

**THE OPEN SOCIETY INITIATIVE
FOR EASTERN AFRICA**



**Annual Progress Report
2015**

Progress review: Making a difference

Overview:

Human rights, good democratic governance and the rule of law were predominantly under siege in 2015 in eastern Africa. Closing spaces were a constant theme across the region: sometimes the methods to achieve these were similar while on other occasions, they differed according to specific country contexts. The Ugandan government's proclivities to use raw, brazen and brutal force, for instance, are well documented, while in Sudan the government of President Bashir opportunistically piggy-backed on the crisis in the Middle East and North Africa to strengthen its role in international politics; cultivating goodwill and at the same time diverting attention away from its strong-arm domestic policies. In Kenya, the government of President Kenyatta largely used the language of terrorism and counter-terrorism as a cover to prosecute its assault on the transformative and progressive democratic ambitions enshrined in the 2010 Constitution. In Tanzania, the election to power of President Magufuli and his subsequent initiation of a populist war against corruption and inefficiency in public service delivery has obscured the view that there are at least two national newspapers that have been banned in the country; it also hid the fact that the constitutional reform process has been stalled in the country by the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party and with it frozen the hopes of many for a new democratic dawn in the country. Equally bad is the fact that the political repression in Zanzibar has deteriorated to worrying levels.

The region also continued to witness sharp political and ethnic polarization and the cases of the open conflict in Burundi and South Sudan exemplify the worst of this predicament within the region. In Kenya, the deep-seated ethnic divide pits the two ethnic communities in power, the Gikuyu and Kalenjin, in sharp and strident contestation against the rest; approximately forty others. In Uganda, the ethnicities associated with President Museveni's western ethnic Banyankole coalition are now subject to ever-growing animus from the rest of the country. Only in Tanzania have we not witnessed such polarization but the dynamic of Zanzibari separatism continues to play out over increasingly shrill and strident political notes.

The economies in eastern Africa have been majorly characterized by endemic corruption that has reached mind-boggling proportions; seemingly both cancerous and run-away; defying all attempts to prevent, harness or manage. Indeed, international donor partners in the region have been quietly and sometimes publicly threatening to withdraw foreign direct assistance due to corruption and public finance mismanagement.

Donors working in the human rights, democratic governance and rule of law sectors in the region seem to be largely reducing their support for civil societies working in these areas or totally withdrawing from this space altogether. This has been due to several reasons; not least that there has been a lack of traction or progress in achieving positive results or outcomes in these areas. Moreover, it has also been due to a deliberate and orchestrated policy by some governments in the region to stare down and intimidate them.

Concerns over marginalization of specific categories of people in the region such as women, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and the LGBTI community also continued to be in sharp focus. There were myriad instances of legal, policy-level, and citizen-level assaults on the recognition and respect of the rights of these populations.

But the dream of a just, free, vibrant and inclusive region remained alive. In Sudan, for instance, citizens mobilized to boycott the elections and thus deny the Bashir regime the kind of electoral legitimacy it craved. The youth there have been particularly engaged in conversations on how to take forward their democratic dream. The citizens in Uganda continued to resist and defy Museveni and continued to challenge the continued militarization of governance in Uganda by focusing on electoral reforms and working to safeguard democratic spaces within parliament. Partnerships with CSOs to observe and document the electoral process were made, and enabled CSOs to build scenarios. Outside Kampala, some

clusters enjoyed success in 2015: the Karamoja cluster sought to create a Karamoja-wide coalition that had human rights and food security at its center; the advocacy on extractives in this region was oriented to this purpose (rights and livelihoods). In Tanzania, the increased levels of opposition to the ruling CCM party saw incoming President Magufuli engage in a very public and enchanting campaign against corruption and public-service entropy. In Kenya, there was a re-galvanized and ever-louder voice for real accountability around corruption and financial mismanagement.

Goal 1: Select institutions, communities and individuals promote and safeguard the rights and values of the 2010 Constitution.

Protection of human rights and democratic spaces at risk

2015 was hostile to human rights work in general and human rights defenders in particular in Kenya. The government continued to display high levels of intolerance to criticism, especially with regard to some operations related to counterterrorism. In addition, the government continued to erode provisions of the 2010 constitution. The year was also characterized by sky-high levels of corruption and increasing tolerance for reported hate speech.

Some examples of government action that violated rights, threatened or closed civic spaces and/or resulted in constitutional reversals include:

- In April 2015 the government named and threatened to deregister OSIEA grantees Haki Afrika and Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI) as specified entities under the Prevention of Terrorism Act;
- In October 2015 the government gave notice of its intention to deregister 939 NGOs;
- A reintroduction of the unpopular amendments to the Public Benefits Organizations (PBO) Act 2013; and,
- Amendments to the National Police Service Act 2011 and the Independent Policing Oversight Authority Act 2011 to reinstate powers that had been removed from the Presidency by the 2010 Constitution thereby strengthening executive control of the sector and weakening civilian oversight and accountability mechanisms.

OSIEA supported public interest litigation, legal aid for human rights defenders and technical support for CSOs and national institutions such as the judiciary in order to protect human rights and democratic spaces at risk. It also supported advocacy for progressive legislation that enables the realization of rights.

Public Interest Litigation

In 2015 OSIEA supported ground breaking litigation that resulted in the courts declaring a number of laws and state actions unconstitutional. This included litigation that:

- Declared a number of provisions under the Security Laws Amendment Act (SLAA) 2014 unconstitutional. The security amendments had expanded police stop-and-search powers, restricted freedom of expression and assembly and purported to permit pretrial detention for 90 days for terrorism suspects;
- Obtained a declaration that failure to register the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (NGLHRC) was unconstitutional;
- Quashed the action of the Inspector General of Police to declare his intent to deregister MUHURI and Haki Africa as unconstitutional;
- Challenged the constitution of a cabinet that does not meet the 1/3rd gender rule;
- Challenged the constitutionality of the mandatory death penalty; and,
- Secured property rights/ensured compensation for those that are in danger of losing their land to big infrastructure projects.

This litigation, even where it has not been concluded, has achieved significant protection for human rights, the values of the 2010 Constitution and democratic spaces at risk.

Goal 2: Select partners safeguard the devolution process in Kenya and hold selected county governments accountable in the management of public resources.

In 2015 OSIEA supported 3 organizations to work in 15 counties (out of a total of 47) to enable citizens participation in the county planning and budgeting process. Public awareness activities including community conversations, training, and radio programs and conversations using new media were some of the approaches that OSIEA partners used to improve citizen participation in county governance.

Increased awareness led to increased self-organizing and mobilizing at the local level. There was evidence of growing assertiveness by citizens at the county level as citizens engaged in social auditing and civic forums through which they demanded greater accountability from county government officials on the use of public funds. Citizens are increasingly able to question the appropriateness and quality of projects overseen by county governments and demand accountability in the delivery of public services. In Nairobi, sector groups were able influence budget priorities to include the construction of a hospital and youth trading stalls. In Nakuru, citizens were able to mobilize, draft and present 18 memoranda during county budget forums.

Lastly, OSIEA partners provided support to the counties in policy development including drafting of bills, designing structures and developing guidelines to enable public participation in county governance. Out of the 15 select counties, 5 have or are in the process of passing the county public participation bills.

Goal 3: Increase responsiveness of the rule of law sector to protect and promote human rights and access to justice.

The reality of closing spaces was never true for Kenya's recent history than in 2015. In April, OSIEA grantees MUHURI and Haki Africa found themselves in a Kenya Gazette notice listed among "entities suspected to be associated with Al-Shabaab" which led to their bank accounts being frozen, their books of accounts being confiscated by the Kenya Revenue Authority, threats of deregistration by the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Coordination Board, and almost unable to function in the short term. Both MUHURI and Haki Africa have been at the forefront documenting human rights violations in Kenya's counterterrorism efforts.

OSIEA, along with a few other donors continued to find innovative ways to ensure that both organizations could operate minimally. OSIEA also supported their litigation against this government action. The High Court would ultimately determine that this listing of both organizations was unfounded; ordering the lifting of the bank accounts freeze.

However, even as this was unfolding, a government taskforce set up to gather the public's views on the Public Benefits Organizations (PBO) Act released its findings proposing amendments to the Act (which is yet to come into force). It recommended, inter alia, for CSOs to compulsorily disclose the sources of their funding and declare how they intend to utilize the same, as well as give a percentage of the funding they receive to an authority to be established by the government to monitor them. OSIEA participated in forums in support of open spaces and along with other grantees and partners, supported advocacy against the proposed amendments to the PBO Act. The program also supported two advocacy missions for partners, one to Washington DC and another to London to discuss the Kenyan situation on the closing democratic space as well as human rights violations emanating from counterterrorism approaches. The DC mission had meetings with the State Department and members of the US Senate and House of Representatives. It focused largely on the threat to civil society and counterterrorism and may have contributed to President Obama adding a meeting with Kenya civil society representatives to his itinerary during his 2015 visit to Kenya. A similar mission to London focused as well on UK-Kenya relations and trade-offs between human rights and business or capital investments.

Goal 4: Enhance civil society organizations' demand for accountability in elections management and increased citizens' participation in elections.

In 2015 a convening of CSOs was held to discuss CSO engagement with the 2017 general elections. Amongst the issues discussed was the possibility of establishing an Election Situation Room (ESR) in Kenya. OSIEA's support for elections-related work also included the publication and the launch of the book "*New Constitution, Same Old Challenges: Reflections on Kenya's 2013 General Elections*" whose objective was to trigger pre-election policy dialogues before the 2017 elections. The project included the holding of pre-publication forums as well as post-publication forums in 5 counties in the country.

Goal 5: Increase demand for accountability by government and oil companies in the extraction of oil.

Under this goal OSIEA supported policy and advocacy work by the Institute for Law and Environmental Governance (ILEG); film production by Content House; and research and publication by the United States International University (USIU)-Africa in collaboration with the Kenya School of Government (KSG). These partners invested in community learning and promoted dialogue amongst communities, county governments and oil companies in both Turkana County and Nyakach in Kisumu County. Some of the work focused on capturing the voices of communities on oil exploration and extraction. Partners also participated in policy formulation and contributed to proposed sector laws. There was investment in knowledge production and sharing through research and publication.

In November 2015 the KSG and USIU-Africa launched the report of an OSIEA supported research on oil and gas in Turkana titled *Conflict, Security and the Extractive Industries in Turkana: Emerging Issues 2012 - 2015*. The findings of the report are contributing to the growing but still very nascent body of work on oil governance in Kenya. The uptake so far has been encouraging with various policy makers engaging the researchers on their findings in post-launch events including 2 events with members of parliament (MPs) from Turkana and Mandera Counties.

Goal 6: Increase demand for enforcement of laws and policies tackling corruption and financial mismanagement.

In 2015 the program's work on corruption and accountability included awareness raising and research on chapter 6 of the 2010 constitution (on leadership and integrity); litigation that stopped the unaccountable/wasteful use public resources; and the social auditing by communities of government delivery of public services and implementation of development projects.

Despite years of investment by OSIEA partners and other actors, corruption in the country has now hit dizzying levels; it is pervasive and seems to defy attempts for accountability.

OSIEA INITIATIVE: COMPLIMENTARITY

Strategic litigation and advocacy to hold perpetrators accountable for international crimes committed during the 2007/8 post-election violence in Kenya.

Despite the slow movement of the litigation that began in 2013, the victims and petitioners in the sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) case all completed giving their oral evidence. There are still more witnesses left to testify, including experts, psychologists, psychiatrists and nurses. To amplify advocacy for this case, a grant of USD 50,000 was given to the Kenyan chapter of Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) to lead an advocacy strategy agreed upon by a consortium of OSIEA partners, OSIEA and the Open Society Foundations' (OSF's) Justice Initiative during a strategy meeting in Nairobi.

The police shooting case filed in Kisumu also finally obtained a mention date at the Kisumu High Court in December. The Attorney General however still did not respond to the petition. The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) agreed to take a more active role in this litigation in order to add traction to the case.

In his State of the Nation address in March and for the first time since the 2007 post-election violence (PEV), President Uhuru Kenyatta, acknowledged in Kenya's parliament the existence of post-election victims. He apologized to the victims and announced the setting up of a KSH 10 billion reparations fund (approximately USD 100 million) for victims of grave crimes. Although the exact nature of this fund or the victims' groups meant to benefit from it, or scope and so on, remain unclear, OSIEA partners, under the banner of the Kenya Transitional Justice Network (KTJN) mobilized to engage the then Cabinet Secretary for Devolution and Planning on the reparations fund.

Goal 1: Civil society develops a shared agenda on how Sudan should be governed.

The program supported a new civil society coalition to develop a plausible detailed strategic plan and practical modalities for ending current conflicts and undertaking a process of democratic transformation, but progress was patchy and slow. It has not been able to transcend many of the divisions within civil society and may have exacerbated some of them. On the positive side, the coalition undertook extensive outreach to civil society beyond the capital. It also started to develop alternative policies for adoption in the event of transition.

OSIEA grantees were key to denying the government the international legitimacy which it craved, for having won the April 2015 elections. The groups persuaded the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU) and the Carter Centre not to send election missions and confer a veneer of legitimacy on a process that was fundamentally flawed given the persistence of conflict and severe restrictions on political freedoms. Even the African Union's (AU's) pre-election assessment team advised the AU not to send observers to Sudan. The AU monitors only deployed after the Sudanese government pressured the Peace and Security Council to intervene; the subsequent AU observation mission's report was critical of the elections. Further, the Troika, which consists of Norway, the UK, the US, and the EU issued strong statements stating that the elections could not be considered a credible expression of the will of the Sudanese people. With the opening of the national dialogue, several partners continue to put significant effort into convincing the international community and the Sudanese people that they should not support this flawed process while holding up a vision of what a genuine national dialogue should look like.

Beyond elite level discussions, OSIEA continued to support the Project on Islamic Reform and Democratic Thought which has expanded its network of groups reading and debating publications on identity, religion, democracy and human rights from 114 to nearly 300; 38 books have been published and nearly 1,500 sessions have been held. The main challenge is for the project to attract more women readers. The future of the journal, *Women in Islam*, which OSIEA initially supported and which provides a rare space for discussion of progressive interpretations of Islam, seems secure as it has been able to secure funding from other donors. OSIEA also documented and disseminated experiences of youth activists in using new media for advocacy by publishing 'Sawtna'. The posts announcing the launch of the guidebook were shared 34 times reaching 4,502 people; printed copies are being distributed.

Goal 2: Sudanese citizens increase access to information about governance issues, in particular gross human rights violations, corruption and constitutional developments.

Due to severe censorship in the country, news produced by the online platform which OSIEA supports, Hurriyat Sudan, remains important. It was disappointing that Sudan Tribune, an important source of news for Sudan, did not receive funds in 2015 because it did not meet its reporting requirements. Hurriyat remains completely dependent on OSIEA for funding. Even though it has lost its edge as an innovator with the emergence of other online Arabic-language news platforms, it still has a significant audience. It increased the membership of its Facebook group by 16 percent in 2015 from 32,000 to 36,962.

Goal 3: Civil society organizations and activists are able to associate freely and operate securely.

Ironically the government increased pressure on civil society in the run-up to the 2015 elections. OSIEA therefore continued to conduct advocacy to ensure the international community engaged vigorously on this issue. The Sudanese Writers Union (SWU), a grantee, was banned and three other grantees were subjected to severe harassment by the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS). SWU is fighting

the case in court. The Confederation of Sudanese Civil Society Organizations (CSCSO) has become more active; it now issues six-monthly reports on trends affecting civil society, a useful advocacy tool. It has also started engaging with government authorities regarding its concerns. Continued internal tensions means that it is slow to achieve consensus but the fact that it has held together and is doing more work is significant. In the second half of the year, no local organizations were banned but many groups were subjected to more subtle repression as their licenses were not renewed.

Tensions between human rights defenders continued to impede emergence of a strong protection network, so OSIEA continued the strategy of supporting local services for activists' by supporting an NGO providing psychosocial and medical support to political detainees, including human rights defenders. After two years, it has managed to broaden its outreach and expand its donor base.

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) upheld in February 2015 a complaint submitted by the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) and two other groups accusing the NISS officials of torturing three well-known Sudanese human rights defenders. The ACHPR recognized Sudan's obligation to protect human rights defenders and to ensure they are able to carry out their work of promoting and protecting the rights of others. The Commission called on Sudan to investigate and prosecute the NISS officials alleged to be responsible for the arbitrary arrest, torture, and ill-treatment of the activists; to reopen and unfreeze the bank accounts of the Khartoum Centre for Human Rights and Environmental Development, which had been shut down in connection with the case; and to pay the defenders compensation. The ACHPR was seized of three new cases involving arbitrary detention and torture or ill-treatment of human rights defenders in 2015 by ACJPS.

Goal 4: Human rights monitors in Sudan's peripheral areas are able to expose and advocate against gross human rights violations and crimes against humanity in Sudan.

OSIEA's support helped to keep the focus on the commission of atrocities during the conflicts in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, and, to a lesser extent, Darfur. The program's biggest effort supported teams of human rights observers in South Kordofan and Blue Nile to strengthen their monitoring capacity. The National Human Rights Monitoring Organization (NHRMO) established in 2014 had its first general assembly and elected its first board in 2015. In April, it went public for the first time in a joint publication with the International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI) [*Don't we matter?: Four years of unrelenting attacks against civilians in Sudan's South Kordofan State*](#). NHRMO and the Sudan Consortium jointly published monthly updates and together with IRRI used these reports for advocacy at the ACHPR and the UN Human Rights Council. The Blue Nile team faced a setback with the arrest of its team leader in 2015. The team has now been re-energized following a new training of the monitors, and has recommenced regular reporting. Two other grantees, ACJPS and Sudan Democracy First Group (SDFG) also produced significant reporting on atrocities committed in Sudan's conflict zones.

The Constitutional Court unexpectedly ordered the Sudanese police to open criminal investigations into an incident in which police killed more than 20 demonstrators in the city of Port Sudan ten years ago. OSIEA grantee, the People's Legal Aid Centre (PLACE), obtained this decision on behalf of the families of six victims. The Constitutional Court ruled that the Office of the Attorney General and the police had failed in their legal duty to open a criminal case as stipulated by the law. The Minister for Interior formed an investigation committee into the incident but its findings were not made public after the government reached a settlement and paid compensation to the families of some of the victims.

Goal 5: Increasing awareness and acceptability of disability rights amongst Sudanese government officials and civil society.

The work of Afkar, an OSIEA grantee working in the field of disability rights, was seriously disrupted because of delays in transferring funds to Sudan, associated with US sanctions.

Work on curriculum development with the Faculty of Law of the University of Khartoum got off the ground at the end of the year with a seminar on legal issues related to disability rights in Sudan; it was well attended by many sectors of the disability movement. The event was followed by a celebration of Human Rights Day with disabled people's organizations at the Faculty of Law of Khartoum University. Bringing disability activists into such a conservative environment was a groundbreaking development.

Goal 6: Improved enjoyment of human rights by people at risk of statelessness.

Efforts to protect nationality rights of people of mixed Sudanese and South Sudanese origin moved to the regional level. OSIEA grantees, ACJPS and the PLACE submitted a petition to the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) challenging the government's denial of Sudanese nationality to a girl with a South Sudanese father and a Sudanese mother. This is the first time that a petition has been submitted against Sudan at the ACERWC. OSF's Africa Regional Office and Justice Initiative provided extensive technical support.

PLACE's work providing legal aid to southerners broadened as it opened law offices in Kassala, South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Northern States. Investment in the network of community leaders paid off as it was able to respond quickly and effectively to a raid and mass arrests in a Khartoum camp.

Goal 1: Citizens and civil society actors are facilitated to participate in the constitutional review and implementation process to secure ownership and safeguard a permanent Constitution.

Efforts to write a new Constitution for South Sudan were thwarted and the national transitional Constitution amended to cater for the anticipated constitutional vacuum the country would otherwise have experienced without holding elections. With the signing of the peace agreement in August 2015, the transitional Constitution will be further amended to incorporate the peace agreement and guide the thirty months of the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) agreed upon in the peace accord.

OSIEA supported civil society through Citizens for Peace and Justice (CPJ) to participate effectively in the peace process and advocate for a peace agreement which promoted an inclusive constitutional process, strong human rights protections, effective government institutions and the separation of powers. Significant debate at home and contributions of civil society inputs informed “the peoples” peace proposal” a framework document that shaped the final peace accord signed in August 2015.

A grant to the South Sudan Law Society (SSLS) supported dialogue and debate largely focused on how South Sudan should be governed in the future, the need for transitional justice and how the country can reconcile. However, efforts to find a political settlement to the conflict were slow and in many cases driven by the personal ambitions and interests of politicians. In the context of open hostility and conflict, voices of truth, justice, reason and tolerance are both brave and critical.

Goal 2: An inclusive and positive South Sudanese identity based on respect for diversity and promotion of social cohesion.

Building one inclusive national identity that transcends ethnicity remains a challenge in South Sudan especially following the December 2013 conflict. Ethnic affiliation and tribal tendencies have been entrenched further despite the numerous connectors and commonalities that exist across nationalities. OSIEA supported the South Sudan Theatre Organization (SSTO) to use theatre to amplify the many connectors that exist across South Sudanese ethnicities; attempting to unite the groups. This proved effective and had a greater multiplier effect in schools and organized groups. Secondary schools and organized groups in Upper Nile, Equatoria and Bahr el Ghazal regions acknowledged the importance of theatre and established thirty two school and nine independent association troupes. The groups attracted additional funding from the United States Agency for International Development’s South Sudan’s Viable Support to Transition and Stability (USAID’s VISTAS) and Trans Media.

The Community Empowerment for Rehabilitation and Development (CEFoRD) an OSIEA grantee that uses forum theatre, reached out to youth through its “youth for youth project” mobilizing young people to debate and dialogue on connectors and commonalities among the youth. The debates allowed youth to reflect on shared values and interests, common experiences and shared symbols and occasions that tie South Sudanese together. Following the reflections, young people started local initiatives of amplifying the connectors in society. For example the Maya Cultural Organization (Maya) an OSIEA grantee that works closely with CEFoRD used music to disseminate and amplify the connectors in society.

Goal 4: Citizens and communities inform public spending priorities, seek budget transparency, and monitor public expenditure.

Communities and development partners in Yei, Lainya, Morobo and Kajokeji counties have recognized the importance of development plans pioneered by the Center for Democracy and Development (CEDED)

through its consortium member the Center for Democracy Initiative - South Sudan (CDISS). This was the third year of implementation of county development plans in Yei, Morobo and Lainya, formulated in 2012 with funding from OSIEA and the World Bank. The World Bank and The Department for International Development (DFID) have been inspired by the model and are scaling up in Western Equatoria, Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria, as well supporting communities in Yei, Morobo and Lainya to realize their respective development plans through Payam Development Grants, which are spent on projects that have been prioritized by the communities. The experience so far is positive, indicating that county councils and communities are using the development plans as a tool to direct spending priorities, guiding development partners, and including the needs of minorities, monitoring budgets and holding leaders to account.

Goal 5: Human rights defenders, activists and media practitioners are able to operate freely, securely, and can access protection from national, regional, and international bodies.

Since the outbreak of conflict in December 2013, the government has pursued legislative reforms that increase government control over the NGO sector. The government drafted the NGO bill which largely limits NGO work to voluntary and humanitarian work. It places criminal liabilities on any NGO “signing” or uttering false statements or declarations in violation with any provisions of the bill. Despite civil society input into the bill, the Ministry of Justice tabled the initial (wrong) copy to parliament. SSSL, South Sudan Women Empowerment (SSWEN), and the Union of Journalists for South Sudan (UJOSS) all OSIEA grantees are at the forefront of advocacy against the current NGO Bill.

The National Security Bill was deliberately allowed to mature into law without the assent of the president. OSIEA supported a consultancy to analyze the consistency of the Act with the Constitution, other national laws and international treaties. The analysis informed subsequent advocacy efforts which prevented the Act from being published despite the assent of the president. However, there is selective implementation of the law by national security organs.

Press freedom in South Sudan has continued to deteriorate since independence in 2011 despite the enactment of media laws and the establishment of the Media Authority, Information Commission and the Broadcasting Authority. In 2015, several media outlets like Radio Bakhita were shut down by the government. On 27 January 2015, five journalists were killed by unidentified gunmen who ambushed their convoy in the Western Bahr al Ghazal state.

UJOSS profiled fifty one cases involving the harassment, detention and death of journalists. Eight cases involved fatalities including two female and six male journalists. UJOSS provided immediate support to five journalists and referred others to regional and international journalists’ bodies for protection. Advocacy and dialogue conducted by UJOSS and the Association for Media Development in South Sudan (AMDISS), an OSIEA grantee, helped raise awareness of journalists’ rights among security agents and helped to secure the release of detained journalists from the Juba Monitor newspaper and facilitated dialogue with national security agents on the closure of the Citizen newspaper and Free Voice. UJOSS demonstrated increased capacity to monitor such cases and built its referral network. This was possible with support from OSIEA and OSF’s Program on Independent Journalism (PIJ) that supported the implementation of recommendations made by the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP) on how grantees should mitigate security risks. All UJOSS personnel were facilitated to attend training on physical and digital security management and supported to implement changes in the organization. An exchange visit between UJOSS and Human Rights Network for Journalists (HRNJ) in Uganda was organized to support the sharing of experiences on the documentation and protection of information generated on the abuses of the rights of journalists. It is hoped that this will improve documentation and safeguard the organization from unnecessary exposure of information.

SSLS in collaboration with Amnesty International trained twenty two human rights activists on monitoring and documentation of human rights abuses and the situation in South Sudan. Reports from the monitors will be validated and updated to inform the shadow report for the Universal Periodic Review at the Human Rights Council convening in April 2016 in Geneva. This is first time South Sudanese civil society will present a shadow report and participate from the floor of the house.

Human rights defenders, activists and media practitioners at risk of harassment in South Sudan continued to access protection services and security advice from EHAHRDP. Three individuals were supported for two to twelve months. This facility remains vital for human rights defenders in the country as the civic space continues to shrink and defenders and activists remain at risk of harassment. Funds under these grants have made it possible for defenders to continue the work of reporting and advocating for respect of all. It made it possible for defenders to stay safe and in some instances allowed for capacity development when it was not possible to return home and work. A similar facility exists at UJOSS for journalists who are under threat from the state and are unable to get out of the country. This facility includes meeting legal fees in case a lawsuit was instituted against a journalist.

Goal 6: State institutions are reformed and strengthened to respond to and guarantee human rights, particularly the rights of women and girls.

Sexual violence is a major concern for South Sudanese women and girls. With minimal education, high unemployment and little say in community decision-making, male youth are being further militarized and female youth are being pushed away from public to domestic spaces, making them increasingly prone to violence. OSIEA grantee, the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA) is influencing social attitudes in Wau County and the Western Bahr El Ghazal state, towards protecting women's rights, as well as sensitizing traditional institutions on this issue. SIHA, through its project 'Building Universality from Below' implemented a civic education initiative in South Sudan focused on the inadequacies of the parallel statutory and customary legal systems and the consequent human rights violations against women. The program also sought to increase community awareness of and adherence to women's human rights norms, seeking to make progress at minimizing violations. The program made contributions to Western Bahr El Ghazal ending victimization of women in the community, both at the judicial and correctional/penal levels and serves as a model to other states with similar challenges. The project developed a cadre of community mediators capable of supporting women and settling community disputes in line with women's and human rights standards. Key activities focused on building the capacity of women-led CSOs in Wau; extending support to women victims of rights' violations and connecting them with parties capable of providing assistance; extensive training and outreach to males and youth, empowering them to advocate for women's rights particularly those jailed through non-transparent or unjust rulings; and broadening knowledge and awareness in the community for women's rights and their protection.

A grant to Manna Development Agency (MADA) brought to the fore the plight of women, especially the use of the girl child for human compensation, and profiled fifty two cases during the year. They were able to document twenty six cases of gender-based violence in their area of operation in Eastern Equatoria. MADA also established a working relationship with the South Sudan Human Rights Commission (SSHRC) in an effort to promote and protect women's rights in the state.

A grant to Justice Foundation Organization (JFO) has helped women to get representation in both customary and statutory courts. This grant provided an opportunity for young women lawyers who are motivated and have organized themselves to improve access to justice for women in the country especially in the capital Juba. The grant helped fill a gap in the provision of legal aid and awareness-raising among women who always access customary courts. JFO has improved its understanding of women's issues and can competently speak on the situation of women in the criminal justice system as it has experience and enjoys local legitimacy.

Goal 7: Accountability and transitional justice.

Strategic convenings and advocacy sessions at the AU, the ACHPR, the Human Rights Council and the US government through OSIEA grantees CPJ and SSLS increased the recognition of transitional justice processes in seeking accountability for crimes committed during the violent conflict that started in December 2013 especially in Juba, Bor, Malakal and Bentiu. This advocacy resulted in the release of the AU Commission Inquiry Report on the Crisis in South Sudan (AUCISS) and the proposal for a hybrid court, reparations authority and a truth and reconciliation commission in the final peace agreement.

Goal 1: Tanzanians embrace a constitutional culture that promotes values of democracy, integrity and accountability.

Despite the stalemate of the constitutional reform process due to conflicting interests, OSIEA continued to support it, focusing on inclusion and participation of citizens and various groups in the community. OSIEA worked closely with key stakeholders such as CSOs (Jukwaa la Katiba, Baraza la Katiba Zanzibar [BAKAZA], the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation, Women Fund Tanzania [WFT], and Pastoralists Indigenous Non-Governmental Organizations [PINGOs]), the media and the Warioba constitutional commission, in an effort to analyze and educate the masses on the content of the proposed draft Constitution. The effort was also meant to provide access to the Warioba draft Constitution which was more pro-reform. Efforts were made to promote public dialogues through platforms such as Jukwaa la Katiba and document the whole process, and some of the reports and publications are already available in both Kiswahili and English languages.

Though the process was left pending, the investment in the process made the wider public aware of their responsibility to participate in such democratic processes. The impact was later seen during the 2015 elections and was manifested both by the level of public participation, public interest and the improved understanding by the majority of the importance of elections.

Goal 2: Increased citizens' demand for, and participation in, credible elections.

OSIEA supported two strong election observation consortiums (Tanzania Election Monitoring Committee [TEMCO] and Tanzania Civil Society Consortium on Election Observation [TACCEO]) in staging an election situation room with the collaboration of key institutions including the police force, the anti-corruption bureau and the office of the registrar of political parties. Despite the constant intimidation by the National Electoral Commission (NEC) and use of restrictive laws, the initiative played a great role in collecting information across the country, analyzing it and informing the public in a timely manner. The objective of the initiative to inform key institutions for rapid response only worked well with the police. It was not fully realized with NEC due to a lack of commitment from them. The ability of OSIEA to bring these two coalitions together was commended by stakeholders in the country.

Moreover, OSIEA had targeted to contribute towards promoting voter registration and turnout especially for young people through support to youth-led CSOs that used various approaches, from animated political satire, engagement in social media, use of pop culture and public concerts. This was achieved and saw 57% voter registration among the youth. Some of the messages also focused on peaceful conduct by the youth.

The program managed to conduct a successful international advocacy mission in the US which resulted in enhanced interest in Tanzania's elections, especially by international media and key US government bodies. Also, several statements by key foreign institutions were made.

Goal 3: Tanzanian citizens and communities have access to information on natural resources and demand for more accountability.

Work around this area was partly affected by the general elections as key groups targeted by Policy Forum's work, including councilors, were busy with electoral-related activities. The project was successful in laying the ground work for collaboration between CSOs and local government authorities in the gas rich regions of Mtwara and Lindi for purposes of social accountability monitoring. Local communities and actors were empowered with key information on the sector and the policies therein, and a social accountability framework is being put in place.

Goal 4: Pastoralists, hunters and gatherers engage with local government authorities and other policy makers to advocate for their rights.

OSIEA's Tanzania and Food Security programs supported the Community Research and Development Services (CORDS) to promote land rights as a means of realizing food security. This grant was also intended to enable pastoral communities to participate in decision making at grassroots level and advocate for their rights. A major challenge needing attention is the conflict between pastoral and farmers' communities, which result from land conflicts that have left people injured and claimed the lives of others.

Goal 5: Civil society organizations provide access to timely legal protection for marginalized communities in mining areas.

OSIEA grantee Hakimadini continued to provide education on land and mining rights, and legal services to small scale miners through its newly established legal protection desk. Paralegal training was offered to small scale miners in over five regions of Tanzania to empower them on their rights and how to access them.

Goal 6: A safe and tolerant environment for human rights defenders and journalists at risk.

OSIEA continued to support human rights protection by working closely with the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC). OSIEA has, through THRDC, supported the creation of a safe and enabling environment for journalists and other HRDs especially during the 2015 elections.

OSIEA also supported the creation of an online version of Mwanahalisi (a newspaper that was banned in Tanzania) – fortunately Mwanahalisi won the case it instituted against its banning and resumed its operations. However, challenges still exist in the field. Mwanahalisi's successor, Mawio, was banned at the beginning of 2016 by the government. In addition, oppressive laws such as the Cybercrime Act and the Statistics Act were used to violate the freedom of expression in the country.

Goal 1: Enhancing citizen participation to safeguard the rule of law.

In 2015 the Uganda program supported the United Religious Initiative (URI) to assist voters from three districts surrounding Kampala to begin documenting candidates' promises in Uganda's 2016 electoral process as a step towards monitoring their fulfillment after the elections. Voters were mobilized to sustainably hold their candidates accountable beyond the campaign period.

Secondly, support to Kituo Cha Katiba in partnership with the Human Rights and Peace Centre (HURIPEC) started in June to create spaces for citizens' critical engagement with electoral issues as a way of achieving effective citizen participation in the 2016 elections. East Africa's electoral experiences and good practices were incorporated into these engagements to enrich citizens' appreciation of the processes in the region. Finally, working through the Women Lawyers' Association (FIDA-Uganda), OSIEA facilitated the production of briefs for international and national election observers. The Kituo-HURIPEC research made a significant contribution to the information material produced by FIDA.

The grant to Kigo Thinkers, an emerging think tank that provides space for debates on national and topical issues, sustained rigorous discourse on current matters as wide ranging as national budgets, pension liberalization, food security and land. The effort attempted to combine intellectual rigor with practical experience and has moved the discourse on national matters away from official spaces like parliament and universities to spaces where the public can participate. It also attempted to bring senior government bureaucrats to the public space and enable them to participate as citizens.

The Uganda program identified a one-stop litigation centre, which is also a coalition, to address various repressive pieces of legislation. OSIEA's support to the Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CEPIL), has led to public interest litigation from relevant courts in Uganda and in East Africa. For example the partnership has sought to repeal the Press and Journalists Act, the Communications Act and criminal defamation in the Penal Code.

The Uganda program continued to coordinate efforts with other OSIEA and OSF entities like the Health and Rights program and OSF's Human Rights Initiative (HRI) to fight the Anti-Homosexuality Act. This effort contributed to slowing down the government and to the eventual declaration of unconstitutionality of the Act.

The Uganda program provided legal aid to alternative political voices. In this regard, the numbers of beneficiaries supported by Street Law Uganda increased in 2015. This is largely due to the fact that 2015 saw an escalation of political activities in the lead-up to the 2016 general elections. This work is more established in Kampala.

Goal 2: Increasing the participation of special interest groups in elections.

Through Facilitation for Peace and Development (FAPAD), women voters in the Lango sub-region of northern Uganda were able to raise issues around the government's response to sexual and gender based violence as electoral issues.

Goal 3: Strengthen narratives of an inclusive national identity that respects diversity and promotes unity and stability.

Kigo Thinkers sought to re-ignite debates on what best knowledge, policies and practices could hold Uganda together as an entity. This was done through challenging brutal, inhuman and unviable government policies like taxation, land, food and finance in the short, medium and long terms.

Marcus Garvey Pan-African University wound up its two-year project on the narratives for social cohesion. Through this work OSIEA appreciated the significance of giving space and voice to bottom-up narratives from diverse communities in the country and amplifying these voices through radio and other media.

Goal 4: Developments in the minerals and oil industry, land compensation and environmental impacts are made public.

In 2015 OSIEA continued to work with a number of CSOs to strengthen communities in the oil region, to litigate for contract transparency and to provide legal aid for people displaced by developments in the oil sector. This work took place in diverse regions of the country as far apart as Lake Albert in the west, Kampala (central) and Karamoja in the northeast. It resulted in hundreds of peasants in Bunyoro being represented in courts of law and participation in the development of a fair investment strategy and policy framework for minerals and livelihoods in Karamoja.

OSIEA's work with the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) around sustainability villages in the oil region has continued to produce well-informed communities standing up to the aggressive oil exploration activities that threaten their livelihoods. In 2015, NAPE's Community Green Radio, which was launched in Hoima in 2014 with part support from OSIEA, became popular with its talk show on the environmental rights in the region to the extent that the organization is now contemplating purchasing and managing its own radio station.

Towards the end of 2015 the Advocates for Natural Resources Governance and Development (ANARDE) started to explore a new legal framework for natural resources that will form the backbone for future advocacy. This is being done in collaboration with the Gaia Foundation and NAPE, which have started operating in the Lake Albert region. The impact of these projects will include greater knowledge of the role of indigenous communities in natural resource governance and environmental protection; sustainable food production in the context of oil extraction; and an advocacy for a legal regime that recognizes aspects of nature (lakes, rivers, sacred sites) as legal entities.

Finally, in October 2015, OSIEA gave a grant to the Water Governance Institute (WGI) to conduct research on water policy and on the levels of water pollution due to artisanal gold mining in Mubende District. To-date, a field trip to the gold mines has been completed and water and soil samples have been submitted to the government chemist in Entebbe. The impact of this particular activity will be to determine the levels of pollutants resulting from the use of chemicals in gold mining in the district. However the whole project will produce policy relevant information for protecting water bodies in the context of intensified mining activities in Uganda.

Goal 5: Public information is more accessible to Ugandans.

OSIEA and OSF' HRI partnered with Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) to leverage Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) to access public information. By the end of its life, the project had launched 197 requests through its web portal known as www.askyourgov.ug. Through this process lessons have been learnt on how government provides some information and how it denies others, disguised in one protected form or another. For example most land grabbing requests were categorized under cabinet records/minutes which are protected by the law. A

culture of citizens requesting and receiving information and of CSOs engaging the state on the categorization of information for the purposes of denying it is slowly being established.

Throughout 2015 OSIEA worked with Dan Ngabirano, an OSIEA-sponsored Harvard alumnus, to advocate for the right to information in regard to the current pension liberalization bill. He did this through supporting various civil society organizations but also through working directly with parliament and other governmental bodies. Dan's particular contribution consisted of identifying access to information and other governance issues in the bill. His argument was, and remains, that what matters is not about privatization and liberalization of the pension sector but rather the level of transparency and efficiency where the sector is/will be administered. This argument contributed to the questioning of the bill that had already been brought to the floor of parliament.

The grant OSIEA made to Hub for Investigative Media (HIM) played the role of raising public awareness of the Access to Information Law, and also facilitated litigation based on this law. In February, May and October HIM won three court cases consecutively. More cases are in the pipeline and may be concluded in 2016. This grant also contributes to the culture of seeking for information in government hands and litigating in the event that this information is not readily forthcoming.

Goal 6: Rights of marginalized groups, including women and pastoralists are observed.

Two coalitions, one for women in the mid-north of Uganda and another for the pastoralist organizations in the northern and northeastern parts of the country, continued to work on their issues in 2015. Amnesty International – Netherlands, which is key to the organizational sustainability of the two coalitions, continued to give them organizational support despite earlier information that it would not. Although the two projects did not achieve much as one delayed implementation while the other was winding up the grant, the overall impact was the increased human rights support to women in mid-northern Uganda and increased number of agro-pastoralists being aware of and using the human rights based approach to conflict resolution.

Goal 7: A strong response and protection program for human rights defenders and journalists.

OSIEA continued to work with the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP) to protect HRDs in Uganda. This is a collective grant given to EHAHRDP by most OSIEA entities. Its main impact is the continued presence of a confident organization whose expertise and support to HRDs is very reliable. For instance, when OSIEA moved to do HRD work in Burundi EHAHRDP was the first to be considered.

The student OSIEA sponsored to study women and human rights at the UN Peace University in Costa Rica returned in 2015 and went back to her program officer job with the Soroti Development Association and NGO Network (SODAN), a chair organization of the Uganda Human Rights Defenders' Network (UHRDN). OSIEA's effort to strengthen the capacity of HRD organizations is appreciated by both her family and organization. This kind of protection and tactical capacity building for HRDs enhances OSIEA's role among HRDs and their organizations.

Furthermore, Defenders Protection Initiative (DPI) and Tweraneho Listeners' Club (TLC) focused on defending Ugandan HRDs. Their work involved mainstreaming security in CSOs' programs and strengthening the HRDs' collective voice for self-protection.

With respect to journalists' rights, OSIEA's work with HRNJ has reduced to documenting rights abuses and producing an annual Press Freedom Index (PFI). This organization was supported by OSIEA from inception but now only needs very minimal support from us. HRNJ's PFI remains the only indigenous media rights monitoring system in the country.

OSIEA INITIATIVE: BATWA RIGHTS

Much of 2015 should have been spent in the field documenting the Batwa narratives from their own perspective. This was delayed due to the consultant's busy schedule elsewhere. However a film documentary concept titled 'When Haven't We Died: Batwa Experiences and Views of Conservation' was produced by the end of 2015 and a contract signed for film research.

Goal 1: Discriminatory laws, policies and practices affecting the rights of marginalized groups such as people living with HIV, sex workers, LGBTI, injecting drug users, people with mental disabilities, people in need of palliative care, and prisoners - are reviewed and amended.

The Health and Rights program supported grantees to engage the justice system to seek remedies for offensive laws and policies. In Kenya for instance, the High Court in a groundbreaking decision ruled in favor of granting registration to the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (NGLHRC), which had been denied legal status. The court's decision was issued in response to a petition filed by NGLHRC to register under the Non- Governmental Organizations Coordination Board Act. The Non-Governmental Organizations Coordination Board, a government body, rejected the group's request to register in March 2013. In denying the application, the board said that the name of the organization was "unacceptable," and that it could not register it because Kenya's penal code "criminalizes gay and lesbian liaisons." The court's decision is a significant victory for the LGBT community, not only in Kenya, but elsewhere in Africa where LGBT groups have faced similar obstacles to registration.

Similarly, a case filed by OSIEA grantee the Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD) in Uganda saw the Supreme Court strike off the Constitutional Court's judgment in a case challenging the failure of the government to provide basic maternal health services. The court further directed that the case had merit and should be heard as such.

Towards the end of the year, the program supported activities seeking to consolidate an African conversation in preparation for the United Nations General Assembly's Special Session (UNGASS) 2016 on the world drug problem. This opened an opportunity to catalyze a conversation on the need to amend offending drug laws and negotiate enabling frameworks for drug control. The aim is to support the process and help governments and civil society to rethink the currently ineffective and dangerous approach on the war on drugs and choose to prioritize health, human rights and safety concerns first.

Goal 2: Marginalized groups influence debates on laws, policies and practices that affect them and effectively advocate for non-discriminatory health and human rights.

In 2015, the High Court of Kenya began reviewing two important cases on the human rights of people living with HIV. The first case concerned the forced/coerced sterilization of HIV-positive women; the second challenged a directive from Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta to list the names of HIV-positive individuals, including children. The Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network on HIV (KELIN) and Africa Gender and Media Initiative Trust (GEM) together with five women living with HIV filed two petitions challenging the forced/coerced sterilization of five women living with HIV. The petitioners intended to prove that as a result of the illegal and unconstitutional sterilization, several constitutional rights had been breached, including but not limited to the right to life, the right to human dignity, the right to privacy, the right to access to information, and the right to the highest attainable standard of health which includes the right to health care services and reproductive health care, as enshrined in the 2010 Constitution. In the second case, the directive issued by the Kenyan President on 23 February 2015 required county commissioners and the Ministries of Health, Education and Interior to collect up to date data and prepare a report on all school children living with HIV and information on their guardians. The directive further called for information on expectant women and breastfeeding mothers who were HIV-positive. The petitioners stated that the government agencies had proceeded to implement the directive without consulting people living with HIV/AIDS, which is considered contrary to Article 10 of the Kenyan Constitution. The cases are ongoing.

Goal 3: Health advocacy organizations monitor and advocate for better health budget financing; essential medicines and commodities; decentralization of health services; and reduction in corruption in medicine procurement and supply service delivery.

In October 2015, the status of the health care system in Kenya was brought to the fore when an accident victim spent eighteen hours in an ambulance due to lack of intensive care unit (ICU) facilities at the country's largest referral hospital and the subsequent rejection of the patient in fee-paying private facilities for lack of an initial fee deposit. Mr. Alex Madaga, thirty seven, had sustained brain injuries that required lifesaving facilities but succumbed to his injuries due to delays related to inability to pay requisite fees. This raised both ethical questions but a clear need for advocacy on health budgets in the region where none currently is yet to attain the Abuja declaration target of 15% budgetary provision for health care. OSIEA grantees have embarked on efforts to hold governments in the region accountable for not only the loss of life but the large wastage in the health sector.

Overall assessment

In Uganda, OSIEA grantee Uganda National Health Consumers' Organization (UNHCO) constructively engaged with stakeholders, the Action Group for Health, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS (AGHA), CEHURD, and the Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER) to advocate to make the right to health claimable/justiciable and to legitimize patient's rights and responsibilities under Ugandan law. Further a civil society coalition built a strong partnership with institutions including the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC), and parliament among others, and formed a Patients' Rights Bill Working Group (Task Force) which has greatly influenced debate on the right to health in Uganda.

In 2011, CEHURD instituted a public interest case on maternal health in Uganda. The case challenged the failure of the government to provide basic maternal health services and commodities which was leading to unacceptably high yet preventable deaths of mothers while giving birth. The case was erroneously dismissed by the Constitutional Court which ruled that the case raised issues of a political nature which were under the exclusive prerogative of the state and which the courts could not intervene to determine. On appeal in October 2015, the Supreme Court overturned this decision and directed the Constitutional Court to hear the case on its merits. The court and particularly Chief Justice Bart Katureebe observed that: "...To my understanding, the petition raises issues pertaining to what are called social rights. It calls upon the Constitutional Court to give the right to health a place in the Constitution. This cannot be done without interpreting the Constitution. What does it mean when the Constitution states that fundamental human rights are inherent and not granted by the state, and yet the petition is about the state failing to provide certain health services?..."

As mentioned above, in Kenya the LGBTI movement and grantees grew stronger and won the right to be registered by the NGO Coordination Board in April 2015 via a court ruling. The court stated: "We hereby declare that the words "every person" in Article 36 of the Constitution includes all persons living within the Republic of Kenya despite their sexual orientation". This was historic and created jurisprudence for other countries in the region. Even though the Attorney General has appealed this judgment, it is a significant win for NGLHRC and the LGBTI community in Kenya. They also received unprecedented backup from the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights.

Similarly, the LGBTI movement, using communication or print media, has grown stronger even in the middle of a severe onslaught by governments. The brave move by groups in Uganda to print and circulate the Rainbow/Bombastic magazine to communities and MPs within a hostile environment is a case in point. While the Kenyan movement is not monolithic, there are signs of effective coalition-building. The Nyanza, Rift Valley, Western Kenya Network (NYARWEK), for instance is a LGBTI network of twenty or so

organizations with clustered models and security structures, engaging with faith leaders among others. Similarly in Rwanda, groups are advancing rapidly in strength.

The unprecedented attacks on key populations continue unchecked. The region in the last few years has experienced an exponential rise in attacks on sex workers, LGBTI persons and people who use drugs. Kenya lost close to ten sex workers in two months under mysterious circumstances. Further, with devolution has come the thirst to exact punitive laws that further put sex workers at risk including the recent passage of by-laws in a number of counties giving a boost to the unlawful arrests of sex workers by the police. After the Kenya presidential directive on the war on drugs at the Kenyan coast, communities there have taken the war to mean attacks and killing of drug users which has created major challenges for harm reduction groups in the region.

FOOD SECURITY

During the year, the program's ambitions were to finalize program strategy development, kick-start program implementation and expand the program's grant portfolio. After a lengthy consultative process involving OSF programs and OSIEA, the program strategy was approved by the OSIEA regional board. This strategy was aligned to the OSF food security strategy for Africa. Moreover, the food security program's grants portfolio significantly grew during the year. OSIEA has now invested more than USD 1.6 million in the region related to food security programming.

The program kick-started the implementation of four grants in Uganda and Tanzania, targeting pastoral groups in Karamoja and Arusha respectively. Working with Warrior Squad Foundation (WSF) in Karamoja, 2,544 community members were sensitized on land rights and pastoralism leading to the mapping of the livestock grazing routes in Kotido and Abim districts. Mapping of the cattle grazing corridors has significantly helped to support advocacy efforts for pastoralists to minimize land use conflicts with crop cultivators, support livestock mobility to mitigate drought and further enhance the availability of pasture and water for livestock. The program has established a pastoral stakeholder forum in Kotido district, which has advocated for increased budget allocation by local governments for the livestock sector.

In partnership with Karamoja Development Forum (KDF) (www.kdfug.org), the program organized a Karamoja food security conference with over 500 members participating. As a result, the conference led to the development of two policy briefs titled: 'Karamoja food problem' and 'The cattle crisis and The need for change of strategy', as well as other initiatives like the establishment of a Pastoralist Information Center (PIC) in Moroto, which has a toll free Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system that is directly linked to kraal information structures. OSIEA has created opportunities for dialogue on pastoralism and food security in Karamoja. The program is building a network of advocates for pastoralism as a viable livelihood system for food security in Karamoja.

Working with the Center for Climate Change Studies at the University of Dar es Salaam, the program has supported research on building knowledge to support climate change adaptation for pastoralist communities in Eastern Africa; the program is finalizing a monograph on pastoralism and climate change in OSIEA's countries of operation. This monograph features chapters by principal investigators from different universities in Eastern Africa. In addition to research, the program has finalized drafting a teaching curriculum for a short course on pastoralism and climate change. This course will be administered by the Center for Climate Change at the University of Dar es Salaam and so far, two students have been offered scholarships to undertake climate change studies at masters' level. Forty community leaders from pastoralists' development in government, NGOs and CBOs in Arusha Region, Loliondo, Longido and Monduli districts have been trained on climate change and food security in the context of pastoralism.

In partnership with Community Research and Development Services (CORDs), OSIEA has mobilized communities to secure resource tenure of pastoral communities in six villages in Monduli and Kiteto through land use planning. As a result, specific land use zones have been clearly defined and digitized. The program has established village institutions for land management such as village land councils; this has minimized conflicts related to resource use. The program has further undertaken awareness campaigns on the effects of climate change at Lepurko, Nanja and Eng'arooji villages and this has led to the development of climate change adaptation plans for respective communities. The plans integrate Indigenous knowledge on forecasting drought.

Amidst this progress, the program faced some setbacks. Strategically, the target areas experienced drought and el-nino rains that directly affected livestock. For example, due to water stress in Turkana,

there was conflict between Turkana and Karamoja pastoralists along the border between Kenya and Uganda with both communities struggling to access water at the Kobebe dam. Intense rains at the end of the year led to increased livestock disease outbreaks along the cattle corridors. At community level, there are multiple actors both government and CSOs implementing different 'livelihood' projects and often these interventions undermine pastoralism.

Operationally, identifying organizations to implement programs in pastoralist areas remains a challenge in several ways: first these communities have few local actors and where they exist they have weak organizational capacity. In a related development, the program cancelled a grant to Dry Lands Community Initiative (DLCI) which was meant to address land use conflicts between the Karamoja and Turkana. This affected OSIEA's ability to address land use planning in these areas. To address some of these challenges, OSIEA continued to support grantees through regular reflections and subsequent grant making is informed by the lessons taken from the field. Relatedly, at the end of 2015 OSIEA further approved and disbursed funds for five more grants to support programming in Turkana and Karamoja. These grants focus on drought mitigation, water infrastructure development and livestock health management.

Surprisingly, during a partner review meeting it was observed that the interventions are not impacting food security in the ways OSIEA hoped. The OSIEA strategy on food security is hinged on the understanding that addressing structural bottlenecks around pastoralism in the context of climate change results in food security for people and so far, learning indicates that this is not necessarily the case. Further, in pastoralist areas OSIEA observed that highly livestock dependent households continue to have hunger and malnutrition. This is attributed to multiple uses of livestock that are not necessarily linked to food security.

OSIEA INITIATIVE: Goal 1: Creating awareness and acceptability of disability rights as part of the curriculum in higher institutions of learning.

The purpose of this initiative is to introduce the teaching of disability rights in higher institutions of learning especially in their schools/departments/faculties of law. In 2015, OSIEA worked with the University of Nairobi in Kenya, Makerere University in Uganda, University of Khartoum in Sudan and University of Dodoma in Tanzania. In 2015, Makerere University School of Law carried out research to establish how best the school could incorporate disability rights in its law curriculum. Lecturers from the school with most interest and knowledge in disability rights including the school principal led this research including visiting other universities that are already teaching disability rights and a desk review of curricula of other universities. At the end of the year, the school came up with a report where it proposed two approaches. The first approach was to incorporate elements of disability rights in courses that were already being taught at the school such as criminal procedure, human rights law, and labor law among others. The second approach was for the establishment of an independent module on disability rights for which a draft curriculum has been developed. The curriculum will be reviewed and hopefully approved in a forthcoming curriculum review discussion at the School of Law.

In the same spirit, the University of Nairobi also developed a curriculum and it has been reviewed and approved by the school. It now awaits approval from the university senate. The University of Dodoma has continued with the teaching of disability rights. In 2015, the University of Dodoma began its outreach program where students with the support of lawyers go out into the community and provide legal advice to persons with disabilities. The University of Khartoum held arguably the first disability rights conference in the country in December. The conference brought together disability rights activists, disabled people's organizations, human rights organizations and academics to discuss key issues affecting persons with disabilities in Sudan. The conference served to introduce the planned project of introducing disability rights at the University of Khartoum but most importantly to ensure that once the teaching begins, the academics do not act in a vacuum but work together with the disability movement.

As a kind of setback, in the same year, Dr. Abdallah Possi one of the lecturers leading the disability rights work at the University of Dodoma and who OSIEA had invested in to develop his capacity, was appointed by President Magufuli to serve as a Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labor and Persons with Disabilities. Whereas this is positive to the disability movement in the sense that there is somebody in the ministry with expertise on disability rights, for the university and work on this initiative, OSIEA needs to re-invest in somebody else to make sure that the work keeps moving smoothly.

Goal 2: A criminal justice system that is sensitive and responsive to rights of persons with disabilities.

In 2015, Women Challenged to Challenge (WCC) and the coalition between the Kenya Association of the Intellectually Handicapped (KAIH) and the Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW) started supporting the prosecution of individual cases where persons with intellectual disabilities had suffered violence. The groups facilitated the provision of accommodation in court by, for example, training prosecutors on how to examine witnesses with intellectual disabilities, and holding discussions with magistrates handling individual cases to inform them about the individual accommodation and support needs for victims. As a result, five cases which would have ordinarily been thrown out of court on account of "unsoundness of mind" of the witnesses are going on in different courts in Kenya and the prosecutors are confident that they will secure convictions.

As OSIEA continued funding this work, it was realized that supported groups need a lot of technical support to be able to execute their activities. As a result, OSIEA connected the groups in Kenya with Bizchut, the Israel Human Rights Center for Persons with Disabilities, and hired a consultant, Diana Msipa – an OSF LLM disability rights scholarship graduate with expertise in access to justice for persons with intellectual disabilities. A convening was held in Nairobi that brought together prosecutors handling cases where victims are persons with intellectual disabilities, the groups OSIEA supports to work on these issues and other lawyers who have been watching these matters.

With the help of Bizchut, the prosecutors were trained on the kind of support that can be provided to facilitate individual witnesses with intellectual disabilities in the cases they are handling. The consultant also produced a police training manual that the groups will use to train police on how to investigate and handle cases where a witness or complainant is a person with disability.

The groups in Kenya started learning how to use tools such as pictorial cards and anatomical dolls to testify in court for persons with limited speech. At the grassroots level, WCC held trainings for local chiefs who are the custodians of the traditional justice system that handles the bulk of cases in some counties of Kenya. They were trained on how to handle cases where victims are persons with disabilities and sensitized on the importance of treating all victims equally while dispensing justice.

In Zanzibar, Sharia Court officials were trained on how to handle cases of persons with disabilities and members of the formal justice system such as the Directorate of Public Prosecution were also trained.

Goal 3: Enhancing access to education for PWDs through inclusive education at the primary level.

In 2015, The Action Foundation (TAF) carried out research on the accessibility of schools to learners with disabilities in Kibera slum of Nairobi, Kenya. The research which discovered that teachers did not have enough training to teach learners with disabilities, schools were physically inaccessible, and teaching materials were not available among others, is now being used to discuss with the Ministry of Education's Special Needs Department and individual schools how to address these issues.

In Tanzania, Child Support Tanzania (CST) is sensitizing parents and the entire community in rural Mbeya district to take children with disabilities to school. As a result, eight schools have so far reported admission of learners with disabilities. In Uganda, the Hoima Network of Child Rights Clubs (HONCRIC) is using child rights clubs to ensure that children in school learn about rights of fellow learners with disabilities and also encourages peer-peer learning among children.

The work OSIEA supports on inclusive education has made much gain at the community level where individual groups are working. The community success has however not been translated to national level policy and pedagogy changes. Moving forward into 2016, OSIEA would like to consider how to change and implement policies on inclusive education at the national level.

Goal 4: Fighting discrimination and promoting equality for persons with disabilities.

The program supported Tanzania Albinism Society (TAS) and Disabled Organization for Legal Affairs and Social Economic Development (DOLASED) to advocate for rights of persons with albinism who are at risk of ritual attacks and murders, as well as the deconstruction of camps where the government took persons with albinism to protect them. The groups have used a report they published on the state of albinism camps in Tanzania to discuss with the government how to improve conditions in these camps as an interim measure prior to returning people into their communities. At the moment, there is little improvement in the living conditions of people living in the camps. Groups have also continued sensitizing communities to change the misconceptions about albinism; for instance, to demystify the view that their body parts are a

source of wealth. This has been an extremely slow process but one that has seen the number of reported attacks in 2015, being much less compared to 2014.

Goal 5: Building local communities in which persons with disabilities can effectively participate in community programs/activities.

The program's efforts in 2015 went towards supporting groups of persons with mental disabilities and associations of parents and guardians of children with intellectual disabilities to ensure that they are accepted and participate in their communities. OSIEA supported the Autism Society of Kenya (ASK), Caritas Nyeri, Light and Hope for Children with Disabilities, Users and Survivors of Psychiatry in Kenya (USPK) and KAIH. Caritas Nyeri and USPK concentrated on developing community groups of persons with psychosocial disabilities.

Through the different groups created, persons with mental disabilities were given a platform to learn from each other and the human rights violations discovered from the group discussions will be followed up by the organizations OSIEA supports for redress. The established groups were also able to attract government programs. For example, the USPK peer groups in Nyeri and Karatina have now received funds from the National Council for Disability (NCD) to engage in income generating activities such as tree planting. Some groups have also received funds from the Community Development Fund (CDF) to begin savings and credit schemes.

Overall assessment

2015 was largely a successful year. Work on teaching disability rights in higher institutions of learning picked up speed with two universities now having curricula on disability rights and one more already teaching the course. Groups have started taking on individual cases of violence against persons with disabilities in court and slowly they are learning how to provide the necessary accommodations and support.

2015 had some turbulence for the disability movement in the region. Traditional funders of the movement such as the Norwegians cut their expenditure to civil society by more than 60 percent which led to the closure of projects at organizations such as Zanzibar Association for People with Developmental Disabilities (ZAPDD) and Inclusion Africa among others. The Danish who were the biggest funders of the movement in Uganda are also pulling out. The Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) which supported most of the groups in Tanzania has also not had funding for more than a year. This has seriously strained the groups OSIEA supports with many requesting OSIEA to adjust funding to cover their administrative costs.

The processing of grants and payments took a slow pace due to challenges with GMS and the numerous steps taken in Foundation Connect. As such, there was a rash of activities towards the end of the year.

The program spent more than 90 percent of its budget through grants. This is because of a belief that group's best know their problems and how they can be addressed. The small expenditure on consultancies provided technical support to the groups where it was deemed necessary.

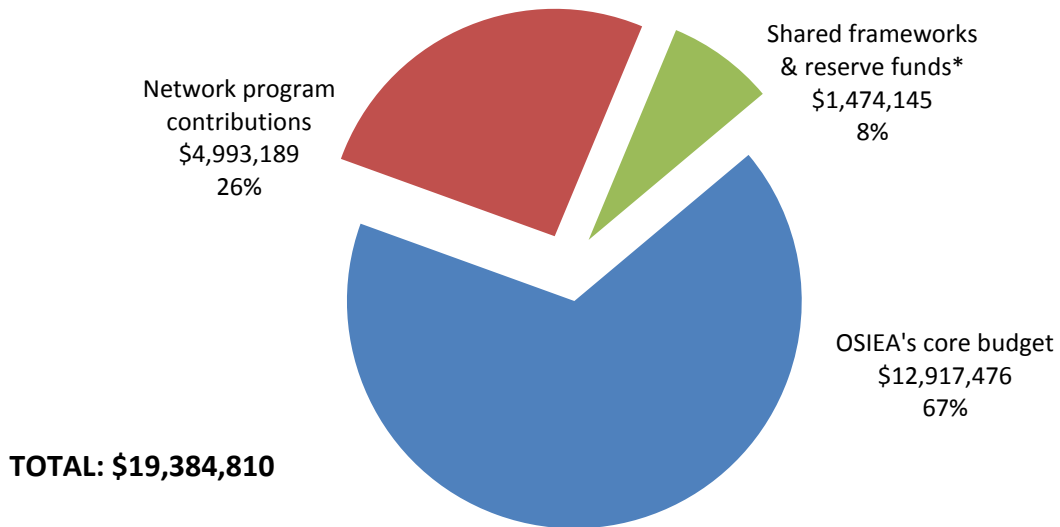
South Sudan was not considered ready for investment in disability rights.

OSIEA's PLACE IN THE FIELD

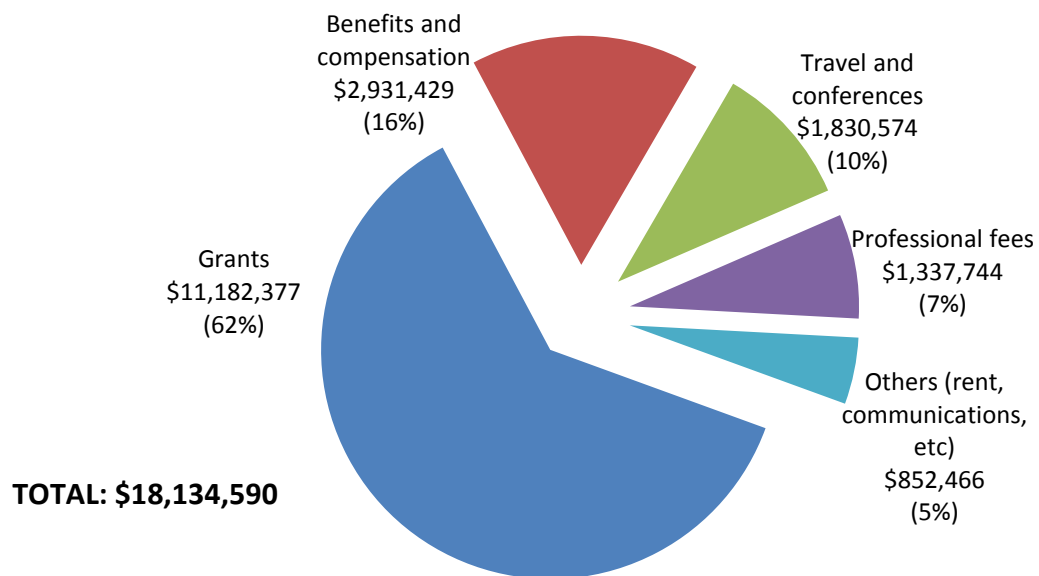
First, its vision, mission and strategic focus remain relevant to the region; which overall is plagued by a visible deficit of open society values. Second, OSIEA's primary approach of amplifying local voices, especially those of the marginalized, means that it is solidifying its values in different spaces and ensuring that very limited resources go a long way to facilitate change. Third, because OSIEA has no fixed conception of change, it is able to work on a multiplicity of issues with a diversity of actors; thus enabling it to engage in spaces that would traditionally be considered either risky or taboo. Fourth, OSIEA's preference to support local knowledge and skills means that it contributes to the growth of a more robust and vibrant Eastern Africa. Fifth, OSIEA's learning culture means that it can take risks without being careless and countenances failure without being facetious. Sixth, OSIEA's commitment to long-term partnerships, institutional strengthening and capacity building for mid-level staff contributes meaningfully to the sustainability of partners. Seventh, OSIEA's commitment to its values locates it in a position of trust and respect among its peers and partners.

ANALYSIS OF OSIEA & OSF NETWORK PROGRAM (NWP) SUPPORT IN EASTERN AFRICA IN 2015

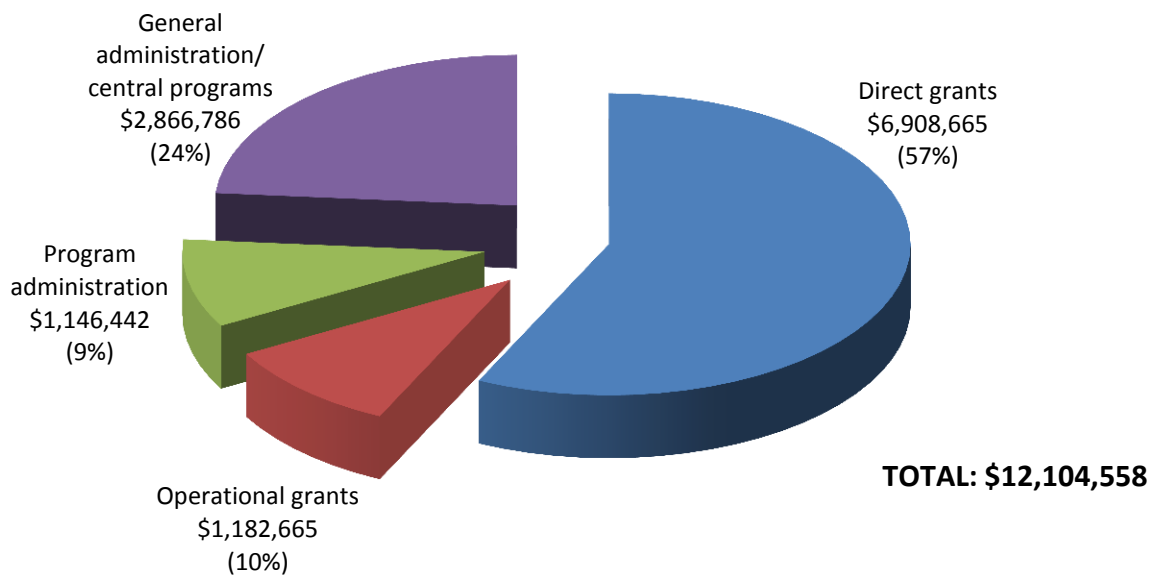
OSIEA's 2015 sources of funding



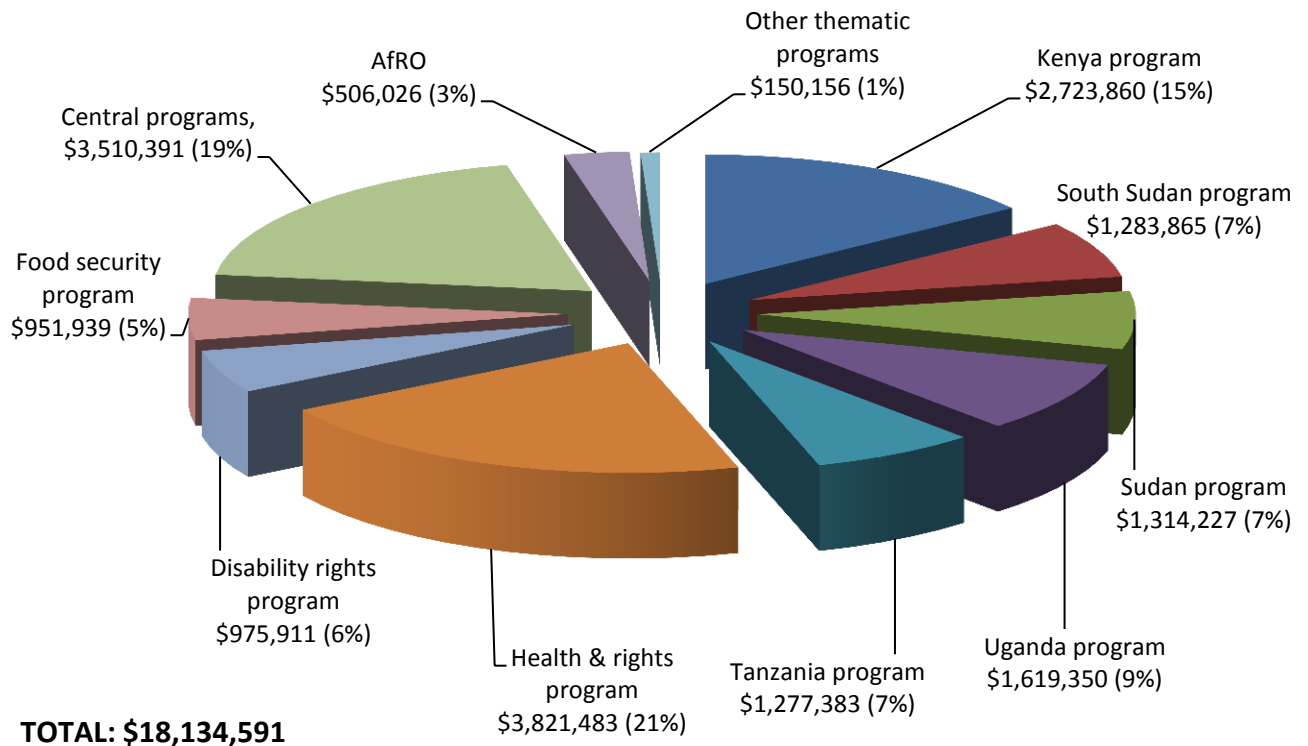
OSIEA's 2015 expenses from all sources of funding



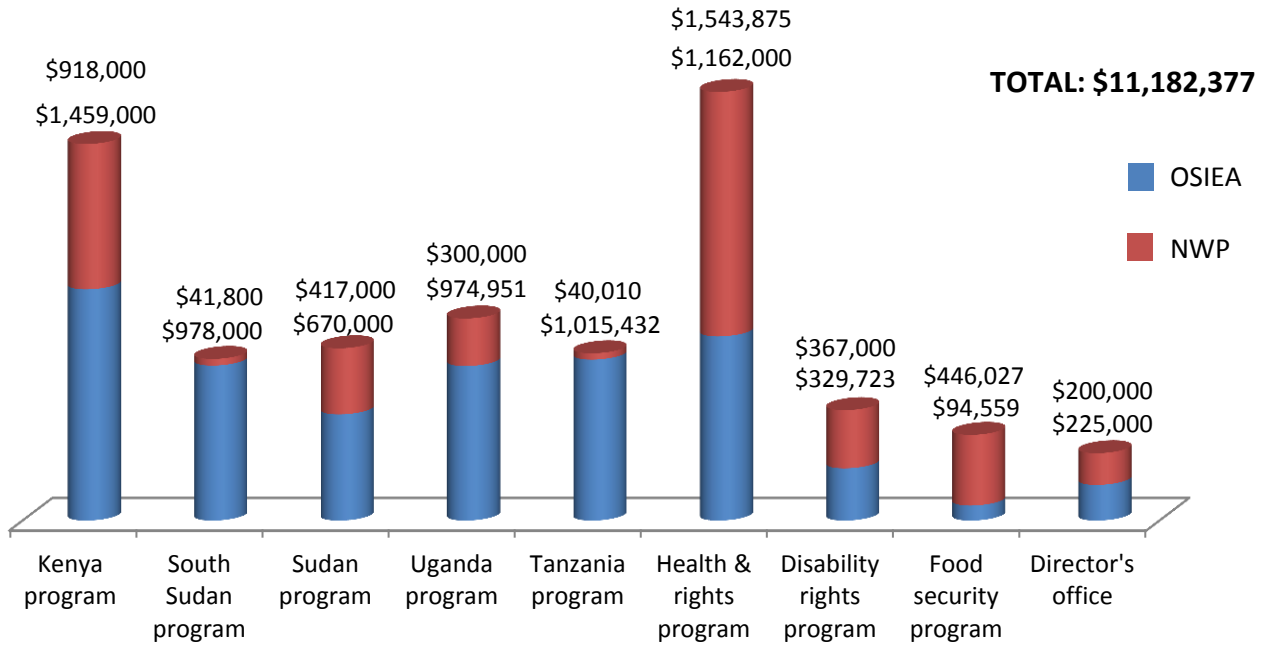
OSIEA's 2015 core budget expenses



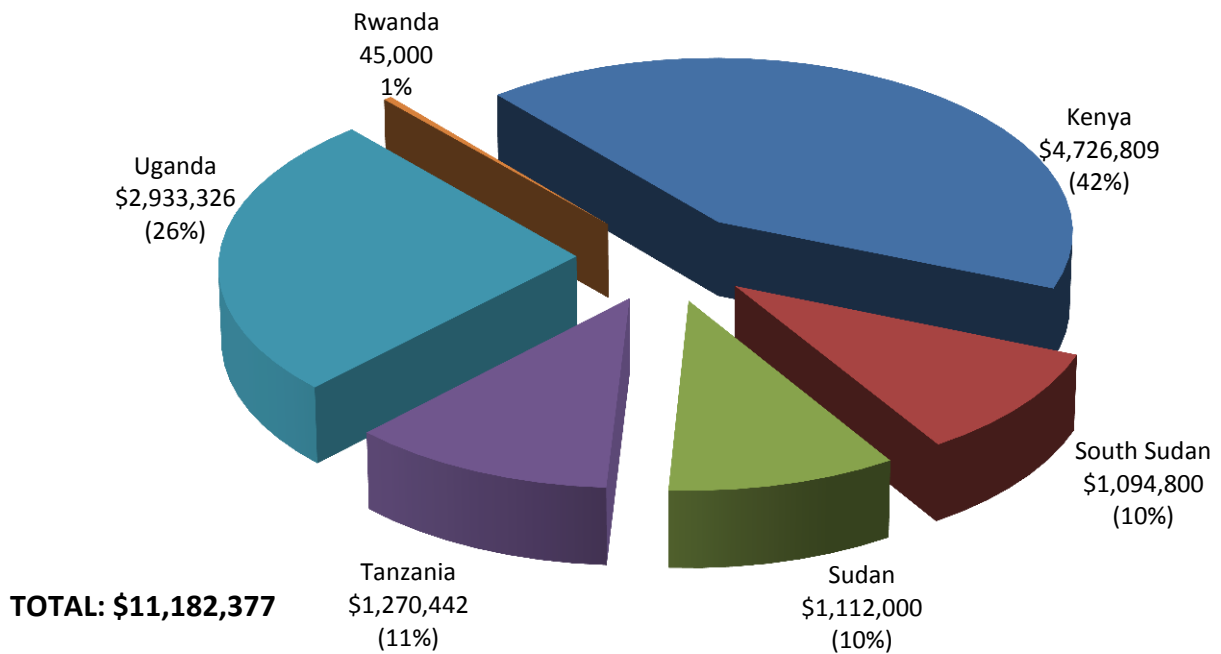
OSIEA's overall 2015 expenses per program (from OSIEA core budget and NWP)



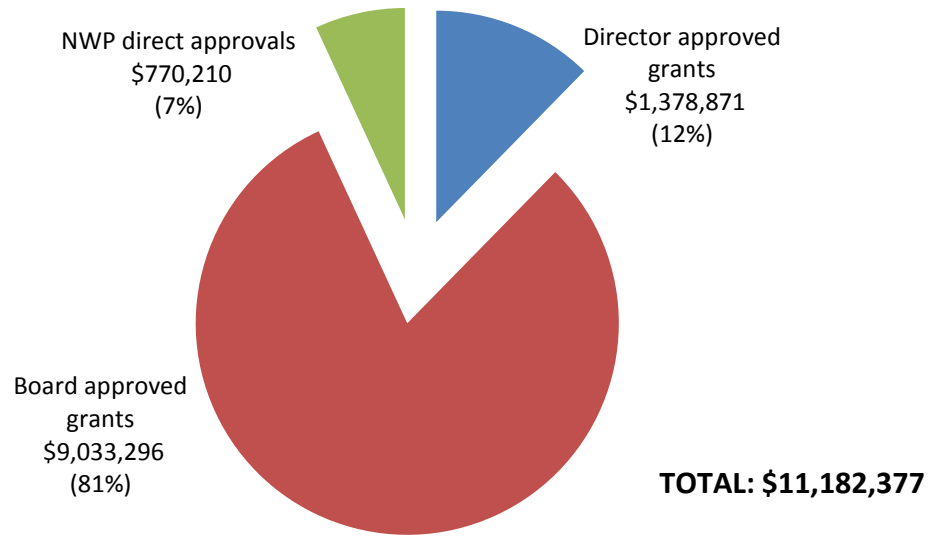
Distribution of 2015 grants funding by programs



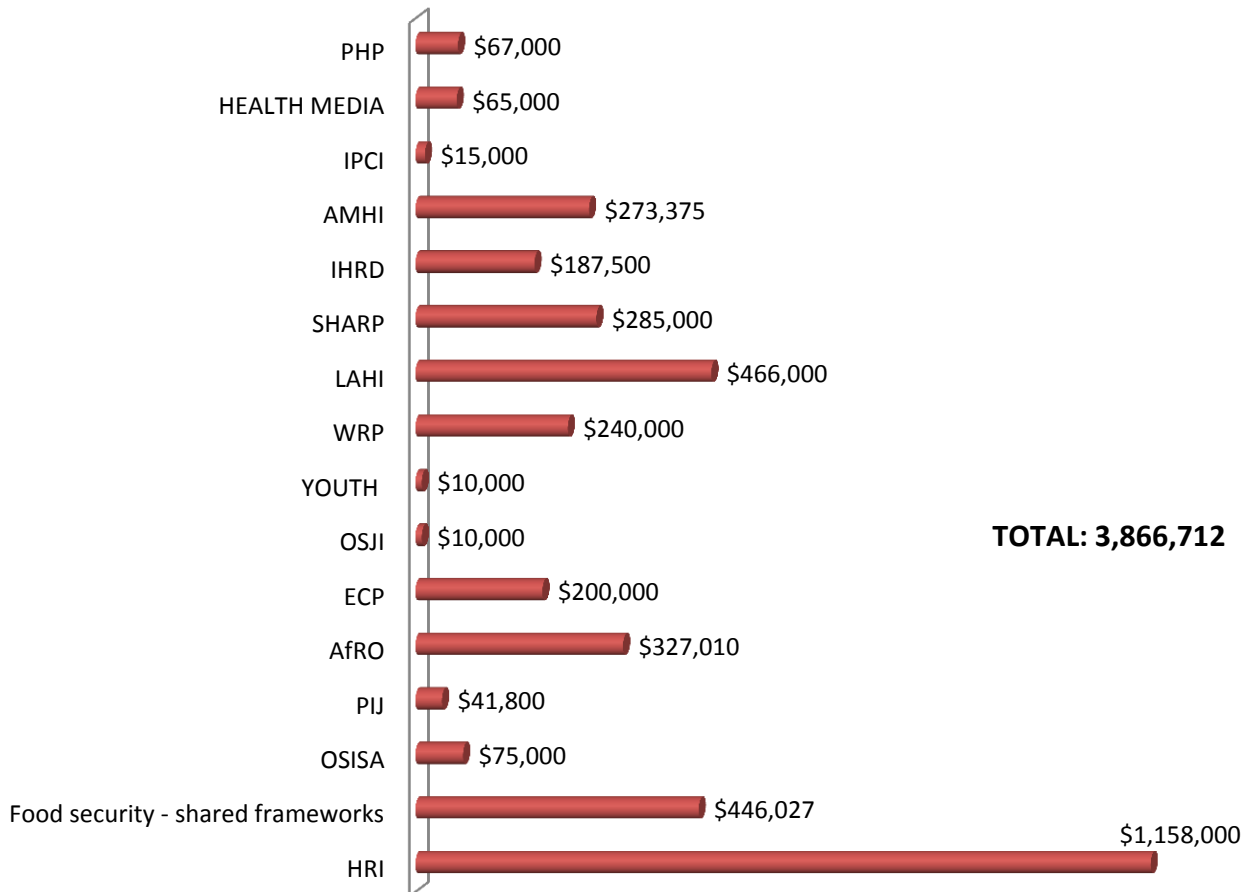
Distribution of overall 2015 OSIEA grants funding by country



2015 OSIEA ED vs Board approved grants



2015 NWP funding in Eastern Africa



Grants 3-year trend analysis

	2015	2014	2013
AMOUNTS (US\$)	US\$	US\$	US\$
Board approved grants	9,033,296	5,628,629	7,351,300
ED approved grants	1,378,871	1,700,893	1,917,533
Total OSIEA grants funding	10,412,167	7,329,522	9,268,833
Total NWP grants funding	4,993,189	3,402,325	6,608,372
Total funding (OSIEA & NWP)	15,405,356	10,731,847	15,877,205

PERCENTAGES (%)	%	%	%
Board Approved Grants	86.8%	76.8%	79.3%
ED Approved Grants	13.2%	23.2%	20.7%
Total OSIEA grants funding	67.6%	68.3%	58.4%
Total NWP grants funding	32.4%	31.7%	41.6%