COMMUNITY RADIOS
BROADCASTING
FOR PEACE

Kenya Community
Media Network
(KCOMNET)

UMOJA
RADIO FOR
PEACE

Community Radios Broadcasting for Peace

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UMOJA RADIO FOR PEACE

Cover image: Photo of radio presenter Shem Andika in studio at Koch Fm.

Yeah. We did it!

Imagine Kenya: A big country, 47 Counties, 23 Community Radio Stations, over 200 community journalists in 19 Counties and an audience base of over 6 Million listeners! From Kwale on the shores of the Indian Ocean to Mfangano Island in Lake Victoria, from the Tanzanian border to the northern counties, KCOMNET's Project team traversed across the country to meet you, our Community Radio colleagues, to talk, to take pictures, to share some time with you. We did more than 15.000 kilometers on the road, some smooth, some hard, but most of them hard. We met you and held unforgettable meetings with you to bring into common focus our newest project: UMOJA – Radio for peace. Now we are telling you, our story: The story of our collective efforts for the development of community radio in Kenya, of our portraits, of why and how we are set-up, of our broadcasting for peace, of our achievements, hopes and dreams.

This book is your book! Hope you will enjoy it.

Njuki, Sheila, Ann,
Amos, Tom & Michael

This book pays tribute to a big family: The community of Kenyan Community Radios.

This big family of 23 Radio Stations, reflecting the beauty of diverse communities in Kenya. The family of more than 200 journalists, reporters and community-activists who are engaged to broadcast to their communities , 24 hours, 7 days a week, radio programmes that are vibrant, interesting and transformative to grassroots communities, content fighting bias, negative ethnicity, hate-speech, fake-news, against many other retrogressive attitudes and practices to nationhood and development in Kenya.

Without the cooperation of this big family, it would not have been possible to bring out this book. Thanks a lot to all of you, thanks for hosting us during our visits, thanks for the fruitful discussions and the enthusiasm of sharing with us your, our passion – Community Radio!
Thanks also to the family of friends, partners and listeners who are supporting KCOMNET and our flagship project "UMOJA-Radio for Peace" , to become a big and dynamic movement of Community Radios that will reverberate in this country and beyond the borders.

Let us say to all of you with all our heart "Asanteni sana …

CONTEXT OF COMMUNITY RADIO IN KENYA

By Njuki Githethwa
Coordinator, KCOMNET

Significance of community radio

Community radio stations are widely recognized as the most basic, most connecting and most essential forms of community communication for the development of grassroots communities. The focus of community radio on issues of utmost priority and concern to communities and are closer to community needs mainly distinguish them from the commercial and public radio stations. The fact that community radio stations are established and sustained by non- profit entities means a media that is free and independent from commercial and state control other than the communities served. Community radio is the kind of community media that is easily able to act as a platform for social transformation. This is more so because among many people, radio listenership is cheap and dominant, and has been enhanced by many radio receivers in rural homes and public transport as well as on mobile phones. Community radio is focussed on being the media that is located in the endeavors of human kind to be free from want of any kind.

Origins

Kenya is recognized of being the home of Africa's first community station – the now defunct Homa Bay Community Radio which was established in May 1982 on the shores of Lake Victoria in the then South Nyanza District, later Homa Bay District and now Homa Bay County. The radio was set up through a partnership between UNESCO and the Government of Kenya with the aim of broadcasting development messages to the local community using dholuo, the local language. The radio station operated on a 10 watt transmitter and related broadcasting equipment

of a total of less than US$ 25,000. Local people were given training on how to use the equipment, and the station began broadcasting for two hours a day.

Homa Bay Radio was successfully on air for only two years when the then one party government fearing an independent voice closed it down in 1984. The government viewed the radio station as working contrary to the official policy of making Swahili and English as the national and official languages respectively. In spite of the limited broadcasting language and times, Homa Bay radio was taken as   increasing tensions between the different ethnic groups in the region and the country. Despite this setback, the experience of Homa Bay Community Radio proved to Africa and the rest of the world that a   community radio station can be effectively set-up on low cost equipment and technology   and create a huge impact in the local community and nationally.

Kenya is recognized of being the home of Africa's first community station...

KCOMNET is currently engaged with 23 community radio stations spread out in 19 counties in Kenya.

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Liberalized media

But Homa Bay Community Radio being primarily a government station was different from the current community initiated and community owned models of radio stations that have developed in the ensuing liberalized media environment in Kenya. 20 years later after the first experiment with a community radio station in Kenya, the government under pressure from pro-democracy activists loosened its grip on broadcasting and opened the way for Kenya's second community radio station, Radio Mang'elete, which went on air in 2004. Started by community-based women's groups in Kibwezi District, currently in Makueni County, Radio Mang'elete, as the radio is popularly known, is considered as the pioneer community radio station in Kenya established by civil society groups in a liberal media environment ushered by the return of multi-party democracy in 1991.

Legislation

Since the launch of Radio Mang'elete, several other community radio stations have been established in Kenya. Kenya Community Media Network (KCOMNET) is currently engaged with 23 community radio stations spread out in 19 counties in Kenya. These community radios are covered in various legislation:

1. Community radios set-up by Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and registered as community radios

2. Community radios registered by religious bodies under the low power frequencies radios but are managed and run by community based organisations. These are mainly some of the radios registered under Waumini Communications Ltd under the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB).

3. Community radios registered by a government agency under the low power frequencies radios but are managed and run by local management committees. These are especially the RANET (Radio – Internet) community radios set up by the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD)

These community radios have heralded the promise of a fully - fledged community radio sector with a capacity and potential to facilitate community development and the strengthening of democratic governance through the broadcasting of quality programmes and community organizing. KCOMNET is yet to engage fully with the community radios based in academic institutions that are also registered as community radio stations.

KCOMNET strives to facilitate the development of these community radios to fully ascribe to the principles that are popularly recognized as pillars of community broadcasting: Community ownership, community service, community participation, a non-profit business model and independence.

Identity and practice

Community radio is one of the fronts of community media. Other fronts of community media include community theatre, community film, newsletters, billboards, road-shows and paintings, community resource centres, among others. What gives meaning to community media is when viewed as community communication outlets which are targeted, owned and managed by, for and about the community served. Community radio is considered as the flagship of community media in the manner they are able to integrate and provide space to the other community communication outlets.

There are various types of community radio stations around the world which makes it difficult to give them a single, agreed definition. Indeed, there has been caution against fronting a definition of community radio since each community radio is unique. Nevertheless, there are common attributes for community radio stations all over the world. Key among these attributes includes the active participation of the target community in the generation of the content and in the production of the programmes. Another key attribute is that community radio is born out of a struggle, a cause, a desire to bring about change.

The World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters, better known with its acronym AMARC has adopted a working definition of community radio as local, not-for-profit and participatory broadcasting with a development agenda. In Africa, the definition of community radio in countries such as Kenya and South Africa takes community radio as that which is owned by a non-profit making entity and operated for non-profitable purposes; serves a particular community; encourages members of the community served to participate in the selection and provision of programmes to be broadcast and may be funded by donations, grants, sponsorship, advertising or membership fees. Hence, community radio stations are usually established by a broad range of civil society organisations.

In spite of the varied definitions of community radio, there is a general consensus that they are effective community communication outlets for community development. Community radio has clear potential and opportunities of promoting people's participation in the debates and the management of public affairs. They are platforms for discussions in a community rather than reporting outlets for packaged information. According to Gumucio (2001: 34)

community radios are based on the theory and practice of participatory communication. They are distinguished from other forms of communication strategies through their communication strategies focussed on horizontal versus vertical communication; process versus campaign; long-term versus short-term; collective versus individual; with versus for; specific versus massive; people's needs versus donor's musts; ownership versus access and consciousness raising versus persuasion.

The identity of community radio is often misunderstood and unappreciated. In Kenya for example, there is the widespread assumption that any radio station which broadcasts in an ethnic language, or covers a small geographic area, is a community radio, This confusion is arguably due to the reality that community radio operates within the confines of commercial radio framework, in terms of licensing and programming. While community radio is legally recognised in Kenya as a distinct tire of broadcasting alongside private and the public broadcaster, there lacks the architecture, clearly defined through a policy framework, to ensure that community radio exists and operates in a clearly distinguishable manner.

Nevertheless, community radio stations in Kenya which have strived to be true to their identity and mission have proved to be key pillars in communication for development in communities where they are located or serving. They have underpinned community radio as an important contributor to the advancement of community development and of the internationally-agreed development goals. They are indicators of an enabling media driven by the principles of pluralism, diversity and participation. Enabling media is essential for providing space and choice to the

Defining Community Radio

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general public in pursuit of community development and democratic governance.

One of the obstacles of community radio as a platform for community development is when they are viewed as community development projects to generate returns for its "owners" or for providing employment opportunities to the members of the community. Another obstacle is when community radio is focussed on 'pushing' to the community information on what is considered as development issues. These obstacles have constrained community radio from performing their roles effectively as platforms for community development.

To surmount these obstacles, community radio should take an educational approach to community development foreground in the practices of participatory communication.

The educational approach takes community radio as a facilitator of community development. This way, the sustainability of community radio is pegged on the development and improvements of livelihoods in the community. This approach enables the community radio to focus on broadcasting programmes that are of educational benefits to the development of community projects and of changing people's perceptions. The community radio should be participatory in the generation and development of content and programmes as opposed to the radio being used to 'push' information that the community did not participate in its identification and development. In addition, community radio should not operate as a know-it-all communication channel, but one which takes community members as knowledgeable and active participants in development communication.

PORTRAITS OF COMMUNITY RADIOS IN KENYA

By Njuki Githethwa

	KCCB community radios		RANET community radios
1	Mtaani Radio, Riruta Satelitte, Nairobi County	1	Bulala RANET, Budalangi, Busia County
2	Radio Domus, Kajiado County	2	Kwale Ranet FM, Kwale County
3	Amani FM, Tana River County	3	Oltoilo Le Maa FM (or Olmaa Ranet FM), Narok County
		4	Kangema FM , Murang'a County
		5	Nganyi Ranet Community Radio, Vihiga County

	CBOs community radios		
1	Radio Mang'elete, Kibwezi Sub – County, Makueni County	9	Wajir Community Radio, Wajir County
2	Mugambo Jwetu Radio, Meru County	10	Rware FM, Nyeri County
3	Radio Mwanedu, Voi, Taita Taveta County	11	Bus Radio, Kajiado County
4	Koch FM, Korogocho Slums, Nairobi County	12	Ruben FM, Mukuru Slums, Nairobi
5	Baliti FM, Isiolo County	13	Sauti ya Wanjiku Ngarua (SAWAGA) FM, Kinamba, Laikipia County
6	Ekialo Kiona Youth Radio (EK – FM), Mfangano Island, Homabay County	14	Radio Rameny, Migori County
7	Serian FM, Maralal, Samburu County	15	Ata Nayeche, Turkana County
8	Pamoja FM, Kibera, Nairobi County		

KCCB - Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops
RANET - Radio Internet
CBOs - Community Based Organizations

RADIO MANG'ELETE

Waswa ya maendeo (The voice of development)

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 89.1 FM

Geographical reach: 50 Kilometres

Language/s of broadcast: Kamba, the local language with intersperses of Kiswahili

Broadcast duration: 6 a.m – 10 p.m (16 hours)

Location: Nthongoni Shopping Centre, Kibwezi sub – county, Makueni County

Estimated audience: 250,000 listeners

Contact Person: M/s Redempter Nzali – Executive Director

Background and context

Radio Mang'elete is the oldest community radio station in Kenya, and is also the best known community radio station in Kenya. The idea of the station germinated in 1993 with the formation of the East Africa Community Media Project (EACMP) which was coordinated by Econews Africa (ENA). EACMP was a network of three development-oriented community radio stations in three countries, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. EACMP pioneered the first set of truly community owned and managed radio stations in the sub-region – Radio Mang'elete in Kenya, Orkonerei Radio Station (ORS) in Tanzania and Kagadi Kibale Community Radio (KKCR) in Uganda.

Since Kenya had no legal framework for community radio in the 1990s, a lot of lobbying was done to bring Radio Mang'elete to life. Largely through the efforts of EcoNews Africa (ENA) and Kenya Community Media Network (KCOMNET), Radio Mang'elete was finally allocated a broadcasting frequency and went on air on February 26, 2004 with the slogan "wasya wa maendeeo" (Voice of development). Mang'elete community radio targets the larger Kibwezi sub - county.

The station is located at Nthongoni Shopping Centre, about 14 kilometres west of Mtito Andei town in Makueni County. The radio station is a project of Mang'elete Community Integrated Development Programme (MCIDP), a community based organisation. MCIDP brings together 33 rural women groups from the locations of Nthongoni, Ivingoni, and Masongaleni – all located in the same district.

The vision of the station is that of an empowered and developed community. Its mission is to facilitate community participation in development and the empowerment of women through information and educational programs.

MUGAMBO JWETU

Kanyua ka maendeleo (Voice of development)

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 102.3 FM
Geographical reach: 30 Kilometres
Language/s of broadcast: Meru, the local language with intersperses of Kiswahili
Broadcast duration: 24 hours
Location: Meru town, Meru County
Estimated audience: 450,000 listeners
Contact Person: Reuben Mukindia, Station Manager

Background and context

Mugambo Jwetu Radio is a project of Mugambo Jwetu Multimedia Centre. It was founded in 2008 by Mugambo Jwetu group, a community based organization (CBO) registered with the department of gender and social development, through the support of the then area Member of Parliament, Hon. Dr. Kilemi Mwiria. The radio is allocated a broadcasting footprint of 50km radius.

The main age range of the population covered by the radio station is between 25-35 years. The population is mainly rural with many of them being peasant farmers who engage in small scale farming and keep livestock. A small number engage in small scale businesses. A few others are professionals, such as teachers, doctors etc. The core business of the station is to empower, inform and entertain the members of the local community.

Health and agricultural programs were introduced at the inception of the radio. Others issues are tackled according to the priority issues in the area at a given time. The station receives feedback on issues of importance to the community through phone-ins, face-to-face encounters, meetings with the local administration i.e. at chiefs' barazas" (public meetings), among others. Community members participate in the programs by giving ideas through calling when the talk shows are on air. The station encourages community members and listeners to give opinions on matters of importance to them such as on use of illicit brews; issuance of Identification cards; on the distribution of relief foods; provision of services by the government, the state of roads and public institutions and on many other issues. The station does not have special programmes. Issues to be presented in the programmes are broadcast according to the topical issues of concern in the community.

RADIO MWANEDU

Lwaka Iwa Waisanga (Voice of the citizens)

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 96.1 FM

Geographical reach: 50 Kilometres

Language/s of broadcast: Kiswahili, English and Kitaita languages.

Broadcast duration: 24 hours

Location: Voi Town, Taita Taveta County

Estimated audience: 550,000 listeners

Contact Person: George Mwamodo, Station Manager

Background and context

MWANEDU FM is owned and operated by Mwanedu Communications Limited. Started in May 2007, the radio station broadcasts from Voi town and covers Taita Taveta County and the surroundings areas in the Coast region.

The aim of the station is to empower the grassroots population in the region for them to make informed choices of their socio - economic and political development. The station's programs have been tailored to address the interests of all listeners - elderly, middle aged, disabled, women, the youth and teenagers. Lying close to the Kenya -Tanzania geographical borders, the station plays a role in providing inter-region business links. The location of the station in Voi town, a fast growing commercial town in Taita Taveta County along the Nairobi/Mombasa road, puts the radio at an advantageous position in terms of communication and economic linkages.

The station broadcasts in Kiswahili, English and Kitaita languages. Kiswahili takes about 80 per cent of the language content. Kitaita takes up 18 per cent and the remaining 2 per cent is in English. Initially, the station had envisaged broadcasting in the predominant Kitaita language only but with the post- election violence that rocked the country and left a trail of destruction and loss of human life in 2007/8, the strategy was altered to have Kiswahili as the main broadcasting language – the national language, for peace building, cohesion and reconciliation.

The radio is also focused on the fight against corruption and impunity in support of the implementation of Vision 2030 – Kenya's blueprint for social, economic and political development. The youth command most listenership and contributions at the radio. The station places high premium on the socio-economic development of the region which has suffered numerous historical land injustices. These issues are at the heart of the station. Advocacy for justice, dialogue and equity are of paramount interest at the station.

KOCH FM

Stesheni bila usonko bila ubabi
(Mobilizing community action through media)

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 99.9 FM
Geographical reach: 3 Kilometres
Language/s of broadcast: Kiswahili and Sheng
Broadcast duration: 24 hours
Location: Korogocho Slums, Nairobi County
Estimated audience: 250,000 listeners
Contact Person: Tom Mboya: Team Leader/ Station Manager

Background and context

Koch FM was the first community radio in Kenya to be established in Nairobi slums. It is based in Korogocho slums in Nairobi. Other community radios have been established since then in low class settlements in Nairobi such as Pamoja FM in Kibera, Ghetto FM in Pumwani and Mtaani Radio in Riruta Satellite. Since these radios target a specific audience from the low class settlements, they share a common frequency, 99.9 FM with other institutional based community radios in Nairobi.

Koch FM was founded by young human rights activists from Korogocho slums in Nairobi. It was registered as a Community Based Organization (CBO) in 2006. The CBO was granted a broadcasting license from the then Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to operate a non-profit community radio station and a frequency from the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK), currently the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA), to broadcast from the 99.9 frequency. Koch FM operates a community radio based in Korogocho Slums in Nairobi. Korogocho is the fourth largest informal settlement in Kenya's capital Nairobi; after Kibera, Mathare and Mukuru kwa Njenga. The slum is estimated to cover 1.5 square kilometres, with a population of between 150,000 to 200,000 comprised of various ethnic communities. The coverage area of Koch FM includes the adjacent low class neighbourhoods of Korogocho slums.

Koch FM was primarily established to tell the stories of the community and of the people living in the slums. For many years, people living in Korogocho slums had been discriminated against because of the negative coverage of the slums and their inhabitants by the mainstream media. The mainstream media usually depicted residents from Korogocho as criminals and the community as a hotbed of violence, drug abuse, rape, and other social ills. The express mission of Koch FM was to provide a platform for Korogocho community to address their issues through information sharing, education and communication. Its aim was to promote social, political and economic well-being of the Korogocho community and the neighbouring low class settlements. This is currently done through the radio programmes and the community conversation forums.

Koch FM drew its inspiration from similar projects elsewhere, especially Radio Favela in a slum in Belo Horizonte, Brazil's third largest city. Like Radio Favela, Koch FM envisages to be the point of reference on mobilizing community action through media.

BALITI FM

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 102.7 FM
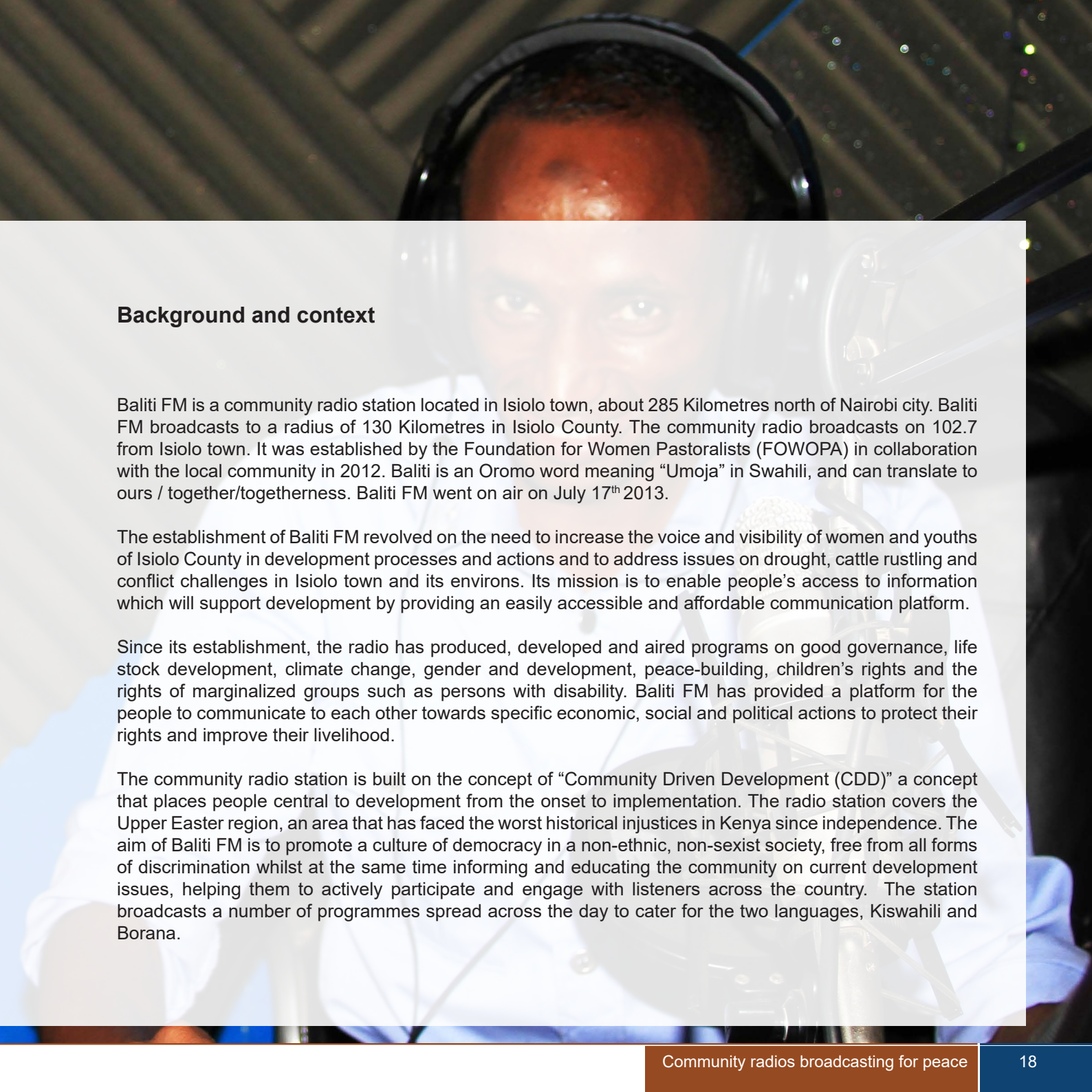Geographical reach: 130 Kilometres
Language/s of broadcast: Kiswahili and Borana
Broadcast duration: 24 hours
Location: Isiolo town, Isiolo County
Estimated audience: 300,000 listeners
Contact Person: Ibrahim Yaro Lakicha, Station Manager

Background and context

Baliti FM is a community radio station located in Isiolo town, about 285 Kilometres north of Nairobi city. Baliti FM broadcasts to a radius of 130 Kilometres in Isiolo County. The community radio broadcasts on 102.7 from Isiolo town. It was established by the Foundation for Women Pastoralists (FOWOPA) in collaboration with the local community in 2012. Baliti is an Oromo word meaning "Umoja" in Swahili, and can translate to ours / together/togetherness. Baliti FM went on air on July 17th 2013.

The establishment of Baliti FM revolved on the need to increase the voice and visibility of women and youths of Isiolo County in development processes and actions and to address issues on drought, cattle rustling and conflict challenges in Isiolo town and its environs. Its mission is to enable people's access to information which will support development by providing an easily accessible and affordable communication platform.

Since its establishment, the radio has produced, developed and aired programs on good governance, life stock development, climate change, gender and development, peace-building, children's rights and the rights of marginalized groups such as persons with disability. Baliti FM has provided a platform for the people to communicate to each other towards specific economic, social and political actions to protect their rights and improve their livelihood.

The community radio station is built on the concept of "Community Driven Development (CDD)" a concept that places people central to development from the onset to implementation. The radio station covers the Upper Easter region, an area that has faced the worst historical injustices in Kenya since independence. The aim of Baliti FM is to promote a culture of democracy in a non-ethnic, non-sexist society, free from all forms of discrimination whilst at the same time informing and educating the community on current development issues, helping them to actively participate and engage with listeners across the country. The station broadcasts a number of programmes spread across the day to cater for the two languages, Kiswahili and Borana.

EKIALO KIONA YOUTH RADIO

Turialala (We are together)

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 99.3 FM
Geographical reach: 25 Kilometres
Language/s of broadcast: Suba and Luo
Broadcast duration: 12 hours
Location: Mfangano Island, Homabay County
Estimated audience: 150,000 listeners
Contact Person: Samuel Otieno Karan, Station Manager

Background and context

The Ekialo Kiona Suba Youth Radio, popularly known as EK-FM is for-youth, by-youth community radio station on Mfangano Island, Homabay county. EK FM was launched on December 1, 2012 on the 99.3 FM. It transmits from wind and solar-powered 500 watt FM transmitter. EK FM currently broadcasts 12 hours a day from the Ekialo Kiona (EK) Centre. In the Suba Language, Ekialo Kiona can be translated as "whole world" or the "whole community". The Ekialo Kiona Center is owned and managed by the people of Mfangano Island. EK centre provides space where the local community can work together to find creative solutions to local and global problems. The EK center is comprised of a computer centre, a library and a training centre, a solar-powered field-station and a mountain bike shop, among other facilities.

Producing their programs in Suba language, EK FM affords a unique channel to foster community and youth discussion as a part of a holistic and sustainable approach to health and livelihood challenges and the marginalization of the Abasuba people through expression, solidarity, and revitalization of heritage and culture. With only 119,000 Suba speaking people remaining, the future of Abasuba community and language lies in the dissemination of valuable information in a timely manner that is critical to the survival of many people living in this rural community.

Each week the radio team creates program content covering issues on health, sustainable agriculture and fishing, Suba culture and language, and youth empowerment. Off- air, EK gathers Suba histories from across the region and records interviews and oral stories with elders. In an effort to revive the diminishing Suba culture and way of life, this material, along with original music by local Suba artists, is broadcast in the radio several times each week.

EK FM also connects over 50+ microclinics organized and registered on Mfangano with a mission to improve HIV literacy, attitudes and behaviors in the community. Besides broadcasting health information the radio station also works to preserve Suba culture and language, air information on agriculture and fishing and hosts youth empowerment programs.

SERIAN FM

Reto Ltoilo Linchi (This is your Voice for your own help)

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 88.9 FM
Geographical reach: 120 Kilometres
Language/s of broadcast: Samburu
Broadcast duration: 12 hours
Location: Maralal town, Samburu County
Estimated audience: 200,000 listeners
Contact Person: Nicholas Lenyakopiro, Station Manager

Background and context

Serian 88.9FM is situated 3km from Maralal town along Maralal – Loosuk highway next to Maralal water supply opposite Maralal High School in Samburu County. Serian FM went on air on 1st July, 2009. It covers a radius of about 120km square and beyond in Samburu and Laikipia Counties. The station broadcasts 24 hours a day in a blend of Samburu language and Swahili to complement each other and to reach a wider audience with all - round programming. Listenership is estimated at about 200,000 people, but numbers are inconsistent because of migration patterns – pastoralists communities must keep moving in search of new pastures. Once the pastoralists move beyond 27km radius, they lose the frequency.

The station was started by Reto Women's Association, Samburu chapter. Reto Women's Association brings together women of the Maa speaking communities and has several chapters, in Narok, Kajiado, Loitoktok, Trans Mara, Samburu, Laikipia, Marsabit, Isiolo, Nakuru and Naivasha. Reto is registered as an association under the Society's Act. The Samburu share a lot with the Maasai from the neighbouring Kajiado and Narok counties, including cultural practices and the Maa language. The Samburu people have a very rich culture which they have strived hard to protect and promote over the years.

Land on which the station is constructed was donated by the community. A former area MP facilitated the establishment of the station through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF). CDF funding was also used to purchase the broadcasting equipment and building the premises. The Arid and Semi-arid Land and Natural Resource Management Ministry was also involved in supporting the station at its inception.

The station seeks to promote Samburu culture and address issues affecting the community such as:
Animal Health and trading, Female Genital Mutilation, HIV and AIDS, Education, especially for girls; Tracoma, which is rampant as a result of flies; and peace and conflict resolution caused by cattle rustling ,among other pressing issues in the local community.

PAMOJA FM

Background and context

Pamoja FM 99.8 FM is located in Kibra, the largest slum in Nairobi. Pamoja means "together" in Kiswahili. Pamoja FM is a project of Pamoja Development Centre (PADEC), a registered community organisation. PADEC was registered in 2006. The station went on air in 2007 aiming to promote unity among the diverse ethnic communities living in Kibra and to contribute to development through dissemination of education and information. The station's coverage area is 3 km, reaching all of Kibra slum. It shares the common frequency, 99.9 FM with other slums based community radios and institutional community radios in Nairobi.

Kibra slum has expanded rapidly since the end of British rule in the 1960s as people migrated to Nairobi in search of jobs in industry and business. The earliest settlers were Sudanese soldiers brought to Kenya by the British to fight in World War II. Kibra is derived from the Nubian word, "kibra", meaning forest. Kibra slum, approximately 2.5 square km, is home to about 250,000 people. Poor living conditions and

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 99.9 FM
Geographical reach: 3 Kilometres
Language/s of broadcast: Kiswahili and Sheng
Broadcast duration: 24 hours
Location: Kibra slums, Nairobi County
Estimated audience: 200,000 listeners
Contact Person: Adam Hussein, Station Manager

lack of sanitation and service provision means frequent outbreaks of illnesses such as cholera. Rates of HIV and AIDS and TB are high. Crime and ethnic tensions mean that the area is volatile and insecure.

The mission of the radio is to create, develop, apply and transmit knowledge, skills and understanding to all levels of society through radio, and to ensure equal, sustainable development, and peaceful co-existence among the various communities of Kibra.

Pamoja FM is focused on issues that bear directly on its listeners in Kibra slums such as environment, women's rights, drug abuse and community awareness, among others. It brings news to the community, not just about crime and misery, but of hope and the existing opportunities in the community.

The radio station aims to tackle ignorance and to empower the community to participate in their own development. The station stresses the importance of cooperation among various development actors to overcome poverty, hunger, social hazards and injustices, gender violence, HIV and AIDS, climate change and community negativity and apathy.

WAJIR COMMUNITY RADIO

Voice of the voiceless

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 90.9 FM
Geographical reach: 140 Kilometres
Language/s of broadcast: Somali, Borana, Swahili and English
Broadcast duration: 24 hours
Location: Wajir Town, Wajir County
Estimated audience: 270,000 listeners
Contact Person: M/s Halima Kahiya, Station Manager

Background and context

Wajir Community Radio (WCR) was established in 2005 by community members resident in Wajir County. The members requested Arid Lands Resource Management Project (ALRMP) to assist them set up a community radio station. The station was funded by World Bank through Arid lands Resource Management. The actual construction of the radio station commenced in October 2007 and was officially launched in May 2010. The radio covers 140km radius with an estimated audience of 270,000 people. It covers the larger Wajir County including Wajir East, South, North and West. It broadcasts on 90.9 FM.

The main aim of the radio station is to empower the marginalized and vulnerable members of the pastoralist communities who are mostly disadvantaged over reading print materials due to their illiteracy. It targets voiceless members in the community who include indigenous pastoralists, people with disabilities, internally displaced persons and other disadvantaged minorities.

The Radio strives to create an effective communication channel to the voiceless members in the community that will be a fitting alternative to print mass media which have closed off majority of the illiterate local community. The radio also seeks to enhance communication and advocacy among the pastoral communities of the county. This would enable them share their development agendas.

The vision of the station is to be the indispensable voice and resource of the people of Wajir County in the building of a prosperous community characterized by peace, harmony and equity. WCR advocates, serves and promotes the interests, welfare and equitable development of the people of Wajir County. The programmes at the radio station include those on sustainable livelihoods, climate change, health, gender and equality, children welfare and rights, Good governance and accountability, environment, livestock market price, among others.

RWARE FM

Ceceni haku nja (A Station at your door step)

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 101.7 FM
Geographical reach: 35 Kilometres
Language/s of broadcast: Kikuyu and Kiswahili
Broadcast duration: 24 hours
Location: Nyeri Town, Nyeri County
Estimated audience: 350,000 listeners
Contact Person: Paul Githinji Wanjohi, Director

Background and context

Rware Community Radio is managed by Rware Media Services. The radio was set up in 2010 and went on air in May 2012. Rware FM broadcasts on 101.7 FM up to a radius of 35Km. Rware FM was initially located at Wambugu Farmers training Centre, popularly known as Wambugu Farm, located about 12 Kilometres from Nyeri town. It has since re-located to Nyeri town. The radio station broadcasts in Nyeri town and its outskirts in Kikuyu language. Broadcasting in Kikuyu language makes it possible for the radio station to inform, entertain and educate a wider audience of the local population. Gospel music is the choice of music popularized by the radio station to create a niche to religious local people. The main focus of the radio programs is current affairs, entertainment and agri-business in Nyeri County and the environs.

The vision of the radio station is to be the leading FM station in human development in Nyeri County. Its mission is to operate an effective and sustainable radio station that champions for holistic development within and about its footprint through broadcasting content that reflects community needs, issues and priorities to gain measurable community support. The core values of the radio stations are to inform, educate, spiritual nourishment and development

Programs broadcast by the radio station comprise those related to Agriculture, Health, Business, Entrepreneurship, Civic education, Youth affairs, Spiritual nourishment, Leadership, among others local issues of priority interest to the local community

MTAANI RADIO

Sauti ya mtaa (The voice of the community)

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 99.9 FM
Geographical reach: 3 Kilometres
Language/s of broadcast: Kiswahili and Sheng
Broadcast duration: 24 hours
Location: Kivuli, centre, Riruta Satelitte, Nairobi County
Estimated audience: 240,000 listeners
Contact Person: Kelvin Nyangweso, Station Manager

Background and context

Mtaani Radio is based at Kabiria, Kivuli, centre in Riruta Satelitte. Mtaani is a Kiswahili word literally translated to street. The radio station is a joint project of Mtaani Community Based Organisation (CBO) and Koinonia Community. Mtaani CBO is a youth empowerment project in Dagoretti Sub – County. Koinonia Community is a lay Christian Organisation. Koinonia Community provides stewardship to Mtaani Radio through its flagship programme known as Koinonia Media Centre. It is licensed under the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB). UNESCO's IPDC supported the initial set-up of the radio station through the donation of a radio-in-a-box-equipment. The Radio station went on air in 2014. The radio station operates for 24 hours 7 days a week. It has an estimated audience of 240,000 listeners. The station covers most areas of Dagoretti sub-county.

The Radio provides members of the local community with appropriate information to support one another to address practical issues of concern on the environment, water, sanitation, security, governance, healing/ reconciliation, integration, gender inequalities, insecurity, infrastructure, health, sanitation, crime, poverty, among other pressing issues in the community.

The vision of the radio station is that of an empowered community that celebrates its diversity and actively participates in its development. Its mission is to provide a platform for the community to address their issues through information sharing, education and communication.

The station specifically seeks to offer the youth an opportunity to produce programmes of their own that will articulate their aspirations and inculcate positive behaviour change. This is in acknowledgement of the central role and importance of the youth for the stability and future development of the community and of the country at large. The radio has in effect placed tools of communication into the hands of the youth who mostly develop, produce and manage most of the programs aired by the radio. The radio programs aired include those on education and training, documentaries, public views on prevailing matters of interest to listeners and the strengthening of unity and harmony amongst members of the community and of the country at large.

BUS RADIO

Sauti ya Kajiado (The voice of Kajiado)

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 99.9 FM
Geographical reach: 30 Kilometres
Language/s of broadcast: Kiswahili and Maa
Broadcast duration: 24 hours
Location: Kajiado town, Kajiado County
Estimated audience: 60,000 listeners
Contact Person: Victor Juma, Station Manager

Background and context

Bus Radio Media Services began in 2010 as a youth group of young professional journalists and activists. The members saw the need of starting a Community Based Organization. The CBO was registered in 2014 under the ministry of Gender and Social Development. In October 2015, the CBO was granted a frequency by Communications Authority of Kenya to offer broadcasting services. Bus Radio broadcasts on 99.9FM Frequency from Kajiado town.

The vision of the station is to be the agent of transformative change and development in Kajiado County. Its mission is to advocate for peace, harmony, justice and development in Kajiado County through community media.

Bus Radio programmmes are intended to empower, enlighten, inform and build the capacities of the members of the community in Kajiado County through programmes in the radio and participation and recordings in public forums popularly known as barazas.

BULALA RANET

Mwana wa amberi omwoyo kwa bunyala
(First born of the community, the voice of the Abanyala)

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 107.5 FM
Geographical reach: 50 Kilometres
Language/s of broadcast: Olunyala and Kiswahili
Broadcast duration: 14 hours, from 5a.m to midnight
Location: Budalangi, Busia County
Estimated audience: 150,000 listeners
Contact Person: Samuel Namuleli, Officer in Charge

Background and context

Bulala FM is located in Budalangi Division, Busia County. The radio station broadcasts upto 50 km radius both in Olunyala, the community's local language, and in Kiswahili to various parts of Busia County. The radio signal can also be heard in Lugala, across the border in Uganda. Currently, the station broadcasts 14 hours of programming a day, from 5am to midnight, on 107.5FM. Bulala FM is managed by the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) at the National level and owned by the local community. The Administrator seconded by KMD is responsible for the overall management of the station. The local community ensures active participation, ownership and content development.

Bulala FM was established in Budalangi by the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD). The radio went on air on July 4th, 2009. The radio station is one of the four stations run by KMD, as part of the RANET-Kenya project - which aims to set up communications infrastructure to inform communities about the weather and the environment. Other similar RANET FM stations in Kenya, which are operational, include Kangema-Murang'a (a landslide prone area), Suswa-Narok (frequent drought), Kwale (prone to drought and malaria and Bunyala(a flood prone area). RANET (RAdio InterNET) - Kenya is part of the global RANET project – a rural communications project that seeks to transmit weather and climate information to rural communities using Internet and radio.

Bulala FM was initiated in 2004 after a seminar by the KMD. A launch was planned in 2005, but lack of funding, and later the political violence of 2007/8, slowed it down. In February 2009, the KMD encouraged formation of a new committee and sent some of the new committee members on a KMD radio training course in Nairobi. The KMD also sent committee members to another of its radio projects, Kangema FM, to see how Kangema – regarded as the

flagship station of the RANET-Kenya project – worked. The trainees returned to Budalangi and conducted seminars with members of their listenership community. They also set about raising funds for a building. Success came in the form of grants from the international NGO, Action Aid, for the foundations of the building. The station later received funding from the Western Kenya Community Driven Development and Flood Mitigation Project, a partnership between the World Bank and the Ministry of Special Programmes, which helped build the offices. The KMD donated equipment. The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) gave a grant for power connection

Structures were formed and staff recruited on the advice of the KMD. Bulala FM is overseen by a local Management Committee. The local management committee was established in 2007 and was launched in February 2008 by the then District Officer and approved by the District Commissioner (D.C) Bunyala on behalf of the Kenya Meteorological Department. The initial mandate of the committee was; sensitize the community members about the importance of the radio, identify site for the operationalisation of the radio and recruit broadcasters among the Abanyala and recommend them for training by Kenya Meteorological Services (KMS). The current primary responsibility of the Local Management Committee is to provide leadership, guidance, strategic direction and to make policies.

The vision of the radio station is to become a leading, community operational forecasting station that provides optimum contribution for improved livelihoods. Its mission is to communicate weather and climate and other developmental information, predictions, warnings and other public-good information to rural communities. Its goal is to Inform, educate and entertain for sustainable livelihoods

KWALE RANET
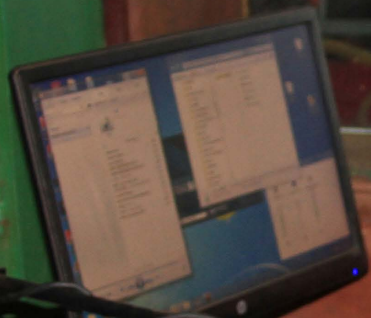
QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 103.5 FM

Geographical reach: 50 Kilometres

Language/s of broadcast: Kiswahili, Mijikenda, Digo and Duruma

Broadcast duration: 14 hours, from 5a.m to midnight

Location: Kwale town, Kwale County

Estimated audience: 150,000 listeners

Contact Person: Hamisi Mwachai, Administrator

Background and context

Kwale RANET FM is a community based radio station based in Kwale town which broadcasts upto 50 km radius in Kwale County mainly in Kiswahili and other local languages including Mijikenda, Digo and Duruma. Kwale RANET FM was set up by the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in 2011. It first went on air on 24 June 2011. The radio station is one of the four stations run by KMD, as part of the RANET-Kenya project

RANET radios exist in different countries in Africa and were adopted by the Government of Kenya under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources to popularize the science of meteorology to the local communities. The radios were formed specifically as communication tools to popularize the science of meteorology in local languages to rural communities by breaking down the complexities of the science in a manner that can be understood by ordinary community members, including the elderly and illiterate members.

Kwale RANET FM is run and managed by KMD in collaboration with the local community and stake holders who include the local administration and local NGOs. Kwale RANET is overseen by a Community Management Committee that assists in the day to day activities of the station. Like other RANET Stations, the Administrator has been seconded by KMD and is responsible for the overall management of the station.

The primary aim of the station is to provide weather information for local farmers who rely highly on meteorological reports to coordinate their activities. Broadcasts on weather, as well as education, business, agriculture, fishing and current affairs are helping to create an informed community capable of responding to various new developments.

The mission of Kwale Ranet FM is to provide listeners with a reliable source of information on topics relevant to them. The radio station is able to access information, normally inaccessible to many residents due to technological and linguistic barriers, and diffuse it across Kwale County in local languages. This timely dissemination of information to listeners allows for the proper preparation or response of the community with regard to a diverse number of issues of priority concern in the community.

OLTOILO LE MAA

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 89.3 FM

Geographical reach: 25 Kilometres

Language/s of broadcast: Maa language

Broadcast duration: 14 hours, from 5a.m to midnight

Location: Suswa town, Narok County

Estimated audience: 100,000 listeners

Contact Person: John Kilelu Nkukuu, Station Manager

Background and context

Oltoilo Le Maa FM is located in Suswa, a town in Narok County alongside the Nairobi-Narok main road, which also leads to the world famous Maasai Mara game reserves, about 200 Kilometres from the City of Nairobi. The station is one of four community radio stations operating under the wing of the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD), as part of its RANET-Kenya project. First initiated by the KMD in 2003, the station went on air in 2005. The radio broadcasts on 89.3 FM up to a radius of 25km to an estimated audience of 100,000 people using the local Maa language. Oltoilo Le Maa's signal reaches farmers and pastoralists in an area described as "semi-arid", where farmers struggle against frequent drought.

The aim of KMD in setting up the station was to conserve the environment and improve agriculture and livestock production by informing farmers about the weather and weather patterns well in advance. Oltoilo Le Maa broadcasts programmes aimed at helping farmers cope with livestock diseases such as foot and mouth disease.

The governing structure of the radio is comprised of a local committee drawn from different parts of the station's footprint area, and representing a variety of groups and interests, for example, youth, women's groups, people living with disability and religious groups. Board members are elected at an annual community meeting. KMD has played an important role in the training of the staff and continues to do so.

Social issues tackled by the radio station include discriminatory and dangerous cultural practices such as female genital mutilation and the "moran" practice in which boys discontinue schooling after circumcision to become herdsmen, resulting in high levels of illiteracy. In order to encourage community participation, the radio holds music and other competitions with youth groups, community organisations and others. Key slots are given to development programming, including human rights education, health, farming (especially livestock) and youth issues. Wherever possible, the station invites local experts to the studio to ensure information is of high quality. Local news is emphasised over national and international news. National and international news is sourced from other radio stations and the newspapers. The station has frequent interaction with pastoralists communities.

KANGEMA FM

Ceceni haha kwa haha (The radio station close to us)

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 106.5 FM

Geographical reach: 25 Kilometres

Language/s of broadcast: Kikuyu, Kiswahili and a bit in English

Broadcast duration: 6am to midnight

Location: Kangema town, Murang'a County

Estimated audience: 150,000 listeners

Contact Person: Francis Wainaina, Officer in Charge

Background and context

Kangema FM (106.5) is based at Gakira Market in Kangema constituency, Murang'a County. The station is a project of the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD), as part of the RANET - Kenya project. Its premises are also home to the KMD's weather measuring equipment. The radio went on air in February 2008.

Kangema FM was not always a KMD station. The radio was initiated in 2008 by the local MP who was also Minister for Environment and Natural Resources. The purpose of the radio was to address environmental issues, in particular to help communities avoid land mudslides which have killed many people in the area after heavy rains. Funding came from the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and was used to purchase equipment and to pay staff "token" salaries. The KMD took the station over in 2009, upgrading equipment, restructuring governance bodies and recruiting additional staff. The KMD hopes to save lives and improve agricultural yields by providing accurate and reliable weather services through Kangema FM, including discussion of seasonal changes and environmental issues.

The station's signal covers 25km radius, reaching thousands of farmers in the hills and valleys of Murang'a County, and spilling over into parts of Nyeri and Kirinyaga Counties. Local farming is mostly agriculture, including maize, beans, sweet potatoes, vegetables, fruit and tea and coffee. There is also some livestock and dairy farming. The station's main aim is to encourage development by facilitating dialogue about community needs so that people can identify problems and solutions.

Kangema FM broadcasts in Kikuyu and Kiswahili, with some English. All programmes aim to be entertaining and educational. The station does not "go into the details of politics." Most discussion programmes are call-in programmes, with the presenters leading on local topics. Experts come in willingly, and do not expect to be paid. The programme schedule is broadly a mixture of discussion, news and weather and music.

The vision of the radio is to become a leading community radio that provides optimum contribution to improved quality of life in the community. Its mission is to facilitate accessible meteorological information and infusion of scientific, agricultural, education and social knowledge to spur growth and development in society.

NGANYI RANET

Anyole radio – omwoyo kwefwe (Our voice/Sauti yetu)

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 101.2 FM

Geographical reach: 25-30 Kilometres

Language/s of broadcast: Olunyole, the local dialect, Luhya and Kiswahili

Broadcast duration: 6am to midnight

Location: Luanda town, Vihiga County.

Estimated audience: 250,000 listeners

Contact Person: Bousted Mukolwe, Administrator

Background and context

Nganyi RANET is a community radio station set up by the Kenya Meteorological Service to target communities vulnerable to climatic change. The station is based at RANET Climate Resource centre in Luanda town, Vihiga County. The radio station and the community resource centre were launched by the Kenya Meteorological Services (KMS) on the World Meteorological Day on March 23, 2015 to disseminate weather and climate information. This was after a scientific research that proved that traditional rainmakers have accurate and scientifically competitive weather information. RANET stands for "Radio Internet". The other part of the station's name comes from the Nganyi clan, which for many years has predicted rains locally by monitoring the behavior of plants, birds and insects. The Radio broadcasts to approximately 25 – 30 Kilometres radius. Nganyi RANET is among five other RANET community radio stations under the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD), as part of the RANET - Kenya project.

Nganyi RANET Community Radio, locally known as "Anyole Radio" because it targets the Bunyore community who call themselves "Anyole" and broadcasts in Olunyole, the local dialect, has become a valuable asset to the community, delivering accurate and timely weather forecasts that enables farmers to better determine when to plant their crops. The radio station aims at delivering and disseminating climate knowledge to the local community to encourage them to foster climate action. The Climate Resource Centre serves as learning institution for students on environmental and climate related studies.

The radio station focuses mainly on climate-related issues, market information, agriculture and emerging technologies. The station also invites traditional forecasters at least three times a week for a call-in session, so that listeners can ask questions about the prevailing weather conditions. The station thus supplements weather forecasting by Kenya Meteorological Services scientists and traditional forecasters. For generations, Nganyi people have served as rainmakers by helping communities prepare their land and sow their seeds and relaying the information to the community through ceremonies, public meetings and on a person to person engagement. Nganyi RANET community radio has improved this method of disseminating information.

RUBEN FM

Unganisha jamii (Uniting the community)

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 99.9 FM
Geographical reach: 5 Kilometres
Language/s of broadcast: Kiswahili
Broadcast duration: 24 hours
Location: Mukuru Kwa Ruben, Nairobi County
Estimated audience: 300,000 listeners
Contact Person: Thomas Odhiambo, Station Manager

Background and context

Ruben FM (99.9) is a community radio station located at Mukuru slum, Nairobi County. The radio was launched on 19 November 2016. The aim of the radio station is to help empower and unite the residents of Mukuru community through education, information and entertainment following its clarion slogan 'Unganisha Jamii'- Bringing the community together. The radio station is a project of Ruben Centre, a faith based organization based in Mukuru Kwa Ruben slums managed by the Christian Brothers. The radio is among the stations based in Nairobi slums sharing the 99.9FM and broadcasting for 2-3 KM radius.

According to the survey report by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics in 2010, Mukuru Kwa Ruben slums have an estimated population of 527,526 people living in 193,539 households and occupying 52.5 km2 of land. The resident population comprises of people in the low ends of income. The slum community remains largely marginalized. It is associated with dirt, diseases, crime, poor sanitation and poverty. Whereas, the people living in the slum do so as a necessity – crowding and poverty has made it difficult for the establishment of social amenities. Access to education in Mukuru is low and most of those in the productive age bracket missed out on education in their formative years.

The vision of the radio station is to empower and unite the Mukuru Community. Its mission is to offer quality educative, informative and entertaining programs to Mukuru Community.

Programmes at Ruben FM tackle various pressing issues in the community. Efforts are made in the programmes to create a lively interaction between the presenters/ reporters and the target community. Some of the issues tackled in the programs include: Local politics, Health, Nutrition, Human Rights, Education, Relationships and lifestyle, Gender Based Violence, Sports, Environment and Infrastructure, Youth empowerment, Women empowerment, Parenting, Insecurity, among other issues.

Staff and Volunteers at Ruben reside in Mukuru area, meaning that they understand well Mukuru community hence providing appropriate content to the community.

RADIO DOMUS

Sauti ya amani (The Voice of Peace)

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 99.9 FM

Geographical reach: 5 Kilometres

Language/s of broadcast: Kiswahili

Broadcast duration: 24 hours

Location: Ngong, Kajiado County

Estimated audience: 120,000 listeners

Contact Person: Bonface Opany, Station Manager

Background and context

Radio Domus (99.9 FM), is a community radio station based in Ngong, Kajiado County. It is the twin station of Mtaani Radio based in Riruta Satellite, both projects under Koinonia Community, a lay Christian Organisation. It is licensed under the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB). The radio is managed by youths from Ngong and its environs under the umbrella of Twaweza 111 Community Based Organization. The radio covers a radius of 5km within Ngong and its environs in Kajiado North Sub-county having an estimated population of 195,746 residents. The radio broadcasts programmes for 24hrs, 7 days a week covering diverse issues and audience. It broadcasts in Kiswahili language.

Domus Marie is derived from Italian language, meaning house of Mary. Its slogan 'Sauti ya Amani' in Kiswahili translates to the voice of peace. The radio is dedicated to uphold and defend the values of freedom, democracy, cultural diversity and respect for human rights. It aims to focus on issues that directly affect the people of Kajiado North and its environs. The programmes aired by the radio are focused on facilitating unity in diversity, social integration, upholding social values and norms, among other issues, to its target audience.

Since its inception Radio Domus Mariae has strived to serve the people of Ngong and its environs that are mostly occupied by poor Kenyans who strive to make ends meet. These areas are characterized by incidences of tribal, political, religious, social and economic discrimination. Incidences of insecurity have also been on the rise due to the fact that most youths are unemployed and engage in anti-social behaviors such as drug and alcohol abuse.

The vision of Radio Domus is to help in the empowerment of the community of Kajiado North and the environs through professionally done and interactive radio programs. The youthful journalists working at the station as volunteers presenters, reporters and DJs have dedicated their time to empower, educate and entertain the community.

SAUTI YA WANJIKU NGARUA

Msingi wa Jamii (Foundation of the community)

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 99.0 FM
Geographical reach: 50 Kilometres
Language/s of broadcast: Kikuyu and Kiswahili
Broadcast duration: 24 hours
Location: Kinamba, Ngarua Sub – County, Laikipia County
Estimated audience: 200,000 listeners
Contact Person: Daniel Waturu, Chairman/Sawanga FM

Background and context

Sauti ya Wanjiku Ngarua (SaWaNga' FM) broadcasting on 99.0 FM is a community radio station which was established to publicize the activities of Laikipia Agriwel, a CBO registered in 2014. The station went on air on 16th September 2016. SaWaNga' FM provides broadcasting services to the people of Ng'arua Sub – County in Laikipia County and the environs. The radio has an estimated audience of 200,000 listeners with a transmission power output of 500w.

The radio station is located at Kinamba Town, Ngarua Sub – County in Laikipia County. The radio is registered under Sawanga Media Services in what its management considers as giving the radio an independent legal status and self – sustainability.

The stations aims to contribute to all aspects in the development of the target community and audience by providing access to independent, community owned and community run radio programmes. The focus of the radio programmes include: Improving access to local information, community events and entertainment; increasing the sense of connectedness in the community between people of all ages, social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds and providing a forum for community members to engage in discussion on issues of local, regional, national and international importance to the community.
The vision of the radio station is to be the best provider of community broadcasting services in Laikipia and neighbouring counties that would positively transform the people. Its mission is to ensure community participation in all its programmes for the development of the people and that of the County at large.

RADIO RAMENY

Achiel Mar Oganda (Oneness of the community)

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 88.3 FM
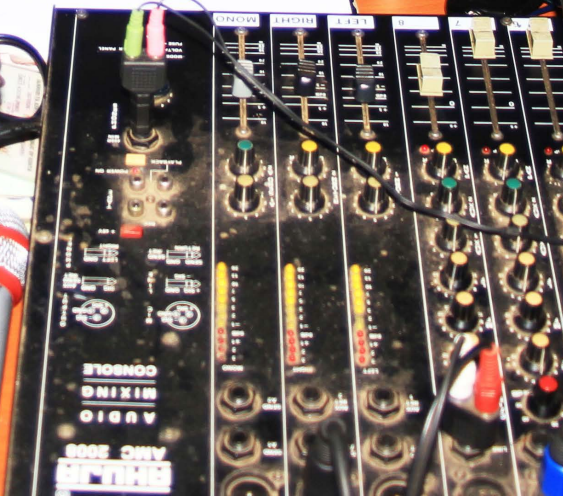**Geographical reach:** 50 Kilometres
Language/s of broadcast: Dholuo
Broadcast duration: 24 hours
Location: Rongo town, Migori County
Estimated audience: 500,000 listeners
Contact Person: Paul Ochola Odhiambo, Station Manager

Background and context

Radio Rameny 88.3 FM is a community radio station based in Rongo town, Migori County. It broadcasts in Dholuo language. The radio station is owned by Winam CBO, a community based organization registered under the ministry of gender and youth affairs. Winam CBO started its operations in the year 2014. Radio Rameny was registered by the communications regulatory body, Communication Authority of Kenya (CAK), and went on air on November, 23rd, 2015

The radio station covers Migori County, parts of Homa Bay County, Kisii County. It targets the diverse audience residing in its coverage area with the aim of fostering peace and unity among members of the public.

Programmes broadcast at the radio station cover various issues, including but not limited to the following: Agriculture, Health, Education, Political, Economic, Social and Religious programs

ATA NAYECHE FM

A wave of Peace

QUICK FACTS:

Frequency: 107.5 FM
Geographical reach: 70 Kilometres
Language/s of broadcast: Mainly in Kiswahil, Turkana and Arabic.
Broadcast duration: 12 hours (5 am – 11 p.m)
Location: Kakuma town, Turkana County
Estimated audience: 120,000 listeners
Contact Person: Esekon Jackson, Station Manager

Background and context

Ata Nayeche FM is a Community Radio Station started by Nayanae - Emeyen Youth Group (NYG) with the aim of promoting peace building activities among the host communities and the Refugees in Turkana County. The radio station is located in Kakuma. It was set-up in September 2012 through the support of International Organization for Migration (IOM) with funding from the JAPAN under TICAD Project. The radio has coverage of about 70 Km radius, covering all the 24 villages in Kakuma including the Refugee Camps, areas which holds a population of about 120,000 people.

The radio is named after the revered ancestral mother of the Turkana people known as Ata Nayeche. Some of the founding objectives of the radio station include: to raise the socio-economic standards of Kakuma; to help foster peace in the entire Turkana West region that has been marred by violence and cattle rustling in the past; to help promote good relations between the refugee and host communities through various platforms; and to educate the youth on various issues including drug abuse and pre-marital sex.

The bandwidth range of the signal is within a radius of 70 Kilometers, "but the distance does not matter, but who is reached." says Patrick Donald Oucha, a former News and Information Editor for Ata Nayeche FM. "We do not look at the distance, because this area is sparsely populated, we look at the concentration here in Kakuma and how effective we are."

Ata Nayeche FM has devised various radio programs that focus on an assortment of issues for a wide range of its audiences: from the old to the young, to the hosts and the refugees. Some of these programs are sponsored by nongovernmental organizations.

AMANI FM

Sauti ya Tana River (The voice of Tana River)

Frequency: 88.1 FM
Geographical reach: 70 Kilometres
Language/s of broadcast: Kiswahili
Broadcast duration: 16 hours
Location: Garsen town, Tana River County
Estimated audience: 180,000 listeners
Contact Person: Kelvin Nyangweso, Acting Station Manager

Background and context

Amani FM is a community radio station based in Garsen town, Tana River County. It is run by Amani Centre, a Community Based Organization that provides space for various ICT focused peace building and community empowerment initiatives. The community radio complements and gives synergy to these initiatives. Amani FM was launched in July, 2017. It is run by a team of local volunteers and Una Hakika project. The radio covers a radius of 70km within Tana Delta Sub-county and its environs, some parts of Lamu and Kilifi Counties, an area with an estimated population of 180,000 residents.

The establishment of Amani was driven by the need to have alternative means of information to many people in the local community faced by high levels of illiteracy and widespread poverty. Low levels of internet usage and written media were less than ideal channels of information to the community. Besides, only the national broadcaster was available which was not focused on the needs of the community. The community did not have any information outlet to inform them on what was happening around them.

Amani FM, the first community radio on the Tana Delta came to fill this information gap. The radio was established through collaboration with The Sentinel Project for Genocide Prevention Canada that runs Una Hakika initiative (an SMS based misinformation management platform), Health Communication Resources, a UK-based organization, and Amani Centre, the local CBO. These organizations recognized the complementary strengths of radio, with its broad reach, and SMS, with its interactivity and targeted messaging, to bridge the information gap in Tana Delta. Launched just weeks before Kenya's general election on August 8, Amani FM contributed to a peaceful election throughout Tana River County by keeping residents informed about relevant events, dispelling rumors, reminding everyone of the importance of peace, and encouraging patience as voters waited for the election results to be announced.

The radio station endeavors to empower community and its target audience through the production and broadcast of high-quality and interactive radio programs focused on peace building, community and national development.

HOW TO BUILD A COMMUNITY RADIO

By Tom Mboya
Team Leader, KOCH FM

"A community radio station is one that is operated in the community, for the community, about the community and by the community" - Louise Tabing

Community radio stations are in our context the low transmitter power stations which are formed by a geographic community or a community of interest with a view to addressing social, economic and governance issues. A community radio station can be a powerful tool for addressing social concerns and promoting social change in a community.

Geographic communities; are those in which members share the same physical space. These are communities in the most traditional sense. Members share relationships with physical structures in the geographic region, such as a river or grazing field.

Communities of interest; are smaller groups within geographic communities. They consist of people who are united by a certain belief or goal.

This section is meant to guide those interested in starting a community radio station and it will majorly be informed by my experience as one of the founders of the first community radio station in the slums of Nairobi and my vast experience in working with community radios since 2006.

Setting up a community radio station may at first seem overwhelming, but with the right resources, and with community support, it can be a rewarding experience. I will deal with two main goals in this section:

1. To provide a general overview of some of the steps which are involved in starting up a community radio station which includes how to get started, legal issues, equipments, ideas for managing your radio station, resource mobilization.

2. To provide addresses to websites, publications and other resources which you may find to be useful when starting up a community radio station.
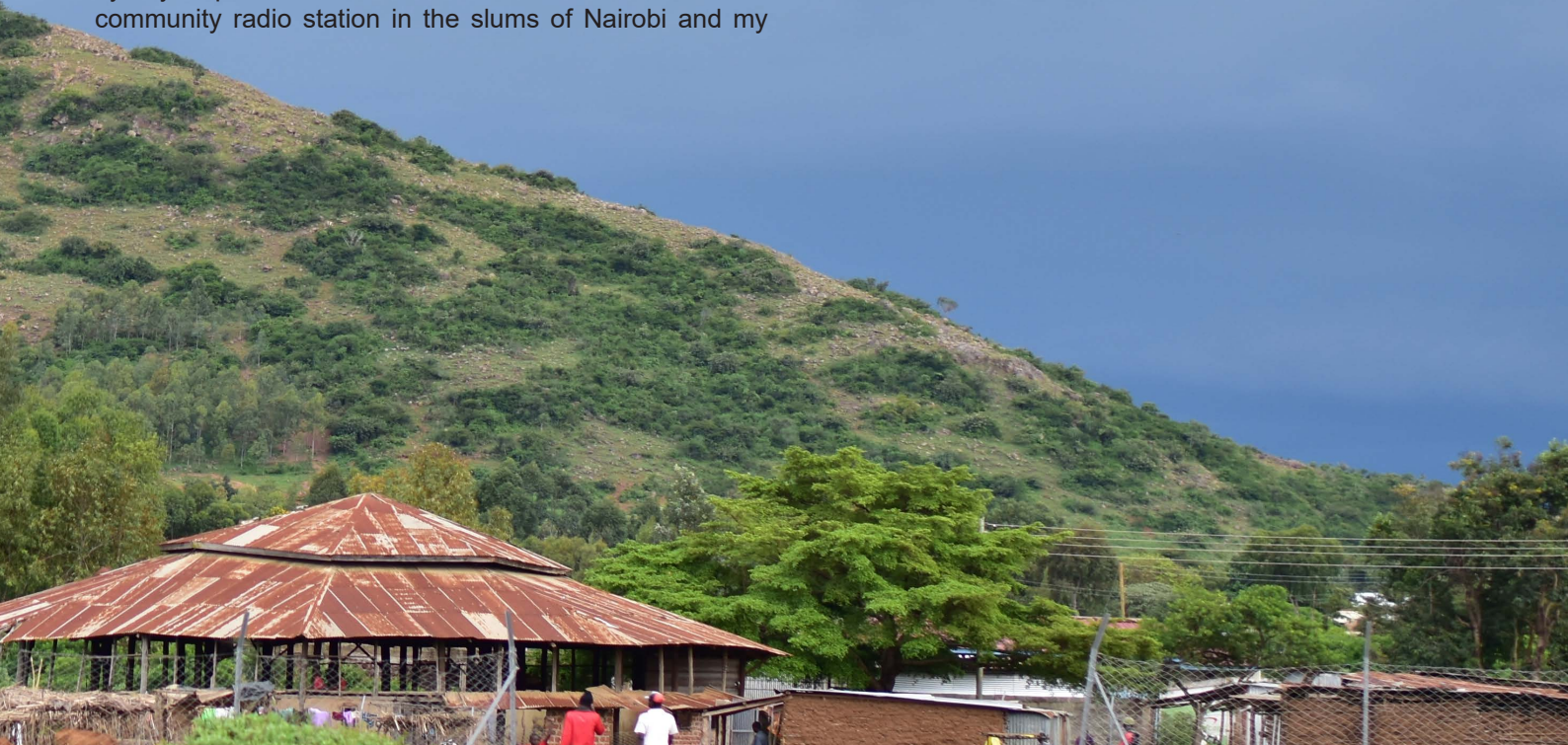
"People live in a community by virtue of the things which they have in common; and communication is the way in which they come to possess things in common." Communities and communications

Getting started

It is important to note that there is no one "right way" of setting up and managing a community radio station. This section should not be seen as presenting the "only way to do a community radio station", but rather should be seen as providing information, case studies and ideas to help you develop a community radio station that suits your community's specific needs and desires.

For a community to start a community radio station, there must be a collective sense of consciousness that people want their own radio in order to advance their community. Just like it is taught in community organizing training, that people are organized around an issue, the same principle applies in setting up a community radio station. There must be issues of communal interest that requires some form of communication processes to not only share their issues and ideas but also provide a platform for them to build common understanding, goals and actions.

The birth of Koch FM

KOCH FM, for example, was primarily established to tell the stories of Korogocho community. For many years, people living in Korogocho slums had been discriminated against because of the negative coverage of the slums and their inhabitants by the mainstream media. The discrimination became a trauma to the people living in the slums including the children, and Korogocho primary school had to be renamed to St. Daniel Comboni primary school to shield the children who were joining secondary education after doing their Kenya certificate of primary education (KCPE) examinations from discrimination as they were seen to be "bad children".

The issue of discrimination was as real as abuse of power and public office by the local administration, abuse of human rights, corruption, sanitation and insecurity among other things. The proliferation of community self help groups was a clear indicator that the community had analyzed the issues and were coming together to address them. So there was a need to have a way of reaching the various groups and individuals in order to build common understanding on how to approach and address the issues. That is the point when the idea of radio was born.

"

The proliferation of community self help groups was a clear indicator that the community had analyzed the issues and were coming together to address them.

"

> **According to section 46(C) of the Kenya Information and Communications Act, 1998 (Principal Act as amended in 2013) states that it is illegal to provide any form of broadcasting service in Kenya without a license.**

"

Legal frameworks

Terrestrial service frequencies for broadcasting are considered to be national resource and as such are governed by national legislations and regulatory agencies. It is very important that you find out and understand the legislations guiding the media before engaging in the industry. Failure to do so could either present stumbling blocks as you seek registration and accreditation or be found to be operating a radio station illegally. Section 46(C) of the Kenya Information and Communications Act, 1998 (Principal Act as amended in 2013) states that it is illegal to provide any form of broadcasting service in Kenya without a license.

There are a number of legislations touching on aspects of media and practicing of journalism in Kenya. However, and for purposes of this section, I would focus on the two major Acts of parliament guiding media operations in Kenya namely; The Kenya Information and Communications (Amendment) Act 2013 and The Media Council Act, 2013 . The general knowledge of the two laws read together with the guidelines for licensing of community radio broadcasting by the Communications Authority of Kenya is a must for starters and day-to-day operations of a radio station.

The Kenya Information and Communications (Amendment) Act 2013, also commonly referred to as KICA Act, was passed by the Kenya National Assembly on December 5, 2013 and was assented to by the President of the Republic of Kenya H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta on December 11, 2013 and came into effect on January 2, 2014, following the amendment of The Kenya Information and Communications Act, 1998. The Act created the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) to replace the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK).

The Media Council Act, 2013 was also passed by the Kenya National Assembly on December 5, 2013 but was assented to by the President on December 24, 2013 and came into force on January 10, 2014, following the repeal of Media Act, 2007 which established the Media Council of Kenya (MCK).

KICA Act | Key highlights

- The Act created the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) to replace the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK)
- It provides that the Authority shall be guided by the constitution which guarantees the freedom and independence of the media and bars the state from exercising any control or interference with media
- It further provides that the Authority shall recognize Freedom of Expression as set in Article 33 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010
- The Act establishes the Broadcasting Standards Committee (BSC) of the Authority whose responsibility is to set broadcasting standards. The committee replaces the Broadcasting Content Advisory Council (BCAC)
- The Act gives the Authority power to administer the broadcasting aspect of communications, to set the media standards and ensure compliance with those standards
- It gives the Authority powers to prescribe a certain percentage of Kenyan programs to be broadcast by all broadcasters. The purpose of which is to promote growth of local content
- The Act empowers the Authority to revoke a license if the licensee fails to use it within the time prescribed. The purpose of this is to prevent hoarding of broadcasting frequency by licensee
- It sets penalty for licensee who contravenes the terms of license as assigned by the Authority and gives the Authority power to prosecute any offence under the Act subject to the direction and the authorization of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP)
- The Act establishes the Communications and Multimedia Appeals Tribunal (CMAT), which replaces the Communications Appeal Tribunal
-

CA Mandate and Purpose as per KICA Act

The Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) is the regulatory body for the communications sector in Kenya. Established in 1999 by Kenya Information and Communications Act, 1998, the Authority is responsible for facilitating the development of the Information and Communications sectors including; broadcasting, multimedia, telecommunications, electronic commerce, postal and courier services.

This responsibility entails:

- Licensing all systems and services in the communications industry, including; telecommunications, postal, courier and broadcasting.
- Managing the country's frequency spectrum and numbering resources.
- Facilitating the development of e-commerce.
- Type approving and accepting communications equipment meant for use in the country.
- Protecting consumer rights within the communications environment.
- Managing competition within the sector to ensure a level playing ground for all players.
- Regulating retail and wholesale tariffs for communications services.
- Managing the universal access fund to facilitate access to communications services by all in Kenya.
- Monitoring the activities of licensees to enforce compliance with the license terms and conditions as well as the law.

Visit http://www.ca.go.ke to learn more

Media Council Act | Key highlights

- The Act establishes the Media Council of Kenya
- It creates a Complaints Commission independent from the Council to enforce media standards set by the Council, and whose mandate is to arbitrate in disputes between a) Public and the media b) Government and media and c) Within the media (intramedia)
- Mandates the Council to approve applications by media practitioners and journalists for accreditation to practice in Kenya
- Section 23 (b) of the Act requires a media enterprise to pay a subscription fee for accreditation. The amounts are set out in the Kenya Gazette notice number 896 of January 2009.

Council's Roles, Mandate, Functions and Authority

- Promote and protect the freedom and independence of the media;
- Prescribe standards of journalists, media practitioners and media enterprises;
- Ensure the protection of the rights and privileges of journalists in the performance of their duties;
- Promote and enhance ethical and professional standards amongst journalists and media enterprises;
- Advise the government or the relevant regulatory authority on matters relating to professional, education and the training of journalists and other media practitioners;
- Set standards, in consultation with the relevant training institutions, for professional education and training of journalists;
- Develop and regulate ethical and disciplinary standards for journalists, media practitioners and media enterprises;
- Accredit journalists and foreign journalists by certifying their competence, authority or credibility against official standards based on the quality and training of journalists in Kenya including the maintaining of a register of journalists, media enterprises and such other related registers as it may deem fit and issuance of such document evidencing accreditation with the Council as the Council shall determine;
- Conduct an annual review of the performance and the general public opinion of the media, and publish the results in at least two daily newspapers of national circulation;
- Through the Cabinet Secretary, table before Parliament reports on its functions;
- Establish media standards and regulate and monitor compliance with the media standards;
- Facilitate resolution of disputes between the government and the media and between the public and the media and intra media;
- Compile and maintain a register of accredited journalists, foreign journalists, media enterprises and such other related registers as it may consider necessary;
- Subject to any other written law, consider and approve applications for accreditation by educational institutions that seek to offer courses in journalism; and
- Perform such other functions as may be assigned to it under any other written law.

More: http://www.mediacouncil.or.ke

Policies, Regulations and Guidelines

National Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Policy, 2006

In March 2006, the Government released the Information and Communications Technology Sector Policy Guidelines via the Kenya Gazette Notice Vol. CVIII – No. 24, to replace the Telecommunications and Postal Sector Guidelines of December 2001.

The policy is premised on the philosophy that Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) if harnessed has the great potential to rapidly spur social and economic growth. The policy is hinged on four guiding principles;

1. Infrastructure development;
2. Human resource development;
3. Stakeholder participation and appropriate policy and;
4. Regulatory framework.

The policy guidelines acknowledge community radio broadcasting as the third tier of broadcasting. It sets the market structure under which broadcasting license will be issued as;

Public Broadcasting Service; This will be provided by the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation with Government support

Private Broadcasting Service; This will be individual enterprises for commercial purposes

Community Broadcasting Service; This will be provided by a non-profit entity, will be licensed to offer non-profit services that serve a particular community.

The Kenya Information and Communications (Radio Communications and Frequency Spectrum) Regulations, 2010

The Kenya Information and Communications (Radio Communications and Frequency Spectrum) Regulation, 2010 is meant to bring order and efficiency in the radio broadcasting sector and as such it sets out the general licensing conditions to be met and observed by a licensee. This is a must read by anyone who wants to engage in radio broadcasting.
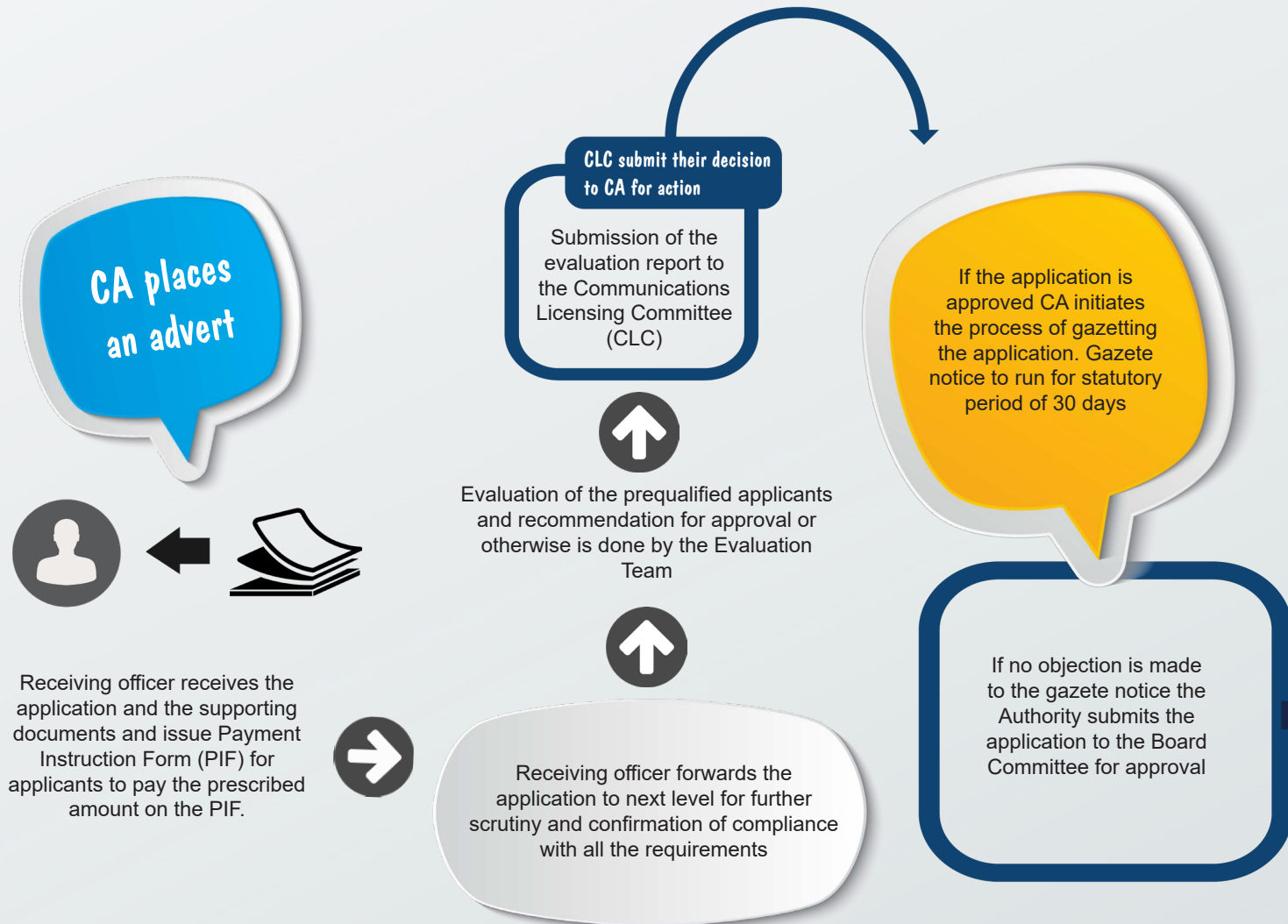
Applications Guidelines

Licensing of broadcasting services under the new regulatory framework shall commence in two folds;

First, person/groups interested in broadcasting shall apply for a licence shall be considered and awarded in the principle of first come first served. *This applies to broadcasting services which do not require assignment of the frequency resource (such as cable broadcasting, landing rights, etc.)*

The second category – where most community radios in Kenya fall in – *is for the broadcasting services which require frequency spectrum resource.* The Authority shall publish the list of available frequencies / channels in at least one print media in Kenya and on the CA website informing interested applicants to apply for provision of the identified broadcasting service(s). Such publication shall be the trigger point for interested applicants to submit application for specific licenses within the time frame specified in the advert/notice.
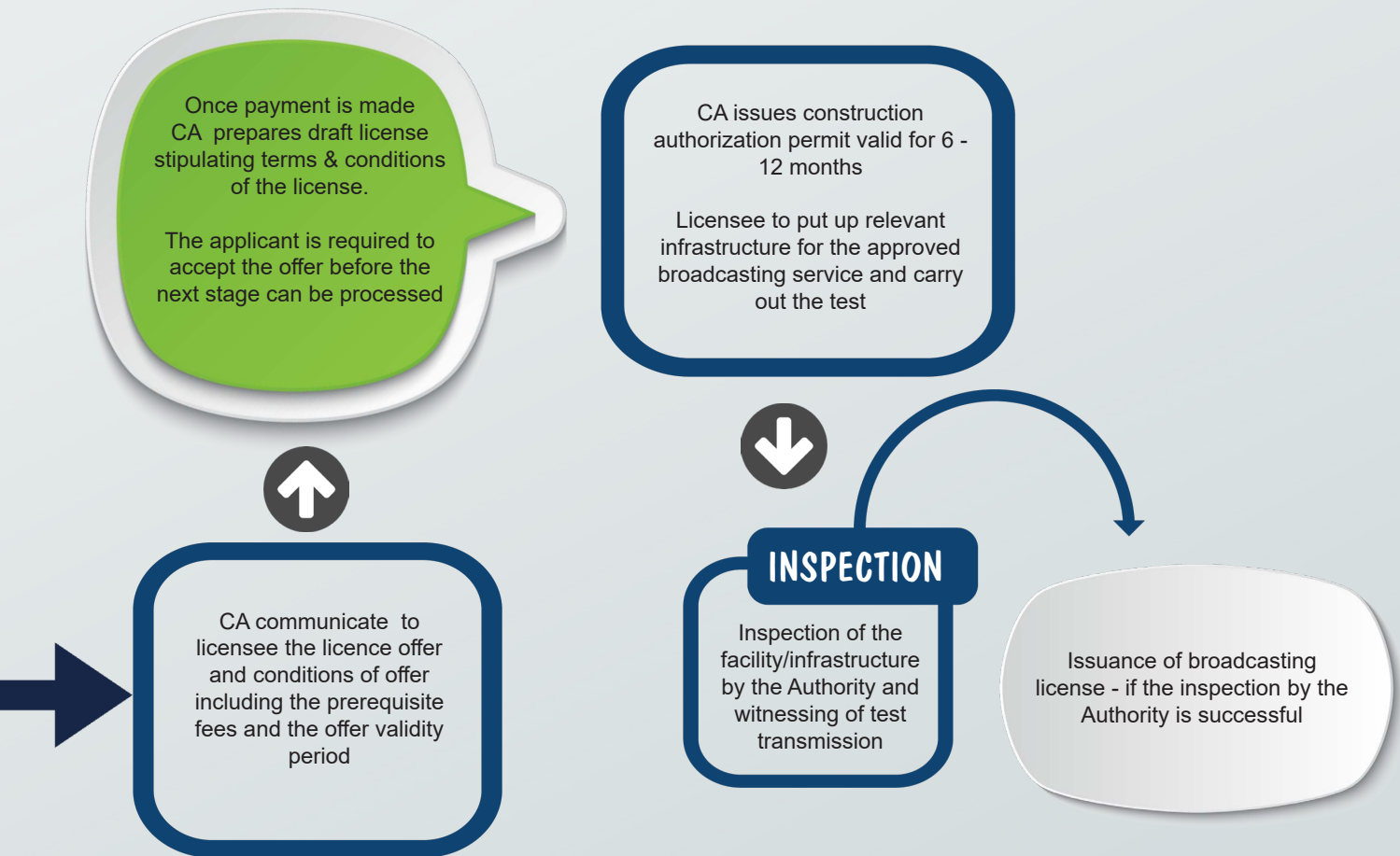
Procedure for Licensing of Broadcasting Service Provider

Application for each broadcast service license and/or frequency is done on a prescribed application forms and in line with the guidelines for application of commercial and community broadcasting services issued by the Authority. These application forms and guidelines are available on the Authority's website for free download.

CA places an advert

Receiving officer receives the application and the supporting documents and issue Payment Instruction Form (PIF) for applicants to pay the prescribed amount on the PIF.

Receiving officer forwards the application to next level for further scrutiny and confirmation of compliance with all the requirements

Evaluation of the prequalified applicants and recommendation for approval or otherwise is done by the Evaluation Team

CLC submit their decision to CA for action

Submission of the evaluation report to the Communications Licensing Committee (CLC)

If the application is approved CA initiates the process of gazetting the application. Gazete notice to run for statutory period of 30 days

If no objection is made to the gazete notice the Authority submits the application to the Board Committee for approval

Licensing fee

Licensing fees and licensing duration is subject to review by the Authority. But as to date the fees paid by the free to air community radio broadcasting licensee is an application fee of KES 1,000, initial licensing fee 15,000 payable after approval and before issuance of license and annual operating fee 15,000 payable on or before 1st July of each year. License duration is 3 years (renewable). The broadcasting licensing fee schedule is also found on the CA website.

Once payment is made CA prepares draft license stipulating terms & conditions of the license.

The applicant is required to accept the offer before the next stage can be processed

CA issues construction authorization permit valid for 6 - 12 months

Licensee to put up relevant infrastructure for the approved broadcasting service and carry out the test

CA communicate to licensee the licence offer and conditions of offer including the prerequisite fees and the offer validity period

INSPECTION

Inspection of the facility/infrastructure by the Authority and witnessing of test transmission

Issuance of broadcasting license - if the inspection by the Authority is successful

Broadcasting equipment

We can generally group the broadcasting equipment into four categories;

1. The studio equipment used to produce and store the programs
2. Equipment for field production and reporting
3. The transmitter for generation of broadcast signal
4. The antenna through which the transmitter signal is radiated

Basic equipment for community radio station

1. Antenna mast/tower
2. Antenna
3. Antenna cable and connectors
4. FM Transmitter
5. Powered studio mixing console
6. Studio monitor speakers
7. Computer
8. Microphones with windshield
9. Microphone stand with swing arm
10. Headphones
11. Audio recorders
12. Automatic voltage regulator
13. Connectors
14. Microphone cables
15. Audio cables
16. Softwares
17. Editing/broadcasting softwares
18. Storage devices (external HD, Flash drives)

Studio Equipment and Tools

- **Playback equipment;** Initially, the studios had to have audio playback machine which included record turntables, tape recorder/player and compact disc player. This is ideal for a studio but my experience with the community radios is that most of them do playbacks by the softwares installed in their studio computers
- **Control/mixing console;** This is the equipment used to control and select the sound source wanted during the program. It also allows the presenter/producer to raise or lower microphone sound or music gradually. It allows the presenter to superimpose microphone voice and low background music, this is "mixing" and which is why it is referred to as mixing console. It has an output line which goes to the transmitter
- **Power/voltage regulator;** It reduces power fluctuations/surges that can not only change the speed of voice and music but can also blow off the equipment. All studio equipment is powered from an electricity source which should pass through an automatic voltage regulator
- **Microphone;** the number and type of microphones required will depend with the size of the studio, number of speakers at any given time and resources available.
- **Headphones**
- **Microphone stand with swing arm**
- **Telephone;** all stations now have call-in programs. One can install a special telephone mixer which allows one to receive multiple and simultaneous calls, put them on hold, and pass them to the mixing console to go on air. That is the ideal situation although it is expensive and most community radio stations can't afford. However, a cheaper way and which is practiced by most community radio stations, is to have a phone with a speaker and put a microphone next to it, but the quality of the resulting signal will not be that good.

Equipment/tools for field production/reporting

- **Audio recorder;** Radio is all about audio and sound quality is key. In ideal situation one is expected to have audio recorders designed for recording sound. However, in the absence of that, you can record audio using a smart phone

- **Microphone (external);** many microphone and even smart phones have got inbuilt microphones, however the inbuilt microphones work well at a closer range. You will need an external microphone to get audible and quality sound if you are recording a bit far from the source

- **Remote microphone mixer;** this is important when several microphones and sound output is required for field production. It is used to select and/or mix the various sound inputs required for the program that is being recorded.

- **Mobile phone and a telephone adaptor;** a telephone adaptor is needed to patch the incoming call to the studio control/mixing console from where it can be broadcast or stored for future use.

Transmission Equipment

Community radio stations are categorized as low-power stations by the Authority and as such they use the low-power FM transmitters. Typically the power output of the transmitters is between 20 and 1000 watts. The size of the transmitter varies from station to station and is determined by the Authority and the details are prescribed in the license offer.

The Antenna

There are two broad categories of antenna: Omni-directional which radiates the signal 360 degrees around itself and directional, which radiates the signal towards one direction. Different community radio stations use different antennas. KOCH FM, for example, uses a J-Pole antenna which is a directional.

The height, position and adjustment of the antenna is important because it plays a role in achieving high quality and the farthest possible reach of an FM broadcast signal. The higher the antenna is, the farther its signal will reach. However, and as the transmitter, it is the Authority who dictates how high the antenna will be and is aligned to the power of the transmitter and distance of coverage as licensed by the Authority.

Antenna mast or tower; Masts can be built locally using galvanized steel water pipes, like the case of KOCH FM. They must have steps welded to them so that the broadcasting antenna itself, fitted high on the mast, can be reached for adjustments and repairs.

Managing Community Radio Station

There is no universally prescribed way of managing a community radio station and as such there is no one correct way of managing a community radio station.

Although the concept is that community radio is owned and controlled by the community, there usually needs to be some body, such as a self help group, community based organization or an association which represents the community's interest and also provides the legal entity to apply for the license and to hold it. The body should have management structures which will undertake the duties of daily running of the station. In ideal situation the management team should represent the different sectors or interests in the community.

KOCH FM for example, is registered as a community based organization (CBO) and it is the CBO that is licensed to operate the radio station. KOCH FM has a Board of 5 members, Operations Team and 4 departments. The Board has representative of the Muslim and Christian faiths, women representative, youth representative and the operations team leader. The Operations Team (OT) is composed of the Team Leader and deputy and the heads of the departments and it is the team that is responsible for day-to-day operations of the station. The station also has a pool of volunteer broadcasters and community correspondents who does program production. The community correspondents report daily on the happenings and issues of public concerns in their areas to inform content of programs.

THE UMOJA PROJECT

Opening up the chapters of UMOJA Radio
for Peace for the last 10 months!

by Sheila Ngatia
The Project Officer

Welcome to UMOJA Radio for Peace, a Kenyan Community Radio Project!

In the aftermath of the 2007/8 post-election violence in Kenya, various briefings by independent media organizations commended community radio in Kenya in the stemming of the violence. The briefings observed that community media, despite its tiny size, emerged from the post - election crisis with great credit and provided a model for the future. UMOJA Radio for Peace was started to provide better and more strategic engagement and support to community radios in Kenya in peace building engagements. Umoja is a Kiswahili word which means Unity.

Umoja Radio for Peace Project is a partnership between GIZ Civil Peace Service and Kenya Community Media Network(KCOMNET) to build the capacities of community radio journalist on conflict sensitive reporting. This partnership is based on the concept of positive peace reflected in the GIZ Standards for the Civil Peace Service of 2005:

"The vision of the players united in the CPS is a "positive peace" that is closely linked to the concept of "justice." Positive peace does not only imply the absence of physical violence but also the creation and strengthening of participatory and inclusive structures which allow the long-term prevention of the eruption of physical violence."

23 community radios plus 17 Catholic radios under Waumini Communications Ltd of the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops are engaged in this project. The capacities of about 300 journalists are enhanced on conflict sensitive content and community engagements. To start with, the project team goes out for assessment visits to the locations of the radio stations to access their needs and prepare them for their engagement with the project. Five regional workshops are held. Exceptional meetings involving forty radios are undertaken. There was collective kick-off meetings, commemoration of the World Press Freedom day convention, among other engagements as part of the first phase of the project.

40 Community and Catholic Radio stations
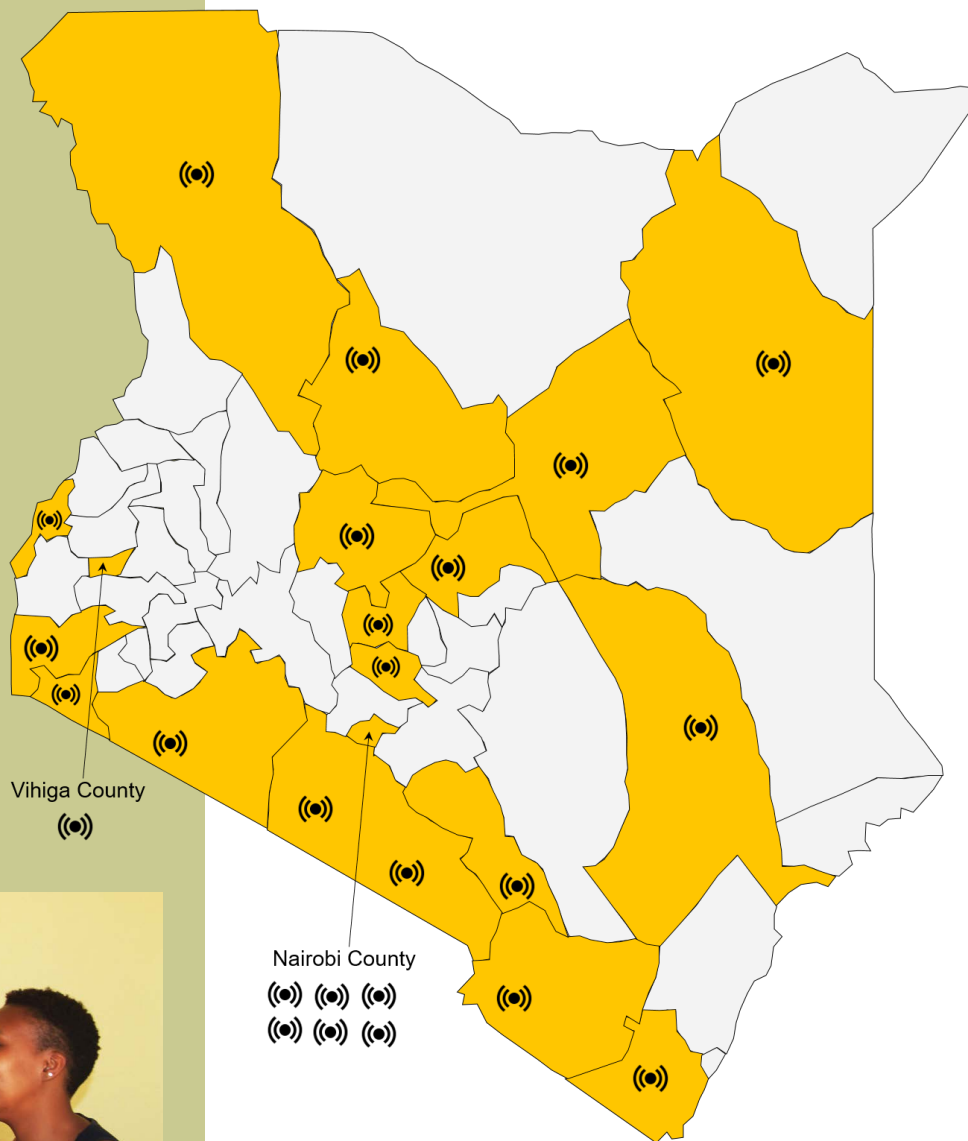
300 Journalists

47 Counties

1 Project

By bringing together and enhancing networking, advocacy and sharing of content among community radios in Kenya, UMOJA Radio for Peace has built up a force to reckon with. This has brought more partners on board. They include the "Konrad Adenauer Stiftung" (KAS), a German political foundation. KAS is interested to work with community media in the promotion of democratic values, against extremism, hate speech, voter bribery and violence.

The Association for Development Cooperation (AGEH) which works with the Kenya Conference of the Catholic bishops (KCCB), has increased the number of radios by bringing the Catholic radio stations. This brings up to 40 radios engaged in this project. The Catholic radios which also engage in community broadcasting have enriched the project not only in numbers but also by contributing actively at the capacity building workshops and producing content on peace and conflict resolution.

Vihiga County

Nairobi County

Recording session - ' Women too can lead project' in Sagana Gateway resort

Spread of the 40 community radios involved in the project.

Umoja Radio for Peace footprint across the country.

Assessment radio station visits

From the capital city Nairobi to one of Lake Victorias' islands, Mfangano Island, 1 DX 326 A, our project car hit the terrains of almost every small town. The passengers included Sheila – Project Support Officer for UMOJA Radio for Peace and Michael – International Peace building Advisor - CPS/GIZ & KCOMNET not forgetting Alina – KCOMNET intern. The 40 community radios involved in our project are spread across the 47 counties of Kenya. Our objective to visit most of the radios was to do a field assessment of the nature, strengths and challenges on conflict sensitive reporting. This was also an opportunity to meet and greet with the respective station managers including their staff, officially introduce our project and its objectives. The warm reception in the radio stations was enough to tell that they were ready to work with us.

Due to the different locations where some of the radios are based, we had to categorize the radios geographically into 5 clusters. First in line, the 7 Nairobi Community Radios, the Coastal region – 4 CRs, Central, Eastern and North eastern region – 5 CRs, Rift valley, Nyanza and Western region – 6 CRs and finally Narok & Murang'a – 3CRs. The total number of radios we visited is 25. The remaining lot due to the heightened political activities during pre-election period, the security situation hindered us from visiting them.

"It's a pleasure to meet all of you and thanks for having us here.Tell us a little bit about your radio, how many staff are you? Which language do you broadcast in? Vision and mission? And finally what do you know about conflict sensitive reporting?" Sheila asked in every radio she got an opportunity to visit. Michael took photos and sometimes sound recordings during the visits. This went on for all the radios we managed to visit. Off course we took notes for our reference and reports later.

"Sheila, are you hungry? Could we stop and find something to eat?" Michael always suggested this on the way to some of the radios since the distance was sometimes too long. Water bottles were always in plenty in the boot in case one of us needed one. Some banana chips and/or fruits were also kept safe underneath the arm rest just in case we were in the middle of nowhere and no sign of a restaurant. Google maps, Garmin – car GPS came in handy to help in finding our way most of the times. Thanks to the digital age we live in. Community Radios like Mangelete Radio, Ekialo Kiona FM & Bulala FM were really a challenge to trace since civilization is still far from reality where they are located. All in all, thanks to our project four wheel car drive, we got there surprisingly on time for our appointments.

A lot of useful information came out of these visits .One was that the UMOJA project was timely and enhancing the radio colleagues' skills on conflict sensitive reporting was essential being an election year. According to some of the responses, a gap could sometimes be felt on the journalists understanding on the application of conflict sensitivity in journalism. This could also be attributed to the fact that a lot of Community Radio journalists learn on the job as volunteers and are not fully trained journalists.

After having a look and feel on the field and getting to know the who is who in the radio stations, the capacity building part of our project kicked off. Appropriate modules which will go in-depth in the next chapter were developed. Logistical planning for the venues of the workshops became clearer since some of the radios even offered to host us in their community centers. The potential participants to attend were well known to us and the ball was now in our court.

Oltoilo le maa FM radio presenter and community members who are fans of the radio

Amazing things we see on the roads: Zebras crossing, Marsabit - Isiolo highway

Lunch is served - Michael washing the participants hands at Ekialo Kiona community center

1 DX 326A..hitting the hard terrain in en-route to Marsabit County

Borana traditional women.. amazing people we meet on the roads

Sharing is caring - lunch with radio colleagues from Bus radio in Kajiado county

Say Cheeeeese: Michael...Marsabit moments..

Workshops & Meetings

A training workshop means sharing knowledge. In 5 Regional Workshops we worked with about 300 Radio-Colleagues. A rich exchange on the large range of topics we discussed.

- What is Conflict?
- What is Violence?
- Types of conflict and violence.
- Who are actors in a conflict?
- What are the different stages in a conflict?
- What are the different tools and models that can be used to analyze conflicts?
- The iceberg model (how we only see conflicts at the tip forgetting what lies underneath)

- Importance of understanding conflicts
- Where do journalists stand in a conflict?
- How can they stay objective?
- What is the impact of their reporting in a conflict?
- What is the difference between Peace Journalism and War Journalism?
- The DO-NO-HARM principle
- Questions and answers.

- Marshal Rosenberg's concept of Non-Violent-Communication (NVC). "Being aware of your language", Identifying hate speech and how to counter it.
- Local conflict analysis
- Group exercises to map conflicts in the context of their local communities'.
- Identifying the needs and interests behind conflict actors which can be useful for a journalists work.

- "How to tell the story". Sharing with the radio colleagues about content production requirements.
- What kind of feature productions and radio drama we can do.
- Tips for better writing and producing.
- Fact checking

Achievements

UMOJA which means unity has managed to unify Community Radios creating one big family and a platform to network. 2017 was a great year for the project, Viva UMOJA Radio for Peace!
And things will go on; there are a lot of stories to tell …

25 radios visited by project team

The project team managed to visit at least 25 radios which are spread out across the country, took hundreds of photos which tell stories about the radios for documentation and for the public to see.
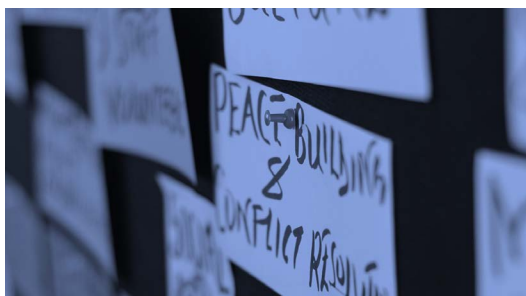
Launched Umoja monthly newsletter, 3 editions Published so far

Three newsletters were successfully published telling a lot about our project activities, schedules for the next activities and again lots of photos of our trips and workshops.

New Partnerships

The UMOJA project through networking managed to get on board two more partners, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) and Association for Development Cooperation (AGEH).

Vibrant digital platform - WhatsApp group of all community radio journalists

We have an active WhatsApp-group comprising of our UMOJA team, community radio journalists and other networks. The platform was key especially during the election period for apt and constant updates on what's happening in different parts of the country.

Nairobi declaration of Kenya Community radios (pg 79-80)

World press freedom day was the climax of our activities. It brought together 40 radio stations which signed a common declaration committing to promoting Ethical, Tolerant, Inclusive and Accountable journalism. This was the first declaration of this kind given by the Kenyan Community Radios.

PRESS t-shirts for all community radio journalist

Production of the PRESS T-shirts for the journalists for easy identification while covering elections in their respective constituencies were a bonus to help the journalists being identified as Media-Professionals

Peace advocacy productions - radio spots and jingles

Peace related productions which include jingles themed – "Umoja Radio for Peace, a Kenyan Community radio project", a lot of radios spots advocating for peaceful elections and also peace messages recorded from different voices/stakeholders advocating for Peace and unity before, during and after the elections.
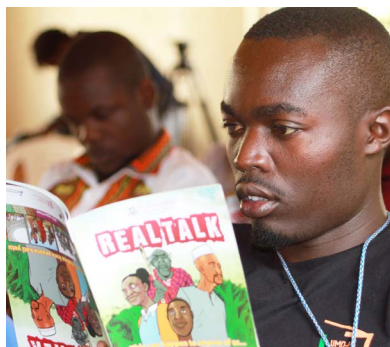
"This can happen to anyone of us" Radio drama

We've produced a Radio-Drama "This can happen to anyone of us" together with Mtaani FM – this was done in cooperation with another GIZ/CPS-project working with internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kenya. This Radio-Drama is broadcasted by all the 40 UMOJA stations.

Five big training workshops on conflict sensitive reporting

Five big training workshops on conflict sensitive reporting held in different locations. The topics: Understanding Conflicts, Non-Violent-Communication, Broadcasting for Peace, fact-checking, security of journalists.

Project web portal

We have an active website at www.umojaradioforpeace.org. It has been instrumental in information sharing and networking.

"How to work with Press and Media" external workshop

The UMOJA-Project-Team did some external workshops on "How to work with Press and Media" for CPS-Partner-Organizations like Kituo-Cha-Sheria in Nairobi or KNCHR and Human Rights CSOs in Mombasa

Feed backs from trained participants

Positive impacts of the trainings

Cate Wanjiku – KOCH FM

The skills helped me to engage the audience through programs, radio spots calls and sms's to pass peace messages. After the training we got the idea to also invite organizations and leaders around Korogocho who are ambassadors of peace and of influence in the society to talk about issues related to peaceful co-existence.

Jane Waiyego – Kangema FM

The packaging of news and other productions were done very well and we got responses from our audiences who stated that they enjoyed the unbiased and well researched core conflict reports and broadcasts.

Edward Bande – Radio Rameny

Non- violent communication short course helped us in packaging information during talk shows and radio interviews that played a big role in fostering peace especially during the electioneering period in Migori County.

Victor Juma – Bus radio

After the trainings, we had several discussions with presenters and reporters of BUS radio on matters content going on air and how to report conflicts during August polls using the tools provided for by UMOJA Radio for Peace - UR4P.

Adam Chigamba - Kwale Ranet

The trainings strengthened my knowledge and skills on balanced reporting and prevention of conflicts on air through applying conflict sensitivity.

Lydia Wangoma – Bulala FM

The call for peace was adhered to; no youth were seen in groups or in unbecoming behavior at the polling stations. There was no report whatsoever of voter intimidation as all were empowered on their constitutional rights to choose.

Edwin Korobe – Sawanga FM

Through the trainings and improved reporting, we caught the attention of peace campaigning NGO i.e. St. Martin Apostolade, Global Veterans peace ambassadors who sponsored some of our programs.

Nick Lenyakopiro – Serian FM

Through our engagement with our listeners, the community has come out and talked to herself. Young people have taken to the campaign 'Amani ni Mimi', it worked well.

Resources

Useful links :

Mediacouncil of Kenya
http://mediacouncil.or.ke/en/mck/

Communications Authority of kenya
http://www.ca.go.ke/

UMOJA-Radio for Peace Website
https://umojaradioforpeace.org/

UMOJA Training Material
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5flapx96wn2lp4w/AAC4DH-qD5ly0WoWL-FTOi8tKa?dl=0

KCOMNET Website
https://kcomnet.org/

GIZ (German Cooperation) Website
https://www.giz.de/en/html/index.html

Civil Peace Service Website
https://www.ziviler-friedensdienst.org/en

Konrad Adenauer Foundation
http://www.kas.de/kenia/en/

Association for Development Cooperation
https://www.ageh.de/english/start-page.html

Internews-Kenya-Website
http://internewskenya.org/

Deutsche Welle Academy Website
http://www.dw.com/en/dw-akademie/about-us/s-9519

Catholic Media Council
http://www.cameco.org/english/

Voice of Africa (Dutsch Media NGO)
http://www.stemvanafrika.nl/index.php?article_id=2&-clang=1

Kenya National Commission for UNESCO
http://www.unesco.go.ke/

The 2017 Nairobi Declaration of Kenyan Community Radios

May 3rd, 2017 World Press Freedom day, was a special day for community radios in Kenya. It led to the following declaration;

"Engagement for Truth, Fairness, Ethics and Integrity"

We the participants of the World Press Freedom Day 2017 Convention of Kenyan Community Radios, held in Nairobi, Kenya, on May, 2nd and 3rd 2017, under the auspices of Kenya Community Media Network (KCOMNET), Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) and the GIZ/Civil Peace Service 'UMOJA-Radio for Peace' Project,

Having considered the impact of elections-based-hate-speech, violence and post-election violence in Kenya 2007/2008 and having paid solemn tribute to those who lost their lives,

Believing that it is important to combat attempts to use media as instruments of propaganda, hatred and violence, especially in times of election campaigns,

Considering that free media and ethical journalism are cornerstones of democracy and vital to the creation of unified, peaceful and tolerant societies,

Considering again that the latest figures about decreasing press freedom in the world, published these days by "REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS", are highlighting a dangerous tendency,

Insisting that hate speech, which incites violence and intense hatred between communities, must be exposed, isolated and eliminated without undermining ethical journalism and press freedom,

Noting that women, children, youth, physically challenged and people from minority communities whose portrayal in media is often demeaning and full of stereotypes are the primary victims of intolerance and discrimination,

Welcoming the rapid expansion of internet in Kenya as information and communication tool but recognising that there is an urgent need for media organizations to promote responsible use of information online and to counter or, where appropriate, to block fake news, hate speech and ethnicity in social networks,

Further recognising the growing significance of online information in the media economy and strongly insisting that media do not sacrifice standards and ethical credibility for commercial gain,

Noting the tendency of media on all platforms to sensationalise information and to use stereotypes and clichés which reinforce the conditions, in which hate speech and violence can flourish,

Calling on the government of Kenya, media agencies and the International community to commit themselves to the highest standards of press freedom, free expression, protection of journalists and to support efforts to reinforce responsible election coverage and highest reporting standards,

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We as journalists and community broadcasters declare our public engagement for highest professional journalistic standards, with the aim of promoting ethical, tolerant, inclusive and accountable journalism, good media governance and responsible communications to do no harm in the exercise of our profession.

We declare our support to the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) and the Ethical Journalism Network (EJN) in the efforts to establish guidelines to expose and identify Hate Speech and to elaborate a model for auditing Transparency, Good Governance and Ethics of Journalism.

We urge all media professional groups at community, regional and national level and across all platforms of journalism in Kenya and elsewhere to raise awareness of the ethical challenges and to strengthen responsible editorial work in line with the objectives of this declaration.

-SIGNED BY-
40 RADIO STATIONS
Nairobi, May 3rd, 2017

About Kenya Community Media Network (KCOMNET)

Kenya Community Media Network (KCOMNET) is a non-profit organization and the national networking association for community media sector in Kenya. It was founded by a voluntary group of individuals, media practitioners, NGOs, and community media groups with an interest in development communications and committed to support the promotion and development of community media in Kenya. Community media engaged by KCOMNET include community radio, community resource centres, community newsletters, community cinema, community artists (theatre, creative writers, musicians, painters etc), community noticeboards, among other forms of community media. Since its inception, KCOMNET has focussed its engagements on the development of community radio in Kenya. This is due to the weaknesses and sluggish development of the community radio sector in this country. Besides, community radio is considered as the flagship of community media as they are able to effectively integrate and promote other forms of community media. The Network provides a platform for networking between community media, with other media stakeholders, and the general public. It also mobilizes resources for the development of community media in Kenya.

Initially, KCOMNET saw as its core mandate the need to push for a regulatory framework that would suit the needs of community media. The network led in drafting a community broadcasting bill for presentation before a Presidential Task Force on Media Law that then was appointed to collect views on the possibility of drafting a new media law.

Between 1996 – 2002, KCOMNET prioritised its work along two crucial areas:

1. Training and capacity building and
2. Lobbying for an overall regulatory framework for broadcasting with special emphasis to community broadcasting.

KCOMNET's work has over the years focused on advocacy to promote an enabling environment for community media. KCOMNET started by demanding constitutional and legal amendments, repeals and additions, which guarantee the freedoms of expression, information and communication. KCOMNET in particular examined the Kenya Broadcasting context and toward this end developed a position paper that was presented to the Kenyan Task Force on the Media Law and the Attorney General. Thereafter, the Network came up with a Bill on Community Broadcasting which was presented to the Task Force on Media Law. KCOMNET also generated position papers on the meaning of community media to remove the misconceptions that existed in the minds of most that equated community media to vernacular or tribal radio.

Between 2003–2008, KCOMNET held several sub-regional workshops to discuss experiences, legislative development, challenges and strategies for strengthening the community media sector in Africa. The network was part of several engagements globally that sought to popularise and make the sector stronger. The network coordinated the East African Community Media Network and led the establishment of two founding radio stations in Uganda and Tanzania. The network played a key role in the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters AMARC and chaired the forum for one term. The network also held several media debates on the issue of community media, met with several officials to advocate and lobby for the sector.

To date, KCOMNET supports community media stations in Kenya to address pressing socio-economic and local governance issues in the grassroots communities. These issues include those on community health, peace building, entrepreneurship, community education, development of independent and progressive civil society, social justice, good governance, transparency and accountability, among other issues affecting grassroots communities.

OUR VISION
Communities in charge of their communication.

MISSION
To enrich community media through networking, capacity building, content development and policy advocacy for transformative social change in Kenya.

RALLYING SLOGAN
Amplifying community voices.

Over the years, KCOMNET has collaborated with a variety of local and international development partners to build the capacity of community based media and their practitioners in Kenya.

The network is governed by a Steering Council comprised of 12 members (7 males and 5 females). Its secretariat based in Nairobi.

KCOMNET is affiliated to Amarc and East Africa Community Media Network.