

Uraia

Kenya's National Civic Education Programme



Quarterly

NEWSLETTER

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**Nurturing an Engaged, Empowered and
Values-Based Citizenry**

BECAUSE
KENYANS HAVE
RIGHTS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES



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FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the second volume of the Uraia Trust Newsletter! 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 its 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 - Kenya, 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 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

Overview of the Projects

Uraia Trust continues to implement its 2021-2025 strategic framework through the support of different partners namely Ministry of Foreign Affairs Denmark, World Bank, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Care, UN Women, Global Affairs Canada, Plan International and UNDP. Uraia Trust is currently implementing the following programs:

Strengthening Public Accountability and Responsiveness in Kenya (SPARKe) Programme

Women Voice and Leadership Programme (WVL)

Rights, Inclusion, and Transparency for Accountable Institutions Project (RITAI).

Demand Side of Delivery

Safe and Inclusive Cities

United Nations Development Program

Uraia Trust continues to appreciate the unwavering support from our development partners.

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

An effective ecosystem for continuous quality civic education and engagement. An effective ecosystem is one which is sustainable, adaptive, innovative. The aim here is to establish an ecosystem for continuous civic education and specifically one that keeps growing - beyond the provision of resources – and catalyses a sustainable environment for the delivery of civic education

Annual AJS Conference

Uraia Trust participated and gained insights into the functionality of the justice system to help deliver justice more effectively through alternative justice systems and to boost women engagement and their access to justice the conference was critical in influencing gender responsive programming.

Former Chief Justice Dr. Willy Mutunga during the AJS Conference
Photo credits Alternative Justice Systems in Kenya





*EliJohn Gitau and the Kericho County Governor H.E Dr. Erick Mutai during the Governors courtesy visit
Photo Credits Kericho County*

Courtesy Visit to Kericho County Officials - Governor

A courtesy visit was made to the County's Minister of Gender, Hon. Beatrice Kaptich, and the Governor, Hon. Dr. Mutai, to discuss project results and explore collaborative opportunities to advance gender equality. This visit aimed to expand Uraia Trust's ecosystem for quality gender-responsive civic education and engagement. This is in partnership with UN Women and Global Affairs Canada.

and wrote position papers to the county head for action. Training covered communication, lobbying, and gender-responsive features, especially in preparation for the county's financial year. Capacity building for women leaders and review of the status of the County's Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) Bill.

Kericho County Women Leaders Advocacy and Implementation of Gender-Responsive Policies Training

This follow-up activity aimed to reinforce previous project results by boosting the capacity of women leaders in the county. Women members of the county assembly identified issues affecting them



*EliJohn Gitau and the Kericho County Officials during the Governors courtesy visit
Photo Credits Kericho County*

Regional Roundtable forums on the Demand Side of Service delivery

Uraia convened three regional roundtable forums in the Frontier Counties Development Council, Mt Kenya and Aberdare's Region Economic Bloc, and the Lake Region Economic Bloc targeting actors in the demand side of service delivery. The roundtable forums were part of a qualitative study supported by the World Bank as part of the Kenya Accountable Devolution Program and will play a crucial role in shaping the World Bank's service delivery programs to strengthen demand side institutions.

*Participants from the demand side of
delivery round table*
Photo Credits Uraia Trust



Outcome 2: Increased responsiveness and accountability in Kenya's public spaces

In collaboration with the Msambweni Court Users Committee (CUCs), @fidakenya held a meeting that brought together 45 stakeholders from the Criminal Justice System. This collaborative effort, led by Hon. Joy Mutimba, a resident magistrate, allowed us to delve into the details of the upcoming @GIZ project in @OurKwaleCounty



SPARKe (Strengthening public accountability and responsiveness in Kenya)

Talanta Africa, KEWOPA, and FIDA Kenya continue to amplify and engage on equality, diversity, and inclusion nationwide.

CARE – Women Voice and Leadership Programme (WVL) Project

Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) under the WVL project continue implementing their interventions during the No-Cost Extension Period ending 31st July 2024 to influence gender-responsive programming and amplify the voices of women and girls. Interventions have focused on capacity building for women and institutions.

A notable initiative by Uraia Trust, sponsored by CARE International Kenya, CARE Canada, and Global Affairs Canada, is a series of capacity-building sessions by Eco Network Africa Fund (ENAF) under the Democracy Trust Fund. On 10th and 17th July 2024, ENAF hosted over 100 women for training to enhance their understanding of the electoral cycle and political party positioning, facilitated in part by the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties. Additionally, prospective women leaders were informed about existing factors and emerging legal issues, such as the new Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission Act and its implications for women's political participation in preparation for the upcoming general elections in Kenya.

Uraia conducted draft recommendations to different duty bearers to help ensure the spaces for women participation in leadership and decision making processes are expanded in Wajir and Homabay Counties.

Photo credits Uraia Trust



involving women in peace committees through deliberations on negotiated democracy and women's leadership.

Homa Bay Review and Drafting of SGBV Control and Management Bill

Recommendations were made to the County Attorney General, and the bill is set to be presented to the Homa Bay County Assembly. This effort addresses SGBV, a significant barrier to women's political and leadership pursuits, thus expanding the landscape for women's participation.

Embu peer to peer learning forum

The team hosted a peer-to-peer engagement forum, focusing on male engagement, and brought together community gatekeepers from all wards in Embu County. This forum facilitated candid discussions among men about the role of women in leadership, particularly within the county, with active participation from community gender champions.

Elders and morans committed to gender equality and expanded space for women's political participation,





Homa Bay Gender Champions Engagement on Gender-Responsive Budgeting

Gender champions committed to a roadmap for gender-responsive budgeting at the county level, aiming to expand spaces for women's participation in county financial and budgeting processes.

Kisii County CSOs and WRO Forum on Implementation of the 2/3 Gender Rule

A forum was held to discuss the implementation of the 2/3 gender rule in Kisii County, aiming to ensure compliance and expand women's political participation.

Wajir County Technical Working Group on Gender – meeting.

The group discussed contextual gender issues and analyzed the county's gender policies and legislations, providing recommendations to influence the county's operationalization and promote gender equality.

Kisii County Gender Champions Forum Male gender champions

Male gender champions and allies strategized to combat patriarchal barriers, educate on gender-responsive budgeting, and expand women's participation in the county.

Kisii County CSOs and WRO Forum on Implementation of the 2/3 Gender Rule

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Nicholas of Vihiga sub county traing for Kegemoli community groups on module Human rights

Pauline in Gem at Nyangweso mond kiye SHG discussion being constitution and constitutionalism



INCREASED RESPONSIVENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN PUBLIC SPACES (Trans Nzoia, Nyamira, Nairobi, Homabay, Machakos, Kericho, Bomet, Kakamega, Kiambu and Elgeyo Marakwet Counties)

Strengthened capacity, enhanced knowledge and skills on participatory budgeting, public expenditure tracking, monitoring public service delivery and evidence-based advocacy.

NATIONAL PARTNERS 2024 PROJECT INDUCTION (SPARKe)

To provide the participants with critical information on contracting obligations, including programmatic and financial reporting requirements.

Participants during the Pre awards workshop in 2024.



Training of trainers (TOT)- Youth Budget Champions (Kibera, Mathare and Huruma) on youth responsive social accountability.

Strengthened youth capacity and empowered them to participate effectively and meaningfully in public finance matters and influence governance decisions as well as advocate for transparency and equity in resource distribution. This was done through capacity building a pool of 20 youth budget champions, from Kisumu and Nairobi Counties, to enhance their knowledge on participatory budgeting, public expenditure tracking, monitoring public service delivery and evidence-based advocacy.

To this end the Nairobi youths TOTs analyzed the Nairobi budget Estimates 2024/2025 alongside Nairobi CIDP 2023-2027, CFSP 2024 and the ADP 2024/2025 and gave their submissions during the public participation in their respective sub counties- Mathare & Kibra.

COUNTY LEVEL CITIZEN ACCOUNTABILITY FORUMS (Holding leaders accountable on service delivery and project implementation-Kagua Maendeleo in Isiolo, Migori, Kakamega, Garissa, Nyeri and Nairobi Counties)

Actionable plans developed to be monitored by both citizens and County officials for sustainability and effectiveness.

Key Commitments made by County officials as deliverables-Governors Roundtable to address pressing service delivery issues

To strengthen value driven partnerships between the two sides on issues of accountability and transparency.
To enhance social accountability in the public spaces.

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END OF PROJECT REVIEW (Celebrating achievements, enhancing impact, and planning forward)

This was to review the overall performance and outcomes of the project, discuss the key milestones and deliverables, evaluate the effectiveness of our collaboration and communication, identify lessons learned and best practices as well gather feedback for future projects.

Actionable plans on RBM & communication for development reporting.

Enhanced knowledge on civic matters by citizenry as well as improved uptake of public participation by citizens due to intensified civic education efforts.

Enhanced responsiveness by duty bearers.

PROMOTING YOUTH WOMEN AND PWDS PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE PROCESSES AND MONITORING SERVICE DELIVERY

Enhanced knowledge on how SIGs especially youth, women and PwDs can fully and meaningfully participate in key governance processes.

Citizenry enhanced knowledge on the available platforms, tools and pathways that the youth and women can use to monitor and hold elected leaders accountable.

Youths and women enhanced knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values on public participation in governance and key decision making processes.

Enhanced knowledge on public finance, available tools & mechanisms to use to monitor public finance, track budget expenditure & implementation, present their issues or proposals to duty bearers as well as advocate for prudent use of resources, allocation and prioritization of their needs.

Capacity-strengthening training aimed at human rights defenders (HRDs) groups and networks focused on human rights advocacy strategies, legal frameworks, and communication techniques (Siaya and Kisumu Counties)

Strengthened capacity of HRDs (Human Rights Defenders) on human rights advocacy.

Enhanced skills and knowledge on Safety and Security in Human Rights Work training (security culture, personal security, psychological well-being, and digital security)

Regional Refresher Trainings for civic educators

In June 2024, Uraia conducted eight regional refresher sessions for its civic educators in preparation for the start of the 2024 initial civic education phase. These sessions enhanced the knowledge transfer skills of Uraia's civic educators on contemporary civic education issues and the reviewed civic education curriculum and training manuals.



Participants during the Pre awards workshop in 2024.



*Participants during the Civic Educators refresher trainings in Kisumu County .
Photo credits Uraia Trust*

Awareness on the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) Report

Strengthened capacity of HRDs (Human Rights Defenders) on human rights advocacy.

Enhanced skills and knowledge on Safety and Security in Human Rights Work training (security culture, personal security, psychological well-being, and digital security)

The 2024 Civic Education Phase

Uraia commenced its initial phase of civic education nationwide during the quarter, through its extensive network of more than 350 civic educators in all the 47 counties. The primary objective of this phase is to pilot the revised Uraia civic education curriculum and training manuals, as well as to support ongoing participation in planning and budgeting processes.

Celebrating Legendary Civic Educators

On the 30th of June, twenty-five individuals who have shown exceptional dedication to promoting civic education were recognized and honored in a special fete graced by the Uraia civic education county coordinators. The honoree's included Uraia civic educators who have served for more than a decade, as well as civic educators who integrated and championed specific thematic areas such as gender advocacy, children's and minority rights in their civic education work. Additionally, both current and former members of the secretariat responsible for managing civic education programs were recognized for their distinguished service in managing civic education work over the years.

Outcome 3: UTU

Entire quarter - Continued engagement

All these initiatives collectively contribute to the overarching goal of Uraia Trust and its donor by promoting the culture of UTU in Kenya.



Feature

Celebrating Joseph Kamonye Manje – A legendary Civic Educator



Figure 1: Joseph Manje receiving a token of appreciation from former Uraia Civic Education Manager Abuabakar Said and Chair of BOT Dr. Mshai Mwangola

Joseph Kamonye Manje, a seasoned civic educator with Uraia trust based in Ruiru Constituency, Kiambu County, envisions a future where citizens are fully engaged in governance processes. At seventy-three years, Joseph takes pride in his long-standing contribution to civic education in Kenya and enjoys every opportunity to interact with communities and help them understand the importance of using their voices and agency in decision making processes.

Joseph's passion for civic education began in the 1970s after he completed his studies at the University of Nairobi. Along with his colleagues, he was at the forefront in challenging the poor leadership practices in Kenya at that time. Joseph recalls how they undertook covert efforts to mobilize the public against the ruling class in a repressive political environment that stifled dissent. Their initial attempt at civic education involved publishing a series of information leaflets dubbed 'pambana' and distributing them secretly at night to raise awareness among the masses. Despite the challenges in obtaining resources for printing and distribution, Joseph and his group were committed to organizing cells of champions who used guided civic education messaging to enlighten citizen movements within the university and across Kenya.

In the 1980s, amid growing calls for change, particularly the push to repeal section 2A of the constitution that established Kenya as a single-party state, Joseph Kamonye Manje and his peers joined Muungano wa Wazalendo wa Kenya (Union of Patriotic Kenyans), also known as Mwakenya. Mwakenya was an outlawed underground movement known for creating publications that protested governance inefficiencies by the political regime at that time. The movement's members advocated for expanding democratic space in Kenya through public lectures and distributing leaflets such as Mpatanishi and Mzalendo. These materials provided civic education by explaining the group's views on the country's political issues; an approach that the ruling class branded as 'radical'. Joseph's involvement in the movement was a significant aspect of his lifelong commitment to promoting civic education and democratic values. He was later arrested and detained for possessing these leaflets, which were considered seditious by the authorities.

Feature

Celebrating Joseph Kamonye Manje – A legendary Civic Educator



Figure 2: Manje alongside Prof. Isaiah Ngoto and Prof. Maina Kiongo who were members of the then outlawed Mwakenya Movement

After serving a five-year term in Kibos Prison, Joseph Kamonye Manje returned home and resumed his teaching career before retiring in 1995. Following his retirement, he joined Release of Political Prisoners in Kenya (RPP), a 'solidarity organization' supporting individuals arrested, detained, or harassed for their political activities in Kenya. During this time, RPP members engaged with the National Civic Education Program (NCEP 1 & 2), which aimed to foster a mature political culture by making citizens more aware of their rights and responsibilities and encouraging their active participation in expanding democracy in Kenya. Joseph broadened his civic education efforts by becoming a community mobilizer and governance trainer for the NCEP traveling theatre. He was actively involved in the push for constitutional reforms and the demand for a new constitution, a dream that he proudly witnessed come to life with the promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya on August 27, 2010.

In 2015, Joseph Kamonye Manje was seconded to join the national network of civic educators through CRECO and was stationed in his home constituency of Ruiru in Kiambu County. After completing an induction training, he expressed his satisfaction with the structured and well-guided approach to civic education that had been adopted by Uraia through the civic education curriculum and the accompanying training manuals. Since his involvement, he has successfully trained over thirty groups and reached more than six thousand individuals within his constituency through the comprehensive six-week program and other opportunistic meetings. He is especially encouraged by the positive impact this initiative has had on service delivery, which has strengthened his commitment to expanding his outreach efforts. With the advent of devolution and a more decentralized governance model, Joseph finds renewed inspiration in the closer proximity of governance to the people. He believes this shift has made it easier for citizens to exercise their power and influence decisions affecting their governance. Joseph remains optimistic about the potential for continued engagement and the enhancement of democratic processes within his community.

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