

EAST AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS' FORUM

Strengthening Civil Society in the Integration Process



East African Civil Society Organization's Forum(EACSO)

Strengthening the Participation of Civil Society in EAC Integration

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

By EACSO Secretariat

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INTRODUCTION

East African Civil Society Organizations' Forum (EACSOF) is the all-inclusive platform for CSOs in East Africa founded in 2007. It is a focal point for CSOs whose major aims are to promote an East African society based on friendship, solidarity and mutual respect; that endeavors to build an independent, self-reliant economy; upholds respect of human rights; fosters healthy traditions and cultural norms; and fights for democracy, rule of law, social justice, good governance and people-centered development and protects the interests of the forum.

EACSOF is registered in Tanzania as an international NGO with its head office in Arusha and national chapters in each of the 5 EAC member states. EACSOF, which started with assistance from the East African Laws Society (EALS) enjoys a formal and cordial working relationship with the East African Community (EAC), the EAC Partner States and national, regional and international networks among them the Centre for Citizen Participation at the African Union (CCPAU), the African Centre for Civil Society (ACCS), the West Africa Civil Society Organizations' Forum (WACSOF), the Southern African Development Council for NGOs (SADAC NGO) and African CSO on Platform on Principled Partnership (ACPPP). It is a space for shared learning and collective action, in pursuit of Article 127 of the Treaty for the establishment of the EAC. According to the EAC CDF, EACSOF was mandated by stakeholders to represent CSOs at the EAC as the voice of civil society in integration processes. EACSOF Vision for East Africa is ... "A community in which citizens are fully engaged in all affairs affecting their lives". EACSOF envisions a future for people built on self-determination, with citizens in control of the social, economic and political capital. EACSOF Mission is ... "To Make EAC Integration Work for the Citizen". This is achieved by providing a platform for debate and dialogue, in order to facilitate people-centered integration and co-operation that is designed to promote equitable and sustainable development.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

EACSOF has prepared its strategic plan for 2010-2015 and business case 2013-2015, which gives clear objectives, strategies and priorities which will position EACSOF to fully engage with the EAC, different Partners and secure resource mobilization for its projects.

Strategic directions (SD) of EACSOF are as follows;

1. (SD1): Policy Engagement with the State and Private Sector - policy implementation, policy research and analysis; alternative policy formulation, enhancing policy interrogation, lobbying and advocacy by civil society organizations in the region. The overall objective is ... “To Ensure Citizen Centered Policy Development and Implementation at National and Regional Levels” ... by providing a platform for meaningful engagement with Partner States for accelerated human development”.
2. (SD2): Strengthening the capacities of civil society, by providing capacity building support to members.
3. (SD3): Developing EACSOF into a fully-fledged operational institution - increased IEC outreach services to CSOs and expanded membership; setting up systems to gather, record and process information about regional integration; establishing effective information dissemination and members’ communication strategies.

POLICY ENGAGEMENT THEMATIC PRIORITIES:

1. Democratic Governance
2. Peace and Security
3. Social and Economic Justice
4. Natural Resources, Environmental Protection and Climate Change
5. Mainstreaming Science and Technology

OBJECTIVES

Through these strategic directions EACSOF will be able to follow through on the following specific objectives;

1. (Policy Implementation - already existing policies) To provide leadership to civil society and the citizens of East Africa through the dialogue mechanism in demanding for the execution of the EAC Treaty and existing policies, protocols, strategic plans and programs, focusing on EACSOF strategic themes
2. (Policy Development - new policies) To facilitate citizen participation in policy development for the realization of EAC objectives through CSO position papers, policy proposals and legislative drafting following EACSOF thematic areas, in collaboration with EALA, Sectoral committees and SGs forum through the

dialogue mechanism

3. (Policy Monitoring and Evaluation) To monitor and evaluate implementation of EAC policies, strategic plans and programs, in order to provide feedback to the EAC Secretariat and Partner States on successes, progress, obstacles, challenges and proposed solutions to the integration process focusing on EACSOE thematic areas.
4. (Capacity Building) to strengthen the capacities of East African civil society organizations
5. (Organizational Development) To develop EACSOE into a fully-fledged sustainable institution.

EACSOE Initiatives Undertaken

The forum has ensured continuity and strong support, networking and linkages with different stakeholders and will continue the good relationships established for further engagements in form of attendance to different meetings, workshops that the Forum is invited to participate. The reports from these meetings are shared and disseminated to the members and stakeholders for information dissemination. In the year 2014, EACSOE representatives participated and carried out different initiatives in accordance to below strategic directions.

- Policy Engagement with the EAC and Partner States
- Capacity Building for Members
- Internal Institutional Strengthening for EACSOE

Thematic Areas Color Codes	
	Democratic Governance
	Peace and Security
	Social and Economic Justice
	Natural Resources, Environmental Protection and Climate Change
	Mainstreaming Science and Technology
	Cross Cutting All Thematic Areas

Strategic directions (SDs)	
Strengthening the capacities of civil society, by providing capacity building support to members	
Initiative	Outcome
a. EAC Chief Justices meeting. Nairobi 13 th June 2014.	EACSOFF promoted and developed with strategies and programs that foster constitutionalism, rule of law in line with the principles of good governance in the EAC integration
b. EACSOFF staff attended a training on “Climate, Food, Trade: Developing Coherent Policies and Programmes in the EAC”	Capacity of EACSOFF staff developed through a training on “Climate, Food, Trade: Developing Coherent Policies and Programmes in the EAC”

organized by CUTs International in Nairobi KenyaClimate.

Developing EACSOF into a fully-fledged operational institution

Initiative	Outcome
EACSOF Kenya Launch 26 th May 2014.	<p>EACSOF Kenya Chapter reviewed 5 regional protocols and how the protocols influence process at national level. The review deliverables were policy positions which were presented to stakeholders (Ministry Officers) during the launch.</p> <p>EACSOF Kenya Chapter thematic areas are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Institution Development – Resource Mobilization2. Border communities and Trade interventions3. Youth4. Human Rights5. Gender
<p>The Foundation for Civil Society Meeting</p> <p>The Foundation for Civil Society organized a 2-days Civil Society Organisations Forum that brought together more than 120 Tanzanian Civil Society Organisation representatives and few others from each</p>	<p>Created awareness about EACSOF via circulation of publications, activities of EACSOF in the East African Community region.</p> <p>Tanzania will establish a steering committee for EACSOF Tanzania Chapter. TANGO (Mainland Tanzania) and ANGOZA (Zanzibar) were chosen to</p>

<p>of EAC partner states to reflect, discuss and strategize on enhancing awareness and engagement of CSOs and citizens at large in EAC agenda while reflecting on other social –economic issues related to East African Integration.</p> <p>The forum carried the theme The Role of CSOs in Strengthening East African Integration and was held from 11th -12th December 2014, at Mbayuwayu Hall, AICC Arusha.</p> <p>EACSOFF held an exhibition booth and circulated its publications. It worth noting that Tanzanian members were enthusiastic to learn about EACSOFF and were pleased to learn about the Black Monday Movement in Uganda.</p> <p>EACSOFF Tanzania Chapter TANGO updated delegates of the differed achievements:</p> <p>(i) Organised a CSO reflection session in preparation for the EAC Secretary General's Forum in September 2014; (ii) conducted a survey on the CSOs perception regarding the EAC Customs Union and EAC Common Market Protocols; (iii) trained CSOs, small-scale farmers and cross-border traders on the EAC Customs Union and Common Market Protocols; (v) represented CSOs in the Secretary General's Forum; (vi) represented Tanzanian CSOs in EACSOFF Region and was elected Secretary General; and (vii) moderated an E-forum on EAC Matters.</p>	<p>link Tanzanian CSOs with CSOs other EAC member countries via EACSOFF secretariat.</p>
<p>EACSOFF Strategic Review Workshops</p>	<p>The outcomes from the various country chapter consultations shall inform the deliberations at the Governing council meeting that will eventually come up with a strategic plan for the regional network. by end of 2015.</p>

<p>Development of the Financial Manual</p> <p>Effective 1st March 2014. GiZ funded a policy development workshop for all Governing Council members in Nairobi, February 2014 and also hired a consultant to guide the consultations.</p>	<p>Approval of finance and human resource policy manual</p>
<p>EACSOE AGM 2014</p> <p>EACSOE conducted its 7TH Annual General Meeting on 28th November 2014 at Laico Regency Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.</p>	<p>Election of new governing council members 2014-2016</p> <p>Review of the EACSOE constitution</p>
<p>Maastricht School Of Management & Dutch Government</p>	<p>Initiated contacts with Maastricht school of management, Netherlands, to explore partnerships for advocacy on agri-business value chain development</p>
<p>EACSOE and Action Aid Meeting on 9th April 2014, Tanzania</p>	<p>Expression of interest by Action Aid to work with EACSOE on; accountability, land and livelihood and women empowerment.</p> <p>Action aid representative contacted and met representatives of EACSOE who interlinekd them with EACSOE Kenya Chapter to discuss further on how to deepen partnership and formalize collaboration.</p>
<p>International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) Potential Partnership with EACSOE During December 2014.</p>	<p>IFES representative contacted EACSOE on a potential partnership to strengthen capacity of civil society.</p>

EACSOE Membership and Communication Initiatives.	Increased number of both regional and continental organizations interested CSOs wanting to join the EACSOE umbrella organization
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Policy Engagement with the State and Private Sector

Themes:	Activities:	Outcomes:
1. Democratic Governance	<p>Progress on the consultative dialogue framework</p> <p>In the run up to the 3rd Annual EAC Secretary General Forum that was scheduled for September 2014, EACSOE conducted National CSO Consultations in all EAC Partner states 2014 to feed up to the 3rd Annual EAC SG Forum.</p> <p>The 3rd EAC Annual Secretary Generals Forum was organized by the EAC Secretariat in collaboration with the coordinating Ministries, as well as the Dialogue Partners the EABC, EACSOE, EALS, EALGA, EATUC and with the support from GIZ and TMEA”</p> <p>EACSOE made a presentation on People Centered EAC - CSOs Operating Environment in EAC.</p>	Over 200 delegates from private sector, civil society and other interest groups brought together to dialogue and interact with the EAC Secretary General and his staff as well as with representatives from the Partner States on regional integration matters directly affecting them. The themes for discussion were: Freedom of movement, Food security, Mobile commerce, Competitiveness.

	<p>More detailed reports on the 3rd Annual SG's Forum can be accessed at: http://EACSO.net/AnnualEAC-SeretaryGeneralForum.html</p>	
	<p>The East African Civil Society Organisations' Forum (EACSO) entered into partnership with the Finnish NGO Platform (KEPA) to analyze the enabling factors and constraints regarding CSO existence and operations in East Africa, with a view to improving the legal and political environment in the region.</p> <p>A number of methodological approaches were applied. In 4 countries: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, EACSO national focal points organized breakfast meetings with CSO leaders and other stakeholders including academia, legal experts, media and government officials. During each of the breakfast meetings, legal experts presented technical reviews of laws that have a bearing on CSO operations. This was followed with plenary discussions on their findings, national consensus building on what are the enabling factors and main constraints and recommendations. All this was documented in individual country status papers (CSP). In the case of Tanzania, a report on legal and regulatory framework of CSOs by Tanzania Association of Non Governmental</p>	<p>Material from all 5 countries was then compiled into a regional synopsis report, which was reviewed by representatives from regional organizations in Arusha, to produce a final report. The report highlights enabling factors that have promoted the emergence and growth of a vibrant civil society in East Africa; it takes stock of the best practices from specific countries in the region. It further zeroes-in on factors that have hampered Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) operating environment and accompanying worst practices from the region.</p> <p>Reports can be accessed at: http://EACSO.net/civicspace.html</p> <p>EACSO is looking forward to build CSOs capacity to do advocacy by building a sufficient advocacy strategy.</p>

	<p>Organizations (TANGO), as well as Tanzania Human Rights Report produced by Legal and Human rights center were used to inform the process</p>	
	<p>EALA - CSO Engagement Framework.</p> <p>EACSOE developed a proposed framework for strengthening EALA - CSO collaboration, which was developed with representatives from each national chapter including 2 meetings in Arusha (Nov 2013) and Nairobi Feb 2014) This initiative builds on the already existing EAC - CDF (Consultative Dialogue Framework)</p> <p>Press Releases: http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/local-news/36565-eala-now-moves-to-create-presence-with-local-communities</p>	<p>EACSOE is in the process of introducing proposal to EALA for mutual agreement, formal launch and utilization - introductory letters and appointments with the speaker have already been initiated by EACSOE.</p>
<p>2. Social and Economic Justice</p>	<p>Zinduka Festival</p>	<p>The festival offers East African Citizens from all diversities an opportunity to share experiences, successes and challenges in the process of East African integration and Pan Africanism. EACSOE played a Key role in coordination by interlinking CSOs with EAC Delegation.</p>
	<p>UNECA Conference - Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of</p>	<p>A report on 'National Champions, Foreign Direct</p>

	Congo.	Investment (FDI) and structural transformation in Eastern Africa’.
	EAC Conference on Persons With Disabilities – Nairobi, Kenya.	<i>Concerns for Persons with Disabilities to be mainstreamed in the EAC integration agenda</i>
	Advocacy campaign for Human Rights Defenders in Burundi Read Campaign at: http://eacsof.net/press-releases.html	Massive advocacy for the release of Burundi human rights defender Pierre Claver Mbonimpa
3. Mainstreaming Science and Technology	Campaigns to sensitize on Ebola outbreak in west Africa	Development of a communiqué on Ebola. The Communiqué can be accessed at : http://eacsof.net/health.html
	Draft EAC 2 nd HIV and AIDS, TB and STIs Strategic Plan 2015-2020	EACSOE members with lead from EANNASO are part of the process of development of the EAC 2 nd HIV and AIDS, TB and STIs strategic plan 2015-2020.
	EACSOE and EAHP announced the beginning of a project “Towards Rights based Maternal Health in East Africa	Development of a comprehensive a rights based integrated EAC maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health policy 2015-2025 and strategy 2015-2020.
	Strategy Meeting on the HIV Control & Management Bill 2012.	EALA passed the HIV control and management Bill in 2012 however long time partners on pushing the

		<p>Bill, EACSO, EANNASO, EAHP and EAL agreed to make follow up as to why the Bill has not been assented to by Rwanda and Tanzania</p>
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EACSOFF SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

The following are EACSOFF Key Successes:

1. EACSOFF E-Newsletter produced every quarter
<http://eacsof.net/newsletters.html>
2. Re-designed EACSOFF website and more flow of communications to our stakeholders. Noteworthy is that EACSOFF website has attracted 10,797 web visitors of which 8,075 are unique visitors. In the year 2013 and 2012 EACSOFF website attracted a total of 5,472, 3,129 website visitors respectively. Increased EACSOFF e- news and press releases mailing list subscribers summing to 5,259 recipients in 2014
3. An increasing number of inquiries from out of continent organizations desirous of joining or partnering with the EACSOFF family, which is expected to lead to expanded membership in the course of 2014.
4. Increased EACSOFF Brand visibility, increased media coverage about EACSOFF, Increased EACSOFF recognition by the EAC Secretariat, Organs, Institutions and United Nations.
5. EACSOFF has over 60 active members following an increase of 19 membership inquires in 2013 and 5 new members in 2014. Some 59 EACSOFF members are umbrella organizations of over 500 CSOs who are also networked on EACSOFF mailing list of CSO subscribers.
6. EACSOFF received a new Volunteer to aid in communication and administrative work with support from GIZ.

CHALLENGES

1. Funding constraints continued to impede the institutionalization and implementation of EACSOFF Programmes and activities for instance, producing and dissemination of publications, IEC materials and progressing with the computerized membership management system.
2. There is need of a consultant to come up with a Communication and Membership Recruitment Strategy and developing the Design Guide of EACSOFF brand to reinforce the internal and external communication efforts both at the Secretariat and the NFP.
3. There is need to come up with a management information system to keep the bulk records of membership details which include e-groups/forums, online

library and online membership application and invoicing system as the website space is small.

4. There is a need to purchase a mail server as the EACSOFF mailing list of over 5000 recipients is too bulky for the ISP.
5. There is a need to come up with a communication budget to cover cost of the press releases during EACSOFF events.
6. Registration of EACSOFF in Partner States: - The designated National Focal Points have not accomplished this important step
7. Delayed signing of MoU with the EAC Secretariat

RECOMMENDATIONS

Below recommendations taking cognizance of the challenges and successes by

EACSOE engagements in the EAC integration process, the envisaged role of the Civil Society Organizations in the process and commitment to a people-centered and participatory EAC.

Organizational Development Strategies

Clarifying EACSOE Institutional Arrangement with the EAC:

- Work closely with the EAC Secretariat and Partner States; connect national focal points and grassroots civil society organizations to EAC structures;

EACSOE to Continue Strengthening Connections with Partner States, members and other Stakeholders by

- Identify and Strengthen National Focal Points;

EACSOE to continue enhancing Governance, Policies and Strategy through

- Review the original EACSOE constitution to allow development of a new constitution that reflects EACSOE current mandate of engagement from local to national, regional and continental levels. This will also strengthen the organs of the Forum for effective engagement with the EAC, Partner States and other stakeholders at all levels.

EACSOE to Continue Streamlining Structures, Systems, Staffing

- Establish thematic clusters and organise Thematic Committees for meaningful engagement with the EAC, Partner States and other stakeholders
- Coordinate EACSOE Planning and Reporting – Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly and Annually

EACSOE to Facilitate Human Resource Management / Development

- Operationalise the newly adopted HR Policy - Addressing gaps in staff contracts, Seek volunteers (in Communication, Policy Research and Advocacy / OD-ID/ Finance Management – Resource Mobilization)
- Implement a programme of capacity building and institutional strengthening in the following 5 areas: Strategic Thinking and Planning; Applied Research and Action; Finance and Administration; Communication and Media Relations;

Enhancing Resource Mobilization /Financial Resource Management

- Strengthen partnership with TMEA, GiZ , SIDA, WFD Commonwealth Foundation and KEPA Finland focusing on support to EACSOE Institutional development, and also seek out new partnerships aligning themselves with EACSOE scope of activities.

Providing Accountability

- Conduct EACSOE Annual Performance Review and Evaluation, Continue to undertake Annual External Audit, Publish Annual Progress Reports and Continue to Conduct Annual CSO Conference and General Meeting (AGM)

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

In the period of 2012-2014 EACSOE attracted funding and technical support from different development partners. EACSOE and its partner branches would like to extend their appreciation to development partners for their tremendous support in achieving EACSOE vision and mission. Development partners guidance and facilitation of EACSOE activities has been beyond the call of duty, EACSOE would like to appreciate the guidance and facilitation provided by the development partners without whose support EACSOE would not have come to such a sensible and successful conclusion of its annual activities.

Trademark East Africa (TMEA) Project

Trademark East Africa (TMEA) is a multi-donor funded organization which works closely with the East African Community (EAC), national governments, business and civil society organizations to promote regional trade and economic integration in East Africa.

GIZ

German development cooperation has made substantial contributions to the integration process in East Africa, in accordance with the German Government's Africa Strategy. GIZ has worked with EACSOE in improving dialogue between the EAC Secretariat and private sector/civil society organizations.

KEPA

The Finnish NGO Platform (KEPA) is the umbrella organization for Finnish civil society organizations (CSOs) who work with development cooperation or are otherwise interested in global affairs. At the moment KEPA has more than 300 member organizations, ranging from small voluntary-based organizations to major

national organizations. KEPA monitors and promotes the state of civil society in East African Community (EAC) partner states through a partnership with [East African Civil Society Organizations' Forum \(EACSOE\)](#) on an assessment of the legal and policy framework for civil society enabling factors and constraints in the five East African Community member states.

WFD

WFD as UK based Organization and supports institutions that work in democracy like parliaments and CSOs. Currently, WFD is working with EACSOE to make the EALA more consultative.

Commonwealth Foundation

The Commonwealth Foundation is a development organization with an international remit and reach, uniquely situated at the interface between government and civil society. CF aims in developing the capacity of civil society to act together and learn from each other to engage with the institutions that shape people's lives. The Commonwealth Foundation is supporting the institutional strengthening of EACSOE and working with it to develop an East Africa regional agenda for action at the EAC.

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

SIDA works according to directives of the Swedish Parliament and Government to reduce poverty in the world. The overall goal of Swedish development cooperation is to contribute to making it possible for poor people to improve their living conditions. EACSOE has been exploring on potential partnership with SIDA in popularizing EAC integration Benefits and Opportunities to citizens.