



KITARA CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS NETWORK



20 | ANNUAL
23 | REPORT



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AGM	Annual General Meeting
ACE	Accelerating & sustaining HIV/AIDS& TB Epidemic Control
ANC	Antenatal Care
BAPENECO	Bunyoro Albertine Petroleum Network on Environmental Conservation
BTCMH	Bless the Children Ministries Home
CBO	Community based Organisation
CFM	Collaborative Forest Management
CFR	Central Forest Reserve
CNOOC	Chinese National Off shore Oil Company
CSBAG	Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group
CSCO	Civil Society Coalition on oil and gas
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DTPC	District Technical Planning Committee
DAC	District HIV/AIDS Committee
EACOP	East African Crude Oil Pipeline
FIA	Financial Intelligence Authority
FRECAR	Natural Forest Regeneration for Enhanced Carbon Stocks
HPA	Hope Partners Africa
IoC	International Oil Company
KCSON	Kitara Civil Society Organizations Network
KTB	Kenyan Top Bar
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MO	Member Organizations
NFA	National Forestry Authority
NEMA	National Environmental Management Authority
NIRA	National Identification & Registration Authority
PLOCA	Participatory Local Capacity Assessment
UNNGOF	Uganda National NGO Forum
URSB	Uganda Registration Services Bureau
VHTs	Village Health Teams
VSLAs	Village Saving and Loans Association
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
TEPU	Total Energies E&P Uganda
BHR	Business & Human Rights
QuAM	Quality Assurance Certification Mechanism
VL	Viral Load
IAC	IntensiveAdherence Counselling

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Appreciation

On behalf of Kitara Civil Society Organisations Network (KCSO), it is my pleasure and honor to present to you the Annual Integrated Programme Report of KCSO for the year 2023.

We have registered great milestones, especially in the areas of networking and partnerships, capacity building of CSOs, advocacy for improved social services among others.

The organization's total income in the year 2023 was one billion, three hundred sixty-three million, nine hundred seventy four, one hundred four shillings (**1,363,974, 104**) from different donors and annual subscriptions from KCSO member organisations. This budget was realized as a result of hard working secretariat; strengthened finance and management systems and members fulfilling their obligations.

We successfully held the 2022 AGM in April 2023 at St. Ambrose Institute of Health Sciences with over 50 members in attendance. At this AGM, we reviewed and approved 2023 work plan and budget.

We also marked the 20th anniversary of KCSO and at the same occasion we launched the KCSO strategic plan 2023-2027 that is under implementation.

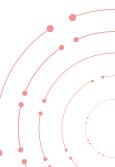
Under Membership servicing & capacity building, in 2023, we continued servicing our members through organizing capacity building sessions, linking them to funding opportunities, and holding one-on-one sessions among others.

In 2024, our focus will be on membership servicing interventions as we continue coordinating, networking and building capacity of member organizations and ensuring compliance to the NGO regulatory framework. Research & advocacy remains key, as we continuously reinventing ourselves in order to improve service delivery. The organization will continue undertaking studies to generate evidence for advocacy. Institutional home development is one other area that we shall focus on in the year 2024 and we hope after approval of the architectural design/plan, we will embark on construction process of the institutional home in order to minimize on expenditures in form of rent but also ensure sustainability of the organization.

For the members of the Board, we express appreciation for the strong guidance during the year and further appreciation is extended to Management and Staff of KCSO for their continued professionalism, enthusiasm, and commitment.

Yours Sincerely,

Hedwig Mbaziira Birungi
Chairperson Board of Directors



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Kitara Civil Society Organisations Network (KCSO) Annual Performance Report 2023 which presents key achievements registered by KCSO in line with our vision of a vibrant and well-coordinated civil society where development is achieved in a just and peaceful society.

We are happy to report that in the year under review, KCSO continued its core mandate of networking the CSOs in the region through organising and linking members to capacity building opportunities in addition to working with them to mobilise resources/fundraising.

We are also happy to note that we celebrated 20 years of KCSO existence where we reviewed milestones registered for the last 20 years and the future plans/forecast.

The new strategic plan (2023-2027) was reviewed and finalised in the year 2023 to guide the institution for the next five years more focused to address the anticipated changes in the operating context.

Our collaboration with the IOCs seem to have been strengthened in the year 2023 due to the numerous engagements we had ranging from joint compliance monitoring, quarterly round table meetings, dialogues among others

We pledge our continued commitment in advocating for programmes that are responsive

to community needs and benefit all, especially the marginalized groups.

At institutional level, KCSO started the process of institutional home development with grading of land and securing designing of a Single Storey Office Block for KCSO. We also had a series of skills strengthening initiatives for our staff in resource mobilisation, advocacy as well as communication and corporate governance for our Board members. These helped us improve our technical and governance capacities.

In 2024, KCSO will focus on strengthening our networking roles and actualising the strategic plan aspirations as well as resource mobilisation for institutional home development.

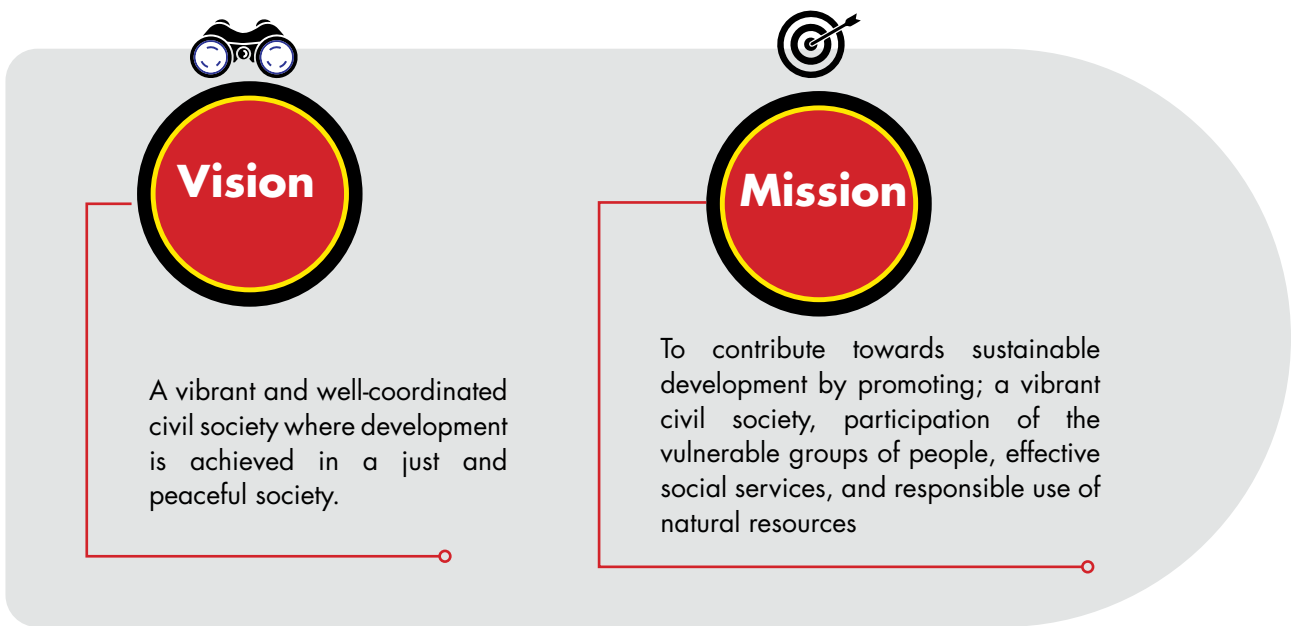
Special appreciation is extended to our members and allies, our development partners and the government both at local and national levels. I cannot forget to thank the entire Board for its oversight and the KCSO team for their undoubtable contribution towards the registered success.

Paul Mulindwa
Executive Director

1. KCSON & ITS ROLE

Kitara Civil Society Organisations' Network (KCSON) is a legally registered network of CSOs that started in 2003 and in conformity with NGO Act 2016, is incorporated with Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) and registered as an NGO with National Bureau for NGOs. In terms of membership, KCSON currently has 86 members with various thematic focuses.

KCSON has a governance structure composed of the General Assembly as a supreme decision-making body, the Board that oversees the secretariat and implements decisions of the general assembly and lastly the secretariat that takes charge of day to day activities.



OUR CORE VALUES



a)



Transparency and Accountability

b)



Social Justice and Equity

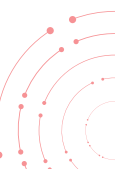
c)



Unity in Diversity

Working principles

- An inclusive network organization with a broad membership and representation both at the district and at the national level
- Building strong legitimacy and a voice making the Network a credible and authoritative
- Empowering CSO actors and groups.
- Communication, cross-learning and sharing on scaling up best practices.
- Partnerships with other existing networks and Civil Society
- Rights sensitive, results-focused and work-plan based.



2. KCSON 2023 WORK IN NUMBERS

- Built capacity of 25 CSOs and 19 community groups in financial literacy, resource mobilization, advocacy, conflict management among others.
- 9162 farmers trained in climate smart agriculture in the districts of Kagadi, Kibaale, Kikuube, Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa.
- 12,946 clients supported to remain on HIV/AIDS care and treatment
- 79 hectares planted with both exotic and indigenous trees
- 760 KTB bee hives procured and distributed to support apiculture enterprise.
- 36,419 coffee seedlings, 800 banana suckers, 3600 pineapple suckers procured and distributed to farmers to improve their livelihood.

3. KCSON 2023 PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

a) Civil Society Compliance

i) **New strategic direction (KCSON strategic plan) 2023-2027**

KCSON had in the year 2022 initiated the strategic planning process that was finalized in the year 2023 with production of the strategic plan that will provide direction to the organization for the next five years (2023-2027). This new strategic plan was carefully crafted by building on past lessons. The process began with a rapid end-term evaluation of our previous Strategic Plan to ascertain the progress, challenges and results achieved over the five years. The process was highly participatory in nature involving various stakeholders such as KCSON members, staff and board members, Local government, among others. The plan involved desk review of available literature, consultative meetings, validation of the draft strategic plan and incorporated the comments. The whole 5-year Strategy focuses on KCSON's commitment to building and maintaining strategic partnerships with the Government, MDAs, Development Partners, CSOs/NGOs, local governments in achieving the goal of keeping the 'citizens at the centre' In the new strategic plan KCSON's work shall be aligned to the four thematic areas of; advocacy for good governance and effective service delivery; natural resources, livelihoods, and climate change; Social Protection and refugee

response; and capacity strengthening and knowledge management. Most importantly in this strategic plan membership servicing as well as institutional home shall be prioritized. KCSON will be able to deliver on its strategic aspirations as well as the investment priorities through maintaining a well-established working relationship with the Government, donors, implementing partners, local and national like-minded platforms as well as private sector.

ii) **KCSON@20 anniversary**

Kitara Civil Society Organisations' Network (KCSON) on 17th April 2023 celebrated her 20th Anniversary. The event was marked at St. Ambrose Institute of Health Sciences with the RDC Kagadi as the chief guest. Guests from the Government (both political and technical), development partners, donor, member organizations, Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom, religious institutions, media, and other community members graced this colorful event. At the same event, there was recognition of selected individuals for their contribution towards the growth of KCSON. During the anniversary, there were some testimonies from guests like Nirere Samuel (Former KCSON Board KCSON), Denis Busobozi (First ED KCSON), Posiano Ngondwe (Current DCDO Kagadi) who explained the journey moved by KCSON for the last 20 years.



RDC Kagadi (left) recognizing the first ED KCSON-Denis Busobozi

b) Networking and partnerships for civil society

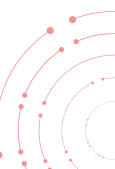
i) Strengthening collaboration with government

In the year 2023, KCSON continued her collaborations with the government both at local and national levels. For many years KCSON has endeavoured to build and strengthen CSO-Government relations. In this regard, 2023 was no different. We continued our collaboration with both LG and Central government, agencies like NFA, NEMA, URSB, NGO Bureau, FIA, NITA, among others in order to do our work effectively. KCSON has MoUs with all districts of operation as a way of strengthening collaboration but also compliance as per the NGO regulatory framework. Meetings organised by government such as DTPC, DAC among others were attended by KCSON and her MOs.

KCSON endeavoured to share reports and workplans with the District local governments and involved government officials in implementation and monitoring of its work/activities.



District PAS and Mayor Kagadi TC during 20th anniversary celebrations



ii) CSOs capacity strengthening & coordination

KCSON in the year 2023 organized several capacity strengthening and reflection meeting at both local (district) and regional levels. A number of trainings were directly facilitated by KCSON to build capacity of CSOs in different areas. The process would begin with capacity needs assessment where findings would inform tailored capacity building sessions to bridge the gap. Key areas of emphasis were those in QuAM and PLOCA standard checklists and centered around governance, resource mobilization/fundraising; financial management, conflict management, NGO compliance; M&E; advocacy, collaboration/networking among others. A total of 21 meetings were held reaching of to 525 CSO members from local, national and international CSOs operating in the mid Albertine region. The reflection meetings were conceived as part of KCSON efforts to provide an opportunity for intimate conversations around the sector’s internal operating environment, civic space, and political/governance context. More so, reflect on global developments that have an impact on the health and sustainability of the sector. The meetings enhanced trust, deepened relationships in development of a collective advocacy agenda, strengthening linkages, learning, and collaboration among Civil Society Organizations at the local and subnational level.



Joint stakeholders monitoring of KCSON works involving NFA, LG and other partners

iii) Improved collaboration with International Oil Companies (IOCs).



In the year under review, we saw increased and improved collaboration with IOCs operating in the Bunyoro Sub-region. i.e Total Energies and CNOOC due to the numerous engagements we have had with them. Under the “Enabling the Business and Human Rights agenda (EBHR) project” supported by International Alert, KCSON/BAPENECO has collaborated with these IOCs to protect and promote human rights in oil and gas business development through bi-lateral meetings with key players such as TEPU on key emerging issues of business and human rights to generate consensus and possible solutions of redress. In addition, KCSON has on many occasions organised quarterly joint compliance monitoring of oil and gas development activities especially Tilenga and East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) projects with different stakeholders such as CSOs, LG after which engagements are organised to discuss the key issues and clear actions agreed upon with different stakeholders IOCs inclusive. This has improved relations with the IOCs where they now consider CSOs as stakeholders in the development of the oil & gas sector.

iv) Improved coordination and referral for HIV/AIDS & TB response to communities

In the year 2023, KCSON in partnership with Baylor Uganda under Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), continued to undertake community systems strengthening interventions for HIV/AIDS Epidemic Control and prevention in the 3 districts of Kagadi, Kibaale and Kakumiro. Implementation focused on enhancing HIV/ AIDS & TB client retention and continuity to treatment through identifying the missed and lost clients from care and treatment, following them up and bring them back to care. To achieve this, KCSON worked with the health facility staff and 42 community volunteers who included; Community Linkages and Referral Facilitators (CLRFs), Village Health Teams (VHTs) and Expert clients. As such a total of 12, 946 were served with different interventions like drug refills, VL bleeding, IAC and referral initiations for the complicated cases.

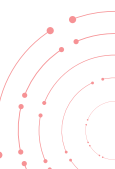
c) Influencing & contributing to community development.

i) Advocacy for effective management of oil & gas sector



KCSON in the year under review continued with its advocacy for effective management of the Oil & Gas sector through conducting media campaigns especially on radios, conducting community sensitization meetings, holding key engagements with key players, conducting joint monitoring sessions of the key oil & gas infrastructure among others.

KCSON participated in the joint compliance monitoring of the EACOP project where a number of issues for advocacy were identified and are keenly being followed up with sister coalition-CSCO.



ii) Promoting climate resilience (Nature based solutions and Climate Smart Agriculture)

KCSON in a bid to address climate change effects, empowered communities with community resilience and adaptation approaches. A total of 6,264 farmers (3,296 Males & 2,968 Females) in districts of Kibaale, Kagadi, Kikuube, Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa were directly reached with a number of interventions including but not limited to Mulching, shift cultivation, intercropping, drip irrigation (using local technology-use of plastic bottles), timing of seasons and skills of crop variety selection.

Other direct interventions referred to as Nature based solutions for climate resilience promoted were input support to communities adjacent to protected areas whose resultant effects were planting of 79 ha of trees on private land (both exotic and indigenous), supporting 50 house hold in mushroom growing, 15 household passion fruit and pineapple enterprises and supporting CFM with a manual eco-brick making machine. The supported community groups and households reported significant benefits in food security while investing in Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) approaches. Many of the above enterprises were desired because they do not require extensive pieces of land, they are highly demanded locally and generate income at household level. Each household was been able to grow over 60 gardens of mushrooms earning an average income of UGX 80,000/- (approx. \$22) monthly, passion fruit and pineapple enterprise with an average income of 150,000 monthly. More so, the skills, knowledge and direct input support enabled smallholder farmers in increased crop production and land productivity by adapting and practicing the various climate smart agriculture options and household income enhancement thus contributing to three pillars: productivity, adaptation, and mitigation



Grace Karukohe a member of MCODA engaged in mushroom production & beneficiary of solar dryer



Beneficiaries of eco-brick machine from Kwonga Clan and MCODA producing quality bricks



Mbabazi Tereza of Namirembe Women’s group has used VSLA benefits to establish one-acre pineapple garden



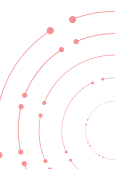
iii) **Research**

KCSON in the year under review contributed to knowledge management through conducting research studies whose findings have helped the organisation in its programming. Among the studies conducted included; Market gap assessment/analysis for nature based enterprises in the Bugoma-Kagombe landscape where we were assessing the existing gaps and potential market opportunities for enterprises such as coffee, bee keeping, banana, tree growing, and mushroom production.

The other research commissioned was assessment of the efficacy of Grievance Handling Mechanisms (GHM) in oil projects in Uganda’s Albertine Graben, the study that was conducted in Buliisa and Kikuube districts. Findings indicated that 44% of the PAPs prefer seeking support for their complaints through

their local leaders, particularly the LC1. 34% favored relaying their concerns through civil society organizations, with only 12% opting to follow the operational grievance procedures of the companies. We also found out that there are existing trust issues around the channels of grievance reporting, especially that involving designated company officials such as CLOs. Project affected persons prefer reporting to actors, who in their view, are independent, rather than reporting to those who, in their view, are the cause of their complaint.

Another research conducted was a study to assess the capacity of Local Governments in the oil hosting districts to implement the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAPBHR) aware that in 2021, government of Uganda Passed the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAPBHR) to



serve as a guiding framework for state and non-state actors on how they can conduct business operations without compromising on human rights standards in business development under the three principles of Protect, Respect, and Remedy, for those whose rights are violated.

iv) Promoting communities to give for change

Following the sinking of the pit latrine at Ruzaire Primary School in Kabamba Sub county- Kagadi district with enrolment of 610 pupils, the latrine block was condemned by the Health Assistant and thus there was a crisis as only one latrine block remained (5 stance) for both girls and boys. This called for a quick community intervention to mitigate the possible effects like increased spread of infections like UTI, increased school drop outs of the girl child, poor performance. KCSON quickly mobilized the communities emphasizing the need for them to be at fore front in solving community problems through giving for change approach. As a result of the sensitization meetings, Ruzaire community in Kabamba Sub County, with support from KCSON constructed a five stances Pit latrine with a changing room at Ruzaire Primary School. The community led in mobilizing resources and KCSON under matched fund with support from UNNGOF supported the community’s efforts. This was aiming at promoting sanitation and hygiene at school as both sexes were using the same pit latrine due to the sinking of a boys latrine without immediate rescue from the government due to limitation in the budgets and the bureaucracy involved.

4. CHANGE STORY

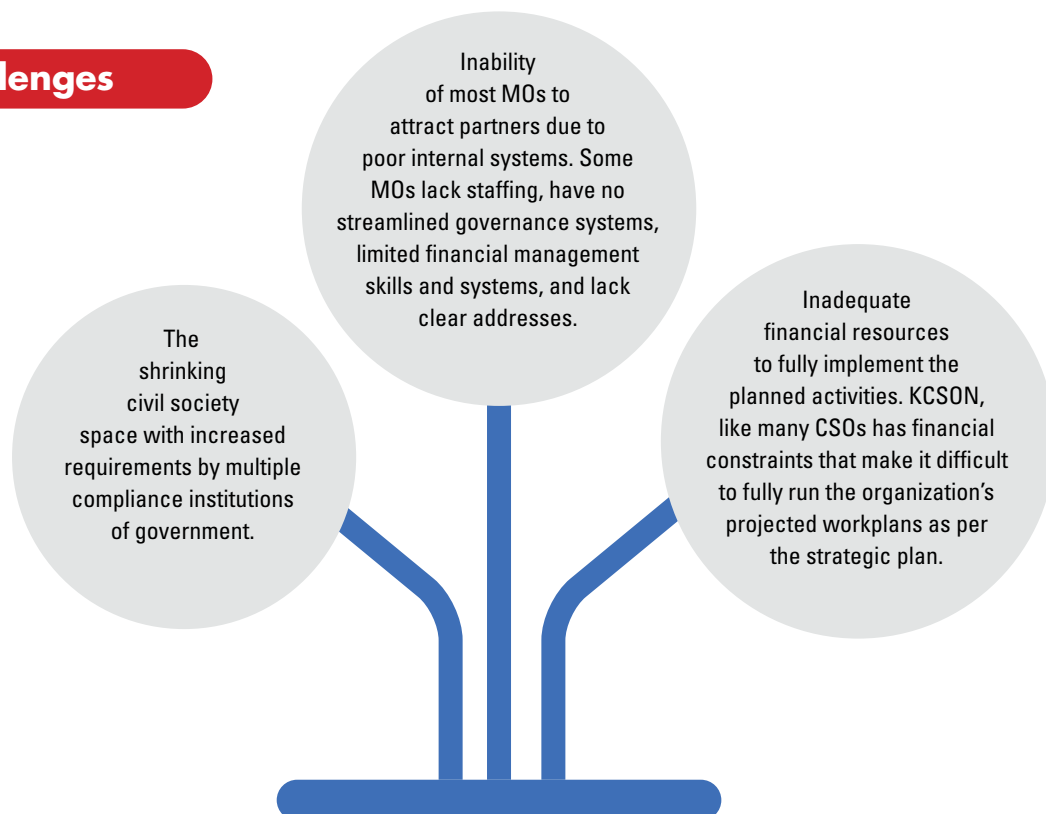
What our member organisations and other stakeholders say about our work

Rose Kyomukama-Treasurer Kabale United Women’s group-Nyamarunda

I am thankful to KCSON for the support they have extended to our group ranging from training us in financial management, supporting our group with s VSLA inputs, supporting us to undertake mushroom growing as a business which has directly impacted on our financial status.

5. CHALLENGES AND LESSON LEARNT

Challenges

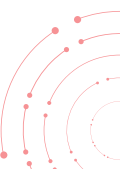
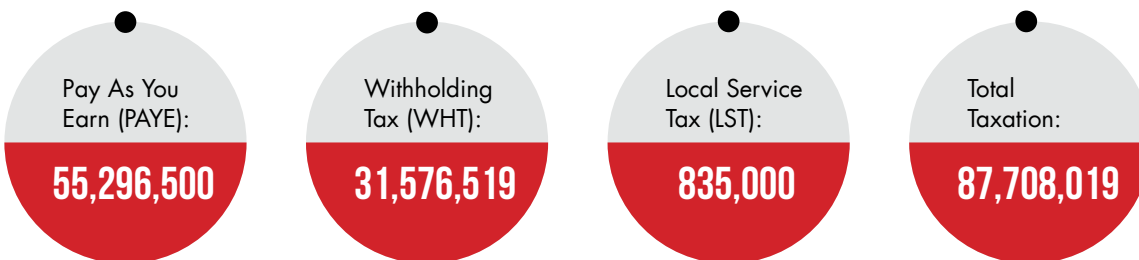


6. KCSO INCOMES & EXPENDITURE 2023

KCSO INCOMES & EXPENDITURE 2022

Donor	Amount (UGX)
WWF-FRECAR	502,700,830
WWF-LTC1	167,563,183
Baylor Uganda-ACE Bunyoro	114,270,000
Green Grant Fund	14,237,939
UWEZO	3,000,000
International Alert-EBHR	323,028,950
UNNGOF	49,992,000
FCDE/Confluence Institute	90,875,000
Other Incomes	98,306,202
Total	1,363,974,104

KCSO contribution to tax 2023



7. KCSON BOARD 2023



Hedwig Mbaziira Birungi
Chairperson



Januarious Rubaire
Vice Chairperson



Marion Tweheyo
Treasurer



Dr. Mwalimu Musheshe Jr
Advisor



Ponsius Businge
Gen Secretary



Shem Ahumuza
Member



Moureen Kyokusima
Publicity Secretary



Night Mary Gorret
Member



John Kasaija
Member

8. KCSON STAFF AS AT THE END OF 2023



Paul Mulindwa
Executive Director



Prossy Bashemera
Accounts & Admin Assistant



Kizito Byarugaba
DPO-Kibaale



Tanazio Byamugisha K.
Advocacy and Linkages Coordinator



Denis Ssebugwawo
M&E Coordinator



Saturday Solomon
Accountant



Nicholas Busobozi
Coordinator BAPENECO



Matia Mugenyi
Accounts Assistant



Robert Mukisa
Project Officer FRECAR



Rose Nanjwenge
Office Admin-Hoima



Asaba Juliet
DPO-Kibaale



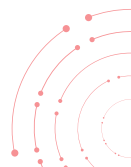
Francis Ssewanyana
Volunteer



Fred Kazibwe
Volunteer

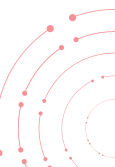


Julius Musiime
Office assistant



9. KCSO 2023 PICTURES







ANNUAL REPORT

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