



KCSON CONNECT

Newsletter

Jan – March 2026



are helping to build a more accountable, effective, and resilient civil society network.

At the community level, our work in the Bugoma-Kagombe landscape continues to demonstrate the importance of integrating climate-smart practices, livelihood support, and conservation efforts. We are encouraged by the positive response and growing ownership among communities.

We have also strengthened collaboration with partners and stakeholders through joint engagements and strategic dialogue, reinforcing our shared commitment to sustainable and inclusive development.

As we move into the next quarter, we remain focused on strengthening governance, enhancing partnerships, and improving systems that support learning, accountability, and long-term sustainability of our member organisations.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Paul Mulindwa
Executive Director

I am pleased to share with you this edition of the KCSON quarterly newsletter, highlighting key developments, learning, and progress made during the first quarter of 2026.

As we reflect on this past quarter, one thing remains clear, KCSON continues to play a vital role in strengthening civil society organisations and supporting community-driven development, even amidst resource constraints. Our focus has remained on delivering practical support to our members while sustaining interventions that improve community livelihoods.

During this period, we prioritised strengthening the institutional capacity of our member organisations through targeted mentorship, technical guidance, and trainings. These efforts

KCSON membership capacity strengthening

Following capacity assessment engagements conducted with our member organisations, several institutional and operational gaps were identified. Key areas requiring support included reporting, documentation, resource mobilization, records management, governance practices, and basic organisational systems. These gaps were found to limit effective programme implementation, accountability, and compliance with donor and regulatory requirements.

During this quarter, KCSON took deliberate steps to address some of the identified weaknesses. Targeted capacity support was provided to selected member organisations through mentorship, technical guidance, and practical assistance to improve reporting structures and documentation processes. Examples of beneficiaries of capacity building initiatives included: URDT/ARU (Kobotoolbox training), KIPEDD (Concept writing-fundraising), over 60 community groups (group dynamics, governance, conflict management, and record keeping)

KCSON remains committed to strengthening the capacity of its member organisations and will continue to provide responsive capacity support aimed at enhancing sustainability, accountability, and impact at the community level.



Members during the Kobotoolbox Training at URDT center for reflection

Enhanced Natural Resources, Climate Change, and Livelihoods Interventions

During the quarter, KCSON working with community groups, enhanced its support to natural resources (NR) management, climate change response, and sustainable livelihoods for communities adjacent to Bugoma and Kagombe Central Forest Reserves across Kibaale, Kagadi, Kikuube, Kyenjojo, and Kyegegwa districts. Key interventions included: supported establishment of 32 hectares of woodlots (18 exotic eucalyptus and 14 indigenous). Other enterprises were banana, coffee, and cocoa for improved livelihood.

KCSON also supported communities to strengthen and integrate climate smart and environmentally sustainable practices in their ongoing interventions. This included promoting sustainable natural resource use, community awareness on climate change impacts, and practical adaptation measures aimed at building resilience at the household and community levels. As a result, a total of 951 (379 m and 572f) farmers were reached with climate-smart agriculture trainings. Farmers were trained on different aspects such as quality seedling selection, application of manure, proper coffee and banana spacing and management, land preparation for a planting season, pests and disease management, and livestock management, among others. From the trainings, farmers have started demonstrating the knowledge and skills gained by practicing in their gardens.

In addition, KCSON supported livelihoods focused initiatives that link environmental conservation with

income generation. Emphasis was placed on strengthening community led approaches that enhance food security,

diversify income sources, and reduce vulnerability to climate related shocks.

Through these enhanced interventions, KCSON continues to promote resilient communities, sustainable resource management, and improved livelihoods while contributing to broader climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts within its member organisations.



Passion fruit growing and bee keeping as means of livelihood interventions on the Bugoma-Kagombe landscape

Partnership Building

During the quarter, KCSON continued to strengthen and expand strategic partnerships with civil society organisations, government actors, development partners, and other key stakeholders. These partnerships are aimed at enhancing coordination, resource mobilisation, knowledge sharing, and collective advocacy to advance shared development goals.

KCSON engaged with existing and potential partners through consultative meetings, joint planning sessions, and participation in relevant forums to promote collaboration and alignment of interventions at district and community levels. Emphasis was placed on building partnerships that add value to KCSON and its member organisations by enhancing technical support, expanding programmatic reach, and improving access to opportunities.

KCSON in the month of February 2026, had a two-day institutional engagement with the Uganda Biodiversity Fund (UBF) focused on learning, knowledge exchange, and due diligence in preparation for future partnership. Relatedly, KCSON also started engagements with Goal Uganda for a possible partnership. These engagements have fostered constructive discussions, strengthened



KCSON staff and UBF officials pose for a photo after an engagement at KCSON headquarters

mutual understanding, and reaffirmed a shared commitment to building strong, transparent, and impactful partnerships.

Through these partnership building efforts, KCSON is strengthening networks that support effective service delivery, amplify the voice of civil society, and promote sustainable and inclusive development outcomes across the network.

Regional and National Level Engagements

During the quarter, KCSO actively engaged in regional and national level platforms aimed at strengthening civil society coordination, policy dialogue, and collective advocacy. These engagements provided opportunities to represent the interests of member organisations, share experiences from the grassroots, and contribute to discussions on emerging development, governance, and policy issues.

KCSO participated in meetings, forums, and consultations convened by government institutions, civil society networks, and development partners to promote collaboration and alignment of interventions across different levels. Through these engagements, KCSO amplified the voices of its members, shared lessons and best practices, and strengthened linkages between local level experiences and national policy processes.

These regional and national engagements continue to position KCSO as a key coordination and advocacy platform, contributing to informed decision making and enhanced recognition of civil society efforts at broader levels.



The Executive Director-KCSO (left) sharing with the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Mines of the Republic of Zambia at Sanday's Creations Centre in Lusaka during the Africa Civil Society Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Learning Event

Fulfillment of compliance requirements as per sector governing laws.

In line with our commitment to transparency, accountability, and good governance, KCSO successfully fulfilled its compliance to URA, NSSF, returns to districts and also conducted its Annual External Audit for the financial year 2025. KCSO also successfully renewed its operational permit, securing compliance and authorization to operate through 2030.

During the review period, we engaged independent external auditors who physically visited KCSO offices to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the organization's financial management systems.

The audit process involved a thorough examination of KCSO's books of accounts, financial records, supporting documents, and internal control procedures. The auditors reviewed income and expenditure records, bank reconciliations, procurement files, and compliance with established financial policies and donor requirements.

Following this detailed assessment, the auditors completed and issued the audit report, providing an objective and professional opinion on KCSO's financial statements for the year ended 2025. The audit exercise has strengthened our internal systems and reinforced stakeholder confidence in KCSO's financial stewardship.

KCSO management welcomes the audit findings and remains committed to implementing any recommendations provided, as part of our continuous improvement process and dedication to accountable and responsible resource management.

Governance and Leadership / Board Oversight Role

During the period under review, the KCSO Board continued to provide strategic oversight and leadership in line with its governance mandate. The Board met quarterly as required, providing guidance and direction on key issues affecting the organization. These meetings offered a platform to deliberate on institutional performance, financial management, program implementation, compliance, and strategic priorities.

Through regular review and informed decision making, the Board played a critical role in safeguarding KCSO's interests, strengthening accountability, and ensuring the organization remains aligned with its mission and long term objectives.

Members' Spotlight

BTCMH Advancing Holistic Child Development

BTCMH, one of KCSO's valued member organizations, continues to make meaningful strides in advancing holistic child development through its integrated approach to family restoration, education, and relational discipleship. Anchored in Christ-centered values, BTCMH nurtures children in safe, loving environments while empowering families and communities to provide sustainable, long-term care.

At the heart of BTCMH's work is discipleship lived out through authentic relationships that enable both children and staff to grow spiritually, emotionally, and socially. By

adopting a family-based model of care, BTCMH helps children discover their God-given potential and equips them to positively transform their communities through faith, education, and service.

"Our work is about more than meeting needs. It's about restoring hope. When children feel safe, loved, and guided, they begin to dream again. And when families are strengthened, entire communities change." Shares Christine Asaba, Director Child Care Services-BTCMH.



During the first quarter of 2026, BTCMH recorded several notable achievements. These included the recruitment of two social workers to strengthen child protection and advocacy efforts; completion of the planning phase for a secondary school site to expand access to personalized education; and finalization of the 2025 organizational audit, reinforcing transparency and accountability.

Further milestones were reached through the implementation of family-strengthening initiatives in 10 homes to support safe and stable family restoration, the establishment of a model farm utilizing mechanized agricultural methods to promote sustainability and long-term livelihoods, and the successful rollout of a comprehensive 360-degree guardian training program. This training covered health, economic development, environmental protection and conservation, and education values.

Together, these achievements underscore BTCMH's strong commitment to integrated community transformation where discipleship, education, and family restoration converge to build resilient children, empowered families, and thriving communities.

What's Next for KCSO (April-June 2026)

Looking ahead, KCSO will focus on strengthening membership servicing, partnerships building, resource mobilisation and project implementation to deliver greater impact in service delivery, and civil society engagement. These efforts are aimed at strengthening the effectiveness, coordination, and sustainability of civil society organisations across the network. Key priorities include holding the 2025 AGM and implementation of AGM, Board and audit recommendations to further strengthen governance and financial management of the organisation. KCSO will scale community livelihood, especially along the Bugoma-Kagombe landscape, while enhancing household resilience, and climate adaptation initiatives.

The organisation will continue with stakeholder engagement through quarterly monitoring visits and coordination with district and community leaders, alongside resource mobilization and partnership development to support ongoing and planned initiatives. Further emphasis will be placed on improving monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) systems to track impact, strengthen evidence-based decision making, and support organisational learning. KCSO will also advance institutional home development as part of strengthening its long-term capacity to effectively serve members and contribute to civil society strengthening.

KCSO – Kitara Civil Society Organisations' Network

Combined Effort for Development Website: kcsoug.org

Email: info@kcsoug.org

Phone: +256 393 240166

© 2026 KCSO. All Rights Reserved.