



POVERTY ERADICATION  
NETWORK



EFFECTIVENESS OF  
CIVIL SOCIETY  
ORGANIZATIONS  
(CSOs)



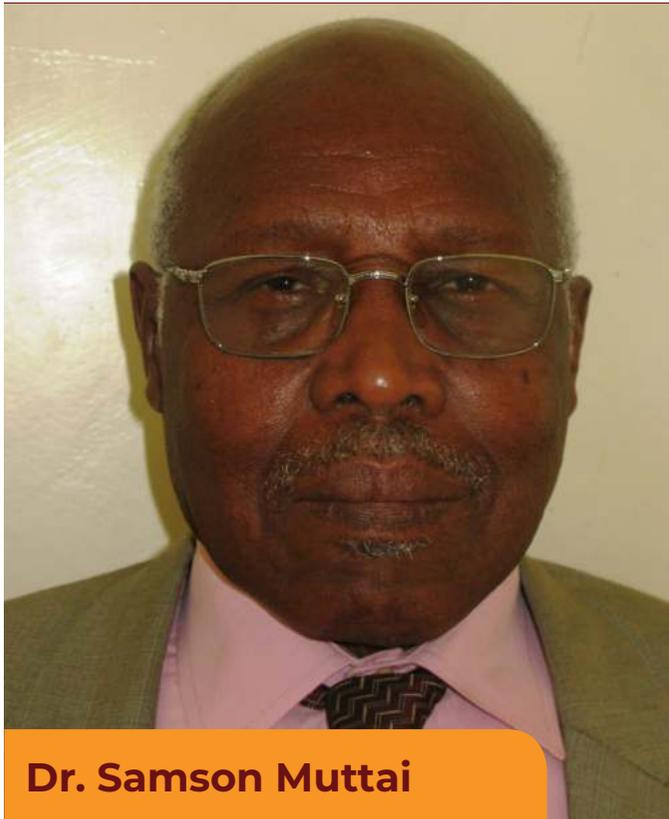
DEMOCRACY &  
GOVERNANCE



BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO  
ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENT-  
RELATED SHOCKS

# ANNUAL REPORT

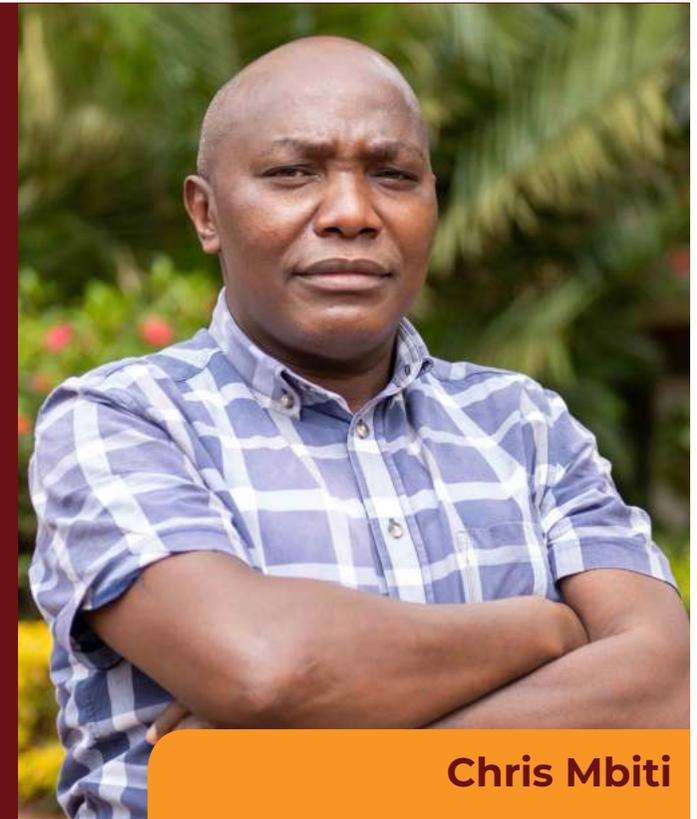
2020



**Dr. Samson Muttai**

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR'S WORD

The year 2020 was a challenging year not only for the public benefit sector but also for all the sectors. The Covid-19 pandemic brought with it untold suffering and uncertainties to all in various forms. As PEN, we pass our condolences to the families of frontline health workers and patients who passed away after being infected by the virus. We also condole with the families of many who died because of excesses of law enforcement agencies who overstepped their mandates in attempting to contain the pandemic.



**Chris Mbiti**

The lockdown occasioned by the pandemic led to the key sectors of the economy suffering losses and continuing to face uncertainties even as they prepare for recovery. Efforts have been made to cushion key pillars of the economy from county and national governments and other multilateral agencies but more is still needed to support other players in the national development such as the public benefits sector which plays a key role in mitigating adverse effects to poor citizens.

In the year, Public benefit organizations across board, and including PEN and her partners had to surmount challenges to be able to deliver to their stakeholders. It was through commitment and the spirit of sacrifice that the various achievements outlined in this report were achieved. The commitment of our funding partners, partner organizations and communities, the PEN Board of Directors and our staff played an important role in ensuring that we were able to serve our target constituents.

Challenges that include shrinking civic space, decreasing funding opportunities, a poorly performing economy and a weak sector that cannot push for a common agenda including necessary governance reforms continue to hinder the performance of the sector. However, there has been pushback by the sector especially on the shrinking civic space and promotion of a conducive operating environment. Through its projects, PEN was able to sensitize and collect views of PBO and other leaders on the current conversations regarding reforms in Kenya. PEN and her partners were also able to engage duty bearers at the county level on the local civic space, create awareness on the PBO Act and improve the capacity of PBOs to transit to the PBO Act regime.

Our partnership with 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, continues to deepen engagements on civic space at the county and national levels. Our partnerships with County-based civil society networks also continued to blossom with the networks working to entrench accountability in the devolved units.

As we soldier on in 2021, we continue to celebrate all our communities, civil society partners and development partners for their cooperation 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 on our people.

To our development and civil society partners, and on behalf of our target communities, board members and staff, we would like to thank you for walking with us throughout 2020 and for the trust and confidence you have shown in our work. Through your support, we were able to accomplish our journey in 2020 despite the covid-19 pandemic and the associated challenges.

Finally, we take time to remember our departed and dedicated board member Dr. Engineer Jan Mutai. We will remain indebted to you for your invaluable contribution to the organization during the years in the board.

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

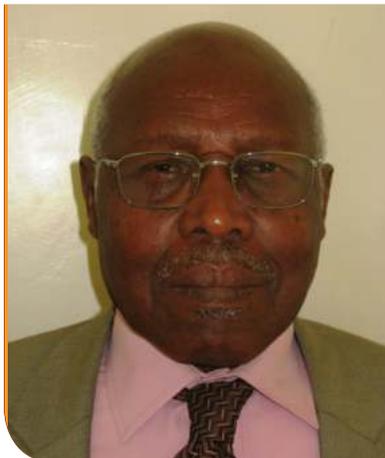
**Chris Mbiti**



Executive Director



**PEN  
GOVERNANCE -  
THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**



## Dr. Samson Muttai,

Board Chairman

Dr. Muttai is a trained veterinary surgeon. He served as Assistant Director of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), Livestock Division, and as Council Member of Egerton University.

## 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 Executive Vice President – 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.



## 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, 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.



## Resper Anyango Gogo

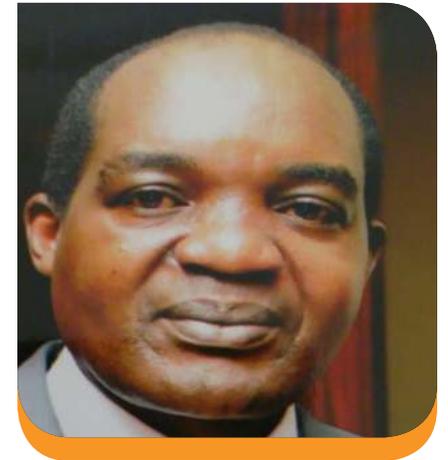
Vice Chairperson

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

## George Nyakora

Board Member

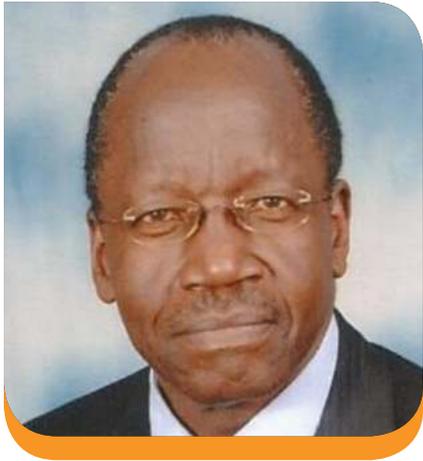
George Nyakora is the immediate past President of the Africawide Movement for Children. He previously served in Actionaid International and SOS Kinderdorf in various capacities as a Director. He has in 2019 developed the National Street Families Rehabilitation Policy for the Government of Kenya.



## 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.



## **Dr. Jan Mutai**

former Board Member

Eng. Jan Mutai passed on in June 2020. At the time of his demise, he was a Board Member of PEN. Eng. Mutai was a member of the Institution of Engineers of Kenya, with senior level local and international experience in the Oil and Telecom Industries. He had a wealth of knowledge, skills and competencies in corporate governance in private and public sectors. For his services to his country Kenya, he was honored as a Moran, and an Elder of the Burning Spear. His contribution to the progress of humanity was also recognized through the award of Doctor of Science (honoris causa).



# **PEN TEAM**



**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.

## 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.



**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.





## 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.

## 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 projects/programs. She also leads the procurement process.



## Ludivicus Omollo

Project Officer

Ludi has five years of experience in building the capacity and facilitating the integration of citizens and civil society organizations in governance processes at the county level, social accountability, partnerships, and advocacy for civic and democratic spaces. He is the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, Learning and Communications team leader.





## Odanga Madung

Technology and Society Fellow – Mozilla Foundation

Odanga is a journalist and researcher using data to speak truth to power and highlighting the stories of various issues such as air pollution, corruption and misinformation. Odanga's deepest interest is at the intersection between data and culture and it is through this that he has been able to carry out data analysis and visualization on various activities for a wide range of clients and occurrences in Kenya and the world. He is a frequent contributor to the Daily Nation in Kenya and his stories have been published in publications such as Quartz, DW, BuzzFeed News and the Huffington post. He previously was a fellow at the DW Akademie and is currently a fellow with the Mozilla Foundation hosted by PEN.

## Danson Kimeu

Office Assistant

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



## Judy Gachathi

Programs Manager – Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG) Secretariat

Judy has over twenty 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.



## Isabella Obara

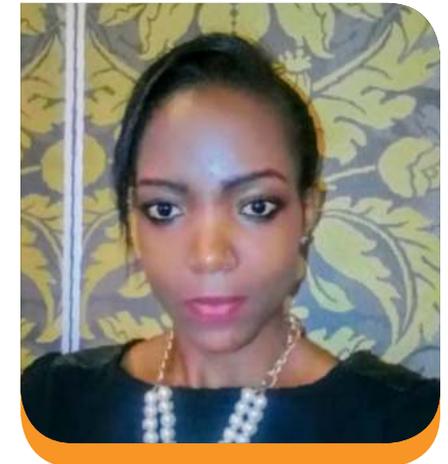
Project Officer – CSRG Secretariat

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.

## Diana Kuya

Programmes and Administrative Assistant – CSRG Secretariat

Ludi has five years of experience in building the capacity and facilitating the integration of citizens and civil society organizations in governance processes at the county level, social accountability, partnerships, and advocacy for civic and democratic spaces. He is the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, Learning and Communications team leader.





# INTRODUCING PEN

Poverty Eradication Network (PEN) is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) based in Kenya and registered since December 2001. PEN believes that a strong civil society, including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) such as Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (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 CSOs 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 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 VISION

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

## 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, applies 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.



Expanding the Scope for  
 Public Benefit Organizations  
 (PBOs) and Citizens  
 to Engage with Electoral  
 and Governance Reforms

supported by -  
 The Safeguarding Democratic Space in Kenya  
 (SADES-K) Project

# PROGRAMME AREAS



## A. EFFECTIVENESS OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Civil Society in Kenya and worldwide plays an important role in reducing poverty and overall wealth creation by delivering services directly, maintaining watchdog and whistle-blower roles, 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, education and food security.

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 peoples' 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.



## B. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Largely, 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 (CoK), 2010, is limited by:

- Lack of political education and limited understanding of the CoK, 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, PEN supports the strengthening and protecting of devolved governance through strengthening of governance systems, further devolving decision making to village and Ward levels as well as calling for equitable distribution of resources between national and county governments and within the counties.



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. Additionally, PEN 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.

## C. RESILIENCE OF COMMUNITIES TO ENVIRONMENT RELATED 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 the UNDP, climate change has far-reaching consequences for the poor and marginalized groups, the majority of whom 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 the 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



CONFERENCE  
CONFERENCE HALL

# ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2020, PEN implemented a number of activities under Democracy and Human Rights program funded by Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) through Diakonia Kenya, USAID – Agile and Harmonized Assistance for Devolved Institutions (AHADI), Ford Foundation, USAID/FHI360 and Global Giving. PEN and Partners actively implemented activities in 17 counties (Nairobi, Makueni, Murang'a, Kilifi, Mombasa, Bungoma, Trans Nzoia, Machakos, Nandi, Kakamega, Taita Taveta, Nyeri, Garissa, Kisumu, Meru, Nakuru, and Siaya) through physical presence, virtual means and active partnerships.



## A. EFFECTIVENESS OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs)

In October 2020, twenty (20) (9 female, 11 male and 4 youth) CSO leaders were trained on the Training of Trainers on civic space, leadership and governance for Civil Society Organizations in October. The purpose of the training was to strengthen the capacity of the CSO leaders from targeted counties and their respective organizations in facilitation skills, while deepening their knowledge of civic space, leadership and governance.

The PBO Act (2013) puts the qualifying and prospective PBOs under very strict legal requirements for compliance. To prepare sector actors for this, PEN organized three (3) regional capacity-building workshops on the PBO Act Compliance. Through these workshops, sixty (60) PBO leaders (33 male, 27 female and 21 youth) were trained on the PBO Act, 2013 and modalities of its compliance. The trained leaders are expected to become champions at the county level in ensuring that not only their organizations but also the organizations within their networks comply with the new regime once the Act is commenced and the Regulations published.

PEN in collaboration with its partners conceptualized county level Self-Regulating Forums as a successor to the current County-based CSO networks. In this regard, PEN piloted three model County PBO Self-Regulating Forums to test the aspect of self-regulation and to draw lessons and best practices for a wider rollout of the same. These pilot modeling activities reached three (3) counties, cumulatively reaching out to ninety (90) PBO leaders (56 male, 34 female and 43 youth). The PBO Act (2013) provides for Self-Regulating Forums recognized by the PBO Authority and Federation. The purpose of the pilot modelling was to prepare the sector and this very important component of the sector's independence while drawing lessons from the three counties to inform future self-regulation initiatives



In Makueni County, the County Government and the Makueni CSOs Network have established a Local Development Organization. This was in pursuit of self-reliance for the people of Makueni through establishing private public partnerships in solving the area problems in all society sectors. This partnership is a model supported by USAID for entrenching the Journey to Self-Reliance objective.



In December 2020, CSRG held its Annual General Assembly (AGA) which was attended by 57 participants (30 male, 27 female and 8 youth). During the AGA, members approved amendments aimed at strengthening the operations and management of CSRG and included modalities of replacing Oversight Committee (OC) members who have not completed their terms and election of new OC members and the length of their terms.



## B. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

PEN convened six (6) county roundtable meetings targeting CSO leaders, County Government officials and National Government officials based at the county level. These meetings were able to kick-start regular engagements and collaborations with various government agencies during the Covid-19 outbreak with the aim of developing sustainable mechanisms of engaging the County Governments and to protect and promote civic and democratic space in the counties. These meetings were attended by 108 CSO, County and National Government leaders (62 male, 46 female and 28 youth).

In efforts geared towards preparing the civil society sector towards the new legal regime of the Public Benefits Organizations (PBO) Act of 2013, PEN with partners {Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG), Ujamaa Centre and Community Research in Environment and Development Initiatives (CREADIS)} undertook a harmonization of the existing two drafts of PBO Rules and Regulations, one by Civil Society Sector and the other by the NGO Coordination Bureau, into one acceptable document. This process involved gathering data from ten (10) counties across the country reaching two-hundred and eighteen (218) CSO leaders (134 male, 84 female and 86 male). Through these consultations, a harmonized draft was developed and with further engagements with the regulator, will form the CSOs document that shows their expectations and demands of the final Rules and Regulations.

In furtherance of the actions to prepare the sector for the new regime, PEN and partners developed simplified versions of the PBO Act (2013) and the Draft PBO Regulations. These documents have been popularized across six counties, covering two hundred and forty-three (243) CSO leaders (121 male, 122 female and 107 youth). The documents are found in the following website page: <http://penkenya.org/useful-read>

PEN and CSRG adopted a multi-advocacy strategy in pushing for the implementation of the PBO Act, 2013. We engaged a goodwill ambassador and a PBO Act champion (Hon. Pricilla Nyokabi) who would aid in engaging the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Coordination of National Government among other government agencies.



PEN began undertaking a futures scenario building process where it will look at the impacts of implementing or not implementing the various electoral, governance, economic and institutional reforms being proposed. This process began with forming a Working Group consisting of selected CSO, political and other leaders to serve as a backstopping team for the scenarios. PEN further conducted seven regional meetings where they collected ideas from 180 leaders (119 male, 61 female and 77 youth) across the country.

With the training of the Makueni CSO Network members received in 2019 on Public Expenditure Management (PEM), the CSO members have been undertaking social audits on County Government funded projects across

the County. This resulted in some of the issues raised and recommendations given on the water and agriculture sub-sectors such as delivery of farming equipment and prioritized water projects being implemented. The Network's working relationship with the County Government has improved after several partnership meetings discussing how to work together to improve service delivery to the County citizens. Fifty-seven (57) community-based oversight resource persons (CORPs) (25 male, 32 female and 26 youth) drawn from Machakos and Nandi Counties took part in an Advocacy Training. This training's objective was to link community sensitization and mobilization to civic action, especially in the county PEM processes. The training equipped the CORPs with necessary skills and knowledge to lead their community in civic actions towards effective service delivery.

Twelve [12] CSO Network meetings (Need to disaggregate attendance) were held at the County level in Kakamega, Bungoma, Taita Taveta, Makueni and Siaya Counties. Owing to the meetings, the CSO leaders in the respective counties continued advocacy around the implementation of the PBO Act 2013, advocated for the formulation of policies and laws for public participation and civic education, and followed up on how funds allocated for the response to the COVID-19 pandemic were utilized. In Kakamega the CSOs were engaged by the county through the office of the Speaker of the County Assembly and were included in ad hoc committees on COVID-19 for the purposes of sensitization, monitoring and oversight. The Kakamega and Siaya leaders did a number of the Social Accountability exercises which raised a number of service delivery issues within the health sector for discussions with the County Government officials. From follow-up meetings, the CSO leaders identified areas of collaboration and engagement with the respective County Governments.

PEN's intervention in Siaya County through Social Accountability and other civic actions led to the resumption of construction of Got Osimbo water project in Sigomre Ward that had stalled since 2016. In East Gem Ward, construction of Ramila Maternity was stopped because of the community noting the use of sub-standard materials. The community, with the help of the local Citizens Voices and Actions (CVA) representative, rallied other leaders and stopped the contractor from continuing the construction. In South Uyoma Ward, the community rejected the subsequent County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) (2020/21) thus forcing the county government to

prioritize it in 2020/21 and allocations appropriately made. The community had prioritized fencing of Lwola Dispensary in Financial Year (FY) 2019/2020 which was ignored and instead, replaced with the MCA-driven water project. In Sidindi Ward, the budget for the FY 2020/2021 indicated drilling of a borehole in Ugolwe, however construction of 2 water Kiosks is what was done. The CVA in Sidindi brought together the Chief Officer (CO) for Water, area Ward Administrator, the MCA and community and as a result, the CO for Water committed that the drilling would be done given that water was not flowing on the 2 water Kiosks in Kakoth and Ugolwe villages.

With the support of Article 19, CSRG trained 38 animators, CSO leaders, Human Rights Defenders and religious leaders (26 were male, 12 female and 24 youth) on the right to protest. Because of this training, innovative approaches to promoting the freedom of assembly through protests were discussed and ways of holding the same discussed.



## C. BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENT-RELATED SHOCKS

Under this strategic focus area, the projects in Lower Eastern Kenya established using GlobalGiving grants in Mutulani, Makueni County

continued. GlobalGiving maintained PEN as a Superstar Status awarding her various badges for Site Verification, Vetted Organization, Top Ranked Organization and Effective Organization.

Davis and Shirliff, a global water systems installation company, gave 50 per cent support towards the installation of a solar-powered water pump. GlobalGiving funds were used to complete the remaining 50 percent, the construction of an elevated water collection tank and piping of the water to Mutulani Secondary School. The project will play a significant role in prevention of the spread of Coronavirus through hand washing of the children and teachers while in school.

PEN and the community are continuing to raise more funds to pipe water to the primary school and distribute to the community too, as well as a recharge system to focus on supply sustainability of the project and promote water and sanitation within all the Mutulani schools and the community. The project committee's capacity will also be strengthened to ensure the project is sustainable through proper management.

The water pump and distribution system were commissioned to the community on the 1st of December 2020 where the various Mutulani stakeholders were brought to contribute to the project to support the remaining project activities. This day coincided with the GlobalGiving campaign that attracts matching of each donation given and saw nineteen (19) community members also donate to the cause.



Because of the COVID-19 pandemic; the implementation of programmes' activities was interfered with, hence delays in the overall implementation. The funding partners changed with most of the funding directed to COVID-19 pandemic containment. This affected the civic space and funding opportunities to the Civil Society Sector. Activities that required the engagement of government representation also stalled due to the unavailability of the government officials who either were engaged in containing the pandemic or were limited by the various pandemic containment measures such as working from home.

The Public Benefit Sector also continues to see reduced funding of its progress. In 2020, this came with an unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic that further worsened the internal operating environment for PBOs. The worst affected PBOs were those in the Governance sub-sector as much funding was diverted to fight the pandemic. This led to downsizing and closure of a number of PBOs as they sought to find ways to cope with the pandemic.

## CHALLENGES



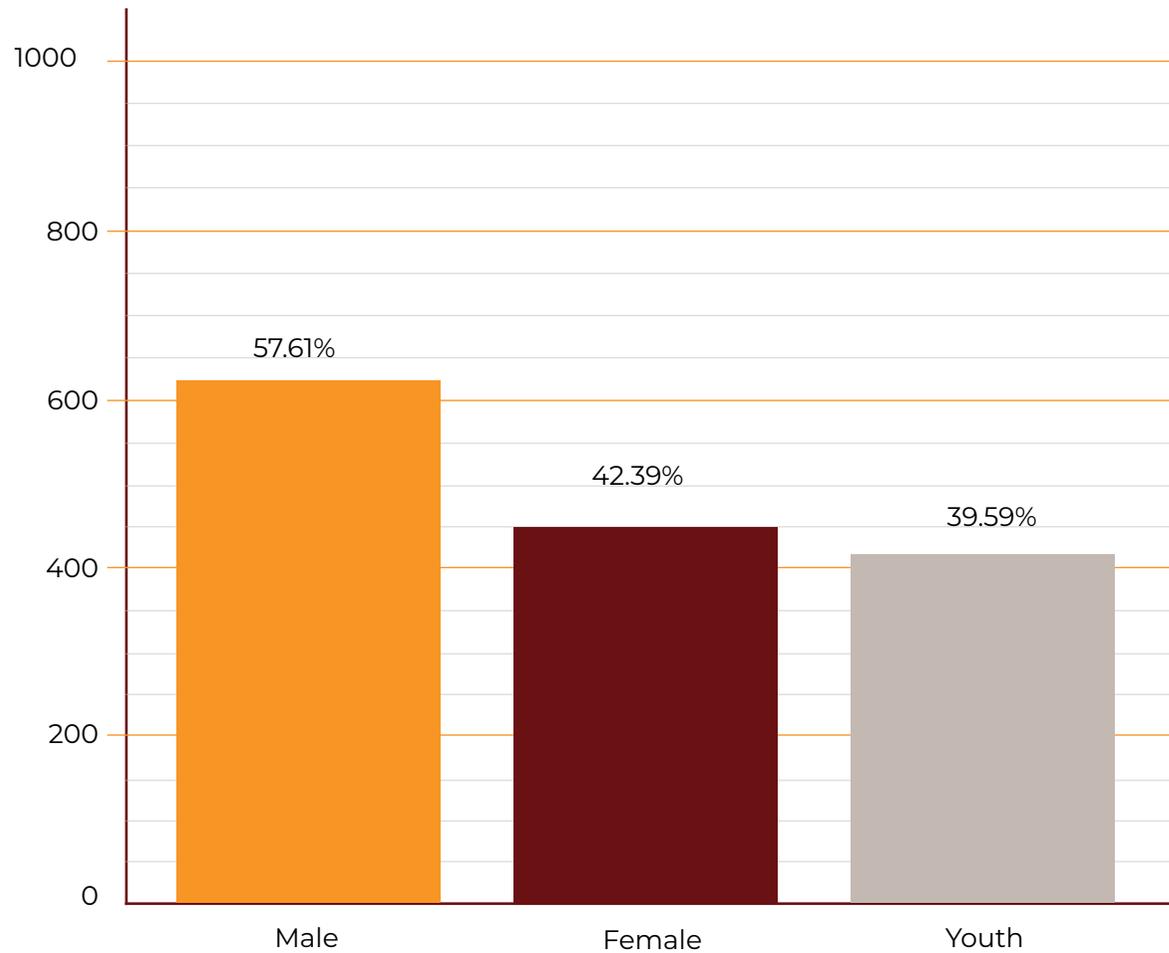
## LESSONS LEARNT

An empowered CSO Network and PBOs are a catalyst to sustainable development through advocating for effective delivery of services and through engaging the government towards safeguarding of public resources. This has been evident by the reports of social accountability exercises done at the Ward level by various Network representatives which have brought about a shift from conducting County affairs against the Constitution of Kenya and the County Government Act, 2012. County consortiums like the Makueni CSO Network have the ability to push for change through engaging the county government, especially on access to information and public participation to enhance improved service delivery. This was evident through the engagement of the County Government through dialogues on the gaps realized during the formation of the Local Development Organization which could threaten inclusion in the entire process. The aptness of the Network made the government realize the oversight role played by the PBOs within the County.

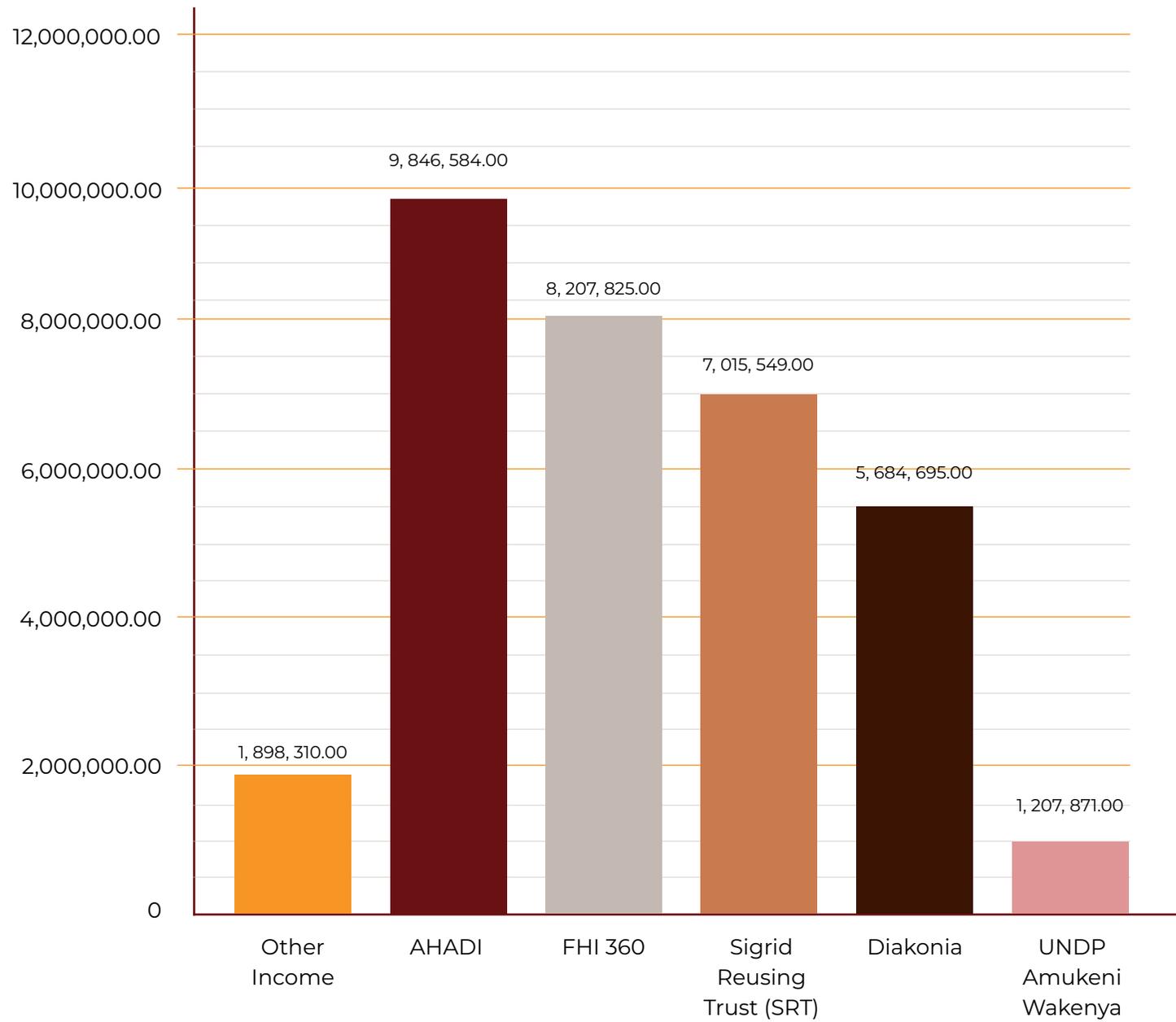
Community Resource Persons have played a critical role in advocating for effective utilization of public resources and acting as a link in information provision between the government and other development actors to the citizens. This approach has worked beyond the project timelines

# PEN IN NUMBERS

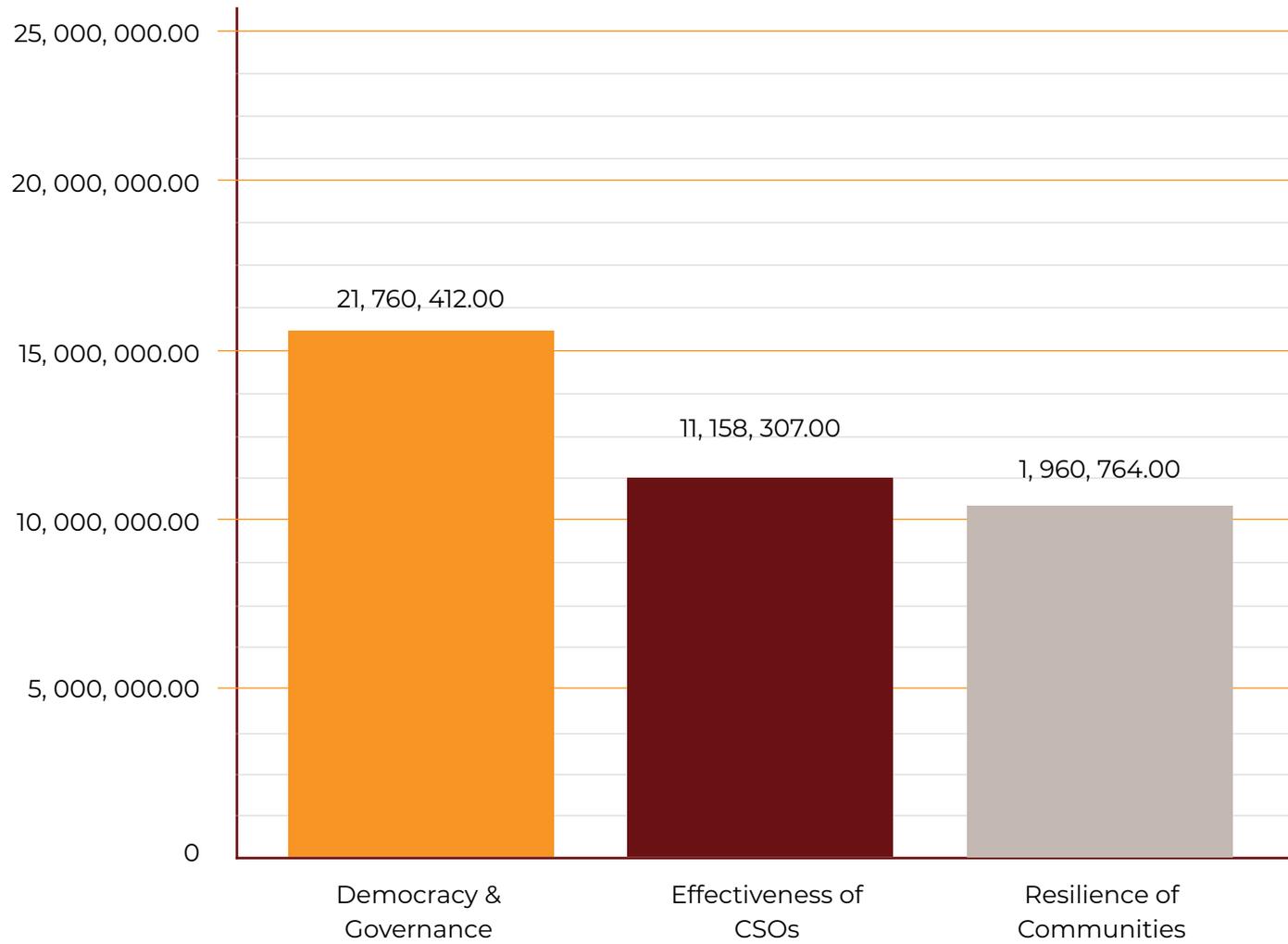
2020 General Activity Attendance



## Finance



## Expenses 2020





**PEN  
Management  
and Development  
Consultants  
(PMDC)**

**PEN Management and 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 the 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 factors 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.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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## PEN PARTNERS





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