



*Promoting Healthy & Economically
Developed Community*

HEALTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ORGANIZATION ANNUAL REPORT

2024



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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON



IMMACULATE OLIECH
Board chairperson

The achievements of 2024 stand as a testament to HEDSO's unwavering commitment to empowering communities, promoting gender equity, and fostering sustainable development. Over the past year, we have made significant strides in transforming lives through targeted programs that address economic injustices, climate resilience, and social inclusion.

Through our skills development initiatives, we equipped hundreds of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) with vocational training, enhancing their employability and fostering financial independence. In climate-smart agriculture, we supported smallholder women farmers with training and resources to increase productivity, build climate resilience, and improve food security.

Our advocacy efforts have been instrumental in advancing gender justice, particularly in championing land rights for young widows in Nyamira County and advocating for policies that protect and uplift marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities (PWDs) and youth. By forging strong alliances with policymakers, grassroots organizations, and community leaders, we have created meaningful change that will have a lasting impact.

As we step into 2025, we are committed to expanding our reach, strengthening our interventions, and deepening our impact. Our focus remains on fostering economic empowerment, advocating for social justice, and ensuring that every girl and young woman has the opportunity to lead a life of dignity, agency, and prosperity.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners, supporters, and community champions who have been instrumental in this journey. Your continued support fuels our mission and brings us closer to a future where equity, opportunity, and empowerment are accessible to all.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



JOSEPH OJUKI
Executive director/founder

HEDSO's achievements in 2024 stand as a testament to our unwavering commitment to creating meaningful and lasting change in marginalized communities. This year, we made significant strides in expanding access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, ensuring that young women, adolescent girls, and underserved populations received the critical care, education, and resources they need to make informed choices about their well-being.

One of our most transformative milestones was the establishment of our first Economic Empowerment Hub—an initiative designed to equip women and youth with vocational skills, financial literacy, and entrepreneurial support. By fostering economic independence, we have helped many take the first steps toward sustainable livelihoods, breaking the cycle of poverty and unlocking new opportunities for growth.

Beyond these initiatives, our programs have not only changed individual lives but have also laid the foundation for broader systemic change. Through advocacy, education, and community-driven solutions, we have strengthened resilience, promoted gender equity, and empowered marginalized groups to take control of their futures.

As we turn our focus to 2025, we remain steadfast in our mission to scale our initiatives, deepen our impact, and reach even more vulnerable populations. With the continued support of our partners, stakeholders, and the communities we serve, we are determined to drive forward with renewed energy and innovation.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Together, we will continue building a more inclusive, empowered, and sustainable future.

ABOUT US

Background

HEDSO began in February 2017 as a small youth group in Muhoroni Sub-County, driven by a simple yet powerful vision: to break the cycle of injustice and poverty holding back underserved most vulnerable adolescent girls, young women especially teenage mothers, young widows and youth. What started as a grassroots effort soon grew into a movement. By August 2021, HEDSO transitioned into a community-based organization, amplifying its reach and impact. On January 14, 2025, HEDSO achieved a major milestone officially registering as a National NGO. This expansion allows us to serve even more communities across western Kenya, particularly in the rural Lake Victoria fishing communities, sugar belt areas and slums, where young women and girls face systemic barriers to health and economic empowerment.



A healthy and economically empowered society of AGYW, Youth & PWDs free from socio-economic and environmental injustices.



MISSION

Promoting integrated health and Well-Being, HIV AIDS Prevention and Control, skills and knowledge development, human rights advocacy and protection, climate change action and economic empowerment among the adolescent girls, young women, PWDs, teenage mothers and marginalised youth within the community through strategic partnerships.



Professionalism, Team Work, Integrity & Accountability, Innovation, Meaningful Youth Engagement



Our niche is enhancing economic empowerment, sustainable livelihood, and well-being of adolescent teenage mothers, young widows, and their children.



Integrity



Innovation



Teamwork



Professionalism





Sustainable Development Goals



THEMATIC AREAS

1. Integrated Health and Well-being

- a) GBV Prevention and Response
- b) HIV Prevention and Response
- c) Water Sanitation And Hygiene
- d) Mental Health Prevention and Response
- e) Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
- f) Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases



2. Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Livelihood

- a) Capacity Building ,Mentorship and Coaching
- b) Economic Empowerment and Linkages

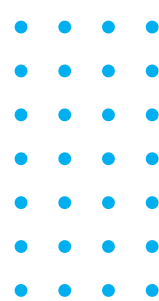
3. Climate Change Action

- a) Climate Smart Agriculture
- b) Ecosystem Protection and Restoration
- c) Disaster Risk Reduction

4. Disability Inclusion

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

Integrated Health and Well-being



a) Deepening SRH Outreach through the Ending Triple Threats Youth Engagement

Introduction

The Ending the Triple Threat Youth Engagement Project was a community-driven initiative aimed at addressing the three major challenges facing young people: HIV, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and teenage pregnancy. Through education, peer mentorship, and direct service provision, the project empowered youth with knowledge and access to essential health services.

Background

Building on the successes of 2023, the project expanded in 2024 to reach marginalized populations in rural and underserved areas. It prioritized accessibility and inclusivity, ensuring that young people, particularly in fishing communities, sugar belt regions, and informal settlements, had safe spaces to discuss and address pressing health issues. A key strategy in the project was the use of peer mentors, who played a vital role in facilitating discussions and guiding youth towards informed decision-making. The Chat Corners provided safe and inclusive platforms for open dialogue on sensitive topics, including HIV prevention, SGBV, and reproductive health. These spaces were instrumental in empowering young people with accurate information and fostering community-driven solutions. The Chat Corners were facilitated by trained peer mentors young individuals from the community who understood the challenges their peers faced. These mentors acted as trusted sources of information, using relatable language and real-life experiences to engage participants. Their role was crucial in:

Creating a non-judgmental space where young people felt comfortable asking questions.
Dispelling myths and misconceptions surrounding HIV, pregnancy, and sexual health.
Encouraging behavior change and linking participants to healthcare services when needed.



To complement these efforts, Service Provision Tents were set up at various outreach locations, offering essential health services such as:

- HIV testing and counseling
- PrEP and PEP provision
- Condom distribution
- HPV vaccinations
- Family planning services
- General clinical reviews



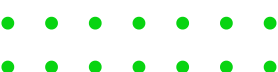


In areas like Muhoroni where youth required continued access to services, refills were provided to ensure sustainability, particularly for family planning methods and PrEP. Additionally, referral systems were strengthened, linking individuals to healthcare facilities for follow-up care and specialized treatment when necessary. To enhance youth engagement, football was used as a mobilization strategy, attracting large numbers of young people to the outreach events. Recognizing the strong appeal of sports within communities, the project incorporated football matches as a way to bring youth together, spark interest in the activities, and create an interactive platform for sharing information on health and well-being.

At the end of the sessions, footballs were issued to participants as a means of economic empowerment, encouraging youth to form teams, pursue sports-related activities, and explore opportunities beyond the sessions.



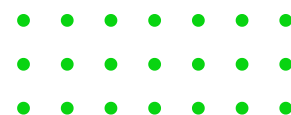
Ending the Triple Threat Youth Engagement Project remains an ongoing initiative, continuously evolving to meet community needs. By integrating education, peer mentorship, and accessible health services, the project helps shape a future where young people could make informed choices about their well-being, free from the triple threat of HIV, SGBV, and teenage pregnancy.



ENDING TRIPLE THREAT NUMBERS PER COUNTY

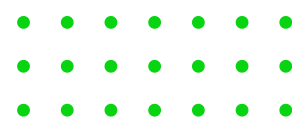
KISUMU COUNTY

Sub-County	Number of events	Counselling	Condom	STK	PEP	PrEP	Cervical cancer screening	HIV Testing	Family Planning	P2
Kisumu West	4	612	2304	204	28	124	36	252	68	68
Kisumu East	9	1377	5184	459	63	279	81	567	153	153
Kadibo	11	1683	6336	561	77	341	99	693	187	187
Nyakach	6	918	3456	306	42	186	54	378	102	102
Kisumu Central	7	1071	4032	357	49	217	63	441	119	119
Nyando	6	306	3456	306	42	186	54	378	102	102
Muhoroni	15	2295	8640	765	105	465	135	945	255	255
Seme	7	1071	4032	357	49	217	63	441	119	119
TOTAL	65	9333	37440	3315	455	2015	585	4095	1075	1075



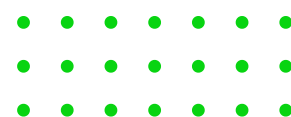
HOMA BAY COUNTY

Sub-County	Number of events	Counselling	Condom	STK	PEP	PrEP	Cervical cancer screening	HIV Testing	Family Planning	P2
Homa Bay Town	4	12	2880	204	388	92	20	484	44	44
Ndhiwa	5	765	3600	255	485	115	25	605	55	55
Rangwe	13	2028	9360	663	1261	299	65	1573	143	143
Rachuonyo North	14	2142	10080	714	1358	322	70	1694	154	154
Rachuonyo East	14	2142	10080	714	1358	322	70	1694	154	154
Rachuonyo West	3	459	2160	153	291	69	15	363	33	33
Rachuonyo South	4	612	2880	204	388	92	20	484	44	44
Suba South	3	359	2160	153	291	69	15	363	33	33
TOTAL	60	8519	33120	3060	5820	1380	300	7260	506	506



NYAMIRA COUNTY

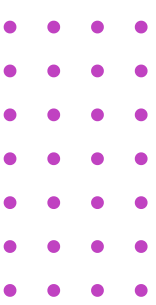
Sub-County	Number of events	Counselling	Condom	STK	PEP	PrEP	Cervical cancer screening	HIV Testing	Family Planning	P2
Borabu	7	1071	4032	357	35	287	49	399	49	63
Nyamira North	9	1377	5184	459	45	369	63	513	63	81
Nyamira South	9	1377	5184	459	45	369	63	513	63	81
Masaba North	3	459	9128	153	15	123	21	191	21	21
Manga	3	459	9128	153	15	123	21	191	21	21
TOTAL	31	4743	18256	1581	155	1271	217	1807	217	279



KERICHO COUNTY

Sub-County	Number of events	Counselling	Condom	STK	PEP	PrEP	Cervical cancer screening	HIV Testing	Family Planning	P2
Sigowet	10	1530	5760	510	30	287	20	390	60	30
Belgut	2	311	1152	102	6	369	4	78	12	6
Ainamoi	2	307	1152	102	6	369	4	78	12	6
TOTAL	14	2148	8064	714	42	123	28	546	84	42





b) Rescue Dada Building Safe and Resilient Communities for AGYW

The Rescue Dada Project was initiated with the goal of creating a safe and resilient communities for adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), ensuring they lived free from all forms of violence and discrimination. Recognizing the growing concerns around gender-based violence (GBV), the project focused on awareness creation, mentorship, and empowerment to help young girls navigate challenges related to their safety and well-being.

The project carried out outreach sessions in primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions, as well as within local communities, to reach AGYW at different stages of their development. These engagements provided critical education on GBV, equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to recognize, prevent, and respond to different forms of violence. Discussions covered topics such as understanding GBV, identifying red flags in relationships, reporting mechanisms, and available support services for survivors.



Beyond education, the project emphasized mentorship and peer support, creating spaces where young girls could openly share their experiences and receive guidance from trained mentors and role models. These sessions helped build confidence among AGYW, fostering resilience and self-empowerment. Additionally, the project engaged AGYW in interactive activities such as group discussions, role-playing exercises, and creative arts sessions aimed at reinforcing key messages on safety and empowerment. These activities provided practical skills that helped girls build assertiveness, make informed choices, and develop the confidence to stand up against violence.





Understanding the significant impact that menstrual health has on the well-being and education of young girls, the project also addressed Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM). Many adolescent girls in underserved communities face challenges in accessing sanitary products, clean water, and private spaces to manage their menstruation, leading to absenteeism in school and increased vulnerability to exploitation.

To further support adolescent girls, the project also addressed menstrual health challenges, recognizing that lack of access to sanitary towels often leads to school absenteeism and vulnerability to exploitation. As part of the outreach, sanitary towels were distributed to schools, ensuring that girls could manage their menstruation with dignity and without disruptions to their education. This intervention not only promoted menstrual hygiene management but also reinforced the broader goal of empowering AGYW to focus on their education and personal development without barriers.



Through this multi-faceted approach, the Rescue Dada Project contributed to changing mindsets, strengthening support systems, and empowering young girl to advocate for their rights. By combining education, mentorship, and interactive learning, the initiative played a critical role in shaping a generation of informed and empowered AGYW who could actively contribute to the fight against GBV and work towards communities.



SANITARY TOWELS DISTRIBUTION IN SCHOOLS

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

School	County	Sub-County	Pads Distributed	Number of Students	Number of Sessions
Nyang'oma	Kisumu	Muhoroni	240	101	5
Ngere	Kisumu	Muhoroni	144	97	3
Milenge	Kisumu	Muhoroni	144	151	3
Migere	Kisumu	Muhoroni	192	87	4
Paw Teng'	Kisumu	Muhoroni	192	87	4
Maseno School for the Deaf	Kisumu	Kisumu West	96	350	4

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

School	County	Sub-County	Pads Distributed	Number of Students	Number of Sessions
St Peters	Kisumu	Seme	96	334	2
Rata	Kisumu	Seme	144	414	2
Miranga	Kisumu	Seme	96	297	2
Joel Omino	Kisumu	Kisumu Central	96	217	2

TERTIARY SCHOOLS

School	County	Sub-County	Pads Distributed	Number of Students	Number of Sessions
CAPYEI College	Kisumu	Kisumu Central	336	70	7
Nyang'oma VTC	Kisumu	Muhoroni	528	45	11
Ahero VTC	Kisumu	Nyando	217	144	3
Akado VTC	Kisumu	Kisumu East	187	144	3



Economic Empowerment And Sustainable Livelihoods



Scaling Skills Development through Knit Her Future

The Knit Her Future project was a transformative initiative aimed at empowering adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) by equipping them with essential vocational skills to foster economic independence and entrepreneurial growth. By providing targeted, skill-specific training, the project enabled participants to tap into diverse markets and create sustainable sources of income.

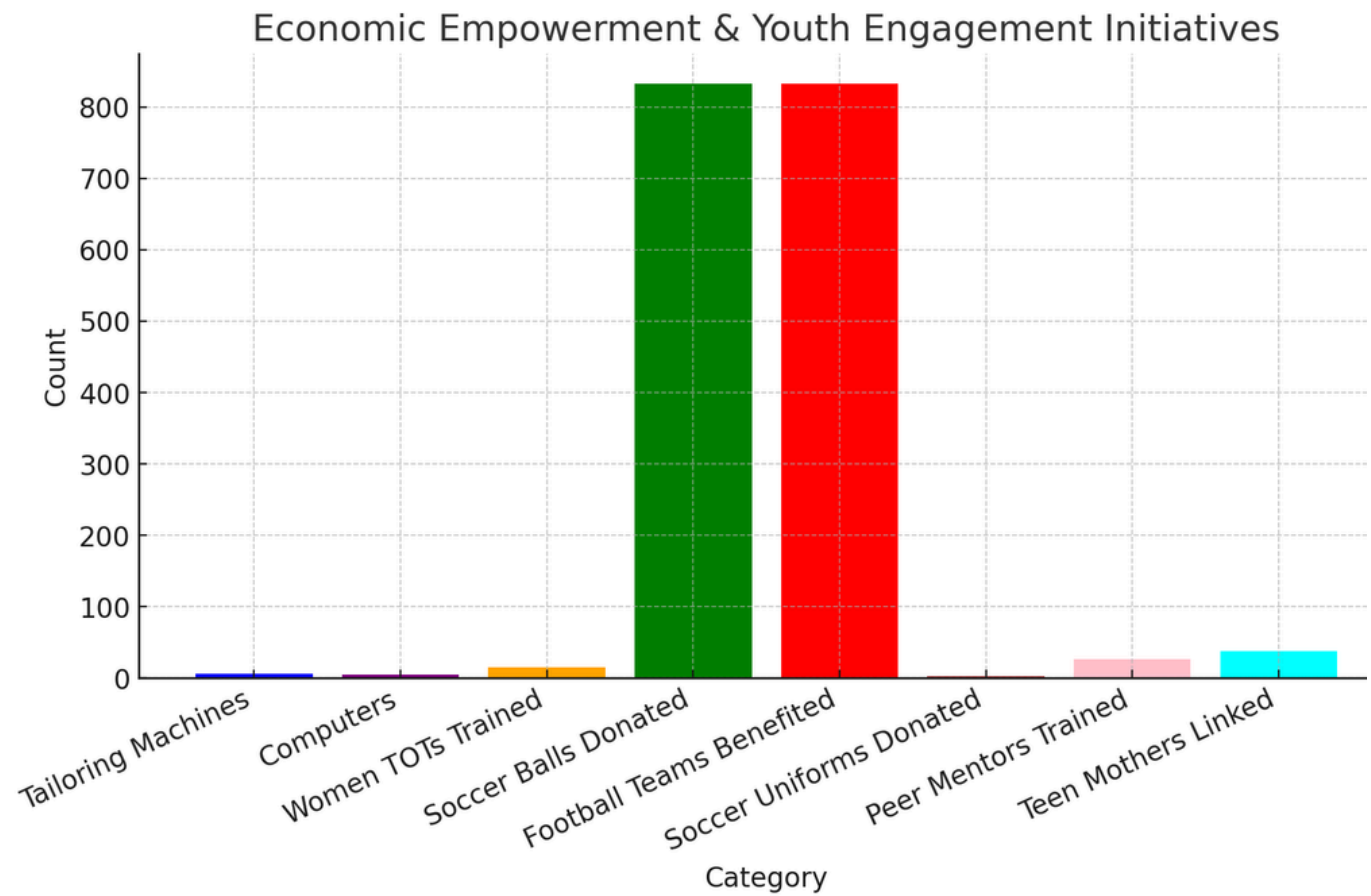
Key components of the training included mat making, where participants learned to design and produce high-quality mats for sale in local and regional markets. In beadwork and crafts, AGYW developed bead-making skills, laying the foundation for creative entrepreneurship and small business ventures. Training in liquid soap production equipped participants with the knowledge to produce and market affordable cleaning products, meeting a growing demand in their communities. Additionally, soft tailoring courses focused on creating tailored garments aligned with market trends, helping participants launch profitable fashion-related businesses.

To ensure long-term success, the project paired AGYW with experienced mentors who provided personalized guidance through regular follow-ups and one-on-one training sessions. This hands-on mentorship supported participants in overcoming challenges and refining their business strategies for sustainable growth. Furthermore, the newly established Economic Empowerment Hub acted as a centralized resource and training center, offering ongoing support and learning opportunities to the participants.





Through these comprehensive efforts, Knit Her Future has successfully scaled vocational skill development, empowering AGYW to become self-reliant, entrepreneurial, and resilient in the face of economic challenges. This initiative not only enhanced individual livelihoods but also contributed to the broader economic empowerment of their communities



KEY

- 833 Soccer balls donated
- 833 Teams Engagement
- 4 Computers
- 2 pairs of soccer playing uniforms donated
- 6 Tailoring Machines
- 26 Peer mentors trained
- 37 Teenage mothers linked
- 15 young women TOTs trained



Disability Inclusion



We remained committed to promoting disability inclusion, ensuring that people with disabilities were actively involved in conversations around human rights, access to services, and social empowerment. Recognizing the unique challenges they face, HEDSO carried out targeted interventions to foster awareness, accessibility, and equal opportunities.

A key activity under this initiative was a school outreach at Maseno School for the Deaf, where students were sensitized about their rights, legal protections, and available support systems. This session provided a safe space for students to engage, ask questions, and gain knowledge on self-advocacy. By ensuring that communication barriers were addressed and inclusive approaches were used, the outreach reinforced the importance of accessibility and equal participation in decision-making processes. Beyond school outreach, we actively participated in World Disability Day, amplifying the voices of people with disabilities and advocating for their rights at local and national levels. Additionally, the organization joined the Kisumu Disability Bi-Annual Meeting, engaging with , policymakers, and disability rights organizations to explore solutions for improving access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities for individuals with disabilities

Recognizing that true inclusion begins within the organization itself, HEDSO also conducted internal staff training on how to effectively engage and support people with disabilities. These sessions focused on proper communication techniques, accessibility considerations, and creating an inclusive environment in all programs and initiatives.

Through these efforts, we reaffirmed its commitment to breaking barriers and promoting equity for people with disabilities. By incorporating sensitization, advocacy, and internal capacity building, the initiative contributed to a more inclusive society where every individual, regardless of ability, has access to opportunities and protection of their rights.



Climate Change Action

Climate-Smart Agriculture: Demo Farm Establishment

As part of the Climate-Smart Agriculture initiative, a demonstration farm was established to serve as a hands-on training center for adolescent girls and young women (AGYW). This farm became a hub of knowledge and practical learning, equipping participants with the skills to adopt sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices. The farm not only trained AGYW in climate-smart techniques but also served as a learning center for various women's groups from the community. These groups were guided through the processes of establishing and managing their own climate-smart farms, fostering knowledge transfer and enabling broader adoption of sustainable farming practices. By combining training with practical demonstrations, the demo farm provided participants with the tools to enhance food security, improve livelihoods, and adapt to climate change impacts, empowering them to lead in sustainable agriculture within their communities.



Reforestation Communities and Nurturing Young Environmentalists

HEDSO expanded its commitment to environmental sustainability by planting 800 trees across schools and community spaces, fostering greener, more resilient communities. This initiative engaged local schools and community members through organized tree-planting drives, creating a shared sense of responsibility for environmental restoration. To ensure long-term impact, the project revitalized five school-based 4K Clubs, equipping them with essential tools and providing training to nurture a culture of environmental stewardship among young learners. These clubs became hubs for fostering awareness and practical action in tree care and conservation. Additionally, the initiative incorporated environmental education, conducting interactive sessions for students on the importance of tree care and climate action. By combining hands-on activities with educational programs, HEDSO not only enriched the environment but also inspired the next generation of environmentalists to lead sustainable practices in their communities.





PROGRAM IMPACT



813

Trees planted
across
schools and
communities



5

school-based 4K
Clubs revitalized



29

AGYW trained in
sustainable farming
techniques.



3

- women's groups
trained and
supported to
establish climate-
smart farms.



Championing Advocacy Through Global Commemorations

As part of its commitment to advocacy and community engagement, HEDSO actively participated in the commemoration of key international days, including the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, International Day for the Girl Child (marked with a two-day summit), International Women’s Day, Menstrual Hygiene Day, World Population Day, and International Youth Day.

These events provided vital platforms to raise awareness, amplify marginalized voices, and foster collective action on pressing issues. Through participation, HEDSO engaged diverse audiences, facilitated dialogue, and highlighted the challenges and achievements of underserved populations, particularly adolescent girls and young women (AGYW).



For instance, during the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, HEDSO reinforced its advocacy against violence by organizing impactful activities that mobilized communities to address gender-based violence. The International Day for the Girl Child Summit served as a space for girls to share their stories, access mentorship, and explore solutions to barriers they face in education and leadership.

On Menstrual Hygiene Day, HEDSO focused on breaking stigmas and improving menstrual health education, while World Population Day allowed for discussions on reproductive health and sustainability. Commemorating International Youth Day highlighted the potential of young people as drivers of change, emphasizing their role in building resilient communities.

By actively participating in these global events, HEDSO strengthened its advocacy efforts, fostered collaboration with stakeholders, and reaffirmed its commitment to creating safe, equitable, and empowered communities. These commemorations served not only as moments of reflection but also as catalysts for sustainable action and progress.





MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

We actively leveraged media platforms to drive conversations on social issues, advocacy, and community empowerment. Through radio discussions, podcasts, and digital campaigns, the organization ensured that critical topics such as health, gender-based violence (GBV), disability inclusion, economic empowerment, and youth engagement reached a wider audience.

One of the key strategies was hosting podcast where experts, community leaders, and individuals with lived experiences shared insights on various social issues. These discussions addressed topics such as barriers to accessing healthcare, the importance of menstrual hygiene management (MHM), strategies for preventing GBV, and the role of youth in driving social change. The interactive nature of these engagements allowed for real-time participation, with listeners calling in to ask questions and share their perspectives.

We also utilized social media campaigns to further amplify its advocacy efforts. Through videos, infographics, and digital storytelling, the organization highlighted success stories, ongoing projects, and key messages aimed at promoting awareness, behavior change, and community engagement. These campaigns played a crucial role in challenging stereotypes, debunking myths, and encouraging conversations on sensitive but important topics.

Additionally, two of HEDSO's Programs Officers appeared on Kala TV, a popular local television station, to discuss youth engagement, reproductive health, and the fight against gender-based violence. This platform allowed HEDSO to reach a broader audience, further reinforcing the importance of its initiatives and the need for collaborative efforts in addressing social challenges.

By integrating traditional and digital media, HEDSO expanded its reach, ensuring that advocacy efforts were inclusive, accessible, and impactful. These media engagements not only educated and empowered communities but also strengthened HEDSO's role as a key player in social transformation and policy advocacy.



PRIORITIZING MENTAL HEALTH

HEDSO recognized the importance of mental and physical well-being in creating a productive and empowered workforce, as well as fostering a healthy learning environment for students. To support this, the organization implemented wellness sessions tailored for both staff and schools, incorporating a mix of indoor and outdoor activities to promote stress relief, personal growth, and holistic well-being.

For HEDSO staff, wellness sessions were conducted weekly, providing a structured space for self-care, reflection, and team bonding. These sessions focused on stress management, mindfulness, physical fitness, and open discussions on mental health. Through a combination of guided relaxation exercises, team-building activities, and professional coaching, the sessions helped staff navigate workplace pressures while maintaining a healthy work-life balance. Outdoor activities such as group exercises and nature walks were integrated to encourage movement and enhance team cohesion.



Beyond internal wellness initiatives, HEDSO extended its well-being programs to schools, ensuring that students had access to safe spaces for self-expression and emotional support. These school wellness sessions took place in both classroom and outdoor settings, allowing students to engage in mental health talks, peer discussions, and creative expression activities such as art, storytelling, and interactive games. The sessions were designed to equip students with coping mechanisms, boost their confidence, and encourage open conversations about issues affecting their well-being.



By implementing both staff and school wellness programs, HEDSO reinforced the importance of mental resilience, emotional intelligence, and self-care. These initiatives not only enhanced productivity and morale among staff but also empowered students to take charge of their mental and emotional health, contributing to a healthier and more informed society.



Capacity Building for Strengthened Advocacy

In 2024, HEDSO was awarded a capacity-building grant and Organizational Development Support Services (ODSS) from Y-ACT Youth in Action. This invaluable support provided the organization with the opportunity to strengthen its internal systems, enhance advocacy efforts, and build a more structured and professional framework.

Through this support, HEDSO made significant strides in key areas of organizational development:

- **Programs & Advocacy:** Strengthened program design and implementation, enabling more impactful community engagement in gender inclusion, health, and human rights advocacy.
- **Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL):** Established more robust data collection, analysis, and reporting systems to track impact and improve program effectiveness.
- **Human Resource Development:** Improved staff capacity through targeted training and development initiatives, fostering a more skilled and motivated team.
- **Financial Management:** Enhanced financial controls, reporting structures, and accountability mechanisms to ensure transparency and sustainability.
- **Resource Mobilization:** Strengthened fundraising strategies, partnerships, and grant-writing capabilities to diversify funding sources and secure long-term support.

These improvements have positioned HEDSO as a more resilient and strategic organization, better equipped to drive social change and amplify advocacy efforts in underserved communities.



Social Impact Stories



Empowering Young Mothers Through Climate-Smart Agriculture

In Kisumu West, Anna, a young mother, faced financial struggles and food insecurity, a reality for many in her community. Through HEDSO's Climate-Smart Agriculture Program, she gained skills in sustainable farming practices like conical gardening and agroforestry, enabling her to feed her family and earn an income. The program's demonstration farm serves as a hub for training young mothers and girls, equipping them with tools to overcome poverty and build resilience. With plans to expand and train 500 teenage mothers by 2025, this initiative is planting seeds of hope, transforming lives, and fostering sustainable communities.





From Selling Sugarcane to Sewing Success: Cynthia's Transformation

In the fishing village of Lisuka Beach, Kisumu West, Kenya, 19-year-old Cynthia faced the challenges of young motherhood after completing secondary school. With limited income opportunities, she resorted to selling sugarcane by the roadside to support her child, feeling her aspirations slipping away.

In September 2023, Cynthia's path changed when she joined the Economic Integration of Teenage Mothers project. She became part of the Perfect Ladies group and enrolled in tailoring courses at Akili STEM Academy. Through the program, she received psychosocial support, education on gender-based violence and sexual reproductive health, and training in financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

Embracing a newfound savings culture, Cynthia diligently attended classes and saved money for daily expenses. Upon graduation, she proudly received her certificate from her father, symbolizing her journey from roadside vendor to skilled tailor.

Now, Cynthia plans to establish her own tailoring business, aiming to provide for her child and inspire other teenage mothers. Her story exemplifies the transformative impact of opportunity, resilience, and community support.



PARTNERS





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Thank You

