

Quarterly Newsletter

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**Towards effective
participation in
governance
processes**



FOREWORD

Dear reader,

Welcome to the first volume of the Uraia Trust Newsletter! This is Uraia Trusts' reflection on the first few months of the year 2024. We are filled with gratitude for your unwavering support and the fact that you have joined us.

This piece is instrumental in highlighting the work done through a multifaceted approach by the Uraia Trust secretariat in collaboration with the nationwide implementing partners. The support of our development partners; Care International Kenya and Canada, Global Affairs Canada, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark in Kenya, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kenya, Plan International, UN Women, UNDP Kenya, and the World Bank cannot be understated as it continues to empower us to make the needed difference in the lives of all the Kenyans we serve.

In this volume we are thrilled to share with you the remarkable progress and results obtained from the initiatives taken up by the organization. The content within this update is in line with the key outcomes of our Strategic Framework 2021-2025. The read is a journey that presents spectacular views of the landscape of our ongoing projects providing insights on positive sustainable change. Please receive our invitation to you to dive into the content and share your thoughts with us. Our continued preaching of the value and significance of public participation has taught us that your feedback and ideas are invaluable to the growth of the organization.

Even as we look forward to a future of continued collaboration with all Kenyans and our partners, we remain committed to advancing quality gender responsive civic education and engagement to create an informed and engaged citizenry. Additionally, we are keen on keeping the UTU discussions alive to ensure that we move forward from rights and responsibilities to UTU where human dignity and respect is at the proverbial driving seat of every aspect of our lives.

Happy reading and thank you for joining us!

Paul Wanderi
Director of Programs
Uraia Trust



Women leaders in the meeting. Credits: Uraia Trust

Outcome 1: An Effective Ecosystem for continuous quality civic education and engagement

Workshop for the Development of Joint Implementation Framework on Key Priority Electoral Reforms to Enhance Women's Participation In Electoral Processes.

This workshop that drew participation from various actors including those who are not part of the Uraia ecosystem led to the development of a framework on key priority electoral reforms to enhance women's participation in electoral processes. Through this successful activity the department was able to expand an ecosystem for quality gender responsive civic education. The growth is one that shall continue to catalyze a sustainable environment when it comes to Uraia's operations within the gender equality space.



Scenes from the PDF Festivals. Credits: Uraia Trust

The Peoples Dialogue Forum.

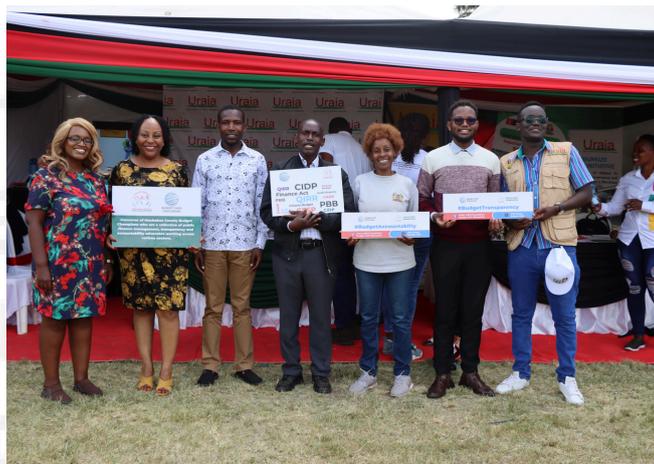
During this period, Uraia Trust was crucial in the co-creation a safe space to further the discourse on the place of democracy in our society and create a safe space for pertinent conversations with key actors in our democracy including the elected duty bearers at the PDF. The gender and inclusion department were able to steer a conversation during one of the dialogue sessions making emphasis on responsiveness at all levels of the government in Kenya. Through the PDF it was appreciated that increased responsiveness and accountability in Kenya's public spaces could be made better through such interactions and collaboration with different actors. The festival was also crucial in the creation of an effective ecosystem for continuous quality civic education and engagement which was brought by the interactions with new partners and individual in the equality, diversity, and inclusion space.

Three sessions were held during the in the festival including:

A civic education session on the Boundary Delimitation Process: The panel consisted of IEBC technical staff, election experts, and peace and cohesion practitioners, and delved into the complexities of the process as well as strategies for meaningful citizen participation and sustaining peace and cohesion throughout the process.

A session on Social Accountability, Money, and Politics: Uraia, in collaboration with Transparency International hosted a discussion on March 8, 2024, at the Political Dialogues Village to unpack best practices in social accountability work as well as emerging issues in the national and county fiscal spaces. The panelists will be selected from Uraia's national and county implementing partners.

An open forum the International Women's Day (IWD): Uraia hosted an open mic session at the Hekima Village on March 8, 2024, to commemorate this year's International Women's Day, themed "Inspire Inclusion." The session a temped at localising discussions surrounding this year's theme and facilitate the envisioning of a nation free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination.



The Uraia civic educators and staff members during the PDF festival. Credits: Uraia Trust



One of the plenary sessions during the PDF festival. Credits: Uraia Trust



Timothy Kimani (Njugush) during the PDF festival. Credits: Uraia Trust



Oliver Waindi and Patience Nyange during the PDF Festival. Credits: Uraia Trust



Dancers during the PDF Festival. Credits: Uraia Trust

Semi Annual Monitoring and Evaluation of Royal Norwegian Embassy consortium members; MWARP, FOLT, PAWA254 AND HAKI YETU under the Rights, Inclusion and Transparency for accountable Institutions (RITAI).

The training aimed to enhance results-based reporting as well as focus efforts on monitoring performance and long-term results and enhance peer to peer learning among the consortium members.



Outcome 2: Increased Responsiveness and accountability in public spaces

Kajiado County Gender Responsive Budgeting Workshop.

Uraia Trust's through the support of UN Women and Global affairs Canada under the project on expanding spaces for women's political participation convened key stakeholders in including the Kajiado County Departmental heads/representatives for meeting aimed at analysing the status quo and addressing gender-responsive budgeting and mainstreaming initiatives at the departmental levels within Kajiado County. The meeting had a focus on increasing awareness of gender-responsive budgeting among participants, developing strategies for mainstreaming gender initiatives within county departments and devising action plans to support women's advancement in both county and national governance.



A participant during Gender Responsive Workshop.

Credits: Uraia Trust



Helen Muchunu - Gender and Governance Program Analyst, UNWomen.

Credits: Uraia Trust

GENERATING EVIDENCE ON THE DEMAND SIDE OF SERVICE DELIVERY

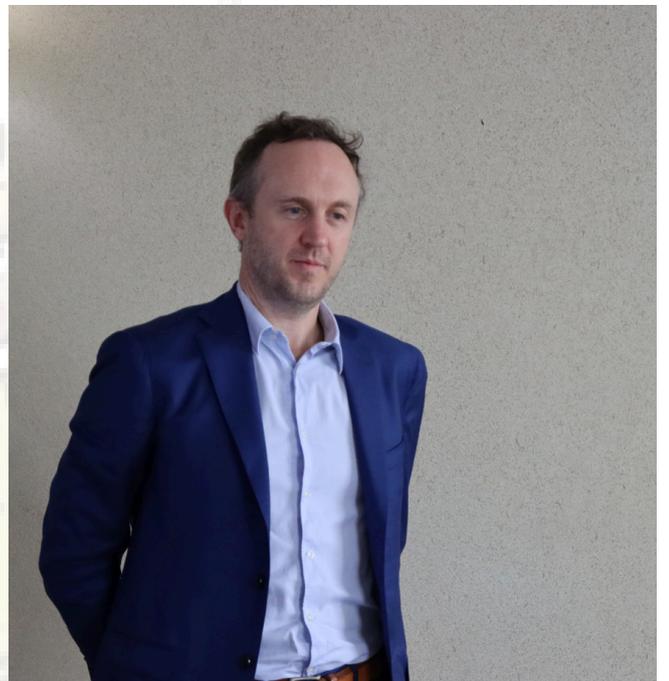
Uraia Trust is providing technical support to the World Bank to generate evidence on the demand side of service provision. Uraia Trust has so far hosted a convening in partnership with the World Bank and development partners supporting the Kenya Accountability Devolution Program (KADP) – funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and FCDO. It is part of an assessment that seeks to understand the extent to which citizens and users of services demand improvements in access and the quality of devolved and national services and how government institutions and service providers respond. So far, Uraia has convened ten round tables for Civil Society Organizations, Media, Urban Residents Associations, Public Finance and Budgeting, Persons with Disabilities, Social Media, and Judicial Actors. At County Level Uraia has convened forums for counties around Isiolo, Meru and Kisumu.



Bina Maseno-Executive Director, Badili Africa during one of the World Bank roundtable sessions.



Participants during the Media World Bank roundtable session.



***Samuel Clark
Local Governance and Community
Development Expert at the World Bank.***

Consultative Workshop with IEBC

Uraia supported IEBC in the development of the voter education strategy as well as the guidelines for the upcoming boundary delimitation process. Further, the Commission developed a public outreach strategy for the purpose of the second review of the delimitation of constituencies and wards under the Constitution of Kenya 2010 through this messages for civic education on boundary delimitation developed.



Marjan Hussein Marjan during the IEBC Workshop. Credits: Uraia Trust



Participants from the Special Interest Group Sector consultative forum with IEBC, Uraia Trust and UNDP.

Kajiado County Women Leaders Forum

The Kajiado County Women Leaders Forum served as an opportunity for women MCAs and leaders to discuss their lived experiences and realities in the county assembly, identify ongoing needs, and strategize for the forthcoming 2027 general elections in a bid to expand their space for participation in politics, leadership, and decision-making spaces. Additionally, the meeting was graced by the first lady of the county whose support to the women leadership at the county has been immense. This intervention was also supported by UN Women and Global Affairs Canada.



EliJohn Gitau distributing Civic Education Materials. Credits: Uraia Trust



Participants during Gender Responsive Workshop. Credits: Uraia Trust

International Women's Day

Uraia Trust, through its Gender and Inclusion department hosted a national dialogue forum on Women's issues during the PDF on the IWD to keep the discussions on women's inclusion alive.

One of the key realizations that contribute to Uraia's outcome on accountability from this intervention by the organization was the enhanced awareness on the need for electoral accountability by the electorate and the elected leaders especially on gender equality and inclusion.

The First Uraia National Women Leaders Convention.

Participants during the National Women Leaders Convention. Credits: Uraia Trust



The Gender & Inclusion department hosted its first National Women Leaders Convention bringing together elected and nominated women leaders from all the seven (7) UN Women focus counties and other players in the National Women Leadership and equality advocacy space for a two-day intense conference that curated a space for interactions, education, and networking for women leaders from the counties. This convention was hosted in Nairobi. During the conference significant issues were discussed including media and communication branding for the women leaders in preparation for the forthcoming general elections. Leveraging the women caucuses at



A participant during the National Women Leaders Convention. Credits: Uraia Trust

the county level to amplify the voices of the women leaders and their work was highlighted as a crucial means of ensuring women leaders climb through the political ladder. Other imperative issues that were bolstered included the role of public participation in pushing for gender inclusive developments at the county level and the position of the county assembly in delivery of services through a gender lens.

Training of trainers (TOT)- Capacity building 10 Nairobi youth from the informal settlements of Kibera, Mathare and Huruma on youth responsive social accountability (Participatory Budgeting Analysis, Social Audit, and Advocacy)

The training enhanced knowledge, skills, and abilities of the youth advocates on public budget advocacy.



Participants during the National Women Leaders Convention. Credits: Uraia Trust

COUNTY LEVEL CITIZEN ACCOUNTABILITY FORUMS

holding leaders accountable on service delivery and project implementation(Kagua Maendeleo) in Mombasa, Uasin Gishu, Nakuru and Kisumu, to provide a platform for both demand and supply sides of accountability to engage and dialogue on development in their respective counties.

This strengthened value driven partnerships between the two sides on issues of accountability and transparency and enhanced social accountability in the public spaces.



Outcome 3: Foundation for a national culture of UTU

Continued consensus building on UTU.

The UTU discussions were kept alive during the activities being directly implemented by Uraia Trust. The bid is to ensure that a national consensus on the culture of Utu is in place. The approach taken involved deliberations on the status quo of the Kenyan society on matters humanity and the possible mitigation measures that could be implemented to ensure that we achieve sobriety as a nation when it comes to prioritizing national and human values.

ENHANCING CITIZENS AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCEPTS OF UTU AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Uraia Trust has partnered with the Kenya National Music Festival to strengthen citizens' understanding and awareness on the concepts of Utu and the Sustainable development goals.

The strategy to work with the Kenya Music Festivals is informed by the need to impart values and a strong value system to children when they are still young. During this quarter Uraia Trust participated in the National Kenya Music Festivals adjudicators and trainers workshop at the Nakuru Girls High School in Nakuru County. The workshop brings together adjudicators and trainers for capacity building and harmonization of messages.

Uraia Trust was able to hold extensive discussions with over 700 adjudicators and trainers on what is expected in the two categories that Uraia is sponsoring. Uraia Categories at the Kenya National Music Festivals include:

- 1) Accelerating the implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development
- 2) Establishing national culture of utu.

A road map on developing a national consensus on UTU was established.



Helen Mudora during the Kenya Music Festival Trainers Workshop. Credits: Uraia Trust

Pictures



Pictures



Uraia

Kenya's National Civic Education Programme



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK**
Denmark in Kenya



THE WORLD BANK



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs



UN
DP



In partnership with
Canada

