10 Years Achievements

2003 - 2013
This publication is specially meant to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) containing a highlight of key successes and impacts registered as a result of various interventions made in different parts of the country.

The FCS is a Tanzanian non-profit company, designed and funded by a group of like-minded development partners, and governed by an independent Board. The Foundation was registered in September 2002 and started operations in January 2003. The Foundation empowers citizens to become a strong driving force for change in improving the democratic governance of Tanzania, in fighting poverty and in achieving a better quality of life for all.

Publisher:
The Foundation for Civil Society (FCS)
Haidery Plaza Building, 5th Floor,
Upanga/Kisutu Street
P. O. Box 7192, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255-22-2138530-2, Fax: +255-22-2138533
Mob. Off: +255-754-005708,
Email: information@thefoundation-tz.org
Web: www.thefoundation-tz.org

Compiled by: Vincent Nalwendela
Reviewed by: John Ulanga
Editorial support: Mwanaidi Msangi, Bernard Mapalala
Layout & Design: PENPlus Ltd, Dar es Salaam.
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The Foundation for Civil Society was registered in September 2002 and started its operations in January 2003. Hence, the year 2013 marks a milestone for the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS). It is the 10th Anniversary of our operations as an institution, and therefore a moment to reflect back on our achievements since we began. The Foundation for Civil Society was created with a mandate to build the capacity of civil society organisations so that through them, citizens can engage in various governance and policy processes that empower them to realize the social and economic rights.

This is a publication specially meant to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Foundation, and inform our stakeholders, development partners and the general public at large on some key successes and impacts registered as a result of our support to civil society organisations in different parts of the country.

The past ten years have seen our work grow significantly, both in terms of quality and quantity. Over the ten year-period, the Foundation has been able to reach out to at least 10,000,000 Tanzanians directly through the interventions of over 3,200 CSO projects supported during the period.

During the 10 years period, projects worth over TZS 70 Billion (USD 50m) have been approved and over TZS 60 Billion (USD 42.5m) has been disbursed to implement those projects. Our projects have been implemented in all 30 regions and 129 Districts of the United Republic of Tanzania, hence we have a very wide outreach.

This publication comprises of 10 main sections. Each section starts with a broad summary of the key achievements made under that specific area, followed by some success stories, which expound more on the highlighted achievements.

As denoted in the title, this publication captures key achievements registered on the following areas: Access to legal aid and human rights; Gender; People with Disabilities; Orphans and Vulnerable Children; Land Ownership; and HIV/AIDS. Others areas include: Governance and Accountability i.e Public Expenditure Tracking System (PETS) and Social Accountability Monitoring.
10 Years, 10 Achievements

System (SAMS); Deepening Democracy; Civil Society Capacity Development; as well as Public Dialogues. There are many other areas that we have recorded some significant achievements but these are the top ten areas. These and other achievements are contributing to achieving our vision.

These achievements would not have been possible without the commitment and contribution of various internal and external stakeholders to who the Foundation will always be grateful. The Members and the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Civil Society over the ten year period have given their time and skills in providing strategic direction and support to the Foundation that contributed to the successes we see today. The funders of the Foundation for Civil Society over the ten year period have also made it possible to the Foundation to achieve all what we see today. These include the UK Department for International Development (DFID), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN), Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Embassy of Norway, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the Embassy of Ireland, the Comic Relief, and AJWS. With everything we had, we could not have achieved anything if it were not for the commitment and resolve of our grantees to contribute to changing our society for the better. Other partners in the civil society sector and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania have also highly contributed in many ways in making possible for us to support the various interventions. Last but not least, the staff of the Foundation for Civil Society over the ten year period have shown the maximum level of commitment to the work and vision of the Foundation, and because of that, we are all proud of what we have achieved. To these internal and external stakeholders, we say a Big Thank You Very Much!

It is our hope that as you go through this publication, our various stakeholders will get some overview and examples of the real changes that the Foundation for Civil is contributing through supporting civil society organizations in Tanzania.

As we look back with pride, we do look forward with greater resolve to contribute even further in changing the lives of people in these and other areas during the next ten years.

John Ulanga
Executive Director
The Foundation for Civil Society
“Through the FCS, we carried out extensive campaigns with various stakeholders to ensure that all women, especially in rural areas, are aware of their right to own land,” says Flora Masoyi, the director of our grantee Morogoro Paralegal Centre (MPLC).
Since its inception, the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) has funded a number of CSOs that promote the implementation of the National Land Policy of 1995, Land Act 1999 and Village Land Act 1999 so as to sensitize stakeholders on their rights and obligations as spelt out by the Law. Both the Land Act and the Village Land Act, provide for management and administration of land, settlement of disputes and related matters.

In the past decade, the supported projects mainly focused on the area of land rights and ownership, and these were implemented in different parts of the country. Over 118 projects were supported during the ten-year period.

Our grantees have raised awareness on the land policy and rights issues. They have engaged in land rights awareness campaigns through dissemination of policy documents, dialogues, and trainings. Most grantees used training programs as key methodologies in sensitizing community members, leaders and local government officials on land rights, roles, responsibilities, and duties as required by law.

Other main issues addressed by our grantees are the facilitation of customary land certificates, and dispute resolution through the formation of hundreds of village and ward land tribunals.

As a result of sensitization on land ownership issues, more women, widows, and orphans have become aware of their rights and have followed up their land-related grievances through the prescribed channels, including courts. More and more women and widows have repossessed their land, while an increasing number of community members have started processing their title deeds.
Before the coming of our grantee, HakiArdhi in Kilindi district, there were a lot of land rows resulting from land scrambles – lack of equitable distribution of land between the local people and the miners.

HakiArdhi has been running a project in Kilindi District to educate the people on land laws, this being an area that is literarily infested by land disputes, which have caused loss of lives.

“A lot of land rows result from lack of equitable land distribution between the contesting groups,” says Valentine Ngorisa, a programme officer of our grantee organization, HakiArdhi.

She adds that the nomadic life of pastoralists contributes significantly to the problem. “They move to and fro to seek green pasture for their livestock. When they return to areas they had been, they find them occupied by other people.”

What our grantee, HakiArdhi has done since 2012, is to conduct land ownership seminars to leaders of 30 villages in Kilindi and Korogwe districts, so that they observe the rule of law in pursuing their land rights. “People would have continued killing each other in Makelele and Pangwi villages had it not been for the land law awareness campaign which HakiArdhi had conducted in those areas,” she says.

Ngorisa says clashes between pastoralists and farmers in Kilindi District are on the decline due to the increased awareness of land laws among the people. She says a clear difference is noted between villages, which benefitted from the trainings and those where no seminars were conducted.

Ngorisa says that in Kilindi District, most investors who took over land from the local people possess five-year prospecting licences. They are allowed to collect anything they excavate, including soil for research purposes. These are areas where the local people had been cultivating or undertaking small-scale mining activities. Those who owned such plots are usually ignorant of land ownership rights. An investor would easily take over the land with the owner gaining almost nothing.

“The 1999 Land Act stipulates that all wealth that
lies above or underneath a particular plot belongs to the owner, except for oil, gas and minerals, which are public property. Many people do not understand this provision, so when they discover some minerals lying underneath, they start mining them right away without possessing any official permit. They thus place themselves on a collision course with the government.

“After attending our seminars, these people have realized that they had been contravening the law. They have now pulled their efforts so that they are eligible for licencing as small-scale minors,” she says.

In different times, HakiArdhi has conducted other back-to-back projects on land rights issues through FCS facilitation.
Hadzabe man inspires for defence of ancestral land

IT was not easy for an aboriginal man from one of Africa’s last hunter-gatherer tribes to win any ward representative seat in the most remote part of Mbulu District in northern Tanzania.

However, during the 2010 general election, Naftal Zengu Kitandu (57) broke the taboo by becoming the Eshkesh Ward councilor in Southern Mbulu district. It is believed Kitandu was the first ever Hadzabe to become a senior civic leader in Tanzanian history.

It was a great victory not only for him but also for the entire Hadzabe community, who have been living in the semi-desert area of Yaeda Chini valley for centuries. The unique political victory came at time when the land of the remaining ‘bushman’ in East Africa was being encroached by other communities, thus threatening the survival of the tiny tribe.

Kitandu had to pass through difficult moments to realize his dream of defending the rights of the Hadzabe community, which were in jeopardy. He recounts that the entire history of the Hadzabe and their plight had been distorted by various elite groups to suit their interests.

“Even our basic right of living has been taken for granted simply because there is no body to defend us,” he observes, adding that the community was not happy at all with the ongoing campaign to brainwash them so that they changed their life styles.

“I am happy that I can stand to defend Hadzabe interests. One of our most serious concerns is the security of our ancestry land,” he says.

Kitandu says he is in the process of convincing the government to demarcate the Hadzabe land and issue them with title deeds.

Some years ago, the Hadzabe community teamed up to abort a plan of an investor from an Arab country, who wanted a chunk of land for commercial hunting.

Kitandu and his colleague, whom he identifies as Richard Baalow, are said to have taken part in the campaign against the Arab company.

In the midst of the campaign, the two were arrested as the ringleaders. Nevertheless, the company was compelled to pull-out of its agreement with the Tanzanian government for hunting wildlife in 2,267 square kilometres of the remote bushes surrounding Yaeda Chini.

According to Kitandu, the hunting firm alleged that it had been misrepresented by unspecified Hadzabe interest groups.

The Hadzabe community feared that if a hunting concession was granted to the Arab firm, the estimated 1,300 hunter-gatherer population would have been left in jeopardy as poachers could have driven them off the land, on which their ancestors
had lived in for ages.

Besides the land, the community also needs gradual transformation, which should include provision of education as well as undertaking sustainable food production as the area is prone to drought. Hunting is increasingly becoming impossible due to the presence of poachers from other tribes who use modern weapons.

Kitandu is just one of many beneficiaries of the awareness campaign carried out by the FCS grantee, Tanzania pastoralists organisation (TAPHGO) – which is a hunter-gatherer organisation.

TAPHGO is a voluntary, autonomous and non-profit umbrella organisation of pastoralist and hunter-gatherer NGOs and CBOs in Tanzania. TAPHGO coordinator, Daud Haraka, says the Eshkesh ward councilor is a product of a series of civic education and land rights awareness trainings that took place in the Yaeda Chini valley, Mbulu District of Arusha region.
The setting was in 2007 at Wami Dakawa village in Mvomero district. At a time when Bahati Maulid ought to have been eagerly awaiting the birth of her fifth child, she was instead worrying about how she would get back her house and land. Bahati’s husband had auctioned their house – and spent the money away from family. He did this without the wife’s consent, yet she had contributed her hard-earned income to the property. A friend of Bahati’s encouraged her to visit the Morogoro Paralegal Centre (MPLC) for advice. There, she was told that court action was necessary and they would help her through the process. In the end, the 38-year-old mother won back the house.

According to Flora Masoyi, the director for MPLC, many women in Morogoro have found themselves in situations similar to Bahati’s. Many are also wallowing in poverty as their husbands insist on a practice that dictates that women must not own land or property. The situation is particularly worse for poor women who lack the money to fight for their right to land ownership.

“We carried out surveys in Mvomero district in 2006 where land conflicts were more intense. The findings indicated that culture and mind-set were a big impediment to women’s quest to own property,” says Masoyi.

At the time, an MPLC research done in the wards of Hembeli, Diongoya, Mlali, Doma, Kanga and Mzumbe also revealed – and not surprisingly – that there were few women land owners. 90 per cent of the disputes in the district were land-related.

“In 2008 through the Foundation for Civil Society support, we carried out extensive campaigns with various stakeholders to ensure that all women,
especially in rural areas, are aware of their right to own land. These women are now slowly exploring various means of owning land by negotiating with their partners for more say,” Masoyi reveals.

Armed with the 1999 Land Act, MPLC had reached 9,250 women out of a population of 260,525 in Mvomero district. By October 2011, some 680 women had got title deeds, a remarkable feat.

“Male dominance is the main factor of family conflicts that mostly affect women and children,” she says.

“We also embarked on conflict resolution, public awareness and legal and human rights empowerment so as to make people do away with bad practices. In many cases, when the husband died, the woman was denied access to his land and property, thus also denying children of their rights,” she says.

To date, more than 1,000 disadvantaged citizens are annually provided with legal aid, through more than 100 paralegal volunteers, who sensitisce communities on land laws. They have also assisted communities to prepare land use plans and build land registries so as to facilitate the possession of customary land certificates.

It has not always been a smooth ride as Masoyi admits. But, she notes, “Such a mind-set change will require major transformations which must be knowledge-driven, based on the land laws.”
“After attending MPEPAU seminars funded by FCS, I learnt what my rights were - and sought legal assistance, after which I managed to get our property back. My in-laws and I have since sorted out our differences. They now care for the children and help me in raising them,” says Sophia a resident of Uyole Kati, Mbeya Region.
Since its inception, the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) has supported various projects that address key gender issues. The FCS grantees have supported thousands of people who suffer from violation of land rights, widows who are denied their inheritance rights, women who suffer from sexual harassment, and poor people who lose their property and civic rights.

Much as gender issues tend to be cross cutting, the FCS has funded various organisations including paralegals to help community members overcome social conflicts such as marital problems, neglect of parental duties, child marriages and land brawls.

In different parts of the country, the FCS has supported a number of organisations that aim at promoting gender equality through training, preparation and dissemination of educational materials and public dialogues.

We strive to ensure that gender aspects are mainstreamed in all of our interventions. We also assist our grantees and partners to see the importance of achieving the same.

Gender equity is one of the core issues that we treat very seriously.
At the peak of Ezedela Paulo’s childhood, which was filled with hope, tenderness, and ambition. The news came first as a surprise, then as heartbreaking reality. For a 12-year-old girl, confused as she was, she eventually settled to the grim realization that life, and the world, were cruel indeed.

Her own parents had taken the decision without consulting her. They had not sought her consent, they had not bothered at all about her ambitions, and they made this decision that she was going to become a spouse to a 60-year-old man.

Much as she detested the decision, the act was perfectly acceptable in her community, as it adhered to its norms and traditions.

“Bitter thoughts clogged my mind as I experienced a lot of suffering. On the other hand, I sought ways to free myself and start a new life, even if it meant that I had to run away from the area, never to come back again. It was clear that I had no possessions of my own in that homestead. I had nothing to lose. So what was I waiting for?” Ezeleda recalls.

She says what troubled her even more was to be compelled to give birth to two children within a short span of time. She says neither her husband nor her relatives bothered to attend to her health needs. She longed to find a person to unburden herself, but there was none, as the whole society was of the view that what was happening was totally correct.
“I was not invited to attend a seminar organized by Alpha Dancing Group. However, when I learnt that they would be discussing women issues, I insisted on getting inside the meeting place. I wanted to hear what they were saying, so that I could also share my views,” she recalls.

She says that after awareness gained from the seminar, she knew that her top priority was to visit home and advise her parents to refund the dowry they received from her ageing partners, so that she could get married to a man of her choice. The parents accepted her proposal to pay back the bride price. Once that was done, she left her home village for a nearby location, where she hoped to start a new life.

Severen Mtitu, who is the coordinator of Alpha Dancing Group, which woke up Ezedela from deep slumber, said they received FCS support in 2011 for the purpose of emancipating women from oppression. The project involved conducting seminars at Izazi and Kalenga villages in Iringa District.

“Five women who attended our seminars have already secured their inheritance rights as stipulated in written wills dictated by their deceased husbands that were deposited in court through our assistance. We have taught people the significance of wills and how to write them,” says Mtitu.

Ezedela currently lives in Migoli village with her husband whom she was willingly married together with their children. The husband has already bequeathed a piece of land to her and the children. She earns her living by sewing.
Research findings usually end up rusting in book shelves, but not the Tanzania Media Women’s Association (TAMWA) study, which focused on the plight of the girl child in matters of education in Tanzania. The findings ignited immediate action by government authorities.

While in Sumbawanga, Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda, appalled by the findings, gave an instant directive to local authorities to take action against parents who failed to take their children to school.

Not to be outdone, the Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) mobilized a fundraising campaign for the construction of secondary school hostels.

Research conducted by our grantee TAMWA in 2012 discloses that gender oppression remains one of the burning issues in the society. The study, conducted both in the Isles and the Mainland, reveals that forced discontinuing of studies of female students is endemic.

The girl child in many societies has been left behind in education for so many decades. In some areas, where they still practice the outdated customs and traditions, the girl has been raised simply to become a wife and a mother.

Realising the significance of educating the girl child to both the family and indeed the whole nation, they (TAMWA) came up with a project of collecting data by surveying in 15 regions in Tanzania in order to observe challenges facing the girl child in the field of education.

The survey, conducted by journalists from various media houses, uncovered horrific situations in primary and secondary schools. The findings revealed there was a large number of female drop outs due to early pregnancy, forced marriages, and lack of teaching facilities, such as hostels to accommodate students who lived far from school.
The project also uncovered the ‘ghetto’ life in ward secondary schools and how girls had been engaged in prostitution in Mtwara, Manyara, Rukwa, Ruvuma, Singida, Kigoma and Dodoma regions to meet their basic needs.

“I am proud to say that the project was successful as some action was taken by relevant parties in relation to what was uncovered,” says assistant project coordinator, Bahati Mhaville, who also happens to be the association’s human resource manager.

“We revealed our findings to members of the public, government authorities and other organizations so that urgent action was taken. The government, through TEA, has mobilized a fundraising campaign for building hostels in secondary schools, boasts Bahati.”
For Riziki's parents, marriage was the best option. The room for Riziki to make decision on what she wanted wasn’t there because in the Maasai community, a woman is construed to limited voice over men.

Worse still, her parents fulfilled their desires of marrying off Riziki to an old man who was also quite new to her and she did not love him. She struggled alone to seek for support from local government authorities, and all was in vain.

“I don’t want to remember the episode. I never knew the man and I never loved him, but I was compelled to enter into marriage. I refused several times because my ambition was to continue with secondary education,” says Riziki, adding:

“It was unfortunate that I lacked someone to defend me. Before actual date of marriage, which was April 22, 2009, I had a hard time thinking on what lays ahead.”

She said three days before marriage day; she met with a member of a women group, who were sensitized by FCS grantee — Green Arusha Society (GAS). The women were trained on a number of issues on Maasai women’s rights.

The group managed to stop the marriage arrangements. Riziki’s parents were forced to abort the plan.

“It was not a simple exercise. My parents were eager to get the dowry. They had been promised some 50
Riziki says the women group collaborated with the organisation to take her to school as one way of relieving her from psychological trauma. In the beginning, Riziki was kept at an orphanage, as she waited to join a secondary school.

She later joined Mkidoma Secondary School in Arusha. Her studies are supported by some well-wishers in Arusha.

“I thank the Maasai women’s group, more specifically the GAS, which conducts awareness trainings for women in the pastoralist communities. My dreams are now on the right track,” she says.

“One of the challenges is that girls are not highly regarded as boys in the Masai community. Men give much more attention to male children,” says Sioni Kereine, a Maasai woman in Monduli, who partly contributed to rescuing Riziki.

“It is time for the nomadic communities changed their mind-set by giving equal opportunities for both girls and boys in accessing education. This will put to an end the endless series of forced marriages,” says Riziki.

Executive director of Green Arusha Society, Josiah Severre, is aware of the incident. He cites it as one of the success stories of the project, which was funded by the Foundation for Civil Society.

“I commend the women’s group in Monduli for what they did. This occurred after they had undergone some training on women’s rights, taking into account that in the pastoral societies, women are victims of the patriarchy system. Riziki is just one of the many examples,” says Severre.
Grassroots-focused training on marriage rights, inheritance rights and will-writing, which were conducted at Uyole Kati in Mbeya Region by our grantee, Mbeya Paralegal Unit (MBEPaU), seem to have rejuvenated Sophia’s life and saved her from daylight robbery of her inheritance rights.

It happened that Sophia Njango’s husband passed away in 2006. Being a resident of Uyole Kati, she was left with five children to look after. Unfortunately, her husband’s relatives confiscated everything that Sophia and her deceased husband owned, including their house.

They also wanted one of her late husband’s brother to inherit her. Luckily, our grantee, the Mbeya Paralegal Unit (MBEPaU) was at that time running a project on marriage rights, inheritance issues and the importance of writing wills among others.

It is through the project that Sophia learnt that confiscating a widow’s property was against the law. She sought legal assistance so that she could claim her family property.

“After attending MPEPAU seminars, I learnt what my rights were and sought legal assistance, after which I managed to get our property back. My in-laws and I have since worked out our differences. They now care for the children and help me in raising them,” says Sophia. She adds: “Today I help other women who are facing similar problems.”
MBEPAU’s project began in January 2012 whereby four seminars were conducted, two for members of the ward consultative council and two for other members of the community. Priority was given to widows, persons with disabilities, the elderly, the youths and people living with HIV/AIDS.

The project was established in response to findings of a base line survey that showed how women were denied their rights in the community. The survey was conducted in various areas, including primary courts handling inheritance and matrimonial cases.

Jane Lawa, MBEPAU’s coordinator, says they had found out that widows were not allowed to be estate executors. Instead, it was the deceased husband’s relatives who took charge. This denied the widows and their children the right to inherit what legally belonged to them.

The survey showed that only 30 per cent of widows were involved in managing the estate of their departed husbands. This exposed the widows and their children to a life of hardship. The survey also revealed that most women feared to execute wills or demand their inheritance rights. This was due to both ignorance and threats issued by family members.
“We are grateful to FCS for providing us with a forum to air issues of our concern, including what we want to feature in the new constitution,” says Daniela Kyando, a beneficiary of disability forums in Makete.
The Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) has been supporting Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs) to promote the implementation of the 2004 National Disability Policy, hence increase the attention to the rights of people with disability. In different parts of the country, the FCS has facilitated DPOs to raise awareness of the policy through training, dissemination of the policy in Braille and hosting dialogues.

Through FCS support various DPOs and umbrella organisations have taken part in regular discussions with the government, stakeholders and development partners on issues affecting the lives of people with disabilities (PWDs) so that the rights of the PWDs are known, protected and incorporated in development process.

Projects supported have increased understanding of the disability special requirements, and eventually mainstreamed disability issues into development programs. Most of the Districts and Municipal councils have taken into account the needs of the disabled in line with the the national policy and that, the attendance of the people with disability in council meetings has increased. This gives the PWDs an opportunity to address their issues and therefore the required follow up.

Apart from the awareness on the 2004 Disability policy, the FCS has also supported various pertinent studies on the state of people with disabilities, including the inclusion of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities of 2006 in the Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar Laws. The Convention seeks to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.
People in the same boat know the indifference they may suffer from those outside the vessel. This reality dawned upon disabled persons in Makete when they participated in a forum organized by their own Association for Disabled Persons, through FCS funding.

In their varied contributions to the country’s constitution review process, they called for establishment of constitutionally stipulated Councils for Disabled Persons, which would enable them discuss issues of common interest, including the developmental agenda and other challenges.

Chairman the Association of Disabled Persons in Makete, Nico Mbwilo, says people with disabilities from six divisions in Makete District had benefitted from their organised training, which was intended to build their capacity in financial management.

“We can now boast of managing sustainable groups and enterprises. We have learnt to brainstorm on proposed projects, work schedule, budget and administration issues, and conduct project evaluation and monitoring,” he says.

He said they had realized that most entrepreneur groups suffered from poor financial management, which was the prime cause of discord among their members. “When you trace the root cause, you discover it revolves around money issues and poor financial control, monitoring and evaluation. This is what led us to offer this kind of training,” Mbwilo says.

Mbwilo says the training had resulted in the birth of three more groups of disabled people in Makete.

During the public dialogue on constitutional rights of people with disabilities, participants proposed the creation of a ministry responsible for disabled people, this being a major departure from current
practice whereby matters related to disabled people fall under the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

It was also resolved that Councils for Disabled Persons be established so that the disabled would meet regularly and deliberate on ways to fight for disability rights.

The disabled persons also proposed special seats for disabled people’s representatives in district councils, as is currently the case with their parliamentary representation.

“We are grateful to FCS for providing us with a forum to air issues of our concerns, including what we want to feature in the new constitution,” says Daniela Kyando.

Chairman of Iwawa Village in Makete District, Taden Sanga, is of the opinion that persons with disability are no longer passive as they now aware of their self-identity. They have also moved from dependence status to standing on their feet, he says.

“In the past, families were hiding their disabled members. Now they are quite willing to openly receive aid to support their disabled,” he says.
Groups of citizens who have been alienated from active political life or fully exercising their civic rights are waking up and jumping with zeal into the playground, thanks to civic and constitutional rights training conducted by our grantees.

In the wake of the process in 2012, People with albinism, empowered by our grantee Tanzania Albino Society (TAS) were fully enabled to participate in contributing their views to the Constitutional Review Commission headed by Justice Joseph Sinde Warioba.

They thus launched the *Katiba Tuitakayo* Project (The Constitution We Want Project). They believe that adoption of a constitution that accommodates their views and needs is the answer to their far-fetched cry, according to Mohammed Kakoba, a senior official of the Tanzania Albino Association, Dar es Salaam Chapter.

The project is intended to provide a forum for albinos to discuss their views, for inclusion in the new Constitution. Among floated proposals is creation of their own electoral district, whose Member of Parliament shall be voted for by albinos and who shall be answerable to them and not any political party.

They also propose that the fonts of the new constitution be enlarged so that they can easily read
Mkoba urges the courts and the Government to ensure all murder cases brought to public attention are concluded. The verdicts, such as life sentence and handing to death, should serve as deterrents.

As he speaks, the plight of people with albinism is clearly not far from his mind.

He confides: “As a child, it was my father who cut my hair. Being an adult, I can no longer afford such a luxury,” he hesitates, then continues: “If I want to shave my hair, I dare not do it inside my house. I go to the salon. Whoever wants my hair can get it in the dustbin at the hair cutting salon,” Kakoba says, cracking a rather sad joke.

He is alluding to the widespread superstition involving people killing albinos or abduct albino children as a way of securing their hair, arms, legs, skin, eyes, genitals, and blood for use in chilling rituals or concocting witch potions.

Asks why they want an MP who is exclusively elected by the albino community but not through a popular vote, Kakoba replies: “We know that currently, we have an albino Member of Parliament. However, we are not the ones who chose him to represent us. He is answerable to his political party. We want the creation of our own legislative constituency so that the chosen MP presents our views in Parliament and reports back to us.”
Today’s calls are unlike those of yesterday. It was unheard of to hear that the hearing impaired mobilize themselves to document proposals they want enshrined in the constitution; or call for creation of their own parliamentary constituencies.

But they have done just that.

FCS funded initiatives of allowing full participation of disabled people in the country’s constitutional review process, have allowed people with disabilities in Kibaha to voice their heart-felt demands for constitutional empowerment that shall allow them to vote for candidates who shall represent their interests in the Union Parliament.

Their association, CHAVITA - Kibaha Branch, is also pressuring the Kibaha local authority and town council leaders to recognize them as a special group as well as accord them equal rights similar to those enjoyed by abled citizens.

People with impairments do find it difficult to communicate with others. They dispossess any vocal communication component, hence facing an uphill task to air their views, including those on the national Constitutional Review process. They are thus pressing for mandatory sign language training for local and government leaders as well as members of the general public.

Daudi Kulangwa, the CHAVITA Kibaha Chairperson, speaking partly through an interpreter, reveals
that notwithstanding their recent significant achievements, they still encounter entrenched stigma simply because they do not utter the vocal language. Citing an example, he says whenever they vie for public leadership positions, they are not elected.

Kulangwa says the case does not end there. When it comes to inheritance or exercising the right to own wealth, they are treated as persons who are unable to manage property, he says. “We have thus decided to introduce other platforms such as weekend clubs, where we can further deliberate on our plight,” he says.

He says the FCS funding has empowered their organisation to conduct a number of public dialogues aimed at enticing local government leaders to mobilize the hearing-impaired to come out whenever the constitutional review meetings were organized. A good turn-out of the hearing-impaired would also expose the lack of sign language cognizance and training, he says.

He says that the FCS-funded weekend clubs have increasingly become fruitful. “We are now seeing signs of hope indicating that the CHAVITA mission and vision will eventually be realized. For example, we are now being visited and engaged in dialogue by individuals holding high positions, both at regional and national levels.

Iddi Ally, the treasurer of the organisation, concludes: “I have realized that weekend clubs were a gentler method of communication, as they were prone to become more effective in elimination of stigma and discrimination.”
Zanzibar is keeping up with the fight against stigmatization. Now, parents who were hiding their disabled children are no longer doing so.

In the Zanzibari society, just like in some other communities, people with disabilities have long suffered from widespread scorn, mistreatment and rights violation.

The FCS funding to the Umoja wa Walemavu Zanzibar, UWZ (Zanzibar Union for People with Disabilities) has opened a new chapter in the lives of vulnerable people in Zanzibar.

A parent of disabled children, Saada Hamad Ali, says she was transformed by the orientation scheme. In the past, she used to discriminate against her own disabled children. Saada adds that the knowledge she acquired had transformed her into an advocate of the rights of children with disabilities.

“I used to lock up my children inside my house so that they would not be seen by outsiders, who could insult them or use demeaning language. I felt a lot of pain. I thus made the erroneous decision of keeping them under lock and key,” she reveals.

However, things are no longer the same. Saada says that she no longer keeps them inside the house due to the new awareness she acquired through the FCS support.
Another beneficiary, Silima Hassan Juma, a resident of Jongowe, and father of four albino children, says the community used to possess negative attitude against his children, a factor that made him feel inferior as a parent.

He said that after attending the UWZ-organised seminars, he chose to share his newly-acquired knowledge with teachers, students, and members of the surrounding community. Juma says that he is now consoled that his children are now able to freely participate in public activities because people have discarded their stigmatic attitude towards them.

The four-year public awareness scheme, which covers six out of 10 districts in Unguja, had impacted in a big way on the life of disabled children as well as the larger society.

The beneficiary districts are: Western District, Northern A District, Central District, Wete, Micheweni and Chakechake.

UWZ chair, Ali Omar Makame, says in contrast to the situation that existed in the past, people have become sensitized on giving equal treatment to children with disabilities, so that they feel part and parcel of the society.

“Apart from the increased number of members, the scheme has enabled us to bring about a change of attitude among members of the Zanzibari society, who used to view people with disabilities in a negative manner,” he says, adding that the project had facilitated the adoption of a policy on people with disabilities and its ultimate legislation.
In Tabora District, newly-built secondary schools have passages with wheel chair space for use by People with Disabilities (PWDs). Additionally, each of the schools has a special latrine designed for children with disabilities.

Nevertheless, change is coming and has come. The
Tabora District Commissioner, responsive to the calls of the umbrella organisation of the disabled in Tanzania—SHIVYAWATA—took personal charge to ensure that universal design of new secondary schools was in place for the benefit of disabled children.

Our grantee, the Union of People with Disability Associations (Shirikisho la Vyama vya Watu wenye Ulemavu Tanzania –SHIVYAWATA) is proud of managing to convince the government leaders in Tabora to improve services for children with disabilities in various schools. The project was geared towards sensitising the community to come up with education plans that accommodate children with disabilities, as well as providing user-friendly services for that particular group of children.

Consultations and involvement of people with disability in decision making by the Tabora district education office has led to improved school facilities, proper handling of children with disabilities and increased enrolment of children with disabilities in normal schools. These being some of the most notable achievements of the project.

“When we pleaded the case of children with disabilities with great fervor and made our recommendations, the Tabora district commissioner said he would ensure that SHIVYAWATA leaders became members of the District Education Taskforce. For sure, it did not take even two weeks before the appointments were made. As I speak myself (Donatus Rupoli, Chairperson of SHIVYAWATA) and Mussa Kabimba (Secretary of SHIVYAWATA) are members of the District Education Taskforce,” he says.

SHIVYAWATA is also gratified that school infrastructure and facilities have been improved in favour of children with disabilities. This came about as a result of emphasis by SHIVYAWATA on the construction of user-friendly buildings for children with disabilities.

“We were later taken by the Tabora district commissioner around several schools. We found out that most of the shortcomings we had complained about had been rectified. This was extremely necessary because the enrolment of children with disabilities in schools had been steadily increasing. These children are no longer hidden inside the homes. They are studying just like other children,” says Mussa Kabimba.

Rupoli concludes: “We are a witness that in newly opened secondary schools, passages have wheel chair space. Moreover, each school has a special latrine designed for children with disabilities.”
“We would have gotten nowhere without FCS support. We are proud of registering such outstanding achievements. We have deployed paralegals on each and every corner. They are working around the clock to ensure that no rights of an individual are robbed,” says Nuhu Suleiman, Coordinator of our grantee Women Wake Up (WOWAP) in Dodoma.
The Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) has supported various organisations to offer legal assistance through paralegals. The support to paralegals has enhanced justice in the rural areas, where majority of people lose their rights due to ignorance of legal matters.

Normally our grantees recruit ordinary ‘villagers’ who are trained and maintained as paralegals. They possess elementary knowledge of the law, and are on hand to provide practical legal aid to people mostly in the rural areas, where no qualified legal practitioners are available. Paralegals are usually handpicked due to their zeal, intelligence and social acceptability so as to support people who suffer from violation of land rights, widows who are denied of their inheritance rights, women who suffer from sexual harassment, and poor people who lose their property and civic rights.

Paralegals are also involved in conflict and help community members overcome social conflicts such as marital problems, neglect of parental duties, child marriages and land issues.

Over 116 paralegal projects were supported during the ten-year period – thus enhancing property and civic rights of a number of people, predominantly located in rural areas.

Our input has always been more of a facilitating role – enabling the paralegals to provide awareness and resolve legal rights matters and advance them for adjudication, mostly in primary courts. The education and awareness campaigns have encouraged people to abandon bad cultural practices like those that deny women their right to land inheritance. Paralegals have also encouraged people to write wills to avoid conflicts that would ensue after they die.

Paralegals have supported provision of immediate legal advice and how to approach institutions such as police and courts for further help and adjudications.

Thus, our support to paralegals is yet another achievement, which we pride ourselves as articulated in the following pages.
*Land clash deaths also on the wane*

People of Kilindi District have been paying through their noses for as long as they can remember. The mineral prospectors and their likes had swarmed the localities, their mouths watered by the astounding riches of the land—both on the surface and underneath. The poor villagers, not even owning any title deeds for the plots they occupied, gave away their land at a throw away price.

After increasingly becoming aware that they were being duped, land conflicts ensued, and, in some cases, deaths occurred. Suddenly, the land was no more abundant. To add salt to the wound clashes between farmers and pastoralists also picked up.

Desperation thus set in, until the paralegals set foot on their soil.

Most land disputes that occur in Tanzania are the result of the people’s inadequate knowledge of land laws and failure by the government to undertake its responsibility of educating the people about land laws. There have been a series of land rows between local residents and investors, and clashes between pastoralists and small-holder farmers.

The causes for land rows and clashes in Kilindi were predominantly between the local people and miners. “A lot of land rows result from lack of equitable land distribution between the contesting groups,” says Valentine Ngorisa, a programme officer with HakiArdhi, undertaking a project funded by the FCS.

She adds that the nomadic life of pastoralists contributes significantly to the problem. “They move to and fro to seek green pasture for their livestock. When they return to areas they had been, they find them occupied by other people,” Ngorisa says.

The other cause of clashes between pastoralists and farmers is pastoralists’ tendency of feeding their livestock on farmers’ crops and the farmers also invading pastoral land in order to expand their farms.

What HakiArdhi has done is to conduct land ownership seminars to leaders of 30 villages in Kilindi and Korogwe districts, so that the leaders observe the rule of law in pursuing their land rights. People would have continued killing each other in Makelele and Pangwi villages had it not been for the land law awareness campaign which we hand conducted in those areas, she said.

Ngorisa says that clashes between pastoralists and farmers in Kilindi District are on the decline due to the increase awareness of land laws among the people. She says a clear difference is noted between villages, which benefitted from the treatment and those where no seminars were conducted.

Ngorisa says that in Kilindi District, most investors
possess five-year prospecting licences. They are allowed to collect anything they excavate, including soil for research purposes. These are areas where the local people had been cultivating or undertaking small-scale mining activities. Those who owned such plots are usually ignorant of land ownership rights. The investor could take over the land with the owner gaining almost nothing.

“After attending our seminars, these people have realized that they were contravening the law. They have sought rights so that they could be licenced as small-scale minors,” she says.

“Those who completed the course serve as a link between other villagers and HakiArdhi. When a dispute occurs that requires further consultation, they do contact us and we advise them accordingly. This is voluntary work,” Ngorisa says.
Our paralegal in Tanga facilitates 3,973 land adjudications

Tanga Paralegal Aid Scheme (TPAS) has facilitated some 3,973 adjudications by ward and division land tribunals in Korogwe and Pangani Districts since it was first sponsored by the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) in 2005. The organisation also attributes the decline in the number of cases handled by the land tribunals to the effectiveness of their paralegals.

TPAS has also established some branches at village level, so that people who needed their services do not need to travel all the way to the Tanga head office.

In 2005, through the funding from FCS, the organisation conducted a civic education campaigns in several villages in Korogwe District. Other areas that benefitted from the scheme were Maramba A and B, Majengo and Mlingano in Muheza District.

TPAS widened its reach after securing another FCS funding in 2009 and carried out a good governance awareness programme in eight wards of Korogwe District. In 2011, it further spread its wings further by extending similar services in Pangani District.

The director of the Tanga Paralegal Aid Scheme, Debora Daffa, says: “In all those areas, we staged message-conveying open drama shows, plus songs and dances,” adding that the messages appeared to have made a big impression on people, although some were not even attending the seminars. Subjects covered by the awareness seminar were civic rights and good governance, marriage and divorce, inheritance laws, gender oppression and court procedures.

A beneficiary, Mwanaidi Seif of Kimanga in Pangani District, says: “I was married to Bakari Seif in 2003. We were blessed with two children. In 2009, my husband died in a motor accident. My in laws chased me away to my parent’s home to stay there for a period of customary ceremonial mourning. In my absence, they divided my family property among themselves.”

She says she made a lot of vain efforts until she met a TPAS paralegal, who fought hard to restore her rights.

“As I speak, I am now back in the house I used to live with my husband and children. I am still in the process of getting back other properties,” Mwanaidi reveals.

A nurse at Pangani Health Centre, Mwanakombo Abdallah, 35, recalls: “I was married in 2001. My husband died in 2009. I went to my parents in Muheza for customary mourning. When I returned to Pangani, I found that my husband’s kinsfolk had divided the property among themselves on the pretext that it belonged to their deceased relative.”

She adds: “I went to the chairman of the local authority, he advised me to take the case to ‘Paralegal’ in Tanga. I did so. I am really grateful to them because I am now back into the house, and my children are schooling. I have also been advised on the proper method of initiating an inheritance claim.”
Paralegals open villagers’ eyes on land rights

A legal aid project is all that was needed to liberate them from the pangs and sufferings caused by land rights ignorance. When the paralegals eventually arrived, the rural people saw the light at the end of the tunnel.

In Chamwino District, Dodoma, more than 600 people from Buigiri village, which is located close to the Chamwino District headquarters in Dodoma Region, have visited the land office to demand title deeds. This is a positive development because even after 50 years of independence, many citizens have remained ignorant of their land rights.

The villagers’ action was a direct result of paralegal training that had been funded by the Foundation for Civil Society through WOWAP. The targeted beneficiaries of training were ordinary people.

WOWAP coordinator, Nuhu Suleiman, says the training had motivated the people to demand their rights. He says before the exercise began, many people did not know where and how they could seek their rights.

“We would have gotten nowhere without FCS support. We are proud of registering such outstanding achievements. We have deployed paralegals on each and every corner. They are working around the clock to ensure that no rights of an individual are robbed.”

He says the FCS support had made them identify vital needs of paralegals who were the cornerstone of the success, in view of the fact that, being on the ground, they were on hand to assist villagers who were being bullied without realizing that they had been victimized.

According to Suleiman, the second phase of the project is still at implementation stage through to year 2013. However, its execution has registered such unexpected success because nobody ever thought such a big turnout of participants could occur.

On the other hand, he bemoaned outdated oppressive laws which were still being applied in the rural areas simply because some district leaders had failed to cope with modern changes.
Distance hampers justice, just as poverty does. In Zanzibar, our grantee the Zanzibar Legal Services Centre (ZLSC) has deployed paralegals in each and every region of Zanzibar. The intention is to enable poor people access much needed legal services with greater convenience.

The move has also been necessitated by the surge in the number of cases on gender discrimination, inheritance rights, marriage disputes, divorce and other socially-related issues.

Initiation of the paralegals project, arose out of the pressure to facilitate the access to legal services by underprivileged people in urban and rural locations of Zanzibar. They were incapable of contracting legal services for lack of financial means.

The deployment of paralegals in the localities was intended to directly assist people who were unable to reach the legal centre offices on time due to advanced age, long distance or sheer urgency of timely assistance.

The positioning of paralegals at all administrative levels, starting with the central government down to grassroots level has, to a large extent, removed impediments to timely addressing of legal problems that require urgent action.

Speaking of the three-year program of paralegal training in each district of Unguja, ZLSCA planning officer, Mtumwa Said Sandal, says the existence of paralegals at local government level has proved to be of vital significance. Many cases adjudicated at local level had been successfully resolved, as simultaneous legal counseling was undertaken, he said.

“The paralegals do reach distant locations which the ZLSC lawyers were unable to reach. It is rather consoling to note that the right to legal assistance—and free assistance for that matter—is now available in every part of Zanzibar,” Sandal said.

A paralegal in Chakwa District, Fadhil Abass Khamis, says apart from being empowered by the legal training, which transformed him into self-confident individual, members of his community have also manifested positive changes after undertaking similar training.

He added: “Useless disputes have decreased. Rape cases have been well-resolved because people know right steps to be taken in order to assist rape victims.”

Free legal aid become available in most parts of Zanzibar
More than 1,430 adjudications have taken place in Rombo District, Kilimanjaro Region through a paralegal capacity building project.

The executive director of our grantee, Action for Justice in Society, (AJISO) Virginia Silayo, says since the first phase of the enhancement of women and children’s rights scheme took off in 2011, they have succeeded to reduce the number of disputes lodged with other legitimate authorities by tackling them.

Silayo says her organisation has provided paralegal training to a select group of socially-accepted individuals from five wards of Rombo District. These have been able to resolve disputes in their relevant areas.

“We do organise an on-the-job refresher orientation for these paralegals by making them share division-to-division experiences,” says Silayo.

“We have also been collaborating with other stakeholders, including the police, in mobilizing communal policing undertakings. The arrangement has boosted the self-confidence of the communal police and their ability to facilitate just resolutions of disputes, in accordance with the law,” she says.

She says AJISO lawyers have successfully trained more than 80 paralegals.

The determined disputes involve gender oppression, family and inheritance problems, land disputes, crime occurrences and legal claims.
A Morogoro paralegal organisation has boosted land security in Mvomero District by enabling 1850 women to get title deeds, this being a major development in the area and a turning point in the lives of women.

The Morogoro Paralegals Centre (MPLC) has been in the forefront of ensuring that people restore their rights in cases of marriage, child upbringing and custody, land rights and inheritance rights.

The director of the centre, Flora Masoy, says through FCS support, the centre has dealt with 1,384 cases at different levels. Some were resolved as others were still being attended to as the situation demanded.

The paralegal organisation managed a women’s land ownership project, which covered 10 wards in Mvomero District. The project was implemented between 2008 and 2011. Through the project, women were mobilized to apply for legal land ownership. Many women came out to enlist for acquiring title deeds.

More than 1,850 women were eventually allocated fully-titled plots of their own.

Masoy says some of the challenges they faced were caused by lack of land certificates and proper land use plans in some villages.

“Many village authorities have no village land certificates. Neither do they have strategies for proper land utilization. However, some villages like
Lubungo and Mlali have started issuing traditional land certificates,” Masoy says.

Masoy says that in collaboration with municipal and district authorities, they have been following up the issue of availability of village certificates so that village authorities can issue traditional deeds to women, especially those who live in villages located within the ten wards of Mvomero district.

“There are many challenges, the biggest being male dominance. Some women have been filling in the names of their husbands as title deed owners. We have been educating them on the matter, and now many of them have agreed with their husbands for joint ownership in which both names feature in the title deed,” says Masoy.

Under the project, a lot of land disputes from various areas of Morogoro Region had been reported, although the scheme is mainly confined to Mvomero District, where they deal with disputes on ownership of farmland and residency plots.

She says land disputes amount to 46 per cent of the 524 adjudications they had taken up are still at hearing and verdict stage through to year 2013.
“We have witnessed a lot of successes. Some children have been rescued from child labour. Parents are motivated in the fight against the vice, and force their children to attend school - unlike in the past,” says Saumu Saleh, treasurer of Ole Village Committee working with our grantee KUKHAWA in Pemba on the fight against child labour.
Since its inception the FCS has periodically supported child rights projects to raise awareness in the community as provided by the Child Development Policy of 1996. The policy calls for social and legal protection of children, especially those who lack proper care and attention of their parents or guardians. More than 176 projects were supported by the Foundation during the ten-year period - with more than 200,000 vulnerable children directly benefiting from these interventions.

The support has also been targeting efforts aimed at advocating for the amendment of laws that were found to have a negative impact on children. As a result of lobbying and advocacy by various grantees and other stakeholders the Child Law Act of 2009 was enacted. Following the enactment, the Foundation has continued to support wider dissemination of the popular version of this law in different parts of the country.

Moreover, the FCS has facilitated efforts to identify, re-integrate and re-unify the vulnerable children with their families. In another milestone, the FCS has also facilitated community-based efforts to curb child labour problems and facilitated on the formulation of by laws to ensure that all children are rescued from all forms of child labour and return back to school, regardless of their social status or economic situations of their guardians or parents.

By and large, the interventions have been bearing fruit.
Hopes of nearly 1,600 orphaned children in Musoma municipality - to get education and other essential services - have been rekindled by the Mara Widows Development Group.

Our grantee, Mara Widows Development Group has managed to improve the living standards of both widows and orphans and most vulnerable children.

Nia Makongoro, one of the organisation beneficiaries, recalls the sad story of the death of her husband in 1995 and that of her daughter in 1995.

“My husband died in 1995. He left me with five children. As if that was not enough, my daughter died and left me with her two kids. I started experiencing a burden of taking care of seven children. It was a hard task”, the 46 year-old woman recalls.

According Nia, her daughter gave birth to her two kids soon after completing her primary education, when she was not yet ready for marriage.

“I didn’t even know the father of the kids. I thank God that life is now changing for the better after getting the support of Mara Widows Development Group”, she says.

The organisation also issues soft loans for widows for establishing small-scale economic generating activities and providing them with entrepreneurship skills.

Nia is currently engaged as food vendor at Bweri area in Musoma.

Masele Hamis (37) another widow benefiting from the organisation, says she lost her husband four years down the line and was left with the task of caring for three children.
She says she has embarked on vegetable farming, on top of managing a salon. The two projects provide her with assured income.

“The Mara Widows Development Group has transformed my life. I started benefiting from the organisation in 2009. I now own and operate a vegetable garden. *Mchicha* pays quite a lot in Musoma”, she says, adding that she still lacks sufficient capital to run her business more efficiently.

So far there are 133 widows and over 1600 most vulnerable children benefiting from the organisation supported by the FCS, according to its chairperson Ms. Tezira Lima.

The organisation has supported establishment of 13 committees in various wards of Musoma municipality since last year. “Aim of the committees is to help the children that we support. Every committee is made up of five members”, says Tezira.

The establishment of Mara Widows Development Group was triggered by the high number of HIV/AIDS orphans and widows.
Poverty is merciless. It knows neither an ill or healthy person. It pounds on children as well as the aged ones. All its victims are defenseless, until someone comes to their rescue.

The story of our grantee KUKHAWA is the episode of truancy, poverty and liberation.

Pemba is well-determined to end child labour. Our grantee KUKHAWA, aspires to create a society where children are not used as source of cheap labour. The organisation has formed committees in Wete and Chakechake districts to spearhead the fight against child labour. Formation of those committees was part of implementation of a project to reduce all forms of Hazardous Child labour.

Secretary of the Ole Wete village committee, Sultan Nassor Hamad, says that notable progress has been made after the trainings on child labour, as conducted by KUKHAWA. The achievements include establishment of by-laws against child labour, and increased public awareness on child labour.

The committee has redeemed 53 children from mining spots and stone quarries. Most of those children dropped out of school and were engaged in child labour. The committee facilitated their return to school.

The Committee Secretary for Uwandani Chakechake Pemba, Rashid Said Mgau, commended the...
approach used in forming the committees. He says the committees involved people of different cadres, including community members, politicians and religious leaders.

He says that 68 children who had previously dropped out of school had been identified and 47 children among them had gone back to school. The committee was still tracing the whereabouts of remaining 21 truants.

Saumu Saleh, treasurer of Ole Village Committee, says the project has been helpful as it brought hope to children who had absconded from school and were involved in selling their labour.

“We have witnessed a number of successes of the project. For instance, some children have been rescued from child labour, 53 from Ole and 55 from Uwandani Chakechake Pemba. Parents are now motivated in the fight against the vice. They are now forcing their children to attend school, unlike in the past, when they used to pay very little attention,” he says.
They usually send a thief to catch a thief. Or send a rich statesperson to receive another statesperson. However, this time around, the law of opposites is at work. In Zanzibar, it is the female lawyers who are bringing the male child molesters to book.

Our grantee, Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) has—to a significant extent—succeeded to instill a culture of self-confidence in women as a way of countering rampant sexual harassment.

The move has empowered child girls to come out in the open to tell about the misdeeds that befall them, as the project focuses more on the plight of female school children.

ZAFELA’s efforts have made it easier for young girls to divulge the nasty occurrences. The association’s Reduction of Sexual Harassment Incidents Against Young Girls Project has been supported by the Foundation for Civil Society in the tune of Tshs 21 million for the scheme.

ZAFELA has also initiated the creation of female student councils in several schools in Zanzibar. The councils aim at exchanging knowledge of tactics that enable young girls to oppose, reveal and break silence on sexual harassment incidents.

The provision of special training on protection against sexual harassment occurrences and how to avoid them, plus taking required action, has increasingly
led to exposure of the nasty incidents, which have made girls lead fearful lives.

Miza Sungura is among schoolchildren who have benefitted from the scheme. She studies at Msingi Potoa Primary School. Miza says this is the first time she has received awareness education on gender issues. “Had it not been for the project, I would not know what to do whenever I am faced with a rape attempt,” she says.

Alawiya Maabad, a discipline head at Mwanakwerekwe “A” Primary School, lauds the support provided by the Foundation for Civil Society to ZAFELA. She says the project has empowered the girl child to do away with the culture of silence.

“We are glad they have been sharing the knowledge they received. We are noting a decrease in sexual harassment occurrences,” she says.

A project officer with the female-led ZAFELA, Ms Jamila Mahmoud, while noting the challenge of curbing sexual harassment, is consoled by the fact that the project has served as an eye-opener to members of the Zanzibari society, who have now joined ranks to eliminate the distasteful practice.

“Behaviour-change is not that easy. Nevertheless, trusting in the knowledge we have imparted, we are seeing a notable decline of the vice,” she says.

“Rape and sexual harassment incidents used to be the norm in various locations of Zanzibar, especially the rural areas,” according to Jamila.
This is a sample of children who are admitted to our grantee Mkombozi Centre for Street Children. It includes those who were about to join mainstream schools, those who had never been to school, or those who dropped out of school long time back.

No one is turned back.

Once they arrive, they undertake the complimentary basic elementary courses. (Cobet, or Memkwa, its Kiswahili acronym), as they wait to be reunited with their families.

In 2011, 55 children attended the Cobet classes. In January, Mkombozi rescued six boys and one girl from the streets. These were enrolled to undertake formal primary education after passing the entry tests.

One of the children was a school dropout.

“When street children are brought to the centre, they don’t stay idle. We have qualified teachers who assess them and allocate them where they fit. Ours is a registered Cobet programme,” says the programme coordinator, Upendo Ramadhan.

The maximum duration of a stay at Mkombozi is one year, during which they undergo extensive rehabilitation. They also help prepare the children for family reunion. This is important as experience shows that not all children prefer going back to school once
they return home.

In 2011, a total of 91 children stayed at the transition home, with 86 being reunited with their families. Most of the children who were reunited with their families were attached to formal schools located closer to their homes.

Whenever children indicate they are not ready to return to school, they are assisted in accessing vocational training. “We work closely with schools where we attach them. After acquiring the skills they desire, we either link them with employers or give them tool boxes, depending on their profession,” says Upendo.

In 2011, Mkombozi linked 16 young people to employment. In total, 139 children and young people (32 of them girls) were supported to join mainstream education, financially, materially, and through follow up.
Between 2010 and 2012, a number of street children got their hopes restored in varied ways. In Kinyamki and Muriel wards in Arumeru District, 12 committees were established. These were expected to protect the rights of children living in most vulnerable conditions.

As a result of the project, 195 orphans received school uniforms and books from community members, as six children who failed to join formal secondary school were enrolled for vocational education.

FCS facilitated 327 children, including 35 girls, to access transitional housing, health services and psychosocial support as well as basics or complimentary education.
The Foundation also facilitated the reunification of these children with their families. This was done through Mkombozi Centre for Street Children.

Through our grantee, Kigoma Development Centre (KIWODE), children’s social welfare funds have been established in 20 wards of Kigoma rural district, with close supervision of KIWODE. The purpose is to promote and protect children rights.

Also, the Women Legal Children Aid Trust conducted training on the rights of the child and managed to reach 110 people from Mtwango, Igongolo, Mahongole, Ikuna, Lyamkena, Utengule, Ninga, Mlowa, and Kitindila wards in Mkambako.

They sensitized the communities on child labour, the rights of most vulnerable children, and promoting children’s access to health and education services.

Training was also conducted by CHAVITA in Iringa Region on the rights of the hearing impaired children. Participants included government leaders, parents and guardians of deaf children in the districts of Iringa Urban, Kilolo, Mufindi and Iringa Rural.

As a result of the training, 50 children with hearing impairment were enrolled in school, and the hearing impaired people aged between 18 and 45 years were mobilized to join adult education programmes.

The Africa Peace Ambassadors implemented a project to curb child labour in the orange fields, business centres and truck loading centres in four wards of Mkuzi, Kilulu, Mtindiro, and Majengo in Muheza district, Tanga.

As a result of these efforts, child labour intervention committees consisting a total of 49 members (31 women) were formed in five wards to protect children in those wards against child labour.

As a result, three children were rescued from orange plantations in Mtindiro and Mkuzi and were taken back to school.
Nursery schools gain momentum through Madrasa network in Z’bar

*They offer lower fees for vulnerable children, orphans

The Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) has supported the setting up and running of nursery schools in Zanzibar through the Madrasa Network.

The Madrasa Network, which was formed 10 years ago, had been struggling to implement its objectives until it recently received funding from the FCS.

The FCS intervention has led to improved performance and expansion of the number of member schools from 37 to 46.

The Madrasa Network Project Coordinator, Mohammed Dau, says the successful execution of the project has led to increased zeal of Network members who are now able to prepare project write-ups on the own, a feat that was not achieved in the past.

“We now undertake strategic planning. We are heading towards the proper direction due to the fact that we are now operating professionally. We have also expanded our sources of income by opening four shops,” Dau said.

The deputy chair of the project, Haji Makame, further informs that the FCS backing has enabled the Network to have its own office, complete with furniture and computers.

Khadija Kheir Hassan, chairperson of the beneficiary Madrasat Taufiq Kwarara, says that as a teacher, the
project has improved both her supervision capacity and pace of work.

Furthermore, she says that members of the community now have a better understanding of the *madrasa* pre-school education through which their children acquire early child education and Islamic religious instructions.

Due to the successful sensitization of the community, the madrasa are now enrolling children belonging to all religions, with allowance of lower school fees for disadvantaged children and orphans.
“Currently, a legislator who does not attend to the needs of his constituency finds it difficult to win another election. The electorate is keen to scrutinize various issues that directly affect them, especially promises made during election campaigns. I can safely state that the debates have contributed a lot to the growth of democracy and motorized the people to become critical when it comes to development matters,” says Rosemary Mwakitwange, Executive Director of the East Africa Business and Media Training Institute (EABMTI).
At different times and various levels, the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) has supported democratic processes through facilitation of civic education and by way of election observation, despite the fact that the area is too broad and also because political scientists view it in many facets.

The ultimate test of deepening democracy is vested on elections – perceived as a formal and organised process of electing or being elected, especially in relation to members of a political body. This is an area which the FCS, through election observation and civic education, had provided a tremendous input for the past ten years.

Under this area, the FCS has increased citizens’ participation through the facilitation of public dialogues that were held in different parts of the country. Citizens were able to come together with their democratically elected officials and development stakeholders in their constituencies to hold frank and direct discussions on the process of drafting the new constitution as well as questioning them in relation with their expectations.

More outcomes on deepening democracy include active citizens’ participation in electoral processes so as to ensure a more inclusive electoral process.

The following pages provide a reflection on how citizens have fully woken up to do justice on their democratic rights and engage in change processes.
In the year 2010, during the general elections, the people of Tanzania viewed a variety of FCS-funded televised debates that provided election candidates with the opportunity to ‘sell’ their agenda directly to the populace.

Some of the election candidates who took part in televised debates were the ruling (CCM) presidential candidate Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, the main opposition (Chadema) presidential candidate Dr. Wilbroad Slaa and another opposition Civic United Front (CUF) presidential candidate Prof. Ibrahim Lipumba. The debate took two hours.

Recalling the episode, Rosemary Mwakitwange, the Executive Director of East Africa Business and Media Training Institute (EABMTI), who organised the presidential election debates, says: “I am glad to state that the 2010 presidential debate made a difference.”

Mwakitwange says prior to the conducting of the debates, most citizens were nervous whenever issues related to political parties were raised, thus failing to pin down their representatives regarding development matters as they waited for another general election.

“Currently, a legislator who does not attend to the needs of his constituency finds it difficult to win another election. The electorate is keen to scrutinize various issues that directly affect them, especially promises made during election campaigns. I can
safely state that the debates have contributed a lot to the growth of democracy and motorized the people to become critical when it comes to development matters,” she says.

Our grantee, EABMTI, had organized about eight televised debates that were broadcast live. These included the 2010 Presidential Candidates Debate. Other debates were on the Igunga Parliamentary by-election, Tanesco Vs Stakeholders, The Parliament That We Need, Usafiri Dar es Salaam (UDA) and Young 2010 Election Candidates.
Civil society consortium empowered to monitor 2010 election

Through our support, our grantee, the Tanzania Civil Society Consortium for Election Observation (TACCEO) deployed observers and monitors in almost all constituencies in the country during the 2010 general election.

However, they were concentrated in 24 constituencies identified as “hot spots” due to having some history of violence in previous elections. This is where it was likely that the electorate was politically polarized, and that some signs of violence had been manifested during campaigns. It thus confined also some constituencies that had extremely low turnout during local government elections.

As of October 2010, there were 18 permanently registered parties, which contested the October elections. However, five parties, namely CCM, Chadema, CUF, NCCR Mageuzi and TLP seemed to have influence on mainland Tanzania, while CUF and CCM were the dominant parties in Zanzibar.

The elections were conducted on 31 October 2010. They were for electing the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, President of the Revolutionary
Some 19 million voters were registered in the Permanent National Voter Register, and about 60 centres were designated as polling stations nationwide. In 2005, the number of registered voters was 15 million.

However, initial TACCEO findings indicated that the turnout was very low for the 2010 elections.

In their findings TACCEO called for a comprehensive civic education for citizens to take part in general elections and reform in the National Electoral Commission (NEC) to put in place an independent commission. They also wanted the Permanent Voter Register to be available to the public at any time for verification.

TACCEO also wanted District Executive Officers who are government employees not be NEC agents at polling stations and recommended the use of ICT, however it should be pre-tested while NEC staff should be well-trained on the use of the technology for accurate results.

The consortium also called for a parallel system by civil societies, which shall give an unofficial tallying of results to mitigate concerns of vote rigging. TACCEO also wanted NEC to release/declare election results on time to avoid violence and unnecessary tension among the voters while calling for a revision to laws to specify duration from voting time to results declaration.

However, TACCEO said the election process was conducted in a free environment (During campaigns and voting: the electorates had freely participated). However, there were many incidents, which made the whole process unfair.
Simply stated, the message had been delivered, and the ‘fire’ is on.

Zawadi Malekela, a participant of a public dialogue organized by our grantee Iringa Civil Society Organisation (ICISO), who lives in Kihesa surbub of Iringa municipality, says they used to be told that a Member of Parliament could answer no more than three questions during a public rally. It was a situation that made her believe that she was not allowed to ask any question.

“I am now sensitized. I can fight for my rights anywhere,” she says.

She adds: “Once the people realize that their rights are trampled upon, and, as the government fails to provide answers that justify such a scenario, we shall reach a difficult point.”

Calls were also made for widespread provision of civic education and putting in place guidelines that specify which kind of crucial public information should be availed, and what are the people’s constitutional rights, so that they are empowered to probe government performance confidently.

“A child grows up the way he/she was
reared. We grew up while less engaging with the government. We are now mature and know how appropriately to demand our rights,” says James Chapile of Mvinjeni ward in Iringa municipality.

A councilor for Kitwiru ward, Ally Mohamed Mbata, says the public forums had provided an opportunity for the people and their leaders to exchange views on development. “The people also got the chance to ask questions and get instant answers, paving way for lasting solutions,” Mbata said.

“A leader would go to an extent of not calling a public meeting year in, year out. We should always remember that it is the people who installed us as leaders. We should give them their due respect,” he adds.

In Kilolo, it was reported that people suddenly woke up to see fully-fledged road works underway when a notoriously damaged road, which had been deemed almost impassable, was transformed into a beehive of activities as motorized construction equipment moved to and forth, leveling and compacting the road surface. This happened soon after open dialogue had taken place at Ibumu.

ICISO coordinator Raphael Matitu says in the year 2011, the organization organized 16 public dialogues in electoral districts of Iringa Region – some being centred around the national constitutional review process. The public dialogues, which were also attended by government authorities, also served as an opportunity for the people to discuss various social issues.
“We used to believe that an MP had the sole right to plan and choose whatever he wanted to do with the district development fund. We are now able to know the full amount of money that is availed. We are also involved in decision making on how that money is spent,” says Sheha of the Welezo Shehiya in Zanzibar, Mgeni Juma Mzee.
Under governance and accountability, the goal of the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) is to see more citizens becoming aware of their rights and responsibilities and demanding accountability in the management of public resources.

Since its inception, the Foundation has supported various organisations with projects aimed at building transparency, improving accountability and securing citizens’ rights. In different times and in various parts of the country, the FCS has supported initiatives for increased capacity of citizens to monitor public expenditure through Public Expenditure Tracking Systems (PETS) and Social Accountability Monitoring (SaM).

The FCS has managed to facilitate a number of public dialogues on a range of issues on which citizens were able to engage in frank discussions with their legislators, development practitioners and public officials on ways to improve accountability and securing citizens’ rights.

Over 776 governance and accountability related projects, worth TZS 35,467,126,166 were funded during the ten-year period, leading to increased awareness of civil rights and responsibilities of people living in different parts of the country.

The projects have also made local government authority more transparent in relation to public resource utilization. They had also raised citizen’s ability to demand their rights and act responsibly, hence support the democratic processes.
In Unguja Urban West, the people are now sleeping with their eyes wide open. They are saying no to impunity.

Generally speaking, the citizens’ participation in political and social issues in the Spice Isles, even in matters directly affecting the common people, has previously been the preserve of those in the echelons of power, with participative decision-making remaining a long-standing taboo.

This anomaly served as a loophole for MPs and Members of the House of Representatives to exploit the people’s ignorance by abusing their trust and misusing district development funds with impunity.

The situation was bound to change. The past ten years has seen improvement of people’s level of understanding of pertinent issues that affect them directly.

Our grantee, the network of civil organizations of Zanzibar West, UWESCONET, through its varied projects that aim at enlightening the people on constitutional review matters, utilization of district funds, gender equality and climate change, has taken the lead in stimulation of the citizenry’s understanding of communal challenges and responsibilities.

Through FCS funding, UWESCONET has facilitated civic education awareness and monitoring of public funds expenditure. The Sheha of the Welezo Shehiya in Zanzibar, Mgeni Juma Mzee, says the people have been equipped to work hand-in-hand with their leaders in planning and implementing development projects.

“We used to believe that an MP had the sole right to plan and choose whatever he wanted to do with the district development fund. We are now able to know the full amount of money that is availed. We are also involved in decision making on how that money is spent,” the Sheha said.
The coordinator of the project, Maryam Abubakar, says the people of Unguja West, well aware of the district development fund details, are motivated to remain close to their leaders so that they monitor the expenditure.

She adds that the awareness campaign has also boosted the self-confidence of local and central government leaders, thus successfully instilling and moulding a new culture of participative planning, which shall eventually bring about sustainable development.

The enlightenment process also sought to foster and sustain political tolerance throughout the opinion gathering process, which was overseen by the Warioba Commission. Only a handful of people manifested lack of political tolerance and maturity, these were mainly those who did not benefit from the civic education drive.

Abeid Saad of ZAYOPAC, which is also a member of UWESCONET, praised the civic awareness campaign, saying that it gave the people in depth understanding on the whole concept of the Constitution, as the training was given by experts who were well-versed in legal matters. UWESCONET was formed in 2009.
Liwale District Commissioner, Ephraim Mmbaga, says “the government no longer sleeps” as a result of its own decision to open the gates wide - and freely accommodate public criticism.

“ULINDIGO’s challenges have put the government on its toes, compelling us to operate transparently and in a responsible manner,” he said.

Referring specifically to the PETS Project that tracked the utilization of road funds, the DC said the District Council authorities had a hard time as they were pressured to operate transparently until they ended up doing the job quite efficiently.

Our grantee, ULINDIGO, the NGO umbrella group in Liwale District, attributes its success in capacity building and widening its reach to the financial support given. Retired ULINDIGO chairman, Mudhihir Mewille, states that the organization had improved both on its book-keeping and documentation system, just to start with.

“The training that we got had widened our members’ understanding of their rights and obligations, and enhanced their participation in development schemes.

He further adds that they had been empowered in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of various projects. “This has compelled government bureaucrats to wake up to their duty of...”
supervising development projects,” he says.

Mewile says ULINDIGO had made the people realize their capacity to stimulate development, making them more cooperative.

He says the organization had been able to reach out to special groups like women, most of whom used to stay indoors, fearing to become a laughing stocks if they came out to participate in public activities.

“We have raised their self-confidence. They are now free to air their views,” he added. Mewille says they had been able to track education fund expenditure as well as sensitize the ordinary wananchi, teachers and schoolchildren to value and respect disabled people.

“Our efforts to closely monitor education projects have compelled Local government authorities to improve their focus on education facilities. Pupils with disabilities are now able to enjoy their basic rights. We have also convinced the people to send disabled children to school,” he says.

On his part, ULINDIGO secretary Ally Lagai says: “Our major achievement has been the election of a person with albinism as chairman of a locality here in Liwale. Such people did not stand a chance in the past.”
Knowledge is power.

The people of Nzuguni Ward in Dodoma Municipality are now bold enough to query how allocated public funds and grants are spent. The change has largely occurred through capacity building training conducted by our grantee Nzuguni Initiative Group. The grassroots exercise has targeted both the ordinary people as well as leaders.

Ward executive secretary, Vincent Leo, says sensitization of the people has transformed the whole attitude of ward leaders when executing their tasks. “The people are monitoring their performance and asking a lot of questions. This is a new development,” he says.

Leo says before the training, the ordinary wananchi didn’t manifest any courage whatsoever, but would only clap their hands in approval of whatever was being spoken by a leader during a public address.

He, however, cautioned that a lot of deliberate efforts were still needed to make the people, especially the youth cadre, attain the required level of courage so that they could closely monitor the performance of local leaders.

On his part, treasurer of the Nzuguni Initiative Group, Tonoo Leng’ata, reveals that: “Rampant
misappropriation of public funds was endemic here at Nzuguni. The people were disinterested whenever it came to attending public meetings. The situation has changed. It is the people themselves who are now calling for public rallies to take place earlier than scheduled. They want to get proper answers for their queries.”

Evelyn Ndoje, chairperson of the group, says they had singled out 25 local leaders for training on preparation and presentation of income and expenditure reports. Other leaders willingly came on board, she says.

In another development, the people of Nzuguni-Maweni boycotted some public meetings in protest against alleged misappropriation of public funds. They have lodged an appeal with both the district and municipal leadership.

Both the Mayor and the District Director are working on the matter.
The Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) will always be remembered for becoming the first stakeholder to sponsor education on good governance and accountability provided to hundreds of Mara region residents between 2005 and 2006.

The awareness raising, mainly targeting women, was organized by Foundation Help.

Foundation has been helping impoverished communities discover and share resources that
transform their lives.

“We at Foundation Help are proud for being the first people to educate a large number of Mara people on the significance of good governance and accountability between 2005 and 2006,” Jackson Ng’araga, the officer who coordinated the project, says.

The education was aimed at making Mara residents understand both the advantages of good governance and accountability.

The CSO targeted around 6,600 women in three districts of Mara region. The districts are Serengeti, Tarime and Rorya.

The dialogue covered crucial issues related to women such as property inheritance as well as contending for elected posts.

“After the dialogues, scores of women visited our offices in Musoma to seek for advise,” recalls Ng’araga.

“They also realized that female children had the right to inherit a property, even after being married,” he added.

The education was also relayed by the media, particularly through radio, which has wider coverage. Other stakeholders such as members of the police force were sensitized on the importance of observing good governance approaches when exercising their duties.

“We enlightened traffic officers on the significance of educating drivers of commuter vehicles about safety rules before rushing to make any arrests,” he says.

Foundation Help also seized the opportunity to conduct an environmental conservation campaign in the area.
As it goes: *Easy Come, Easy Go*, and also, *Politics of the Highway Always End on the Highway*. This is what lower government bureaucrats discovered when KIKWESO trainers pulled the rug under the table, and the illegally acquired coins came crashing down. The ‘indirect taxation’ they had imposed on the rank and file suddenly came to an end with the advent of KIKWESO’s public trainings on good governance.

The Kimwani Women Development Society (KIKWESO) of Dar es Salaam, funded by The Foundation, aims at imparting good governance awareness to women and children.

Since its formation, the group has been involved in sensitizing the *wananchi* on the fight against corruption. This has motivated the people of Chanika, Pugu Majohe and Ukonga wards to confront corrupt public officials who work in their localities.

In 2011/12, KIKWESO executed a good governance awareness project in five wards of Ilala District. The project involved conducting of public seminars, imparting of education through radio and television, plus distribution of flyers at church and mosque compounds.

The sensitization increased the yearning among the people, as they wanted to know more about provision of services in both the health sector and local government leadership, both at village and urban locality level.
“Prior to the conduction of the exercise, a sick person who went to hospital with a public health insurance card was usually told that there was no medicine in stock. Strange enough, whenever another person who was paying in cash came to the same hospital, and got the medicine. People have now woken up and do demand their rights. In some of the hospitals, written announcements against corruption have been placed for public viewing,” says deputy KIMWESO chairperson, Amina Augosy.

She says rampant corruption in the health sector had brought a lot of suffering to people living in those areas as they were ignorant of their basic rights. They were also unaware of laws governing the rights for provision of medical services even, if one was not a member of the Health Insurance Fund.

“We are consoled by the fact that most of those who woke up to demand their rights are women,” she says.

“The village chairmen and officials used to demand 10,000 shillings for stamping loan application, letters which the applicants were taking to SACCOS. You would find that a woman who wanted a 50,000 shillings loan had to part with 10,000 shillings, only to leave her with 40,000 shillings of net loan. This is wrong. Such action runs contrary to public service regulations. However, the situation has changed since we conducted a course for ward and village leaders. They are now providing the said services free of charge,” she says.

She calls for more sensitization of the people on good governance matters and giving biting teeth to the government anti-graft lobby, PCCB, which they have closely worked with.
“The dialogues do provide us with the opportunity to know more about government plans from close range and the areas which we can make interventions,” says George Chibase, Coordinator of our grantee Mara Development Forum.
Since its inception, the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) has enhanced citizens’ engagement, through public policy dialogues, hence spearheaded change processes that aim at improving their quality of life.

Our support to regional and district CSOs network, has accelerated the public policy dialogues tempo such that a sound engagement with policymakers has been attained, as well as influencing outcomes of various national policy processes.

The FCS has also facilitated hundreds of district and regional CSO network to enable citizens articulate their views towards the formulation of the country’s new constitution.

More outcomes include the facilitation of active citizens’ participation in electoral processes to ensure a more inclusive electoral process.

Moreover, through our support for public dialogues, more citizens have been able to participate in the formulation, review and implementation of key national policies through well structured campaigns.

The following pages in this chapter shed more light on what has been taking place since then.
DUNGONET organizes vibrant forums in Dodoma

The Dodoma Urban NGO Network (DUNGONET) has organised several public forums as a way of sensitizing the people on giving their views on the new constitution. The task has involved bringing together politicians—including members of parliament—to discuss constitutional issues in public debates.

Compared to other areas where the communal dialogue took place, Dodoma District performed extremely well with the majority of its leading politicians and legislators responding to questions aired by members of the public.

Dungonet, through FCS funding, has managed to organise the dialogue and conduct other activities related to the project.

The Constitutional Review Commission under Justice Joseph Sinde Warioba began collecting public views on the Constitution in 2012. Coordinator of DUNGONET, Nexsan William, was of the view that the opinion collection exercise was successfully undertaken in the areas they had covered.

The public forums took place at Dodoma Secondary School Hall, where two debates were conducted. Others were held at the Local Government Institute and Bihawana Mission. William says that the debates were well attended. “The people were so enthusiastic that they decided to spend whole days at the meetings,” he says.

On his part, DUNGONET chairman Manase Mhumpa thanked the FCS for its efforts to sensitize the population such that people who had been voiceless were now able to raise their voices.
Based in Musoma town, Mara Development Forum (MDF) is on the frontline of bringing positive change in Mara region, thanks to the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) for standing out as a major funding partner for a couple of years.

MDF strives to create awareness and promote democracy, accountability, environmental conservation, as well gender issues in the region.

The organisation has mainly been conducting public forums that bring together different stakeholders, with the aim of instigating change in its focus areas.

In the recent years, MDF has conducted a series of open forums meant to make elected leaders answerable to their voters at ward and constituency level.

“We wanted members of parliament and councilors to become more responsible as well as improve their proximity to voters,” George Chibase, Coordinator of Mara Development Forum, says.

The organization has also managed to coordinate the formation of networks of non-governmental organization in the three districts of Bunda, Serengeti and Rorya, a move aimed at facilitating efficient performance.

The networks are made up of Faith Based Organizations (FBO), Community Based Organizations (CBO’s) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO’s).

“We are proud that these networks have been registered and are currently doing well,” says Chibase. The Foundation for Civil Society supports an increased level of networking so that more advocacy voices are heard.

MDF is now invited to attend Mara Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) sessions while the district network representatives attend District Consultative Committee meetings (DCC) to discuss development issues. The RCC is the top decision making organ at the regional level and DCC serves in the same capacity at district level.

The participation of NGOs at the sessions enables them to get a wider picture of development challenges. The top decision making bodies deliberate how millions of shillings allocated to the area by the Central Government to tackle poverty and improve living standards are utilized.

“The meetings do provide us with the opportunity to know more about government plans from close range and the areas which we can make interventions,” Chabase adds.

The organization has so far conducted several public dialogues aimed at mobilizing Mara residents to turn up in large numbers to voice their opinion on the proposed constitution, a campaign which is reported to have been extremely successful.
It was a new thing altogether for Tanga residents. Well-attended public dialogues by our grantee TASCO became the talk of the day. What came out clearly was that people have been hungering all along for policy engagement and exercise of civic rights.

TASCO was formed in Tanga at the beginning of 2005 and was registered in the following year. TASCO is the umbrella entity of the following organizations: Tanga Youth Development Association Tayodea), PEACE, NCCD, ASEDE, Poverty Africa, Sura, Tymo, SILC, Kodepa and Tanzania Global Partnership.

TASCO was formed for the sake of articulating the collective voice of Tanga region NGOs and synchronizing their activities as a way of ensuring effective attainment of their goals, says TASCO chairman John Nyika.

After securing FCS funding, the first public dialogue was organized. The main theme was the role of civil society in facilitating change in Tanga region. It was well-attended.

Among the participants were Handeni MP Dr Abdallah Kigoda, former Korogwe MP, Engineer Laus Mhina, former Mkinga MP, the late Mbarouk Mwandoro and incumbent Muheza MP Hebert Mntangi.

In 2007, TASCO organized another public dialogue, which was intended to serve as a platform for Tanga region development agenda. Two other open forums
on the same agenda took place in the years 2009 and 2010, zeroing in on the national poverty reduction strategy, MKUKUTA 1 and MKUKUTA 2 respectively.

Between January and April 2010, TASCO conducted training on procedures of forming non-governmental organizations at district level in Pangani, Handeni and Tanga.

In the months of May and June, 2010, TASCO implemented a capacity building and management training project for NGOs in Korogwe, Muheza and Lushoto districts.

From July to November 2010, TASCO organized a social accountability monitoring programme in Korogwe and Muheza districts. Earlier on, it supervised the formation of social accountability management (SAM) committees in Korogwe and Muheza districts.

In August and September 2010, TASCO conducted public dialogue, which also involved parliamentary candidates from Tanga constituencies. This was followed by another public dialogue on people’s opinion and participation in the implementation of MKUKUTA.

Between May and July 2011, TASCO conducted a social service delivery evaluation through the application of the balanced scorecard method in the districts of Korogwe and Muheza.

In May 2011, it organized another public forum on the adverse effects of climate change, and the role of the society in mitigating its damage.

It was a beehive activity that had been well-received.
Who has read the Constitution? The answer lies between ‘not many’ and ‘not so many’. For the majority, the answer could be even worse.

This dire fact was revealed during an public dialogue organized by the Bagamoyo Non-Government Organisation Networking (BANGONET), a body composed of 45 NGOs, and which had organised public dialogues through the support by the Foundation for Civil Society (FSC).

What has caught the attention of organizers was the fact that most people claimed to have never seen a copy of the current and existing Constitution. BANGONET, in collaboration with government authorities, secured sufficient copies, which were distributed to the participants, and who, in turn, were able to give valuable contribution on what they wanted to be appended into the new constitution.

The project focused on four themes, namely the New Constitution, Good Governance and Public Officers’ Accountability, Gender and Adaptation of Climate Change, all directly linked to people’s day-to-day lives and activities.

Noted achievement of the open dialogue was about new 11 CSOs which have decided to join the Network. The CSOs include Bagamoyo Youth Network (BYNET) and Youth in Coast Vision Association (CYVA).

Others are Bagamoyo Girls Education Association, Kerege Development Association, Jikwamue Development Organisation (JIDO), Help Foundation, Baraza la Maendeleo Chalinze, (BAMACHA), Buma Association, Upendo kwa Wajane, Empowering Rural Aid, and Bwagamoyo Youth Empowerment.

Leonard Bankuwia, who is BANGONET Executive Secretary, says the media had made valuable contribution to the dialogues by publicizing them.

The nagging issues of land conflicts and land grabbing were discussed at length.
One of the major complaints was that elected leaders treated their official positions as personal property, and not as offices belonging to the voters. It was suggested that leaders should be held accountable for anything that went wrong.

A number of conclusions were drawn with regard to gender equity such as obsolete beliefs and perceptions that deny women’s rights to own land, access education and leadership. The treatment of women as working tools was also criticized, as well as leaving the task of child upbringing exclusively to women.
“I had no other choice but to accept my situation. With the aid of counseling through an FCS grantee, JIDA, I was encouraged to continue living with confidence”, said Zainabu Matata, a beneficiary in Sikonge Tabora.
In the fight against the pandemic, the Foundation has supported various grantees in different parts of the country to undertake various interventions aimed at creating awareness, fighting stigma and ultimately enhancing CSO participation in the 2008 HIV/AIDS control Act.

During the ten-year period, a total of TZS 8,599,775,198 was approved as grants aimed at intensifying the fight - through safety networks - to support the anti HIV/AIDS drive, among other things.

Thus, through the funding the FCS has enhanced CSO participation in both the formulation and implementation of the 2008 HIV/AIDS Act.

As a result, more people have turned up to access voluntary counselling and testing services, while for those who are already diagnosed HIV positive have conceded to have an obligation not to spread it to others, in line with the 2008 Act. Moreover, through awareness creation of the 2008 HIV/AIDS Act, communities have increasingly taken responsibility not to stigmatise one’s actual, perceived or suspected HIV/AIDS status.

Communities have also had an increased knowledge that every one has an equal right to access medical care, and ensure proper adherence to use of ARVs.

It is also reported that our grantees have come to the rescue of nearly 90 per cent of bedridden People Living with HIV (PLWHA) as a result of continued interventions and advocating home-based care. Individuals’ disclosure rate on their HIV/AIDS status has also gone up, after joining the fight against stigma, and more encouraging is the fact that most PLWHAs have been re-integrated with their communities and continue taking part in socio-economic activities.

There is also an increased home-based care to address stigma as well as support and tackle other underlying causes of the pandemic.
Wearing a brown gown, covering herself with the traditional “khanga”, sitting in front of her house at Ipole ward, just some few kilometers from Sikonge town Zainab Matata, a mother of three, is happily working with other people without fear - soon after returning home from a two-year absence, after running away from stigma and discrimination.

It was Wednesday morning in the month of February 2009, when a team of JIDA volunteers made a stopover just some few meters from Zainab’s home at Ipole, Sikonge district in Tabora region. The purpose of the visit was to share information with community members on how they count the outcomes of the anti-stigma campaign organized by JIDA (Sikonge branch), with support of the Foundation for Civil Society.

Wearing a smiling face that reflected hope and determination, Zainab welcomed the team. After a few minutes of introduction, Zainab was ready to tell her story on the ups and downs she had gone through since she found out that she was HIV positive.

In early 2007, she took the HIV/AIDS test at Sikonge district hospital and found the truth. “It shocked me. I had no other choice but to accept my situation. With the aid of counseling by nurses and doctors, I was heartened to continue living with confidence”, said Zainab.

However, her self-confidence and dignity were shattered by family and community members when they began discriminating against her after finding out that she was HIV positive. It reached a point when her relatives, especially her siblings refused to eat with her, talk to her, for fear that they would be infected with HIV/AIDS.

This behaviour reached its peak when family members ordered her to stay alone in a neighboring house. This discriminatory behaviour compelled her to run away from home. She went to Kitunda ward, situated about 140 kilometers from her home village. Although she had neither family members nor friends, she was familiar with the location. She still found some peace and happiness.

At Kitunda, she introduced herself to some good people who hosted her for almost two years. It was the anti-stigma training conducted by JIDA and funded by the Foundation which made it possible for Zainab to return home and reunite with her family and community members.

She says that JIDA trainings on HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination had really opened her eyes to reality. With the knowledge they obtained, two community members paid a visit to Zainab’s family just to inquire about her progress.

Her family members could not tell her whereabouts. That aroused the volunteers’ curiosity to find out Zainab’s whereabouts. With the support of volunteers from Kitunda ward, the chairperson for People living with HIV/AIDS committee for Ipole ward and her team received information that Zainab was living at Kitunda. They made some efforts to establish the truth.

They found her at Kitunda. After a long discussion and some counseling, Zainab agreed to go back home once she was assured that the situation had changed; that stigma and discrimination no longer existed amongst the people of Ipole.
It was as if they had been waiting for such health awareness raising for ages. Indeed they were.

Long standing health risks in Nguruka and Ilagala divisions of Kigoma district have been reduced as a result of villagers’ increased knowledge on control and treatment of both communicable and non-communicable diseases. This resulted from education provided by Service, Health and Development for People Living with HIV/AIDS (SHDEPHA+) in Kigoma.

A number of diseases including cholera, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and leprosy had threatened lives in those divisions, especially of villagers living around Lake Tanganyika.

Among the environmental contributions to health risks in those villages include mingling and interactions of different people due to fishing business and non-use of latrines. Also, the geographical location of the areas hinders dissemination of health information and services. Villagers around those areas experienced regular outbreak of cholera and bilharzias.

Women who cooked for fishermen were engaged in sexual business. Due to their constant movements, they ended up contracting HIV. Worse still, as they still appeared healthy, and people didn’t believe they were HIV-positive.

Mashango Wambura, executive secretary of the organisation, says prior to receiving support from the Foundation for Civil Society for implementing a health policy project, the villagers were unaware of proper health practices, neither were they informed about treatment cost exemptions of some of the diseases.

“While implementing other projects in those areas like sensitisation on voluntary HIV testing, we learnt that people with HIV/AIDS and TB could not access health services as they were not aware of where to get them. Also, district council reports indicated a number of shortcomings on health knowledge among people in those areas, as those who were found with the HIV/AIDS virus did not know where to go,” says Wambura.

Wambura says they had seen significant changes in the communities living around the areas as people now abided with essential health practices and knew which diseases qualified a person for medical cost exemptions. Previously, people were afraid of costs, especially after the introduction of cost sharing in health matters.

“Now we can see some people living with HIV/AIDS and those with TB attending hospitals and equally accessing care,” he says.
Not that figures always bring good news. Nevertheless, grim research findings facilitate the reversal of a worrying trend. This is what occurred in Kibaha District.

A study conducted by our grantee Youth Volunteers Development Association (YOVODEA) in the areas of Maili Moja, Tumbi, Kibaha and Kongowe reveals that 75 per cent of respondents did not know that HIV could be passed from mother to child.

The YOVODEA study also indicates that many people do not understand the concept of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission, thus losing their children.

For others like Mariana, 35, the case is rather different. She had given birth to a baby-boy eleven years ago. However, Mariana went ahead and breastfed her baby for a year despite being HIV positive. Mariana couldn’t withstand the stigma that would result from being found out as a HIV-positive person. Luckily, the child was not infected and she is quite thankful to God.

Mariana is not the same. Many women do act in a similar manner for the same reasons. Some fear their in-laws so much that they opt to risk their children’s lives. Usually, it is the mothers-in-law who are quick to note that a grandchild is not breastfed.

The YOVODEA study also reveals that there is a tendency for people to stigmatise HIV-positive women who do not breastfeed their children so as to
prevent the transmission of the virus to their babies. However, some other women due to physical and secretory challenges are unable to breastfeed!

YOVODEA executive director Philemon Mabuga says that through FCS funding, they have managed to educate people to abandon the attitude through the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission project.

Initially, the people were educated on the various ways of HIV transmission as part of the campaign to counter the stigma. They were also enlightened on how lack of appropriate tools during child delivery. Lack of appropriate health facilities is one of the major causes of mother to child HIV transmission.

Statistics reveal that in 2010, out of 4,969 pregnant women surveyed in Kibaha District, 333 were HIV positive. The average HIV transmission rate in Coast Region stood at 6.5 per cent. The organisation goal was to bring down the rate to 4 per cent by 2012.

In a bid to save unborn children from contracting HIV/AIDS from their mothers, YOVODEA also prepared two radio public education programmes to educate the community how children born to HIV-positive mothers can be saved from contracting the virus.

“What we learnt was that when the people are made aware of their rights and responsibilities, as stipulated by both the Constitution and laws governing HIV/AIDS, they become masters of their own life,” says Mabuga.
Asha Othman’s cheeks had accommodated her flowing tears for a period that appeared to be endless. Stigmatization pounced as soon as it became clear that she was HIV-positive. No sparks of hope were seen at the end of the tunnel until our grantee ZAPHA+ indirectly intervened to end her imbedded sorrow.

Like what happens in other places, the increased number of HIV positive cases in Zanzibar has led to an upsurge of human right violations.

The right to life, protection, work, medical treatment, education, participation, marriage, opinion and access to legal services—all these rights have been denied to HIV-positive persons, who are, worse still, stigmatized.

The plight of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) in Zanzibar moved ZAPHA+, to embark on “Human Rights advocacy for PLWHAs.” This initiative has gone a long way towards curbing the chronic stigmatization.
“What we have noted is that the level of stigmatization within the community has been brought down by successful implementation of the project,” says Consolata John, ZAPHA+ chairperson.

“In the past, family members kept HIV-positive relatives away from public view. On the contrary, due to ZAPHA+’s sensitization efforts, such families are now in the forefront of fighting for rights of their sick,” she says.

These notable achievements have been realized through the co-opting of district authorities responsible for HIV/AIDS issues, local government leaders, members of the shehiya and district development committees, famous individuals, religious leaders and HIV-infected persons.

A resident of Zanzibar West District, Ms. Sara Mwita, says through the project, people have been sensitized well-enough on doing away with stigmatization while those infected get improved view of both their rights and self-identity.

Revealing the efficacy of the advocacy project, Asha Othman, ZAPHA+ secretary for the Urban District, says before she underwent the training, apart from shedding tears, she was totally unable to defend herself whenever she was victimized.

“I suffered from low personal esteem. I responded to any mistreatment by simply breaking down and crying. No one invited me to participate in any public activity. Now I am a council member of the Shehiya. All the people in both my shehiya and district appreciate my presence because my performance is okay,” Asha says.

She recalls that when she went to hospital to deliver her first child, she was not attended by medics and had to deliver without their assistance. “However, on the second occasion, this time well-sensitised by ZAPHA+, I spoke up whenever I was mistreated, so they attended me properly.”

Project coordinator Salma Soud says the greatest benefit derived from FCS funding has been the fact that PLWHAs are now aware of their rights, and can link up as well as defend themselves—without seeing the need of going all the way to the ZAPHA+ office to complain.

“We no longer see lines of clients who come to our offices to seek legal assistance. They now support each other or are attended at shehiya and district level,” she says.

She adds that disclosure rate among people living with HIV/AIDS is on the rise because they have confidence in the society’s capability to defend their rights.
“Most of us were ignorant of the basis of existence of a credible CSO and effective organisational strategy. We are grateful because the training has enlightened us just at the right time,” says chairman of our grantee in Unguja working on youth development and environmental conservation (BYDECO) Haji Mussa Khamis.
Since its inception, the FCS has supported a number of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) through extension of capacity building funds and provision of training packages so as to improve the performance of CSOs and the whole sector.

The Foundation is supporting CSOs activities working towards improving internal working organization; improving planning and financial management; rejection of corruption and improvement of accountability; as well as increasing the use of ICT.

In the past ten years the FCS has facilitated the creation and enhancement of networks and collaborations amongst CSOs and other partners, including the House of Representatives and the National Assembly.

CSO capacity strengthening is deemed as a vital instrument towards achieving the overall goal of making citizens a strong force for bringing about change and improving democratic governance, fighting poverty and achieving a better quality of life.

Over 1,019 CSOs from different parts of the country have benefited from the FCS capacity building programme during the above stated period.
Various Civil Society Organisations in Tanzania can serve as testimonies to the efforts by the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) to enhance their capacity so as to empower citizens become a strong force for change, and improve democratic governance, fight poverty and hence achieve better quality of life.

The ultimate goal is to attain a civil society sector that is creative, imaginative sustainable and accountable.

In different times the Foundation has provided capacity building funds and training packages so as to improve the performance of CSOs. The training packages include: Tailor made training, manage your grants training and Organization Capacity Assessment (OCA), zonal capacity building facilitators, among others.

Through training programs more CSOs have been inspired to develop strategic plans and to restructure their operations and achieve more focus.

For example, the Foundation has been conducting compulsory training to new recipients of Rolling small grants and Medium grants so as to enable them gain the capacity on how to manage grants in areas of project cycle, financial management, reporting and monitoring and evaluation. Over 4,952 participants from CSOs have participated in MYG trainings during the ten-year period.

Organisation capacity assessment (OCA) is another area on institutional capacity building conducted
by FCS in order to assess status and capacity of grantees. OCA is done under eight variables, namely: governance, management practices, human resources management, financial resources management and mobilization, service deliver, external relations, organizational sustainability and skills. FCS introduced OCA in 2007 as one of the way to understand the organization’s degree of performance and how it changes and grows overtime.

Over 3,009 CSO representatives have participated in different training programs organized by the Foundation for the past ten-year period.

As a result of project design, management and fund-raising training, more CSOs have managed to develop and submit project proposals to other donors apart from the FCS.

Overall, the trend shows that there is an increased impact in the capacity of CSOs. This is yet another achievement.
The association of visually impaired people in Tanzania, namely CHAMA cha Warioona Tanzania, is now far more capable of project monitoring and supervision than it was able to do in the past. Its members are now equipped with proper strategies of enforcing good governance principles.

Emmanuel Simon, the general secretary of the organisation, reveals that prior to the training, they possessed inadequate knowledge of a lot of issues. Things have now changed with their attendance of a capacity building course that was funded by the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS).

As an organisation, we now spend our money carefully and prepare work plans. We utilize our newly-acquired knowledge by improvising the service delivery of projects that serve people with impaired vision, he says.

“We are getting set to conduct further training in the districts of Same, Lushoto, Tanga, Korogwe and Moshi,” he states.

The head of the Women’s Department, Doris Kulanga, says that the training they had received has improved their understanding of several issues and also shed light on ways to utilize existing opportunities.

She says before undertaking the training, many blind people would wait to be assisted in each and everything because they had poor understanding of a lot of issues. “The capacity building course has been of great assistance to us,” she says.
Our grantee in Dar es Salaam, the Tanzania Decent Work Association (TADWA), which deals with lobbying for the institution of decent working conditions for employees and fighting for their rights, is now better positioned to implement its objectives following the successful implementation of an institutional capacity building course, which involved its members.

TADWA chief executive Adrian Msirikale, says although their association is still at infant stage, the training facilitated by the Foundation for Civil Society has enabled them to make giant steps towards greater efficiency.

“After being enlightened on good governance issues, we amended our constitution and prepared a five-year strategic plan. We have improvised the documentation of our financial records and became trustworthy,” says Msarikile.

“People of the community living around us realize the benefit of working with us. We have been collaborating with female owners of makeshift canteens in Mabibo areas so that they could also improve their services and win customer appreciation. We have also been behind the formation of Mwangaza group, which deals with cleanliness and environmental matters.”

Msarikie says: “We have been scrutinizing documents from the Ministry of Labour, labour organizations, ILO, FHS and others so as to attain research objectives and undertake policy analysis.”

A member of the association, Bwake Leonard, appreciates the good governance sensitization, which he says has boosted his self-confidence, thus making him work without banking on chance.
It is generally believed that one doesn’t stand a chance in life without acquiring education, hence the saying “Education is the key to life.”

Taking that reality into consideration, our grantee – working on youth development and environmental conservation (BYDECO) has opted for institutional capacity building, with its members undertaking an FCS-funded course.

Its chairperson, Haji Mussa Khamis, says the FCS-funded training has empowered the organisation to operate timely and responsibly the way a Civil Society Organisation should perform community work.

“Most of us were ignorant of the basis of existence of a credible CSO and effective organisational strategy. We are grateful because the training has enlightened us just at the right time,” Khamis says.

He says that they have been able to prepare their three-year 2012-2015 strategic plan, which serves as the guiding map for short-term plans.

Due to the fact that the organisation also deals with environmental protection matters, its members have experienced big changes in attitude, become more self confident, and are now mobilizing members of the society to protect and conserve the environment.

Siti Said Musa, a beneficiary of the training, says: “Prior to undertaking the course, I was unable to stand before a crowd and give my views. Things are now different. I am now able to stand before groups of people and entice them to take part in protecting
the environment.”

The organisation management works closely with councilors and other local government leaders. This fact is confirmed by the Sheha of Bububu, Bakari Khamis Bakari. “We have enjoyed close cooperation with members of this organisation since it was founded,” he says.

He says that BYDECO has provided significant support in the development of the Shehiya. “They have provided awareness education to the people and increased their understanding on the importance of the cleanliness campaign which takes place at the end of each month,” Bakari says.

The BYDECO publicity secretary, Issa Abdallah, says that the FCS has not only sponsored the training, but has also facilitated the establishment of their office and securing of office equipment.
The I-know and I-have-seen-it-all attitude among PEYA committee members in Pemba used to retard organizational growth. The team members were embroiled in endless quarrels as their organization zigzagged left and right.

All that ended with FCS funded trainings on improving internal organization and office documentation. The seminar for both leaders and members of the youth development association in Pemba (PEYA) ended in an upbeat mood, according to the association’s assistant secretary, Omar Rashid Bakar.

Bakar says the management of the organization had improved a lot, internal disputes are no longer the order of the day soon after the capacity building course was over. He says in the past, the administration of PEYA was only guided by hunch and experience.

“Leaders of the organization were not aware of the scope and limits of their responsibilities,” he says. Bakar adds that prior to attending the FCS-funded training, PEYA members were reluctant to attend meetings called by leaders of the organization because they were ignorant of their significance.

Bakar says during the period ranging between December 2011 and March 2012, the enthusiasm of PEYA members and leaders was in top gear after they had been motorized by the three-month capacity building training.
“The training has awakened us from deep slumber,” he says. He says it was possible to raise the membership fee only after 30 PEYA leaders and members had attended the course. Formerly, members became nervous whenever the issue of raising membership fees was mentioned, fearing that their leaders were all out to hoodwink them.

A member, Wahid Khamis Mohammed, says the capacity building programme had boosted the self-confidence of PEYA members as they were now motivated to vie for leadership positions.

Another member, Maryam Salim, says the programme had instilled in them a spirit of accountability and transparency. In the past, we thought we were not supposed to comment on the execution of development project, she says.

Hassan Ali Hamad, also a PEYA member, says their organization had a lot of glaring opportunities that could make it register major achievements, especially in the fields of eradicating illicit drugs and combating HIV/AIDS.

Another PAYE member, Kombo Juma Kombo, says time had come for giant institutions to support smaller non-governmental organizations to attain their objectives.

PEYA, founded in 2005, aims at supporting youth initiatives such as combating HIV/AIDS, illicit drug use and juvenile delinquency.