

U-TENA YOUTH ORGANIZATION



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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**WELCOME TO
U-TENA YOUTH
ORGANIZATION
ANNUAL REPORT**

A word from the director

Let's join hands to thank the almighty God for enabling us to complete 2021 in good health. In December 2021, the U-Tena Youth organization hit the 15th annual mark since its inception. I take this opportunity to thank hundreds of individuals who made a significant contribution to U-Tena's impact in the community for the last fifteen years.

In 2021, members of staff and other people of goodwill put the efforts of following U-Tena's vision of empowering youth to realize their potential by supporting and allowing them to improve their livelihood, health, and education outcomes at the highest possible level.

U-Tena made significant progress towards the implementation of the 2018-2022 strategic plan by implementing several projects under the themes of health, education, livelihoods, and continuous organizational structural improvements.

In 2021, U-Tena continued to contribute towards the improvement of the education status of primary and high school students by offering mentorship support on soft and leadership skills to 400 high school students and 1000 primary school students. Additionally, more than 800 parents were supported with teenage parental skills through counseling and learning circles. High school scholarships were offered to 80 students.

We contributed towards the improvement of health by testing 12052 HIV clients in total out of which 8118 (170.8%) were first testers with 543 positives: 4.34%(positivity) and 495 (91.16%) linked to treatment and support by 31st December 2021. We also managed to distribute HIV self-test kits to 12,684 people out of which 8,792 clients tested on-site with 77 reactive clients identified and linked for treatment. Additionally, U-Tena reached approximately 5000 people directly through other Sexual and reproductive health service provisions.

To improve the mental health status of young adolescents, 120 beneficiaries were recruited and taken through problem management sessions that were targeted to improve their reproductive health issues as well as mental health status.

Fourteen youth groups benefited from grants that boosted their income-generating activities in 2021, while More than 100 youths and young mothers were recruited to benefit from a livelihood project that is officially set to kick start in 2022. Individual youths and young mothers are set to benefit from urban farming initiatives run by U-Tena.

Inquest to make U-Tena efficiently and effectively rise to the occasion of serving humanity, staff members were capacity built in different frontiers in 2021 of which the details are contained in this report.

Even though Covid 19 related challenges hit us in 2021 U-Tena strove to make an indelible mark in the hearts of worthy community members. We hope that 2022 will be fair to us.

I welcome you to read the summary of what U-Tena did in 2021 as per the content of this brief annual report.

Karibuni U-Tena



Peter Mokaya,
Director, U-Tena Youth Organization.



Peter Mokaya,
Director, U-Tena Youth Organization.

2021 SUMMARY

Mental Health

- Managed to train 8 mentors through Problem Management Plus(PM+), life skills, and comprehensive sexual reproductive health.
- A total of 120 beneficiaries were recruited for the project through the support of a sub-county school health coordinator and schools' heads in Viwandani.
- 44 mentees were taken through individual PM+ sessions to help them navigate through and come up with solutions within their capacities,
- A sum of 11 Focus Group Discussions were held highlighting mostly on mental health, adolescents' growth, and developments.
- Two mental health activities were conducted. one creating awareness on mental health and celebrating the international mental health day as were disseminating the knowledge to the grassroots level on matters related to mental illness and the causes.



HIV and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Summary.

- **HIV Self Test Campaign:** This initiative that focused on men managed to distribute 12,684 kits through community outreach organizations in various Nairobi sub-counties hotspots with a team of ten competent trained peer educators on communication skills and HIV information dissemination. Through free HIV self-test kits supply, 77 HIV reactive clients got immediate HIV Testing Service (HTS) support for linkage and medical care.
- **Rapid Testing Program:** U-Tena tested a total of 12502 HIV clients out of which 8118 were new testers out of expected 4752 (30%), 4.3% positivity 543 surpassing the target of 4.0%, and 495 linked that's 91% surpassing the target of 90% geared towards 95-95-95 UNAID goal.
- **The Number of adolescents accessing Adolescent sexual reproductive health services** rose from 200 to 390 on average per month at a Youth-friendly Centre. This was boosted through ASRHR community outreaches and community dialogue.
- **U-Tena distributed 232000 condoms, 12684 Hiv self-test kits, monthly Consumables** namely gloves, PPE's et Cetra in four sub-counties that HIV/AIDS Imarisha testing is done.



Education Summary



1.Improvement realized among primary and secondary school learners in self-confidence, education goals and life aspirations, resilience to peer pressure, communication with parents, time management and planning, and, general improvement in behavior through life skills sessions for the adolescents.

2.Improved parental engagement through embracing positive discipline, following up on their children's academic performance, homework support, knowing their friends, and, inquiring about their whereabouts.

3.Improved learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy among class six and seven pupils, both boys and girls through after school remedial session support.



Livelihoods Summary

1.Fourteen youth groups (with approximately 230 members) empowered and sustainably earn from their revived and sustained income-generating activities.

2.Youths supported to effectively manage their enterprises through different pieces of training and exposure.



3.Government and other partners support the youths to expand and market their product and services through continuous mentorship and linkage to market and other financing institutions



Organization Capacity building

- U-Tena youth organization in the past year undertook many activities to empower its employees, board members, and community. These pieces of training involved skills, such as resource mobilization, communication, strategic planning, and financial reporting and procurement process.

- U-Tena equipped the board members with skills in strategic planning and effective communication. With the skills, the organization has been able to interact with more children and youth in educating them on their health in partnership with our mentors and counselors.

- U-Tena managed to train staff, youth groups representatives, board and youth advocates on resource mobilization, finance for non finance staff, and strategic planning to strengthen the organization.

- Improved and strengthened organizational capacity in programming specifically on education, health, and livelihood programs through successful implementation of different projects.





Major achievements in 2021

U-Tena made significant progress towards the implementation Of the 2018-2022 strategic plan as per the insights below.

Youth Mentorship and Development

Inquest to provide and support access to appropriate learning, development, and progression opportunities for Youth U-Tena implemented several activities as per the constitution of U-Tena and the 2018-2022 strategic plan.



Livelihoods

As a Covid 19 resilience measure, U-Tena re-established livelihood mentoring programs to improve young people's competence in developing and managing their income and small business initiatives.



U-Tena endeavored to improve the livelihoods of the youths in the informal settlements of Mukuru and Mathare. This covid 19 resilience program enabled U-Tena to support registered 14 youth groups to improve their income-generating activities that were adversely affected by Covid 19. Through an equal co-financing model, U-Tena supported said youth groups to improve their businesses in the sectors of urban agriculture, sanitation, welding, food and beverage productions, sales, shoe production, performing arts, Information communications, and technology. This support improved the livelihoods of more than 230 individuals and the members of their households.

Continuous mentorship and linkage to marketing and funding opportunities have been key components to ensure the continuity and sustainability of the beneficiaries' livelihoods. U-Tena's goal is to enable targeted youth to access sustainable employment that will lead to financial independence.



In the same year, U-Tena established a new relationship with African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) to implement a new project dubbed 'Imarika' where more than 100 youths and young mothers will be benefiting from Urban farming. This initiative is part of the larger Healthy Food Africa project that is led by APHRC that seeks to contribute towards ensuring food security and adequate nutritional supply for urban residents who hail from poor settings. More outcomes of this initiative are set to be realized in 2022 and beyond.

Performing Arts

U-Tena revamped Music and Arts program for youth in Mukuru as a measure to assist young people to nurture their talents. In 2021, U-Tena continued to support performing arts initiatives among young people. Although Covid 19 related challenges made the space of expanding performing Art challenging, U-Tena supported youths to pass health information to the community through performing arts. More than 20 different youths showcased their talents during the U-Tena famous 6th edition of the community conference in a slum set up that was held in Ruben Center on 12th June 2021.

At the same breath, 17 models showcased their talents through the theme of Sustaining Adolescence Sexual Reproduction Health and Rights (ASRHR) through livelihood initiatives. Winners of these competitions were tasked to be ambassadors of improving ASRHR through sustainable livelihoods within the informal settlements of Nairobi Kenya.

This event was blended by making it physical and online to mitigate the spread of Covid 19. More than 3000 people accessed these performances through online platforms.



U-Tena Youth Organization continued to review and expand the SRHR program and conducted more pieces of training to youths on SRHR related topics.

U-Tena Youth Organization progressed significantly in 2021. The milestones included organization strengthening and capacity building in all cadres. U-Tena was supported to review the strategic review. To begin with, the SRHR program was successful in 2021 thanks to a commitment from all stakeholders. Under Rapid Testing Program of HIV and AIDS programming, U-Tena managed to test 12052 in total out of which 8118 (170.8%) were first testers with 543 positives: 4.34%(positivity) and 495 (91.16%) linked to care and treatment by 31st December 2021.



The SRHR program promoted healthy living among the residents of Nairobi county through HIV Testing Service provision among other SRHR. Annually the two SRH projects reached over 20,000 people creating awareness to increase the uptake of SRH services and direct service provision on-site at the Lunga Lunga Youth friendly service center, hospitals that U-Tena supports, and community outreaches.

In improving youth mentorship and quality programming, U-Tena equipped the youth-friendly center. U-Tena employed different strategies in the provision of HIV services which included, Rapid testing, Assisted partner notification services, and rapid response initiative. In this strategy, the main activities were: Site support supervision, Data quality assurance/audit, HIV Testing Service support supervision, quarterly data review, and condoms distribution across sites that U-Tena supports. U-Tena managed 10 monthly supervision, 10 HTS supervision, distributed 245217 condoms, and yielded numbers as tabulated under the goal.



U-Tena has been implementing a Self HIV Testing project since November 2019. With a lot of revolution and advancement, U-Tena has been rolling with it for an effective and efficient outcome. the objective was to target men aged 18-34 years in the informal settlements by creating awareness and the advancement of HIV knowledge.

The implementing team of peer educators managed to reach 12,684 people out of which 10331 chose to have the HIV self-test kits. 8,792 clients tested on-site with 77 reactive clients identified linkage for treatment. During the implementation of the Self HIV Testing project, there was adequate availability of kits for distribution at a free cost.

Through training, peer educators were equipped with communication, counseling skills. Conversant with report writing. Through workplace activities, the project created a platform for U-Tena to follow up with companies on various Corporate Social Responsibility activities that are aligned with organizational work.

PROGRESS AGAINST STRATEGIC GOAL.

GOAL	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	OUTCOME ACHIEVED
To capacity and strengthen Organization on quality programming, finance, and transforming the community by promoting healthy living.	<p>Tested 15840 HIV clients {New testers -4752 (30%), Positivity rate -650 (4%), Linkage -585 (90%)}</p> <p>Reached 1000 young people with ASRHR services directly through dialogues, outreaches.</p> <p>Trained Health care providers on youth responsive services, Trained youths on AYSRH, photovoice on safe abortion, advocacy on SRHR access, and Equiprd the Lunga Lunga Youth Friendly Resource Center.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tested -12502 (78.9%) {New testers - 8118 (170.8%), Positivity -543 (4.3%), Linkage -495 (91.2%)} • Reached 5000 people directly through service provision. • Trained 30 youths on AYSHRH Trained 15 healthcare providers from 7 public health centers, • Trained staff and board on programming and finance management; • Conducted monthly ASRHR dialogues, outreaches, and Health talks that improved the uptake of ASRH services among adolescents. • Distributed 230300 condoms ; Issued 12684 HIV self-test kits
To provide and support access to appropriate learning opportunities	Conduct training to the additional peer educators to be conversant with the knowledge in the HIV field.	The community highly appreciated the services received through the community outreach activities.
To sensitize and create awareness to technical working groups, adolescents and young people, and key populations on HIV trends. This is by putting an emphasis on the current HIV infections which have shot to 453,708 which translates to 88 new cases of HIV infections daily as per the National Aids Control Council (NACC, 2021)	<p>Conduct monthly meetings to review data and share the experience of the months.</p> <p>Use of Youth Friendly Center (YFS) for more assistance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped in strengthening the team, highlight areas to improve, and enlightened on updates. • Youths embrace the HIV self-test kits. • Men in the target group were able to speak out. On other services e.g. STI was an interesting area that a lot of elaboration was needed.
Target monthly distribution of HIV self-test kits.	Monthly pre- outreaches. Monthly work plans with a specific number of community outreaches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high number of community members chose to test on-site. • The identified reactive clients got immediate HIV Testing Service (HTS) support for linkage and medical care,
Clear, effective, and transparent referral and linkages pathways for the Key Populations clients.	Proper documentation on uptake tool, tally sheet, and data entry.	Systematic data analysis can be generated to understand the progress of the project.

Able to disseminate information to the targeted age group and audience who are young people aged between (20-34yrs)	Through community engagement in Focus Group Discussion and visits in workplaces and hotspot areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The community largely were literate on HIV trends by the work the peer educators did in the field at hotspot and workplace areas.
Close relationship with HTS Counselors who have followed up channels for the HIV positive clients	Going with HTS Counselors to the identified places for the activity and referring reactive clients to them for confirmatory tests and psychosocial support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The identified reactive clients were easily recorded for easy follow up and this led to smooth follow there were low numbers of clients who failed to turn up for the ART.
Able to identify HIV positive people through proper rapport and engaging well with the community to participate in the HIVST	This was community outreach in different working areas in showing demonstration on uptake of HIVST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •This was accelerated by effective communication skills and using a language that is friendly to the community more so to the youths

PROGRESS AGAINST STRATEGIC GOAL.
Table 1: Summary of SRHR Achievements

Education

In the quest to encourage education partners and authorities to strengthen student support services in schools and contribute to skills development, U-Tena worked with different institutions to advance education in the informal settlements of Nairobi Kenya.



High School Scholarship:

U-Tena continued to support the education agenda in the informal settlements of Mukuru and Korogocho in Nairobi Kenya. Through different partnerships, U-Tena provided high school scholarships to 80 high school students. This was geared towards improving learning outcomes through retaining needy and bright students in schools.

Tujifunze Plus is a one-year (pilot) project funded by GRIC and implemented by U – Tena Youth Organization. The intervention was designed and implemented to address learning disruption caused by Covid – 19 in Kenya, which forced learning institutions to be closed. The project was aimed at improving learning outcomes for 500 class five and 500 class six both boys and girls directly by providing alternative academic learning opportunities. The project focused on community participation and facilitating remedial sessions within the week and over the weekend supporting time takers in numeracy and literacy in a school setup.

In addition, Tujifunze fostered strong collaboration with the local community including parents, community leaders, and all stakeholders who play a pivotal role in mobilizing and supporting learners.

The project was designed to offer interactive academic learning opportunities, facilitate life skills training, engage with the local community as well as reach out to the parents through counseling sessions. The project was able to reach its target of said 1000 adolescents, and in fact, 85% of the students attended over 70% of the targeted sessions, registering a high attendance rate. There were minimal cases of dropout and lack of attendance. High attendance is attributed to the fact that U – Tena has been working in the community in partnership with parents and local leaders to mobilize learners and ensure that they attend the sessions. Attendance records were used to assess attendance.



A LOT Change Project:



The A LOT-Change project is a community-based after-school support program that has been running in Korogocho and Viwandani since 2013. It is born out of the need to have an integrated approach to improve learning outcomes, psychosocial wellbeing, and behavior among adolescent girls and boys. The first phase (2013-2015) only targeted adolescent girls in grades 6-8 and comprised of homework support in numeracy and literacy, life skills mentoring, parental counseling, and transition to secondary school subsidy. From the successes of the initial phase, the intervention was scaled up in phase 2 (2016-18) to include a leadership component and also target both adolescent boys and girls, with the other components remaining the same. Phase III is a follow-up study of the phase II cohort who transitioned to secondary school in 2019 and was testing the feasibility of implementing the A LOT-Change model among older adolescents and also checking the sustainability of the effects observed in phase two.

The intervention activities included career awareness training, mentoring in soft skills, holiday homework support, digital literacy, service learning, and parental counseling.

U-Tena's main goal is to increase efforts towards securing the future of children in urban informal settlements by improving learning outcomes, transition to secondary schools, leadership skills, and social behavior among girls and boys aged 12 – 19 years. In the U-Tena strategic plan 2018- 2022, U-Tena intended to achieve that specific project goal which is anchored in its strategic priority area one of youth development through mentorship. A LOT CHANGE, therefore, aims to achieve the specific objective two, to provide and support access to appropriate learning, development, and progression opportunities.



To achieve the above goal, U-Tena successfully conducted mentorship sessions and holiday homework support. Thirty mentors who are current university students were recruited and trained on how to effectively support the 400 mentees (boys and girls) who are currently in form three. A total of 24 life skills sessions, 22-holiday homework support sessions, three motivational talks, and a career exposure talk were conducted. This was aimed at improving the learning outcome of the 400 adolescents and improving knowledge and skills towards changing their behavior and equipping them to make informed choices in all aspects of life including but not limited to health, academics, career, and relationships. To help them be responsible citizens in the future and as students too, a leadership component was also offered. Through service learning, the learners were involved in community service activities. The adolescents organized and successfully conducted a children's home visit activity at Dandora where they actively planned for the activity, hence bringing out in them a sense of leadership and responsibility.

Parents as key enablers to improving learning outcomes were supported through parental monthly counseling sessions. This was aimed at supporting the parents to effectively support their children's education and create a friendly and conducive learning environment at home. Three hundred parents were taken through a total of eight counseling sessions. These sessions focussed more on, Parents' adolescent relationship and communication, the Role of parents in their children's education, Dealing with adolescents and how to support them overcome peer pressure, How to be a present parent, Responsible and positive parenting among others.

To ensure the entire process is monitored and evaluated at the end of the project to inform decisions and future interventions, U-Tena worked with an external Monitoring Evaluation Research and Learning consultant where evaluations were done at different levels.

Due to the support offered over the holidays and continuous monitoring, there has been a great improvement in academic performance. This is informed by the report cards given to U-Tena after every term. A good number (more than 50%) of the learners have had great improvement in the subjects they were supported by the mentors " **I have had challenges in some topics, especially mathematics. It has always looked impossible but through the A LOT Change project, I have been able to understand, my mentor Joel (not real name) has always created time to ensure that we understand unlike in school and I can proudly say I am among the few who have benefitted from the program**" A mentee during an evaluation session

Some parents reported that they had observed improvements in their children's interest in education. They said that their children were more committed and were putting in more time in their studies and prioritizing their school work than hanging out with friends. Some reported that they had seen the interest of their children in helping their younger siblings to study during the pandemic as well as their desire to want to reach out to the mentors when they experience a challenge in their school work. Some parents reported that they are now more motivated to support their children because they have seen a change in attitude in their children concerning their studies. There has been enhanced communication between parents and their children as a result of the parent counseling sessions.



In addition to observations and self-reported improvements in soft skills, some counselors reported observations from parents was that participation in the A LOT Change project, helped their children to develop their confidence, development of social and communication skills. They were interacting more with their children and listening to each other.

EDUCATION SUMMARY

GOAL	Planned Activities	Outputs achieved
Advancing learning outcomes	Holiday homework support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement in academic performance (self reported and evidenced by the report card) • 20-holiday homework support sessions conducted • One teacher mentor forum successfully conducted
Improved parental engagement and support to their children's education	Parental counseling sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight parental counseling sessions successfully done • Improved parent-child relationship
Improvement in life skills and leadership skills	Life Skills and Leadership Sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twenty four life skills sessions successfully conducted • Two motivational talk sessions done • One exposure talk session done
Improved learning outcomes, knowledge, and attitudes towards education by learners	Identification and listing of project beneficiaries Procurement of learning materials Delivery of remedial sessions on numeracy and literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 600 upper primary struggling learners both boys and girls recruited • 580 learning materials (storybooks and course books) procured and distributed to the respective schools • 57 literacy and 57 numeracy sessions successfully conducted • 27 life skills sessions successfully conducted
Youth Mentors supported and effectively deliver remedial Sessions	Youth training Learning forums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 youth mentors trained on how to effectively deliver both life skills and remedial sessions • Two learning forums conducted • 20 youth mentors and 46 teachers attended the learning forums
Better parenting skills and engagement in children's education for all targeted parents and the community at large	Parents meeting Parental counseling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One parent meeting was conducted with 846 parents attending the meeting • Two counseling sessions conducted
School Boards of management capacity built to better learning outcomes	Board of management training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 BoM members trained of local resource mobilization a school development plan

Table 2: summary of education Interventions

MENTAL HEALTH

Following a successful survey conducted in 2020, the mental health project was implemented in 2021 focusing on identified individual Problem Management Plus (PM+) sessions, Focus Group Discussion, and parental engagement among 120 identified beneficiaries. Problem management plus (PM+) was the main core of the mentor's training. The training involved a lot of practical work which was done by the mentors to ensure they mastered the concept and apply the skills taught during the sessions. U-Tena Youth Organization has been engaging with the mental health Project mentees since their enrollment in the project and following up on every pupil on their traumatic issues by working closely with our Mentors who are highly trained on Mental Health and the well-being of adolescents and young people. As per the survey, economic inflation experienced due to covid -19 is the main contributor to the challenges experienced that led to mental illness. Supporting the mentees to manage and come up with a solution that is workable within their problems and locality was achievable with major follow-up in some cases.

During the project implementation, it was learned that both U-TENA and Brown University students team have been working spontaneously towards the progress through resources mobilization and implementation. For adolescents to get full support in terms of life skills and psychosocial support all the stakeholders need to work together from governmental departments, schools, and parents.

In some cases, the problems that the mentees are experiencing mostly is generated from the parents. Getting the solution from the parents is the gateway for the mentees to be well. There is a need for parents' sessions to be improved. Frequent meetings will aid in tracking the progress and get time-lined support from other parents who might have experienced the same issues and have tips to get around it.



In 2021 GRIC recruited youth mentors who were volunteers in an education project in U-Tena Youth Organization. These youth were trained and trained and mentored through online platforms. Some of the monthly training on several topics/units were: work ethics, state, and call for action, education, design thinking, leadership styles, leadership skills, community engagement, goal setting, project proposal, and project management.

The fellows started U-Tena Mental and physical health project. Under their own fellow's leadership, they shortlisted grade 6 pupils from schools around Viwandani. They had a target of 100 pupils and 93 students attended the sessions.

The said mental and health fitness project was anchored on doing physical fitness, dances such as the Zulu, Taarab, West African dances, and the Kenyan traditional dances. The team implemented almost all the dances from the Kamba dance, Luhya dance, and Kikuyu dance. The learners can by now comfortably perform those dances anywhere.



With these pillars, pupils will have exercised, reduced fatigue, kept fit, and thus avoided lifestyle diseases and also improved their mental state with slight mentorship skills we offer, and the automatic results are success in their academics. As of 2022, the project is still on at Mareba YFS (Youth Friendly Center).

Community Conference

U-Tena organized for community conferences to expand our work through partnerships.



Sticking with its mission to provide development opportunities by promoting healthy living, education, livelihood, and social responsibility, U-tena Youth Organization organized and held the sixth community conference on the 12th day of June 2021 at the Reuben Centre located at the Mukuru slums in Nairobi. The theme of the conference was Sustaining Adolescence Sexual Reproduction Health and Rights (ASRRH) through livelihood initiatives.

The aim of the conference was to, give groups and individuals from the Mukuru community a chance to showcase what they are doing to promote livelihood, showcase the talents that are hidden in Mukuru, present project proposals to donors for funding, present challenges the groups and individuals are facing in their day to day living, give the people from Mukuru a chance to share ideas and interact, bring fun to the people of Mukuru among others.

The activities planned for the day to promote the above were, Exhibitions, PowerPoint presentations, entertainment gala, beauty Pageant among others. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, some of the activities were canceled since it would mean going against the regulations set by the government and they would also attract a crowd and increase the spread of Covid 19 disease. Through the U-Tena social media platforms, the event was streamed for people to get coverage. The PowerPoint presentations were done in the morning sessions while the Beauty pageant was held in the afternoon with a little bit of entertainment.

This learning and networking event created a space for different collaborations among individual and institutional participants.

Networking



In 2021 U-Tena continued to cultivate community development agenda by expanding the space of partnership. In u-Tena individual community members are the major partners as they inject a lot of input into our development work.

Education:

In our education program, African Population and Health Research Center, World Education Fund, Grassroots nest for Innovations and Change, Kenya Community Development Foundation, various primary and secondary schools were significant partners who supported U-Tena's quest of contributing towards making sure that every child receives quality and relevant education at primary and secondary level regardless of their economic status.

Health:

Inclined into the vision of realizing a healthy community, we forged and sustained partnerships with the Ministry of Health, Hivos, AIDS Health Care Foundation, AstraZeneca, Brown University_Students, African Population and Health Research Center, Ruben FM, and Population Services Kenya. U-Tena also collaborated with different institutions which include National Council for Population and Development, Amani Training and Counseling Center, Ruben Center among others.

Livelihoods:

African Population and Health Research Center, Kenya Community Development Foundation, and several youth groups in Mukuru and Mathare take a great pie in supporting U-Tena's livelihoods initiatives.



Programs reflect identified needs of young people

To ensure continuous learning U-Tena engaged an external and independent Monitoring evaluation and learning consultant who created all project's implementation frameworks that made sure that all activities were geared towards the realization of our mission and vision. This was because all projects that U-Tena came up with were anchored on the outcomes of the community's assessment hence there was a need to share this with prospective donors/partners.

To ensure all the work of the organization is planned, measurable, and evaluated, U-Tena, established and strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the organization, compiled quarterly, Bi-annual, and annual narrative and financial reports of each project, conducted impact assessment among young people and shared the success stories with partners through documentaries and implemented knowledge management system through mainstream media.



Organizational Development and Strengthening.

To make sure that U – Tena is well-managed, sustainable, and effectively delivers quality youth programs the following were achieved,

Strengthen organizational systems that promote good governance and provide oversight;

U-Tena endeavored to strengthen the board and management committee as per the laid down strategic focus. Various strategies were established to conduct board training for strategic leadership, compliance, financial oversight, and policy development. Board members attended several strengthening training and mentorship that were conducted by Hivos and other like-minded partners.



Board and Staff are knowledgeable, skilled and provide overall direction and technical support in fulfilling organizational purpose;

Staff members were capacity-built in different areas to ensure efficient and effective service delivery to humanity. Under the mentorship of different organizations members of staff were trained and mentored on gender equality and diversity inclusion, gender transformative approaches, gender, and education, governance, financial planning, monitoring evaluation research and learning, results mining, local resource mobilization, strengthening the board of management, communications, strategic planning among others.

To develop and implement policies and sound internal controls that guide the work of the organization

In 2021 the leadership of the organization developed internal systems and policies to ensure effective internal organizational functioning. This was done by using various techniques including online banking, the use of quick books in financial management. U-Tena also received digital devices and software for the community project program from Techsoupthrough Kenya Community Development.

Marketing and Publicity

To communicate and demonstrate our impact, making U-Tena a key partner in youth development several strategic objectives were pursued as per the below results.

To promote and highlight the positive contribution of young people, and the organization;

In 2021 U-Tena hosted an online youth leadership conference and conversation on various topics. Some of the pertinent issues that were highlighted during the said physical and online engagement was challenges associated with unsafe abortion, teenage pregnancy, and general issues of sexual and reproductive health issues.

U-Tena continued to Invest in marketing and strategic communication to raise the visibility of the organization and its impact on the community. Several stories of U-Tena's impact were highlighted in Standard and Nation newspapers, NTV, Ruben Fm, and several websites.



We continued building our influence and commitment as a provider of quality programs for young people and celebrated the achievement with all partners through engaging with the community, local leaders, and the gatekeepers in efforts to improve the quality of life of youth. In partnership with different actors we identified strategies for deepening our work to reach big geographical service areas and diverse youth populations;

Let men 'chukua selfie'

As the world shifts significant energy and resources to fighting the Covid-19 pandemic, the HIV threat remains. Today being World Aids Day, we are reminded that the global target of ending Aids by 2030 may be missed if the male gender is not empowered to realise its critical role in fighting the HIV/Aids pandemic.

Granted, we are not at 'Ground Zero'. For instance, HIV prevalence in Kenya has reduced from 10.1 per cent in 1996 to 4.2 per cent in 2020 as per the World Bank's statistics. That is significant progress!

From the community insights, many men tend to rely on the results of their partners as an indication of their HIV status. The distribution of free HIV self-test kits that started by Population Service Kenya and its partners in November 2019 has expanded the space of HIV self-testing in the informal settlements of Nairobi. The innovative intervention mostly targets men aged 20-34, who basically tend to visit health facilities when their health is compromised.

Manual guides inserts are of great help for those who take the kits to test at their convenience. Referral and linkages pathways are at the core of self-testing; those whose kits are available to them are linked to standby HIV testing service counsellors, whom they can contact through a toll-free number at their convenience for further assistance.

HIV-positive clients are subjected to confirmation tests at a health centre or Ministry of Health-approved HIV testing centres and then confidentially linked for care and treatment. But we can't brag that the HIV self-test kit campaign is the silver bullet to fighting HIV and Aids but rather a significant contributor to realising an HIV-free society by 2030.

It is said that good things come to those who wait. But I suggest that men jump out of the fear of knowing their HIV status and take advantage of the fact that one can obtain an HIV self-test kit from the local pharmacy and test at home. But it is good to visit the nearest health centre to confirm your status.

Peter Onchuru Mokaya
World Aids Day

Mr Mokaya is the executive director, U-Tena Youth Organization. mokpit@gmail.com.

Send your opinion article to: dnopinion@ke.nationmedia.com or write to The Editor, Da

Human Resource Corner

A Word from the Patron



Anthony Mutuku

As the year comes to an end, we at U-Tena have all reasons to smile and thank our creator for the far we have come through this year. We have worked tirelessly to ensure that we live to our mission, ensuring that we are guided by our core values in our service delivery.

Our work has been motivated by an ending desire to ensure that we had an impact on the community we work in. Our staff members, volunteers, and partners have made our work possible.

We recognize the collaboration and engagement we have had with our funders, partners, and development partners. Their support in matters of finance, capacity building for our staff, and technical support went a long way in ensuring that we were able to achieve this year. To them, we sincerely say thank you.

We are hopeful that the lessons learned, experiences gained and knowledge acquired will go a long way in improving our work so that we continue impacting the communities we work in and nurturing the youths in the informal settlements

Board Chairman 's Word

It is my humble and greatest honor to appreciate the good work that the organization has managed to undertake successfully in a very tough and challenging year 2021 which was marred by the serious COVID 19 pandemic. Despite that challenge, the institution's work was recognized and appreciated by the most important stakeholders who include the targeted beneficiaries in our community and the various donors not forgetting various government institutions that we report to.

I also want to thank the organization secretariat which has managed to dedicate their time and efforts with zero supervision to ensure that the strategic plan activities of the year were implemented fully and always keeping the organization's interest first.

To the donors who believed in us and funded our various projects, we appreciate so much and we assure to maintain a good relationship together by doing and delivering on our mandate as per the commitment in the signed Memorandum of understandings.

May 2022 be a great and fruitful year for our institution and all our stakeholders at large.
We value you all.

God Bless U-Tena, God bless you all.

Jonathan Nzuki, Co-Founder



Peter Mokaya Speaks...

I begin by thanking God for giving me the best members of staff to work within U-Tena Youth Organization. The successes that U-Tena Youth Organization realized in 2021 are attributed to the team effort. Every individual including interns and volunteers who diligently worked in U-Tena deserves a thumb up.

I also wish to register my appreciation to all partner organizations and foundations that supported us by capacity building members of staff as well as advancing some financial support that went to community development in different frontiers.

Government institutions that supported us and gave us policy direction or advice made our work not only easier but also impactful in 2021. The national and county government were extremely helpful to the U-Tena youth organization.

On the other, I thank the community members who received and utilized our services right from Education to health and even livelihood initiatives. We are humbled to positively touch the lives of individual community members within the informal settlements. We will continue to invest in community development in the upcoming years.

For sure, testing 20844 for HIV and linking 572 HIV Positive clients to care and treatment, impacting the lives of 120 young adolescents with mental health initiatives, and giving grants amounting to more than 500,000/- to youth groups gives us the energy to do better in the coming years.



Peter Mokaya
is the current
Executive Director of
U-Tena Youth Organization

Muthoni speaks.....

Indeed, 2021 was a year of shifting gears and fully incorporating different dimensions when it comes to programming. With the previous year, 2020, living under the constraints of Covid-19, it was a reality that the pandemic was not coming to an end any time soon. The progressive mitigation measures from the Ministry of Health, citizens abiding by them led to the improved status which led to the uplifting of the curfew and lockdown in various counties in the country. Moreover, significant economic recovery has been underway, although it remains highly uneven across sectors.

In addition to that, I participate in the Comparative International Education Society (CIES) proposal writing highlighting the scope of mental illness among adolescents during the covid -19 pandemic era, looking forward to presenting in Minneapolis(USA) in April 2022. This is an area that needs the incorporation of all sectors (both public and private) to support addressing the mental health state of the country.

As Oprah Winfrey once said, challenges are gifts that force us to search for a new center of gravity, this Covid-19 era is the avenue of improving the health, livelihood, and education sectors in our community, county, and the country as a whole.



**Muthoni Kamau
is the current
Projects officer of
U-Tena Youth Organization**

Samuel Wawire Speaks...

In 2021, Overall, my work experience at the U-Tena youth organization was positive. I was very happy with the number of things that I learned and the experience I gained with the organization. In programming, I ended up learning a lot in managing the health program. I pride myself as a result-oriented staff having attained targets set in the Imarisha Maisha-HIV project and Jichanue Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR) project.

U-Tena allowed me to learn and mark up my capacity as far as project management and resource mobilization are concerned.

The year turned out to be a success in my cadre where my personal growth and institution progress was evident. I was able to mobilize resources successfully. For the first time, I wrote Imarika (Urban Farming) proposal that went through. This has motivated and made me hunger for more, a breakthrough for sure. Another remarkable achievement was planning and conducting the ASRHR community conference during covid 19. With social distancing restrictions, I mobilized and designed an online platform to reach the desired community by covering the events live on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Through this, the conference that focused on creating awareness to increase the demand to mark up the uptake of ASRHR reached more people than any other conference.

The main challenge was the COVID 19 pandemic that saw rationing of salaries in the first half of the year. This affected staff at U-Tena. Otherwise, 2021 was a milestone in my career and for U-Tena.

Samuel Wawire
is the current Monitoring,
Evaluation and learning
officer of
U-Tena Youth Organization



Nicholas Speaks....

Learning is a continuous process of life, the pinnacle of the attitude and vision of the universe. If we stop learning and thinking, then there is no creativity and knowledge in our life. Therefore, every human being should struggle beyond anything to learn new things. Having worked in U-Tena for thirteen years and serving in different capacities, I am confident that 2021 after serving in the capacity of the programs director gave me a higher experience, challenges, and opportunities all together and opened my mind to learn more, innovate more, and explore mostly on how programming can be improved within the organization and how best practices can be shared both locally and globally

The year 2021 was a great year full of great opportunities and challenges, especially during the COVID 19 pandemic which almost brought everything to a standstill. Regardless, I had the responsibility to ensure that all the projects under the three main pillars (Education, Health, and Livelihood) were successfully implemented. U-Tena has continuously worked towards achieving its goal and I had a responsibility to ensure all set objectives were met and every planned activity implemented to the latter to meet both the organization's and donor's expectations.

2021 was a year where the highest level of innovation was embraced especially where a strategy different from the initial was to be adopted to ensure that the government's guidelines on COVID 19 were adhered to without compromising the project activities, results, or objectives. Embracing the use of technology was one of the main solutions and it was evident that programmers may need to adopt the use of technology to prepare for future eventualities.

Lastly, I feel so privileged to be working with the best team at U-Tena. There has been great coordination and cooperation from all the departments hence making programming run smoothly. To all our partners, government, and the community, thank you for the continued support, and looking forward to more years of working together to achieve an independent, healthy, informed, and self-sustained community.



Nicholas Kyalo
is the current
Programs Officer of
U-Tena Youth Organization

Emmilly Speaks....

Since I joined U-Tena in 2021, I have been able to learn and grow at a personal and career level. Despite the impact of Covid-19 and constraints in movements, the organization enabled me to influence positively the lives of other people and gain the necessary experience in my field of work.

In line with the goals and vision of the organization, I was able to take part in forums that helped me learn more about financial management, fund mobilizations, effective communication, and capacity building. This training enabled me to come up with and implement financial policies that have enabled us to document our finances to increase transparency and clarity of our financial position. Some of the policies have also made it easier to streamline our financial operations, making it easier to process funds and payments in supporting our community. These policies have also won us the trust of other stakeholders and a good relationship with our clients.

I thank God for the great team that worked with me throughout the year, for its great to have support from the team and accomplish much for the success of U-Tena.

The experience in the past year has been great and looking forward to a better year in 2022 at U-Tena



Emmilly Otieno
is the current
Accountant of
U-Tena Youth Organization

Partners

In 2021 U-Tena received generous financial contributions from the following institutions.



**TO YOU WE SAY
THANKYOU
ASANTE SANA!**

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