

Learning by Ear

Civil Society and Political Commitment No. 1

Kenya : Mysa Football Project

**Learning by Ear –  
Civil Society and Political Commitment  
No. 1: NGO's / Kenya : MYSA Football Project**

**Sounds : Mwai Gikonyo**

**Text : Yann Durand**

**Translation : Anne Thomas**

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**1 Female off voice (Featuretext + Outro)**

**2 Fictional characters (Intro+ Dialogue) :**

- **Philomène (name can be changed)** : young woman who knows a lot of things, Alphonse's big sister

- **Alphonse (name can be changed)** : young man who is more naive and asks lots of questions, Philomène's little brother

**3 Voices for voice overs :**

Muchoki : 40-year-old man

Njiru : 25-year-old man

Wanyonyi : 30-year-old woman

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**Jingle LbE**

**INTRO :**

**Philomène :**

Hello Alphonse and hello everybody

**Alphonse :**

Hello Philomène.

**Philomène :**

Welcome to our Learning by Ear series about civil society and participation.

**Alphonse :**

Today we're talking about organizations working in the social sector, aren't we?

**Philomène :**

Yes and we're taking a closer look at a massive football club that is based in one of the world's biggest slums, that is in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

**Alphonse :**

Let's go then -- we're off to Kenya!

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## Report

### 1. SFX : welcome song

**Reporter:**

The children of Mathare are singing "welcome". This collection of slums in the Kenyan capital houses about half a million people. 150,000 to 180,000 inhabitants live on top of each other in the central Mathare Valley, which is two kilometers long and 300 meters wide. There are endless rows of huts made of wood, plastic, tarpaulin and there is no indication that life is easy here.

## **2. Clip: Muchoki (engl.)**

**There are so many single women who actually are living in Mathare. And the rate of crime is high because of the lack of employment. The youth engage in crime activities. If the youth are getting something to do, of course they can change their attitude. And this where MYSA is coming in. I mean through the football tournament, through the football league, through the other MYSA- programs that are there in Mathare. If you keep this youth active all the time then they'll tend to forget the challenges they have at home.**

### **Reporter:**

Stephen Muchoki is the coordinator of the MYSA adult program -- MYSA stands for Mathare Youth Sport Association. The NGO has been working for 20 years to change life in the slum. Education is of utmost importance to MYSA, which funds children's schooling:

## **3. Clip: Muchoki (engl.)**

**So the school fees is 10 000 Kenyan Shillings [about 150 euros per year]. And this money's paid directly to the school, because as you know we are actually coming from a very difficult background so when you give someone cash, they spend the money out for eating, buying food or paying the rent.**

## **4. SFX : children's poem**

### **Reporter:**

At the music club in Mathare, children recite the poem of their own life -- giving voice to their problems, linked to violence, drugs and illness. They all dream of finding a way out - like Jackline Wanyonyi did. She's 30 years old today:

### **5. Clip: Wanyonyi (engl.)**

**So when I finished school they gave me a scholarship again to go to Norway, so I went there to study for one year like culture and language. When I came back they gave me a contract again to go and implement the system that MYSA is using. After that one year I came back and they gave me now the full time staff job and after two years they sent me again to Botswana. I went to implement the same program.**

#### **Reporter:**

Jackline is just one of MYSA's many successes. The organization's main goal is to give people the chance to play sport -- especially football, the poor's king of sport. Stephen Muchoki explains the importance of sport:

### **6. Clip: Muchoki (engl.)**

**It gives them hope for the future because only one ball can bring people together. Apart from this football match, this youth is getting more. MYSA is like an education... an institution because when they come in they get to learn so many things in the organisation. The aim of MYSA is also to use the sport as a tool for community development. MYSA has made a very significant impact to the life of the people of Mathare and its neighbouring areas. Actually the community is also working hand in hand with us.**

### **7. SFX : in the streets of Mathare**

#### **Reporter:**

And working is what allows people to get ahead. MYSA works on merit meaning that members get points depending on their performance in different sports and their engagement in activities of general interest such as cleaning the slum's streets at the weekend.

#### **8. Clip: Muchoki (engl.)**

**If a MYSA team does a clean up they earn 6 points which are very special points that they add to their lead standing. Also the other program that they have is the HIV and aids awareness program that was started 1994 and the aim was to sensitive the youth about HIV Aids and also drug abuse.**

#### **Reporter:**

HIV Aids and drug abuse are huge problems in the slums.

#### **9. SFX : percussion at the school of music**

#### **Reporter:**

The school of music is part of the NGO's "art and culture" program. Many libraries have also been opened up in the districts to promote education, which for MYSA lies at the base of all success including sport, which the NGO is most involved in. Stephen Muchoki:

#### **10. Clip: Muchoki (engl.)**

**Through our partnership with the Royal Dutch Netherlands Football Federation we have actually trained so many referees. And at the moment there are so many referees officiating in the Kenyan premier league who are MYSA graduated. At the same time we have also top coaches in the league who are MYSA graduates.**

**Reporter:**

The leaders of the NGO are proud of the results and all the more of the fact that the MYSA project is being exported:

**11. SFX : football match**

**Reporter:**

25-year-old Bethwell Njiru is a MYSA trainer at the Kakuma refugee camp in the north-east of Kenya. 12,000 young people from eight different countries, mainly southern Sudan, are involved in the camp's MYSA project, which is trying to reduce interethnic conflict:

**12. Clip: Njiru (engl.)**

**The youth are very very enthusiastic about the activities they are undertaking. This is not only for football but for Volley ball athletic and basketball, helping the youth in capacity building, training the coaches the referees and the young leaders come up with the structures. Without they can't govern themselves and through this they'll keep on building peace. Because these small kids they've seen shots of guns and we want to change that with sport. Instead of fighting they play football.**

**13. SFX : in the streets of Mathare)**

**Reporter:**

Back to the valley of the Mathare slum. The logistical challenge of setting up such a network of competencies and skills is huge. MYSA has set up partnerships with foreign institutions as well as private Kenyan structures and also international sporting associations such as FIFA, the International

Federation of Association Football. But despite all the support, there are still financial problems says Stephen Muchoki:

**14. Clip: Muchoki (engl.)**

**The challenges we are facing now is the issue of funding because we have so many activities to do but then the funds are not enough. The organisation can only afford to give one ball to each team in MYSA. At the moment we have 1311 teams in the organisation. But then I mean to develop these players to be good players they need more balls in trainings.**

**Reporter:**

MYSA receives much of its funding from the Norwegian foundation Strømme but it is constantly on the lookout for new donors. At the moment, MYSA is not worried about survival but it wants to maintain the high level, which has earned it several awards, notably a Nobel Peace Prize nomination in 2004.

**15. SFX : football match)**

**Reporter:**

But apart from the awards the best reward for MYSA is the recognition from the members it has trained. Jackline Wanyonyi doesn't hide the fact that she owes a great deal to the organization:

**16. Clip: Wanyonyi (engl.)**

**At least I can say MYSA has helped a lot. I have achieved what I wanted to do. I've done the CAF, the confederation of African football, certificate: senior instructor. And that's what I wanted. And I've also worked with the KFF, currently I'm the women representative in the Nairobi branch of the**

**KFF, I've achieved what I wanted really with MYSA. (Laughs) So I say:  
thank you very much MYSA !!!!**

## **Music**

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### **2<sup>nd</sup> Part: Information dialogue**

#### **Alphonse (impressed):**

It seems like organizations such as these are like big families.

#### **Philomène :**

That's because several people, thousands in MYSA's case, have come together to strive towards a common goal -- a goal that has nothing to do with making profit -- that's what defines a non-profit organization, or a non-governmental organization, an NGO.

#### **Alphonse :**

It doesn't make any profit -- that is, it doesn't make any money?

#### **Philomène :**

Yes, it doesn't. Because otherwise it would be a firm, a business, a company...

#### **Alphonse :**

So an NGO or a non-profit organisation isn't allowed to sell?

#### **Philomène :**

No, it is -- like my choir for instance is an NGO but when we perform we make the audience pay.



**Alphonse :**

So what's the difference between a non-profit organization and a company then?

**Philomène :**

A non-profit isn't about personal gain -- the money made goes back into the organization towards its development, the costs of material, staff wages etc.

**Alphonse (triumphant):**

So some people are making some money!

**Philomène :**

Someone who works full-time has to live doesn't he or she? Anyway, not all NGOs sell things. Most of them are funded by public foundations or private donations.

**Alphonse :**

And do non-profit organizations and NGOs always work for good causes?

**Philomène :**

There are NGOs in all sorts of sectors -- social and humanitarian for example, like we heard about in the report, but there are also NGOs which campaign for the rights of particular people... **(Alphonse interrupts her)**

**Alphonse :**

Like disabled people, ill people or victims of the same disaster or conflict?

**Philomène :**

Yes, for example, but also for students, consumers or different professions. And also there NGOs, which promote a particular activity, sport for instance or something cultural... there are all sorts of NGOs!

**Alphonse (very sure):**

And I'll bet you there are some which also try to make a profit! It's too tempting to get donations and subsidies and not put anything aside for personal gain...

**Philomène :**

There are some such cases but usually the risks of corruption are decreased by the fact that all NGOs have to register with the authorities and give details about their headquarters, budget and founding members...

End

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**Outro**

**Reporter :**

You've just heard a Learning by Ear program on the subject of civil society and political commitment. To listen to the program again or to send us your feedback, go to [www.dw-world.de/lbe](http://www.dw-world.de/lbe). Thanks for listening and don't forget to tune in again next time!