# FORUMCIV.

Power to change



# **Annual Report 2024**

Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa



ForumCiv Annual Report 2024 Editor: Abdullatif Omar

Cover Image: Charles Kariuki a.k.a Chaleslim Layout & Design: Samuel Wagura, Break Concepts
Photos & Illustrations: ForumCiv, Freepik, Pixabay, The Noun Project

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### The year at a glance



**200.1M** 

**Subgrating** amount (KES)



New youth fellowship programmes



(182 F, 148 M)

**Number of partners trained** 



**Number of** participants at events





**Contribution to** research and academic work



**Awards** received



#### #EndFemicide

In 2024, Kenya witnessed a powerful and urgent movement against gender-based violence under the banner of #EndFemicide. This movement was a response to the alarming increase in femicide cases, where women were brutally murdered in acts of gender-based violence. According to Amnesty International, 170 women were murdered in 2024, nearly double the number from the previous year. Civil society organizations, activists, and concerned citizens mobilized across the country, demanding justice for victims, stronger legal protections, and government accountability in addressing systemic gender-based violence. The protests, which took place in major cities such as Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, and Nakuru amplified the voices of survivors and families of victims. calling for immediate policy action, improved law enforcement responses, and a cultural shift to end impunity for perpetrators.

At ForumCiv, our core mission is to empower communities, challenge inequitable power structures, and promote democracy, human rights, and gender equality. We believe in a society where all individuals, regardless of gender, can live free from violence and discrimination. The youth-driven #EndFemicide movement exposed

### 2024 in review

the deep-seated gender injustices in Kenya, reinforcing the urgent need for stronger civic engagement, protection of fundamental freedoms, and support for feminist and human rights defenders—all of which are integral to ForumCiv's strategic priorities.

Our commitment to strengthening the creative sector and media as drivers of social change was also evident in this movement. Artists, journalists, and digital activists played a key role in documenting stories, raising awareness, and mobilizing the public through art, music, and social media. This intersection between activism and creative expression reflects the essence of our Artivism Fellowship Program, which aims to amplify marginalized voices advocating for democracy and human rights.

#### The GEN Zs at the frontline

There is a growing political consciousness among younger generations, especially the GEN Zs. The Generation Z or GEN Zs are people born between 1996 and 2010. This group has leveraged social media effectively to mobilize support and articulate their concerns regarding the proposed Finance Bill 2024. GEN Z's activism reflects a desire for transparency, accountability, and equitable economic opportunities.

Their engagement signifies a shift in political dynamics in Kenya, as younger voices assert their influence and demand consideration in policymaking. This movement also highlights the importance of digital platforms in contemporary activism, allowing for rapid dissemination of information and the ability to unite diverse voices around a common cause.

Despite its impact, the movement came at a steep price. Protesters faced violent crackdowns, with reports of fatalities due to excessive use of force by the police. Arbitrary arrests, disappearances, and injuries further underscored the risks faced by those on the frontlines. Independent media houses and civil society organizations that amplified the movement's message were targeted. Journalists faced intimidation, arrests, and censorship, while online platforms saw increased gov-

ernment surveillance and content takedowns. Some organizations advocating for human rights and democratic freedoms encountered legal and financial restrictions aimed at stifling their operations.

As ForumCiv ESA, we recognize young people as a key driver of democratic transformation. We remain committed to collaborating with young activists, supporting their creative resistance, and providing the necessary platforms to ensure their voices shape Kenya's democratic future.

### Shifting donor priorities in 2024 and beyond

In 2024, we have observed significant shifts in donor priorities, driven by global economic uncertainties, geopolitical tensions, and evolving development agendas. Many donors have tightened their budgets due to inflationary pressures and economic slowdowns, leading to increased scrutiny on funding allocations. There is a growing preference for direct impact interventions, climate resilience, trade, and humanitarian response, often at the expense of governance, democracy, and human rights programming.

For ForumCiv ESA, these shifts present both challenges and opportunities. Reduced funding for democracy and human rights initiatives threatens our ability to sustain long-term advocacy and civic engagement programmes. Many of our partners working to protect democratic space, amplify marginalized voices, and foster accountability could face funding constraints, impacting their ability to implement impactful initiatives. Additionally, the rise of donor-driven, short-term projects rather than flexible, long-term funding models may hinder the sustainability of grassroots movements.

On the other hand, the increased focus on climate justice and resilience aligns with ForumCiv's priorities. We must strategically position ourselves to integrate climate justice within our governance and human rights programming, ensuring that marginalized communities benefit from climate financing while maintaining democratic participation. This also presents an opportunity to strength-

en cross- cutting work, particularly linking democracy, human rights, gender equality, and environmental advocacy.

Moreover, the shift by multilateral funders to prioritize trade reflects a broader global trend toward market-driven development strategies. This transition can have significant implications, both positive and negative, particularly for civil society, human rights, and sustainable development.

Moving forward, it is critical that we adapt by diversifying funding sources, exploring new partnerships with progressive donors, and advocating for the continued relevance of democracy and human rights within development aid. We must also strengthen our impact storytelling, demonstrating the tangible results of our interventions to maintain donor confidence and secure sustained funding. The evolving donor landscape calls for agility, innovation, and a reinforced commitment to empowering communities to shape democratic and equitable power structures in Eastern and Southern Africa.

#### Thank you for your support in 2024

To our friends, partners, and donors; including the Embassy of Sweden, Ford Foundation, Hewlett Foundation, and the European Union, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your invaluable support throughout 2024. Your partnership has been instrumental in driving forward our mission to empower communities, strengthen democratic values, and promote human rights and social justice across the region.

As we look ahead to 2025, we remain dedicated to advancing our shared vision of a more just, democratic, and inclusive society. We deeply appreciate your trust and collaboration and look forward to continuing this journey together.

Thank you once again for being a crucial part of this transformative work.

#### **Jackson Obare**

Regional Manager Eastern & Southern Africa

### **Empowering the next** generation of leaders

Kenya's demographic landscape is notably youthful. As of the 2019 Population and Housing Census, approximately 75% of the nation's 47.6 million people were under the age of 35. Specifically, individuals aged 18 to 34 constituted about 29% of the total population. \*

\*Source: https://citizen.digital/news/out-of-47-6million-kenyans-35-7-million-are-under-the-age-of-35-323822/?utm\_source=chatgpt.com%22%20%5Ct%20 %22\_blank

Despite this significant representation, youth involvement in leadership and governance remains limited. In the 2022 general elections, the youth accounted for only about 40% of newly registered voters. This disparity highlights the underrepresentation of young people in political processes.

The International Day of Democracy in 2023 was dedicated to empowering the next generation by focusing on young people's essential role in advancing democracy and ensuring that their voices are included in decision-making. As the current and future custodians of democracy, ForumCiv ESA took up the challenge to nature enthusiastic young changemakers through a youth leadership programme.

In 2024, ForumCiv, together with Strathmore Business School, curated and implemented the NextGen Leaders Fellowship, which aimed to support ambitious young individuals in developing essential leadership skills, gaining practical experience, networking with experienced cross-sector leaders, and igniting positive change in their communities.

Through a combination of workshops, mentorship, and field visits,18 (9 female and 9 male) enthusiastic young leaders from across Kenya completed the first module of this pilot programme. The next module will see them take up real-world community projects that will elevate their confidence, integrity, and unlock their full potential to lead with purpose and impact.

75% of the nation's 47.6 million people are under the age of 35.







### **Promoting artivism for societal** change in Tanzania and Kenya

Artivism is the use of creative expressions to cultivate awareness and social change. Arts and culture are powerful drivers for development with social, economic, and environmental impacts in communities. Music, photography, poetry, graffiti, and literature are some powerful cultural expressions that can contribute to the struggle for democracy and human rights.

In 2024, ForumCiv ESA supported 28 (10 female, 18 male) talented artists from Kenya and Tanzania through the Artivism Fellowship. The fellowship aimed to promote democratic values, human rights, and fundamental freedoms through various forms of art.

After extensive sessions of training, mentorship, and collaborative projects, ten artivists graduated from the cohort in Kenya and eight from the cohort in Tanzania. The sessions were geared towards deepening democracy, influencing good governance, and advocating for gender equality and climate justice. The artivists are now better placed to articulate societal issues, network with other creative sector actors, and earn a living from their craft.

#### Meet the cohort II of the artivism fellowship in Kenya:

#### **Aponditheepoet** (Poet, artivist)

The fellowship has really been impactful, I have connected with fellow activists, I have learned various means of communicating activism. I also learned how to perform differently. One thing that stood out for me is the history or artivism and how our struggles are connected.





#### **Brian Silwe Omondi a.k.a** Silweyz/Avangi

(Writer, recording and performing urban spoken word artist)

The fellowship taught me about intellectual property, how you should copyright your art, how you should register, what to do in case someone uses your materials without your consent. These are things that artists in the marginalized communities, we did not know.

#### **Cricket Writes**

(Writer, spoken word artist)

The fellowship has had a huge impact and improvement on my performance, I never used to perform with a band, but now I can do this.



#### Charles Kariuki a.k.a Chaleslim

(Artivist, community organiser, TV/Radio producer and a presenter)

The one thing I have learned from Mwalimu Gregg Mwendwa is the methodology he uses in teaching us. It is not from a point of authority, but he comes down to our level and also learns from us.



#### Denzel Juma (Visual artist)

I have learned how to package myself as an artist and how to use my creativity to tell stories to inspire and to create action. And also, learning from different types of art like poetry, music, and rap. As an artist I now have the confidence to do advocacy work in my community.

#### **Dorcas Makena**

(Actress, poet, filmmaker)

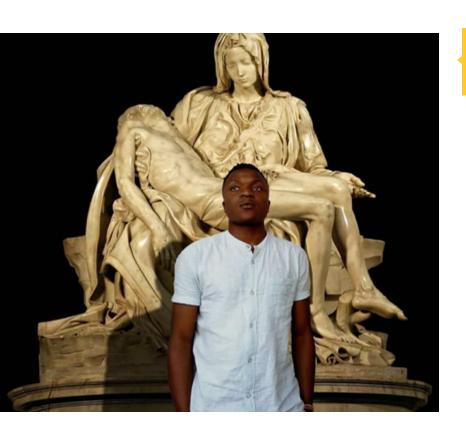
Kids experience trauma that not spoken about that later affects them in their adulthood. This fellowship has helped me to speak up so that parents know what they do can affect their kids later in life.



#### **Felicity Mudis**

(Spoken word artist, fashion designer,

It has been amazing. I have had such a great time learning, networking with different people, with different artists. I am so excited for the opportunity that I got.



#### **Eric Muhandia**

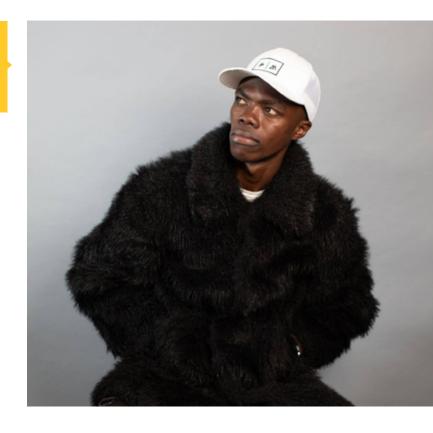
(Visual artist, socio-political commentator, and Illustrator)

I have interacted with amazing people and good help from the amazing mentors who have guided us every step of the way.

#### Harrison Ouma a.k.a Kgz Heavyweight

(Rapper, hip-hop artist and spoken-word artist)

I would like to recommend ForumCiv to keep on sponsoring such activities to enhance and boost our capacity in inspiring generation and generation for a good cause.





Jacque Njeri

(Award-winning graphic designer and multi-disciplinary artist)

The fellowship has greatly impacted my drive and passion to create more because of interacting with fellows who are very authentic in their ideas, ideas about how they want to change their direct environment. I have also learned about new technologies that can elevate my work and make it more immersive.

#### **Joy Loice Wanga**

(A multidisciplinary artivist and entrepreneur)

This programme has been such an amazing opportunity for me because I am learning not to just hone my skills as an artist, but also leadership skills, financial skills, and these skills are very important in the work that I do. Now I have the information and knowledge aside from the talent.



#### Juliet Muiruri a.k.a Koi

(Filmmaker, artivist, dancer)

As a filmmaker, incorporating water colour paintings on canvas as part of my exhibition was a skill that I learned from interacting with actual painters and mural artists during the residency phase of this fellowship.



#### Meshack Sisenda a.k.a Mesh Holykid

(Musician, performing arts, artivist)

This fellowship has been beneficial to me as an artist with albinism. It has helped me to better use my talent to advocate and to create awareness about persons with disability.

#### Mika Obanda

(A multidisciplinary visual artist)

In the fellowship I have learned a lot of things like how to navigate activism and how to address issues not only in a direct way but also in a soft manner, soft activism.





#### Mutua Arts (Visual artist)

I have learned about cybersecurity; I had a lot of gaps in this area. I got the opportunity to learn how to protect my personal and professional life. I also learned of better ways to push my artivism to a wider audience.



#### Monaja

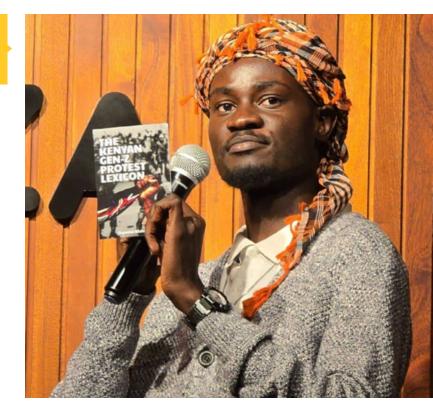
(A recording and performing artist)

The bonfire sessions have been as intense as it can be, they have been evocative. We had the opportunities to tell our stories and listen to the stories of others. The bonfire sessions have been eye-opening.

#### **Oyamo Richard**

(Writer, poet, editor, artivist and a teaching artist)

Throughout the entire fellowship I have picked a number of things. Number one is learning to tell your story as a person and number two is learning to collaborate with others. I have made good networks from the fellowship.





#### Palma Wa Vasho

(Performing & recording poet, influencer and human rights defender)

I want to thank ForumCiv for this opportunity because I believe that this fellowship will take me places and I will continue to advocate for social issues through spoken word.

#### **Ummulkheir Ahmed Shalle**

(Visual artist, artivist)

Coming from a marginalized community in Garissa County in the northern part of Kenya, I feel privileged to have taken part in the fellowship. My takeaway going back home is being inspired by other artivists from the other counties to use my art as an advocacy tool, and the aspect of inclusivity and diversity.



#### **Wangui Kimani**

(Award-winning poet, model, and cofounder of Female Poets Kenya)

One thing that we were taught is that people have different ideas and people do not have to agree with you as a person. So, it is best to evaluate all the ideas and come to a consensus. It has been an amazing experience.





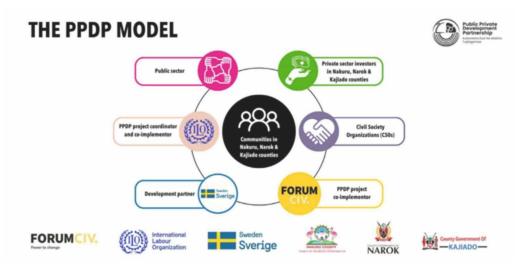
### 6 years of collaboration for economic empowerment and improved community participation

Community engagement within large private and public sector-driven investments remains a considerable challenge, particularly in how economic benefits can transcend indigenous communities often affected by such industries' establishment. The successful completion of phase 1 of the Inclusive Growth Project in 2024 marks six years of innovation and collaboration among public, private, civil society, and academic sectors to address poverty-linked development challenges. Implemented in partnership with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and supported by 70% catalytic funding from Sida, the project has demonstrated the power of multi-stakeholder engagement in driving sustainable and inclusive growth.

Through a Rights-Based Approach (RBA), the project fostered economic empowerment, improved community participation,

and strengthened social service delivery. Some key achievements include quality vocational training for 1,931 women and youth (997 men, 934 women), 875 new enterprises established, and increased community advocacy for access to public and social services.

The Public-Private Development Partnership (PPDP) model was also developed. This model leverages public-private partnerships to align skills training with industry needs, support enterprise development for long-term economic impact, and integrate community-driven advocacy for improved service delivery. This approach has proven that applying HRBA principles within multi-sector partnerships leads to sustainable and inclusive development outcomes.







### Public policy, the oil that drives the engine of development

In August 2023, ForumCiv partnered with the National Council for Law Reporting (Kenya Law) to undertake a study to assess capacity gaps in the public policy formulation process in Nakuru, Narok, and Kajiado counties. The study focused on education, water and environment, health, HIV/AIDS and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), gender and persons with disabilities, and public participation.

#### The key findings include:



1. There is a disconnect between policies and legislative frameworks in education, water and environment, health, HIV/AIDS and sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), gender and persons with disabilities, and public participation. Whereas most counties have enacted laws within the above thematic areas, policies needed to underpin them.



2. Inadequate or lack of information and poor communication about public participation forums hinder the participation of the community and CSOs in public participation to a large extent. Local administration communication channels for policy processes and public participation are more effective across the three counties.



3. Technical officers, who include directors, county executive committee members (CECMs), and county chief officers, need more training and capacity building in public policy-making processes.



4. Financial constraints and a lack of technical expertise in policy formulation were significant barriers across the three counties. Technical expertise refers to the skills required in policy formulation, including problem analysis and assessment, data analysis and research, stakeholder engagement and consultation, policy drafting and impact assessment and evalua-

#### **Recommendations and call to action:**



1. The various stakeholders need tailor-made and continuous training on the policy formulation process. This would encourage the community members to participate as they would do so from an informed position. This would also encourage the community to feel a sense of ownership of the resultant policies, having been equipped with the right tools. This will also improve the technical staff skills from intermediate to at least proficient.



2. The policy review process within the counties needs to be standardized. Further, the respective counties should significantly carry out civic education on policy formulation to enhance public awareness and ownership.



3. Existing policies need to be reviewed regularly. With the

government and priorities due to social, economic, and political circumstances, regular review of policies is essential to address various developmental issues. The counties should develop guidelines on how policies can be reviewed and how often they should be reviewed.



4. The respective county governments should enhance public participation in policy formulation. Through a partnership between governments, non-state actors, and development partners, the capacity to facilitate public participation should be enhanced at both levels of government.



5. Effective feedback mechanisms must be formulated to encourage the

community to participate, where their views are considered, feedback is given, and an action plan is implemented. Finally, public participation requires adequate citizen awareness. The three counties should initiate and sustain a comprehensive and adequately funded civic education over time.



6. Establishing county legal resource centres is necessary. In addition to using local leadership as the main information source to increase public participation awareness, county resource centres can potentially make policies more accessible, retrievable, and easily stored.



7. Law revision training is needed for County Attorneys. This training would assist the county technical officers (Office of the County Attorney) in updating, consolidating, and enhancing the accessibility of legal information, especially existing legislation on thematic areas.

### The role of global south intermediaries in today's funding ecosystem

In November 2024, The Trust, Accountability, and Inclusion Collaborative (TAI) released a comprehensive analysis by consultant Paula Castell Carrión, highlighting the significant potential of Global South Intermediary Organizations (GSIs) to drive locally led solutions.

As Global North donors seek to increase funding to frontline groups, movements, and activists in Global South contexts, GSIs emerge as strategic partners in localization programming. These organizations possess deep contextual knowledge and established networks that can help bridge the gap between international funders and local implementers. Their potential extends beyond simple fund management to include capacity building, strategic guidance, and advocacy for local priorities in grantmaking decisions. There is a growing number of GSIs fulfilling these roles, who have a track record to deliver governance-related funding to the grassroots.

ForumCiv ESA was identified as one of the six carefully selected organizations to participate in the study by featuring our diverse approaches, strategic interventions, and the effectiveness of our intermediary model as a case study.

Read more about the report from TAI here: <a href="https://api.transparency-initiative.org/uploads/">https://api.transparency-initiative.org/uploads/</a> FORUMCIV 3 6431973cf7.pdf



### Our events in 2024

A summary of our networking, advocacy, and capacity exchange activities in 2024







March

**International Women's Day** Theme: "Invest in Women: **Accelerate Progress**" #InspireInclusion Location: Nairobi County,

> Number of people impacted





April 23rd- 25th, 2024 **Training workshop on** Location: Nairobi County, Kenya.

> Number of people impacted





May 20th to 24th, 2024 Workshop on the customization

of the Nakuru County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) Location: Nakuru County, Kenya.

> 40 Number of people impacted



May 21st and 22nd, 2024

Training workshop on monitoring, evaluation and learning

Location: Nairobi County, Kenya. 23

Number of people impacted



Location: Isiolo County, Kenya.

300

Number of people impacted

June 5th, 2024

Artivism Fellowship Launch- Tanzania Location: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

50

Number of people impacted



Jumuika Sikika Mtaani Zanzibar Location: Zanzibar, Tanzania.

200 Number of people impacted



July 24th, 2024 CEO's forum

Location: Nairobi County, Kenya.

50

Number of people impacted

SASA programme review

ocation: Nairobi County, Kenya.

18 Number of people impacted



August 14th and 15th, 2024

Location: Nairobi County, Kenya.

46 Number of people impacted

















September 3rd, 2024

**Artivism Fellowship Launch- Kenya** Location: Machakos County, Kenya

70

Number of people impacted

September 16th, 2024

**International Day of Democracy** Theme: Use of Artificial Intelligence for Good Governance

Location: Nairobi County, Kenya

200

Number of people impacted

September 16th, 2024

**NextGen Leaders Fellowship launch** Location: Nairobi County, Kenya

18

Number of people impacted



Jumuika Sikika Mtaani Lake Basin

Location: Siaya County, Kenya.

290

Number of people impacted



October

October 9th, 2024

Africa CSOs pre-COP29 meeting Location: Nairobi County, Kenya

45 Number of people

impacted

October 21st to 23rd, 2024

**Bi-annual Development Research** Conference (DeVRes) Location: Lund, Sweden.

110

Number of people impacted



Jumuika Sikika Mtaani Wajir edition

Location: Wajir County, Kenya.

100 Number of people impacted







### Our awards in 2024

#### **Sustainability Leadership Award 2024**

In 2024, we were conferred the sustainability leadership award at the South Africa Leadership Awards 2024. The award symbolizes our commitment to sustainable development.





#### **Africa's Best Community Engagement Project 2024**

In 2024, the Inclusive Growth Project (PPDP) was recognized as Africa's Best Community Engagement Project for 2024 at the Renewable Energy Awards. This award acknowledges the project's innovative approach to combining vocational training, enterprise development, and community participation to drive sustainable impact.



### **Financial statements**

ForumCiv Kenya

Financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Financial statements Statement of income and expenditure							
		Year ended 31 December					
	Notes	2024 KES	2023 KES				
Grant income	2	431,202,201	372,533,322				
Other income	3	7,886,298	6,422,528				
		439,088,499	378,955,850				
Personnel costs	4	98,331,726	93,445,532				
Operational costs	5	108,643,835	80,457,632				
Office costs	6	31,973,494	31,839,973				
Sub granting	7	200,139,444	173,212,713				
		439,088,499	378,955,850				
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year		-	-				

ForumCiv Kenya

Financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of financial position							
		At 31 December					
	Notes	2024 KES	2023 KES				
Current assets							
Receivables	8	2,146,800	2,150,850				
Prepayments	9	6,766,679	5,885,072				
Cash and cash equivalents	10	50,283,663	80,005,261				
Total Assets		59,197,142	88,041,183				
Current liabilities							
Intercompany liability	11	48,443,684	80,750,263				
Accruals and other payables	12	10,753,458	7,290,920				
Total liabilities		59,197,142	88,041,183				

ForumCiv Kenya

Financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Cashflows						
		Year ended 31 December				
	Notes	2024 KES	2024 KES			
Cash flows from operating activities						
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		-	-			
Non-cash adjustments:		-	-			
Depreciation on property and equipment		-	-			
Changes in working capital:						
Decrease in other receivables		4,050	115,950			
Increase in prepayments		(881,607)	(1,048,632)			
Decrease in intercompany payable, accruals and other payables		(28,844,041)	(6,382,237)			
Net cash used in operating activities		(29,721,598)	(7,314,919)			
Cash flows from investing activities		-	-			
Movement in cash and cash equivalents						
At start of year		80,005,261	87,320,180			
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents		(29,721,598)	(7,314,919)			
At end of year	11	50,283,663	80,005,261			





### Strategic allies and partners

#### **Funding partners**

- Embassy of Sweden
- European Union
- Hewlett Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- International Labour Organization (ILO)











# Implementing partners

Action Network for the Disabled (ANDY) • Africa Uncensored • African Social Development Focus (ASDEF) • Afyafrica • Akili Dada • Androse Disability Organization Tanzania (ADOT) • Association of NGOs of Zanzibar (ANGOZA) • Badili Africa • Brave Media • Buni Media • Creative Spills • Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) • Coalition for Grassroot Human Rights Defenders (CGHRD) • Collaboration for Women in Development (CWID) • Dandelion Africa • Disability Resource and Information Centre (DRIC) • Environmental, Human Rights Care & Gender Organisation (ENVIROCARE) • Ewang'an Olosho Suswa CBO • Githurai Social Justice Centre (GSJC) • HAKI Africa • Horn of Africa in Development (HODI) • Initiatives for Progressive Change (IfPC) • Indigenous Resource Management Organisation (IREMO) • Isiolo Gender Watch • Kilifi Citizen Forum • Kwacha Africa • Manyatta Youth Entertainment CBO (MAYE) • Murwa Girl Child Education Programme • Mukuru Youth Initiative (MuYI) • Pawa254 • Rona Foundation • Saku Accountability Forum • Siasa Place • Sitarusha Mawe Tena • Talanta Africa • Tanzania Youth Vision Association (TYVA) • Twaweza Communications • Wajir Community Radio • Wajir Peace and Development Agency (WPDA) • Zanzibar Fighting Against Youth Challenges Organization (ZAFAYCO)



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