



Kitara Civil Society
Organisations'
Network (KCSO N)
Combined Efforts for Development!

KCSO N CONNECT

Quarterly Newsletter
April – June 2026 | Issue 16

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KEY IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

56

Stakeholders Engaged

7

Community Monitors
Commissioned

45

Farmers Trained

60

School Girls Empowered

01 | QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

FEATURE STORY

AGM 2025: Reflecting on Progress and Planning Ahead



Kagadi District, April 2026 — KCSON Members pose for a photo after the AGM.

Kitara Civil Society Organisations' Network (KCSON) successfully held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the URDT Centre for Reflection.

The meeting brought together 54 member organisations, to review the Network's achievements, discuss governance and accountability matters, and set strategic priorities for the future.

The AGM provided an important platform for reflection, learning, and collective decision-making aimed at strengthening KCSON's impact in the region.

Trained 45 Farmers to Scale up Clean Energy Technologies.



May 2026 — Members during the Biogas training.

In a direct response to rising firewood dependence and sanitation challenges, KCSO partnered with Desired Model Homestead in May 2026 to deliver practical biodigester technology (use of animal waste to generate energy through biogas solution) training facilitated by Biogas Solutions Uganda to more than 45 farmers from member CBOs across the five districts of Kagadi, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Kibaale, and Kikuube.

The technical training transitioned farmers into active adopters of clean cooking energy and organic fertilizer production.

By replacing traditional fuel sources with affordable biodigester systems, the initiative directly drives environmental conservation and reinforces rural household financial resilience.

"The initiative supports both environmental conservation and household resilience by promoting sustainable and affordable energy solutions." Kizito Byarugaba, PM-FRECAR

Climate Resilient Livestock Enterprise for Promoting Community Livelihood



Members of one of the community groups receiving the crossbreed goats.

During the April–June 2026 reporting period, KCSO continued to strengthen climate-resilient livelihoods through the distribution of improved livestock to farmer groups across the districts of Kibaale, Kagadi, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, and Kikuube. As part of this effort, 10 community groups received a total of 40 improved crossbreed goats (30 females and 10 males), while 20 community groups were each supported with one crossbreed heifer.

The beneficiary groups were selected based on their commitment, capacity, and readiness to manage livestock enterprises, particularly those that had not previously benefited from livestock support.

Following selection, groups identified host farmers and prepared suitable housing and management facilities for the animals.

To promote sustainable livestock management, beneficiary households received orientation and technical guidance on proper husbandry practices, including animal housing, feeding, breeding, disease prevention, manure management, and general livestock care. For cattle beneficiaries, groups also agreed on management arrangements, roles, responsibilities, and benefit-sharing mechanisms to ensure accountability and long-term sustainability of the enterprise.

NPOs and Regulators Connect in Bunyoro



Hoima City, May 2026 — Stakeholders after the Governance and Compliance Workshop in Hoima.

Compliance with regulatory requirements remains a challenge for many CSOs, particularly in areas such as taxation, NSSF obligations, statutory reporting, and anti-money laundering measures.

Recognizing the need for greater awareness and capacity, KCSON in partnership with WWF-UCO, and Civic Advisory Hub convened a Bunyoro regional Governance and Compliance Workshop in May, 2026 at Golden Castle Hotel - Hoima city. It was attended by 56 stakeholders from the NGO sector, government, media and private sector.

Under the theme "Talk to your regulator", the dialogue enhanced CSO compliance capacity because participants gained practical knowledge on NSSF, tax, local government, and anti-money laundering compliance requirements, strengthening their ability to meet legal and regulatory obligations. It also strengthened engagement with regulators, fostering collaboration, increasing awareness of compliance legal framework for NPOs, and improving access to technical support.

"Strong governance remains the foundation for effective civil society action." says -RCC Hoima City-Mr. Mugabi Badru during the workshop.

Community Based Monitoring Model Champions Conservation



Community monitors together with the District Official and KCSON staff pose for a photo.

In May 2026, seven monitors from selected KCSON member organizations were reinforced with digital tools for reporting to support environmental monitoring, community awareness, and stakeholder engagement in Kagadi and Kikuube districts. The model strengthened grassroots participation in environmental conservation.

Monitors play a critical role in tracking and reporting illegal activities in protected areas, collaborating with UWA, forest patrol teams and NFA staff to address encroachment. They also work with private natural resource owners, Itohya and Kwonga, to sensitize nearby communities on human-wildlife conflict and report cases to relevant stakeholders..

By equipping these grassroots monitors with structured reporting workflows and modern mobile equipment, KCSON is actively promoting transparency, enhancing local compliance monitoring, and building a foundation for evidence-based community advocacy. *"Together, we are empowering frontline communities to drive immediate, positive environmental and structural change."* — Tanazio Byamugisha, Program Coordinator-KCSON

"By empowering local champions, KCSON is strengthening community participation in environmental governance and promoting greater ownership." — Wycliffe Rutalemwa, Commissioned Monitor

ToPP Project Foundation Laid



KCSN Staff engaging hub members during baseline capacity assessment.

In May 2026, KCSN completed baseline assessments and signed formal MoUs with key stakeholders within the Bugoma landscape to establish the structural foundation for the Together for People and Planet (ToPP) Project.

A central highlight of this phase involved a formal collaboration with St. Joseph's Technical Institute and other 8 CBOs, located adjacent to the vital Bugoma CFR.

The exercise successfully established a clear baseline understanding of immediate community needs, localized conservation challenges, and strategic opportunities for sustainable livelihood development.

"These partnerships provide a strong foundation for collaborative action aimed at protecting biodiversity while improving the wellbeing of local communities."
— Rev. Fr Bakari Joseph, Director St Joseph's Technical Institute

Advancing Education for Sustainable Development



Practical lesson on tree planting during the Girl Guide Camp.

With support from KCSN under the FRECAR Project, **60 girls and three Senior Woman Teachers** from three primary schools participated in the Kagadi District Girl Guide Camp held from 25–28 June 2026 at Kitegwa Model Primary School.

Under the theme "Friendship Across Time and Tradition," participants gained practical life skills that extended beyond the classroom. Sessions focused on environmental conservation, plastic waste recycling, tree planting and management, self-defense, public speaking, self-esteem, and entrepreneurship, including making reusable sanitary pads and other income-generating products.

By integrating environmental stewardship with life skills and leadership development, the camp empowered girls to become confident advocates for sustainable development in their schools and communities while inspiring the next generation of environmental champions.

02 | MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

RAFO: Advancing Reproductive Health Rights and Capacity Building in the Albertine Region

Rural Aid Foundation (RAFO), one of KCSN's valued member organization is a community, women and youths centered non-profit organization based in the Albertine region whose mandate is to advance and advocate for digital, health and economic rights for vulnerable persons in Uganda. Founded by children born through intermarriages between Ugandans and

refugees, RAFO exists to address geographical imbalances and gaps in service access across remote, hard-to-reach rural districts and refugee settlements.



One of the women health ambassadors from RAFO conducting an outreach.

During the quarter, Rural Aid Foundation trained 23 members of the Albertine Community Coalition to counter unsafe abortions and Expand comprehensive SRHR Services on post-abortion care laws and policies. The training successfully increased participants' knowledge on self-care and reproductive health rights from 44% to 82%, and awareness of the governing legal frameworks in Uganda from 20% to 74%. Additionally, RAFO trained 15 health service providers from private and government facilities at Maisuuka health centre III on the harm reduction model to address post-abortion stigma.

In community outreaches, RAFO facilitated 40 Women Health Ambassadors across 5 villages in Kyakazihire sub-county (Maisuka, Kayera, Rubona, Kyakazihire, and Kitembe), utilizing Amplio talking books to deliver recorded messages that reached 636 individuals with vital SRHR information. Integrated health camps further expanded this reach to a total of 942 people across Kyakazihire, Nyamarunda, and Ndaiga sub-counties. Joint monitoring visits conducted alongside district officials from Kagadi and Kibaale confirmed a measurable increase in the numbers of people seeking post-abortion care services at local health facilities.

"Our work is focused on remote rural hard to reach districts in the Albertine region and refugee settlements in Uganda to advance health, economic and digital rights and empowerment."

Rural Aid Foundation (RAFO)



Did You Know?

Effective community development starts with strong institutions. When organizations invest in their systems, skills, and leadership, they are better equipped to deliver meaningful and sustainable change.

Looking Ahead

The quarter July-December will focus on strengthening the capacity of member organizations, expanding joint advocacy initiatives, and increasing awareness of the Protection of Sovereignty Act (POSA), 2026. KCSON will also continue, supporting community-led conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and stronger partnerships across the Bunyoro region.

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Combined Effort for Development

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