

Strengthening Citizens Participation

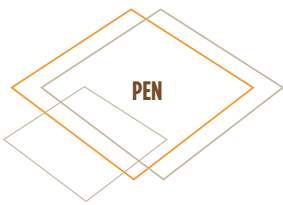
# Poverty Eradication Network

Strengthening Citizens Participation

Annual Report 2019







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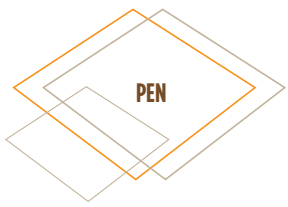
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# Introduction to PEN

**P**overty Eradication Network (PEN) is a Kenyan Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) registered since December 2001. PEN believes that a strong civil society, including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) such as: Community Based Organizations (CBOs), NGOs and Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), is fundamental to the development of any country and its ability to have sustainable impact upon poverty. PEN was established to contribute towards the eradication of poverty in East Africa, through building and strengthening the institutional capacity of civil society organizations and other not-for-profit organizations (NPOs) and institutions. PEN recognizes that in order to support communities to be responsible for their own development, CSOs must deliver impact and ensure their own long-term viability. Strong and sustainable civil society groups require not only highly motivated, committed and competent leadership, but also good governance, strong management, clear strategy, successful fundraising, demonstrated results, public profile, and effective policies, procedures and organizational systems. CSOs therefore need affordable, appropriate, competent and effective capacity building inputs and support, if they are to build upon their innate capacity and strong commitment to their causes.

**Our Vision:** A society where all people have access to a life of dignity, devoid of absolute poverty.



**Our Mission:** To create wealth and prosperity in Kenya through value driven programmes that enhance capacity and sector coordination, sustainability and citizen's voices at all levels.



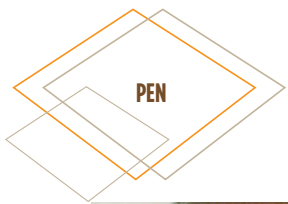
## Our Core Values:

- **Respect for human rights, diversity, equity and justice for all:** PEN respects for the rights of all people to determine their own destiny and development, irrespective of ethnicity, social status, religion, age or gender.
- **Respect for the innate potential, dignity and ability of all people to make their own lives:** Our communities and stakeholders have the ability to design and make their own future.
- **Participation:** PEN respects the beliefs and wisdom of our stakeholders/partners, apply participatory approaches that build upon existing knowledge and skills, and ensures ownership and control of outputs remains with them.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** PEN ensures that its assets and resources are used exclusively for the achievement of its mission and consistent with its values. We are open in all our transactions and accountable for our expenditures and impact.
- **Concern for a healthy and clean environment:** PEN promotes technologies that build upon indigenous knowledge and resources, while regenerating and protecting the environment, ensuring people's health and safety.









**Dr. Samson Muttai, Board Chairman**

Dr. Muttai is a trained veterinary surgeon. He was the Assistant Director of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), Livestock Division, for over 15 years. He is also a retired Council Member of Egerton University.



**Chris Mbiti, Executive Director**

A development practitioner with more than 20 years' experience in international and local NGOs, Chris provides day-to-day leadership and management through program design and strategy, program implementation, networking and fundraising, as well as accountability and reporting to the Board, development partners, government and community stakeholders.

## Executive Director and Board Chairman's Word

**T**hank you for creating time to visit our website, and for going through our 2019 Annual Report.

The milestones we achieved in this period were possible due to the commitment of our funding partners, and our partner communities spread across the counties of Kenya and their organizations. The members of our board provided strong and strategic leadership throughout the year, and their support to our staff has enabled PEN serve its targeted constituents.

The civil society sector continues to grapple with the same issues faced in previous years, which include a shrinking civic space, decreasing funding opportunities, poorly performing economy and a sector that is still divided, hence not well positioned to push for a common agenda. However, the last half of the year saw improved collaboration between civil society organizations (CSOs) and county and national governments in addressing the issues of civic space and a better appreciation of the role of CSOs in the country.

County governments positively took on board recommendations from CSOs, especially in areas of budget formulation, social audits of county projects, as well as receiving positively inputs from citizens and CSOs on policies and laws being formulated by the county. This was noted in

Machakos and Nandi Counties where PEN implemented the project, "Amplifying the Voices and Actions of Non-State Actors and Citizens in the Management of County Affairs for Effective Service Delivery". The national government also engaged with CSOs in a number of collaborative efforts around expansion of the civic space and citizens' rights.

We forged new partnerships in 2019 and strengthened existing ones. PEN partnered with three organizations - Ujamaa Center, Community Research in Environment and Development Initiatives (CREADIS) and Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG), and with the support of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through FHI360, launched a project aimed at strengthening civic and democratic space through implementation of the PBO Act (2013). Our partnership with SUNY Research Foundation, AHADI Program, saw us directly reach out to more than 237,000 citizens in the counties of Nandi and Machakos and engaged the two county governments on modalities to enhance service delivery.

With the support of Ford Foundation, we worked with county-based CSOs to enhance citizens' engagement in the management of county affairs in the counties of Kilifi, Makueni and Siaya. The support also enabled us partner with other like-minded national networks such as CSRG, to

advocate for an expanded civic space, especially the commencement of the PBO Act (2013).

As we embrace 2020, we celebrate all our communities, civil society partners and development partners for their co-operation and support. We strive to remain transparent and accountable to our target constituents and our development partners by producing cost-effective results, and ensuring that every shilling we receive has a multiplier effect to our people. We plan to replicate what has worked in 2019, and learn from what didn't. We dedicate 2020 to learning from our past work and hope to reach more counties in the course of the year.

Once more, on behalf of our target communities, board members and staff we would like to thank all our development partners and CSO partners who walked with us in 2019 for the trust and confidence you have shown in our work. Your support enabled us successfully accomplish our journey in 2019, despite the many internal and external challenges we faced in the sector. We look forward to your support in the coming years as we try to reach out to more communities in Kenya.

Dr. Samson Muttai, Chairman, Board of Directors

Chris Mbiti, Executive Director



# The Board of Directors

**20**  
YEARS

**Caroline Mbindyo, Koroso, Board Secretary**

Ms Mbindyo has over 20 years' experience in the media industry as a producer of video and audio content, and is currently the EVP Africa of the Hiventy Group. She is also a member of the Advisory Board of Docubox Film Fund; a member of Kenya Film and TV Professionals; a corporate member of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance; a co-founder and vice chair of Producers Guild of Kenya, and committee member and secretary of Kenya Oscars Selection Committee.



**40**  
YEARS

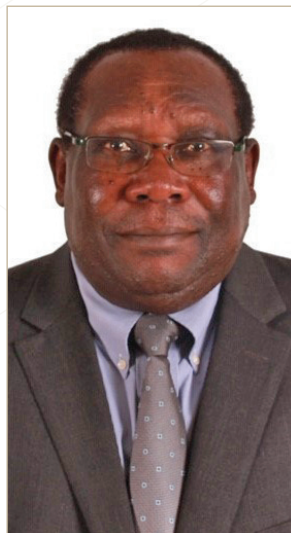
**Prof. Elijah Biamah, Board Member**

Elijah Biamah is a Professor of Environmental and Water Systems Engineering at the University of Nairobi and a former Acting Vice Chancellor, University of Eldoret, Kenya. He has 40 years experience in teaching, research and consultancy in technical, environmental, socio-economic, gender and socio-cultural aspects of development projects in the USA, Africa, Europe, Asia and many UN Agencies. Prof. Biamah's consultancy experience has exposed him to the planning, monitoring and evaluation, policy and legislative issues concerning rural development projects. He has been involved in donor, community and environment oriented project planning and management in Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and China.



**Eng. Jan Mutai, Board Member**

Eng. Mutai is a member of the Institution of Engineers of Kenya, with senior level local and international experience in the Oil and Telecom Industries. He has a wealth of knowledge, skills and competencies in corporate governance in private and public sectors. For his services to his country Kenya, he has been honoured as a Moran, and an Elder of the Burning Spear. His contribution to progress of humanity has been recognized through award of Doctor of Science (honoris causa).



**20**  
YEARS

**John Mark Okondo, Treasurer**

A certified Public Accountant, Mr Okondo has had a rich career spanning over 20 years, in the private sector. He is currently the Managing Director of Jemco Business Solutions Ltd, his own firm; the Group Chairman of the Board of Pioneer Assurance Company Ltd; a Trustee of Zamara Fanaka Retirement Fund; and the Treasurer of Sustainable Healthcare Foundation.



**George Nyakora, Board Member**

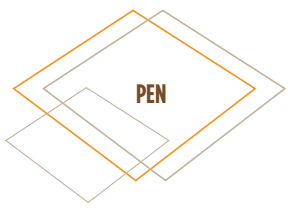
George Nyakora is the immediate past President of Africawide Movement for Children; he previously served in Actionaid International and SOS Kinderdorf in various capacities as a Director. He has in 2020 developed the National Street Families Rehabilitation Policy for the Government of Kenya.



**30**  
YEARS

**Resper Anyango Gogo, Vice Chairperson**

Ms. Gogo, an MBA holder in Strategic Management with more than 30 years of work experience, is an independent consultant in Finance, Human Resources and Strategic Management. She is a former General Manager of Kodak Kenya Ltd; serves on several Boards, including the Kakamega County Revenue Agency.



# PEN Management and Staff

## Staff Development 2019

PEN has a unique, committed and diversely skilled team of enthusiastic learners that are open to new innovations and taking calculated risks to achieve excellence. Starting from the Board of Directors who provide professional advice and play an oversight role to the Secretariat, to staff who run the organization on a daily basis, and the NSA leaders and community volunteers who drive our work at the grassroots, PEN thrives on the volunteerism spirit of its team.

In 2019, we focused on building the capacity of our staff and NSA leaders in various counties, and enhancing the skills of Community Volunteers (CORPs) in the program cycle, leadership and management. Our staff, partner NSA leaders and CORPs attended training workshops, mentorship sessions and conferences organized by PEN, development partners, partner NSAs and training institutions. We value the contribution of our staff and frontline actors and commit to continuously building their capacities to enable them cope with the changing environment.

**20**  
YEARS

### Judith Ochieng Gondi, Finance and Administration Manager

A finance professional with more than 20 years' experience in providing leadership and management in design, implementation and strengthening of financial, human resource and administration systems, for organizational growth and financial sustainability. She maintains timely reporting to PEN's funding partners and the Board, as well as government statutory bodies. Judith also supports local and international not-for-profit organizations (NPOs) to address various institutional gaps in areas of organization and financial management systems.



**12**  
YEARS

### Anne Macharia Irara, Financial Compliance Officer

A finance and accounts professional and trainer with twelve years of experience in non-profit organizations' finance and accounting, Anne supports development and implementation of sound financial and accounting systems to ensure quality financial reporting and organizational statutory compliance.

**16**  
YEARS

### Mary Kanini Mutuku, Project Officer

Mary has sixteen years of experience in project management and implementation, with a focus on strengthening the capacities of citizens, county-level civil society organizations and their networks on various governance issues. She also works with communities on approaches and strategies to enhance their livelihoods resilience and promotion of good governance at the grassroots level.



**6**  
YEARS

### Faith Alukwe Imbaali, Project Officer

Faith has six years of experience in project management and implementation. She coordinates activities of both national and county CSO networks on the enhancement of democracy, governance and human rights, and leads in the identification of areas of synergy and collaboration among civil society organizations, their networks and various county governments. In addition she provides support to all the other PEN projects/programs. She also leads the procurement process in PEN



**3**  
YEARS

**Ludovicus Omollo, Project Officer**

Ludi has three years of experience in building the capacity and facilitating the integration of citizens and civil society organizations in various county governance processes such as county planning and budgeting, social accountability and advocacy for an enhanced service delivery at the counties. He is the Monitoring, Evaluation, Resolution, and Learning (MERL) and PEN programs communication team leader.



**10**  
YEARS

**Judy Gachathi, Programs Manager – Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG) Secretariat**

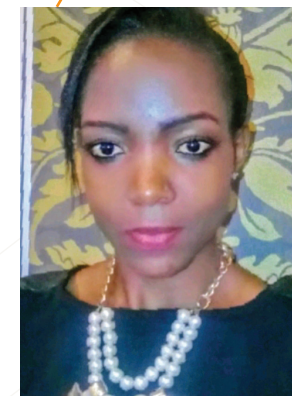
Judy has over ten years of experience working in program administration, implementation and management in the not-for-profit sector. As CSRG’s head of secretariat, she leads in the development, implementation and report of CSRG’s programs and is the primary contact person for CSRG partners. She works primarily with the CSRG oversight team and funding partners.



**2**  
YEARS

**Diana Kuya, Research and Communications Assistant – CSRG Secretariat**

Diana has two years of experience in providing communication and administrative support such as scheduling, managing and maintaining CSRG’s internal, external and digital communication and other general office operations.



**8**  
YEARS

**Danson Kimeu, Office Assistant**

Danson supports PEN’s administrative functions by undertaking various office support operations including timely deliveries, customer care and hospitality.



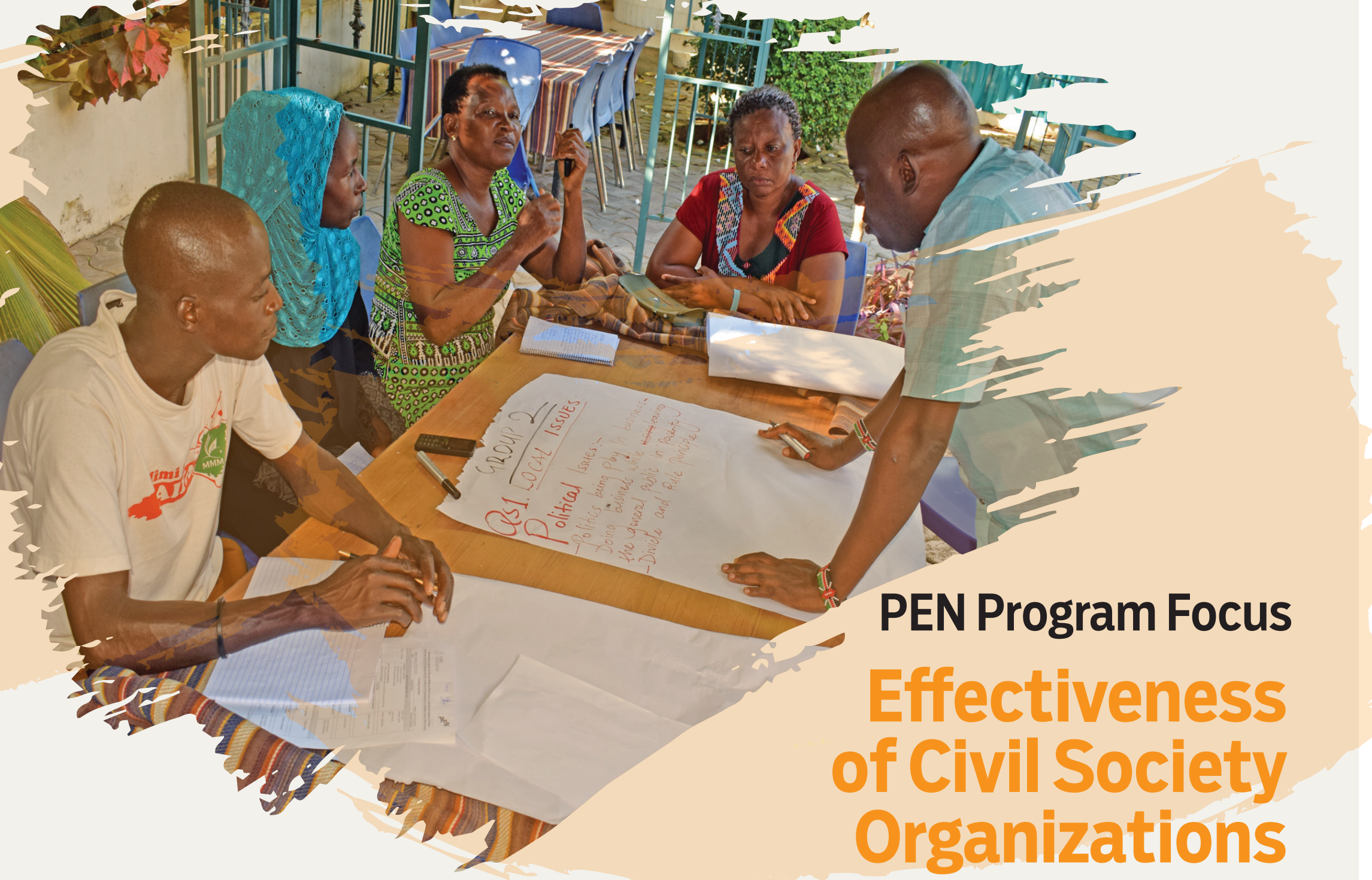
**4**  
YEARS

**Isabella Obara, Project Officer – CSRG Secretariat**

Isabella has four years of experience in legal practice and advocating for the creation of an enabling environment for civil society in Kenya. She supports advocacy work for the commencement of the PBO Act (2013) and the development of PBO Rules and Regulations through facilitating and participating in various activities aimed at advocating for an enabling civic space.







# PEN Program Focus Effectiveness of Civil Society Organizations



Civil Society in Kenya and all over the world plays an important role in reducing poverty and overall wealth creation by delivering services directly, maintaining watchdog and whistle-blower's role, and building capacity among citizens, state and non-state actors. The poor especially in arid and semi-arid regions, and urban informal settlements have relied heavily on these organizations to provide the much needed services and emergency interventions in areas of health and education.

Civil society provides people with the space for association, reflection and the ability to demand their rights and become active citizens, rather than passive recipients of services. An effective civil society can empower and represent the poor in policy formulation at local and national levels; raise awareness of people's rights and entitlements through civic education and public campaigns; improve state services through tracking, monitoring and reporting and demanding for transparency and accountability. CSO's capacity to work together will ensure inclusive access to services; while creating state capability to respond to citizen's voice through participatory planning and budgeting.

**PEN therefore works to:**



Protect and advocate for an expanded enabling operating environment for CSOs, particularly through formulation and implementation of relevant laws such as the PBO Act (2013) and the development of improved and enabling policies and practices at county and national level.



Support capacity building and development of CSO networks at national and grassroots level with an objective of growing a vibrant sector which is citizen-driven, accountable and with strong leadership structures and capacity to deliver their mandate.



Strengthen advocacy against restrictions to legal and socially acceptable local and international funding and partnerships, and for increased funding from county/national governments, corporations and local philanthropists.



Strengthen self-regulation mechanisms to NGO standards and benchmarks (both national and international) such as those developed through VIWANGO, PBO Act (2013) and the proposed PBO Charter.

**2019 ACHIEVEMENTS**

In 2019, PEN in collaboration with other likeminded partners who included Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG), County Based CSO networks in Kilifi, Taita Taveta CSO Network (TTCN), Kakamega County CSO Network, Bungoma CSOs Network, Machakos County CSO Network (MCCN), Nandi County Civil Society Network (NCCSN), Makueni CSO Networks and Citizen Voice and Action, Siaya County (CVA), implemented a number of activities aimed at strengthening county and grassroots based organizations and making them voices of positive change in their respective counties. These county based CSOs networks were to become platforms where

NSA leaders, citizens and county government leaders could congregate and deliberate on county affairs with an objective of achieving better service delivery.

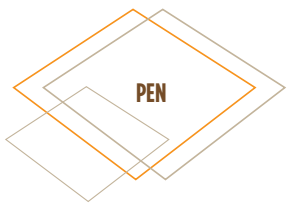
**Training of Civil Society Leaders:** PEN in collaboration with CSRG trained 18 CSO leaders to improve their facilitation skills through a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Leadership and Governance. In addition the training also aimed at deepening the CSOs leaders' knowledge of civic space protection especially advocating for the commencement of the PBO Act 2013.



*“With the skills gained, I conducted an internal capacity building of our staff in Kisumu on Leadership, Governance and Civic space. My colleagues proceeded to disseminate the knowledge to the community health workers and volunteers that Tinada works with in Kisumu, Vihiga, Bungoma and Kakamega Counties,” Mike Wanjeng’u, Programs Coordinator – TINADA Youth Organization.*

In partnership with CVA Leaders in Siaya County, 27 CVA leaders were trained on the Public Expenditure Management (PEM) and Social Accountability in December 2019. Through the training the trained CVA leaders developed a work plan that the CVAs will follow through, for a period on of six months January to June 2020 purposely to monitor and track the implementation of county government projects

In Kilifi County in collaboration with Ujamaa Centre, 20 CSO leaders and Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) undertook a training on land rights, natural resources and



environment which also included advocacy for sustainable use of land based minerals. The purpose of the training was to enhance the knowledge and capacity of the leaders to advocate and engage policy makers, regulatory institutions, investors and the public to ensure that the stone quarrying in Jaribuni Community is conducted in a manner that respects and protects the rights of the Community and maintains a healthy environment.

PEN in collaboration with Machakos and Nandi CSO Networks, trained and equipped 39 CSO leaders with skills on PEM processes, Public Participation, Devolution and Social Audit. The training aimed at increasing involvement of NSA leader and citizens in management of county affairs for a better service delivery.

Additionally, in the two counties of Machakos and Nandi, in collaboration with PEN, the networks held a series of Accountability Forums to which cumulatively 223 Non State Actors and County Government officials were able to discuss the status of service delivery in the respective counties. Through the forums the community and NSA leaders were able to raise their concerns on development processes gaps especially poor public participation, unfair distribution of resources within the county wards and stalled and poorly done projects.

Seventy-eight CSO leaders in Kakamega, Bungoma and Taita Taveta counties were trained on enhancing the civic competencies of CSOs to promote democratic and accountable exercise of power. The training aimed at equipping CSO leaders in the three counties with skills that will enable to effectively engage their respective county governments and participate effectively in county governance processes and contribute to enactment enabling laws and policies for the flourishing of citizens' organizations.

**CSOs Exhibition:** CSRG in collaboration with Taita Taveta CSO Network convened a CSO Exhibition in Taita Taveta County under the theme “Enhancing Civic Space to fight Corruption”. Forty-three (43) network members shared with the general public, county government, and amongst themselves their activities and services. The exhibition emphasized the need to fight corruption starting at personal level. The exhibition gave an opportunity to citizens and county government officials to understand better the CSOs in their county, their areas of focus and areas where government can collaborate with the CSOs to enhance service delivery to citizens.

*“21 groups from Champions for Gender and Economic Development CBO (CHAGEDE) got an opportunity to exhibit their activities and services during the Taita Taveta CSO exhibition. Owing to this, one of the groups, Shigharo Widows received a Sugarcane juice machine as a donation from the County Government. On the other hand groups whose focus was animal husbandry got market for their products.” Jaxon Shako Mtoto, Chairperson – (CHAGEDE) CBO*

**Annual General Assembly (AGA):** In September 2019 CSRG members convened for an AGA with an attendance of 72 members. During the year 2019 CSRG recorded an increase of its membership from 176 in 2018 to 200 fully paid up members. The increased membership gives CSRG a stronger voice in advocating for an enabling environment for citizens organization in Kenya, for example advocating for the commencement of the PBO Act 2013.





**CSO Network Meetings:** In 2019 PEN in collaboration with CSRG supported a number of CSO Network meetings in a number of counties. In Partnership with MCCN and NCCSN, the NSA leaders in both counties were able to hold two Coordination Meetings to discuss the state of development in their counties and also organized two County-level Accountability Forums in which county government officials were participants. The County-level Accountability Forums provided an opportunity for the CSOs to engage County Government officials on issues of accountability and service delivery in Nandi and Machakos Counties. The forums also provided a platform for enhancing collaborative mechanisms to improve accountability and service delivery.

Similar NSA leaders meetings were held in Kakamega, Bungoma and Taita Taveta in collaboration with CSRG where issues around civic space, an enabling environment, accountability, human rights, state of service delivery in the counties and corruption were discussed. These meetings concluded with submission of petitions to respective arms of county government raising concerns on matters affecting the citizens.

*“The quarterly meetings sponsored by CSRG were very vital. The meetings assisted us put the county government of Bungoma on check. It’s through these meetings that the mistrust between the county government and civil society sector was cleared leading to increased engagement and collaboration.”*  
**Danstone Ilavonga, Program Administrator – Action for Empowerment - Kenya, Bungoma County, and member of Bungoma CSO Network.**



**Development of MCCN’s Strategic Plan (SP) and NCCSN’s Networking Plan:** PEN was able to support MCCN to develop its three-year Strategic Plan (2019-2021). The SP would act as a guide to the county CSOs’ work on enhancing citizen’s participation and achieving citizen centered development. Additionally, PEN supported NCCSN develop its Networking plan to guide its activities in the county.







# Democracy and Governance



To a large extent, Kenya's transformation depends on the capacity of citizens and governments (national and county) to play their constitutional roles. The ability of citizens to engage meaningfully with the state is crucial to guarantee the continuation of this transformation and the success of democracy is dependent on the ability of all actors in governance participating actively and freely in this expanded and protected civic space.

CSOs continue to play an increasingly visible role in Kenya's socio-economic and political development, including the important role of expanding and protecting the country's democratic space. As an organization working with citizens and their grassroots organizations, it is PEN's goal to strengthen and enhance the fundamental principles of democracy, educate citizens on their rights and responsibilities and increase their participation in governance and democratic processes. Well-informed citizens are effective watchdogs of public governance; actively engage with political processes; and participate in structured dialogue with the government and the private sector.

The participation of citizens in county and national affairs, and consequently their enjoyment of the benefits envisaged in the Constitution of Kenya 2010, is limited by:

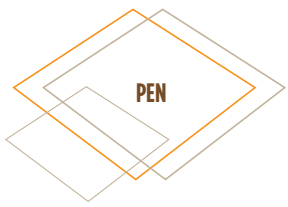
- Lack of political education and limited understanding of the constitution, citizens' rights and responsibilities leaving them inert and unable to capitalize on political and legal opportunities;
- Limited citizen engagement and participation in matters of interest at national and county level leading to tyranny and impunity amongst political leaders;



- Ineffective use of public resources making it impossible to invest in social and economic goods and services that uplift the lives of citizens;
- Elite-capture of the economy, corruption, nepotism and limited access and control of public information and resources has exacerbated income inequalities;
- Violation of the rule of law and impunity in many facets of Kenyan life by the ruling class, leading to injustice and abuse of human rights; and,
- Limited participation by the largest percentage of the nation's population, consisting of the youth, women, minorities and vulnerable groups in national and sub-national processes.

PEN works with civil society actors, their networks and

other supportive agencies to enhance citizen participation in governance by providing tools, skills, structures and approaches of handling accountability issues and addressing corruption at county and national level. PEN pushes for the involvement of citizens in the development of new laws and policies, meaningful participation in budgeting process especially advocating for increased budgetary allocations to key sectors of education, health and food security which greatly affect the lives of the most vulnerable citizens. Similarly, we support the strengthening and protection devolved governance through strengthening of governance systems, further devolved decision making to village and Ward level as well as calling for equitable distribution of resources between national and county governments and within the counties.



## 2019 ACHIEVEMENTS

1

### Enhancing Citizens' Voice and Action for Better Service Delivery

In 2019, PEN in collaboration with Machakos County CSOs Network (MCCN), Nandi County Civil Society Network (NCCSN) and Community-based Oversight Resource Persons (CORPs) engaged in project activities aimed at enhancing the capacity of citizens from Nandi and Machakos counties in holding their leaders accountable for better service delivery. Overall, these activities were geared to enhancing the skills and knowledge of citizens and NSA leaders in county governance processes, better understanding of citizens' rights and responsibilities and making citizens active participants in county affairs.



#### i. Sensitization of citizens

In Machakos County, residents were sensitized through a special **radio talk show program** at Mbaitu FM. During the four talk shows, the residents were sensitized on Devolution processes, public participation, County planning and budgeting processes, and the role of County Assembly in Public Expenditure Management (PEM) and devolution processes. Through these sessions, an estimated total of 724,000 persons in the lower Eastern Kenya were reached.

Residents of Machakos County were actively engaged through theatre sessions held at each of the County's

eight sub-counties. The theatre skits were aimed at creating awareness on the PEM process and how the residents could actively participate in it. The skits were also shared on PEN's social media sites to encourage further discussions on the topics. Through the theater performance and social media, 89,980 people were reached.

CORPs drawn from 40 wards in Machakos County and 30 wards in Nandi County sensitized residents on PEM Processes, Devolution, Social Accountability and Public Participation, reaching 237,902 residents.

**ii. To aid in interrogating County planning and budget processes, and in conducting Social Accountability processes in Nandi County, PEN produced a Simplified Version of the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) (2018-2022) and the Annual Budget (2018). These documents will be shared online and will be accessible to all residents for their use in holding the County Government to account.**

**iii. Together with MCCN and NCCSN, PEN facilitated six County-level Accountability Forums in Machakos and Nandi Counties where 176 Non State Actors (NSAs) attended and 43 County and National Government officials attended. The Forums brought together NSAs, County Government officials and other stakeholders to discuss the state of service delivery in the counties and collaborative mechanisms of enhancing accountability. As a result of these Forums, MCCN and NCCSN were able to submit petitions to County Government on formation and operationalization of County Budget and Economic Forum (CBEF), enactment of Public**

Participation and Civic Engagement Bills, public access to relevant County Planning and Budgeting documents, and approval of Machakos County CIDP. Petitions on alleged corruption were also submitted to the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission.

#### iv. CORPs organized 10 Ward-level Accountability Forums at their various Wards where 1,544 residents attended to discuss service delivery and accountability at the Ward level. The issues discussed at these forums emanated from the sensitization activities and social accountability exercises carried out by the CORPs.



**v. 58 CORPs in Nandi and 79 in Machakos were trained** on PEM and Devolution processes, public participation and community mobilization. Being community champions, the CORPs training aimed at building their skills and knowledge to enable them sensitize their communities

and mobilize them to actively participate in the County Planning and Budget Cycle.

**vi. 278 leaders drawn from the sub-counties of Machakos and Nandi Counties were trained** on PEM processes and social accountability. The training was done at nine venues across the two counties targeting community leaders such as community group leaders, local administrators and church leaders. Being focal points at their communities, sensitizing these leaders aimed at having them collaborate with the CORPs in encouraging civic action among the residents of the sub-counties.





CSRG Presiding Convener, Suba Churchill, makes closing remarks after a training for CSO leaders on Leadership and Integrity, at Thayu Hotel, Limuru



Participants at a group discussion during the Leadership and Integrity Training at Thayu Hotel, Limuru

**vii. 100 CORPs were trained on Social** Accountability with the aim of them leading Social Accountability exercises that would audit ongoing and complete County Government projects to ensure that the residents receive projects they prioritized and that there is value for money in the projects.

**viii. CORPs conducted 86 Social Accountability** exercises were conducted in Nandi and Machakos Counties with the aim of auditing various County Government projects. As a result of the exercises, the County Government of Nandi formed a committee to review all stalled projects with a view of completing them. In Machakos County, Ward Development Committees were formed to monitor and oversight various County Government projects at the Wards.

*“When the County Government officials saw my colleague, Wilson Kenduiywo and I conducting Social Audits on the projects in Tinderet Ward, they quickly marshalled the contractors to complete stalled projects. This will lead to the residents benefiting from these projects,” Hesbon Kimutai, CORP – Tindirer Ward, Nandi County.*

**ix. MCCN, NCCSN and CORPs submitted seven** petitions to the County Governments of Nandi and Machakos and to the regional offices of Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC). As a result of these petitions, investigations were launched into various projects with alleged improper dealings, Nandi County Government established a County Liaisons

office to improve communication with other stakeholders while in Machakos, the venue for public participation in Kalama Sub-County was changed from Kyangala to Makaveti market.

*“Our MCA was very powerful and could grab people’s land without any actions being taken by the local authorities. However, with the sensitization done by the CORP on ways that could be used to stop his actions, we approached Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission that is currently handling the matter where he grabbed land earmarked for the Chief’s office. Though he has been seeking to have the matter settled out of Court, the local leaders are adamant that he has to go through the justice system as a way of deterring other politicians who lack integrity,” Mr. Samson Kioko, community leader, Kalama Ward.*

*“Kyangala Market was in one end of the Ward thus we had difficulties in accessing the venue. The County Government has agreed with the residents who petitioned it through the County Secretary to change the venue to Makaveti Market which is centrally located and has better transport connectivity for residents who may want to attend public participation,” Catherine Kanini, CORP – Kalama Ward, Machakos County.*

## 2

### Safeguarding Civic and Democratic Space

In collaboration with CSRG, CREADIS and Ujamaa Centre, PEN engaged in various activities aimed at ensuring that civic and democratic space is safeguarded through the commencement of the Public Benefit Organizations (PBO) Act, 2013, and that the gains already made are protected. The following were the achievements:

**i. PEN and her partners held 11 Sensitization meetings on PBO Act (2013)** in Muranga, Makueni, Kilifi, Mombasa, Trans Nzoia and Bungoma counties. The meetings attended by 178 CSO leaders, aimed at sensitizing the leaders on the provisions of the PBO Act and progress made in advocating for its commencement.

**ii. CSRG and partners petitioned the Ministry of Interior and Coordination** of National Government, the Office of the Attorney General, development partners, and the Parliamentary Select Committee on Implementation on the commencement of the PBO Act, 2013. In the counties, CSO Networks in Nandi, Muranga, Makueni, Kisumu and Mombasa counties also petitioned National Government officials at the County-level on the same.

**iii. CSOs through their County-based Networks** presented petitions to their County Governments on issues including enactment or implementation of their respective County Public Participation Bills/Acts; the Disability Act; the County Budget and Economic Forum (CBEF); Citizens' Access to Information; and review of County Integrated Development Plans and Annual Develop-

ment Plans to enable the residents enjoy the benefits envisioned in the draft/enacted pieces of legislation.



*“The County Budget and Economic Forum are now functional thus giving the residents an opportunity to engage with the County Government in a more structured way. This will be further enhanced when the County Assembly enacts the Public Participation and Civic Education Bill that would streamline engagement with citizens in the County,” Mr. Shadrack Tarno, Chairperson – Nandi County Civil Society Network.*

**iv. To protect civic space gains made in the sector,** CSRG and partners petitioned the Registrar of Societies on the proposed amendments to the Societies Act, and held a press conference together with Kenya Human Rights Commission, Transparency International, African Center for Open Governance, and The Institute for Social Accountability to raise concern that reading of the budget before consensus was obtained on the Division of Revenue Bill violated the Constitution and undermined devolution.

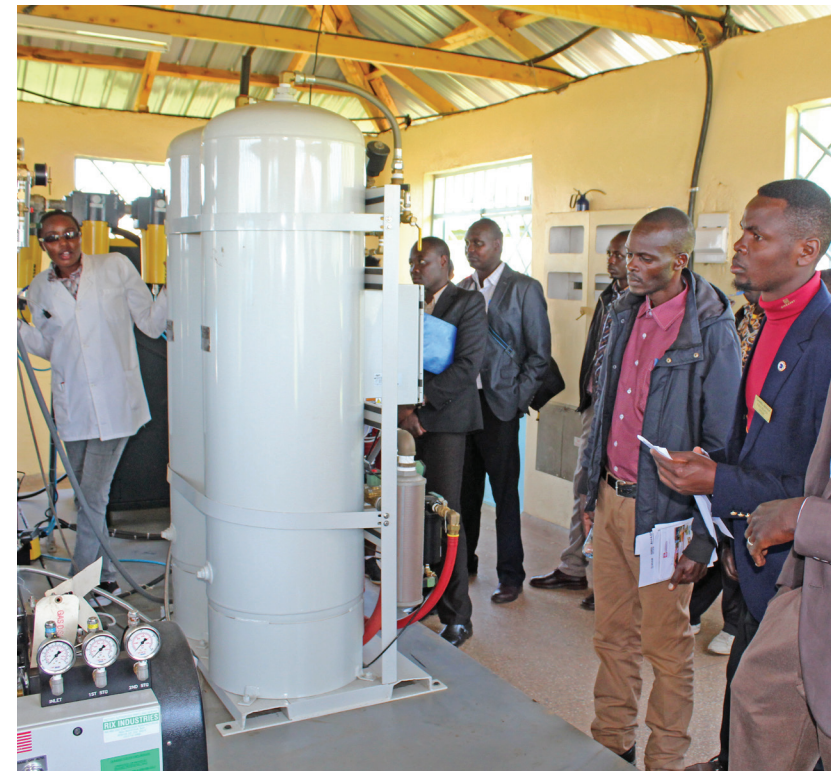
**v. CSRG partnered with Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA)** to form the Civil Society Organizations Anti-Corruption Working Group that will deliberate on solutions to corruption in the country.

**vi. CSRG and partners engaged the Donor Working Group** to use its diplomatic channels to advocate for the commencement of the PBO Act.

**vii. The NGO Coordination Board met stakeholders in Mombasa, Nairobi, Kisumu and Meru** where issues affecting the sector were discussed. At this meetings, the CSO leaders present were able to continue with the advocacy for the commencement of the PBO Act, 2013, with the Board stating that the National Security Council had endorsed commencement of the PBO Act. These NGO Board and CSOs meeting will go a long way in fostering cordial relations between the two key stakeholders in the sector.











# Community Resilience to Economic and Environmental Shocks



It is estimated that over 10 million people in Kenya face regular threats of food shortage due to declining yields and weather shifts. According to UNDP, climate change has far-reaching consequences for the poor and marginalized groups, majority of who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Reduced land surface suitable for agriculture is one of the notable effects of climate change, resulting from longer dry spells and reduced access to water, destructive flooding, and deteriorating soil quality. This is compounded by weak capacity of citizens and their institutions to mount effective adaptive mechanisms.

Additionally, the discovery and exploration of mineral wealth has benefits, but also negative environmental impact. Coal mining for instance, has the potential to pollute water systems and contribute to worsening climate change impacts due to carbon emissions.

Because of the foregoing, PEN works with communities, government and development partners to intervene against the impact of environmental shocks on food production, the environment and livelihoods of poor and vulnerable populations. We focus on promoting sustainable and adaptive agricultural practices, development of agriculture value chains, and capacity building of communities and civil society organizations to scale up tested and working environmental innovations.

We also support the enactment of policies that strengthen benefit-sharing between the state, corporations and communities, with special focus on the protection of cultural sites such as shrines, migration paths for livestock and wildlife, waterways and community grazing areas. PEN also tracks, monitors and reports on the performance of the mining sector in general, and uses the reports for programing and further enhancement of our tools of engagement.



The Global Giving's Field staff visited the site of Mutulani Water project leading to the project receiving a 'Site Verification Badge' of the fundraising platform.

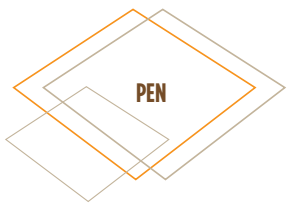
## 2019 ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2019, PEN and her partners in various counties continued to conduct activities that were meant to build the resilience of communities to economic and environment-related shocks.

**i. The Mutulani Community Water Project was expanded** to encompass sanitation needs for the Mutulani Primary and Secondary Schools. This was necessitated by the emerging needs of the two schools that host the water project on behalf of the community. The enhanced project will seek to equip the borehole,

to construct water distribution system to the two schools and to a community water point, to put up a modern ablution block for the two schools, and to create a ground water recharge system to ensure adequacy and sustainability of the water throughout the year.

**ii. PEN and the Mutulani Community engaged the County Government of Makueni** and the Kaiti National Government – Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) on equipping and extension of the Mutulani Water Project piping. Kaiti NG-CDF promised to support the project completion 2019/2020 financial year.



iii. **The Global Giving’s Field staff visited the site of Mutulani Water project** leading to the project receiving a ‘Site Verification Badge’ of the fundraising platform.

iv. **PEN in collaboration with NCCSN, MCCN and Makueni CSOs Network (MACSON)** petitioned the County Governments of Nandi, Machakos and Makueni to increase budgetary allocation to essential sectors such as agriculture, health, education and water and to form relevant sector working groups. These sectors directly affect the resilience of communities to economic and environment-related shocks.

v. **PEN in collaboration with Ujamaa Centre trained 20 CSO leaders** and Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) from the Jaribuni Community of Kilifi County on advocacy for sustainable use of land-based mineral resources. This training was aimed at building the capacity of the leaders and HRDs to engage the County and National Government officials and the mining companies in Jaribuni for the sustainable use of the resources.



*“We are now confident of engaging both the Government and the mining companies on issues of sustainable use of our resources. Previously, we were not able to clearly define our challenges and we were not sure of the kind of solutions or help we need from different actors,”*  
**Cyrus Ngoha, HRD – Jaribuni, Kilifi County**

### Kilifi County Lobby for Safer Quarrying

Kilifi CSOs and HRDs working on land, natural resources and environment needed to enhance their knowledge and capacity to lobby policy makers, regulatory institutions, investors and the public to ensure that the stone quarrying is conducted in a manner that respects and protects the rights of Jaribuni Community to a healthy environment.

This was necessitated by years of open cast quarrying activities that left the community exposed to **air pollution, contaminated water sources, deforestation, noise from blasting of rocks, open pits causing injury/death of animals and people, numerous health challenges including miscarriages and respiratory diseases, among others.**

Due to low knowledge, limited capacity and skills on advocacy, previous efforts had not yielded much success.

Equipped with better understanding and knowledge from the workshop, the CSOs and HRDs drew up an action plan to address the negative impacts of the Jaribuni quarrying activities. These included petitioning the Senate, conducting community awareness forums on advocacy and issues to raise, security management training for HRDs, trainings on the community’s right to justice, initiating dialogue with quarry investors, and where necessary, seeking representation and litigation.

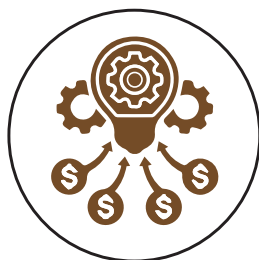
Their objective is to achieve long term solutions to the environmental challenges, such as having dust arrestors installed, making tree planting mandatory, only

allowing the latest noiseless blasting methods in the area, compelling polluters pay principle and rehabilitation, better accessible roads e.g. tarmac/cabro to reduce dust, among others.

Meanwhile, they identified short-term solutions, which include sprinkling water on roads to reduce dust, waste disposal far from the quarry sites, stopping investors from further tree cutting. They also recommended to investors non-harmful stone blasting methods, identifying and holding accountable any violators, having quarrying companies take responsibility for sicknesses resulting from their activities, among others.



# Challenges and Lessons Learnt



## CHALLENGES

Some of the challenges experienced in 2019 included:

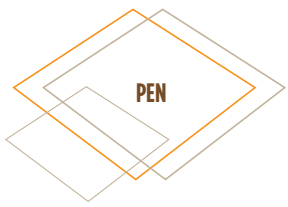
- There was minimal funding in the civil society sector more so towards projects geared towards community resilience
- There was minimal progress in the commencement of the PBO Act 2013 and hence a continued constrained civic space in Kenya
- Poor engagement of citizens by county officials in the preparation of County development plans and Annual budgets. This may be partly be attributed to minimal understanding of PEM processes and techniques of citizen engagement by county government officials
- Limited access to information from the County Governments by CSOs and the public.



## LESSONS LEARNT

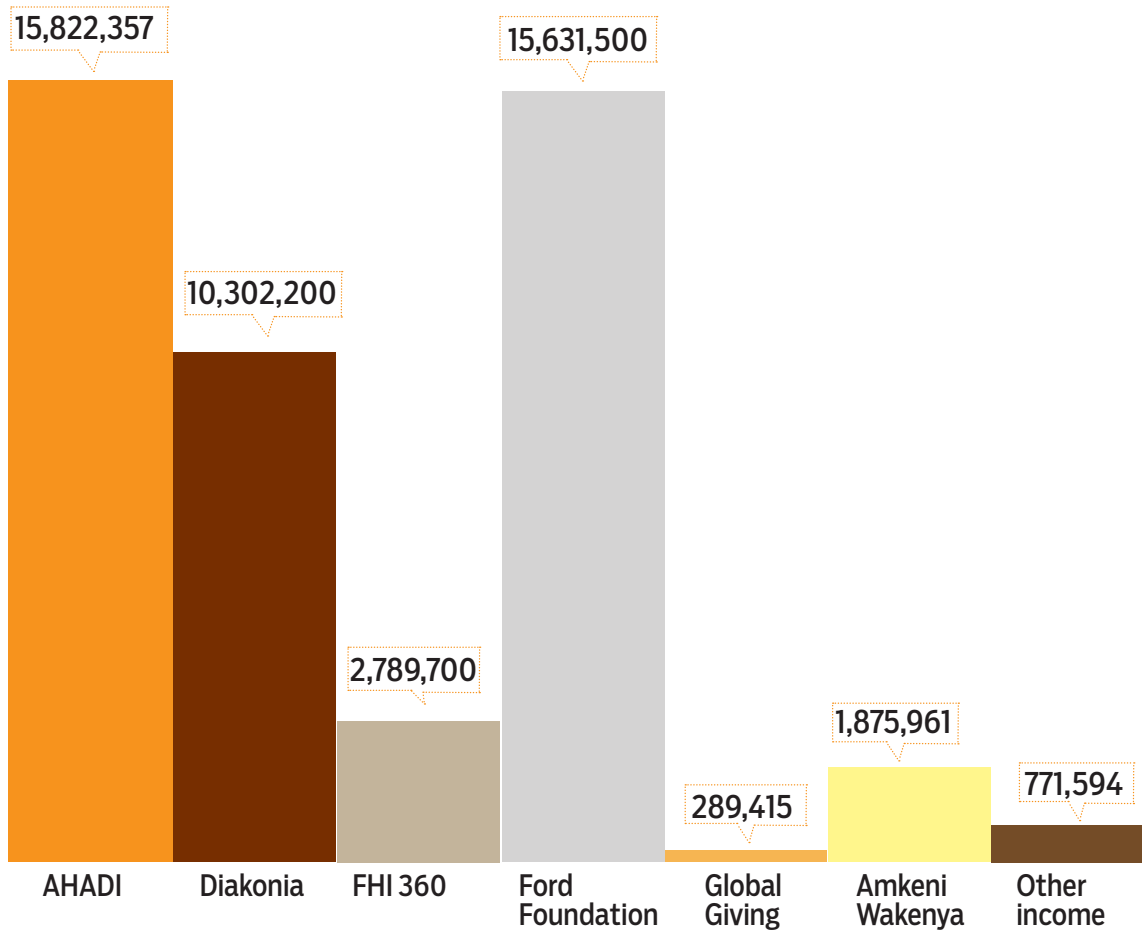
- PEN's collaboration with other partners drew synergy and basket funding and hence avoiding duplication of work and an opportunity for wider reach
- Sustained civic education and engagement effectively changes people's attitudes towards participating in their development processes and holding their leaders to account. In the absence of or limited civic education, top-bottom development approach thrives.
- Sustained engagement and collaborative mechanisms with the County Governments leads to a more open and mutually beneficial working relationship among County Governments, CSOs and citizens.



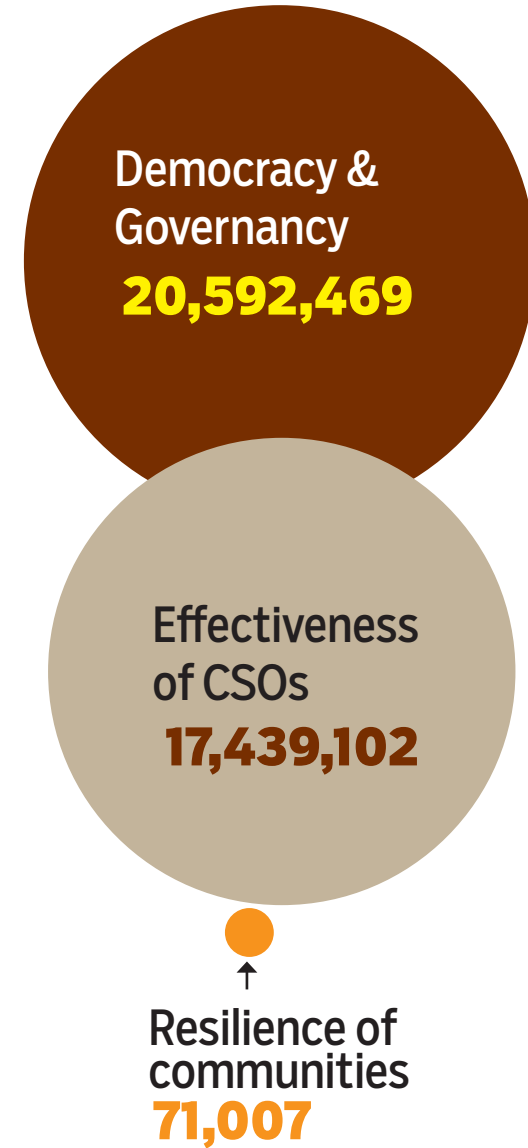


# Financial Presentation

## INCOME 2019



## EXPENSES 2019 PER STRATEGIC PILLAR





# PEN Financial Sustainability Plan



**P**EN Management Development Consultants (PMDC) is an affiliate company of Poverty Eradication Network (PEN). At inception, Poverty Eradication Network aimed to be an NGO working closely with Civil Society Organizations in East Africa, Government Agencies, and the Corporate Sector to achieve its mission and goals. Building on its 11 years of experience working with civil society and expertise in facilitating organization development initiatives PEN established a consulting arm, PMDC, in 2012 to work with civil society, government agencies, and businesses to achieve the impact and sustainability needed to make social change a reality.

PMDC envisions a society and economy in which government works with civil society and the private sector to create positive social and environmental impact while generating economic value.

## Purpose Statement:

**PMDC is a value-driven social enterprise**, dedicated to advancing best practices and improving capacity in poverty reduction programs, policy, philanthropy and corporate social investment, through provision of consulting services to not for profit, private and public organisations.

**PMDC Goals** are provision of high quality consultancy which enables all actors to improve their interventions to help positively transform society, push for value driven actors across all sectors positively engaging and fostering collaboration for the transformation of society and provision of sustainable financial support to PEN.

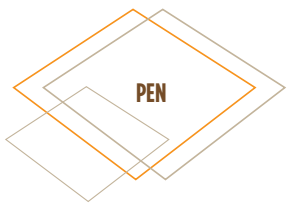
PMDC has dedicated expertise and extensive experience working with clients drawn from Not for Profit organisations, Government agencies, corporate organisations and development partners, in the areas below.

## PMDC Areas of Focus

1. Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning (MERL).
2. Strategy, planning and programme development.
3. Governance and Leadership.
4. Organizational development and Change Management.
5. Knowledge Management and Documentation.

6. Systems development; Finance and Human Resources.
7. Economic strengthening
8. Participatory methodologies
9. Development research support services including baseline surveys, mid-term and end term project evaluations, Impact assessments, value chain assessments etc.





PEN Partnerships

# DONORS and Partners



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