

KENYA

Strategic Plan

2021-2025*

peacebrigadesinternational
making space for peace

PBI Kenya

Peace Brigades International is an international non-partisan NGO that exists to increase the civic space for the work of human rights defenders (HRDs) who face challenges and risks because of their efforts in defense of human rights. Since 1981, PBI has brought together thousands of activists to build transnational solidarity as well as to develop and practice strategies of nonviolence that enable civil society to defend human rights, raise grievances, demand the rule of law and promote political participation.

PBI has been present in Kenya since 2013, operating as the PBI Kenya Project. PBI Kenya seeks to support HRDs and other civil society actors to promote democracy, human rights and peace. This is done by protecting the space for HRDs, enhancing their expertise and facilitating links between relevant stakeholders.

Vision

A world in which people address conflicts nonviolently, where human rights are universally upheld and social justice and intercultural respect have become a reality.

Mission

To enhance the safety and wellbeing of human rights defenders through facilitating protection, advocacy, and capacity development.

The mandate of Peace Brigades International is to create space for peace and protect human rights. PBI Kenya is guided by the following organizational ideals:

- ◆ Non-violence
- ◆ International Character
- ◆ Non-Partisanship (non-interference)
- ◆ Horizontality



*For readability and for publication purposes, this is an abridged version of our Strategic Plan. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Lessons learned & critical success factors

Since 2013 PBI Kenya has been supporting human rights defenders to promote democracy, human rights, and peace. The current context is dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has worsened the existing social and economic inequalities, state violence and shrinking civic space, ultimately increasing the vulnerability of grassroots human rights defenders. While the challenges for human rights defenders have been increasing, this has not stopped them from growing their capabilities and numbers. Community based social justice centres are emerging all over the country under a central umbrella committed to human rights and development.

The most important lessons learned since 2013:

- ◆ HRDs play important roles in bringing about socio-political change.
- ◆ Movements must be strengthened to enhance collective power, including the investment in younger HRDs.
- ◆ The wellbeing and protection of human rights defenders are intertwined. Wellbeing and care are fundamental for protection and the sustainability of their work.
- ◆ Lasting change depends on confronting structural issues that cause, contribute to or sustain the abuse of human rights and social injustices (root causes).
- ◆ The nature of challenges facing HRDs, and the growing complexity of the context, demands that PBI Kenya increases collaboration with others.
- ◆ It is important that PBI Kenya defines and implements clear strategies for diversifying and stabilizing its resource base within the shifting development funding environment.



Theory of change

We believe that if HRDs are safe, healthy, resilient, and confident; skilled and knowledgeable; connected to strategic support networks; and their work is recognized by key actors, they will be more effective in contributing to social justice and state accountability. PBI Kenya therefore invests in promoting the safety, security, care, and wellbeing of HRDs as a right in itself.

Moving Forward: 2021-2025 Strategic areas

Our 2021-2025 Strategy is structured around three areas that respond to challenges of HRDs: Safety and Security, Wellbeing, and Network/ Movement Building. An additional fourth area, Institutional Development, aims to enhance PBI Kenya's internal effectiveness and sustainability.

Two overarching strategies - **capacity development & linking and influencing** - are integrated across all four strategic focus areas.

1. Safety and security of HRDs

We will continually assess and offer appropriate responses to threats or attacks of HRDs, thereby enhancing their safety and security to live and continue working in freedom and confidence.

2. Wellbeing of HRDs

PBI Kenya embraces the concept of holistic 'human security' that entails freedom from fear, freedom from want, and freedom to live in dignity. This security goes beyond physical to include economic, health, environmental, personal, and community elements of life. PBI Kenya will support HRDs to sustain or improve their emotional, mental, spiritual, and psychosocial wellbeing. To address the economic needs of HRDs, PBI Kenya will build links with other actors who can support their financial resilience.

3. Network and movement building

PBI Kenya appreciates the potential of movements and networks to catalyze lasting, transformative change. We will continue supporting HRD movements and networks locally, nationally and internationally, to enable them to better advance the agenda for human rights and social justice. This includes an expansion of our programmatic work beyond Nairobi.

4. Institutional development

We will enhance our internal effectiveness, efficiency, and resilience.

We want to thank all activists, human rights defenders, civil society organisations, and international community members who have helped us define our strategy. To strengthen the capacity, resilience, safety, security and wellbeing of HRDs, we need to join forces and work together.

Questions or comments? Please contact us through email: kenyateam@peacebrigades.org

