

Annual Report 2017

ENHANCING CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION



Vision: A Society where all people have access to a life of dignity, devoid of absolute poverty

Winners applaud work well done during Bungoma CSO exhibition in November 2017

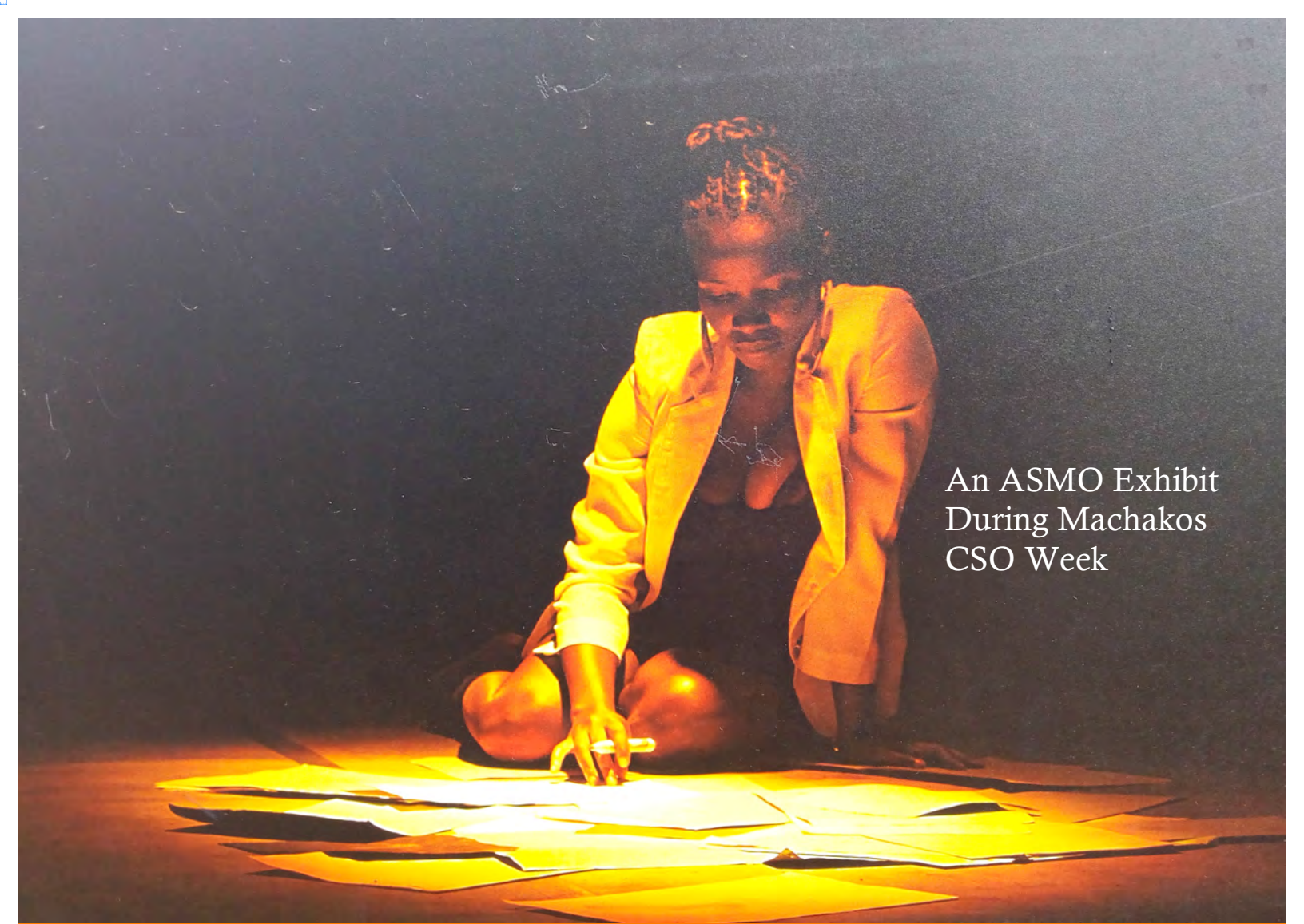


MISSION

“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.”

CORE VALUES

1. **Respect for human rights, Diversity equity and justice for all:** PEN respects the rights of all people to determine their own destiny and development, irrespective of ethnicity, social status, religion, age or gender.
2. **Respect for the innate potential, dignity and ability of all people to remake their own lives:** 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.
3. **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.
4. **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.



An ASMO Exhibit
During Machakos
CSO Week

WHO WE ARE?

Poverty Eradication Network (PEN) is an NGO registered in Kenya and carries out its work throughout the African region. It also manages an affiliate consultancy firm called Pen Management and Development Consultants (PMDC) that also augments PEN work on consultancy terms.

PEN believes that a strong civil society is critical for enhancing resilience of citizens and their organizations in protecting their rights and in fighting against poverty. We strive to build the capacity of civil society through coalition building and partnership, skill empowerment and networking.

PEN recognises that in order to support communities and citizens to claim their rights and be responsible for their own development, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) must deliver impact and build momentum for their sustainability.

Strong and sustainable civil society require highly motivated, committed and competent leaders; good governance, strong management practice, clear strategy, successful fundraising as well as demonstrated results, public profile, effective policies, procedures and organizational systems.

PEN provides affordable, appropriate, and effective capacity development services to build CSOS innate capacity and strong commitment values and practices that push for citizens agenda in many fronts; be it in the management for Natural Resources, Protecting food rights of vulnerable groups and communities and enhancing accountability of governments to citizens rights and agenda.

Stakeholder Reflection on PBO Act 2013 and the Future of Civil Society



“We demand”. Civil society Actors call for Immediate implementation of PBO Act 2013 during a press conference in Nairobi in 2015.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ASMO	Alliance of Slum Media Organization
CBM	Christian Blind Mission
CS	Cabinet Secretary
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CSRG	Civil Society Reference Group
IFBA	International Federation of Biosafety Associations
ICPAK	Institute of Certified Accounts of Kenya
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
KNCHR	Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
KPTJ	Kenya for Peace with Truth and Justice
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NGO's	Non-governmental Organizations
MS TCDC	MS Training Center for Development Co-operation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
PBO	Public Benefit Organisation
PBO Act 2013	Public Benefit Act, 2013
PEN	Poverty Eradication Network
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SFF	Slum Film Festival
UN	United Nations
WATSAN	Water and Sanitation

Table of Contents

From Executive Director	6
Report Summary Stats	11
National Context	13
Quest for enabling environment for CSO sector	15
Building Capacity of the Sector	17
County CSO Networks	19
CSO Weeks/Exhibitions	21
Voice for Slum Media	23
Natural Resource Management	25
Staff Update	27
Financial Update	29
Development Partners	30
Board of Management	31

From The Executive Director

In 2017, the August elections and the presidential repeat elections in October took the centre stage in our country. At the same time, the civil society sector was faced with serious funding and operational challenges and many of the organizations scaled down their programs in the country with a number of regional organizations retaining their regional headquarters in Nairobi but moving their field operations in to other countries like South Sudan, Somalia, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Uganda.

These are countries, which the donor community considered needier than Kenya. International organizations, which remained operational in Kenya scaled down their field programs leaving local NGOs and CBOs without support.

The operating environment was very unfavourable for the sector especially those working in the governance, democracy and human rights sectors. Many incidences were noted where a number of CSOs have been threatened with closure or prosecution by the regulator (NGO Coordination Board) and a number of international workers were denied work permits and had to relocate from Kenya.

The PBO Act 2013 was not commenced despite the high court directing so and the momentum seems to have been lost by the sector to push this any further. In 2017, PEN worked with other players in the sector especially the Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG) to fight and preserve for the gains made in the previous years. We worked to strengthen County CSOs networks so that they can continue fighting for an expanded conducive environment and general citizens' rights.

Civil society week, an event where CSOs show case their work



and an opportunity to interact with the public, private sector, and governments were held in counties of Bungoma and Machakos. While capacity building workshops for CSOs leaders were held in the counties of Kilifi, Uasin Gishu, Nyamira, Isiolo, Nyandarua, Machakos, Bungoma, Makueni and Siaya.

PEN Management and Development Consultants

The business climate in 2017 also affected the performance of consultancy firm, PMDC. Some of the reasons for low performance included reduced grant inflows to the civil society sector, which forms the bulk of our clientele. Assignments done in the year by PMDC included assessments of CBM partners in Kenya, assessment of Diakonia partner based in Lomé, Togo, work with IFBA partner in Bamako and the December IFBA assignment with their East Africa partners.

Finally on behalf of the Board and the Staff of PEN, I would like to congratulate the CSOs for their resilience amidst many challenges that seek to derail their work among communities. The most important thing coming out of these challenges is the recognition by CSOs that they have to work together in pushing for an enabling environment for their work; that they have to be transparent and accountable to citizens, governments and development partners.

As PEN, we urge both the national and county governments to continue in their collaboration with Civil Society organizations for the purposes of enriching service delivery to citizens and create an enabling environment for the sector at all levels. Critical among these is the full implementation of the PBO Act.

We would like to thank our donors for their collaboration and support and look forward for enhanced partnership now and in future.

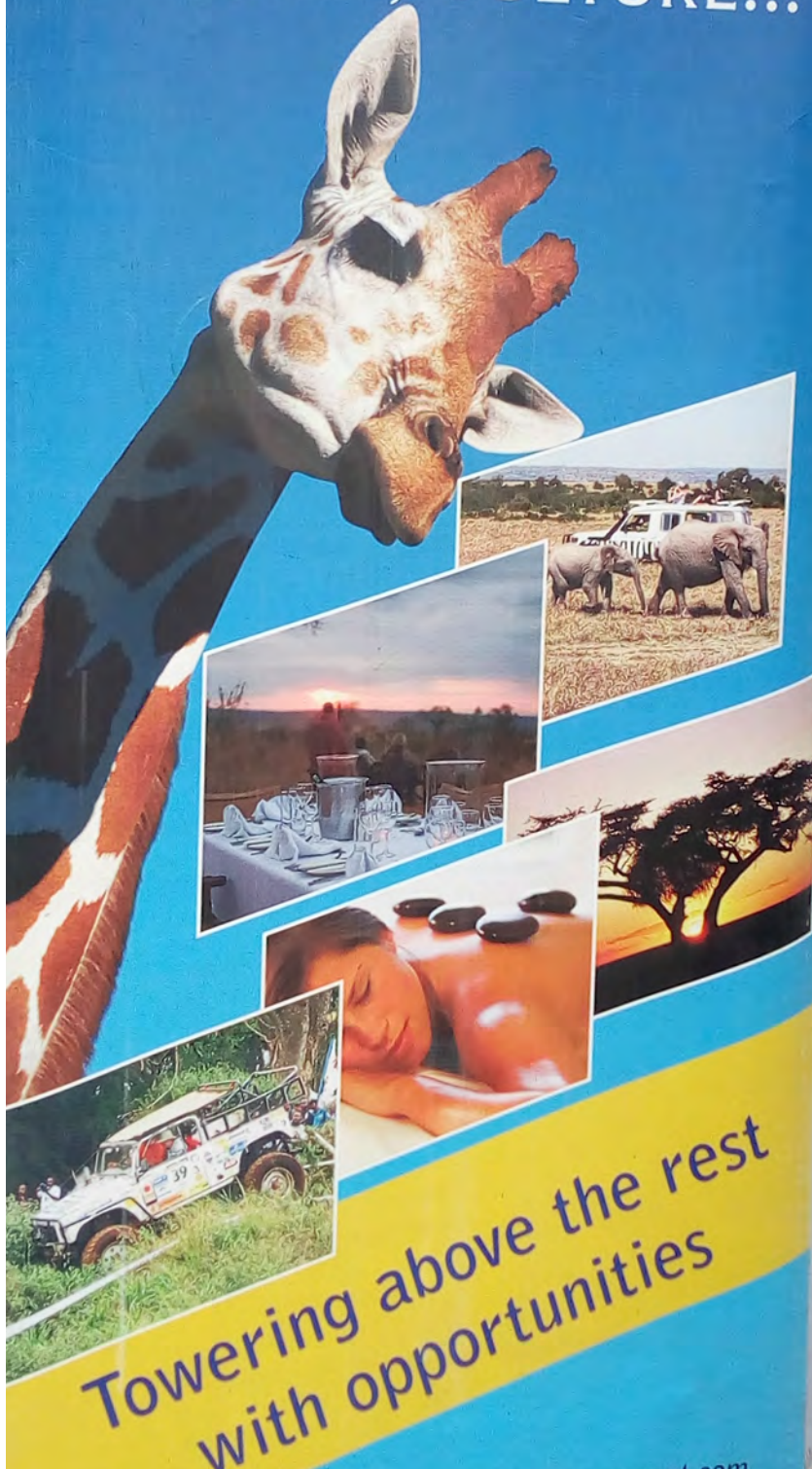
Thank you,



Christ Mbiti
Executive Director



COME EXPERIENCE
TOURISM, CULTURE...

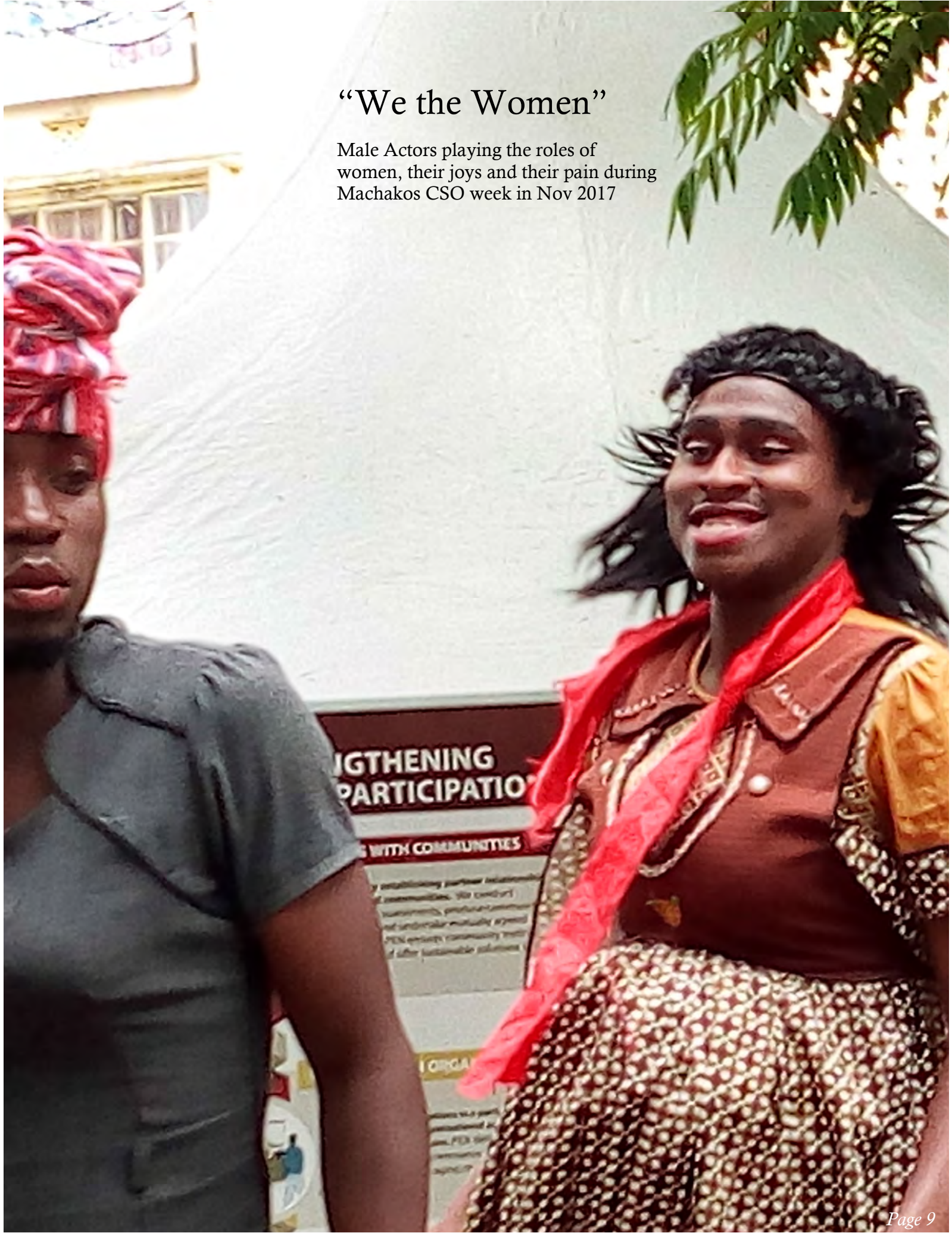


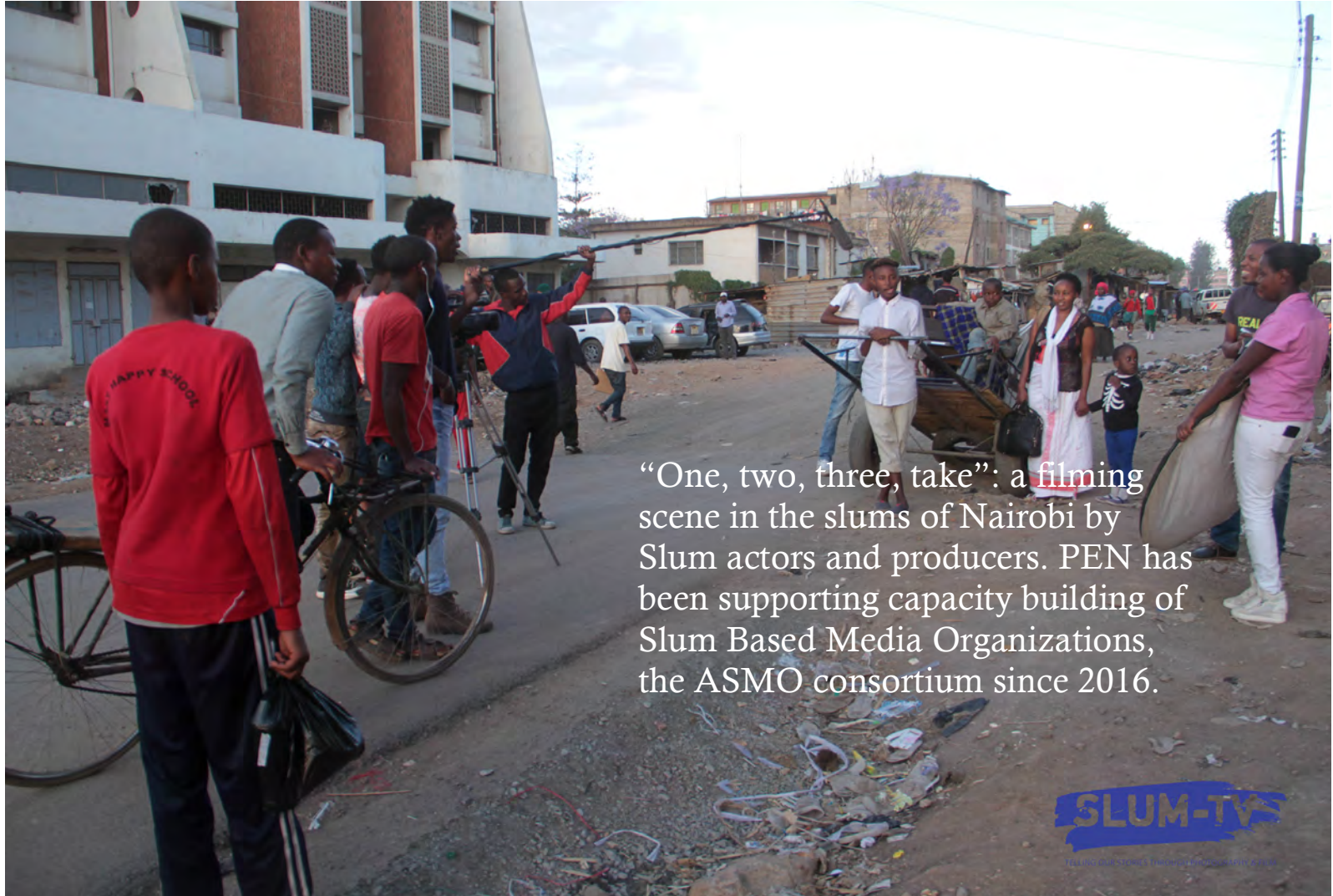
Exhibits at the Machakos CSO
Week In November 2017



“We the Women”

Male Actors playing the roles of women, their joys and their pain during Machakos CSO week in Nov 2017





“One, two, three, take”: a filming scene in the slums of Nairobi by Slum actors and producers. PEN has been supporting capacity building of Slum Based Media Organizations, the ASMO consortium since 2016.



ASMO members work with children in photography and filming
Credit: Slum-TV

REPORT SUMMARY

The following Stats summarize PEN's Achievements in 2017

Page
15

**PBO
ACT
2013**

Government impunity against the law in the implementation of PBO Act continued despite two High Court Orders for immediate commencement of the Act.

Uncertainty over elections dominated Much of 2017 with declining growth and split of the country along ethnic lines

Page
13

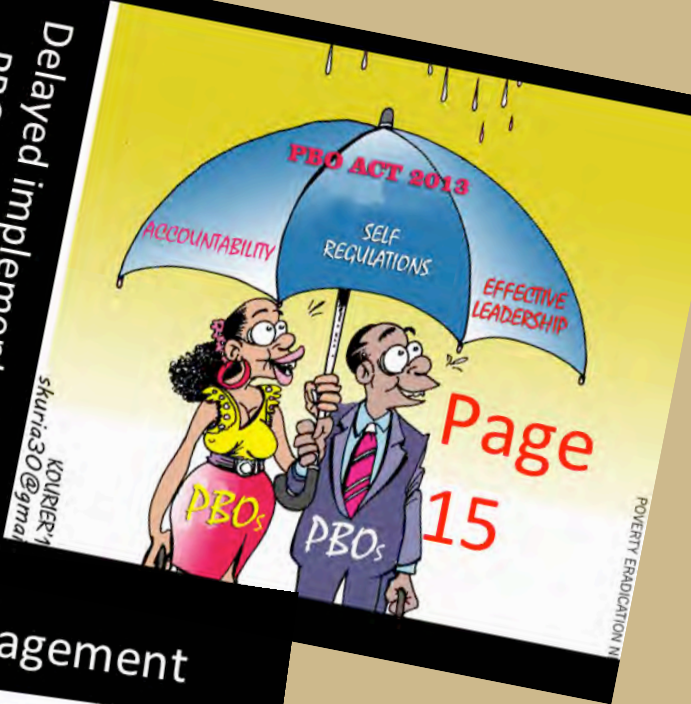


Capacity building of the sector continued with good results realised in many fronts

Page
17



Delayed implementation of PBO Act is still a critical challenge for the sector



Page
15

Natural Resource Management

Achievements of Mutulani Water Project is Makueni County has exceeded expectation with 2400 people accessed adequate and clean water, against a planned target of 1500 people.

Page 25



Page 21

Two CSO weeks were held, one in Machakos county and the other Bungoma county, to strengthen understanding and collaboration between CSOs, citizens and county governments.

CSO WEEKS

2 CSO Weeks held (Machakos and Bungoma)

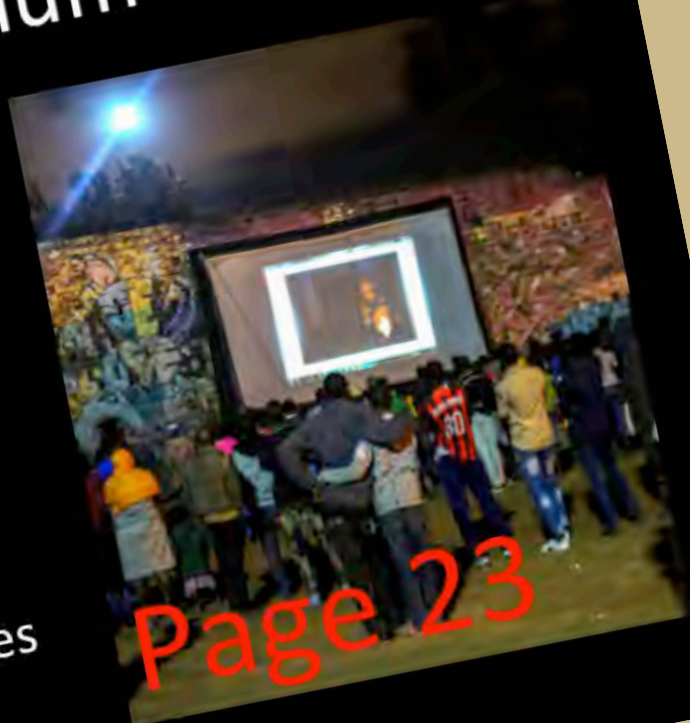
3,000 Estimated number of people who attended the events

86 Number of exhibitors (31 Machakos and 55 Bungoma)

13 Number of counties where PEN has set up county networks and can potentially hold exhibitions in future

VOICE for Slum Media

PEN supported the formation of a consortium of Slum Media Organizations called ASMO with an objective of strengthening the voice of slum peoples in Kenya



Page 23

National Context

The election politics of 2017 were the greatest hindrance to performances of many sectors in the country. The country nearly came to a halt towards the end of the year as a result of nullification of 8/8 2017 Presidential Elections by the Supreme Court, an unprecedented move that jolted every sector of the economy. The presidential elections that followed was shunned by the opposition candidate creating further schism and violence across the country.

The CSO sector was largely affected by the elections because many donor agencies withheld or delayed funding to the sector as they awaited the outcomes of the election. Normalcy was partially restored at the end of the year after the President was sworn in although the stalemate on election still persisted. The elections broke the cultural backbone of the nation, with the population split right in the middle; with one part in support of the incumbent President and the other half the opposition candidate.

Harassment of the civil society reached its heights during electioneering period. The year recorded a number of threats to CSOs and their leaders through acts such as arbitrary deregistration of a number of CSOs, freezing of accounts, cancellation of work permits for foreign CSOs leaders and general public maligning of CSOs work by politicians and the executive.

CSOs were however able to mobilize and rebuff most of these accusations through press releases and where necessary, seeking court interventions.

The cost of living continues to rise, caused mainly by heavy borrowing by government to support its high investment projects, the difficult election period and droughts that has decimated livestock and crops across the country.

2018 promises to be a year with new opportunities although the carry over from 2017 is likely to slow down





Exhibitors and the public exchanging notes during Machakos CSO exhibition

Quest for Enabling Environment for CSO Sector

The Quest for enabling environment for Civil Society has been a continuing focus of PEN's work since 2009 when PEN was selected by a group of Civil Society actors as the secretariat of a coalition of organizations called CSRG to reform the outdated NGO Act (1990).

Good progress was made working closely with the government of Kenya and Civil Society actors until the PBO Act was successfully passed into law in 2013. That is where the progress in the reform of the law stalled because the government has consistently failed to implement the law with several attempts to amend it even before its commencement.

PEN in the past year worked with the Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG) and the wider civil society to seek for the commencement of PBO Act (2013). Actions included court cases to push the government to implement the Act. Through Kenya for Peace with Truth and Justice (KPTJ), CSRG filed a contempt of court application in December 2016 at the High Court with the ruling being rendered on 12th May 2017. The Court ordered that the decree of 31st October, 2016 be amended, substituting the

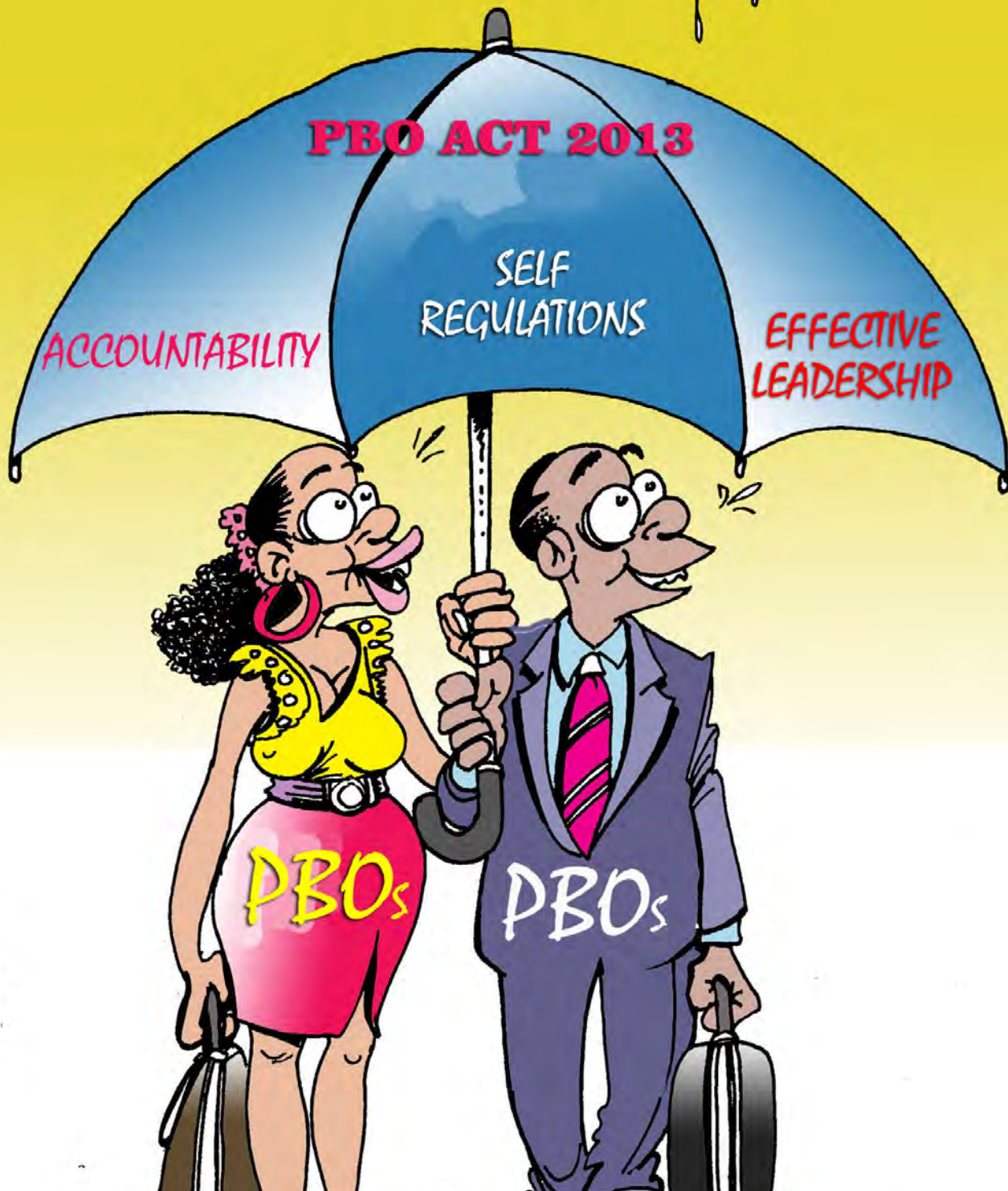
Cabinet Secretary (CS) Ministry of Devolution and Planning with CS Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government. Further, the CS of Interior and Coordination of National Government was granted 30 days from the date of service to comply with the judgment and implement the law.

However impunity continues and the state is still renegeing on its implementation.

PBO ACT 2013: MILESTONES

- 2009** A group of CSO actors put together a process to review the 1990 NGO Act
- 2013** The law was assented into law by then President of the republic of Kenya
- 2015** After failing to implement the law, Bills of parliament were published to introduce more than 60 amendments, 19 that were assessed as critically injurious to the growth of the sector.
Civil society under CSRG put in place a large coalition of CSOs to oppose the amendment, a process that led to withdrawal of the Bills
- 2016** CSRG working with a coalition of CSO actors sponsored several court cases the latest in October 2016 and May 2017; both that directed for immediate implementation of the law
- 2017**

BAD GOVERNANCE



KOURLER'S
shrini30@gmail.com

FOYENT | ENVIRONMENTAL INTELLIGENCE

Building Capacity of CSO Sector

Between February 2016 and June 2017, PEN through CSRG carried out several workshops to build capacity of the sector and as a means improving the capacity of CSO leaders in Kenya. An evaluation targeting all 81 participants showed that the training had been largely successful in building a vibrant sector.

Majority of the respondents were male (61%) and within age bracket 36 – 65 years. The participants were therefore not young as commonly believed. It is most likely that most have been in the sector for a while, and may have been younger CSO officers when the first exodus from CSO happened after the election of the first government after multi party elections in 2003. 52% of the participants came from National NGOs, 28% from Community Based Organization and the rest from Trusts, Foundations and Private sector; 95% came from duly registered organizations.

On relevance and effectiveness of the training:

- **More than 66.7%** assessed the training as relevant, while 19% assessed as being highly relevant, and 9.5% assessed it as relevant beyond compare. It shows that slightly over 95% of respondents were of the opinion that the training was relevant to the needs of the sector
- **100% of the leaders agreed with the statement that the "the training course by PEN-CSRG is RELEVANT** in strengthening the capacity of CSOs leaders in Kenya and will contribute to development of a vibrant and respected sector
- **A large majority** of the participants felt that the training was extremely effective and they have been able to effect some changes as per the training programme.
- **Clearly, more than a third** of the participants felt satisfied that the training achieved its objective of empowering them to change their leadership and management styles.

On impact, a large majority said that initial steps of change management have been enacted; 47.6% mentioned baby steps being initiated, while 19% mentioned a lot of positive changes and 14.3% transformative changes taking place in their organizations. It is apparent that the training has some created impact despite the short duration that the training programme has been offered (about one and half years). PEN seeks to do more capacity training targeting leaders of civil society. Our desire is to ultimately reach all counties in Kenya with capacity building, networking and coalition building with the objective of enhancing civic space for the sector, their effectiveness and quality of service delivery to citizens.



Building capacity for transparent and accountable sector has been a key engagement of PEN working with CSRG. CSRG Training Programme in 2016 – 2017

Building County CSO Networks

In a move to strengthen county level leadership for CSOs, PEN working with other stakeholders achieved the following:

County CSRG Meetings

County CSRG meetings were held in Kakamega, Bungoma, Siaya, Nyamira, Machakos, Makueni and Kajiado Counties. Other counties are Kilifi, Nyandarua, Nairobi, Isiolo, Taita Taveta and Uasin Gishu

County Accountability Forums

PEN also supported the establishment of Accountability forums with the objectives to share 2017 work plan, budget and provide an update on the progress of activities under the Democracy and Human Rights project. The forums also aimed at enhancing dialogue among County CSOs on challenges facing them, solutions and deliberating on way forward in efforts of enhancing the voice of the sector, partnerships strengthening and creation among CSOs and the Government.

CSO Network Committee Meetings

CSO network meetings were held in Machakos and Kilifi. A committee consisting of elected representative from CSOs to provide county level leadership. Each county has about 5 leaders. The Machakos Network committee held two meetings to discuss County government engagement, planning for the NGO Week, and the implementation of the Network's work plan.

Makueni CSO Network also held one meeting to discuss the strengthening of the Network and implementing their work plan that involves promotion of social accountability through engaging with the county government.

The Kilifi CSO working group convened a meeting to develop a quarterly work-plan, an inventory of CSOs operating in Kilifi County and a concept and plan for a CSOs forum. The team profiled a total of forty-five (45) organizations and shared the CSOs inventory with PEN.

County CSO Forums


Two County CSO Forums were held in Nyandarua and Kilifi Counties on 21st September, 2017 and 4th October, 2017 respectively. Key among the issues that were deliberated on included how to bring all CSOs together and how to engage with the County Executive and Assembly. The CSO undertook to work together towards engaging the County Governments by having sector-based meetings.

13 Number of counties reached

150 Approximate number of CSOs reached in counties

45 Organizations in Kilifi shared the CSOs inventory with PEN

30% Women represented in CSOs forums



A CSO' leader participating in PEN-CSRG training in 2017. More than 90% of the participants were of the view that the training was critical in building a vibrant sector

CSOs Weeks/Exhibitions

Two County CSO Exhibitions were held in Machakos and Bungoma counties.

Machakos County CSOs Network held its CSO Exhibition from 29th - 30th November 2017. The event gave the CSOs an opportunity to showcase their work, with 36 institutions participating: 27 CSOs, 4 private sector organizations and 5 National and County government institutions. The event sought to establish meaningful working relationships among the civil societies, public and private sectors. Key speakers emphasized the need for partnership between the CSOs, County government, the private sector and the Faith based organization. The theme for Machakos event was *Providing a Reflection and a Sharing Platform towards an Inclusive Development in Machakos County*.

The Bungoma CSO week took place on 6th and 7th December 2017 at Kenya Medical Training College grounds in Bungoma County. Of the 58 expected exhibitors, 55 turned out (95% turnout). The theme of the exhibition was *Partnership for Sustainable Development in Bungoma*.

CSO exhibitions (NGO weeks) are critical and very relevant processes to strengthen image and rebranding of CSOs. They are also valuable in building relationship with county government and with the public. Lesson learnt in 2017 is that holding a successful NGO week is dependent on having a strong and vibrant county level network for example the Machakos county civil Society Network. Work also moves faster where PEN has a strong partner on the ground; PEN has an office in Machakos that provides direct coordination while in Kilifi, we PEN has seen good progress, the hosting organization has good capacity.

CSO county level networks are critical vehicles of engaging county governments and enabling citizen participation in the enactment of laws and giving feedback on plans, budgets and overall implementation of actions at county level.

NGO networks covers for existing capacity gaps at county level to engage citizens and provide feedback on policies and plans. Having an in-between in the form of CSO Week is therefore valuable in bridging the gap by enabling or facilitating citizens' and government engagement with CSOs.

CSO WEEKS STATS

2

CSO Weeks held (Machakos and Bungoma)

3,000

Estimated number of people who/that attended the exhibitions

86

Number of exhibitors (31 Machakos and 55 Bungoma)

13

Number of counties where PEN has set up county networks that can potentially hold exhibitions



Trying a hand on a farm machinery during Machakos CSO Week

VOICE for Slum Media

PEN in 2017 continued to support the formation and formalization of a consortium of slum media organization called “the Alliance of Slum Media Organizations (ASMO)” that is currently registered as a Community Based Organization (CBO) in Nairobi County and efforts are being made to upgrade its registration to a national level.


ASMO mission is to enhance productivity, creativity and business development among slum media organizations with the objective of contributing to improvements in creative and cultural economy in Kenya. ASMO membership includes six Slum Media Organizations: **Slum Film Festival (SFF), Great Potential Africa Youth, K-Youth Media, Mathare Foundation, Slum TV**

Trust and Mwelu Foundation

The ASMO coalition was established under an MOU in 2016: ASMO’s approach is to ensure that parties improve their business models, programming quality, content and market niche, while working collaboratively with other parties (within and outside the consortium) for a vibrant creative economy in Kenya. ASMO works to undertake joint programming and fund raising while jointly supporting distribution and marketing of content and artist work and advocating for rights of artist from slum communities and those identified by the partners. The overall goal is to ensure that the voice of slum people is heard by policy makers and citizens, with the aim of enhancing service delivery and living conditions of slum people.

Filming Stage in the slums by slum media actors and producers



A large group of people is gathered at night for an outdoor film screening. A large projector screen is set up against a wall covered in colorful graffiti. The screen displays a film scene featuring a person in a dark setting. A bright light source, possibly a projector or moon, is visible in the dark sky above. The audience consists of men, women, and children, some wearing casual clothing and others in more distinctive items like a red and black striped soccer jersey with the name 'RONALDINHO' and the number '30' on the back. The overall atmosphere is communal and focused on the film being shown.

Outdoor screening of films
produced by slum producers

Credit: Slum TV

Natural Resource Management

PEN continued its support to Mutulani Community Project in Makueni County. The Water project was established to supply clean water and improve sanitation to 1500 women and children affected by Acute water shortages and related water bone diseases in Mutulani Village in Makueni County. The project was set up to improve the health of women as they would not need to fetch water on their backs from long distances (previously more than 3 kilometers). The project has supported:

Purchase of three storage tanks of 10,000 liters each, one for the primary and two for the secondary school. The tanks are mainly used to harvest rainwater from roof catchments when it rains. Each tank when filled supplies water for 2 weeks to the primary and 1 week to the secondary school. The three water tanks serve more than 700 children in the two schools for about 8 months.

Although not in the initial plan, the project has supported Mutulani community to construct 1 sand dam that has significantly improved self sufficiency in water by 2-3 months. The community has a whole year water supply although it is less sanitary three months to the rains due to growth of Algea, requiring filtration and treatment to be potable. The sand dam has also reduced siltation of an earth dam downstream, which does not dry now unlike before.

“The sand dam does not dry and is the main water source for livestock and household in Mutulani area” Says Mary, a project officer with PEN. “We however need to improve sanitation levels by constructing toilets, to stop pollution of dam water and also improved water filtration and treatment especially three months before the rains due to built up of Algea caused by stagnation of water” The dam serves about 300 households and approximately 1800 people.

In 2016 PEN received a disbursement of 15,000 USD from Global Giving to sink a borehole. This was successfully completed in May 2017 although external accessories such as the water pump and power to the well have yet been fitted.

As a positive step forward, the project has approached Makueni County Government and they have agreed to fund these remaining activities.

The borehole has a potential to yield 1.2 cubic meters per hour (1200 litres) and a total of 10 liters per day and this would provide adequate water to the two schools and also community. The borehole did not yield as much water as expected due to declining ground water reserves and future effort should focus at activities such as trapping of rainwater, soil conservation and tree planting to recharge the ground water.

Impact of the project

- i. The projects have improved learning in schools with improvements in mean grades in the primary school. Children no longer need to carry water from homes to the school for cooking especially during the rains.
- ii. The community now has a whole year water supply despite challenges of sanitation and quality of water three months before the rains.
- iii. The project has more than served the targeted population. When completed, the project will serve 2,500 people instead of the anticipated 1500.
- iv. Improved water supply has significantly learning in schools with reduction in absenteeism due to water borne diseases.

Increased collaboration with the county government with the promises to support in fitting the water pump and extending electric power to the site are positive steps. “We are seeing a community that will be water secure for the next 15 years arising from the support. We have gone beyond planned activities and we would like to appreciate more than 110 individual donors who supported the project through Global Giving”. Mary Kanini



Drilling and celebrating a new found water source in Mutulani Village, Makueni County

PEN Staff Development

PEN maintained a staff of eight during the reporting period (5 female and 3 male). Several trainings were held to build capacity of staff to carry out their work as expected. These include

- A leadership development program and Project Planning and management for two managers at MS Training Center for Development Co-operation (MS TCDC) in Tanzania.
- CSO Leadership and Integrity Training for two members of staff
- Institute of Certified Accounts of Kenya (ICPAK) trainings/workshop on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) week and Tax Management for Public Benefit Organizations (PBO) for two accounts staff
- Diakonia (SIDA) Training on conflict sensitivity and value for money for 2 senior managers
- Two senior managers attended Ford Foundation workshop on CEG learning forum for Civic engagement and Government and non regulatory compliance training

On top of the above, the Staff held a successful retreat to review the performance of the organisation as a closure to just-ended strategy period (2015-2017) and to plan for the next strategic phase (2018 -2020).

Photos of PEN Staff during Strategic planning Retreat in 2017





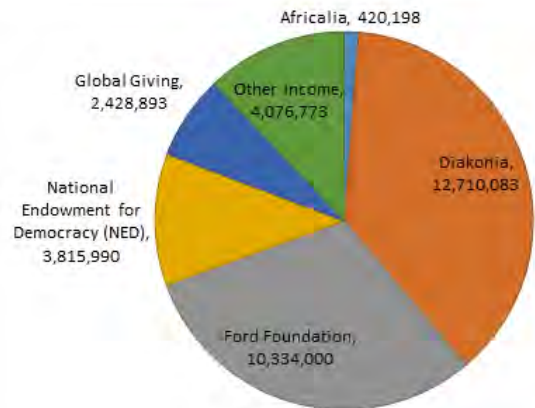
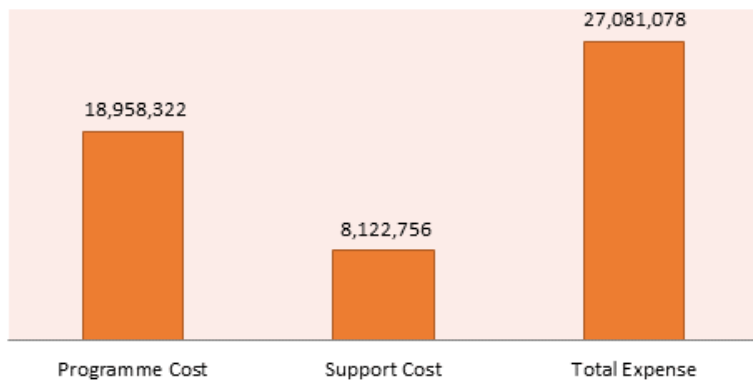
Staff of PEN and PMDC during Strategic Planning retreat in 2017



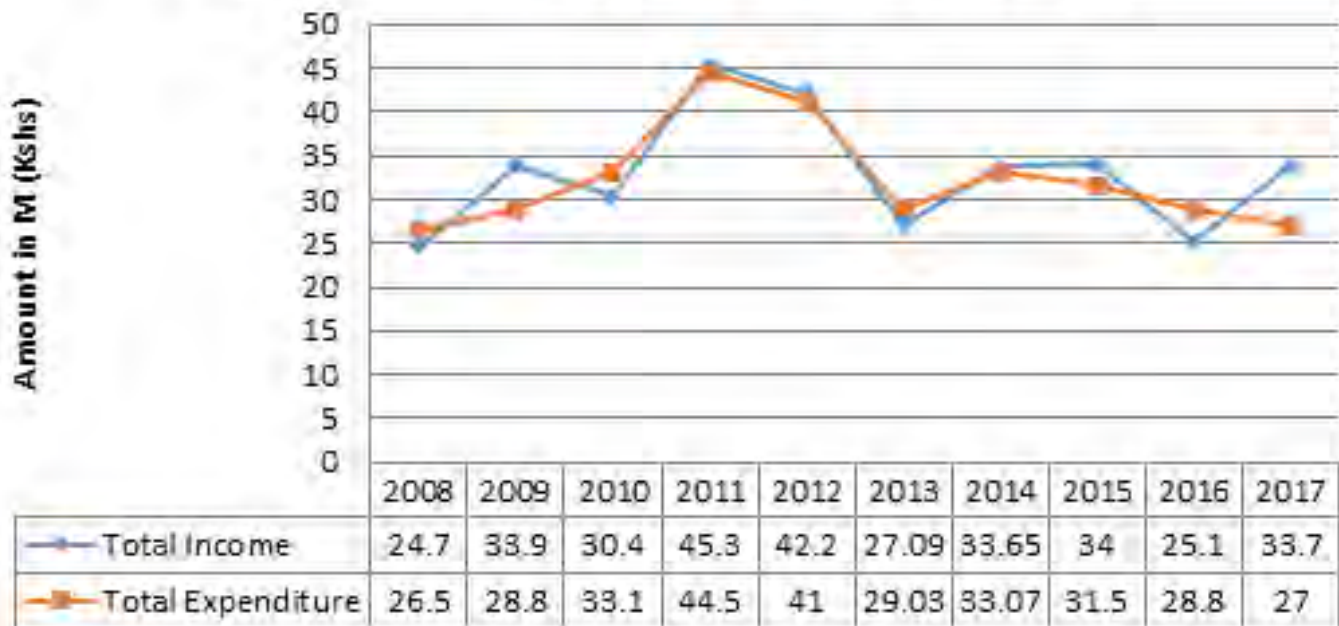
Financial Update

PEN spent a total of 27 million Kenya Shillings in 2017, 30% in admin and 70% in programme costs. These expenses were funded through donors shown in figure 2 below, of whom we are very thankful.

2017 Expense



10 Yrs Income & Expenditure Trend



Development Partners

PEN's work among communities and civil society would not have been possible without the support of the following development partners. We want to thank them for their support and partnership over the years:



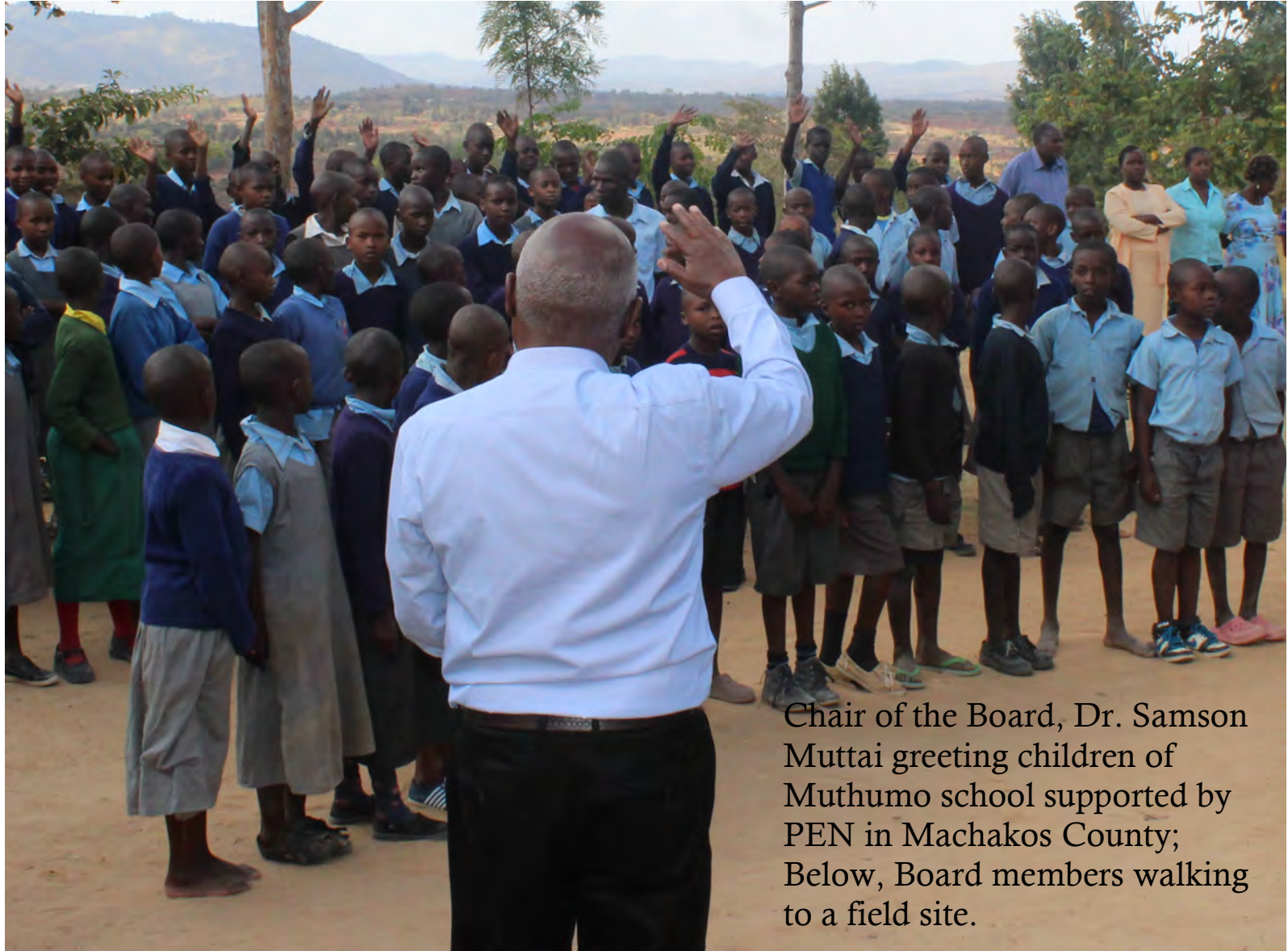
Board of Directors Report

PEN had seven board members in 2017 although one eventually exited the board due to non-attendance to meetings and events of the board. The board chaired by Dr. Samson Muttai, held two meetings and Board retreat in 2017. The retreat deliberated on PEN strategic plan 2018 -2020 and were also trained on corporate governance that covered roles and responsibilities of a board and how to address challenges facing boards in a process of building effective management. Thereafter the board visited communities to assess the projects implemented through PEN's Support.



Standing (from Left to Right): Prof. Daniel Oruoch, Facilitator Corporate Governance; Chris Mbiti, ED PEN; Mark Okondo, Board Treasurer; Judith Gondi, Finance and Admin Manager, PEN; George Nyakora, Chair Finance Committee

Seated: Caroline Mbidyo, Board Secretary; Dr Samson Muttai, Chair of the board, Risper Onyango, Member



Chair of the Board, Dr. Samson Muttai greeting children of Muthumo school supported by PEN in Machakos County; Below, Board members walking to a field site.





PEN **POVERTY ERADICATION NETWORK**
Strengthening Citizens Participation

Alliance of African Conference of Churches (AACK)
Sir Francis Ibiyam House, 6th floor
Waiyaki Way
P. O. BOX 4932 – 00200
Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254 720 600656; +254 734 450645

www.Penkenya.org