. Corruption and lack of commitment amongst government officials topped the list*

### **Networking as a strategy to push back the shrinking civic space**

*A presentation by Jackline Kawere for CSRG*

A strong civil society has been at the center of many human rights achievements and related progress in the Kenya over recent years: access to education, healthcare, environmental protection etc. A free and open civil society is vital to hold both national and county governments to account and to deliver on goals of better equality and poverty reduction.

Despite the good work there still is a huge percentage of people in or out of authority who have little knowledge of the impact of these organizations. There are also those who believe that the organizations do more harm than good. It is increasingly evident that many governments across the world share that belief, which is why more and more of them are closing in on the freedoms of the civil society through shut downs of these organizations, restrictive regulations and legislations, intimidation and personal attacks among other tactics of silencing them.



*Ms. Jackline Kawere explaining the need for networking during the CSOs week*

In the last 15 years human rights organizations have found themselves on the receiving end of the NGO Coordination Board, the state mandated body responsible for the registration, co-

ordination, facilitation and regulation of NGOs in Kenya, with threats of deregistration. This calls for creative by CSOs to diffuse the negative attention, reduce their vulnerability and standing up to the boundaries the closing civic space enforces on their mission and outreach. Partnership and networking is one such strategy.

Networks offer opportunity for:

- ✓ Highlighting and amplifying the various dimensions of shrinking space through research, documentation, and policy advocacy at local, county and national levels.
- ✓ Developing citizens' skills and knowledge on effective measures to address human rights violations through public education and awareness raising, community mobilization, meetings, and targeted convening's that include the participation of faith-based groups, voluntary associations, citizens' movements, and community-based organizations.
- ✓ Cultivating citizen-led platforms to foster convening, learning, and sharing among human rights activists, members of citizens' movements, and social justice campaigners.



## Recap of Day 2:

A volunteer took the participants through the recap session. The following table represents the outcome of the discussions.

<i>What I learnt</i>	<i>What I liked</i>	<i>What should be improved</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ That CSOs are the third actor in development</li> <li>✓ Who CSOs are...</li> <li>✓ The difference between partnership and networking</li> <li>✓ Benefits of partnership and networking</li> <li>✓ How PEN supports County-based networks</li> <li>✓ The partnership cycle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The presentations of civil society and the one on partnerships</li> <li>✓ The facilitators' knowledge and skills</li> <li>✓ The choice of topics and content</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Time management especially during plenary</li> <li>✓ Produce and share handouts of the presentations</li> <li>✓ Use both English and Kiswahili so that everyone understands</li> </ul>

## Keynote speech: Partnership between Kilifi County Government and the CSOs Network

*By Hon Maurine Mwangovia, CEC, Sports, Gender, Youth and Social Services*

Madam Maurine stated that the Civil Society is one of the most valued partner by the County Government of Kilifi and particularly the department of Sports, Gender, Youth and Social Services. Other than having a wealth of information, decades of experience working with communities, they also have monetary and non-monetary resources that the government can tap into.

It is rather unfortunate that the great event collided with the national ASAL conference that was also hosted by the Kilifi County Government. All the relevant departments were therefore expected to be there. The CEC found it necessary to spare some 45minutes to also pass-by and talk to the participants of the CSOs week on her way to Malindi.

According to Hon Maurine, since assumption of office, the department's activities have been supported by the civil society since money is yet to be disbursed to the counties by the central government treasury. It takes a good partnership for this to happen. The department has employed the following strategies in working with CSOs.

- ✓ Cooption of civil society organizations into decision making platforms such as thematic working groups
- ✓ Having structured dialogue with CSOs regularly
- ✓ Partnering and carrying out joint activities
- ✓ Guided participation of the public in county government processes

### *Questions and responses*

1. **What are the modalities of raising complaints to the county government?** *For accountability purposes, lodge complaints to the relevant departments by writing and keep records. This will help in following up until the issue raised is addressed. Get the document signed by at least two people who may act as witnesses. Commit to the complaint by signing.*

2. **How to we track a law that has been proposed?** *Use the boll tracker system and the county attorney's office to follow up on the laws especially those that have been proposed by the civil society. Timing is key in posting for bills.*
3. **Use of social media:** *Although social media is a good platform for advocacy it's not entirely effective to bring solutions. CSOs should use both physical and social media advocacy.*
4. *The freedom of speech is protected under the new constitution. As such there is no need for confrontations and demonstrations. Structured dialogue is the way to go.*
5. *Be a passionate and zealous activist but conduct relevant research, address arising issues with the relevant department.*

### **The Future Role of Civil Society; The evolving role of the civil society**

*A presentation by Adhiambo Odhiambo; Director; Ujamaa Center*

This presentation summarizes some of the dynamic characteristics of civil society in today's complex global environment, identifies key trends, and highlights common strategic concerns regarding the role of civil society and its interrelationships with business, government and international organizations.

#### *The Recent Evolution of Civil Society*

- ✓ Civil society is more dynamic,
- ✓ Civil society is more vibrant
- ✓ Civil society is very influential
- ✓ Civil society is restricted
- ✓ Civil society is essential for the preservation of democracy

#### *Shifting Civil Society Roles and Relationships*

The roles that different stakeholders play in relation to civil society are blurring. Sources of social capital are changing in an increasingly global, hyper-connected and multi-stakeholder world. Within the complex ecosystem of myriad civil society activities and relationships, some actors, such as faith and religious cultures, as well as social media communities and networks, are starting to play an enhanced role.

#### *Civil society roles include:*

1. **Watchdog:** holding institutions to account, promoting transparency and accountability
2. **Advocate:** raising awareness of societal issues and challenges and advocating for change
3. **Service provider:** delivering services to meet societal needs such as education, health, food and security; implementing disaster management, preparedness and emergency response
4. **Expert:** bringing unique knowledge and experience to shape policy and strategy, and identifying and building solutions
5. **Capacity builder:** providing education, training and other capacity building – Incubator: developing solutions that may require a long gestation or payback period
6. **Representative:** giving power to the voice of the marginalized or under-represented
7. **Citizenship champion:** encouraging citizen engagement and supporting the rights of citizens
8. **Solidarity supporter:** promoting fundamental and universal values – Definer of standards: creating norms that shape market and state activity

Recognizing that no one sector can solve the world's major societal challenges alone, these roles are increasingly carried out through engagement in partnerships and collaborative frameworks across civil society, and with stakeholders from business, government and international organizations.

The unique concept of civil society as “*the space where we act for the common good*” is expanding, as civil society actors frequently *play the role of enabler in driving change* in collaboration with other stakeholders

#### *Influential Trends Within and Around Civil Society*

1. Global institutions are no longer fit for purpose
2. The world is becoming hyper-connected
3. Interest is growing in the role of faith and religious culture in society
4. There is profound public pressure – and increasingly an economic argument – for responding to pressing challenges of inequality
5. There is **reduced certainty of funding size**, sources and modes from traditional donors and a rise of new socially driven financial actors
6. There is a widening trust deficit towards institutions and between sectors
7. **Governments facing fiscal pressures** are scaling back social service provision
8. **Private sector players are increasingly developing strategies** to address social and environmental challenges
9. **New patterns of economic and political power** are creating a shift in the axis of development

#### *Strategic Concerns Of Civil Society Leaders*

- ✓ Where will our funding come from?
- ✓ How can we better demonstrate accountability and impact?
- ✓ How do we stay relevant in and capitalize on a hyper-connected and youth-oriented world?
- ✓ How do we collectively engage to make an impact in global governance processes?
- ✓ How do we adapt to shifting roles among stakeholders so as to maximize the value that civil society actors bring to solving societal challenges?

#### *Critical Driving Forces Re-shaping Civil Society to 2030*

- ✓ The **level and sources of funding** for civil society stakeholders
- ✓ The **social and political influence** of increasing access to technology
- ✓ **The extent and type of citizen engagement** with societal challenges
- ✓ The state of **global and regional geopolitical stability** and **global integration of markets**
- ✓ The effect of **environmental degradation** and **climate change** on populations
- ✓ The **level of trust in governments, businesses and international organizations**

#### *Challenging Scenarios*

1. **Mad Max:** The world is currently characterized by local international and national conflict, where governments exert strong security controls on both business and civil society. Levels of funding for societal and development challenges are limited

2. **Transparently Blurred:** We have scenario where economic growth is relatively high over the period 2020-2030 and where the government and private sector are both deeply engaged in tackling societal challenges. Access to data, technology and rigorous monitoring are the hallmarks of a revolution in both economic activity and social development.
3. **Turbulence and Trust Deficits:** depicts a chaotic world where trust is a scarce commodity. Yet, thanks to the possibilities created by the rise of the networked society, there is a significant latent desire for social engagement by citizens, particularly at the local level
4. **Privatized World:** is one where many governments are seen to have failed, inequality is extreme, and corporations play the most important role in society as the main providers of social services

*Conclusion:*

These scenarios are stories about the future that represent relevant, plausible, challenging and divergent possibilities. They are not predictions, preferences or forecasts. They are used to illustrate the implications of different external factors evolving and combining to create a challenging context for civil society stakeholders.

It is recommended that CSO actors consider these scenarios as a starting point for thinking about how the external environment might influence the future role of civil society at a variety of levels global, regional and local.

**What next after the CSOs week? Way forward for the Kilifi Civil Society Network**

*Group Discussions*

**Way Forward**

1. *Those who are not yet members of the Kilifi CSO network to join and actively participate in its activities*
2. *Mobilize target communities and enhance their capacity to engage in public participation.*
3. *Create linkages, build good network and maintain effective communication with cross sectorial actors.*
4. *Improve on networking and partnership.*
5. *Build partnerships and proper collaboration with CSOs doing similar work within our target areas to avoid duplication of work.*
6. *Information sharing; Educate citizens and colleagues in the civil society and be knowledgeable of the challenges facing them.*
7. *Lobbying for advocacy; Build and share knowledge of the constitution and know-how of advocacy.*
8. *Engage with the County-Assembly to fast-track pending public bills.*
9. *Engage directly with the County Executive in budget formulation process to ensure public views are considered during public participation and involve the media.*
10. *Carry out social audit of community projects while adopting the problem solving approach to issues of the county.*
11. *Equip yourself with information and educate society on factual information.*

## Closing remarks

*Judy Gondi, PEN Kenya*

Madam Judy congratulated the Kilifi CSOs network for successfully pulling through with the inaugural CSOs week. She recognized that this took quite some effort, time and sacrifices. She congratulated the various organizations who found time to exhibit and participate in the conference. Her remarks can be summarized as follows.

- ✓ Originations showed commitment and ownership of the activities but there is a lot more that need to be done. More organizations should have come out to showcase their work at the exhibition.
- ✓ A lot more organizations should have been involved. There were several participants from the same organizations. The representation should have been one person per organization.
- ✓ Other than the civil society and the county government, the network missed the opportunity of involving and networking with other actors like the private sector, the education institutions, media and others. This gave the impression of the civil society speaking to itself.

## Lessons, challenges and recommendations from the CSOs week 2018

### *Lessons*

1. While civil society plays a vital role in development; in enabling people to claim their rights, in promoting rights-based approaches, in shaping policies and in the provision of services. Yet, CSOs experience a worrying trend towards shrinking space and resources for civil society. There is need to deliberately engage with the state to push back the civic space to operate effectively
2. New civil society actors and actions have emerge. New forms of organization are taking shape, and new partnerships are developed. Some of them are positive for democracy and others are not.
3. There has been a large increase of CSOs registered over the past twenty years. Yet analysis of the effectiveness of the new organizations and their contribution to democracy and well-being of communities remains radically low. There is need to interrogate our work and build more accountable institutions.

### *Challenges*

1. Non-commitment from local CSOs. Many would like to participate in events but wouldn't commit their time to preparing for them.
2. Ignorance and capacity gaps still hinder the active participation of local CSO groups in public processes. There is need for continued support in the development of institutional and technical capacity of local organizations to carry out their mandate
3. Community calendars: There were many similar events going on in Kilifi County at the same time. This limited the participation of key stakeholders in the CSOs week.

### *Recommendations*

1. Future activities should bring together CSOs, governments, academia and the private sector actors to bring in the different perspectives and also create linkages across and within stakeholder groups.
2. There is need for continued support in the development of institutional and technical capacity of local organizations to carry out their mandate.
3. Preparations for the next CSOs week should start early. It should also involve wide consultation with diverse actors including those who have successfully implemented similar initiatives.

### **Vote of thanks and closure**

*Mzee Mwanguya; GCN*

Mr. Mwanguya appreciated all those who found time to participate in the 3 days celebrations of the CSOs week including the conference and exhibition. He thanked the organizers for their commitment and sacrifices to see that the CSOs week pushed through. He expressed gratitude to the financers of the CSOs week; PEN-Kenya and Ford Foundation for supporting the network to prepare and execute the CSOs week. He praised and thanked Pwani University for being such a good host and allowing the CSOs network to use its facilities.

He however noted that there are many areas that are still unexploited by the civil society. These include; Agriculture, food and security and blue economy and urged CSOs to conceptualize programmes that address issues in this areas.

He finished by wishing all the participants a safe trip home and expressed his commitment to be part of the planning for the next event; CSOs week 2019.

## Annex 1: Schedule

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 4 <sup>TH</sup> 2018	
09.00 - 09.30	Arrival and registration Convener: Kilifi CSOs Network
09.30 – 10.30	<b>Preliminary activities</b> All.
10.30 – 11.30	<b>Entertainment</b> Local youth/theatre groups
11.30 – 12.30	<b>Speeches</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CSOs network</li> <li>- PEN; Judy Gondi</li> <li>- County Government of Kilifi</li> </ul>
12.30 – 02.00	Lunch Break
02.00 – 04.00	<b>Exhibition and networking</b> Members & public
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 5 <sup>TH</sup> 2018	
09.15 – 09.50	<b>Brief introductions and opening/welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eunice Adhiambo Odhiambo</li> </ul>
09.50 – 10.30	<b>Keynote Speakers:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Kilifi CSOs Network; Structure, Mandate and the Civil Society’s week</b> Kashero Chinyaka: Convener Kilifi CSOs Network</li> <li><b>2. Strengthening capacities for county-based civil society networks</b> PEN; Ludivicus Omollo</li> <li><b>3. Partnerships between Governments and CSOs for service delivery &amp; development</b> County Governor Kilifi</li> </ol>
10.30 – 11.00	Health Break
11.00 – 12.00	<b>Panel Discussion</b> The Role and Structure of Civil Society Organizations in National and local Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Civil society network</li> <li>- County government department of social services (Kilifi)</li> </ul>
12.00 – 01.00	<b>Cross-Sector Partnerships to Address Social Issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Civil society network</li> <li>- County government department of social services (Kilifi)</li> <li>- Kenya Private Sector Alliance</li> </ul>
01.00 – 02.00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
02.00 – 03.30	<b>Panel Discussion</b>  <b>The shrinking civic and democratic space: a major governance issue for the civil society and other independent voices and actors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG)</li> <li>- County Government of Kilifi</li> <li>- Office of the County Commissioner (Kilifi)</li> </ul>
03.30 – 04.00	Plenary Discussion <b>Our work, our challenges: Conclusions and recommendations from day 1</b> Moderator:

**Thursday September 6<sup>th</sup> 2018**

09.15 – 09.30	<b>Recap of Day 1:</b> Conference Rapporteur
09.30 -09.45	<b>Presentation:</b> The future role of civil society: Structural factors shaping civil society - Adhiambo Odhiambo; Ujamaa Center
09.45 – 10.30	<b>Group Activity</b> Taking Government-Civil Society Relations Forward Moderator:
10.30 – 11.00	Health Break
11.00 – 12.30	<b>Closing remarks and award of Certificates</b> - PEN; Judith Gondi - County Government of Kilifi
12.30 – 01.00	<b>Vote of thanks/Closure</b> - Erick Mgoja: Convener Kilifi CSOs Network



## Annex 2: List of Participants

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