



Haki Yetu; Wajibu Wetu

Stories of Change

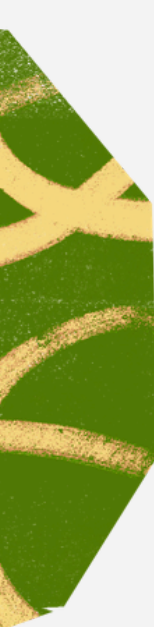


About Haki Yetu Wajibu Wetu

Haki Yetu Wajibu Wetu Capacity Strengthening Grant by Amplify Change **2023 - 2026** focused on catalysing internal systems change and strengthening the institutional capacity of grassroots movements in **Nairobi, Mombasa, and Kisumu**. Haki Yetu has supported grassroot organizations to expand civic space, trace subnational budget allocations, and strengthen evidence-based advocacy for gender-responsive policies and financing. By building the leadership and advocacy capacity of grassroot organisations, the initiative ensures that the voices and lived experiences of women, young people, and other marginalised groups directly inform local planning, budgeting, and policy processes, contributing to more inclusive and accountable governance.



***Haki Yetu;
Wajibu Wetu***



introduction

The impact of the **Haki Yetu, Wajibu Wetu** project extends beyond the planned activities and project-level outcomes. While the project has contributed to strengthening grassroots movements and advancing collective advocacy for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), it has also inspired meaningful change in the lives of individual participants.

These personal stories demonstrate how increased knowledge, skills, confidence, and opportunities for engagement have empowered individuals to become stronger advocates and leaders within their communities. Together, they illustrate the human impact behind the project's achievements and the importance of investing in grassroots leadership for sustainable change.

We are pleased to share three stories of change that reflect the diverse ways the Haki Yetu, Wajibu Wetu project has transformed the lives of participants and strengthened their capacity to drive lasting change in their communities.



The Voices in Our Story Of Change



1. **Delma Chiheny** - Mentor Chica Initiative Mombasa
2. **Evaline Mwangi** - Mentor Chica Initiative Mombasa
3. **Abraham Juma** - Women Reducing Adolescent Pregnancy, Mombasa
4. **Vivian Atieno** - Women Reducing Adolescent Pregnancy, Mombasa
5. **Jeronime Obwar** - YESAM (Youth Empowerment on Strategic Advocacy and Mentorship), Kisumu
6. **Rees Atieno Obondi** - YESAM (Youth Empowerment on Strategic Advocacy and Mentorship), Kisumu
7. **Dinozoff Odhiambo** - Boka Haven , Kisumu
8. **Moses Ochieng** - Boka Haven , Kisumu
9. **Caterina Wanjiku** - Gifted Community Centre, Nairobi
10. **Joram Muuo** - Gifted Community Centre, Nairobi
11. **Brian Ojunga** - Alfajiri Safe Space, Nairobi
12. **Maryanne Wambugu** - Alfajiri Safe Space, Nairobi

The Stairs That Changed My Story

The ferry cut through pre-dawn waters as I smoothed my outfit, determined to make a strong first impression being invited to the County stakeholders forum with the county health management team . At Uhuru na Kazi, my heart sank, no lift. I huffed up six flights of stairs, sweat beading, but I refused to let exhaustion show. The county officials arrived late, yet once the meeting began, our dialogue flowed.

The true turning point came after that day. Invitations poured in, first to share our recommendations towards the Mombasa AYP Strategic Plan 2024-2029, then to sit with different stakeholders. I wasn't just observing; I was contributing for the first time. For an ordinary girl who once only dreamed of a seat at the decision-makers' table, this was transformative. A Chance to represent young women like my self and be a voice for the grassroots

Looking back, that sweaty climb taught me that access is often hidden behind effort. The message I want other young women to hear: Your presence matters, even when the door seems heavy and the stairs endless. Keep showing up; one invitation can unlock space for a whole community. That day didn't just open doors—it built relationships that still hold me up.

Evaline Mwangi, Mentor Chica Initiative, Mombasa



Reflection: The Stairs That Changed My Story

Evelyn's story may seem like a simple account of attending a meeting, but to us it represents the journey of many young women whose determination often goes unnoticed. Every day, girls overcome personal, social, and structural barriers just to access spaces where decisions are made. Evelyn's willingness to keep going despite the challenges reflects the resilience we have seen throughout the Haki Yetu, Wajibu Wetu project. Her story shows that meaningful participation begins with being present and having the confidence to contribute. As a team, we believe her experience represents many other young women who, when given the opportunity and support, become influential voices in their communities. It reminds us that creating space for young people is not just about inviting them to the table, but about ensuring they are heard, valued, and empowered to lead lasting change.



Dignity Has No Disclaimer

The intergenerational dialogue in Kamukunji was designed to bring together diverse voices to discuss sexual and reproductive health and rights in an open, respectful, and inclusive space. It became much more than a planned meeting. It was a powerful reminder of why creating spaces for honest conversations matters.

That morning, I walked into the dialogue carrying more than my notes. While everything seemed prepared, I was quietly worried about the budget, the schedule, and one thing that mattered most. The seats reserved for Persons with Disabilities remained empty. Sex workers and Adolescents and Young People Living with HIV had already arrived, but I feared the conversation would be incomplete.

Then they walked in, and the room came alive.

What followed was not a presentation but an honest conversation. One participant shared, "We are differently abled, not less able. We have the same, or even greater, sexual and reproductive health needs as everyone else." Another, a sex worker, simply said, "We are normal people. We work like everyone else and deserve respect and quality health care."

By the end of the dialogue, I realised that meaningful SRHR work is not about speaking for people. It is about creating spaces where they can speak for themselves. That day reminded me that real change begins when every person is seen, heard, and valued.

Brian Ojunga, Alfajiri, Nairobi



Reflection: Dignity Has No Disclaimer

This story reminds us that meaningful change is often found in moments that cannot be measured by numbers alone. The intergenerational dialogue in Kamukunji was more than an activity. It became a space where people who are too often excluded spoke openly about their experiences, challenged harmful assumptions, and affirmed their right to dignity and quality health care. The voices of Persons with Disabilities, sex workers, and Adolescents and Young People Living with HIV demonstrated the power of inclusive dialogue. When people are given a safe space to share their realities, they do more than tell their stories. They reshape perspectives, build understanding, and inspire action. For our team, this experience reinforced that advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights begins with listening. Real change happens when every person is welcomed, respected, and given the opportunity to speak for themselves, not through others.



The Moment We Chose Understanding Over Silence

In Nyalenda, an informal settlement in Kisumu County, an honest SRHR community dialogue shattered years of silence and sparked profound change. I still remember the charged atmosphere as religious leaders, parents, grandparents and young people gathered for our intergenerational open talk. That day, we discussed the power of Comprehensive Sexuality Education and how it equips young people with knowledge on rights, consent, contraceptives and protection from abuse. Some opposed fiercely, arguing that teaching young people about sex will only push them to start early. Tension filled the room. Then, a 32-year-old man stood up, his voice trembling. For the first time, he shared how his aunt had sexually abused him from age eight until high school. Too ashamed and uninformed to speak out, he suffered in silence, a burden that later damaged his relationships with women. “If I had known my rights and had this information as a boy, I would have stopped her.” His courage broke the ice. The room fell quiet, then came alive with reflection. Parents admitted they had been wrong to withhold knowledge. By the end, everyone agreed that knowledge is power. They committed to working together to provide age-appropriate information to their children. That day, silence gave way to healing, understanding and a shared resolve to protect the next generation.

Jeronime Obwar, YESAM, Kisumu



Reflection: When Courage Creates Change

This story reminds me that real change rarely begins with statistics or presentations. It begins when people feel safe enough to share their lived experiences. What started as a discussion about Comprehensive Sexuality Education became a moment of truth that challenged deeply held beliefs and transformed how a community viewed young people's right to information.

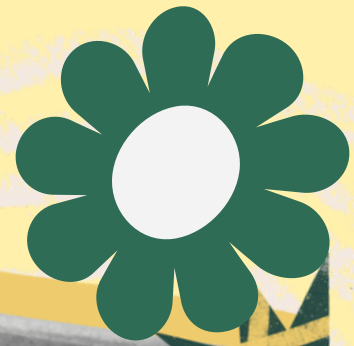
The young man's testimony was a powerful reminder of the cost of silence. His experience exposed how the lack of age-appropriate sexuality education can leave children without the language, confidence, or knowledge to recognise abuse or seek help. His courage shifted the conversation from fear and assumptions to empathy and understanding.

This story is a reminder that advocacy is not only about influencing policies; it is about creating spaces where people can confront uncomfortable truths, learn from one another, and imagine a different future.

The lasting lesson is that knowledge does not take away innocence—it protects it. one courageous voice to begin transforming an entire community.



Gallery of Change



explore



**Haki Yetu;
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***Haki Yetu;
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“ Investing in grassroots leadership is investing in change that lasts beyond funding cycles.”



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**Thank
you for
reading**

TO ACCESS
OUR
WEBSITE

SCAN



Thank You

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