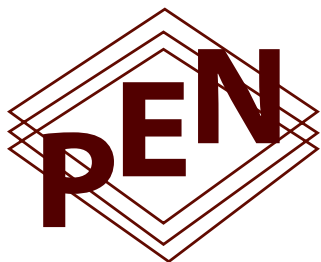
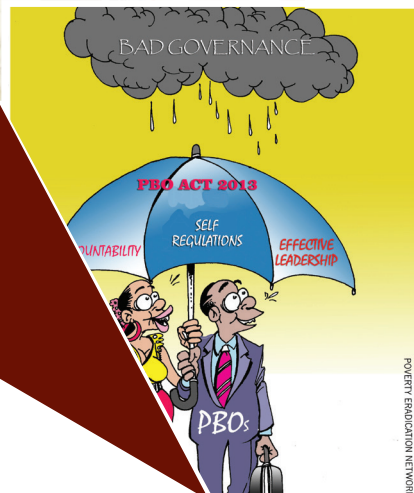
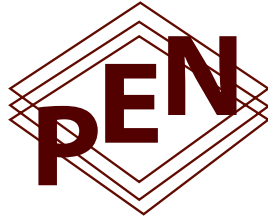


ANNUAL REPORT 2015



POVERTY ERADICATION NETWORK
Strengthening Citizens Participation



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ANNUAL REPORT

2015

POVERTY ERADICATION NETWORK (PEN)

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List of Acronyms

AACC	All Africa Conference Centre
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CDTF	Community Development Trust Fund
CRA	Commission on Resource Allocation
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CSORG	CSO Reference Group
EACC	Ethic and Anti Corruption Commission
FBOs	Faith Based Organisations
MCA	Member of County Assembly
NCCSN	Nandi County Civil Society Network
NGOs	Non Governmental Organisations
PEN	Poverty Eradication Network
PBO	Public Benefit Organisation
PMDC	PEN Management and Development Consultants
SID	Society for International Development
VOB CSOs	Voice of Bungoma CSOs

Message from Chairman, PEN Board of Directors, Dr. Samson Muttai.



Since its founding in 2011, Poverty Eradication Network (PEN) has grown to be a strong and well respected organization in Kenya. PEN was founded for the specific purpose of strengthening citizens and citizens' organisations. PEN believes that citizens' organisations are the key to strengthening the participation and involvement of communities in their development agenda. PEN continues to promote participatory development methodologies which empower communities to set their own development agenda by setting achievable community action plans and seeing them through the implementation and sustainability phase.

This 2015 Annual Report exemplifies the good work done by PEN of building the capacity of citizens' organisations in Kenya to be strong, credibly and viable entities contributing to development processes in various spheres in Kenya. In line with our 2014-2016 Strategy, PEN played a big role in facilitating and influencing the setting up a number of CSOs' networks and movements that are undertaking various lobbying and advocacy work towards the implementation of the 2010 constitution, and in particular, enhancing the rights of citizens to be involved and to benefit in development processes at county and national levels.

I take this opportunity to thank all our partners for the support they continue to give Poverty Eradication Network (PEN). PEN Board of Directors has played its role of strategic oversight, policy and programme review through its various committees. We applaud the effective and efficient implementation and monitoring of all our interventions by PEN Management and staff. We extend sincere appreciation to all our development partners for the technical, material and financial support extended to us in 2015. We hope these relationships will continue in the coming years.

Word from Executive Director, Chris Mbiti.



As a family of PEN, through this Annual Report, we are happy to share our 2015 accomplishments. The year 2015 was not only the second year of the implementation of PEN 2014-2016 Organisational Strategy, but it was also two years since a new management took over from our founding Executive Director.

Our work in 2015 was in line with the organization aspirations outlined in our 2014-2016 PEN Strategy, and which has provided the roadmap for action. The Strategy identifies three organisational goals: Building resilient Communities at all levels of society; Strong Public Benefit Organisations (PBO) sector influencing development agenda in Kenya; and Good governance at all levels of society.

In 2015, PEN facilitated the capacity of a number of citizens' groups and organisations by strengthening their capacity to support citizens to understand and demand their rights, to participate effectively in development processes at their localities, and ensure that the groups, networks and movements are well led, efficiently managed and able to lobby and advocate on issues affecting citizens.

In particular, we note the role played by PEN and its partners in ensuring that citizens and citizens' organisations are directly influencing the entrenchment of the new governance structures including devolution, have a common voice to demand and receive public services and that citizens influence the systems, institutions, decisions and resources affecting them; and finally as the ultimate watchdogs of democracy and good governance at both county and national levels.

PEN played a key role as a member and main host of the secretariat of the CSO Reference Group. The CSO reference Group is an umbrella of likeminded organisations that are, like PEN, interested in influencing policy makers and other stakeholders for an enabling environment for citizens' organisations in Kenya. The group continues to lobby for the commencement of the PBO Act 2103 as a major milestone towards creating an enabling environment for CSOs in Kenya.

In the coming years PEN will deepen its work with the CSO reference group at the national level and work more closely with County CSOs networks to strengthen and popularize the work of county based CSOs.

1.0 Overview of Poverty Eradication Network (PEN)

Poverty Eradication Network (PEN) is a Non-Government Organisation founded in 2001 and registered in December 2001 under the NGOs Coordination Act No. 19 of 1990. PEN was formed for the purposes of building the capacity of civil society in Africa to play its critical role in facilitating citizens and citizens' organisations to participate meaningfully in development processes.

Since its formation, PEN's has enhanced the institutional capacity of a number of citizens' organisations including Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Faith Based Organisations (FBOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and Self Help Groups at county and national levels. Working with other like minded institutions, PEN continues to advocate and lobby policy makers and other stakeholders for an enabling environment for citizens' organisations in Kenya and the greater East African region.

2.0 PEN Strategic Overview

To achieve this mandate PEN is guided by its organisational strategy which provides us with a clear road map: a vision, a mission, core values and goals. These elements define the strategic space within which PEN operates.

2.1 Vision, Mission, Core Values and Goals

Vision:

"A society where all people have access to a life of dignity, devoid of absolute poverty"

Mission:

'To enhance the capacity of Citizens' Organizations to eradicate absolute poverty in Africa through development, demonstration and dissemination of effective strategies and good practice at all levels'.

Core Values:



2.2 Strategic Goals

In all its work, PEN is guided by its organisational goals which are clearly pronounced in its current 2014-2016 Strategic Plan. PEN organisational Goals are to: Ensure resilient Communities at all levels of society; Strong Public Benefit Organisations (PBO) sector influencing development agenda in Kenya; and Good governance at all levels of society.

2.2.1 Building Resilient Communities at all levels of society

PEN works with citizens and citizens' organisations by enhancing their capacity to not only exploit local resources at their disposal, access external assistance, but add superior value to their products to increase their wealth, in particular support, as well as advocacy on key livelihood issues. This is achieved through enabling citizens' groups to design interventions in food security, micro-finance, nutrition, market access, natural resource management and environmental conservation as well as civic education for good governance at local level.

2.2.2 Strong Public Benefit Organisations (PBO) sector influencing development agenda in Kenya

Through an elaborate and effective change management practice, PEN enhances the capacity of Citizens' Organisations, especially Public Benefit Organisations (PBO), to be strong, vibrant credible agents of change supporting communities to deliver their development agenda. In 2015, PEN played a key role as a member and main host of the secretariat of the CSO Reference Group. The CSO reference Group is an umbrella of likeminded organisations that are, like PEN, interested in influencing for an enabling environment for citizens organisations in Kenya.

2.0.1 Good Governance at all levels of society

PEN continues to provide civic education to citizens and capacity to their organisations to have a common voice to demand and receive public services. This ensures citizens and their organisations continue as the ultimate watchdogs of democracy and good governance and that citizens influence the systems, institutions, decisions and resources affecting them at both local and national levels.

3.0 PEN 2015 Programme Review

In line with its Mission, in the year 2015, PEN pursued and implemented programme interventions in line with its three strategic goals: Building resilient Communities; Strong Public Benefit Organisations (PBO) sector influencing development agenda in Kenya; and Good governance at all levels of society.

3.1 Building Community Based Organisations (CBOs)

The primary objective for our CBO programme is to enable communities to establish strong, sustainable citizens' groups; managing and implementing their own successful development projects, acting as effective advocates for their communities, and facilitating the participation of their members in local development processes as provided for by the constitution and other devolved legislations.



“Community members putting into practice what they have been taught”

In 2015, PEN continued to support a number of community based organisations (CBOs) and various citizens' groups in the lower eastern of Kenya including those in Machakos and Makueni Counties. Building on our earlier work of capacity building of CBOs in various parts of the Machakos County, PEN facilitated CBOs by providing them with opportunities and operating space to engage with county government structures through PEN Machakos office. One such CBO is Kyevaluki CBO in Kangundo Sub-County. Kyevaluki CBO also acts as a forum on development issues for citizens. The main aim of this forum is to identify development issues and challenges within the community, prioritise and devising ways of solving them including creating opportunities for citizens' participation in county interventions.

In 2015, Kyevaluki completed implementation of a three year environmental conservation project funded by the CDTF with over Kes 20 Million, implemented in the southern part of Kangundo sub-county. A key milestone of this project is the construction of a community resource centre in Kyevaluki market. PEN was the CBO's strategic partner in implementation of the project, rated at 89% successful in resource management by an external auditor in 2015.

PEN partnered with the Society for International Development (SID) in implementing a nine months governance project on Active Citizenship in four sub-counties of Machakos County in November 2014 to July 2015 period. The main objective of the project was to promote dialogue among Citizens, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Machakos county government aimed at achieving effective implementation of devolution and improved service delivery in the county.

In 2015 also, PEN facilitated Mutulani community through Mawe CBO in Makueni County, through financial aid from Global giving. This online fundraising project funded the construction of a water tank for Mutulani primary school and to rehabilitation of the Mutulani community's major water source through construction of Kyanduu Earth dam on the main water source. Through MAWE CBO, the Mutulani community mobilized resources from local sources which were used to construct two more Earth dams. The impact of this project is reflected by the words of the Secretary Mawe CBO as follows:

“Since the initiation of the partnership between PEN and the Mutulani community, the community initiated and achieved a number of development milestones in the area. Four sand dams were constructed along Kyanduu River and which have enabled us to harvest more water this season compared to all other previous rain seasons. Through training, we received better water harvesting techniques which has improved our farm production. Mutulani primary school received a water tank donated by the project. On the other hand, the community reached out to their leaders who fundraised and built three more water tanks for Mutulani Primary School and two for Mutulani secondary school. We are now assured of safe drinking water throughout the year for the two institutions”. _Joseph Mbithi, Secretary Mawe CBO.

Equally, PEN Machakos office hosted the Machakos County CSO Network which in 2015 established a meaningful partnership with the Machakos County Government. Machakos County CSO Network submitted a total of 7 Memoranda on the County Assembly Bills and a Memorandum on the 2015/2016 County Budget. The network has established a platform for sharing good governance practices and effective service delivery within the sector and in County Government.

3.2 Enhancing Public Benefit Organisations (PBO) Space and Good Governance

In 2015, PEN scaled up activities for enhancing Public Benefit Organisations' (PBOs) space and good governance. These interventions built on the work that PEN has been undertaking in the past ten years of facilitating capacity building of organisations at county and national levels to influence their working environments. The aim is to ensure a strong citizens' organisations sector contributing meaningfully to development processes at county, national and global arenas.



One of the major challenges that the citizen sector faced at the start of 2015 was the inability of the Jubilee government to operationalise the Public Benefit Organisations (PBO) Act 2013. The other challenge was the absence of a legislative framework at county levels for citizens and citizens' organisations to participate in the new county development processes, including holding leaders to account for their actions. Also, by April 2015, Jubilee

Coalition government had been in office for two years and had already started having a very negative attitude towards the public benefit sector. Many in civil society believed that by unfairly targeting citizens' organisations involved in demanding for good governance, the government clearly missed opportunities to consolidate democracy and deepen constitutional values¹ in Kenya.

Despite these challenges, PEN facilitated a number of programmes that not only enhanced the capacity of citizens and citizens' organisations to engage with county and national governments, created space and opportunities to meaningfully hold leaders to account contributing to improved governance practices.

The interventions undertaken by PEN in 2015 include: Baseline Survey of CSO Enabling environment in selected counties in Kenya; Capacity Building of CSOs in selected counties; Capacity building of county CSOs networks; Supporting annual exhibitions for CSOs to showcase their work at county level; Facilitating County accountability fora by PEN Programme Staff; Supporting CSOs and County leaders

1. Kenya Policy Action Briefs, Civicus, March 2015

dialogue meetings in selected counties, Development of CSO leadership curriculum; Provision of effective secretariat support to the CSO Reference Group; awareness creation on the PBO Act 2013 and reaching out to various stakeholders in government, private sector and county CSOs; and Advocacy and lobbying for the commencement of PBO Act 2013.

3.2.1 Baseline Survey on Status of the Enabling Environment for Civil Society Organisation in Kenya

In line with its 2014-2015 Organisation Strategy, PEN is concerned and takes seriously issues of quality of governance and leadership and how these affect citizens and citizens' organizations to participate meaningfully in development processes at county, national and global arenas.

During year under review, PEN carried out a Baseline survey on the status of the enabling environment for civil society organisations in 42 sub-counties in Kenya. The survey was undertaken in Kakamega (12 sub counties), Kajiado (5 Sub Counties), Kisii (9 Sub Counties), and Nairobi (16 Sub Counties) Counties from 3rd to 5th November 2015.

A preview of the results on the status of the operating environment for CSOs in the four counties is as follows².

In **Kisii County**, 75% of the CSO respondents perceived that the operating environment for CSOs was not conducive and there was a lot of suspicion and mistrust between the County government, politicians and the CSOs. CSOs were seen as competitors by the politician's. Some of the meetings of the CSOs have been disrupted by the county government and some individuals have been bribed by the county government to compromise them. The report showed that 17% of CSO felt that the operating environment of CSOs was fair and 8% felt that the environment was conducive.

In **Nairobi County**, 60% of CSO respondents felt that the operating environment was not conducive for the CSOs. The political climate has made the environment volatile and it is difficult to predict the actions of the government.

In contrast, in **Kakamega County**, most of the respondents, 86% were of the view that the operating environment for CSO in Kakamega County was good, The respondents felts that the county government was supportive and that there was very little antagonism between the county and the CSOs. Only a small percentage, 14% felt that the current operating environment for CSOs in Kakamega as not conducive.

In **Kajiado County**, 95% of CSOs interviewed were aware of National policies regulating CSOs -the NGO Coordinating Act 1990; They reported that there are no policies at the county regulating the CSOs and there is none being legislated at the moment. CSOs reported that their operating environment in the county is good despite reduced donor funding.

3.2.2 Leadership and Integrity Training Curriculum for CSO Leaders

PEN has been at the forefront of advocating for good governance, effective leadership and good management practices at all levels of our society including in the CSO sector. In 2015, in line with PEN organisational goal of achieving “**Good governance at all levels of society**”, PEN saw the need to build the capacity of selected CSOs leaders from across the country. Thirty CSO leaders from the Counties of Kakamega, Kisii, Kajiado and Nairobi were identified to participate in a leadership and Integrity training to be held in February 2016 in Nairobi.

2. For Details Refer to Baseline data on CSO Enabling Environment, PEN January 2016

In readiness for the Leadership and Integrity, PEN did identify through a complete process, a consultant, Stretch Zone Consultancy Limited, who developed a curriculum for the training of the CSO leaders, a task completed by end of December 2015. The curriculum will be used in regular training for CSO leaders and will be updated annually to meet the emerging leadership needs and challenges of the CSO sector.

3.2.3 County Accountability Forums

In 2015, PEN was at the forefront in providing leadership on openness and transparency to the CSO sector through holding of accountability fora attended by CSO in a number of counties of the Kenya. PEN held accountability fora with Kajiado County CSOs attended 14 leaders, Nairobi County CSOs attended by 31 leaders and Kakamega County CSOs with 31 leaders participating.

The main objective of holding these fora is for PEN to introduce its work on building the capacity of the CSOs in Kenya society sector. At these meetings PEN implementing staff shared with CSOs the workplans, budgets and a tool for receiving complains and feedback mechanism. PEN received feedback from the CSOs on the need to engage equally men and women in PEN Programmes. Through this open sharing it is hoped that it will create a multiplier effect in creating change in the way CSOs look at issues of transparency and accountability.

Lessons Learned:

“By sharing work plans and budgets, the culture of hand-outs by some CSO leaders and representatives has been greatly reduced as CSOs leaders now attend meetings to contribute ideas on development agenda rather than “What is there for me at the end of the meeting”.

4.0 Networking

In 2015, PEN continued to support the formation and capacity building of various Networks at both county and national levels.



“Leaders discussing challenges facing Civil Society Organizations in Nyandarua County”

4.1 County CSO Networks

The new CSO networks followed the successful formation and launch of the Kakamega and Machakos County CSO Networks in 2013.

Without financial resources, Machakos CSO Network began meetings at various partner offices to plan before a formal structure was put in place where Machakos PEN office was unanimously elected as the secretariat. In 2015, this network brought on board both local CBOs and international PBOs and who started working together on local issues affecting citizens.

In 2015 PEN worked with the following County CSOS Networks:

- Machakos County CSO Network
- Kakamega County CSO Network
- Bomet County CSO Network
- Nandi County CSO Network
- Elgeyo Marakwet County CSO Network
- Nyandarua County CSO Network
- Kajiado County CSO Network
- Kisii County CSO Network
- Bungoma County CSO Network (registered as Voices of Bungoma CSOs)

4.1.1 Objectives of the County CSO Networks

The specific objectives of the County CSO Networks will differ from county to county, but generally most of them will try to achieve the following:

- To provide a common platform for CSOs at the County;
- To monitor the implementation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 through promoting of efficient, transparent, participatory and accountable in management of public resources;
- To promote a rights based approach to devolution;
- To undertake civic education, enhance citizen participation, gender mainstreaming to reduce inequality and injustices;
- To support sector policy formulations and reviews for effective service delivery in the county;
- To establish avenues to showcase the work of PBOs/CSOs (civil society day/week) in the county to build trust with the public and the government.

Achievements of County CSO Networks by December 2015

By December 2015, many of the CSO Networks had achieved a number of milestones. Most of them had managed to engage their county assemblies and county executive on issues affecting citizens and citizens' organisations in respective counties. This was made possible through dialogue meetings between leaders of County CSO Networks and respective County Governors, Speakers, Members of County Assemblies (MCAs), County Executive Committee members among others. As a result, CSO Network leaders attended county assembly sessions; held round tables with county officials to discuss role of CSOs in devolution and possible partnership with the county governments; participated in county government public forums and presented memoranda on county assembly draft bills including county budget bills. In some counties, CSO Network representatives were invited to participate in county sector committees. In December 2015, Kakamega County CSO network showed the way as the first CSO Network to hold NGO week.

The following are specific achievements of selected County CSO Networks

County CSO Network	2015 Achievements of CSO Network
Machakos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed to meet the various County Assembly sector committee members and advised on effective resource use and service delivery. • County CSO Network leaders been attending county Assembly sessions at the public gallery and meeting with MCAs. • County CSO Network leaders have held round table meetings with county government officials (Governor, Speaker and Deputy Clerk) to discuss the role of CSOs and possible partnership with the county governments. • Three (3) CSO Network members participated in the development of the Machakos County Government E-Waste Management Bill 2015. • Presented a memo on the 2015/2016 county Budget. • Developed a popular version of the 2015/2016 Machakos county budget-Mwananchi guide. • Presented CSO Network inputs through memos on the following 2015 Machakos County draft bills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Machakos County public participation Bill 2014.</i> ○ <i>Machakos County Government Administrative Structures Bill 2015.</i> ○ <i>The Machakos County Co-operatives Societies Bill 2015.</i> ○ <i>Machakos county designated parking places Bill 2015.</i> ○ <i>Machakos County Revenue Administration Bill 2015.</i> ○ <i>Machakos County Omnibus Stations and Parking Bill 2015.</i> ○ <i>Machakos County Government HIV/AIDs Management Bill 2015.</i> • Organized over twenty (20) public forums with county government of Machakos, CSOs and the members of the public.
Kakamega	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kakamega CSOs held a consultative meeting with members of the County Assembly of Kakamega on 19th November 2015, attended by 25 delegates. • Establishment of a working committee between the County Assembly of Kakamega and Kakamega CSOs. • Kakamega CSO Network members given an opportunity to input to the Public Participation Bill 2015. • Established a development Coordination unit for CSOs at the County Government of Kakamega Headquarters. • Participated through a memorandum in the Budget making process by where 80% of the issues the CSOs proposed were considered in the budget for financial year 2015/2016. • Established 16 social accountability task forces to monitor development works in Kakamega County. • Kakamega CSO Network held 2015 NGOs week to show case the work of CSOs and NGOs in Kakamega and their contribution to county and national development processes. We need the importance attached to this event by the county leaders. The event was officially opened by County Executive for Social Services Youth and Sport and closed by the Speaker of the Kakamega County Assembly.

County CSO Network	2015 Achievements of CSO Network
<p>Nandi County Civil Society Network (NCCSN)</p>	<p>Increased awareness among the citizens on their rights, the role of County Government. Here are a few of the many achievements of NCCSN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through judicial intervention, blocked an attempt by County Government to borrow 696 million to buy road construction machines. The loan would have been contrary to a clear advisory opinion by the CRA provided in May 2015. • Presented memorandum and petition to controller of budget to intervene and demand that Nandi County produce an Annual Development Plan (ADP), as the county had failed to do so in 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 fiscal periods contrary hence in violation of Public Finance Management Act 2012. • Petitioned the senate on a number of issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Redress for historical injustices perpetrated both by the British colonialists on the Talai Community, marginalised people-group, most of who are resident in Kapsisywa, Nandi County.</i> ○ <i>Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights to intervene on why Nandi County was not involving the public in budget development processes.</i> • Launch of the Nandi County's Women League to champion the rights of women in Nandi County. • Blockage of the passage of the unpopular Nandi County Produce Cess Bill 2014, which would have imposed tariffs on agricultural produce. • Stopped the operationalisation of the Nandi County Alcoholic and Drinks Control Act 2015, whose license fees structure are opaque, and its limitation of four retail outlets per each sub-County is very unconstitutional. • Opening of a NCCSN office in Namgoi, Kapsabet Town

County CSO Network	2015 Achievements of CSO Network
<p>Bungoma County CSO Network (Voices of Bungoma CSOs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bungoma County CSO Network, otherwise known as, Voices of Bungoma (VOB) CSOs, has a membership of 35 fully paid CSOs. • VOB CSOs has liaised with other organizations and its member organizations in Bungoma and has attended a number of important workshops. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Budget tracking workshop convened by Transparency International.</i> ○ <i>Workshop on Child Right convened by Child Line Kenya.</i> • VOB CSOs have taken an active role in providing an oversight in Bungoma County. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The network was in constant communication with EACC with regard to the procurement of wheelbarrows (the Wheelbarrow scandal).</i> ○ <i>The Network monitored the recruitment process of the prison police in Bungoma County.</i>

Lessons Learned:

- CSOs are critical in the mobilization of citizens to understand their roles and be able to claim and exercise their rights and participate more meaningfully in local level development and governance processes and hold to account public officials and institutions.
- Use of non confrontational strategies by CSOs to engage county government leaders and institutions has led to success as county governments in Machakos, Bomet, Bungoma, Nandi, Kajiado, Kisii, Elgeyo Marakwet, and Kakamega are now working with CSOs on issues affecting citizens.
- As County leaders continue to exhibit greater knowledge and skills in county processes, there is need to undertake capacity building for these county leaders to ensure they play their role of representation, legislation and oversight effectively. CSOs Network leaders will play a lead role in capacity building of these county leaders.
- Lobbying and advocacy knowledge and skills of most of the CSO networks is still nascent, and therefore the need for training to increase their impact on policy influencing and holding county governments to account.
- County based CSO Networks are critical actors for the success of devolution and there is need for fundraising to support the formation and capacity building more CSO networks across the country.

5.0 Secretariat of CSO Reference Group

In 2015, PEN continued to play a key role as a member and main host of the secretariat of the CSO Reference Group (CSORG), a role that PEN has played since the formation of CSORG in October 2009. The CSO reference group is an umbrella of likeminded organisations that are, like PEN, interested in influencing key policy shapers for an enabling environment for citizens' organisations in Kenya.

5.1 Achievements of the CSO Reference Group in 2015

The key driving force of the CSORG is their continued lobbying and advocacy for the commencement of the Public Benefit Organisations (PBO) Act 2013. It should be noted that despite the Act being assented into law in January 2013, the current government is yet to set a date for the operationalization of this law. In 2015, the CSORG undertook lobbying for the operationalization of the PBO Act 2013 through various fora, meetings and conferences. The CSORG reached out to members of Parliament, various arms of the executive, civil society organisations (CSOs), members of the business sector.

In 2015, just like what happened in 2013, attempts to introduce amendments to the PBO Act by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Devolution and Planning, were totally rejected by CSOs through the CSORG. While the CSORG participated in the 2015 Taskforce formed by the Cabinet Secretary, to review stakeholder submissions on PBO Act and hold consultative meetings, advise on implementation of the Act, and monitor legislative process of amending PBO Act, the recommendations of the taskforce did not reflect the contributions of the CSOs and were therefore dismissed by the CSORG and the CSOs in general.

While the government was unable to give in to the demands of the CSOs through the CSORG for the commencement of the PBO Act 2013, CSOs managed to stop the government from interfering with the Act either through any new amendments or through the Taskforce. The success of the CSOs

is attributed to proactive lobbying and serious advocacy actions including: development of legal advisories and petitions, drafting and sharing of CSO impact statements with stakeholders, meeting with parliamentarians, parliamentary caucuses and parliamentary committees, reaching out to regional CSOs leaders to talk to their respective members of parliament about the PBO Act. CSORG also undertook campaigns through both public and social media and communications through IEC materials.

Lessons Learned

- Working as a team through the CSO Reference Group, civil society organisations have been able to stop the government attempts at amending the PBO Act 2013.
- Engagement of the citizens through proper messaging in public media, social media and IEC materials has put the PBO Act 2013 in eyes of general public.
- Through advocacy by County CSO networks and forums and reaching out to Members of Parliament, Members of County Assemblies (MCAs), Speakers of County Assemblies, Governors and other stakeholders has put the issue of the PBO Act 2013 in the eyes of many leaders across the country.

6.0 Communication and Marketing

In line with PEN 2014-2016 Strategy, in 2015, PEN built and increased awareness of its brands in order to grow its programmes and services. Strategic partnerships are considered essential to growing PEN business and maximizing marketing reach as well as building its online presence.

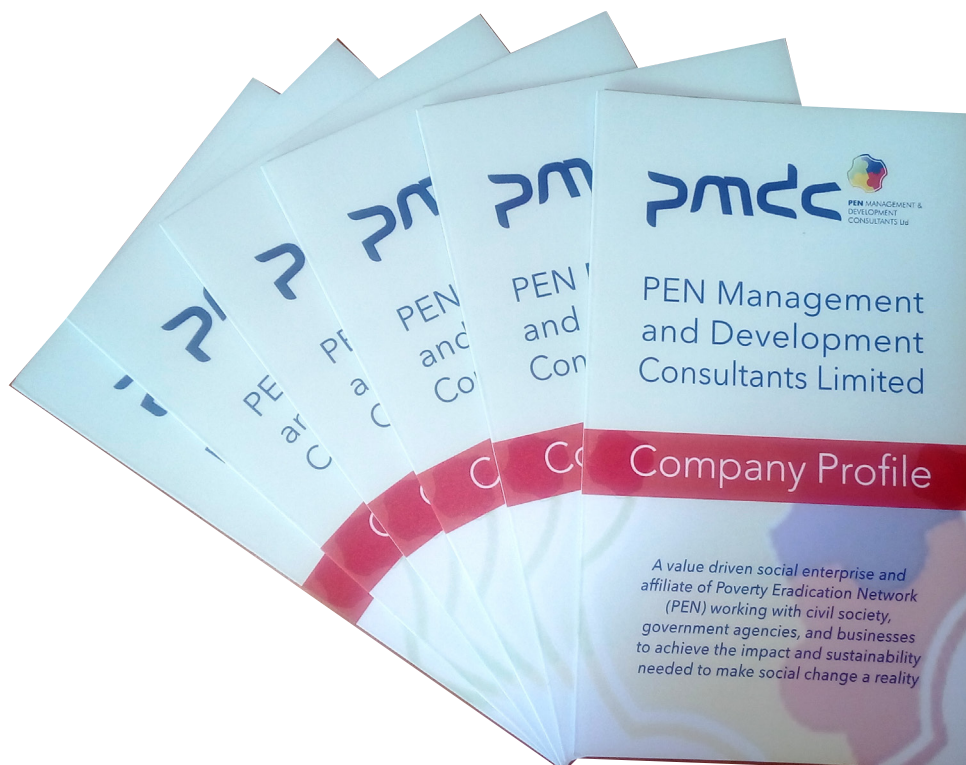
During 2015 PEN continued to invest in database building, segmentation and management. The year 2015 also witnessed increased effective internal and external communication to our constituency and stakeholders through appropriate IEC materials including brochures and our website. Those networking with PEN through our website found it more interactive and friendlier as a result of improvement done in 2015.



7.0 Cost Effective Management Services through PMDC

In 2015, PEN through its consulting arm, PEN Management and Development Consultants (PMDC) Limited, delivered cost effective management services to many clients. These include:

- End of Project Evaluation of “Strengthening Social Protection to prevent and mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS and poverty” Project in Sub-Saharan Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique);
- Final evaluation of the Community Participation and Accountability Project for Inform Action (IFA) in Maralal, Mombasa, Nyeri, Kericho and Kisii (July to August 2015) counties in Kenya;
- End of Project Evaluation of the Lake Victoria Rights Programme –LVRP for Diakonia (Jan to March 2015) in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya; Forum Syd, DFID funded (Jan to March 2015);
- End of the Project Evaluation for the EU-funded component of the Jua Jimbo-Know Your County Project (Oct-Nov 2014) in Nakuru, Kisumu and Machakos counties in Kenya;
- Final Programme Evaluation of “Enhancing Humanitarian Institutional and Community Capacity in Lakes State” of Lakes State, Oxfam South Sudan;
- Identification of new regional host for International Land Coalition (ILC) Africa;
- Provision of OD and systems development for Dry Lands and Capacity Building Initiative (DLCI), by Save the Children;
- Development of Organizational Strategy for Zinduka Africa, a partner of ACT!
- Organizational strategy, resource mobilization, and review of financial systems for Mali Biosafety & Biosecurity Association (MABB) sponsored by International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA);
- Provision of services for the registration as NGO for Dry Lands and Capacity Building Initiative (DLCI), for Save the Children;
- The provision of Administrative Assistance Services for Africalia’s Multi-Year Programme in Kenya officially ended on 31st March 2015 after 3 years.
- Africa Economic Justice Program evaluation of added value; Diakonia Regional Office this assignment ended on 25th March 2015.



8.0 Our Development Partners

1. Ford Foundation
2. Diakonia Kenya
3. Society for International Development (SID)
4. National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
5. Freedom House, Global Giving and Open Society Initiative for East Africa

8.1 PEN Board Members

In 2015, PEN Board members were as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Chairman | Dr. Samson K. Muttai |
| 2. Secretary | Ms. Caroline Mbindyo |
| 3. Treasurer | Mr. Mark Okondo |
| 4. Member | Mr. Michael K. Cherwon |
| 5. Member | Prof. Elijah K. Biamah |
| 6. Member | Ms. Resper Anyango |
| 7. Member | Mr. George Nyakora |
| 8. Member | Mr. Caxton Mwangangi |

8.2 PEN Team

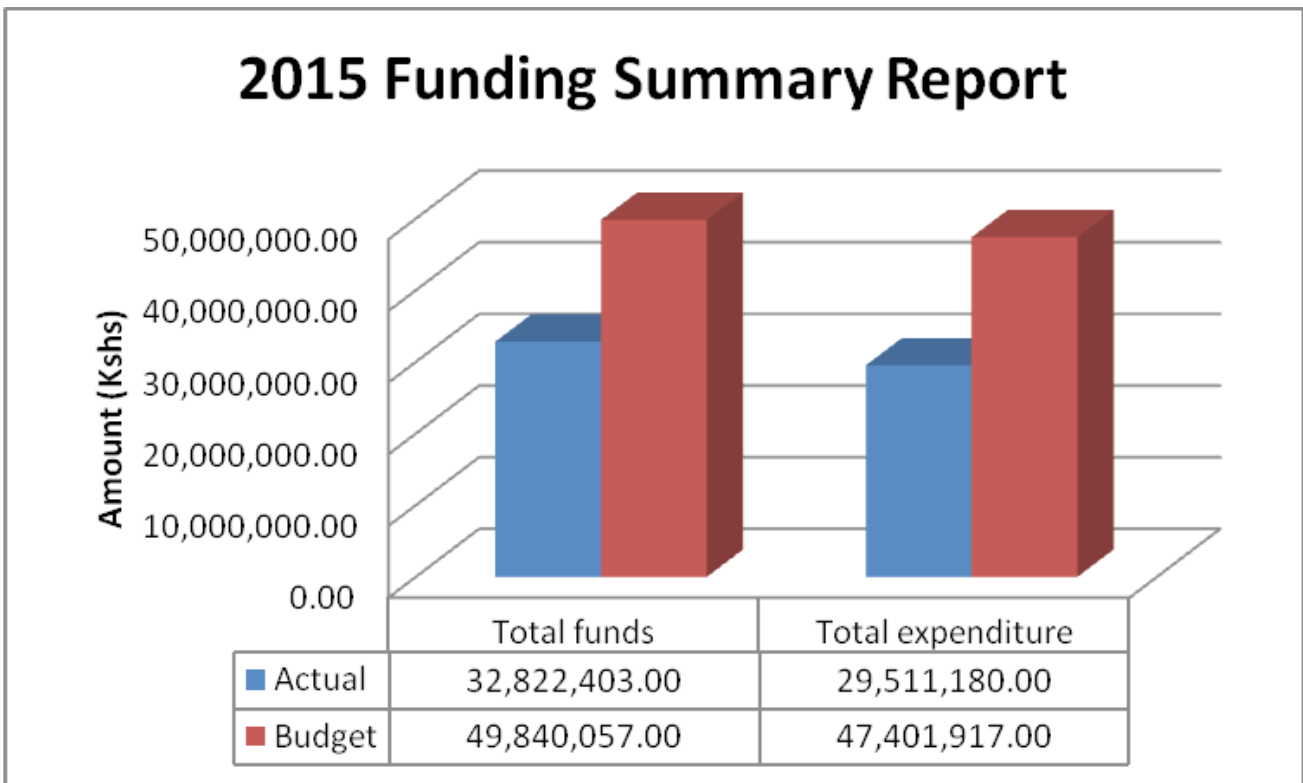
- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Chris Mbiti, | Executive Director |
| 2. Judith Ochieng Gondi, | Finance & Administration Manager |
| 3. Anne Macharia Irara, | Financial Compliance Officer |
| 4. Judy Gachathi, | Programme Administration Officer |
| 5. Anne Tek, | CSO Project Manager |
| 6. Mary Kanini Mutuku, | CBO Project Officer |
| 7. Faith Alukwe Imbaali, | Programme Assistant |
| 8. Danson Kimeu, | Office Assistant |
| 9. George Karanja, | Program Associate - OD and Resource Mobilization |
| 10. Thomas Kirongo, | Program Associate - OD & Strategy Development |
| 11. Sammy Keter, | Program Associate - Evaluation, Communication, Brand Specialist |

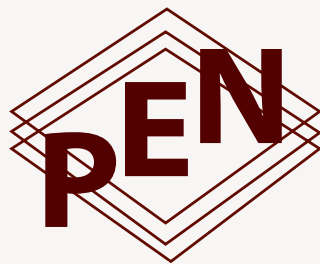


“Mary Mutuku, PEN’s Project Officer give a hand to one of the participants attending the PBO National conference

9.0 Funding and its Utilization

In 2015, PEN Pursued resource mobilization as projected in the 2014-2015 Strategic Plan.





POVERTY ERADICATION NETWORK
Strengthening Citizens Participation

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