

2023

Annual REPORT



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APPRECIATIONS

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, it's essential to recognize the dedication and hard work of the entire HEDSO team. Each member has contributed significantly to our successes, and their efforts have been instrumental in achieving our goals and surpassing expectations. From the innovative minds driving our programs implementation to the diligent professionals ensuring operational efficiency, each person has played a crucial role in advancing our mission. Furthermore, we express our gratitude to our partners, stakeholders, and communities for their continued support and collaboration. Together, we have forged meaningful relationships and achieved remarkable milestones. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to HEDSO's success in 2023. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and we are immensely grateful for your ongoing dedication and support.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Esteemed Partners,

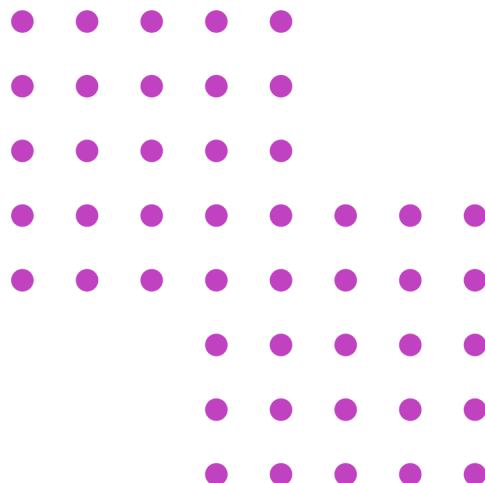
As we reflect on the strides we've made together in the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude for the unwavering dedication and collaborative spirit that each of you has brought to our shared mission.

Your commitment to driving positive change and making a lasting impact in our communities has been nothing short of inspiring. Throughout our journey together, whether it was planting trees, empowering youth, advocating for maternal and child health, or promoting good governance, your support has been the cornerstone of our success.

Your expertise, resources, and passion have not only enriched our initiatives but have also uplifted countless lives and transformed futures.

As we look ahead to the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, I am confident that our continued partnership will serve as a powerful force for progress and transformation. Together, we have demonstrated the incredible power of collaboration and collective action in driving meaningful change.

On behalf of myself and the entire team at HEDSO, I extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support, dedication, and partnership. Together, we will continue to build a brighter, more equitable future for all.





MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Partners, Duty Bearers, Communities, and Policy Makers,

As we pause to reflect on our collective journey, I am filled with deep gratitude for the collaborative spirit and unwavering commitment that each of you has brought to our shared mission of creating positive change and fostering a better world for all.

Together, we have navigated challenges, seized opportunities, and made significant strides towards our common goals. Whether it was through innovative partnerships, inclusive policies, community engagement, or grassroots initiatives, each of you has played a vital role in shaping the transformative impact we have achieved.

To our esteemed partners: Your collaboration, support, and shared vision have been the bedrock of our success. Together, we have leveraged our strengths and expertise to amplify our impact, driving sustainable change and empowering communities to thrive.

To our valued duty bearers: Your leadership, stewardship, and dedication to serving the needs of our communities have been a beacon of hope and progress.

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Your commitment to upholding rights and promoting equity has laid the foundation for inclusive governance and systemic change.

"Stay inspired. Never stop creating."

To the resilient communities we have had the privilege of working with: Your strength, resilience, and active participation have been the driving force behind our efforts.

Your stories, experiences, and aspirations have guided our work, inspiring us to strive for greater impact and transformation.

To our esteemed policy makers: Your responsiveness, vision, and commitment to evidence-based decision-making have been instrumental in driving policy reforms and institutional change. Your advocacy for equitable policies and programs has paved the way for a more just and sustainable future.

As we look ahead to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, let us continue to draw strength from our shared values, collective wisdom, and unwavering commitment to making a difference. Together, we have proven that when we unite in purpose and solidarity, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

ABOUT US

Established in August 2021, the Health and Economic Development Strategy Organization (HEDSO) was formed to amplify the voices and address 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 that these groups often encounter significant barriers like social, economic, and environmental injustices that hinder them from realizing their full potential. Our unique approach is integrating economic empowerment across all programs to meet the diverse needs of the AGYW and youths.

VISION

A healthy and economically empowered adolescent Girls , young women and youth free from socio-economic and environmental injustices

MISSION

Promoting Economic empowerment, integrated health, skills and knowledge development, human rights advocacy, climate change action, among the adolescent girls and young women, marginalized youth, and families within the community through strategic partnership.

CORE VALUES

Professionalism
Innovation
Integrity
Teamwork

**Alignment to Sustainable
Development Goals (SDGs)**

HEDSO work is currently aligned to the following SDGs,

  **SDG1** No Poverty

  **SDG3** Good Health & Wellbeing

  **SDG4** Quality Education

  **SDG5** Gender Equality

  **SDG8** Decent Work & Economic Growth

  **SDG10** Reduced Inequalities

  **SDG13** Climate Action

  **SDG17** Partnerships for Goals



PROGRAM AREAS

1. Integrated Health and well-being

Goal: 1. To promote the health, wellbeing and gender equity of adolescent girls, youth, and women in the society

SUB THEMES

a)	Gender Based Violence Prevention and Response.
b)	HIV prevention and Response.
c)	Water Sanitation and Hygiene.
d)	Adolescent and Youth Sexual Reproductive Health.
e)	Mental Health Prevention and Response.

2. Adolescent Girls and Young Women, PWDs and Youths Economic Empowerment

Goal: Enhance a stronger ecosystem for AGYW and youths' employment and entrepreneurship

SUB THEMES

a)	Mentorship.
b)	Linkages.
c)	Trainings.
d)	Coaching.

3. Climate Change Resilience

Goal: Contribute to minimizing the impacts of climate change on AGYW and youth.

SUB THEMES

1.	Waste Management.
2.	Ecosystem Restoration.
3.	Disaster Risk Reduction.

CROSS-CUTTING AREAS

- Gender and Social Inclusion
- Good Governance
- Media Advocacy
- Localization
- Disability inclusion
- Advocacy

OUR APPROACHES

1. Evidence Based Data: Use of own generated and/or existing knowledge for policy-advocacy and program influence.

2.Strategic partnerships and Alliance Building: Exercise meaningful engagement with other like-minded stakeholders by creating synergies within our work.

3.Influencing Power Holders: Evidence-based, girl-led, and youth-led advocacy on accessing quality and comprehensive SRH services and information, comprehensive and age-responsive sexuality, increased budgetary allocation for SRHR services, and the development and adoption of gender- equal policies at county government level.

4.Grassroot community Mobilization: Focus on rural community mobilization and implementation to achieve change within the community unit.

5.Working with Boys and Men: HEDSO continue to engage boys and men as allies in advancing a gender equal world.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1 INTEGRATED HEALTH

A) ENDING TRIPLE THREATS YOUTH ENGAGEMENTS

GOAL: To Strengthen Access to Quality Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Services among Adolescents and youth prioritizing the marginalized rural populations.

Kenya has a large youthful population with 75% of the population being below the age of 35 years (KPHC, 2019). Adolescents 10-24 years old represent 25% of the country's population and number approximately 11.6 million.

This population holds the key to the current and future aspirations of the country and investing in their health and wellbeing is a critical imperative for the country. Adolescents in Kenya nonetheless experience some of the poorest health outcomes compared to the wider population.

Teenage pregnancy rates for instance have remained relatively high at 15% (KDHS, 2022), with over 300,000 adolescent pregnancies being reported in health facilities every year (KHIS).

Moreover, young people aged 15 – 24 years accounted for 35% of all new HIV infections and 42% of adult HIV infections, in 2020. Sexual Violence equally remains a key issue of concern with approximately 7% of girls and 5% of boys between the ages of 15-19 years, and 11% of young women and 8% of young men between 20-24 years, having ever experienced the same.

While there has been some focus at the policy level, HEDSO recognizes the problems faced by AGYWs including deterioration of their mental health, poverty, vulnerability to sexual and gender-based violence, and discrimination in access to education as well as access to quality services and accurate information on Sexual reproductive health.

Our focus is therefore to provide cost-effective and community-led interventions to AGYWs and Youths in and out of learning institutions across the sub counties in Kisumu, Nyamira and Homa Bay counties to address this menace and Strengthen Access to Quality Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Services among Adolescents and youth, prioritizing the marginalized rural populations by providing accurate information and SRH service to the young people within their safe spaces.

1) MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

Through media advocacy, we harnessed the power of information sharing to shed light on pressing issues of New cases of HIV infections, teenage pregnancies and Sexual Gender based Violence. We engaged with local media stations like Nam Lolwe Radio, Kala Tv, Ramogi Tv, KTN TV. We also held live facebook sessions, podcasts and twitter chats empowering the communities with information,

OUTCOMES

- Reached an estimated audience of 100,000 individuals through Nam Lolwe Radio, Kala TV, Ramogi TV, and KTN TV broadcasts.
- 500 live viewers participated in Facebook sessions, engaging actively with the content and discussions.
- 630 live viewers participated in X chats engaging actively in the discussions.

2) COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

Sensitized the communities on teenage pregnancy prevention, new HIV infection and SGBV prevention, referral pathways and mental health. We also mobilized youths and the community fraternity to access most of the Sexual Reproductive Health services at our tents.

During the community sensitization, we managed to carry out different sessions at our various chat corners with different groups of young girls and boys.

OUTCOMES

- Successfully held 70 community outreaches across all the sub counties in Nyamira, Kisumu and Homa Bay County.
- Successfully mobilized over 3000 youths and community members to access SRH services at provided tents, indicating improved access to essential healthcare services.
- Increase in community awareness regarding teenage pregnancy prevention, new HIV infection prevention, and Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) prevention.
- Decrease in risky sexual behaviors among youth, as reported through pre- and post-intervention surveys.
- Conducted 500 chat corner sessions engaging different groups adolescent girls, young women and youths, fostering open dialogue and awareness about teenage pregnancy prevention, SGBV prevention and HIV prevention.

3) SERVICE PROVISION

In partnership with Zipline Kenya, a logistic company, which uses drone technology to deliver medical commodities and the County Government of Kisumu, Homabay and Nyamira, we provided HIV testing and counseling services, Family planning services, Cervical cancer screening, Condom Distribution , HPV vaccination, PrEP and PEP initiations. These services were offered during different events across all the sub counties in the four mentioned counties. We worked closely with the county government service providers who were sourced from the linked facility near the event site. The services were offered in safe spaces that ensured privacy and confidentiality of the clients at a free cost.

OUTCOMES

- Increased utilization of essential healthcare services, as evidenced by the number of individuals accessing services during the events.
 - Provided HIV testing and counseling services, family planning services, cervical cancer screening, condom distribution, HPV vaccination, PrEP, and PEP initiations to underserved populations across all sub-counties in Kisumu, Homabay, and Nyamira counties.
 - Reached previously unreached populations, particularly in rural and remote areas, through the use of drone technology for medical commodity delivery.
 - Reduced the incidence of HIV transmission through increased access to HIV testing and counseling, PrEP, and PEP initiations.
 - Enhanced reproductive health outcomes through increased access to family planning services and cervical cancer screening.
 - Reduced the prevalence of cervical cancer and other preventable diseases through early detection and vaccination efforts.
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BREAKDOWN PER COUNTIES

KISUMU COUNTY

S/NO	SUB COUNTY	NO OF EVENT	SERVICE UPTAKE								
			COUNSELLING	CONDOM DISTRIBUTED	STK DISTRIBUTED	HIV TESTED	PREP DISTRIBUTED	PEP DISTRIBUTED	P2	DEPO INJECTED	CERVICAL CANCER SCREENED
1	MUHORONI	23	2737	4642	1050	1594	173	8	34	100	84
2	NYANDO	20	2567	4448	1304	1462	194	10	33	74	113
3	NYAKACH	3	278	425	130	210	36	2	5	1	12
4	KISUMU WEST	4	562	743	202	343	33	1	13	28	9
5	KISUMU CENTRAL	2	30	72	0	30	4	0	0	1	7
	TOTAL	52	6174	10330	2686	3639	440	21	85	204	225

HOMABAY COUNTY

S/NO	SUB COUNTY	NO OF EVENT	SERVICE UPTAKE								
			COUNSELLING	CONDOM DISTRIBUTED	STK DISTRIBUTED	HIV TESTED	PREP DISTRIBUTED	PEP DISTRIBUTED	P2	DEPO INJECTED	CERVICAL CANCER SCREENED
1	RACHUONYO NORTH	6	658	1128	334	495	33	8	19	35	13
2	KSAIPUL KABONDO	5	224	192	50	123	10	1	8	6	0
3	RANGWE	1	118	192	50	40	0	0	0	15	0
4	HOMABAY TOWN	2	207	264	90	121	7	0	0	25	0
	TOTAL	14	1207	1776	524	779	50	9	27	81	13

NYAMIRA COUNTY

S/NO	SUB COUNTY	NO OF EVENT	SERVICE UPTAKE								
			COUNSELLING	CONDOM DISTRIBUTED	STK DISTRIBUTED	HIV TESTED	PREP DISTRIBUTED	PEP DISTRIBUTED	P2	DEPO INJECTED	CERVICAL CANCER SCREENED
1	NORTH MUGIRANGO	4	453	748	225	250	21	12	4	33	9
2	BORABU	1	92	144	49	72	1	0	1	10	8
	TOTAL	5	545	892	274	322	22	12	5	43	17

B) RESCUE DADA

GOAL: Building a safe and a resilient community free from any violence and abuse against adolescents' girls and young women.

In today's rapidly evolving world, addressing the challenges faced by adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) is of paramount importance. The intersection of new HIV infections, teenage pregnancy, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) within learning institutions presents a complex and urgent issue. The "Rescue Dada" initiative is a comprehensive approach aimed at tackling these triple threats head-on. By providing a safe and empowering environment, this initiative seeks to contribute to the creation of resilient communities that are free from violence and abuse against AGYW. HEDSO focuses on school mentorship sessions in primary, secondary and colleges to provide age appropriate health talks. We have also formed active health clubs in these schools where we engage them regularly.

1.SCHOOL MENTORSHIPS

Throughout the previous year, Rescue Dada Initiative, held mentorship sessions in primary, secondary, and college levels, with discussions centered around pivotal themes including menstrual hygiene management, sensitization on triple threats (SGBV, HIV, teenage pregnancies), healthy relationship dynamics, and mental health management and response. These sessions were designed to disseminate crucial knowledge and cultivate essential skills among participants. Attendees were educated on the significance of proper menstrual hygiene practices, equipped with strategies for navigating the triple threats, empowered to foster healthy relationships, and enlightened on managing mental health effectively. Through interactive engagements, practical demonstrations, and open dialogues, the sessions fostered a comprehensive understanding of these critical topics, ultimately contributing to the holistic development and well-being of individuals across diverse educational backgrounds.

OUTCOMES

- Facilitated open dialogues and discussions around sensitive topics, creating safe spaces for individuals to share their experiences and seek support from peers and mentors.
- Enhanced awareness and knowledge about the triple threats of Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), HIV, and teenage pregnancies, enabling participants to recognize and respond to these challenges effectively.
- Increased access to menstrual hygiene products through pads distribution initiatives, leading to improved menstrual health and hygiene practices among participants.

BREAKDOWN OF SCHOOL ENGAGED

PRIMARY SCHOOLS				
SNO	SCHOOL	SUB-COUNTY	COUNTY	NUMBER OF STUDENTS REACHED
1	ORONGO	KISUMU EAST	KISUMU	100
2	MIGINGO	KADIBO	KISUMU	110
3	ONG'ADI	KISUMU EAST	KISUMU	70
4	NYAIMBO	KISUMU EAST	KISUMU	77
	TOTAL			357

SECONDARY SCHOOLS				
SNO	SCHOOL	SUB-COUNTY	COUNTY	NUMBER OF STUDENTS REACHED
1	MAGARE	MUHORONI	KISUMU	66
2	KASAGAM	KISUMU CENTRAL	KISUMU	83
3	NGERE	MUHORONI	KISUMU	55
4	ORONGO	KISUMU EAST	KISUMU	45
	TOTAL			249

TERTIARY				
SNO	SCHOOL	SUB-COUNTY	COUNTY	NUMBER OF STUDENTS REACHED
1	AIRADS	KISUMU CENTRAL	KISUMU	42
2	YMCA	KISUMU CENTRAL	KISUMU	35
3	AKADO VOCATIONAL	KISUMU EAST	KISUMU	51
4	AHERO VOCATIONAL	NYANDO	KISUMU	180
5	NYANG'OMA VOCATIONAL	MUHORONI	KISUMU	42
6	THIKA SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCE	KISUMU CENTRAL	KISUMU	31
	TOTAL			381

2. INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUES

At Ongadi Church, Nyang'oma and Ikonge communities, we organized intergenerational dialogues to discuss urgent issues facing Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) and youths, as well as potential solutions tailored to our specific context. The discussions primarily focused on challenges such as teenage pregnancy, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), and HIV. These dialogues provided a platform for different generations within the communities to come together, share perspectives, and brainstorm practical solutions to address these pressing issues. By engaging in open and inclusive conversations, we aimed to foster understanding, collaboration, and collective action towards improving the well-being and future prospects of AGYW and youths in our communities.

OUTCOMES

- Improved awareness and understanding of the urgent issues facing Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) and youths, including teenage pregnancy, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), and HIV, among participants from different generations.
- Enhanced knowledge of the root causes and contributing factors to these challenges, leading to a deeper understanding of the complex issues at hand.
- Strengthened relationships and collaboration between different generations within the communities, fostering a sense of unity and solidarity in addressing common concerns affecting AGYW and youths.
- Generated innovative ideas and practical solutions tailored to the specific context of the communities, addressing the unique challenges faced by AGYW and youths.

2.ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

A) ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF TEENAGE MOTHERS PROJECT.

GOAL: To significantly reduce the incidences of sexual gender-based violence's and teen pregnancies in Kisumu county and Homabay county sugar belt areas and beaches by providing economic empowerment to 300 young mothers between the age 14-24.

HEDSO has adopted an integrated approach of proven interventions to improve the quality of life of 300 teenage mothers in Kisumu and Homa Bay counties. This project aims to create economic opportunities for adolescent mothers by incubating and accelerating visionary teenage mothers who already have scalable social ventures or ideas, existing small-scale businesses, and differentiated products or services. The project will equip them with social entrepreneurship training, self-belief, and financial literacy. Secondly, the project will provide support for vocational and handy skills training designed through a safe space model, where the girls will provide psychosocial support to each other as they learn.

We will then provide them with a start-up kit on a revolving basis, depending on the acquired skills, to enable them to earn a living within their communities, and enroll in social protection services offered by the government. We also provide training on financial literacy and the formation of village savings groups. The project also seeks comprehensive environment and health education, including age-appropriate sex education and nutritional advice. This holistic approach will also integrate social protection aspects that protect them from life shocks, including diseases or drought in some areas.

It will strengthen their socioeconomic status by enhancing their life and business management skills, building strategic linkages, and supporting advocacy actions to increase their participation in public decision-making processes.

OUTCOMES

- Formation and training of 20 teen mum support groups and training sessions conducted on various income-generating activities including liquid soap making, mat making, cake baking, crocheting, bead making, and financial literacy, enhancing the economic independence and self-sufficiency of teenage mothers.
- Establishment of 10 village saving and loaning accounts, managed by teenage mother's support groups, promoting financial inclusion and entrepreneurship within the community.
- Creation of income-generating opportunities through the formation of AGYW-led businesses such as liquid soap making, enabling teenage mothers to generate sustainable income and support themselves and their families.

B) EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH SPORTS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In our ongoing commitment to empower society, we organized the "Safe Teens Bright Future: Our Community Mission Football Championship". The 21 days event brought together 34 male teams and 20 female teams from Muhoroni and Nyando Sub-counties. The first three best teams in both categories were awarded with KSHS. 30,000/= , 20,000/= and 15,000/= respectively. All the semi finalists received full sets of football jerseys and balls.

These events weren't just about scoring goals; they became platforms for transformative change, uniting our community in a shared vision for progress. As the games continued on the field, a marketplace emerged alongside. Different vendors seized the opportunity to showcase and sell their products. Among these vendors was a young entrepreneur, a participant in our teenage mothers support groups, who saw the chance to turn her dreams into reality.

With an innovative spirit and determination, she offered ice sticks to the spectators, providing a refreshing relief from the relentless heat of the sun. Her simple yet impactful idea not only quenches thirst but also alleviates the discomfort of the sweltering weather, earning her recognition as a beacon of resilience and ingenuity within our community.

Through initiatives like the Community Mission Football Championship, we prove that ordinary events can catalyze extraordinary change. Beyond the thrill of competition, lies the potential to foster entrepreneurship, support local economies, and uplift individuals towards a brighter future.

OUTCOMES

- Empowered 34 male teams and 20 female teams from Muhoroni and Nyando Sub-counties by providing them with a platform to showcase their talents and skills in football.
 - Recognized the achievements of the top three teams in both male and female categories, providing them with monetary awards totaling KSHS. 30,000/=, 20,000/=, and 15,000/= respectively, empowering them to continue with the sports.
 - Supported the semi-finalists by providing them with full sets of football jerseys and balls, enhancing their equipment and resources for future competitions.
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- Created a vibrant marketplace alongside the football championship, allowing local vendors to showcase and sell their products.

3. CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

A) TRASH TO TREASURE

GOAL: To minimize the negative impacts of paper and plastic waste on human health and environment.

Paper and plastic waste management are crucial components of modern environmental stewardship and sustainability efforts. As societies have evolved and consumption patterns have changed, the generation of paper and plastic waste has risen to alarming levels, leading to significant environmental challenges. Effective waste management strategies are essential to mitigate the negative impacts of these materials on ecosystems, human health, and the planet as a whole. The Trash to Treasure project aims to engage the AGYW and youth on repurposing plastic and paper waste into valuable items such as gift bags, flower vessels among others. This is carried out by holding capacity building sessions with AGYW and youths at their safe spaces.

1. REPURPOSING OF PLASTIC WASTE BOTTLES

Throughout the reporting period, HEDSO's Trash to Treasure initiative actively engaged in repurposing plastic waste bottles through comprehensive training sessions targeting Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) and youths. These sessions focused on imparting practical skills in crafting items such as flower vases and vases. Additionally, the initiative integrated smart farming practices, instructing participants on utilizing repurposed plastic bottles for cultivating kales, thereby fostering food security and environmental conservation. Complementing these efforts, sensitization campaigns were conducted to raise awareness about the environmental and economic benefits of repurposing plastic waste, emphasizing the importance of waste management and sustainable practices. The initiative has yielded positive outcomes, empowering participants to generate income, contribute to environmental sustainability, and actively engage in recycling efforts within the community. Looking ahead, sustained efforts in education and skill-building will be vital for fostering continued positive impact and resilience in addressing plastic pollution and promoting sustainable development.

OUTCOMES

- Empowered 150 Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) and youths with practical skills in repurposing plastic waste through comprehensive training sessions.
 - Conducted sensitization campaigns in 17 schools on proper waste management practices and the environmental benefits of repurposing plastic waste.
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B) RECYCLING PAPER WASTES INTO PACKAGING BAGS AND GIFT BAGS

We expanded our efforts to recycling paper waste into packaging bags and gift bags. This involved sensitizing Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) and youths on the significance of managing paper waste, highlighting the environmental benefits of recycling and reducing waste. Furthermore, we conducted training sessions for environmental clubs in schools, equipping students with the skills needed to create packaging bags and gift bags from recycled paper materials. By engaging both individuals and educational institutions in these activities, we aimed to instill a culture of sustainability and environmental stewardship while simultaneously promoting creativity and resourcefulness. Through these endeavors, we strive to make a tangible impact on waste reduction efforts while empowering future generations to actively participate in environmental conservation.

OUTCOMES

- Trained 400 learners, including Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) and youths, on the significance of managing paper waste and the environmental benefits of recycling.
- Formed 20 environmental clubs in learning institutions to facilitate training sessions and sensitizations forums.

C) MALIZINGIRA

Goal: To increase tree coverage

TREE PLANTING AND GROWING

Our engagement with learning institutions through environmental clubs and communities extended to tree planting and tree growing initiatives, which aimed not only to increase green cover but also to foster a deeper understanding of environmental stewardship. Through collaborative efforts, we facilitated tree planting events where participants, including students and community members, actively contributed to the greening of their surroundings. Moreover, we provided comprehensive education on tree care practices, ensuring that individuals understood the importance of nurturing trees from planting until they matured. Through these endeavors, we not only enhanced ecological resilience but also cultivated a sense of responsibility and connection to nature among communities and future generations.

OUTCOMES

- Contributed to planting a total of 5470 trees through collaborative efforts with learning institutions and communities, contributing to the increase in green cover and biodiversity within the surrounding areas.
 - Engaged students, community members, and environmental clubs in tree planting events, fostering a sense of environmental stewardship and responsibility towards nature.
 - Inspired future generations to value and protect natural resources, instilling a culture of environmental consciousness and conservation within communities.
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Database of trees planted

SNO	SCHOOL	COUNTY	SUB-COUNTY	NO OF TREES PLANTED
1	Orongo primary	KISUMU	KISUMU EAST	60
2	Migingi primary	KISUMU	NYANDO	60
3	Ong'adi primary-	KISUMU	KISUMU EAST	60
4	Nyaimbo primary	KISUMU	KISUMU EAST	60
5	Migingi Primary	KISUMU	KADIBO	60
6	Orongo secondary	KISUMU	KISUMU EAST	80
7	Bondo Kachola Pri.	KISUMU	NYANDO	60
8	Migere Primary	KISUMU	MUHORONI	60
9	Angoro Primary	KISUMU	NYANDO	50
10	Kindu primary	KISUMU	KISUMU EAST	50
11	Oremo primary	KISUMU	NYAKACH	50
12	Ongadi church community	KISUMU	KISUMU EAST	70
13	Apondo primary	KISUMU	NYANDO	100
14	Akwanya primary	KISUMU	NYANDO	50
15	Kokuoyo Primary	KISUMU	NYANDO	60
16	Pawteng	KISUMU	MUHORONI	50
17	Ngere primary	KISUMU	MUHORONI	60
18	Obambo primary	KISUMU	KISUMU WEST	60
19	Kajulu forest	KISUMU	KISUMU EAST	1000
20	Kisumu polytechnic	KISUMU	KISUMU CENTRAL	1000
21	Koguta forest	KISUMU	NYAKACH	2500
	TOTAL			5470

2. COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION

As part of our community sensitization efforts, we conducted educational campaigns in both schools and local communities focused on ecosystem restoration with the goal of increasing tree coverage. Through interactive sessions, we raised awareness about the importance of preserving and restoring ecosystems, emphasizing the critical role of trees in mitigating climate change, enhancing biodiversity, and improving overall environmental health. Additionally, in our efforts to promote smart farming practices within urban settings, we advocated for the adoption of spiral farming techniques and the utilization of used banners as innovative solutions. By introducing spiral farming, which maximizes vertical space and requires minimal soil, we encouraged individuals to cultivate their own food in small urban areas efficiently. Through these initiatives, we aimed to empower communities to contribute to environmental conservation while simultaneously addressing food security challenges in urban environments.

OUTCOMES

- Raised awareness among schools and local communities about the importance of preserving and restoring ecosystems, particularly through increasing tree coverage.
- Established a kitchen garden in the satellite office, providing a practical example of sustainable agriculture and encouraging community members to replicate similar initiatives in their own spaces.
- Increased engagement and participation of communities in environmental conservation efforts, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility towards the environment.

4. INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS

In 2023, HEDSO (Health And Economic Development Strategy Organization) actively participated in a myriad of international days, strategically chosen to fulfill four key objectives that serve as the cornerstone of our mission and values. Firstly, these engagements were instrumental in raising awareness about critical issues. Through our observance of International Day for the Girl Child, World Population Day, and World Menstruation Day, we shed light on pressing challenges such as gender inequality, population dynamics, and menstrual health stigma. Our efforts served to educate communities, stakeholders, and the public at large, fostering understanding and empathy towards these important issues.

Secondly, our participation in international days aimed to secure political buy-in and support. By actively engaging in events such as the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women and Girls and International Women's Day, we reinforced the urgency of addressing gender-based violence and promoting women's rights to policymakers and leaders. Through advocacy and dialogue, we sought to influence policy decisions and institutional commitments towards gender equality and empowerment.

Thirdly, these occasions provided an opportunity to catalyze financial commitments. By highlighting the importance of specific causes through events like World Forest Day and World Wetlands Day, we encouraged governments, organizations, and individuals to allocate resources towards conservation efforts and ecosystem preservation. Our initiatives aimed to mobilize financial investments that are essential for implementing sustainable solutions to environmental challenges.

Lastly, our participation in international days fostered unity and global action. Through activities such as our Facebook Live session on World Wetlands Day and our engagement on World Environmental Day and International Day of the African Child, we rallied people worldwide around common causes. By promoting solidarity and collaboration, we aimed to galvanize collective action towards addressing shared challenges, emphasizing that our efforts are stronger when we work together.

HEDSO's active involvement in international days in 2023 was guided by the objectives of raising awareness, securing political buy-in, catalyzing financial commitments, and fostering unity and global action. Through these efforts, we demonstrated our unwavering commitment to driving positive change and addressing pressing humanitarian and environmental issues on a global scale.

OUTCOMES

- Raised awareness about critical issues such as gender inequality, population dynamics, menstrual health stigma, gender-based violence, and environmental conservation among communities, stakeholders, and the public through observance of various international days.
- Reinforced the urgency of addressing gender-based violence and promoting women's rights to policymakers and leaders through participation in events like the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women and Girls and International Women's Day.
- Promoted solidarity and collaboration, emphasizing the strength of collective efforts in driving positive change on a global scale.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

HEDSO dedicated significant efforts towards promoting good governance and leadership initiatives throughout the year 2023. Recognizing the crucial role of social accountability in fostering transparency and accountability, we prioritized capacity building through engagement in training sessions aimed at strengthening our skills in social accountability processes. Furthermore, we actively engaged in the analysis of county auditors' reports on the executive assembly, seeking to identify areas of concern and opportunities for improvement in public funds management. Building upon these insights, we initiated a comprehensive civic education campaign aimed at empowering citizens with knowledge on their role in oversight of public funds management. Through our community outreach programs, we equipped citizens with the necessary tools and understanding to actively engage in holding government entities accountable.

HEDSO also actively participated in county budget planning and making processes, advocating for inclusive and transparent decision-making that prioritizes the needs of marginalized communities and promotes sustainable development. By actively engaging in these processes, we aimed to ensure that public resources are allocated efficiently and effectively to address the most pressing needs of our communities. HEDSO's involvement in good governance and leadership initiatives in 2023 underscores our commitment to promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in governance processes. Through capacity building, civic education, and active engagement in decision-making processes, we strive to empower communities to actively participate in shaping their own futures and holding their leaders accountable for their actions.

OUTCOMES

- Strengthened skills in social accountability processes through engagement in training sessions, enhancing the organization's capacity to promote transparency and accountability in governance.
- Empowered citizens with knowledge on their role in oversight of public funds management through a comprehensive civic education campaign, equipping them with the necessary tools and understanding to actively engage in holding government entities accountable.

5. PARTNERS WORKED WITH.

In our journey towards creating positive change and fostering community development, we are grateful to have collaborated with a diverse range of partners.

PARTNERS WORKED WITH	
SNO	PARTNERS
1	VOICE KENYA
2	ZIPLINE KENYA
3	TINADA YOUTH ORGANIZATION
4	GREEN WORLD ADVOCATES
5	KENYA YOUTHS IN FORESTRY
6	WHEELS 4 TREES
7	COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU, HOMABAY AND NYAMIRA
8	KODIAGA PRISONS
9	WHITE RIBBON ALLIANCE KENYA
10	NAIROBITS
11	M-TAKA
12	SHOFKO
13	PLAN INTERNATIONAL
14	USAID SANITATION
15	DREAMS REDEFINED CBO
16	YOUTH ALIVE
17	ACCESS TO MEDICINES PLATFORMS
18	EAGLES WINGS ORGANIZATION