

**ANNUAL  
REPORT 2013**



# **YOUTH ALIVE! KENYA**

Towards an Empowered  
Generation of Young People



## Message from the Executive Director

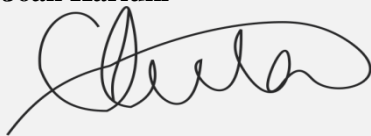
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In the year 2013, YAK achieved great milestones in the delivery and expansion of her programs, strengthening existing partnerships while establishing strategic new ones. System strengthening, building capacities of the staff, working groups and the board were also witnessed during this year. Some of the major milestones included; training of more than 186 school youths trained on Alcohol & drug abuse, Alcoholic drinks & control Act 2010. Through school outreach sessions, 1985 students were reached out with information on alcohol & drug abuse during. Strengthening of existing and establishment of new project structures was done to enrich the work of YAK towards creating a positive impact in the lives of marginalized communities. More than 20,000 community members sensitized on devolution; county processes, policies/legislation, county government structures through Jua Jimbo project components both in informal settlements and rural areas. 28 CSOs, 60 women endowed with the capacity to lobby and advocate for community needs and their participation enhanced through Jua Jimbo project trainings. Building capacities of capacities of 40 domestic workers especially women in Mathare, Kibera, and Kawangware in professional housekeeping. Mobilizing communities to register for the social security services provided by the government such as National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and NHIF. The established youth model assemblies have proved to be the voice of marginalized young men and women since they act the link between them, the county leaders, institutions and systems. Dialogues undertaken in Mathare slums enabled the dominant tribes in the area to work together to better their surroundings. These dialogue forums managed to attract 150 young people from the informal sector who also coupled up as peace ambassadors in the area.

Life skills manual was drafted and life skills club were established in the statutory institutions. Working group members and community groups trained on various topics under democracy, governance and human rights. I am pleased to report that some of the trained participants of these trainings and dialogues have either been elected/selected to be part of development committees, education bursary committees, persons with disabilities committees at ward and constituency level. Finally, YAK recognizes that networking is crucial in broadening partnership that would enhance the achievement of the organization's goals and objectives. To this realization, the organization took advantage of a number of opportunities to broaden networks, build capacity of the staff to improve their performance. A sample of the opportunities included attending stakeholder's forum organized by Institute for Legislative Affairs which helped in establishing networks with other stakeholders in the field of alcohol and drugs abuse prevention.

With the achievements made in the past year and the impact seen, we are more convinced that Youth Alive! Kenya is effectively working on her mission of providing a platform where young people are involved in the development of their community.

**Joan Kariuki**



**Executive Director**

**Youth Alive! Kenya (YAK)**

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

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<b>YAK</b>	Youth Alive! Kenya
<b>ACT</b>	Act Change Transform
<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>CBOs</b>	Community Based Organizations
<b>CEP</b>	Child Empowerment Project
<b>DASCO</b>	District AIDs and STIs Committee
<b>D &amp; G</b>	Democracy and Governance (Youth Alive! Kenya Programme)
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EVCY</b>	Extremely Vulnerable Children and Youth
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immuno Deficiency Virus
<b>IEC</b>	Information Education & Communication
<b>ILA</b>	Institute for Legislative Affairs
<b>ILO</b>	International Labor Organization
<b>JHR</b>	Justice and Human Right
<b>KIOS</b>	The Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights
<b>LSU</b>	National Council for Swedish Youth Organization
<b>M &amp; E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>NACADA</b>	National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse
<b>NGO</b>	Non Governmental Organization
<b>RESCOU</b>	Regional Counseling and Psychosocial Organization
<b>SCIs</b>	Statutory Custodial Institutions
<b>UNDEF</b>	United Nations Democracy Fund
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>Y &amp; BY</b>	Youth and Beyond Youth (Youth Alive! Kenya project)

## About Youth Alive! Kenya

Youth Alive! Kenya (herein referred to as YAK) is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that advocates for and support youth as well as women participation in decision making and development processes. The organization was first registered as a community-based group in 1999 then later as national NGO in December 2003.

### The vision

A society in which young people, men and women take active responsibility for their lives and shape their destiny and communities

### The mission

Our mission is to develop the abilities of young people, men and women to create and access opportunities that improve their lives and communities

### Programs highlights

We set out to achieve the same vision, but we sharpened it so that we can be more accountable to our stakeholders

Program focus includes:

- Democracy & Governance
- Justice and Human Rights
- Health and

*Gender is cross cutting in all our programs. Women and men must be equal partners at all levels of economic, political and social development. We acknowledge that women and girls remain relatively marginalized compared to men and boys in different sectors of development*

### Our values

- We believe that the human rights especially of young people, vulnerable women and men;
- We believe in the ability of young people of both gender and their communities to make informed decisions and take charge of the consequences of their decisions;
- We value the uniqueness of communities with respect to their needs, access to and control of resources;
- We respect and appreciate diversity in all its forms;
- We believe in meaningful participation and inclusion of all people (youth, men, women, boys and girls);
- We value integrity, honesty and accountability;
- We value the unique insights, understanding and capabilities that reside within communities.

### Our target groups

YAK works with citizens (men and women), community groups, and government institution in both urban informal settlements and rural areas. We target most vulnerable groups in non-formal sectors (e.g boda boda operators, small unregistered enterprises, domestic workers...etc)

### Our partnerships

YAK identified groups and grassroots organizations, assessed their capacities and provided trainings in identified areas of weakness. The groups identified included; Mukuru CBO Alliance,

Vision Centre for the Disabled-Waithaka, Forum for Community Mobilization (FOFCOM) and KOWOW Cultural Group. The trainings focused on; the essential features of a CBO, various structures of an organization, the roles and responsibilities of various leaders within an organization, planning, delegation, task management, problem solving, conflict management, communication management, time management, meeting procedures, advocacy and lobbying, human resource management and design and proposal writing.

YAK has also been working with other community based organizations in the informal settlements such as in Kawagware, Kibera, Nyalenda, Obunge Mukuru, Eastleigh, and Mathare. Mukuru Reuben safety team, Mukuru Fwata Nyayo Association (MUFYA), Jitegeme Kenya Pamoja, U-turn, Maji mazuri, Sinai Reli community group, Amusha community organization, Pamoja Youth Foundation, Den of Hope, K.C.B.O NET, Eastleigh Airbase among others.

YAK has also worked with government structure such as local administration, ministry of genders, Ministry of Health, Ministry of youths, National Aids Control Council and respective strategic district officers.

### Organs & Structure

Youth Alive! Kenya comprises two key organs – Executive Board & Secretariat. The Executive Board as the governing organ of the organization responsible for all its activities. The Board currently comprises seven professionals drawn from diverse backgrounds makes executive decisions regarding the operations of the organization on but not limited institutional Governance, Leadership Development, and Financial Sustainability & Self Reliance. The secretariat comprises the working office headed by the Executive Director (ED) who is also secretary to the board. The secretariat handles day-to-day operations of the programs.

## Program achievements in 2013

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### 1.0. Democracy and governance program

The D & G Programme seeks to expand and sustain the democratic space in Kenya by advocating for a strong institutional framework and enhancing the capacity of the citizenry on issues of democracy and good governance.

In line with Kenya's new constitutional dispensation, the implementation of this programme took a new focus from the previous years. The program emphasized on reviving the activities of the Youth Development Working Groups realigning to the new devolved system of governance. With the memory of the 2007 post-election violence still fresh and in order to avert similar occurrences, the program embarked and implemented a number of activities at the national and offices under three main projects. These projects included; Jua Jimbo project, youth & beyond youth project as well as Mathare for peace and not pieces project.

#### 1.1. Jua Jimbo project

This was a project whose aim was to increase young people's level of awareness and participatory decision making processes in counties so as to promote good governance. The project's targeted the poor and marginalized communities in low/slum communities who are seeking but still struggle to voice their opinions to the decision makers at the county level. In order to achieve its goals, the project undertook the following activities



- Produced distributed of IEC materials (1,000T-shirts, 2,000posters, 500brochures and 500animations)
- Held bi monthly community awareness forums and Edu Sports to sensitize the people on county processes which reached a total of 8,659 community members
- Conducted 20 theatre outreaches/competition with themes on governance
- Established youth model assemblies, Young women leadership programme and shirikishwa networks.
- Displayed information of the county processes on the community notice boards for easy access by citizen.
- Trained the 60 county leaders on devolution, structuring county governnemt, county good governance, advocacy, community needs identification and prioritization.

*At glance: YAK*

- *Disseminated build capacities of communities*
- *Developed youth model assembly, young women leaders program, and shikishwa networks.*
- *Trained county leaders*

### 1.2. Youth & beyond youth project

This was a project that was started with the aim of contributing to a just society where for respect for human rights is adhere to while promoting increased inclusion as well as participation of young people in development. This program which officially began in 2013 July with the funding and support from the National Council for Swedish Youth Organizations (LSU) has to this end implemented the following project activities:

- A new approach to engaging Working Groups: In order to promote better engagement with the working groups the project embarked on more focused meetings and workshops so as to ensure there is mutual benefit. The meetings gave the working groups an opportunity to set their agenda and discuss issues faced and for their youth organisations. Eight successful regional working group meetings were held by the end of July. Moreover, the Y&BY built the capacity of the working group members with the know-how on public participation, governance, public policy and advocacy. Other areas that emphasized in the workgroup member training were; the principles of devolved governance, background of the previous government, characteristics of devolution, administrative, political and fiscal aspects of the county governments, national and county governments shared functions, revenue diversification, proposal writing and the Public Benefit Organizations of Act 2013.
- A successful Capacity development workshop. Youth Alive! Kenya organized a four day capacity development workshop which was intended to build the capacity of the working group members in public policy and participation, effective lobbying and advocacy, the devolved system of governance and environmental sustainability.

### 1.3. Changing the face of Mathare through ‘Mathare for peace not pieces project’

In line with D & G objectives YAK implemented a peace building and conflict prevention project, with the support of USAID through Act!. The project was implemented in Mathare Slums, an informal settlement area in Nairobi, which had been identified as a hotspot for election-related violence. The project created peace ambassadors among the youth in Mathare who were

charged to promote peace through peace dialogues where various stereotypes that have long been triggers of violence in the area were defused. These dialogues also enlightened the young people on alternative means of resolving conflict.

- **Serving the community for peace:** As a way of promoting peace, Youth Alive Kenya engaged partners and volunteers to participate in painting of Kiboro primary school and collection of garbage at the Mathare informal settlement in Nairobi. These activities provided an opportunity for the two dominant communities in the area to work together for a better environment.
- **Living Library Dialogue forums, a platform for healing:** To promote healing and reconciliation between the warring communities Mathare slums. YAK organized 4 dialogue forums in area where the communities were able to speak out the history, what brings conflict between them and established peaceful coexist. The key issues that arose following the dialogue sessions included the need for respect among community members, the need for young people to stop accepting bribes from politicians then perpetuating violence. Most importantly, there was a unanimous call by the participants for the residents in the area for the rule of law to be upheld and court rulings to be respected.
- **Edutainment Youth Talent Shows, a showcase of a peaceful face Kenya: Youth Alive!** Kenya organized a youth talent show dubbed “Kenya Bila Noma” in Mathare where the youths were entertained by various local artists and performers through music and theatre. The messages by the artists and performers were centred on advocating for peace in the community.
- **Community Comics Exhibition: Borrowing from the World Comics Project** implemented in 2011-2012. YAK held a Community Comics Exhibition at the Maji Mazuri Training Centre. Fifty (50) exhibitions were done, and this provided communities in Mathare informal settlement with alternative means of communication and self-expression by training them on how to draw comics. The comics drawings were then shared with the community over a period of two days.

## 2.0. The justice and human rights program

The Justice & Human Rights Programme seeks to foster safer communities, promote human rights and improve the system of justice in Kenya. The programme works to advance access to justice for disadvantaged and marginalized children and young people in Kenya. It also seeks to promote crime prevention among young people and improve the effectiveness of the justice system to rehabilitate and restore young offenders.

### 2.1. CEP Project

With the support of GOAL Kenya, JHR programme was privileged to oversee a successful completion and handing of the CEP project which was implemented in the 7 government Statutory Custodial Care Institutions specifically targeting Nairobi Children’s Remand Home, Kirigiti Girls Rehabilitation School, Kabete Boys Rehabilitation School, Getathuru National Reception and Discharge Centre, Dagoretti Girls Rehabilitation School, Kiambu Children’s Remand Home and Nairobi Children’s Rescue Centre. The project’s overall goal was to prevent



marginalization of extremely vulnerable children and youth (EVCY).

In a bid to ensure a smooth handing over of the CEP project to the SCIs, the project conducted exit strategy meetings which largely targeted the SCI managers and the project focal point persons. The meetings aimed to discuss the handing over process, lay ground for the institutions to fully take up the project activities and the way forward after YAK/GOAL exit in the SCIs.

These exit strategy meetings were conducted both on site and out of site. The on-site meetings were attended by the managers and the people involved in counselling and life skills sessions. These meetings helped lay successful ground work for the institutions to roll out the activities supervised by YAK project team.

The Justice & Human Rights Programme seeks to foster safer communities, promote human rights and improve the system of justice in Kenya. The programme works to advance access to justice for disadvantaged and marginalized citizens especially among children, young people and women in Kenya.

- The Partnership aims to identify and support community based human rights groups to become key human rights actors at the grass root. The project supported was in both urban informal settlements area e.g Kawagware, Mathare, Mukuru, Nyalenda; and marginalized rural areas such as bondo and Eldoret.
- The program supported networking between the participating groups, governmental and non-governmental institutions in the country. Moreover, individualised training and mentoring were also undertaken on issues that were identified together with the participating groups.
- YAK supported seven organizations with sub-grants of Kenya shillings, one hundred and three thousands (Ksh 103,000) to each as way of building their capacity in community intervention on human rights advocacy.
- YAK and the seven MOs empowered the community against Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Mukuru informal settlement. In total the project build capacities of 194 community ambassadors to the campaign against sexual violence, promotion and protection of human rights. It also provided a forum for 286 Mukuru community leaders to address the rising cases of child abuse. The project also worked with community leaders, the police, the local administration, child protectors and human rights defenders who have skills on child rights as stipulated in the constitution of Kenya.
- Institutional strengthening of the grass root partners: through the Organizational capacity assessments a number of grass root partner organizations such as Mukuru CBO Alliance, Vision Centre for the Disabled-Waithaka, Forum for Community Mobilization (FOFCOM) and KOWOW Cultural Group were trained in the areas of essential features of a CBO, various structures of an organization, the roles and responsibilities of various leaders within an organization, planning, delegation, task management, problem solving and conflict management, communication management, time management, meeting procedures, advocacy and lobbying, human resource management as well as designing and writing proposal writing.

### 3.0. The health program

#### 3.1. YAK launched Tunaweza project

The Programme was privileged to oversee the rolling out of the Tunaweza Project which was implemented in partnership with the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) with an overall goal to control abuse of alcohol and enhance harm reduction amongst youth both in and out of school. Below were the activities undertaken by Tunaweza project.

- The Tunaweza project kicked off in September 2013 with the first activity being the identification of schools and CBOs which were to be part of the project beneficiaries. The project successfully identified 4 primary and 4 secondary namely Kiboro Primary School and Soweto Baptist Secondary School (Nairobi), Kirigu Primary and Kiamwangi Secondary (Nyeri), Makivenzi Primary and Matuu High (Machakos), Kudho Primary and Dr. Aloo Gumbo Secondary in Kisumu. The outreaches created awareness to the students of negative impacts and consequences of alcohol and drug abuse. The project also resorted to working with the working group network members to implement reach out to the youths out of school. Also the project developed a detailed curriculum tailored for teenagers and youth in school as a way of improving their life skills sessions.
- Youth leaders training: As part of the project strategy for reaching out to the youth out of school, the project was able to conduct 2 youth leader's trainings in Nairobi and Kisumu benefiting a total of 185 individual beneficiaries and 19 CBOs.
- Community outreach forum: To increase the awareness of alcohol and drug abuse, the project was able to conduct one community outreach forum in Matuu, Machakos. The event was organized in partnership with Yatta vision youth group who assisted in the entire planning and mobilization for the event.

YAK carried out health and life skills sessions with 25,483 community members, and 7,245 youths aimed at increasing their awareness on HIV prevention. Improved quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS: The project facilitated referrals for 43 women and 238 children survivors of S/GVB and SRH related ailments to other established health centre e.g. Kenyatta National Hospital.

With the Right to Life project, conducted the workplace HIV and AIDS sessions that were aimed at increasing the workplace awareness with regards to HIV prevention and they were held on a quarterly basis. In addition to the workplace sessions, the project was also successful in developing a HIV and AIDS workplace policy that is currently under implementation.

Right to Life project also supported in the improving the quality of life of community especially those living with HIV & AIDS. In addition it supported in mobilizing 1,350 communities to secure National Health Hospital Insurance (NHIF) fund for access to health services.

#### 4.0. Environment & Livelihoods

##### 4.1. Tackling Poverty Together (TPT) project:

YAK worked with women and youths in Nairobi informal settlements such as Mathare, Mukuru and Kibera on economic empowerment initiatives such as: environmental conservation for

livelihood. This initiative built capacities of the groups to seize the economic opportunity by collecting, separating and selling of recyclable materials to local recycling companies

YAK has built the capacities of 40 domestic workers especially women in Mathare, Kibera, and Kawangware in professional housekeeping. YAK built capacities of these women through an apprenticeship program that helped them improve their service delivery skills, training them on financial management, empowering them with basic ICT skills, and creating linkages through which enabled them access start-up capital.

## Advocacy

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In 2013, YAK contributed to the implementation of different policies in Kenya:

- YAK conducted breakfast meeting with Young Parliamentarian to discuss on the issues that affect youth, women, and marginalized communities.

*Breakfast meeting with young parliamentarians*



- YAK implemented Education Sector Policy on HIV and Aids (2013) which identifies comprehensive sexuality education as the strategy to prevention of HIV in the programs implanted in and out of school. Similarly, YAK is participating in the review of the of the Life Skills Education curriculum to enhance provision of age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education and reinforce the capacity to implement, monitor and evaluate.
- YAK trained community leaders, the police, the local administration, child protection officers and human rights defenders (Mukuru, Mathare, and Kibera) of the Sexual Offenses Act 2006. This has been following with several meeting with the leaders to review the implementation on the number of cases reported, convictions made and charges.

## Institutional developments

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**Restructuring for efficiency in delivery of programs:** In order to enhance efficiency in delivery of programs, YAK restructured its staffing positions. These positions were replaced by Project Coordinators and Programme Manager. The restructuring also introduced the position of a Programmes Manager; a member of staff has been recruited to fill this position with the task of overseeing the implementation of all the projects headed by Project Coordinators.

**Building the capacity of the staff:** In addition to reorganization of structures and systems, the members of staff have gained from trainings in management, advocacy, child protection monitoring and evaluation which have gone a long way in building their capacities to delivery effectively on YAK programs towards achieving the organisations goals and objectives.

**Mobilizing resources for more projects:** YAK successfully pursued a joint funding opportunity from EU on Child Violence which was spearheaded by GOAL and involved all its other partners working in the areas of Child Protection and HIV & AIDS. A Concept note was also submitted to

GOAL which saw the funding of the Life skills Project. LSU also renewed funding her for the Y&BY project.

The programme staff drafted various proposals i.e. the DRL Proposal on Human Rights, UNDEF proposal on inclusion of women in democratic processes and the Y2Y Replication Fund. Proposals were also sent to UNODC on Drug and Drug Abuse and Electric Aid/GOAL on establishment of a resource centre.

\*\*\*\*\*END\*\*\*\*\*