VOICE

POWER OF NOW US

EMPOWERED VOICES FOR LASTING CHANGE
VOICE KENYA GRANTEE PARTNERS PROFILES

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ABOUT

Voice is an initiative of and financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands as part of their overall policy framework 'Dialogue and Dissent' (future Power of Voices) and is executed by a consortium between Oxfam Novib and Hivos. Voice operates in contexts where civic space and power shifts quickly and closes rather than opens and promotes inclusion and diversity of discriminated rightsholder groups in Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, and the Philippines. The innovative grant facility supports persons and groups facing marginalization or discrimination in their efforts to exert influence in accessing productive resources, social services, and political participation. Additionally, the Linking and learning component of Voice nurtures interaction, learning and innovation across countries and groups.

Voice aims to amplify and connect unheard voices in an effort to leave no one behind and to prioritise those furthest behind first. Informed by the national context, Voice works with an intersectional approach with the following rightsholder groups: 1) People with disabilities 2) Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) people 3) Women facing exploitation, abuse, and violence 4) Age-discriminated vulnerable groups, notably the young and the older persons 5) Indigenous groups and ethnic minorities. Currently, Voice Kenya partners with 30 grassroots organizations dedicated to serving the five focal rights-holder groups across Kenya

AFYAFRIKA

AfyAfrika is women-led, youth-led and youth serving community-based organization based in Narok County, Kenya. We envision a world where healthy and empowered girls and women, are able to exercise their fundamental human rights, and have the opportunity to realize their full potential. Our mission is to protect girls and young women from harmful practices by providing a local platform for catalysing and amplifying the social movement to end Female Genital Mutilation, Child Marriage and Gender Based Violence.

VOICE PROJECT:

Binti Wa Pawa aimed at supporting girls and engaging men and boys in ending FGM/C (Female Genital Mutilation/Cut) and child marriage in Narok county. The project beneficiaries include girls, women, and community members such as men, cultural and religious leaders, schools, and parents. Our strategy involves strong community mobilization of women, girls, men and boys, hold community dialogues (intergenerational and integrated), engage school fraternity (teachers, students), catalyze survivors through trainings and facilitation to optimize media access and spread positive messages. The overall aim is to reduce FGM/C prevalence in Narok's Ewaso Ngiro area and surrounding administrative units by empowering girls and women while mobilizing men and the community. Together, we strive for a future free from the harmful practice of FGM/C.

KEY MILESTONES:

Trained:

10 COMMUNITY DIALOGUE FACILITATORS
to conduct intergeneration dialogue,

15 TEACHERS
on integrating end FGM/C awareness through sports,

20 SURVIVORS
FGM/C on emotional wellbeing, and produced two media stories by engaging the media to amplify stories of positive change.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

There is a persistent lack of awareness in remote areas within the target community. This highlights the necessity for more extensive outreach strategies, tailored specifically to reach and engage remote communities effectively. Moving forward, our approach will prioritize decentralized awareness campaigns, utilizing local channels of communication and community leaders to ensure that no segment of the population is left uninformed or excluded from our efforts to eradicate FGM/C and child marriage.

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AGEING CONCERN FOUNDATION

Founded in 2018, Ageing Concern Foundation (ACF) focuses on strengthening the livelihoods and resilience of older persons for rural population ageing in Kenyan counties (Narok, Migori, Siaya, Kisii and Kakamega counties). At ACF, we strive to enrich livelihoods of vulnerable senior citizens (> 60 years), who are pillars from which communities, tap wisdom and guidance. Driven by passion to offer practical and sustainable positive transformation, ACF is committed to taking actions that reenergize the elderly, let their voices be heard and challenge age discrimination.

VOICE PROJECT:

Increasing Older People's Access to Healthy Ageing Services in Kenya. Implemented through a multi-prong approach that that included advocacy, policy engagement and influence, and capacity enhancement., the Capacities of Community health workers (promoters) would be strengthened through training on healthy ageing as well as building the capacity of rightsholders to improve their capacity to advocate for their right to health and care services across rural communities. Engaging key stakeholders, the project supported enrollment of older persons into the complementary National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) while forming alliances and coalitions with state and non-state actors as champions for increased access to healthy ageing services and older persons in rural communities.

KEY MILESTONES:

01 Facilitating **greater enrollment of older persons** in the national health insurance program;

02 Establishment of an intergenerational **Older Person Associations (OPAs)** dedicated to advocating for healthy ageing initiatives;

03 Established partnerships for sustainability that targeted NHIF leadership, Ministry of Health (MoH), social development coordinating structures, Health Civil Society Coalition, Kenya Ageing Consortium and other non-state actors at all levels , to ensure continued support and advocacy beyond the project timeline;

04 **Increased health access and uptake among older persons** by empowering and collaborating with Community Health Promoters (CHPs), who play a crucial role in encouraging older individuals in rural areas to seek healthcare services.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

Voice is about giving power to the grassroots. We have witnessed older persons leading advocacy for more health access. This is documented by older persons in Narok County overcoming deeply rooted traditional practices related to healthcare and actively seeking health services.

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AMKA AFRICA JUSTICE INITIATIVE

Amka Africa Justice Initiative (Amka is a Swahili word for 'wakeup; awake; rise up') was registered in 2010 but commenced operations in 2018 when the founder identified the untapped potential of the university based legal aid clinics to enhance access to justice for the indigents and marginalised in the society. As such, Amka Africa works collaboratively with legal clinics and grassroots organisations to promote access to justice for these individuals and communities. Amka Africa's theory of change is rooted on mentoring a critical mass of young lawyers who are informed and committed to promote social justice in all spheres of life for all people.

VOICE PROJECT:

Wezesha, Inua, Warembo na Wachache wa Jinsia was implemented in Nairobi and Kajiado Counties in Kenya. The strategic aim of the project was to empower and amplify the voices of vulnerable women and Intersex, Transgender and Gender-Diverse Persons (ITGDPs) to influence change of socio-cultural norms, practices and laws that predispose them to exploitation, abuse and violence. Resultantly, the grassroot communities would sustainably actively and effectively spearhead advocacy and protection of rights, raising awareness and demanding accountability from duty bearers.

KEY MILESTONES:

23 Individuals trained on paralegal skills **(3 transgender persons, 2 gender non-conforming persons, 1 intersex person and 17 vulnerable cis women** including women with disabilities, sex workers, survivors of human trafficking and gender-based violence);

ABOUT 77 INDIVIDUALS

Accessed free legal aid services, some cases are pending in court;

101,096

People reached through social media advocacy.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

Through the paralegal training, we identified ignorance as the major culprit for discrimination and violence against ITGDPs; and a plethora of gaps in the laws and policies on persons with disabilities. Deaf women experience multi-layered marginalisation, i.e. cannot shout during domestic violence, cannot talk to neighbours about it, police stations do not have sign language interpreters so reporting is difficult, courts do not have readily available sign language interpreters hence cases are frustrated by delays.

https://amkafrica.org/

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ASERWARK LIMITED

ASERWARK Limited was founded in 2020 with the goal of using both traditional and unconventional art to tell the stories of, and change the oppressive narratives on the voices of marginalized communities and groups in Kenya, by fostering dynamic and creative engagement spaces. Our vision is a society where every voice is heard and given an opportunity to fully live their potential. Our mission is to create engagement platforms for marginalized communities and groups in Kenya, by using both traditional and unconventional art. Guided by the key principles anchored on the mission and vision, ASERWARK has a commitment to Inclusivity, Transparency, Human Dignity, Innovation and Sustainability.

VOICE PROJECT:

Women leadership is SMART Leadership '' project aimed to execute a blended approach to promoting freedom which amplified and combined the efforts and progressive work on faith and feminism by communities and change-makers, through a targeted stakeholder engagement strategy that included community outreaches, networking and collaboration forums and capacity building. We used film as a mirror to reflect how women in marginalized communities exercise their faith and feminism. The 13- episode television series tells the story of a young bi-sexual woman from Turkana called Natir works her way up the political uncertainties in Kenya to become the first female President.

KEY MILESTONE:

We developed a COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING STRATEGY that communities and change makers will utilize to bring together efforts in amplifying their work in faith, feminism and freedom. We have also produced the Natiir series which we aim to distribute in one major TV station in Kenya.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

Young girls and women in marginalized communities have immense potential given an opportunity to thrive. Several partners and collaborators have put in a let of efforts in education and not so much in healthcare and economic development in arears such as Turkana.

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COME INITIATIVE

Community Mentorship and Empowerment Initiative (COME Initiative) is a youth-led and youth serving Community Based Organization in Kisumu County that creates a supportive environment for youths, Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYWs) to build a sustainable, peaceful, tolerant and an inclusive community through talents and ICT Development.

VOICE PROJECT:

JIAJIRI project empowers Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) age 15-35 years in the informal settlements of Nyalenda, Kisumu County with hands-on skills through vocational trainings on fashion and design (tailoring and dressmaking), making of reusable sanitary towels, entrepreneurship skills and digital advocacy while empowering them with information on integrated health issues through creative and participatory life skills sessions. The Jiajiri Innovation Hub (I-Hub) is a safe space where the young people voice their concerns and challenges and have meaningful engagements with both state and non-state actors on issues such as leadership and governance and education on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and its commodities.

KEY MILESTONE:

YOUNG WOMEN

economically empowered through capacity building on tailoring, dressmaking and making reusable sanitary towels, equipped with entrepreneurship skills and AGYWs sensitized, empowered and educated on integrated health issues for them to make informed choices in life.

LESSON LEARNED:

There is need to offer opportunities for women and girls facing violence and discrimination to be empowered with skills that best meet their needs to achieve economic independence, a dignified livelihood while exercising their human rights and living a sustainable life.

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DEAF OUTREACH PROGRAM

Deaf Outreach Program (DEAFOP) is a disability organization whose mission is to mainstream Deaf and Disability right in development through use of sign language accessible technologies for education and comprehensive sexual reproductive health and rights.

DEAFOP programming is aligned to contribute to SDG 4,5 and 10 through the engagement of accessible technologies, Deaf Schools and community groups of persons with disabilities.

VOICE PROJECT:

Under Voice project DEAFOP implemented a project called Twaweza which sought to bring out the inner and collective ability and power within Disability community.

LESSON LEARNED:

KEY MILESTONES:

01 Development of a minimal viable Product (MVP) Deaf digital library learning management system that is in early use in Kenyan Deaf schools

02 Increased participation of PWD in resource control reaching over 300 PWD within rural disability groups.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

Power of linking and learning within community of practice and cascading it at the community level and Power of co-creating solutions with the community.

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DRYLANDS LEARNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE

Drylands Learning and Capacity Building Initiative (DLCI) is a Kenyan NGO registered in 2026 focusing on knowledge management and natural resource advocacy. DLCI is respected for its work in promoting drylands-friendly policies. It was established, run and led by people from the drylands and has extensive knowledge of the indigenous people of Kenya. DLCI has been the secretariat of the Pastoralist Parliamentary Group (PPG) since 2016. It provides technical support and policy advisory services to members of the national parliament from 15 counties, currently a total of 102 MPs in Kenya's bicameral parliament. Our vision is to empower dryland communities to be at the centre of development interventions that affect their lives and livelihoods.

VOICE PROJECT:

Voice(S) Connected and Amplified: Linking & Learning L & L Facilitation is a three-year project (between 2021, and 2024) supporting all 30 Voice grantees to share experiences/learn together and explore empowerment and influencing approaches to enhance grantee capacity to be inclusive. DLCI also amplifies the voices of the rightsholder groups, including voice grantees, and puts their ideas and identities in the public space. DLCI in collaboration with Voice has successfully organised three annual Linking and Learning events including this closure event,

facilitated grantees to participate in national and global L & L events and commemoration of international days, supported the formation of Communities of Practice (COPs), organised capacity strengthening workshops, and support grantees to speak at public platforms like radios, conferences and webinars. We pride ourselves on our expertise in convening meetings and ensuring the objectives of the meetings are met.

KEY MILESTONES:

Facilitated the formation of 10 COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE IN THE ANNUAL LINKING AND LEARNING event in Watamu, Malindi in 2023, amplified over 100 ARTICLES by grantee partners. More than 93 (28/30) OF VOICE GRANTEE PARTNERS FACILITATED by DLCI reported using knowledge learned in the Linking and Learning event in their organisations. The skills areas included: FUNDRAISING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION, POLICY ADVOCACY, DIGITAL ADVOCACY, and DOCUMENTING IMPACT

LESSON LEARNED:

The Linking and Learning concept is unique and can be adapted by organizations to learn from others and COPs are important in creating impact in the NGO space.

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DUPUTO DISABLED INTERGRATED PROGRAMME

Dupoto Disabled Integrated Programme Group, established in 2010 in Narok County, advocates for the rights of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs). We promote inclusivity and empowerment through awareness campaigns, economic empowerment initiatives, health programs, and sports activities. Our vision is to mainstream disability issues in all societal aspects, while the mission focuses on advocacy and facilitating access to education, healthcare, and equal opportunities. Core values include inclusivity, empowerment, collaboration, advocacy, and compassion. Objectives involve raising community awareness, advocating for policy changes, addressing economic needs, ensuring healthcare access, and providing sports opportunities for holistic development.

VOICE PROJECT:

we implemented the Smart Government Project in Narok County. The main goal of the project was to deepen civic engagement and strengthen oversight of Narok County citizens in Narok County's development agenda and governance processes this was through the training of 25 local urban forum leaders across five urban cities of Narok (Nairagiengare, Narok Town Ololulung'a, Mulot, and Kilgoris) by strengthening their advocacy capacity. LUFs consisted of Youth, Women, Ethnic Minorites, and Persons with Disabilities. This was facilitated by the development of knowledge products and simplification of the county budgeting and governance documents, as well as mainstreaming and cultivating the culture of disability inclusion in Narok County development routines.

KEY MILESTONES:

The capacity of persons with disabilities to engage effectively and participate in the Narok County governance and development processes increased. This was evidenced by the (local urban forum) LUFs' intensity and frequency of active participation in governance processes, which resulted in enhanced budgetary allocation toward disability inclusion, incorporation of disability agenda in the county governance documents, and increase in the number of persons with a disability appointed in various committees

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

Early identification of opportunities and developing strategies to act on the opportunity when it occurs. We developed a Memorandum and engaged the aspirants for Narok County Governorship before the 2022 general elections. After the election, we used the memoranda as a tool to engage with the Narok County leadership.

https://x.com/dupotocbo?s=09

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EMERGING LEADERS FOUNDATION - AFRICA

The Emerging Leaders Foundation Africa (ELF-Africa) exists to empower, support and accompany young women and men to achieve meaningful, dignified and impactful participation in governance, economy and public affairs at all levels of society. Anchored on our foundational values-based approach to leadership as service. ELF's vision is pursued through three program pillars namely the Governance & Civic Engagement, Economic Empowerment, Livelihoods & Opportunity, and our signature Leadership Development Program. Through life skills training and mentorship, grounding in civic consciousness and responsibility, professional development and practical exposure to the world of work, the three programme pillars collectively provide platforms, tools and linkages to discover, inspire and empower the young women and men to transform their communities even as they thrive individually.

VOICE PROJECT:

NOW Us! Awards is a project funded by Voice, aimed at bringing together rightsholders voices and, through an Award process, highlight unsung efforts to take us one step closer to a responsive and inclusive society. ELF-Africa in partnership with Voice funded rightsholders organizations that breathe and live NOW-Us! (Nothing About Us, Without Us!) in the collective journey to an inclusive world and envisions a society with empowered rightsholders who can express their views and demand their rights for responsive and inclusive societies.

KEY MILESTONES:

Through the Now Us! Awards Project, **20 GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS** experienced strengthened systems, operations and procedures as well as well-equipped staff to carry, implement and deliver the organizations' vision. This was greatly through the organization capacity assessment done at the initial stages of the award and a follow-up capacity strengthening boot camp informed by the needs assessment done for these organizations. **SIX RIGHTSHOLDERS' ORGANIZATIONS WERE AWARDED A GRANT OF 100,000 EUROS** to support their work three from each phase (I and II). **ELF-AFRICA HAS INCREASED AWARENESS, ADVOCACY AND VISIBILITY OF THE WORK OF 6 NOW US!** Awardees from phase I and II through amplification. This involved media coverage for the activities of these awardees in their communities as well as Radio/TV interviews in their local dialects to help reach out to more people in the communities they work in.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

Funders can best shift the power to grassroots organizations by supporting them through Organizational Development: Carrying out organization's assessment and bridging the gap through training, mentorship, coaching and technical support. Empowered grassroots organizations work with, and create a platform for community members to actively engage in decision making processes on matters that are crucial to their wellbeing thus hold the power to move forward and thrive as a community
Website: Emerging Leaders Foundation – The Pursuit of Excellence (elfafrica.org)

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EMPOWER HER INITIATIVE

Empower HER Initiative is a non-profit that empowers women and girls to be agents of social and economic change. Through our SRHR programming, we provide women and girls, with education and feminine hygiene products to properly understand and manage their menstruation. We do this collectively through: 1) 5-week health education program that enhances their psychosocial well-being and menstrual-related behavior 2) reusable sanitary pads that are affordable, eco-friendly and of high quality and 3) Menstrual Health digital payment wallet, an innovative tool that enables women to access Menstrual Health products through a "Save Now, Pay Later" mechanism, empowering them to acquire MH products hassle free.

VOICE PROJECT:

Tunza (swahili word for care) Project advances Menstrual Health through sustainable and cost-friendly feminine hygiene products, health education and Menstrual Health digital wallet that empowers women and girls to access Menstrual Health products from as little as 5KSh. Our high-quality pads are manufactured by women particularly those with disabilities who we intentionally employ. Empower HER has reached more than 21,000 women and Tunza project has particularly reached 1,163 women directly and many more indirectly enabling them to safely manage their periods. Empower HER has also educated masses on Menstrual Health through its social and digital platforms and mainstream media including radio and TV stations. The stations used are: Citizen TV and radio, KBC, KTN, NTV, Ramogi FM, Radio Nam lolwe, amongst others.

KEY MILESTONES:

Scaling up of the Menstrual Health Digital Wallet which will has enabled women from low-income communities to take ownership of their Menstrual Health. This outlive the project as it is self-sustainable. Expansion of our production capacity by 400 % From an average of 1,000 pads a month to 5,000 a month increasing our reach. Translation of our Menstrual health education to braille to reach out to more women with disability. Creation of employment opportunities and refining of skills for women with disabilities have been involved in the production process.

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KEY LESSON LEARNED:

To advance equity, collaborating is key. This has played out clearly through the project and has equally ensured community ownership. At the 2024 Empower HER Summit, we also learnt the importance of synergy. It was clear that leveraging on consortia is a powerful tool for amplifying our rightsholders voices and knowledge sharing across organizations.

FEMINIST IN KENYA

Feminists in Kenya is a social movement of feminist activists that offers a collective space where Black women's realities and experiences can move from the margins to the center. In doing this, our ultimate purpose is to create an emancipatory activism space that shares in Community, Joy and Resistance as feminist values for organizing against oppressive systems. Our organizing vision is rooted in re-organizing and redistributing power under four key themes: 1) Feminist Movement Building 2) Movement to End All Forms of Violence 3) Feminist Technologies 4) Reclaiming Sexual Reproductive and Health Rights.

VOICE PROJECT:

"GOD LOVES LGBTIQ+" aimed to gradually shifting negative attitudes towards the intersection of Religion and Sexuality. Its objective was to cultivate an environment that fosters safer and more inclusive worship spaces for the LGBTIQ+ community, simultaneously debunking religion as a tool of oppression for Queer Kenyans. Through a series of strategic communication workshops, advocacy convenings, and the creation of the 'God Loves LGBTIQ' toolkit, the project successfully engaged with over 300 Queer Kenyans and religious leaders. As we prepare for the toolkit's launch, our objective is to distribute it widely among feminist and queer organizations, as well as religious allies, to bolster strategic communication and advocacy efforts addressing the intersection of queerness and religion.

KEY MILESTONES:

By engaging religious leaders in dialogue and providing them with tools and resources, the project has built understanding and support for LGBTIQ individuals within religious institutions.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

This project demonstrated that effective allyship involves more than just expressing support—it requires actively listening to the needs and priorities of marginalized groups, using one's privilege and resources to amplify their voices and advance their goals, and working collaboratively towards shared objectives. Strategic allyship in this context involved religious leaders and institutions leveraging their influence to advocate for LGBTIQ rights within their own communities.

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FRIENDS OF THE LAKE TURKANA

Friends of lake Turkana (FOLT)is an indigenous, women-led organization that works and for communities within the greater Turkana basin to demand collective social, economic, cultural, environmental and territorial justice. Our work covers Turkana and upper Marsabit counties in Kenya. We work in partnership with communities across the region to safe guard and defend the rights and resources of pastoralists, indigenous people and local communities as guided by our vision "we envision a future where collective rights of communities are recognized and their territories secured and communities in the Turkana basin are empowered to manage and govern their resources sustainably,

VOICE PROJECT:

Strengthening indigenous women's active citizenship. The project sought to strengthen the inclusion of indigenous women in county participatory budgeting and political process aimed at increasing young women's representation in political and decision making spaces and increasing the allocation of budgetary resources towards policies and projects aimed to enhance the living conditions of girls, women and their families to increase transparency and oversight in budgeting process aimed at improving ascent and empowerment of the indigenous women of Marsabit and Turkana in the participatory budgeting and political processes.

KEY MILESTONES:

There is increased interest and investments in right-holders participation in decision making processes and this is supported even by the men right-holders. The Community Monitors, oversight committees and women's groups are engaging with the development processes especially the county budgeting process, following up on budget allocations and projects approved, demanding accountability from their village and ward administrators, increasing interest and support from men in the wider community for meaningful and collective participation in decision making processes

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

We have learned lessons throughout the project implementation and attempted to highlight these learning during the different reporting periods. Some of the learnings include; The project built a strong sense of collective and individual empowerment amongst the right holders, which in turn strengthened both their resolve and capacity to support the empowerment of other women.

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HEALTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ORGANIZATION

Established in August 2021, the Health and Economic Development Strategy Organization (HEDSO) focuses on amplifying the voices and addressing the unique challenges faced by adolescent girls, young women, and youths in rural communities in the Lake Victoria beaches and sugar belt areas in the Lake Region Counties. HEDSO recognizes and addresses barriers like social, economic, and environmental injustices that hinder these groups from realizing their full potential. Its unique approach integrates economic empowerment across all programs to meet the diverse needs of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYWA)

VOICE PROJECT:

Economic integration of teenage mother's project was along the beaches and sugar belt areas in Homabay and Kisumu Counties. The goal of the project was to significantly reduce incidences of teenage pregnancies and Sexual Based Violence in Kisumu County and Homabay county sugar belt areas and beaches by providing economic empowerment to 300 young mothers between the age 14-24. The project focused on creating economic opportunities by supporting visionary teenage mothers with scalable social ventures or business ideas, providing them with social entrepreneurship training and financial literacy. Additionally, vocational and handy skills training were provided in a safe space model, allowing the girls to support each other while learning, and equipping them with start-up kits for sustainable livelihoods. Moreover, the project included comprehensive environment and health education, covering topics such as sex education and nutritional advice.

KEY MILESTONES:

Out of the 20 support teenage mothers' groups, **10 ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN VILLAGE SAVINGS** and loaning groups and **15 TEEN MOMS SUCCESSFULLY LINKED TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS** and are currently enrolled in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) courses.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

One key lesson learned is the power of collaboration and partnership in expanding project impact. By leveraging strategic alliances with local stakeholders and vocational training institutions, we doubled our peer mentor training capacity and facilitated access to vocational education for teenage mothers, enhancing their skills and opportunities for economic empowerment.

https://hedso.org/

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082997605803&mibextid=ZbWKwL

IG: https://www.instagram.com/hedsoorg?igsh=bXE2b2Ewa3QwZ2Jl

YT: https://youtube.com/@healtheconomic?si=9NCe89HaxdoShXT9

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MALINDI DISTRICT CULTURAL ASSOCATION

Born from a passion for preserving the rich cultural heritage of the Mijikenda people on the Kenyan coast, Malindi District Cultural Association (MADCA) was established in 2003 primarily to research, preserve and promote cultural heritage as well as dignified aging. We believe that culture is the bedrock of a community's development and protecting the elders is synonymous to protecting our cultural heritage. MADCA is led by the vision Culture becomes a unifying force amongst the indigenous Coastal communities as well as amongst all the Kenyan communities; and therefore, restores the sense of freedom, dignity, self-esteem, honesty, integrity and self confidence in our society.

VOICE PROJECT:

Mudzi ni Muthumia: My Elder My beacon project is a one-year project implemented in Kilifi County. This project addresses the ongoing killings of elderly people in Kilifi County. Kilifi is a coastal county facing high poverty rates and historical land ownership injustices. Witchcraft accusations are often used to target the elderly, creating a climate of fear and violence. With this project MADCA hopes to mobilize stakeholders for a joint and stronger voice, in the fight against the menace of the killings of the elderly in Kilifi County.

KEY MILESTONES:

The project brought together various stakeholders (civil society, politicians, and religious leaders) through workshops and discussions thus taking up a more unified approach to tackling the issue of elders killing.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

We have learned that the elderly killings problem in Kilifi is so complex and needs a multi-pronged approach. However, consolidating one voice from all stakeholders can have a lasting impact. The political leadership must play a leading role if we are to experience sustainable decrease in the near future.

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MFALME PRODUCTIONS

Mfalme Productions is an award-winning animation studio dedicated to telling contemporary African stories to global audiences. We leverage digital tools and technologies to create stimulating multimedia content for a constantly expanding, youthful and tech-savvy audience. We aim to consistently deliver authentic, dynamic and cost-efficient campaigns that enhance brand presence for our partners.

VOICE PROJECT:

Animation workshop project was based in Nairobi but open to youth from all over Kenya. Our aim was to empower aspiring animators by enhancing their existing skills to a professional level. The strategic objective was to identify talented youth with animation abilities and refine their talents through the program, equipping them to enter the job market confidently or establish their own online channels to monetize their content. Over the course of the project, we successfully engaged with 13 young individuals, each of whom now possesses the expertise to initiate and finalize an animation project

KEY MILESTONES:

Youth Animators trained and ready for the job market

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

Online training has emerged as a potent means for distributing digital knowledge, such as animation instruction. Through online training, we effectively reached trainees at their convenience, irrespective of their location, thereby reducing expenses. This approach allowed us to target individuals at their preferred time and location, ultimately enhancing accessibility and cost-effectiveness

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MIGORI COUNTY YOUTH FORUM

Migori County Youth Forum (MCYF) is an umbrella body of 1325 village youth Bunges (Youth Groups) with membership of about 27,000 across Migori County; the organization was formed and registered in the year 2004 by the Ministry of Social, Gender and Sports. The organization has strategic focus of reducing vulnerability and increase in the income base of Youth in Migori County. MCYF advocates for peace coexistence, leadership and good governance.

VOICE PROJECT:

"My Tax My Voice" was a one-year project implemented in Migori County, this project was to mobilize and sensitize the youth across Migori County on the devolved funds and to empower them to take active part in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the devolved funds at their local community levels. The youths were trained on advocacy skills, existing County government policies and documents like CIDP, ADP, budgeting and budget appropriation, this was meant to involve the youth in holding the County government of Migori accountable for the devolved county government funds.

KEY MILESTONES:

EIGHTY (80) YOUTHS ACROSS THE 40 WARDS OF MIGORI COUNTY trained on basic advocacy skills, county government policies and documents to have enhanced advocacy for proper utilization of county government funds, over 5000 youths sensitized on the devolved government funds and existing policies.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

Meaningful involvement of the right holders enhances ownership and sustainability of the programs

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Migori county youth forum

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MSINGI TRUST

Msingi Trust is a movement that was established in 2017 to mobilize, inspire, equip, and network Christians toward social justice and social transformation. The organization aspires to see Kenya transformed because churches and people of faith understand their transformative role in society and have taken up the mandate to positively impact society as agents of the Kingdom of God for his Kingdom on earth. Msingi is committed to creating and teaching content, fostering connections and networks and curating conversations that mainstream the pursuit of social justice in faith spaces and leveraging the convening power of faith institutions for the pursuit of social justice. Our core values are Love, Justice, Faith, Integrity, Compassion and Equity.

VOICE PROJECT:

Msingi Trust implemented the Faith and Feminism project: 100 Voices For Change for 18 months that aimed to create awareness of the gendered power dynamics within religious spaces and how these dynamics limit women's freedom and power within faith spaces. The objective was to initiate conversations on ending the culture of silence about leadership inequalities within faith systems and expose the impact of harmful theologies and church practices that disempower women and discourage them from active political participation. The target audience was women from diverse church and community groups. The project connected with 100 women to tell their stories of faith, freedom, and feminism through audio visual mediums.

KEY MILESTONES:

The faith and feminism conference, storytelling through podcasts and awareness creation helped in challenging theological interpretations and patriarchal readings of religious texts and promoted the harmonization of feminist principles with faith practices according to the respondents engaged with increased freedom among women in amplifying their voices on matters faith and feminism at the grass root levels.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

Culture deeply influences religious identity and cohesion and can also enforce restrictive norms that limit women's freedoms. To amplify women's voices and power in community and religious spaces, communities should segregate cultural practices that enrich and those that hinder equality. Through education, dialogue, and women's active participation in cultural reassessment, societies can foster a culture that upholds women's rights as fundamental.

msingiafrica.org
@Msingi Trust
info@msingiafrica.org

IDEAL RESEARCH CENTRE

IDEAL Research Centre, an NGO based in Kisumu County, serves the Lake region economic bloc, focusing on sustainable development through research, advocacy, and information dissemination. Its four-pillar approach emphasizes human rights, inclusion, rule of law, and gender mainstreaming. Aligned with SDGs 1, 2, 3, 6, 13, and 16, IRC promotes community ownership, participation, and collaboration. With a vision for sustainable healthy livelihoods, it implements research-based interventions in health, agriculture, governance, and climate change. IRC aims to integrate science, technology, and innovation into community and government practices for sustainable development.

VOICE PROJECT:

The Local Original Kuria Arts (LOKA) Festival implemented in Mabera Sub County, Migori County, celebrated cultural diversity through art, empowering young women and girls to address issues like exploitation and abuse. It aimed to create an enabling environment for their growth by integrating art into existing structures. The project featured competitions in traditional sacred songs, folk tunes, and choral verses promoting political tolerance. Winners from each ward advanced to the sub-county level, fostering gender understanding and providing a positive environment for girls and young women to thrive.

KEY MILESTONES:

Through community mobilization and inclusive dialogue at the LOKA Festival, young men and women in Mabera-Migori County established the Suba Kuria Green Park on December 13, 2023. Moreover, out of 14 youth groups, 5 were supported to register as self-help groups, and 3 mentored youths secured county-level elective seats as MCAs.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

Art and especially music can be used as an tool for advocacy and mobilization in a topic like feminism and land rights, topics that are otherwise considered sensitive topic by capitalizing on cultural diversity to innovate and learn for positive transformation of development and while at it presents opportunities to benefit dividends like climate justice.

https://ideal.or.ke/

@IdealResearchCentre/

https://www.linkedin.com/company/ideal-research-centre/

https://x.com/IdealRCentre?t=JfE6VYrBfF0KOjw6HSUeiA&s=09

https://youtube.com/@LOKAFestivalIRC?si=FjRYlNBgIUYil2_z

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THE INSTITUTE OF PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT-KULAMUSANA

The Institute of Participatory Development-Kulamusana (IPD-K) is a multi-sectoral local Public Benefit Organizations (PBO), registered in September 1999. It is rooted in the coast region with headquarters in Malindi Town.The central belief is that for any meaningful change to take place, the culture of the people must be respected because it is a people's lifestyle. People´s participation is key to any meaningful change to be effective and sustainable.

The organization uses culture to bring sustainable change to the society. It encourages people to participate in education, health, water and sanitation, environmental conservation, agriculture and livestock production. Through Participatory Learning Actions, the people are empowered in projects identification, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes, thus ensuring project ownership and sustainability.

VOICE PROJECT:

Mwanati Asilia (Indeginous Landowners Voice) project uses the relevant government of Kenya personnel, private land experts, the community resource persons and the social media to create awareness to the indigenous people in the four sub counties in Kilifi county: Malindi, Magarini, Kilifi North and Ganze about legal ownership of land, land utilization, land dispute resolution mechanisms, networking linking and learning processes. It addresses the squatter problem and other emerging issues such as elderly killing. It's overall objective was Indigenous communities in Malindi, Magarini, Kilifi North and Ganze sub counties legally own land and utilize it for sustainable community growth and development.

KEY MILESTONES:

Awareness was created to over three million people in Coast region leading to drastic reduced land hostilities. The land owners and squatters engaged peacefully contrary to what used to be emotive leading to killing. The indigenous communities such as the Gede/ Mitangani community was registered and issued with a community land title deed. Other Communities such as Mjanaheri and Garashi in Magarini Sub County and Matsangoni in Kilifi North Sub County received title deeds (Approximate 20,000 title deeds).

LESSON LEARNED:

As much as land is controversial through this project, peoples' participation proved to be the best option. The introduction of the community-led land clinics has reduced tensions and people have solutions to their own problem. The land problem in Kenya is more than meet the eye, as most of government land and community land is unregistered hence open to land grabbing. The process of land registration needs to be hastened.

www.ipd-k.org
P.O. Box 5752, 80200 Malindi, Kenya
ipd-tabiazetu@yahoo.com /mzungoma@gmail.com

NAMUNYAK LEPOLOSI WOMEN GROUP

Namunyak Lepolosi Women group is a self-help group that was started in 2015 by a group of 24 women to empower women and girls by enhancing their capacity through training on leadership, economic empowerment, advocating for their rights, prevention of gender-based violence and land ownership and utilization of resources. It started as a result of women engaging themselves in alcohol brewing and they were unable to meet their basic needs. the need to educate women on their rights and effective income-generating activities pursued by the group to reduce the gap in illiteracy levels and lower the impact of harmful traditional beliefs.

VOICE PROJECT:

Enhancing women's access to productive resources and leadership in Transmara. Was a 24-month project from 2022 to 2023. implemented in Transmara West, Kilgoris constituency, Narok county our rightsholders come from 52 women groups around Kilgoris. Our main objectives were to train on land rights and land ownership, economic empowerment, training on leadership, and elimination of gender-based violence ensuring there is intergenerational knowledge transfer by bringing the youths into the forum and creating networking with other stakeholders, local and national leaders, and organizations to exchange knowledge. reaching to 1500 women, youth, and elders and indirectly reaching around 2500 women, youth, and elders.

KEY MILESTONES:

A number of women supported by the project received title deeds and many others are in the process of finalizing land succession process.

https://namunyaklepolosiknowledgecentre.org

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KEY LESSON LEARNED:

Land rights and land ownership is a continuous journey that still needs a lot of follow-ups to enable the project to be sustained since the process of obtaining land by women is a big challenge to women in our community. Hence there is a need for the involvement of men.

NORTHERN NOMADIC DISABLED PERSONS' ORGANIZATION

NONDO was registered in June 2010 as a Kenyan Non-Governmental Organization that advocates for the rights, inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities from nomadic and pastoralist communities. We exclusively target unique circumstances surrounding disability and nomadism/pastoralism. The prevailing cultural attitudes on disability disadvantage persons with disabilities in these nomadic and pastoralist communities which leads to double marginalization. We are guided by our vision 'A society where Persons with Disabilities have a voice and space to participate in all aspects of life and live dignified lives.'

VOICE PROJECT:

Empowering Women with Disabilities on Leadership and Governance - Nyota Zetu was implemented in the nomadic and pastoralist communities with participants drawn from Baringo, Garissa, Tana River, Wajir, Isiolo, Kajiado, Narok, Mandera counties. The strategic goal of the Nyota Zetu project was to empower women with disabilities from nomadic and pastoralist communities in Kenya to actively engage in leadership and governance roles. By addressing historical exclusion and promoting inclusivity, the project aimed to catalyze positive transformations within the respective communities. Key objectives included providing awareness and education on rights and leadership, promoting inclusivity in political and governance structures, building capacity through skills development, amplifying inclusive discourse through media engagement, and documenting and showcasing the abilities of women with disabilities.

KEY MILESTONES:

Women with disabilities were trained on leadership and governance drawn from 8 counties. The trained women formed a network that promotes peer-to-peer learning, enabling them to share their challenges and empower each other on issues related to leadership and governance among women with disabilities while influencing decision makers. A documentary on human interest stories was developed, describing human interest stories and storytelling of significant contributions through leadership by women with disabilities in ASAL areas. After targeted training, individuals have gained confidence, empowering them to tackle challenges with self-assurance and assertiveness.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

In the fabric of our society, vital threads of information concerning leadership and governance often remain elusive. There is need to share at grassroots levels, as many of the communities we interact with have been left behind. We cannot speak of a progressive society where only a few members know and understand issues around leadership and governance, yet these issues affect their day-to-day lives. Opportunities for women with disabilities to engage in governance and participate in political and decision-making processes largely depend on the political, socioeconomic, and cultural contexts.

https://nondokenya.org/
Northern Nomadic Disabled Persons' Organization
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info@nondokenya.org

NUBIAN RIGHTS FORUM

The Nubian Rights Forum is a human rights organization that advocates for the rights of the Nubian ethnic minority in Kenya. In Kenya the Nubian people are a marginalized community and have suffered discrimination through denial of citizenship, land rights ethnic profiling, and vetting. Our mission is to empower the Nubian ethnic minority to effectively access justice and realize their human rights through advocacy, networking, lobbying, legal aid, legal education, representation, and research. The motto of the NRF is "Amplifying the voice of the voiceless" and their main vision is for "a society that recognizes the minorities' rights and accords them with equal opportunity."

VOICE PROJECT:

Challenging Marginalization and exclusion on Digital ID and nationality was implemented in the following counties of Kenya, namely Nairobi, Kisii, Kwale, Mombasa, Garissa, and Kisumu. The strategic goal was to promote access to legal documentation for ethnic minority communities' inclusion in legal/civic processes to ensure communities have greater participation in decision-making roles that have a large impact on their lives in citizenship. The project reached minority communities through public community ambassador training and mentored participants to be effective change makers in the community.

KEY MILESTONES:

By ending vetting, we broke barriers that hindered legal identification for minority communities. Our Community Ambassadors received skills training in drafting petitions, leading to a public petition on new digital ID and citizenship guidelines presented at Nyayo House in 2023. We also engaged with the legislative SDG caucus to advocate for effective measures against marginalization during digital ID implementation.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

Opportunities for community ambassadors to engage in governance accountability and participate in citizenship and digital identity legislative processes affecting the political, socioeconomic, and cultural contexts where social norms in many parts of the country result in multiple forms of discrimination against minority communities.

- nubianrightsforum.org
- Nubian Rights
- Nubian Rights Forum,
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- Nubian Rights Forum
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RIZIKI SOURCE

Riziki Source is a non-profit organization founded in 2015 to change perceptions and expand the representation of Persons with disabilities in Kenya, which promotes their participation in policy-making processes and employment opportunities. We leverage technology to connect job seekers with various economic opportunities, helping them earn a decent livelihood while supporting employers to become disability confident.

VOICE PROJECT:

I Am JobABLE Project is a project implemented within Nairobi and its environs. The goal of the project was twofold: First is to conduct employability training for job seekers with disabilities. Secondly, to conduct workplace inclusion training for employers and Human resources professionals. The objective being to ensure job seekers with disabilities are" job ready" and the Employers have the capacity to implement inclusive practices in their organizations.

KEY MILESTONES:

Youths with disabilities were trained and mentored by skilled professionals, out of which 7 were directly placed into internships. Whilst 30 employers were trained on workplace inclusion out of which three organizations committed to use Riziki service to recruit candidates with disabilities whilst the rest committed to share opportunities onto the Riziki platform.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

Access to opportunities for job seekers with disability largely depend on two things consistent, focused inclusion training and awareness programs for Employers in order to neutralize deep rooted misconceptions, and continued development of timely employability training sessions for job seekers to prepare them for a very competitive work space that is skewed against them.

www.riziki source.org

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SIAYA MUUNGANO NETWORK

Siaya Muungano Network is a youth led women rights and youth development organization dedicated to build social capital and enhance popular participation of local communities especially young women, adolescent girls and the youth to be at the forefront of advocating and promote access to social and economic rights. SIMUN envision a society where women and youth live in dignity to enjoy equal rights and influence decision on the changes they desire in their lives and community. Overtime, SIMUN has utilized existing best practices and community-led approach to sustainably work with right holder groups in Siaya County to co-create and implement solutions to the existing social and economic issues that affect the right holders, their households and communities.

VOICE PROJECT:

Rebuilding Widows Hope for Decent Employment project in Siaya targeted young widows below 40 years in three wards in Siaya County. Currently, 70 young widows are directly targeted through the existing project interventions. The project mobilizes and organize young widows through community groups and build their power and capacities to challenge inequalities and rights violations against young widows to realize a just society that supports the widows social and economic growth. Through our approach, the right holders (widows) access relevant information, skills and strengthen spaces for sharing experiences while co-creating solutions for their social and economic transformation.

KEY MILESTONES:

70 young widows aged between 18-40 years mobilized and organized into three community spaces to facilitate stronger grass root movement to support prevention and response to human rights violations against widows in the respective communities in Siaya. Through the community spaces, the project has facilitated access to information and provided linkages that supports the right holder led approach in building solutions to their experiences using the local resources and structures in Siaya.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

Meaningful engagement and participation of right holders through participatory approaches contributes to effective self-awareness and co-creation of sustainable solutions for social and economic transformation. Right holders have solutions, organizations, like SIMUN need work with right holders to catalyze the solutions to prevent and respond to existing gaps.

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STRETCHERS YOUTH ORGANIZATION

Stretchers Youth Organization is a membership, Youth-led community-based organization that was founded in 2011 to enhance and promote a healthy, equal, just and inclusive environment for youths through capacity building, advocacy and information sharing for sustainable development. The organization works in the coastal counties of Kenya with a partial presence in Nairobi, Kisumu, and Siaya counties. We are guided by our vision "A healthy society where every youthful voice count"

VOICE PROJECT:

Mobilize Empower Actualize and Transform (MEAT) was implemented in the coastal counties of Kenya, namely Kwale, Kilifi, and Mombasa. The strategic goal was to promote increased peaceful inclusion of youth in political processes in the forthcoming general election so as to ensure youths have greater participation in decision-making roles that have a large impact on their lives. The project reached over 300 youth through Civic education training and mentored 30 to vie for elective political posts.

KEY MILESTONES:

Youth candidates trained and mentored through the project and a numbered secured elective seats at the county level as members of the County Assembly (MCAs)

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

Opportunities for youth to engage in governance and participate in political and decision-making processes depend largely on the political, socioeconomic, and cultural contexts where social norms in many parts of the country result in multiple forms of discrimination against young women.

https://www.stretchersyouth.org/
https://www.facebook.com/StretchersYouth
https://www.instagram.com/stretchersyouth/
https://twitter.com/StretchersYouth
https://www.linkedin.com/in/stretchersyouth/
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STEP UP TOGETHER ORGANIZATION

Step-Up Together Organization (SUTO) is a youth-led community-based organization founded in 2019 in Kisumu County, Kenya. The organization was established by a group of young women and men with the goal of positively impacting the lives of women and youth in the community. SUTO focuses on addressing current and recurring issues faced by women and youth through culturally sensitive and evidence-based interventions by working closely with grassroots communities, including men, women, youth, children, and minority groups, as well as governance institutions; to promote democratic governance, human rights, social accountability, civic engagement, and initiatives to combat inequalities against, youth, women and girls. SUTO's approaches include community mobilization, participatory methods, partnership, networking, and collaboration.

VOICE PROJECT:

Land Access and Rights Ownership for Women Project implemented in Nyando and Muhoroni sub counties in Kisumu County. Step up Together (SUTO) working with and for women experiencing exploitation and abuse, enhanced the voices of female survivors of Gender-Based Violence, older women and widowed women in advocating against land and asset stripping by their children, in-laws and other extended family members. The main objective was to improve access to justice in land-related cases, and advance women's right to own and use land through intensive civic education; reaching over 1500 right holders

through mass civic education via local radio stations, legal aid clinics, agriculture/proper land use trainings community/ court users' committee dialogue forums, chief barazas and community meetings and dialogues with duty bearers.

KEY MILESTONES:

80 WOMEN GROUPS (40 in Nyando and 40 in Muhoroni) adopted revolving fund systems where they collectively raise funds to practice horticulture and fishpond farming as main sources of income for group members. **SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF 2 LAND DISPUTE CASES** through the Alternative Justice System and 1 through the Courts.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

Empowering Women Land Rights Champions and self-help women's groups in the community, who are well-versed in the land rights domain, can significantly improve outreach and engagement within the target communities and right holders enabling the project to address their specific needs and concerns, leading to more effective and sustainable outcomes.

www.sutokenya.org
http://www.sutokenya.org
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TRIBELESS YOUTH

Tribeless Youth is a youth-led initiative based in Nakuru County, established with the goal of promoting democratic values and peaceful coexistence among the youth in Kenya. Our initiative seeks to demystify the ideologies of 'my tribe, my people' in order to enhance unity amongst Kenya's younger generation and turn them into change-makers. It is an initiative that wants to oversee the mental shift away from tribal-based politics. Our young team hopes to stimulate elections where leaders are chosen based on their capabilities and policies, rather than their tribes. Tribeless Youth aims to amplify the national values that unite Kenyans by engaging youth and young women through art, digital media spaces, storytelling and informal dialogue sessions.

VOICE PROJECT:

Claiming Spaces for Youth in Political Participation, Kenya's political spaces for youth continues to be severely constrained. Young people's participation in policymaking is still limited. Young people must claim their rightful spaces and be allowed to participate in policy processes in a free and meaningful manner, as participation of citizens in policy-making is the hallmark of democracy, and is identified as the essential tool of instilling national values and principles of governance.

KEY MILESTONES:

Tribeless Youth has created a hub (Ubuntu Creative Space) which is keen to fostering a platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration. Our communities in Kisumu, Nakuru and Laikipia came up with a number of agendas that have been deliberated, formulated and presented to their respective County assemblies for deliberations to form and inclusive youth policy that addresses the needs and issues of young people in their respective counties.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

Using the power of ART, seasoned activists, political professors and young people to deliberate on how to bridge the activism gap between the elderly and the youth of today and creating the nexus of advocating for the greater good of minorities and ignored communities.

www.tribelessyouth.org

@Tribeless Youth

info@tribelessyouth.org

USAWA INC.

Usawa Inc. is a community-based organization from Nairobi that works on co-creating equitable and decent workspaces for women and gender minorities through feminist approaches to leadership, communications, and human resource policy and practices. Usawa also convenes a networking event, the Women Leaders Hangout, for discourse and collective feminist action on rights at work. Usawa Inc. practices an inclusive, intersectional, and feminist approach to communications and community engagement, through cross-media storytelling, sparking conversations with our target audiences, and using creative communications products.

VOICE PROJECT:

Faith, Feminism and Freedom podcast series and 10 interfaith learning circles explore digital storytelling as a tool to shift patriarchal and religious norms that justify sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and political exclusion against women and sexual and gender minorities in Nairobi.

KEY MILESTONES:

Promote progressive cultural and religious norms as a result of localised cooperation through 3 Interfaith Circles, that offer safe spaces to discuss faith and cultures that shape the realities of women, gender and sexual minorities, and 1 podcast series as a learning tool for SHRHR advocates, feminists, and clergy.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

There is still need to shift the space through unlearning and learning as there is intersectionality between faith, feminism and freedom.

https://www.usawainc.co.ke/

https://linktr.ee/swaibapodcast_ke?fbclid=PAAaYoA_TbdlUFMWXpg5tYl5GMnuHWQDOOQMFzVXt0BCy-A0nGoEz9UT-zauc

partnerships@usawainc.co.ke

UNITED DISABLED PERSONS OF KENYA

United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK) is the national umbrella organization of organizations of persons with disabilities in Kenya with the mandate to cultivate and amplify the unified voices of persons with disabilities. With membership of over 120 OPDs spread across the Country, UDPK's core responsibility is to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life as enshrined in the legal and policy frameworks. At County Level, we work with Organizations of persons with disabilities at the grassroots to advance their participation, access to services, and inclusion in the communities. At the National Level, we engage mostly with advocacy on legal and policy frameworks, to ensure the enactment of inclusive policies as well as monitor the implementation of international and national legal frameworks and commitments including the constitutions, SDGs, and the CRPD.

VOICE PROJECT:

We implemented the Smart Government Project in Narok County. The main goal of the project was to deepen civic engagement and strengthen oversight of Narok County citizens in Narok County's development agenda and governance processes. This goal was achieved through the realization of key objectives which included the formation and activation of LUFs (Local Urban Forums) and the strengthening of LUFs advocacy capacity. LUFs consisted of Youth, Women, Ethnic Minorites, and Persons with Disabilities. This was facilitated by the development of knowledge products and simplification of the county budgeting and governance documents, as well as mainstreaming and cultivating the culture of disability inclusion in Narok County development routines.

KEY MILESTONES:

The capacity of persons with disabilities to engage effectively and participate in the Narok County governance and development processes increased. This was evidenced by the Local Urban Forums (LUFs') intensity and frequency of active participation in governance processes, which resulted in enhanced budgetary allocation toward disability inclusion, incorporation of disability agenda in the county governance documents, and increase in the number of persons with a disability appointed in various committees

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

Pre-emptive Approach – Early identification of opportunities and developing strategies to act on the opportunity when it occurs. We developed a Memorandum and engaged the aspirants for Narok County Governorship before the 2022 general elections. After the election, we used the memoranda as a tool to engage with the Narok County leadership.

https://www.udpkenya.or.ke

https://twitter.com/UDPKenya

https://web.facebook.com/UDPKenya

https://www.linkedin.com/company/united-disabled-persons-of-kenya-udpk

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USIKIMYE

Usikimye is a survivor center and trauma-informed organization based in Nairobi and Kiambu counties that is dedicated to preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence for all. Usikimye means do not be silent in Swahili. We exist to ensure that women and girls from Nairobi and its environs are safe and free from violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse and have safe access to high quality comprehensive responses that are appropriate to their individual needs, vulnerabilities, capacities while at the same time, age and gender sensitive.

VOICE PROJECT:

Inua Mama Jamii, aimed at empowering women in their socio economic life in the informal settlement of Soweto, Kayole

KEY MILESTONES:

Empowered 70 women through entrepreneurship and skills training, along with establishing internal lending and saving mechanisms of up to 200 women leading to increased access to capital and a significant rise in sustainable businesses within participating communities.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

The Inua Mama Jamii program highlighted the critical role of economic empowerment in fostering gender equality, particularly within marginalized communities. By equipping women in informal settlements with the tools and resources needed to build sustainable businesses, the program underscored the importance of addressing socioeconomic factors that contribute to gender-based violence. The lesson learnt was that increased financial independence led to reduced vulnerability to gender-based violence.

usikimye.org

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YOUTH ALLIANCE FOR CHANGE KENYA

Youth Alliance for Change Kenya (YACK) was formed-and-founded by a group of dual identities of 15 LGBTIQ with active representation of trans, cis-men, women and intersex women and girls after facing a lot of discrimination and stigmatization to access health care and other social services. YACK is a local youthful LGBTIQ-led Non-State Community Based Organisation (CBO) working in Up-country Kenya especially in Nyanza Province mapping Homa Bay County. It exists to defend and uphold the rights of vulnerable rural LGBTIQ with active representation of Lesbians, Gay, Bisexual*women, Trans*women, Intersex*woman Queer LGBTIQ, to be able to access social justices and inclusive of socio-economic empowerment, HIV prevention and Mental Health and SRHR treatments. It was formed in the year 2012 and officially registered in 2017. It has its secretariat which is made up of LGBTIQ with vast experiences and solely redefined projects with cost-efficient finance management, strategy and budget rests with LGBTIQ adopted to implement its activities.

VOICE PROJECT:

Building Unbiased HIV and Mental Health Response implemented in Nyanza Province, Homa Bay County, Rachuonyo North Sub-County. The overall impact is to reduce incidence of the violation of health rights and gender injustice that perpetuates the HIV pandemic and

implication of mental illness for LGBTIQ as a result of being HIV positive. The project itself managed to reach 81 LGBTIQ with HIV Treatment literacy who are living with HIV and during outreaches LGBTI living with HIV were given safer sex commodities like condoms and lubricants (2,500 packets of condoms and 500 sachets of personal lubricants were distributed furthering 21 LGBTIQ having received mental health counseling and psychosocial support and referrals for mental distress treatment.

KEY MILESTONES:

We increased educating 24 peer educators include men who have sex with men (MSM), lesbians, bisexual, transgender and Intersex LGBTI on basic facts on HIV/AIDS including prevention and management in conjunction with MOH-DISCs-Drop-In Services Centers personals and do daily peer education and psychosocial support and defaulter tracing-both one-on-one and group sessions to meet LGBTI living with HIV/AIDS in community through Prevention with Positives sensitization strategy.

KEY LESSON LEARNED:

Health Promotion Model in Kenya counties isn't equipped to motivate Social Change and Behaviour Change (SBC) to respond to HIV prevention, and gender equality. Most regional counties do not have the support or capacity they need to conduct health promotion efforts for SRHR services and HIV treatment programs. The current health promotion model in Kenya is primarily built to raise knowledge and awareness of health challenges and effective responses. We used the model of health promotion, engaging healthcare workers, communities to build demand for user-friendly HIV treatment using buy-in interested or affected parties often called stakeholders to agree to support a decision, plan or approach, often influence Social Behaviour Change (SBC) respond to the real health needs of (LGBTI) and diverse communities' people - before, during and after a pandemic.

https://yackenya.org

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voice
Hivos
people unlimited
OXFAM
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands