

**Summary Narrative Report of County Outreach Forums on
Public Benefit Organizations Act (PBO) Act 2013**

Project title

Enhancing Civil Society Space in Kenya-Public Benefit Organizations Act (PBO) Act 2013

Name of Implementing Organization

Poverty Eradication Network (PEN) as the secretariat to the CSO Reference Group

Reporting period

January to May 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the project period the CSO reference group met every fortnight to deliberate on strategies of reaching out to the county civil society organization (NGOs, FBOs and CBOs) through PBO Act forums. The CSO Reference committees on legal, advocacy and publicity also met to deliberate on emerging issues.

A total of **938** county CSO leaders representing different organizations attended the outreach meetings from twenty five (25) counties also a total of 650 petition signatures were collected during the outreach meetings.

The objectives of the county outreach meetings were:

- Share with County PBO leaders the context and content of the PBO Act 2013;
- Receive informed inputs on implementation of the PBO Act and the draft rules and regulations;
- Mobilize, encourage and build support of County PBO leaders to engage in advocacy for the commencement date for the PBO Act and;
- Discuss and agree on modalities for the formation PBO Forum and Federation at the county level.

From the meetings it emerged that there is a window of opportunity to work with different stakeholders to ensure that credibility and accountability is brought back to the sector through self regulatory mechanisms provided in the PBO Act. The need to educate the public and policy makers on the work and contribution of civil society in the country and create more awareness on the PBO Act is imperative. Also the need to engage both the County and National Government and frequent engagement with the county Non Governmental Organizations and Community Based Organizations is also essential.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Enhancing Civil Society Space in Kenya project activities include but not limited to the following;

- *Documenting the contributions of the Civil Society Sector in Kenya's social, economic and political development*
- *Mobilize, build support and strengthen the capacity of grassroots CSOs in preparation for the formation of PBO Forums and the Federation*
- *Push for the gazettment of the commencement date for the Public Benefit Organization Act 2013 (PBO Act 2013)*
- Seek strategic partnership with Media and relevant stakeholders.

COUNTY OUTREACH FORUMS FOR GRASSROOTS CSOS

During the project period the CSO reference group developed a schedule for PBO County Outreach forums to reach out to the civil society in the grassroots. See complete table in the annex.

Attendance:

- **Kakamega** forum was attended by ninety-four (94) participants, sixty-four (64) male and thirty (30) female. Five (5) media representatives were also in attendance; K24, KBC, Milele fm, Standard Media Group, and Citizen. An article petitioning the Cabinet Secretary to commence the Act appeared on The Standard News Paper dated 11th March 2014
- **Kisumu** forum was attended by ninety-three (93) participants: forty-four 44 male and forty-nine 49 female. One (1) media person attended the forum. Persons with disability were represented by Ugenya Disability CBO.
- **Kisii** forum was attended by seventy-six (76) participants: fifty (50) male and twenty-six (26) female. Four (4) media representatives: The Standard, The People news paper, KBC TV and KBC Radio. Bomachari CBO represented persons with disability.
- **Nakuru** outreach forum was held at Bontana Hotel Nakuru and attended by eighty-seven (87) participants; sixty-three (63) male and twenty-four (24). Media representatives were in attendance and an article was published in the Daily Nation on 27th March 2014 seek for the commencement of the PBO Act. Three participants from Baringo and one from Laikipia also attended the forum
- **Uasin Gishu** forum took place at Sirikwa Hotel with an attendance of ninety-seven (97) participant; sixty-four (64) male and thirty-three (33) some participants from Elgeiyo Marakwet attended the forum.
- **Nyeri** forum was attended by forty (40) participants; thirty-two (32) male and Eight (8) female. Two (2) media representatives were also in attendance; The People and Standard group. An article was published in the standard newspaper petitioning for the commencement of the PBO Act.

- **Embu forum** was attended by fifty-six (56) participants; thirty-five (35) male and twenty-one (21) female. Six (6) media persons attended the forum; The Star Newspaper, Royal media service, KBC/CORO fm, K24/Kameme fm, Citizen TV and The people newspaper.
- **Machakos forum** was attended by thirty-eight (38) participants; twenty-three (23) male and fifteen (15) female. Two (2) media representatives were also in attendance; Mbaitu Fm and Standard group (County fm).
- **Bungoma forum** was attended by thirty-nine (39) participants; thirty-five (35) male and four (4) female. Five (5) media persons attended the forum; Milele fm, Radio Jambo, West fm, Radio Ingo and The Link.
- **Turkana forum** was attended by twenty-six (26) participants thirty (20) male and Six (6) female.
- **Garissa forum** was attended by twenty-nine (29) participants thirty (20) male and nine (9) female. Two (2) media persons attended the forum; Citizen TV and KNA.
- The CSO Reference Group held meeting with the media editors and journalists which took place on Saturday 8th March 2014 at the Hilton Hotel. The meeting was attended by 63 attendees; 29 media representatives and 34 members of the Reference Group. The objective of the meeting was to educate Media, the public and CSOs in general of the importance of the PBO Act 2013 and the role of CSOs Reference Group, to discuss the shrinking civil space and media freedom, and to plan on how civil society and media can partner.

DONORS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE PBO COUNTY OUTREACH FORUMS

1. PLAN Kenya funding covered Kakamega, Kisumu and Kisii Outreach meetings
2. International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) supported Nakuru and Edoret Outreach Meetings
3. Diakonia Kenya office supported Nyeri and Embu Outreach Meetings
4. Kenya Dialogues Project under Society for International Development supported Machakos, Bungoma, Turkana and Garissa Outreach meetings
5. World Vision International directly mobilised forums in Baringo, Taita taveta, Isiolo and Kilifi Outreach Meetings
6. Action Aid Kenya office also directly mobilised participants in Homabay and Migori County

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION ON PBO ACT 2013

IEC Materials

During the project period a total of 12,000 Brochures (10,000 English Version, and 2,000 Kiswahili version), 5,000 fliers and 4 rollup banners giving information about the reference group and the PBO Act (the goal, objectives, principles and key highlights of the PBO Act, 2013) were developed. These materials were circulated to participants during the outreach forums.

Social media engagement

There is a PBO Act Website, Face book and Twitter accounts all accessible to the public, details as follows;

EMAIL; info@pboact.or.ke;

WEBSITE; www.pboact.or.ke

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/PBOAct>

Face book: <https://www.facebook.com/PBOAct>

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Plausible leadership of the CSO Reference group
- Connection with county CSO leaders. Engaging identified county conveners to connect with the county leaders and county government.
- Thoughtful mapping and reaching out to different CSO network
- Members of the CSO reference group engaging their network organizations in disseminating PBO information and mobilization to ensure credible county organizations are reached.
- Capacity building and use of expertise to develop rules and regulations and to train different groups
- Media and publicity: use of the website and social media (face book and twitter) to update the public
- Inviting media representatives and county government leaders to the outreach forums was a strategy to have them access firsthand information about the PBO Act
- Regular communication, reporting and update of the members of the CSO Reference group
- Above all regular and wide consultation and consensus building between the chair and members of the CSO Reference Group

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities

- Following the various county PBO outreach Forums the CSOs represented showed much interest on the PBO Act. More signing the working draft petition requesting the Hon Cabinet Secretary to gazette a commencement date for PBO Act.
- The PBO Act provides an opportunity for civil society organizations to mobilize themselves in preparation for the formation of the PBO Federation.

- An opportunity to build alliances and networks with grassroots organizations in the process to mitigate against the resistance from the current regulator and other government bodies who want to retain the status quo.
- There is an opportunity for Civil Society Organisations to participate in the implementation of the new law and therefore need for more sensitisation for the grassroots organizations.
- There is a window of opportunity to work with the government especially the county government through the County CSO forums.

Challenges

- The NGO coordination Board were conducting parallel workshop during the same period thus brought in a lot of confusion.
- Since the PBO Act it has not been commenced therefore there is need to work with various government officials and departments such as the office of the Cabinet Secretary in charge of Planning and Devolution to give the law a commencement date.

SUSTAINABILITY

The CSO Reference Group continuously contributed technically and financially to support the process. This was done through organizing outreach forums on behalf of the secretariat, other organizations volunteered to host meetings for the technical groups at their offices, some mobilized their networks to engage in petition signing, while others contributed financially to support planned activities.

LESSONS LEARNT

- There is need for more dissemination of PBO Act content to the grassroots organizations
- The need for engagement of both the County and National government in the process is fundamental
- After the county forums it was evident that further follow up meetings are required on capacity building of community based organizations
- The need to educate the public and policy makers on the work and contribution of civil society in the country and create more awareness on the PBO Act is imperative.

PBO Act Outreach Forums 2014

No.	Date	Town	Counties	No of Pax	Lead Facilitator	Representative	Secretariat	Support Partner	Status
1	11/3/14	Kakamega	Kakamega & Vihiga	92	Chris Mbiti	Tom Oketch(CCI) /Mathias Kinyoda	Anne Tek	Plan	Done
2	12/3/14	Kisumu	Kisumu & Siaya	91	Chris Mbiti	Tom Oketch (CCI) Mathias Kinyoda	Anne Tek	Plan	Done
3	18/3/14	Kabarnet	Elgeyo Marakwet and Baringo	43	Thomas Kirongo	Mwamba Rolex (IRCK)	Mary Mutuku	World Vision	Done
4	19/3/14	Kisii	Kisii & Nyamira	94	Suba Churchill	Ahmad Ramadhan (Nubian Community)	Judy Gachathi	Plan	Done
5	25/3/14	Nakuru	Nakuru	97	Thomas Kirongo	Florence (Viwango) Orwa Mike	Anne Tek	ICNL	Done
6	28/3/14	Eldoret	Uasin Gishu & Nandi	73	Thomas Kirongo	Florence (Viwango)	Anne Tek	ICNL	Done
7	26-27/3/14	Voi	Taita Taveta	34	Suba Churchill	Mathias	Faith Alukwe	World Vision	Done
8	8/4/14	Nyeri	Nyeri & Muranga	40	Suba Churchill	Purity Kagendo (Diakonia) /Orwa	Judy Gachathi	Diakonia	Done
9	9/4/14	Embu	Embu & Kirinyaga	56	Suba Churchill	Purity Kagendo (Diakonia) /Orwa	Judy Gachathi	Diakonia	Done
10	14/4/14	Machakos	Machakos	39	Chris Mbiti	Orwa, Mike	Mathew Muendo	SID	Done
11	17/4/14	Bungoma	Bungoma	39	Suba Churchill	Orwa, Mike	Judith Gondi	SID	Done
12	24/4/14	Isiolo	Isiolo	37	Ezra Mbogori	Cecilia Mutanu	Judy Gachathi	World Vision	Done
13	07/05/14	Homabay	Homabay	40	Suba Churchill	Cidi Otieno	Faith Alukwe	Action Aid	Done
14	08/05/14	Migori	Migori	54	Suba Churchill	Cidi Otieno	Faith Alukwe	Action Aid	Done
15	09/05/14	Turkana	Turkana	26	Irungu H (SID)	Irūngū Houghton/Tom Okech	Mary Mutuku	SID	Done
16	15/05/14	Garisa	Garissa	38	Orwa Mike (SID)	Ahmad Ramadhan	Mathew Muendo	SID	Done
17	15/05/14	Kilifi	Kilifi	45	Elijah Bonyo	Wallace Mwangi	Mathew Muendo	World Vision	Done