

# TendaSasa News

Act

Change

Transform

Newsletter | Issue: June-July 2020

INSIDE



Collaborating for Sustainable Impact



## Disclaimer

The Action Newsletter is published periodically to inform, educate, challenge and provoke debate about Environment and Natural Resources Management, Democracy, Governance and Human Rights and Peace Building and Conflict Transformation.

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Rosaline Gikonyo  
Editor

We appreciate and celebrate the effort that our partner organizations have put in impacting and transforming lives across kenyan communities and let's continue Collaborating for Sustainable Impact.

Dear Reader,

I am more than delighted to present to you our latest edition of your favorite read, the Act! Newsletter, TendaSasa News; formerly, The Action!

On the ninth edition of our newsletter, we focus on the theme “Collaborating for Sustainable Impact” and the strides made during this period. As evidenced in the articles herein, is a showcase of the great achievements positive impact in our thematic areas which are: Capacity Development and Civil Society Strengthening for Sustainable Environment & Natural Resources Management; Democracy Governance and Human Rights; and Peace Building and Conflicts Transformation.

Do enjoy your read and hope you appreciate the impact of our work as we look forward to making greater strides in the near future.

On behalf of the entire Act! team, Happy Reading!

**T**he welcome of each new year tags along lots of expectations and resolutions that each one jots down in their to-do-lists; all geared towards achievement by the end of the year. This year unlike other years has depicted a really tough time across all sectors of life; especially economically and socially and living with such uncertainty hasn't been a walk in the park. COVID-19 pandemic took the world by storm and has vehemently altered our normal way of life to immeasurable lengths. Right from job losses, to business closures, loss of lives and even relocation to outskirts of the city are just a few of the adverse effects that the pandemic has brought about. It's now not possible to visit your friend whom you haven't laid your eyes on for a long time, let alone invite her out for coffee/lunch at your favorite restaurant. A former colleague and close friend recently lost his dad and all i could do was extend my condolences to him but not accomapny him to bid farewell to his beloved dad due to the gathering restrictions laid out by the government courtesy of COVID-19. Similarly, it's not easy for me to travel upcountry to visit my parents as is my norm due to the said pandemic.

This new normal has greatly influenced how we relate with others even those who are familiar to us from the very apsect of not sharing a handshake or a hug let alone sit side by side in a matatu as was previously the norm. Even as we continue to bear the brunt of the adverse effects caused by COVID-19, i believe it has had its benefits even if fewer than its negatives. I'd like to mirror on how it has been our constant reminder on basic hygiene through the regular hand-washing which we sometimes take for granted.

I recently checked into hospital for a regular check-up and as I engaged with my doctor, he said and i quote "Since the outbreak of this pandemic, there have been fewer cases of stomach-related illnessess. People have been more proactive in handwashing and the hygiene levels have gradually improved". I smiled at this statement appreciating how something so crucial can impact a greater majority in a positive way. Just the mere thought of contracting the virus is more than scary but its comforting to know that you can still live your normal life even if you get infected with the virus so long as you're treated in good time. It's a personal initiative also to protect yourself by abiding by the regulations laid out by the Health Ministry for your own personal safety and that of your loved ones.

The children, courtesy of being home have learnt to mingle with their neighbors and even take care of us the grown-ups. The other day as i stepped out heading to the market, one young girl looked up to me and asked, "Hi. Did you remember to carry your mask?" "Hi, How are you? Yes, i sure did but thanks for checking up." I replied. It's great to know that even the children as young as they may be understand the pandemic and how life-threatening it can be if simple things are not taken into proper account. Through the reliability of the internet you can have meetings at the comfort of your living room, exchange ideas, strategies and concepts while keeping safe and protected courtesy of minimal movement. Most of us can now identify with the working from home concept/working remotely. This period of time has also allocated us more time with our respective families, life partners and offered us the opportunity to know each other better and improve how we relate with each other.

It goes without saying that covid brought along convenience of orders and door-step deliveries of foods and other essential supplies through a single swipe on your mobile phone similar to sending such supplies upcountry. COVID-19 has also brought about self awareness as we are certainly not the same immunity-wise and therefore extra care and precaution is to be taken particularly to the children and the elderly who are more susceptible. Even with the uncertainty about tomorrow, we are sure of breaking out of this shell named coronavirus and taking back our repective places and roles in the society. For now, let's stay safe and keep planning out our next move even as we step out to accomplish that which we can and hope for a brighter tomorrow.

This period is one to be more thankful and appreciative of life and good health freely given as it is indeed a gift! Simple things are your blessings!





## INTEGRATING COVID-19 RESPONSE TO PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

H.E. the Governor of Kisumu, Professor Anyang Nyong'o and his team are having discussions surrounding support towards the training of lead agency CSOs/Volunteers/CEF on COVID-19 and PCVE.

**C**COVID-19 has won its title as the worst pandemic ever to hit the entire world over with its adverse effects as clear as crystal. Kenya is grappling with a great economic crisis as a result of this pandemic that has crippled most businesses, led to the closures of companies and organizations' operations brought to a standstill. A glimmer of hope comes with H.E. the President's directive on the re-opening of our economy, even though it is not quite definitive at the moment. Since the outbreak of the said pandemic, cases of violent extremism have also been on the rise and therefore paramount for quick action to prevent further damage. The youth especially, have been caught in the middle of the fight with the police for breaking the law while they strive to enforce the governments' directives on the curfew currently in place. In the oversight of this pandemic, Act in partnership with the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) and Kisumu County Government is piloting an approach dubbed 'Dual Purposing' aimed at mainstreaming Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) into COVID-19 response mechanism. Act! aims at merging the two aspects and ensuring the end of violent extremism across counties here in Kenya.. The support channeled towards responding to COVID-19 can also be driven towards the prevention and counter of violent extremism cases in the country. Discussions led by H.E. the Governor of Kisumu, Professor Anyang Nyong'o delved on according support towards the training of lead agency Civil Society Organizations' Volunteers/CEF as relates to COVID-19 and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism.

Good working relations between the youth and the local authorities would greatly benefit both parties as their energies will be harnessed towards fighting COVID-19.

This is under the Peace, Security and Stability program funded by Embassy of Denmark, with the support of Pamoja for Transformation who is our lead partner in the implementation of this initiative. We plan to expand our territories to other counties across the country with the said program so as to promote peaceful coexistence especially within the communities.

Pamoja for Transformation has been on the frontline working towards "improving relations and building trust between communities and government agencies" and would in turn refer to the COVID-19 responses to build these relations.

Act together with Pamoja for Transformation is working towards the fostering good working relations between the police and the community thus promoting peaceful coexistence especially during this period of the current pandemic.



County Security and Intelligence Committee (CSIC) led by the Kisumu County Commissioner Sarah Waweru and National Counter Terrorism Centre Head of Prevention and Resilience discussions revolving around the integration of COVID-19 response to Violent Extremism.



The local authorities (police) involved in the on-going discussions





Tom Were, welcomed by former Board Chair, Francis Aywa

## Act! Welcomes

### New Board Members

**A**ct! has the honor of welcoming a new Chief Executive Officer, namely, Tom Were who takes over from Anne Nyabera who was the Executive Director.

He brings on board vast experience and expertise serving in world class Non Governmental Organizations at Senior Leadership Level. His adept leadership qualifications will be a great asset to Act! not forgetting that he is equally an ICF certified leadership coach.

Act is also thrilled to announce the appointment of Edward Mwachinga and Hawi Odingo to its Board of Directors.

Their global experience and expertise in strategic leadership, finance management, democracy and governance will strengthen Act!'s ability to impact more communities in Kenya and beyond our borders.

Their contribution will enhance our impact beyond organizational excellence and directly impart the lives of the communities we serve.





Tom Were

Tom Were is an accomplished senior management professional, international certified executive leadership coach and an adept leader with over 19 years of experience in the public, private and development sectors. He has exceptional skills and experience in key sectors of social and economic development, profiling and offering advisory support to strategic public-private partnerships. He has served in the public, private and development sectors with national, regional and global organizations mainly in senior management and top leadership roles. Prior to joining Act! in August 2018 as the Chief Executive Officer, he served as Senior Advisor with Strategic Connections Limited.



Edward Mwachinga

Mr. Edward Mwachinga is a highly respected transaction advisor specializing in tax and related aspects of transactions. He is a partner with Viva Africa Consulting LLP. Edward is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya, holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Nairobi and a Master of Laws degree (with merit) from the University of London; he is also a member of the Law society of Kenya and the East African Law Society. Edward holds other leadership positions including as a member of the Board of Directors of several companies in Kenya including a large real estate development company and a member of the board of directors of WTS Global a Tier 1 global tax network. He joined the Act! Board in June 2020.



Hawi Odingo

Mr. Hawi Odingo is an expertise in finance and administration management gained from international commercial and non-profit sectors provides assurance of a solid base to deliver on quality cost effective and efficient solutions to public, private and non-profit organizations. He is a certified public accountant and practicing accountant on advisory and consultancy basis. Mr. Odingo is a member of the Elections Committee at the Institute of Public Accountants Kenya ICPA(K) charged with developing systems and overseeing transparent election process for the institute. Mr. Odingo joined the Board of Act! Change Transform in June 2020 and will serve as the convener of the Finance and Audit Committee of the Board.





# USALAMA KIJIJINI AIMED AT PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

COVID-19 has deeply impacted our normal way of life and our way of doing things. With the closure of many businesses, companies and crippling of other sources of income, most people have resulted to staying behind closed doors while others sought for their rural homes in a bid to sustain themselves and their families. Due to the loss of livelihoods, Mathare, one of the most densely populated peri-urban center has its residents who know too well the brunt they've had to bear as a result of the effects of this pandemic.

Expectations similar to those of other Nairobi residents is rent payment which hasn't been a walk in the park for many. Late payment and to some extent non payment of house rent has turned the landlords against the tenants and brought strife between them. Some of the landlords have resulted in taking extreme measures that damage their own houses in a bid to compel the tenants to remitt their monthly rent payments thus forcing some tenants to shift abruptly while other continue to stay without paying their monthly dues. The Peace Security Stability Program funded by the Embassy of Denmark through Act! in collaboration with Mathare Peace Initiative (MPI), a Local CBO, came in to listen to the tenants grievances relating to their conflict with landlords and agents.

## One of the tenants sharing her sentiments at the Peace Forum



The newly formed Mathare Landlords and Tenants Association

It is through the Usalama Kijijini initiative Act and MPI sought to educate on the importance of a peaceful coexistence between the landlords and their tenants at Mathare.

Consequently, meetings have been held with landlords separately, tenants and landlords combined as well as invoking the presence of their area chief and local authorities (police) in order to foster peaceful relations with them. Ours is to initiate a even platform for meetings, discussions and deliberations on community issues as such and how best to solve them communally; just amongst themselves. As a result of this initiative, a Landlords- Tenants association was formed with the inclusion of a representative from the police and the local community as their new way of conflict resolution.

As part of fostering peaceful correlations, the discussions touched on the essence of landlord-tenants meetings for follow-up dialogues so as to keep track on the conflict resolution measures put in place and ensure peaceful coexistence within the community.



Area chief making his remarks during the peace forum





## MY IDENTITY CLINIC (HUDUMA MASHINANI)



Service providers working on the issuance of Identity Cards, Birth certificates to the youth

KMYA conducted a total of 9 clinics that resulted in the increased service delivery especially the issuance of Identity Cards to the youth. More than 2400 within the community were reached by this activity, where 530 youths were issued with ID Cards while 235 were given birth certificates. This very platform was created to enable the youths engage directly with the respective service providers to address all grievances raised pertaining to identity documents. Through this clinic, the youth were greatly empowered on government policies towards acquisition and accessibility of their legal documents.

Notably, areas where the service of ID Cards and Birth certificates had never been carried out, KMYA via the PSS program managed to enable the service providers reach and attend to the community members effectively and efficiently.

With the acknowledgement that youth are either the perpetrators or victims of most conflicts all over the world, the aim is to reduce the youth risk and vulnerability to radicalization through linkages and facilitation to civil, social and economic opportunities at the county level in Mombasa and Kwale Counties. KMYA under the Peace, Security and Stability program conducted the “My Identity Clinic” that focused on the issuance of identification documents to the youth and the sensitization on the importance of the acquisition and accessibility of legal documents.

Repeatedly, youth not in possession of any legal documentation are easy targets of extremist groups who force them into engaging in acts of violent extremism and are in turn hunted down by local authorities with similar accusations. The end result is usually death by the gun or life-imprisonment once caught indulging in violent extremism.



This forum also aimed at bringing government officials and youth for a round table discussion on matters security. The rationale of this activity is to bridge the gap between security agents, government officials and youths.

# YOUTH ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Act In collaboration with the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF), the Peace, Security and Stability Programme funded by the Danish Embassy in Kenya. on Youth training on entrepreneurship and life skills.



This entailed both an entrepreneurial and life skills training conducted in Mombasa and Kilifi counties aimed as enabling youth to be self-sustainable. The training was conducted by Act a non profit and non governmental organization in collaboration with the Youth Enterprise Development Fund(YEDF), a State Corporation under the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs, established to address the challenge of youth unemployment in Kenya. Since inception the Fund has endeavoured to create opportunities for Kenyan youth through its main mandates namely; Entrepreneurship Training, Lending, Market Support and Linkages, Commercial Infrastructure Support as well as the Youth Employment Scheme Abroad (YESA) / Labour Export programme.

A total of 400 youths trained through the Peace Security and Stability program funded by Embassy of Denmark in Kenya.

The Collaboration Framework between the two partners focused on developing synergy in the socio-economic empowerment of youth in Kenya. The framework spelt out the objectives of the collaboration as well as the responsibilities of the parties.

Act! in collaboration with the Youth Enterprise Development Fund(YEDF), through the Peace, Security and Stability program funded by the Danish Embassy in Kenya managed to train a total of 400 youths.





Youth Enterprise Development Fund conducting a youth training on entrepreneurial and life skills.

The entrepreneurship training composed of the below key topics:

1. Identification of Business Opportunities
2. Generation of feasible business ideas
3. Business Planning
4. Business Financing
5. Sensitization of YEDF financing and enterprise development options
6. Business Management
7. Business Record Keeping
8. Marketing
9. Competition in business
10. General Life Skills training

The participants were also taken through the process of registering groups and businesses.

The YEDF County Officers were present to introduce themselves to the participants and to sensitize them on how to access various services especially loans from the Fund.

Besides the delivery of content from the facilitators, the trainees were engaged in many practical activities to enhance learning. The highlight of the training was the development and presentation of business plans by the trainees.

Lastly, the collaboration between ACT! and YEDF towards socio-economically empowering the Youth in Kenya should be supported and enhanced. It has the prospects of transforming not only the individual participants but the communities in general. The joint training programme should be enhanced to include as many youths as possible.



# INTER MADRASSA COMPETITION



The Coastal region has more oftenly been characterized by all forms of violent extremism; radicalization by militant groups and the youth are those who fall victim of such acts. The youth being the nation's source of economic growth and continuity continue to be faced by such threats to be part of acts of violence or succumb to death or the loss of their loved ones. Since the youth make up an integral part of nationbuilding, the Inter Madrassa initiative was introduced to tap into the youth at a young age (school-going children) to inculcate peace and reduce the risk of them turning to violence of any form.

The Inter Madrassa forum was a peace initiative for the young boys in girls to educate them on peaceful existence. Based on their Islamic religion, they were sensitized on rejecting radicalization and any forms of violent extremism but instead be strong advocates of peace. Tapping into the youthful and creating peace advocates is the initiative's aim with the employment of plays and poems to convey the message to their fellow students and the community at large. More schools to be included in this initiative to create awareness on the early warning signs of radicalization that feeds violent extremism.



Inter Madrassa Khutba, Qaswida, poem competition to communicate alternative or counter narrative messages to the general public using plays, poems etc. The use of youthful will ensure youth identify themselves with these messages hence change their mind sets.



## At a glance...



Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr, Jeppe Kofod and Ambassador of Denmark to Kenya M/s Mette Knudsen in Mombasa together with her partners



Act! delighted to host the Partners meeting with the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Her Excellency the Danish Ambassador to Kenya and Somalia



Discussions delved on the current trends and dynamics of Conflict and Countering Violent, Politics and Challenges affecting the Civil Society Space.



During the implementation of the **Peace, Security and Stability** 5 year program in Kenya to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of State and Non-State Actors funded by **Embassy of Denmark in Kenya & Somalia**



# RECAP OF ACTIVITIES; 2018-2019



Human Rights Peace and Security Mentorship Program (12wks program) by HURIA



Act Staff meeting and the departure of Ann Nyabera from the Executive Director position at Act Change Transform



Grace showcases her beekeeping skills using mangrove trees.



African Rangelands Trust Peace meeting in West Pokot county



Kilifi County Commissioner addressing the audience at the Peace & Reconciliation forum



Pupils championing for peace



# PICTURE SPEAK



Mette Knudsen(Nordic ambassador) visit to Kisumu



Cross-border collaboration coalition at the Busia -Uganda border



SOMINEREC Slum Peace Campaign in Nairobi County



Tujengane Tuinuane PCVE Initiative



Peace Building and Conflict Transformation forum



Graduation ceremony after a successful forum on Natural Resource Management for Tullow Oil Kenya.





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