

**Amkeni Wakenya**

**Civil Society Democratic Governance Facility**

**Quarterly Report for Q1**

**(1 January to 31 March 2015)**

**Project Context**

The inaugural phase of Amkeni Wakenya (Civil Society Democratic Governance Facility), which ran from 2008 to 2014, finally came to an end in December 2014. As part of the wider United Nations and UNDP transition to the 2014-2018 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the Kenya Country Programme Document (CPD) respectively, discussions had been initiated in early 2014 with Amkeni Wakenya’s stakeholders on the future of the Programme. These discussions were centered around whether or not the Programme was still relevant in the new CPD period and how best its objectives could be achieved.

Overall, there was consensus that Amkeni Wakenya was still relevant as a vehicle through which CSOs could be supported to influence/ contribute to the country’s governance and development agenda. Consequently, a new Project Document was developed through a consultative process that culminated in its adoption in a Local Appraisal Committee (LPAC) meeting in July 2014.

The first quarter of 2015 was, therefore, shaped by one thing: the need to ensure a smooth transition from one phase of Amkeni Wakenya to the next. Expectedly, the bulk of Quarter 1 activities were mainly about Phase 1 closure activities and Phase 2 launch.

This is the first quarterly report under Amkeni Wakenya’s new project phase (2015- 2018).

**Progress towards Results**

In 2015, Amkeni Wakenya focused on the following five (5) outcome areas:

1. Access to Justice and Realization of Human Rights
2. Promoting people-centered Devolution and Local Governance
3. Conducive regulatory framework for CSOs
4. Capacity of civil society to effectively respond to contemporary governance issues enhanced
5. Efficiency and effectiveness of Amkeni Wakenya to provide support to civil society organizations in the Democratic Governance sector in Kenya increased.

During this quarter, the project organized start up activities that involved:- Operationalization of an Advance Authorization, recruitment of key project staff; finalization of the work plan; and fine tuning of the project document. This quarter also oversaw the initiation of the final independent evaluation of Amkeni Wakenya Phase one project (2008 - 2014). During the quarter, the project also supported auditing of all the 276 grantees that have been supported from January 2012 through to June 2014.

**Project Beneficiaries**

Although the project did not have any direct beneficiaries, it supported CSO activities indirectly through various forums as stipulated below:

**Project Results**

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| **OUTCOME 1: Improved respect, enjoyment and promotion of access to justice, human rights and freedoms for Kenyans** | |
| **Output 1.1: Enhanced citizen awareness and engagement on human rights awareness using innovative CSO approaches** | |
| **Progress towards result:** |  |
| **Output 1.2: Enhanced Access to justice for the marginalized and vulnerable communities using innovative CSO approaches** | |
| **Progress towards result:** | The Alternative Justice Systems Policy development is being spearheaded by the Judiciary Training Institute (JTI). Amkeni facilitated CSO engagement in a workshop convened by the Kenya Chapter of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ Kenya) on 31st March 2015 and attended by over 20 CSOs to discuss CSO input and engagement around the policy process.  Amkeni is considering supporting regional and national level CSO consultations over draft policy proposals.  UN Day on Social Justice: On 20th March 2015, Amkeni Wakenya partnered with Akiba Uhaki Foundation to convene a public debate at the University of Nairobi’s Parklands Campus to commemorate the Day. The debate, whose focus was inequality and measures taken by the Government to address the growing inequality in Kenya, attracted over 100 students and members of the public. The panel comprised civil society, faith-based organizations and academics. Amkeni should consider supporting the UN Day for Social Justice as an annual event as it speaks to its human rights agenda. Public debates in universities should be promoted. |
| **Output 1.3: Enhanced CSO engagement with national level duty bearers on policy and legislative development as well as enforcement and monitoring of rights and freedoms** | |
| **Progress towards result:** |  |
| **OUTCOME 2: A rights- responsive devolved system of governance entrenched** | |
| **Output 2.1: Capacity of CSO to engage county governments & duty bearers on planning, budgeting, project management and service delivery using HRBA enhanced and applied** | |
| **Progress towards result:** |  |
| **Output 2.2: Rights responsive county public participation laws, framework and platforms established and institutionalized** | |
| **Progress towards Result** | **Supporting enforcement of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**: The project team participated in a round table session to explore the possibility of advocacy for enactment of law to ensure enforcement and monitoring of economic and social cultural rights (ESCRs) held at the Panafric Hotel-Nairobi on Thursday 5 February, 2015, with 25 other participants. The meeting was an initiative of Senator Hassan Omar and seeks to impose clear obligations on county and national governments over realization of ESCR through budgetary and development processes. As a follow-up on the round table discussions, Amkeni facilitated a technical session to discuss initial drafts of the ESCR Bill. This was held on 2nd March 2015 at Southern Sun Hotel-Nairobi with 10 people in attendance. Suggestions on improving the draft were discussed. A further meeting was scheduled for the 2nd week of April to discussed improvements made on the 1st draft |
| **Output 2.4: Innovative CSO partnerships with county and national institutions (involved in the devolved government reforms) in enhancing rights and freedoms** | |
| **Progress towards Result:** | **Participation at the 2nd National Devolution Conference**: Amkeni participated in the Conference that was convened by the Council of Governors (CoG) to reflect on the 2 years of implementation of devolution. It provided a good forum to network with CSOs and duty bearers - County government officials, senators and CoG members.  Partnerships with county governments over development of public participation frameworks and programmes are still necessary and should be pursed in the current programming phase of Amkeni Wakenya II. |
| **OUTCOME 3: Improved organizational performance, sustainability and enabling environment for CSOs in Kenya** | |
| **Output 3.1: Enabling policy and legal frameworks on civil society adopted and implemented with adequate PBOs participation** | |
| **Progress towards Result:** | **Facilitating CSO participation in PBO Taskforce hearings:** Amkeni mobilized its partners through the SRG to participate in the PBO Taskforce hearings in Meru, Kisumu and Kakamega where Amkeni Wakenya SRG members played key roles in building CSO positions and drafting of memoranda that were eventually presented to the Taskforce. |
| **Output 3.2**  **Capacity of PBO Authority to discharge its mandate to PBO sector enhanced** | |
| **Progress towards result:** |  |
| **Output 3.3 CSO/PBO self-regulation mechanisms established and supported** | |
| **Progress towards result:** |  |
| **Output 3.4 Critical capacities for organizational development, impact and sustainability among CSOs enhanced** | |
| **Progress towards result:** | **Enhancing organizational sustainability capacity of CSOs:** In conjunction with Ufadhili Trust, Kenya Community Development Trust and Aga Khan Foundation, Amkeni Wakenya organized a workshop of CSOs on the above subject. The CSOs were empowered with skills on how to develop their own sustainability strategies, underpinned by local resource mobilization and engagement in social enterprises. The workshop was held on 31st March 2015 at the Monarch Hotel in Nairobi and attracted 25 participants. It was funded by Kenya Community Development Trust Fund. This initiative will build up to the convening of a national conference on organizational sustainability for CSOs. |
| **OUTCOME 4: Effective Civil Society Response to contemporary Governance Issues** | |
| **Output4.1: Adequate integration of human rights principles in laws, frameworks and operations governing extractive industries with meaningful CSO participation.** | |
| **Progress towards result:** |  |
| **Output 4.2 Effective citizen participation in electoral processes and political accountability mechanisms using innovative CSO approaches** | |
| **Progress towards result:** |  |
| **Output 4.3 Integrity and political accountability addressed effectively** | |
| **Progress towards result:** |  |
| **Output 4.4 Internal M&E , reporting and knowledge management processes of Amkeni enhanced** | |
| **Progress towards result:** | At the request of the United Nations Democracy Fund, Amkeni Wakenya supported Milestone Verification of a Centre for Law and Research International (CLARION) activity- a training workshop for 60 elected and appointed county officials from five counties, namely, Makueni, Mombasa, Kwale, Siaya and Taita Taveta. The main outcome of this activity was increased knowledge base of the youth, county assembly and count civil servants, especially o issues revolving devolution.  The final project report to the European Union for Phase 1 was finalized.  The terms of reference for the baseline survey were finalized. However, recruitment of the consultants was not initiated due to lack of funds.  As part of ongoing implementation of previous audit recommendations, an M&E tracking and reporting system was designed and was undergoing further development and testing. The system will improve Amkeni Wakenya’s ability to generate monitoring plans, quarterly reports and will also aid in Value for Money (VfM) reporting. |
| **Output 4.5: Visibility and profile of Amkeni as critical actor in Democratic governance enhanced.** | |
| **Progress towards result:** |  |
| **OUTCOME 5: Efficiency and effectiveness of Amkeni Wakenya to provide support to civil society organizations in the Democratic Governance in Kenya enhanced.** | |
| **Output5.1: Adequate and professional human resources recruited and managed.** | |
| **Progress towards result:** | **Recruitment and induction of staff:** The following positions were filled during Quarter 1: Programme Manager, Capacity Building Specialist and M&E Specialist. Recruitments for other senior positions (i.e. Programme Specialist, Learning and Knowledge Management Specialist, Operations Manager & Finance Specialist, Procurement Specialist and Programme Finance Associate) were underway.  **Performance management:** UNDP Country office provided TRAC funds in the amount USD 100,000 for start-up activities. |
| **Output 5.2: Internal capacity of staff and governance structures of Amkeni enhanced** | |
| **Progress towards result:** | **Capacity development for staff- training, coaching, detailed assignment etc.:** The new Amkeni staff participated in the Kenya Country Office Staff retreat at the Great Rift Valley lodge in Naivasha where they were introduced to UNDP Kenya and joined other staff in reflections on Country Office priorities and programme delivery of eh entire country office |
| **Output 5.3: Internal governance processes of Amkeni supported** | |
| **Progress towards result:** | **Holding of Developing Partner meetings**: Amkeni Wakenya organized its first development partner’s meeting in March 2015 at the Southern Sun Hotel, Nairobi. The Royal Netherlands Embassy, the European Union Delegation in Kenya, Embassy of the Kingdom of Sweden and UNDP were represented. During this meeting, Amkeni Wakenya presented the annual work plan and budget which were both approved.  **Holding meetings with UNDP Senior Management:** Amkeni Wakenya staff held a meeting with UNDP Country Director, Deputy Country Director (P) and Deputy Country Director (O) in March 2015. During this meeting, resource mobilization was discussed as well as the project document and the annual work plan. It was also the first opportunity for the SMT to meet the newly recruited Amkeni Wakenya staff. |
| **Output 5.4: Internal business processes of Amkeni continuously enhanced** | |
| **Progress towards result:** | **Business processes improvement (Audits)**: As a follow up to a contract signed with Kigathi Associates, the field work for the audit of 276 Implementing Partners funded by Amkeni Wakenya from January 2011 – June 2014 was initiated.  **Holding of regular review meetings on internal business processes:** Regular staff meetings have been held on a fortnight basis and programmatic and financial issues deliberated in those staff meetings. |
| **Output 5.5: Adequate resources for Amkeni’s work generated in a sustainable manner** | |
| **Progress towards result:** |  |

**Cumulative Financial Summary**

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| Approved Budget : | USD 100,000 |
| Total Expenditure : | USD 74,199.27 |
| Balance of Funds : | USD 25,800.27 |
| Delivery : % | 74% |