



CEFRESA OFFICE LAUNCH REPORT

OFFICE LAUNCH DATE

12TH NOVEMBER 2021

LOCATION

NYALI, MOMBASA COUNTY, KENYA

■ A Milestone in Institutional Development ■



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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



On behalf of the Board and Secretariat of the Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA), the Executive Director formally welcomed partners, stakeholders, community representatives, and friends to the commissioning of the CEFRESA office in Nyali.

The establishment of the office was framed as a significant institutional milestone, signaling CEFRESA's growth, credibility, and readiness to deepen its impact through strengthened partnerships and coordinated action. In her message, the Executive Director emphasized that the office represents more than a physical space and is a strategic hub for collaboration, learning, coordination, and accountability.

She underscored that the launch reflects CEFRESA's maturation as an institution committed to evidence-informed, community-centered approaches to resilience, food security, and sustainable development. The office provides the organizational backbone required to steward partnerships responsibly, anchor programmes in lived realities, and strengthen institutional discipline.

Special appreciation was extended to the leadership and management of the Kenya Community Support Center (KECOSCE) for their stewardship and partnership in hosting CEFRESA. This collaboration was acknowledged as an enabling platform for shared learning, institutional growth, and joint action in service of the communities CEFRESA works with and for.

This report documents the purpose, process, and strategic significance of the establishment and commissioning of the CEFRESA office, situating it within the organization's broader trajectory of institutional development. It serves both as a record of the milestone and an invitation to partners and donors to collaborate with CEFRESA in advancing resilient, inclusive, and sustainable futures.

Mary Maina

Executive Director

Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA)

OVERVIEW

On 11 November 2021, the Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA) formally unveiled and commissioned its office in Nyali, marking a significant milestone in the organization's institutional journey. The establishment of the office represented both a consolidation of CEFRESA's growing body of work since 2020 and a renewed commitment to advancing inclusive food systems and gender-responsive climate governance.

At this stage of institutional growth, the Nyali office serves as CEFRESA's primary coordination and operational base. Beyond physical infrastructure, the office functions as a platform for learning, convening, and evidence generation, strengthening engagement with communities, farmers, learning institutions, civil society actors, and public institutions at both sub-national and national levels.

The unveiling reaffirmed CEFRESA's strategic intent to deepen community-centered approaches, strengthen systems-oriented partnerships, and advance governance practices that promote equity, resilience, and sustainability



ABOUT CEFRESA

The Center for Resilience and Sustainable Africa (CEFRESA) is a nonprofit organization registered in 2020 with a mandate to advance resilient, inclusive, and sustainable societies within Mombasa County and beyond. The organization was established in response to interconnected challenges related to food insecurity, climate vulnerability, governance gaps, and social and economic exclusion, particularly affecting women, youth, and marginalized communities.

CEFRESA operates at the intersection of evidence, policy, and practice, leveraging community structures, learners, and civil society platforms as critical entry points for sustainable change. The organization is guided by the conviction that resilience and sustainability are strongest when communities are empowered as active agents of change.

CEFRESA's work is anchored in four interlinked thematic areas:

Food Security and Nutrition

Strengthening resilient livelihoods and local food systems

Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

Supporting community-led adaptation and stewardship

Women's Economic Empowerment

Advancing women's agency, leadership, and economic inclusion

Governance

Strengthening accountability and inclusive participation across all CEFRESA's thematic areas

STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP

The launch of the CEFRESA office in Nyali convened over 100 participants, reflecting the organization's deliberate commitment to inclusive, multi-stakeholder engagement. Participants included CEFRESA Board Members, faith leaders, media practitioners, civil society organizations, community champions, programme beneficiaries, and representatives from both County Governments and the National Government.

The diversity, depth, and quality of participation signaled strong confidence in CEFRESA's mission, leadership, and institutional credibility. Beyond ceremonial presence, the launch created a meaningful platform for dialogue, relationship-building, and the affirmation of shared responsibility among actors working at the intersection of food security, climate resilience, and inclusive governance.

INSTITUTIONAL TRACK RECORD AND STRATEGIC READINESS

The commissioning of the CEFRESA office marks a strategic consolidation of the organization's operational, programmatic, and partnership systems. It builds on a growing body of work grounded in community engagement, evidence generation, and collaborative practice, strengthening the institution's capacity to operate with coherence, coordination, and accountability.

CEFRESA's readiness is underpinned by demonstrated experience across inclusive food systems, climate and environmental resilience, and women's economic empowerment, with governance embedded as a cross-cutting principle. This work has been advanced through sustained collaboration with farmers, learning institutions, civil society organizations, community leaders, and public institutions at both sub-national and national levels.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OFFICE LAUNCH PROGRAMME

The launch programme was intentionally designed as a sequenced and participatory event blending faith, institutional affirmation, dialogue, and collective commitment.

Foundational Office Blessing and Prayers

The programme commenced with an official office blessing and prayers, grounding the launch in shared values of integrity, service, stewardship, and social justice. This moment affirmed CEFRESA's identity as a value-driven institution committed to dignity, accountability, and compassion.



OPENING REMARKS



Benard Omollo - Area Chief

The launch programme commenced with opening remarks from the Area Chief, who formally welcomed partners, stakeholders, and community members to the commissioning of the CEFRESA office in Nyali.

In his address, the Chief cited the establishment of the office within the broader community context, noting that unemployment and limited livelihood opportunities, particularly among young people, remain key contributors to insecurity at the local level. He observed that initiatives that link youth to productive economic pathways are critical to strengthening community safety, cohesion, and long-term resilience.

The Chief highlighted the commissioning of the CEFRESA office as a timely and strategic opportunity to connect young people from Nyali to farming agripreneurship and pathways, positioning food systems as a viable avenue for dignified livelihoods and social stability. He expressed pride in the growing visibility of youth leadership within community initiatives, describing this shift as a positive milestone that signals responsibility, initiative, and renewed confidence among young people.

He further emphasized that youth-led action is contributing to constructive engagement and social role modelling within the community, helping to redirect energy toward productive and purpose-driven activities. The Chief concluded by committing his support to CEFRESA, pledging to work closely with the organization to strengthen community coordination, link youth to opportunities, and ensure an enabling environment for the organization to achieve its mission.

**Ms. Phyllis Muema, Executive Director,
Kenya Community Support Center
(KECOSCE)**



In her opening remarks, Ms. Phyllis Muema formally welcomed CEFRESA into its new operational home and reaffirmed KECOSCE's commitment to hosting the organization. She emphasized that the partnership represents more than the provision of office space, reflecting a deliberate investment in nurturing, mentoring, and accompanying emerging and mission-driven organizations.

Ms. Muema highlighted the importance of creating enabling environments where upcoming and nascent organizations can grow with strong governance systems, strategic clarity, and institutional confidence. She reaffirmed KECOSCE's role as an institutional anchor, committed to providing continuous guidance, leadership mentorship, and organizational support to CEFRESA and similar organizations working to advance community resilience and social justice.

Her remarks set the tone for the launch, anchored in solidarity, shared learning, and collective responsibility for building strong institutions capable of delivering lasting impact.



KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Hon. Tobias Samba -MCA Tudor ward
Chairperson of the Committee on Youth,
Gender, Sports and Cultural Affairs

The keynote address was delivered by Hon. Tobias Samba, who drew from his extensive experience in the non-profit sector to reflect on the fulfillment and responsibility that accompany service-oriented leadership. He emphasized that sustainable development is achieved when institutions remain grounded in community realities and responsive to lived challenges.

Hon. Samba affirmed the critical role of civil society organizations such as CEFRESA in complementing government efforts, translating policy commitments into action, and anchoring development initiatives in evidence and community experience. He recognized CEFRESA's work as timely and relevant in addressing food insecurity, youth vulnerability, and climate-related risks.

He further expressed both personal and institutional commitment to supporting CEFRESA, particularly in the areas of legal and policy engagement, underscoring the importance of strong governance frameworks in advancing resilient food systems and youth-centered development. His address concluded with a call for synergy and coordinated action among government, civil society, faith actors, and community leaders, emphasizing that only collective effort can secure dignified livelihoods for the youth and communities of Mombasa.



AUDIENCE REACTIONS AND REFLECTIONS

The commissioning of the CEFRESA office was met with strong affirmation and visible enthusiasm from participants. Audience reactions reflected a shared sense of optimism, ownership, and readiness to engage more deeply with CEFRESA's mission and work.

Participants welcomed the establishment of the office as a timely and strategic step, noting that it provides a credible, accessible, and permanent platform for coordination, learning, and partnership. Many expressed appreciation for CEFRESA's grounded approach, emphasizing its consistency in engaging communities, addressing practical challenges, and connecting local realities to broader policy and development conversations.

There was resonance around the focus on youth livelihoods, food systems, and climate resilience. Audience members highlighted the importance of linking young people to agripreneurship, skills development, and structured opportunities as a pathway to dignity, stability, and social cohesion. Several reflections underscored the relevance of food systems' work in responding to insecurity, unemployment, and climate-related pressures at the community level.

Media and civil society actors also reflected positively on the clarity of CEFRESA's mandate and its openness to collaboration, knowledge sharing, and joint advocacy. Collectively, audience reactions affirmed the office launch as more than a ceremonial event. It was widely recognized as a practical foundation for sustained engagement, accountability, and collective action in advancing resilience and inclusive development in Mombasa County and beyond.





KEY COMMITMENTS AT A GLANCE



"I will **partner with CEFRESA** to **train** young people in digital skills and support them to leverage opportunities within the brown and green economy for self-empowerment."

Jurist Inanga, Youth Leader



"I will **amplify climate change** stories and help shape a strong, solutions-focused narrative around the green agenda within the media space."

Maureen Mudi, Media Practitioner



"I will walk alongside CEFRESA as a partner, offering support, collaboration, and shared learning as the organization strengthens its work."

Adika, Civil Society Representative



"The County Government will continue to support CEFRESA by **linking** the organization and community initiatives to relevant opportunities and platforms."

Irene, Ward Administrator, County Government of Mombasa



"I will work with CEFRESA to **broaden conversations** that connect peacebuilding and climate change, strengthening community resilience and cohesion."

Mama Shamsa, Community Leader



"I will champion conversations on climate action, **food security**, and **social justice** within faith spaces and remain open to partnerships that advance these values."

Fr. Erick Mallah, Religious Leader



"I will support CEFRESA through **legal and policy engagement** and promote coordinated action that advances food security, youth development, and dignified livelihoods."

Hon.Samba - Chairperson of the Committee on Youth, Gender, Sports and Cultural Affairs

OFFICIAL COMMISSIONING AND CELEBRATION OF INSTITUTIONAL GROWTH

Ribbon Cutting of the office photo

The launch event culminated in the official commissioning of the CEFRESA office through a ribbon-cutting ceremony, formally marking the office as operational and publicly affirming CEFRESA's readiness to function as a coordinated, accountable, and partnership-driven institution. This moment symbolized the transition from establishment to active delivery, positioning the office as a hub for learning, collaboration, and collective action.



Cake cutting



The commissioning was followed by a cake-cutting ceremony, celebrating CEFRESA's institutional growth and the shared journey undertaken with partners, communities, and allies. More than a celebration, this moment reflected collective ownership of the organization's progress and a shared commitment to advancing its mission with renewed energy and purpose.

Together, these moments served as a visible affirmation of stability, maturity, and forward momentum signaling that CEFRESA is anchored, equipped, and prepared to deepen its impact through strengthened partnerships, disciplined coordination, and community-centered action.

THE CEFRESA OFFICE



The CEFRESA office serves as a critical institutional anchor for the organization's operations, partnerships, and learning. Beyond providing physical infrastructure, the office functions as a strategic platform that strengthens coordination, accountability, and the effective translation of evidence into action.

As a dedicated operational base, the office enhances CEFRESA's ability to convene diverse actors, steward partnerships responsibly, and maintain consistent engagement with communities, civil society, faith institutions, and public sector actors. It reinforces institutional credibility while enabling disciplined delivery, reflection, and learning.

Through this platform, CEFRESA is positioned to:

- Coordinate multi-stakeholder programmes and partnerships in a structured and efficient manner.
- Sustain meaningful and continuous engagement with communities and local leadership.
- Strengthen research, documentation, learning, and the use of evidence to inform practice and influence policy
- Serve as a trusted convening and learning space for dialogue, collaboration, and collective problem-solving.

For partners and donors, the office represents operational readiness, accountability, and a clear point of coordination. For communities, it provides accessibility, continuity, and a reliable space for engagement, learning, and joint action toward resilient and sustainable futures.

CONCLUSION

The commissioning of the CEFRESA office in Nyali marks a defining institutional milestone, one that signals both consolidation and forward momentum in the organization's journey. More than a physical presence, the office represents CEFRESA's commitment to operating with greater coherence, discipline, and long-term strategic intent in service of the communities it works with.

As CEFRESA enters its next phase, the organization is positioned to deepen partnerships, anchor action in evidence and shared values, and support community-led responses to interconnected social, economic, and climate challenges. The office provides a stable foundation for sustained engagement, learning, and coordinated problem-solving across sectors and scales.

Grounded in collaboration, accountability, and collective purpose, CEFRESA will continue to work alongside partners and communities to advance resilient, inclusive, and sustainable societies across Africa.



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