



# ANNUAL REPORT 2014



**YOUTH ALIVE! KENYA**

Towards An Empowered Generation Of Young Kenyans

## Message from the Executive Director

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In the year 2014, a number of successes were realized based on the continuation of the projects from past years. Partnerships were strengthened through Member Organizations (MOs) as well as like minded Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Kenya.

On institutional strengthening, YAK embarked on intense policy formulations. Through this, a number of organization policies were reviewed in line with the new strategic plan (2015 - 2019). These policies include: Communication Strategy, Branding & Marketing Plan (BMP), Financial policy and procedure, Human Resource policy and procedure and, Resource Mobilization Strategy.

The organization also conducted an evaluation of the current MOs so as to ascertain the composition of the working groups and especially their commitment to participation in YAK activities. This evaluation process led to the restructuring of some of the working groups while others were removed from the network and recruitment of new youth groups from 8 new counties. Moreover, YAK finalized the development of a database of MOs and like minded CSOs in Kenya.

In the light of these achievements, there were a few challenges in terms of delay in receiving project funds and other project materials, a lot was achieved this year and we look forward to greater progress and impact of our programs in the coming year.

**Gideon Ayodo**



**Executive Director**

**Youth Alive! Kenya (YAK)**

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

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<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)
<b>YAK</b>	Youth Alive! Kenya

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## 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
- Environment/Livelihoods

*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 youths (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)

YAK has worked with community based organizations in the informal settlements such as in Kawagware, Kibera, Nyalenda, Obunge Mukuru, Eastleigh, and Mathare. These community

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groups include: Vision centre for Disabled, Mukuru Community Based Organization Alliance, 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, M.U.F.Y.A among others. These has been through project such as: Tackling Poverty Together funded by LSU, Youth Beyond Youth funded by LSU, Juvenile Justice and Partnership projects by KIOS, Kenya Bila Noma and Kenya ni Noma by USAID, Custodial Care Health Promotion project by Goal among others

YAK currently works in a number of counties which also have informal settlements. We work with networks of organizations structured into Working Group in the following Counties; Kakamega, Mombasa, Eldoret, Kisumu, Nairobi, Machakos, Garissa Kiambu, Kajiado, Murang'a, and Kirinyaga. The working groups comprised of a total of 48 community based organizations.

### 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.

## Synopsys of Program achievements in 2014

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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.

- Youth & beyond youth project
- Jua Jimbo project

### 1.1. Youth & beyond youth project

The envisioned impact of the project was to contribute to the development of just societies characterized by respect for human rights and increased inclusion and participation of citizen especially young people and women in governance. To achieve this LSU funded a number of activities in 2014. These activities included;

- Organizational Capacity Assessment was undertaken to all individual groups so as to ascertain the active participation in the network. Those groups whose commitment to participation was found to be low were removed from the entire network.
  - Selection of organizations: As result of the capacity assessment, new groups (CBOs) were selected to join the network. The new groups were mainly new regions/counties which didn't have working groups. The counties were Murang'a Kirinyaga, Kiambu, Kajiado, Kilifi and Kwale were selected to join the network.
  - Constitution Development: The project developed a unifying national constitution to guide the operations of the working groups. Guided by the constitution, the each of the working groups democratically elected its leaders (chairperson, treasurers and
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secretary). Two persons elected were nominated by each working group to form a Steering committee which is responsible to conducting national advocacy and mediating on dispute arising from the working groups.

### 1.2. Jua Jimbo project

The Jua Jimbo project had been initiated last year and implemented in Kisumu County (Muhoroni, Seme & Nyakach constituencies) and Kakamega County in (Ikolomani & Khwisero constituencies). The project evaluation conducted in early 2015 indicates that:

- It increased the capacity of the youths especially women to know the county government processes for effective civic participation. JJP achieved its intended objectives to a large extent, a view backed by 95% of the respondents in Kakamega County, and 90% in Kisumu
- Its notable contributions include improved participation of the local community in county planning and budgeting; enhanced local people's knowledge on county development and governance processes; and improved skills of leadership and governance skills of young women and county leaders.
- The project also succeeded in building the capacity of 36 CSOs that participated in the project, especially in enhancing their lobby and advocacy skills, which they applied on issues affecting local communities in the four counties.
- By end of the project implementation in November 2014, JJP had directly reached 40,538 community members, surpassing the target by 103%.
- The project reached 163,524 indirect project participants surpassing the target by 63%. Of these, 21,584 were reached through the Kikao Simu bulk sms system. .
- It used *Women Barazas* (women gathering) as strategy that provided platform for them to share ideas on ways of improving their participation in the devolved government systems.
- Baraza meetings were localized to enable women to simultaneously carry-on with their daily economic activities while discussing governance issues that concern them (this included table banking, NSSF, NHIF, ID registration, Mbao Pension plan, and Voter registration).

### 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 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.
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- 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

The project was supported by NACADA with aim of controlling abuse of alcohol and enhances harm reduction amongst youth both in and out of school. It achieved:

- Equipped the Identified of schools and partner CBOs with life skill: Using the life skills curriculum developed in 2013 and the schools that had been identified towards the end of the year, this project managed to teach life skills to about 4920 school children. The number reached was 51.3% of the intended number. It became difficult to arrive at the projected number of 9600 due to school restrictions where only classes 6 to 8 were allowed to take part in the sessions contrary to project plan which had planned the participation of children from as low as class 4 also participate.
- Conducted 30 community outreach forum against drug abuse which reach 3,870 youths out of school: With an aim of reaching out to the communities the awareness of the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse, the project was able to conduct all the community outreach forums in the target counties. The partnership with Yatta vision youth group was helpful in assisting to undertake the entire planning and mobilization for the cause.
- Through an integrated mechanism, YAK has created awareness to approximately 2,500 community members to register for NSSF and NHIF as social protection mechanism.

### 4.0. Environment & Livelihoods

Youth Alive! Kenya was also part of the Kenya Youth Network for Rio +20 and Beyond. This was a network formed after the Organization of African Youth in partnership with Youth Alive! Kenya and Peace Child International convened the Kenya Youth Strategy Meeting for Rio+20 in October 2011. The Kenya Youth Network for Rio +20 and Beyond is a national consortium of youth organizations committed to promote creativity and innovations that will

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develop a Green Economy that results in the eradication of poverty and ultimately sustainable development.

## Advocacy for change

YAK develops capacity of community based organizations for stronger and sustainable advocacy voice for change. Through the partnership with LSU, YAK has formed 11 Working Groups who advocated for the issues that affect young people and their communities as well as policy influence in their counties. Each working groups nominated one representative to form a National Steering Committee to for National Advocacy.

### At the National level,

- YAK supported the development of Youth Employment Authority Bill – together with other organizations such as Article 10, Institute for legislative affair, Youth Agenda among others, YAK provided input into the drafting of this Bill.
  - Implementation of the of affirmative action (30% tenders, employment and leadership) for inclusion of youth, women, and PWDs, as marginalized groups as enshrined in Kenyan constitution 2010.
  - Supported in dissemination of the 1,200 copies National youth policy. This included meeting with community organization and training them on the content of the policy so that the leverage on the opportunities.
  - Participated in the development of the National Health Policy spearheaded by Ministry of Health
  - Implemented comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) by training on the delivery comprehensive sexuality education to learners through the life skills curriculum
  - YAK worked closely with the Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association (KYPA) and other civil society organizations in advocacy and policy issues in the National and County Level. In 2014, YAK organized several consultative breakfast meetings with Young Parliamentarians to discuss issues on development such as youth and women leadership, meaningful representation, youth political participation, youth and peace and women political representation.
- Contributed to the ongoing development of Youth Employment Bill
  - Implementation of 30% affirmative action for youth, women and PWDs
  - Dissemination of the National Youth Policy
  - Participated in review of the National Health policy
  - Implemented CSE curriculum among teachers and learners
  - Train working groups on the Advocacy
  - Conducted petitions to 5 county governments on different issues that affect youth, women and PWDs
- YAK has also taken part in consultative forums and round table meetings organized by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and the Young Parliamentarians to discuss main issues affecting the youth in Kenya which range from unemployment, social vices, and access to relevant education and lack of meaningful engagement. In addition YAK took place in the review of the KYPA strategic plan which had a component on cooperation between the KYPA and youth organizations. Both sides agreed on the aim to establish close ties in working

*Consultative forum attended by Hons. Sakaja Johnson, Naisula Lesuda, Daisy Chelagat and Washington Makodingo*



procedures in order to facilitate the important knowledge transfer from the Parliamentarians to grass root youth organizations and individual youths and vice versa.

At the county level,

- YAK built capacity of the working groups on advocacy in 11 counties in Kenya. This has created voice of change that has seen issues raised by the groups included into county government agenda. In Kisumu, the working group successfully petitioned the government to reduce the work experience age limit from over 8 years to less than 2 years. Through the petitions, Kisumu county government to erected street light on the road to the health centre for security of when they easy access to health services at night. In total, this year, YAK petitioned 5 county governments different issues on issues

## Remarks

This report was produced by Youth Alive! Kenya to document the achievement made in the four programs for the FY 2014. It has been possible by the generous support of our donors which include: National Council for Swedish Youth Organization, The Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights and National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Forum Syd (through EU & DFID)

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