



# KITARA CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS NETWORK



## 20 ANNUAL 22 REPORT



# Contents

LIST OF ACRONYMS .....	4
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF DIRECTORS .....	5
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR .....	7
1. BRIEF ABOUT KCSON.....	9
2. OPERATING CONTEXT .....	9
2.1 External context.....	9
2.1.1 Rising commodity prices (inflation) .....	9
2.1.2 Poor governance .....	9
2.1.3 Improved infrastructure especially road network in the region.....	9
2.2 Internal context.....	9
2.2.1 Capacity building and dedicated staff.....	9
2.2.2 Maintenance of the two offices .....	10
2.2.3 Strategic planning 2023-2027 .....	10
2.2.4; Holding AGM, mandatory board meetings & election of the new board.....	10
2.2.5 Undergoing QUAM and attaining a certificate .....	11
2. KCSON WORK 2022 IN NUMBERS .....	11
3. MILESTONES OF KCSON PER THEMATIC AREA .....	12
3.1.1 Advocacy for effective management of oil & gas sector .....	12
3.1.2 Strengthening collaboration with government .....	13
3.2 Thematic area 2; Capacity Building.....	13
3.2.1 Improving capacity & coordination of CSOs .....	13
3.2.2 Capacity building of KCSON staff .....	14
3.2.3 Increased compliance and self-regulation .....	14
3.3 Thematic area 3; Resource mobilization .....	14
3.4 Thematic area 4: Empowering the Vulnerable and Marginalized People .....	15
3.4.1 Improved coordination and referral for HIV/AIDS & TB response to communities .....	15
3.4.2 Promoting climate resilience and adaptation .....	15
3.4.3 Powering Health Centres in hard to reach areas .....	16
3.4.4 Promoting conservation of nature.....	16
3.4.5 Promoting education/learning .....	18
4. CHANGE STORIES .....	19
4.1 Success story 1: KCSON strengthens capacity of Namirembe Women’s Group to reap big from village saving and loans association initiative .....	19
4.2 What our member organisations and other stakeholders say about our work .....	20
5. CHALLENGES AND LESSON LEARNT .....	21
5.1 Challenges .....	21
5.2 Lessons learnt.....	21
6. KCSON INCOMES & EXPENDITURE 2022 .....	22
7. KCSON BOARD 2022 .....	23
8. KCSON STAFF AS AT THE END OF 2022 .....	24

## LIST OF ACRONYMS



<b>AGM</b>	Annual General Meeting
<b>ANC</b>	Antenatal Care
<b>BAPENECO</b>	Bunyoro Albertine Petroleum Network on Environmental Conservation
<b>BTCMH</b>	Bless the Children Ministries Home
<b>CBO</b>	Community based Organisation
<b>CBSD</b>	Community Based Services Department
<b>CFM</b>	Collaborative Forest Management
<b>CFR</b>	Central Forest Reserve
<b>CNOOC</b>	Chinese National Off shore Oil Company
<b>CSBAG</b>	Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group
<b>CSCO</b>	Civil Society Coalition on oil and gas
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>DTPC</b>	District Technical Planning Committee
<b>DAC</b>	District HIV/AIDS Committee
<b>EACOP</b>	East African Crude Oil Pipeline
<b>FIA</b>	Financial Intelligence Authority
<b>FRECAR</b>	Natural Forest Regeneration for Enhanced Carbon Stocks
<b>HPA</b>	Hope Partners Africa
<b>IoC</b>	International Oil Company
<b>KCSON</b>	Kitara Civil Society Organizations Network
<b>KPs</b>	Key Populations
<b>KTB</b>	Kenyan Top Bar
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MO</b>	Member Organizations
<b>NFA</b>	National Forestry Authority
<b>OFD</b>	Oil For Development
<b>UNNGOF</b>	Uganda National NGO Forum
<b>URSB</b>	Uganda Registration Services Bureau
<b>VHTs</b>	Village Health Teams
<b>VSLAs</b>	Village Saving and Loans Association
<b>WWF</b>	World Wide Fund for Nature

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### Appreciation

On behalf of Kitara Civil Society Organisations Network (KCSO) , it is my pleasure and honor to present to you the Annual Integrated Programme Report of KCSO for the year 2022.

#### Overview of operational environment

Much as the COVID-19 lockdown was lifted at the beginning of 2022, the effects were still visible amongst communities in all aspects of life during the year 2022. Equally, the CSO fraternity including KCSO was affected as resources continued dwindling.

In the same year, inflation rose to a two-digit figure (10% & above) with prices of essential commodities such as soap, sugar, fuel etc. rising exorbitantly. The price of fuel went as high as over UGX 10,000 in the mid-western region and this negatively affected our plans as it became so costly to make project activity movements such as stakeholders' engagements. Nonetheless, I am happy to report that the organization is resilient, and we were able to remain operational. With visionary leadership and the fast adoption of technology we maintained service to our stakeholders, and we registered progress in the following areas.

### Financial performance

The organization's total income in the year 2022 was one billion, six hundred eight million, two hundred seventy thousand, nine hundred eighty-nine shillings

(UGX 1,608,270,989) up from one billion, one hundred eighty-two million, four hundred eighty-two thousand and six shillings (UGX 1,182,482,006) representing 36% increase and this is attributed to among others; dedicated and hardworking secretariat; strengthened finance and management systems and members fulfilling their obligations.

- a) Annual General Meeting (AGM) & election of the new board. We successfully held the 2021 AGM in April 2022. At the same meeting, a new board was elected to steer KCSO for the next 3 years.
- b) Membership servicing & capacity building. In 2022, we continued servicing our members through organizing capacity building sessions, linking them to funding opportunities, and holding one-on-one sessions among others.
- c) Enhanced knowledge management. We have enhanced management of knowledge at KCSO through upgrading the website and the M&E system. The social media pages are continuously being upgraded to share information with the rest of our member organisations and the general public. In the year under review, KCSO further engaged in research, especially in oil & gas sector related fields and engaged respective stakeholders on the findings.

## **Future outlook**

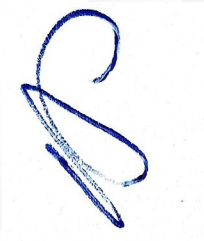
Membership servicing interventions. The organization will continue to coordinate, network and build capacity of member organizations and ensuring compliance to the NGO regulatory framework.

Research. Research remains key, as we continuously reinvent ourselves in order to improve service delivery. The organization will continue commissioning studies.

Enhancing knowledge management. KCSON will continue venturing into enhancing knowledge management through improving the M&E system, data collection and dissemination. Consultancies shall be undertaken as a way of widening our experience and technical expertise and increasing revenue to the organization.

## **Conclusion**

For the members of the Board, we express appreciation for the strong guidance during the year and a special thank you and farewell to the board whose tenure expired at the last AGM. I thank you for serving diligently and a warm welcome to the new board. Further appreciation is extended to the Management and Staff of KCSON for their continued professionalism, enthusiasm, and commitment.



Hedwig Mbaziira Birungi  
**Chairperson Board of Directors**

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

---



I take this opportunity to share with you the Kitara Civil Society Organisations Network (KCSON) Annual Performance Report 2022. While the year came with unprecedented challenges, ranging from shrinking civil society space, inflation, the associated negative effects of COVID-19 among others, we are delighted to report to you that despite these challenges, KCSON was undeterred on its pursuit for advocacy for better service delivery, an empowered civil society ready to deliver on its mandate and empowerment of vulnerable populations.

The process to develop a new strategic plan (2023-2027) started in 2022 and was completed towards the end of the year and therefore KCSON has a direction for the next five years. The new strategic plan is more focused and well thought out to address the anticipated changes in the operating context.

Our engagements in the oil & gas sector seem to have gained momentum in the year 2022 with support from our development partners especially WWF in addition to the oil companies (CNOOC) that supported us to increase our visibility in the region and on issues related to oil & gas.

Without the trust and support of our partners (local, national partners and donors alike) and the dedicated board of directors and staff, it impossible to deliver the achievements contained in this report. This is also our opportunity to thank our donors, partners as well as the staff for all their trust and efforts over the last year. Without them the achievements reflected in this report would not have been possible.

We pledge our continued commitment in advocating for programmes that are responsive to community needs and benefit all, especially the marginalized groups.

In 2023, KCSON will focus on the following four thematic areas as per the 2023-2027 strategic plan; advocacy for good governance and effective service delivery; natural resources and community resource rights; social protection and refugee response; and lastly capacity building & knowledge management.

We thank you all for holding our hand through 2022.



Paul Mulindwa  
**Executive Director**

## 1. BRIEF ABOUT KCSO

Kitara Civil Society Organizations' is a legally registered network of CSOs operating in the Bunyoro-Rwenzori sub region. It was started in 2003 and registered with the National NGO Board in August of the same year. The membership has over time grown from 16 founding CSOs to the current 85-member organizations with various thematic focuses.

KCSO has a governance structure composed of the General Assembly as a supreme decision-making body, the Board that oversees the secretariat and implements decisions of the general assembly and lastly the secretariat that takes charge of day to day activities.



### Vision

A vibrant and coordinated civil society where development is attained in a just and peaceful society.



### Mission

To give a collective voice to Civil Society through research and advocacy, capacity building and empowerment of vulnerable groups to effectively participate in sustainable development processes.

### Core values

- a) Transparency & Accountability
- b) Social Justice and Equity
- c) Gender and Diversity
- d) Collective Action and Solidarity

### Working principles

- Mutual Support
- Appreciation of one's limitations
- Service Orientation
- Innovation and Learning
- Equal Opportunity
- Integrity and Honesty
- Time consideration



## **2. OPERATING CONTEXT**

### **2.1 External context**

#### **2.1.1 Rising commodity prices (inflation)**

In the year 2022 Uganda's annual headline inflation was high ranging between 10.7% and 10.6% in the months of October & November 2022. The rise in inflation was primarily driven by prices of food & non-alcoholic beverages (22.7% vs 22.2% in October); furnishings & household equipment (15.1%, the same pace as in the prior month) and education (12.8%, the same pace as in the prior month). On a monthly basis, consumer prices were up by 0.1%, the least since January, after increasing by 0.8% in the prior month.

Prices of commodities such as posho, sugar, soap among others increased by over 70%. This was in addition to the abnormal hike in prices of fuel where a litre went as high as UGX 10,000 especially in upcountry areas. KCSON was not spared either by this inflation. This in one way or another affected our operations as the operational costs increased and therefore much as we sensitised our communities to promote massive production in agriculture to avert food scarcity, we were not able to reach out to all as initially planned. .

#### **2.1.2 Poor governance**

Governance in the public sector in Uganda and Bunyoro region in particular is still wanting. Corruption remains a major governance challenge especially in the public sector with Uganda ranked amongst the most corrupt countries according to Transparency International Annual Corruption indices. Corruption has become synonymous with public services at all levels with "kickbacks" and other forms of corruption characterizing procurement processes in government. Low citizen civic capacities remain a hindrance to accountability by duty bearers in the region. There is significantly limited capacity from communities and their leaders to monitor service delivery and where necessary hold those responsible to account. In addition, many CSOs are characterized by poor governance manifested in their systems, policies and practices.

#### **2.1.3 Improved infrastructure especially road network in the region**

KCSON is operating in the region where infrastructure especially the road network has of late been improved after the discovery of oil. This has seen many roads being upgraded to tarmac which eased movements, communication and generally improved trade and commerce. Roads such as "Mubende-Kakumiro-Kibaale-Kagadi", Kigumba-Bulima-Kabwoya-Kagadi-Kyenjojo", Hoima-Buliisa", Kakumiro-Nalweyo-Buhimba" among others have all been upgraded to tarmac in addition to the numerous murrum roads taken care of by UNRA and the Local governments.

2.1.4. Existence of national and regional NGO Networks

The existence of the UNNGOF and other regional and thematic networks such as CSBAG, SPPU, CSCO among others, present opportunities for NGOs to share research, approaches, resources, capacity and work with both government of Uganda and the corporate sector. The existence of a national CSO network provides a basis for supporting district level networks and ensuring the NGO sector remains strong by keeping its membership updated and coordinated. This setting provides opportunity for basket funding, receivership of regular information and access to appropriate and affordable capacity building support and an enabling environment for the sector.

### **2.2 Internal context**

#### **2.2.1 Capacity building and dedicated staff**

KCSON had dedicated and hardworking staff that enabled timely implementation of different activities and delivery of different results. The organisation throughout the year did not register staff turnover at all. Furthermore, in 2022, KCSON staff capacities were enhanced in different fields such as financial management, monitoring and evaluation, data, security and fundraising/resource mobilisation. This capacity strengthening contributed to

improving staff technical competency and ability to execute the organizational mandate effectively and efficiently. This can be evidenced by the quality of policy influencing work KCSON handled in the period under review

### **2.2.2 Maintenance of the two offices**

Operationally KCSON was able to maintain the two offices (Head office in Kagadi and field office in Hoima) running and open to the public with a total of 14 dedicated staff. The two offices were a point through which KCSON interacted with its members and other stakeholders such as LG, CSOs and the public. The Hoima office because of its location in the oil city remains strategic.

### **2.2.3 Strategic planning 2023-2027**

KCSON in the year 2022 initiated the strategic planning process that led to production of the strategic plan for the organization (2023-2027). The process begun with preliminary internal discussions and engagement of a consultant to facilitate the process. This was followed by strategic thinking and reflection sessions on the strategic direction of KCSON with senior management and staff. Various stakeholders were engaged to make input into the strategic thinking processes. The stakeholders consulted included KCSON partners in civil society; Donors and Development Partners, Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs); and the LG and the academia. The board was instrumental in reviewing the first draft of the strategic plan and providing guidance on the strategic direction of the organization for the next five years.

### **2.2.4; Holding AGM, mandatory board meetings & election of the new board.**

KCSON was able to hold its AGM for the year 2021 in which the annual reports (both financial and programme) for the year ended 2021 as well as the workplan and budget for 2022 were shared & approved. At the same AGM, a new board headed by ever the first female chairperson-Ms Hedwig Mbaziira Birungi was elected and sworn in. The board continued its policy and supervisory mandate over the secretariat with the mandatory Board quarterly meetings all held. The two Sub Committees of the board i.e. Human Resource and Finance committees continued to function.



KCSON members at the 2021 AGM held on 7th April 2022 at Dominican Sister's Convent-Kakumiro

## 2.2.5 Undergoing QUAM and attaining a certificate.

KCSON in the year under review underwent a QUAM exercise aimed at promoting the adherence by Civil Society Organisations to generally acceptable ethical standards and operational norms. It sets principles and standards of behaviour for responsible practice, to protect the credibility and integrity of certified NGOs and their networks in Uganda. This exercise helped the organisation to assess itself and determine the strong and weak areas and at the end of the exercise a clear capacity improvement plan was developed. Relatedly, KCSON coordinated QUAM meetings in the region.

### 2. KCSON WORK 2022 IN NUMBERS



16,553 through referrals supported to retain into HIV/AIDS services

Strengthened capacity of 78 community resource persons to support retention of 16,553 into HIV/AIDS care and treatment

122 TB positive on anti-TB drugs out of the 1526 presumed to have TB and 3930 screened for TB

3 groups supported with 20 improved breed goats in Nyamarunda and Kagadi Sub Counties

Working with production department, distributed 15,200 improved coffee seedlings (CWDR) to farmers in Kibaale District

Supported the construction of 16 improved cookstoves at 16 demonstration sites

Restored 96.9 ha of degraded land through procurement and distribution of tree seedlings to farmers to undertake tree planting and cumulatively 293.9 hectares restored

06 community groups in Kigali, Kibaale and Kikiibe Districts supported to undertake mushroom growing as a climate smart enterprise and source of income

Mobilized savings of up to UGX 178,250,500 amongst the VSLAs in Kibaale, Kagadi and Kikuube Districts.

812 KTB bee hives procured and distributed to groups in Kibaale and Kikuube Districts and cumulatively make a total of 1682.

### **3. MILESTONES OF KCSO PER THEMATIC AREA**

#### **3.1; Thematic area 1; Advocacy for better service delivery**

Under this thematic area, KCSO worked hand in hand with different players such as the participatory budget clubs, community-based monitors to monitor service delivery and engage government on how to address the service delivery gaps in key sectors of education, health, agriculture/production. This aimed at fighting for accountable, transparent and inclusive service delivery and governance systems to the citizens. Under natural resource governance, KCSO worked with community-based monitors and the political leadership of Kikuube to exert pressure on government to open boundaries for Bugoma CFR which was done and the report is out awaiting cabinet approval.

#### **3.1.1 Advocacy for effective management of oil & gas sector**

KCSO in the year under review continued with its advocacy for effective management of the Oil & Gas sector through conducting media campaigns especially on radios, conducting community sensitization meetings, holding key engagements with key players, conducting joint monitoring sessions of the key oil & gas infrastructure among others.

The joint compliance monitoring carried out at STC camp and quarry site in Biiso-Buliisa belonging to China Railways 18th Group saw recommendations jointly made by Hoima District, Kikuube District, Hoima City, Masindi District and Buliisa District and later the report was validated by National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).



KCSON further built formal relations with key stakeholders in the Petroleum Value Chain, that is to say Natural Resources Governance Institute, Oxfam Uganda and Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) to enable strategic interventions in the petroleum value chain. As a result, recommendations have been made into the strategic RAP development and implementation of the Mbegu Water abstraction point and strategic recommendations into the regional ESIA for Kabaale Industrial Park.

### **3.1.2 Strengthening collaboration with government**

For many years KCSON has endeavoured to build and strengthen CSO-Government relations. In this regard, 2022 was no different. We continued our collaboration with both LG and Central government, agencies like NFA, NEMA, URSB, NGO Bureau, FIA, NITA, among others in order to do our work effectively. KCSON has MoUs with all districts of operation as a way of strengthening collaboration but also compliance as per the NGO regulatory framework. Meetings organised by government such as DTPC, DAC among others were attended by KCSON and her MOs.

KCSON endeavored to share reports and workplans with the District local governments and involved government officials in implementation and monitoring of its work/activities.



RDC Kibaale- Catherine Kamwine, RDC Kyenjojo-Keifogoro Sande, RDC Kagadi-NicholusKamwine together with Vice C/P LCV Kagadi-Mugisa peter Ssebugwaho and other technical staff during monitoring of FRECAR works

KCSON continued to benefit and participate in sister regional, national and international networks such as UNNGOF, CSBAG, CSCO, UNASO, SPPU, PACJA among others.

## **3.2 Thematic area 2; Capacity Building.**

### **3.2.1 Improving Capacity & Coordination of CSO's**

KCSON in the year under review continued with its natural role of building capacity of CSOs in the region. A number of trainings were directly organized by KCSON where CSOs participated and had their capacity built in different areas such as; Resource mobilization/fundraising; financial management; NGO compliance; M&E; advocacy; digital security among others. Bunyoro Media Practitioners were trained on gender responsive communication by KCSON. BAPENECO members' capacity in organizational policy development and development of strategic plan was also enhanced in the year 2022. In all the capacity building trainings, KCSON worked with her MOs to deliver such trainings.



John Kasaija-Board member KCSON and Joash Nkuuna of JERIDEPO Uganda together with KCSON staff during a capacity building training on mobilizing support organized by UNNGOF at Desert Breeze Hotel-Arua

KCSON continued its capacity building role focusing especially on member organizations in order to contribute effectively to the development process. Capacity building was in different areas such as resource mobilization, M&E, financial management, compliance among others.

### **3.2.2 Capacity building of KCSON staff**

Internally the capacity of KCSON improved in the year under review in areas of financial management with upgrading of quick books system, upgrading of KCSON M&E system in addition to the numerous capacity building sessions extended by the donors and the different partners to KCSON staff.

### **3.2.3 Increased compliance and self-regulation**

KCSON in the year 2022 continued working with DNMCs of different districts to promote compliance of civil society to the NGO regulatory framework. This was in response to the membership audit that was done earlier in 2022 where a lot of gaps were established in regard to compliance. KCSON linked her members to URSB, and NGO Bureau.

## **3.3 Thematic area 3; Resource mobilization**

KCSON continued with resource mobilization using different approaches including proposal writing in addition to strengthening local fundraising. The idea of local fundraising (Philanthropy for development) was popularized among KCSON members because of resources for community development by both the government and development partners becoming scarce and getting scarcer by day and substantially reducing due to global factors such as the long-lasting economic crisis, effects of COVID-19 among others. In the year under review,

KCSON increased its resource base by about 36% compared to the previous year 2021. New partners such as FCDE came on board.

### **3.4 Thematic area 4: Empowering the Vulnerable and Marginalized People**

KCSON supported different vulnerable and marginalized groups with interventions aimed at empowering them. The interventions included strengthening the referral network to enable HIV positive clients access HIV care and treatment services, supporting women groups with Income Generating Activities (IGA's) such as goats, cows, mushroom growing, passion fruit growing, capacity building in business planning, record keeping/ documentation and advocacy among others.

#### **3.4.1 Improved coordination and referral for HIV/AIDS & TB response to communities**

In the year 2022, KCSON received support from Baylor Uganda under President Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), to undertake community systems strengthening interventions for HIV/ T.B Epidemic Control and prevention in districts of Kagadi, Kibaale and Kakumiro. Implementation implored partnership strategy to achieve client retention and Continuity to Treatment with health facility staffs and community structure. Key providers were offices of; CDOs, Police, Religious institutions and structures of, community Linkages and Referral Facilitators (CLRFs), village health workers (VHTs) and expert clients. A total of 16 health facilities were supported in all 3 districts including Kibaale H.C 1V, EMESCO and Nyamarwa, in Kibaale district; Kakindo, Kisita, Kakumiro, Nkooko, Igayaza, Nalweyo, Kasambya HCIII, Kyakuterekerera and Kyabasaija in Kakumiro district, Kagadi hospital, St Ambrose, Bwikara HCIII, Kiryanga HCIII, and Isunga HCIII in Kagadi district.

During the year, project milestones were 35 community volunteers identified and trained in basic HIV/TB management, whose key role was to support in the follow up of the missed and lost PLHIV from care and treatment across Kagadi, Kakumiro and Kibaale districts; 19,052 lost clients were line listed, 18,295 followed up and 16,553 returned to care for HIV/AIDS services. This was through volunteer physical follow ups of the missed and lost PLHIV clients from care and treatment and bring back to care and treatment campaign.

In addition, 112 TB hot spot screening outreaches for improved case identification were conducted with resultant achievement of 3930 people who were screened for TB, 1526 presumed to have TB and 122 turned TB positive and started on ant TB drugs. More so, 288 community activists from Kagadi, Kibaale and Kakumiro were orientated to undertake GBV services. It was through GBV campaign that 631 referrals were initiated and 605 were completed. Furthermore, the project facilitated bi-directional linkages and referrals services for clients who needed comprehensive services of care and treatment. A total of 3,237 clients from the facility to the community and 11,428 clients from the community to the facility were served with care and social economic based service to enhance their health, livelihood and psychosocial well being

#### **3.4.2 Promoting climate resilience and adaptation**

In respect to climate change, KCSON supported 12 farmers to practice climate smart agriculture and act as demonstration sites. The support was in form of climate smart (Resilient) seeds/ seedlings and particularly coffee seedlings. A total of 15,200 coffee seedlings (Coffee wilt disease resistant) were procured and distributed to the 12 farmers adjacent to Kagombe CFR in Kagadi and Kibaale Districts. The actual inputs were determined through a process involving the beneficiaries and resource persons and for proper management and sustainability, an FPIC form was administered to all the intending beneficiary farmers. KCSON worked hand in hand with the resource persons in this case, the extension workers for the District Local Government in determining the variety to plant and supporting the farmers while planting.

Relatedly, KCSON invested in climate smart enterprises' promotion such as mushroom and passion fruit growing. 6 groups from Kagadi, Kikuube and Kibaale Districts were supported to establish mushroom growing demonstration sites, labelling, packing and market linkage for mushrooms. This has enhanced group level and

household level incomes through selling of high quality packed and competitive mushrooms with many earning an average income of 100,000/= monthly from the project. There are good testimonies on how they have benefited from skills acquired such as buying land, paying fees for children, weekly savings in VSLA, establishment of piggery projects. More so, this has improved nutrition in homes, home renovations, paying loans among others.



### **3.4.3 Powering Health Centres in hard to reach areas**

In the year 2022, KCSO in collaboration with Environmental Alert in pwind and support from the Federal Ministry of the Republic of Austria facilitated energy access to health centers in refugee settlements and hard to reach areas under a project “em-Powering Health Centers in Uganda” (PHCU). The project was implemented in two pilot districts of Kikuube and Kibaale. Facilities supported under the program included Kasonga Health center III and Maisuka Health Center III in Kikuube and Kibaale districts respectively.

The project supported installation of high voltage solar systems at both facilities which facilitated constant supply of energy required by lab appliances like fridges, microscopes, lighting and many more. Energy access at facilities has contributed dramatic improvement in operations by these facilities and more patients are now being served. At the same time the project together with stakeholders like duty bearers and CSOs on local, national, and international level raised awareness and conducted several different trainings including VHT trainings which improved VHT capacity and efficiency towards serving their communities. Health facilities were also provided with COVID 19 relief materials including sanitizers, liquid and powder soap, gumboots, gloves, buckets, hand washing facilities, jik, cleaning materials etc.

### **3.4.4 Promoting conservation of nature**

KCSO worked with 14 groups with a total membership of 683 (341 females and 341 males) in the year 2022 and restored a total of 96.9 ha of degraded landscapes adjacent to Bugoma and Kagombe CFRs through supply of high-quality tree seedling species. Cumulatively 246 hectares have been planted by community groups adjacent to Bugoma CFR in Kagadi and Kikuube districts. Distribution of tree was preceded by administration of an FPIC (Free Prior and Informed Consent) where we were able to determine the species to be supplied with (plant), the quantities/number of seedlings, and then consent by family member(s) as a way of strengthening ownership and sustainability.

Public institutions such as schools, religious institutions were among the beneficiaries of tree planting and the different tree species included; Albisia, Prunus Africana, mahogany, griveria robusta, measopsis eminie/musizi, eucalyptus grandis among others.





**Left:** Children of Bujogoro P/S with seedlings received for eco-school garden **Right:** Mary a beneficiary of passion fruit growing supported by KCSO



**Members of St Kizito S.S ESD club with tree seedlings received from KCSO**

Relatedly, KCSO strengthened Community Based Monitoring Model using ICT to Save Bugoma CFR, a platform with 24 trained community-based monitors from 4 supported land scape CSOs. These track and report on illegalities around BCFR. Monitors used SMS platform, whatsapp group (Save Bugoma Monitors) calls to reach out to stakeholders like NFA for any illegalities identified. A total of 299 cases of encroachment were reported and 238 followed up by NFA in the year under review (2022). Most of cases reported were of charcoal burning, timber cutting, encroachment for agriculture and refugees invading forest for poles.



**Left: Muruli a monitor taking a photo on Bugoma CFR encroachment for evidence-based reporting**

### **3.4.5 Promoting education/learning**

Following lifting of lockdown on schools due to COVID-19, KCSON at the beginning of 2022 mobilized communities and children towards official opening of schools. Several radio programmes and other engagements were held aiming at encouraging and calling out parents to send their children back to school. Relatedly, children were supported by KCSON member organisations (Mos) such as HPA, BTCMH among others with necessary scholastic materials such as uniform, shoes, books among others.

Relatedly, KCSON using different structures monitored attendance of teachers and pupils in different schools in the region and shared the findings with the relevant stakeholders for action.

We also took up efforts to mobilise young girls impregnated during lockdown to return to school. KCSON also promoted Life skills and values for in and out of school adolescents.



In the year 2022, KCSON in partnership with Uwezo Uganda and Luigi Gussani Institute of Higher Education, undertook an assessment of Life Skills and Values in East Africa – ALiVE. Particularly, focus for KCSON was Kagadi district and the assessment was conducted in each of the 20 sampled enumeration areas in Kagadi District by 40 trained assessors. Emphasis was on life skills and values of self-awareness, problem solving, collaboration and respect as a value, targeting adolescents between the ages of thirteen to seventeen years that were both in and out of school. The engagement in the month of August used both hard copy and Kobo collect tools. The immediate resultant effect to the exercise was instant feedback to 400 households reached, given to caregivers about their children understanding and practice of life skills, areas of improvement and likely policy recommendations to deal with identified gaps. The instant feedback at household reinforced caregivers and adolescents in deepening understanding of the relevance of key life skills in all development stages. Some other specific recommendations to different institutions and sectors are embedded in the detailed report that was produced by Uwezo secretariat by November 2022

## 4. CHANGE STORIES

### 4.1 Success story 1: KCSON strengthens capacity of Namirembe Women’s Group to reap big from village saving and loans association initiative



Members of Namirembe Women’s group in Village Saving and Loans Association meeting

Namirembe Women’s Group is a women’s group founded in 2010 with members from Rugashari Subcounty that neighbors Bugoma Central Forest Reserve. It started with 10 members (7 female & 3 male) then and to date the group has grown in terms of membership and programming. At the beginning, the objective was SELP HELP, literary meaning “Bataka Kweyamba “. Activities of the group were supporting a member/s who lost dear ones with food items as well as procuring and supporting each woman member with household utensils (“plates, source pans, mattress etc”). With that background, 2015 became a turning point when KCSON identified and started supporting members with financial literacy skills and livelihood improvement initiatives. Services were for addressing the problems of low levels of income, education, all forms of gender-based violence, poverty and limited access to essential social services.

The chairperson of the group (Ahategyiye Mankurata) said “KCSON support started with phased capacity building sessions to group members in leadership, governance and group dynamics, supported group to register as a CBO, supported group with both conservation and livelihood enterprises and later Village Saving and Loans Association (VSLA which is now a flagship program, “The VSLA model is what currently makes each member of our group smile and tell a significant story of change about individual household shift from a state of misery

to delight. KCSON trained us and supported in development of financial management procedures, provided us with all materials for safety of funds such as safe box, padlocks, also provided materials for bookkeeping, trained us on better saving culture, loaning and importantly how to invest savings after sharing out at the end of the year, a group member testified. KCSON attached to us a resource person who has been supporting us in VSLA management; arising from all that support, from 2015-2022 our annual saving culture progressed from annual saving of UGX 6.3 m to 27m in the year 2022. Savings are calculated at the end of each year and some members pocketed up to UGX 1000,000 that is re-invest into capital assets like land, paying fees and rearing animals at home. It's through the savings and training that members testified that their genius was awakened. Some members were confident to share their story on how their livelihood has improved. The leader of the group Ahategyiye Mancrata testified to us that through her savings, she has managed to buy 2 acres of land and a cow where she's currently doing agriculture. Through the same savings she has managed to take her children to better schools. She stressed that VSLA in 2022 compelled her to double her saving culture with target of UGX 20,000shs every week and she became a role model woman in the village with steady financial growth and assets accumulations.

Apoch Ambasize a treasurer of the group told us that she has managed to increase her savings due to the competition on who gets the biggest share at the end of the cycle and now her share out is ranging between UGX 2 – 3M annually. Through savings, she has managed to buy a plot of land in the trading center and she's constructing a commercial house. She has also managed to buy land where she has planted 4 acres of eucalyptus trees, she stressed that she has sold some poles to the dam construction company and managed to pay her well and she bought a calf at UGX 800,000

Busingye Kelvin says that through VSLA, she has managed to buy one acre of land worth 1.5M where she planted eucalyptus and say she no longer suffers with issues of shortage of firewood because branches falling off the trees have made her life easy. She told KCSON of her plan to expand plantation when the cycle of the year 2022 ends by purchasing more land and establishing a produce business.

Mbabazi Tereza the VSLA vice chairperson testified that through her savings and getting loans from the VSLA, she has managed to take her children to good schools like Kagadi Secondary school and has become an inspiration to the rest of the women in the community to understand their role in a family and community. She stressed that due to the financial empowerment, she's able to table decisions in the family and implementation is done since she contributes greatly to the welfare of the family and owns 2 cows which give her daily income. "An informal group which started with 7 members is now duly registered as CBO with functional systems and membership of 55, long live KCSON-Says the chairperson of the group one Mankurata during story telling session"

#### **4.2 What our member organisations and other stakeholders say about our work. Posiano Ngondwe Kiiza-DCDO Kagadi**

KCSON as a network organization has helped my office and the district at large in coordinating the CSOs in the district. Whenever we want to meet CSOs, we always go through KCSON to mobilise their members.

KCSON being a member of DNMC also helps in ensuring compliance of CSOs to the NGO regulatory framework. A number of compliance training courses have been organized by KCSON in conjunction with UNNGOF and this has helped in improving reporting to the District by the CSOs.

#### **Amiri Akweteireho-CEO KAPOTC Foundation Uganda-**

KCSON has long term experience in providing capacity building services to CSOs in the region as its key mandate. Kapotec foundation Uganda has been lucky and benefited from KCSON's training in key areas such as resource mobilization (in particular, proposal writing), monitoring and evaluation, strategic plan development, financial management, advocacy, among others. This has been made possible due to the competent and hardworking secretariat in place. KCSON has moved an extra mile and donated to us computers, chairs and tables that have all eased our work.

## **Katusabe Oliver-Chairperson Kiswaga Women's Group-Nyamara**

When KCSON came to assess our group in June 2022, many of us took it as a joke. We thought they would assess us and go and do not come back like many organisations had done. Little did we know KCSON would move us a hundred miles in the shortest time possible.

KCSON after assessing us and realizing our capacity gaps embarked on serious capacity building sessions from which we were able to learn about governance, proper record keeping, enterprise selection, business planning among others. The VSLA methodology/model that was introduced to us by KCSON has moved us miles in a very short time. We started saving on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 but by 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 had savings portfolio of UGX 10, 075,000. Members of this group are now able to easily access loans and use the loans to support their businesses, small projects in their households, support their children in school among others.

## **5. CHALLENGES AND LESSON LEARNT**

### **5.1 Challenges**

- The shrinking civil society space with increased requirements by government and sometimes denial of permits to CSOs or even cancelling of permits.
- Inability of most MOs to attract partners due to poor internal systems. Some MOs lack staffing, have no streamlined governance systems, limited financial management skills and systems, and lack clear addresses.
- Increased cost of living. The country was in 2022 gripped by high prices on fuel, food and other essential goods and services. This affected the operations of many CSOs as it reduced contact between CSOs and the communities they serve.
- Inadequate financial resources to fully run the organization. KCSON, like many CSOs has financial constraints that make it difficult to fully run the organization's projected workplans as per the strategic plan.

### **5.2 Lessons learnt**

- Continued engagement and mobilization of CSOs encourages concerted and rich participation/ utilization in the media spaces. Mass mobilization and collective participation strengthens CSO advocacy and responsiveness from duty bearers to equitably allocate resources and address service delivery concerns.
- There is a need for continued training/capacity building of CSOs in different areas such as fundraising, financial management, budget analysis and advocacy. Capacity building of CSOs will enhance their capacities and consolidate meaningful participation in evidence-based budget advocacy from an informed point of view. This enhances inclusivity in the advocacy agenda and the approaches are replicated in other areas where CSOs are operational.
- Collaboration with stakeholders is important. Having cordial relations with different stakeholders such as local government eases our work as CSOs. We easily access the required information from those stakeholders and also participation into our activities becomes easy.

## 6. KCSO INCOMES & EXPENDITURE 2022

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount (UGX)</b>
WWF-FRECAR	351,103,380
CNOOC Ug Ltd	297,615,098
WWF biodiversity	283,438,413
Baylor Uganda-ACE Bunyoro	189,266,166
WWF-OFD BAPENECO	156,533,960
UWEZO	30,575,000
WWF Energy	20,170,305
Environmental Alert-PHCU	17,500,000
UNNGOF	9,760,000
Other Incomes	252,308,667
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,608,270,989</b>

### **KCSO contribution to tax 2022**

- Pay As You Earn (PAYE): 55,151,600
- Withholding Tax (WHT): 31,429,836
- Total Taxation: 86,581,436

## 7. KCSO BOARD 2022



**Hedwig Mbaziira Birungi**  
**Chairperson**



**Januarious Rubaire**  
**Vice Chairperson**



**Marion Tweheyo**  
**Treasurer**



**Ponsius Businge**  
**Gen Secretary**



**Moureen Kyokusiima**  
**Publicity Secretary**



**John Kasaija**  
**Member**



**Night Mary Gorret**  
**Member**



**Shem Ahumuza**  
**Member**



**Dr. Mwalimu Musheshe**  
**Jr-Advisor**

## 8. KCSO STAFF AS AT THE END OF 2022



**Paul Mulindwa**  
**Executive Director**



**Prossy Bashemera**  
**Accounts & Admin Assistant**



**Kizito Byarugaba**  
**DPO-Kibaale**



**Tanazio Byamugisha K.**  
**Advocacy and Linkages**  
**Coordinator**



**Denis Ssebugwawo**  
**M&E Coordinator**



**Saturday Solomon**  
**Accountant**



**Dickens Amany**  
**Coordinator BAPENECO**



**Matia Mugenyi**  
**Accounts Assistant**



**Robert Mukisa**  
**Project Officer FRECAR**





Rose Nanjwenge  
**Office Admin-Hoima**



Alex Kiiza  
**DPO-Kakumiro**



Francis Ssewanyana  
**Volunteer**



Fred Kazibwe  
**DPO-Kibaale**



Julius Musiime  
**Office assistant**



Mary Nabuliime  
**Volunteer**



Albert Twinomujuni  
**Volunteer**



KCSON members interacting during a capacity building session organised by KCSON



Children of St. Kizito ESD club in a drama session to sensitise on conservation and SRHR



Entomologist-Kagadi District giving capacity support to members of NECA



Members of Greater Kabale group-Nyamarunda with the goats distributed to them by KCSN.



DCDO Kagadi and SCDO Kakumiro leading the process of election of new KCSN board 2022-2024

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2022

## **KITARA CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS NETWORK**

P.O. Box 80, Kagadi, Uganda  
Kagadi Town Council, Hoima Rd.  
Opposite St. Luke COU  
Our Contacts  
Tel: +256 393 240166