

## Message from the CEO

The CSO landscape in the country and world over is restructuring. Funding for CSOs in emerging economies is drastically changing. Kenya's transition from Low to Middle income economy has triggered the withdrawal of a substantial amount of foreign aid. Coupled with the refugee crisis in Europe, the variety of actors pursuing aid funding is expanding to include private sector players. The issue of sustainability for civil society then is an emerging question that requires a serious consideration. CSOs that traditionally have a charity approach must do a rethink of their fundraising strategy.

The partnership with the Yetu Initiative comes at a time when CSOs in the country are going through hard times. Funding from traditional donors is dwindling while new philanthropists and corporate donors seem to be "avoiding" CSOs. Furthermore, there is a tug of war between funding for service delivery and funding for advocacy activities. More and more CSOs are left with little choice and are sharpening their focus on mobilizing both international and domestic resources for development.

Education is one of the strategic pillars at Omega Foundation. We believe that the key to alleviating poverty lies in educating our communities to the highest level. Education for all vulnerable children has been a dream for us. To enable OF achieve this dream The Aga Khan Foundation through the Yetu Initiative is partnering with OF to raise funds that will eventually go into creating an endowment fund. This partnership will see the Yetu team build capacity of Omega Foundation staff to be able to effectively carry out local resource mobilization by leveraging on our strengths and partnerships with the local communities. We will be coming to you to support our initiative when the time is right.

Omega Foundation is poised to diversify its resource mobilization strategy beyond the scope to include commercial ventures to sustain institutional and program pillars. We bring you this newsletter to share our learnings from our programs with the aim of contributing to new initiatives that bring good to our communities and impact lives positively. Enjoy the Read!

## Education For All Campaign

Omega Foundation and the Yetu Initiative signed a two year contract . This partnership will see Omega Foundation run a campaign to locally raise funds for the Alpha Fund. This is in a bid to ensure that vulnerable children in Homabay, Siaya and Kisumu counties. The campaign will run later in the year.

It is for this reason that 3 members of the Omega Foundation staff attended a one week training on Communication, Fundraising and Marketing organized by the Yetu Initiative and facilitated by ICM Kenya. The training was aimed at helping partners understand the changing Fundraising landscape for local NGOs and to learn strategies that can be used to tap the power on the power of crowd funding.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Message from the Chief Executive Officer
- Education Fund- Training in Communication, Fundraising and Marketing by Yetu Initiative
- OF conducts Paralegal Training for Inspectors in Ujuuang'a
- TAG International courtesy call
- YFS Training for service providers
- New funding opportunities: Comic Relief

## PARALEGAL TRAINING IN UJUANG'A

Omega Foundation in the month of April facilitated the training of 30 Inspectors from the Ujuuang'a Community Based Organization as paralegals to help them able to identify cases of child abuse and empower them to intervene whenever they feel the rights of a child are infringed upon.

More than half the world's population are not satisfactorily protected by the law or the institutions established to govern them [1] Laws regulate all aspects of an individual's life and it quite important that everybody in the community knows about the laws that govern them because it is not for a select group of people as they say ignorance is no defense. Majority of Kenyans are not aware of the existence of several laws that govern them and regulates their conduct. As a result of this and other factors, several people have been denied justice.

To promote access to justice for all, the government recently gazetted the Legal Aid Act, 2015 that recognizes the role of the paralegals in ensuring access to justice for all. A paralegal is a community based individual, who is not a lawyer but who has basic legal knowledge and skills. Paralegal workers are therefore development workers and community members who educate people about the law or offer basic legal services.

The role of the trained paralegals will be to enlighten members of the greater Ujuuang'a community on their legal rights and assist in Alternative Dispute Resolution while acting as a link between the Ujuuang'a community and persons interested in the general welfare and development of the community. They will consult and liaise with professional lawyers and legal aid organization in instances of gross abuse of a vulnerable Childs rights



A participant responds to a question during the inspectors paralegal training in Ujuuang,a

## TAG INTERNATIONAL CEO MAKES A COURTESY CALL

Tag International Development shares the best of Israeli Expertise with vulnerable communities, delivering sustainable, scalable and measurable impact benefiting thousands of people and as such it was an honor for Omega Foundation when their CEO, Rabbi Yossi Ives dropped by the office on his recent visit to Kenya to talk about a possible partnership.

He reiterated that a partnership with Omega Foundation would be beneficial to both organizations. OF being strong in community partnerships could capitalize on unique opportunities from Tag International and this would be an opportunity to transform lives by focusing on livelihoods. This would be achieved by marrying local reach with a strong business sense.

Rabbi Yossi as assured Omega Foundation that on his next visit to Kenya, he will share knowledge from Tag Institute on social inclusion and conduct a training workshop for care givers Omega Foundation works with. He will also buy the equipment the children in the program will use.

He challenged Omega Foundation to come up with an innovative idea that would have an impact in the communities we work in and Tag International would come in to assist Omega Foundation in implementation.

*Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."*

— Our Common Future, World Commission Report, 1987

## YFS TRAINING

Adolescents' sexual and reproductive health must be supported. This means providing access to comprehensive sexuality education; services to prevent, diagnose and treat STIs; and counseling on contraceptives. It also means empowering young people to know and exercise their rights - including the right to delay marriage and the right to refuse unwanted sexual advances. 19 Service providers were trained on Youth Friendly Services at the Bondo Pride Hotel. The training was to ensure quality and effective service provision for the youths and adolescents seeking services in the 19 Youth Friendly Centers run by Omega Foundation.

For millions of young people around the world, the onset of adolescence brings not only changes to their bodies but also new vulnerabilities to human rights abuses, particularly in the arenas of sexuality, marriage and childbearing.

The age of sexual debut is growing younger among the youth putting them at risk of unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, sexually transmitted Infections including HIV and dangerous childbirth. Yet too many young people face barriers to reproductive health information and care. Even those able to find accurate information about their health and rights may be unable to access the services needed to protect their health . Youth-friendly service delivery is about providing health services based on a comprehensive understanding of what young people in any given society or community want and need. It is also based on an understanding of, and respect for, the realities of young people's diversity and sexual rights.



Participants at the YFS training in Bondo

## New Funding : COMIC RELIEF

Omega Foundation has had a long term relationship spanning over 10 years with Comic Relief. The partner is developing a new funding strategy and will most likely change its approach to funding. Comic Relief has awarded Omega Foundation a 1 year transition grant that will support organizational review and the gaps identified during this review to be addressed with this grant.

This grant is important as it will enable OF strengthen its sustainability approach to bolster its facilitation role and broaden its advocacy work in its areas of intervention.

*"From better health to increased wealth, education is the catalyst of a better future for millions of children, youth and adults. No country has ever climbed the socio-economic development ladder without steady investments in education."*

*Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO*