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## ABOUT DANDELION AFRICA

Dandelion Africa is a non-profit NGO with over ten years of hands-on experience in Kenya’s Rift Valley region. We work in youth, health, women’s empowerment and advocacy program areas.

Our mission is to stimulate awareness and involvement in creating sustainable solutions to improve governance, opportunity for education, sexual reproductive health and economic livelihoods for women and youth in marginalized areas.

Our vision is to create a world where people in marginalized areas live healthy, safe and educated lives.
Dear Friends and Partners,

The year 2020 was supposed to be one celebrating progress, with the 10th anniversary of Dandelion Africa, the 25th anniversary of the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, and the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage in the United States. However, communities around the world were faced with extraordinary challenges of global pandemic, economic meltdown, climate disaster and secondary effects of a pandemic out of control.

Despite these impediments, women and youth in our rural communities, have proven unequaled pliability, unbelievable innovation and unmatched commitment to sustainable solutions for their communities. At Dandelion Africa, we know that women and youth lead differently. They position themselves to build others, they speak out for change in their own ways, they curve out tables and create spaces where they can use their voices, they are the fabric that holds our society together.

We’re honored to do this work for the over 30,000 people we directly connected with in 2020, but know that the real change happens when the lives of the 100,000 people they impacted will change.

“Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying 'I will try again tomorrow.’” — Mary Anne Radmacher

When I think about tomorrow, I am grounded in today, in gratitude for the incredible partners who stood with us during the most difficult moment in our history, they did not falter, they did not doubt our resilience or our community-driven strategy, they believed in our interventions and, by extension, our community. By funding a Grassroots organization like us, they helped us remain more adaptive to arising needs and inherent complexities, we were able to save lives when the world over thought our continent would not survive. Thank you for your courage in putting your belief where you could not visit or verify, your trust not only kept us standing, but it also helped us fly.

We have achieved great milestones and continue to navigate the effects of COVID-19 in our communities, but we are stronger because we know that we are in this together and although it is still dark today, dawn will come. I hope you enjoy reading this Annual report.

Wendo Aszed
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THE SITUATION WE FACE

Only 8% married girls (15-19 years) use contraceptives

2 in 10 girls undergo Female Genital Mutilation

For every 10,000 people there are only 1.9 doctors and 8.6 nurses and midwives

Women earn $2 a day and have 8 children on average in our communities

Where We Work
- Nakuru County
- Baringo County
- Kajiado South County

Key Factors
- Rural, arid area
- Subsistence farming
- Livestock farming
Many challenges came in 2020, especially once COVID-19 took hold, but there were also many achievements. We are so thankful to everyone who supported us throughout the year and also very proud of our team for the following highlights and more.

- **Dandelion selected by County Government to spearhead Gender-Based Violence advocacy in the region.**
- **Our programs directly connected with over 30,000 people.**
- **256 safe Deliveries at Dandelion Medical Centre.**
- **99% of Girls For Leaders Boys For Change participants went back to school.**
Our health program is divided into several platforms. Our Mobile Backpack Nurse program reaches 16 different villages monthly, while our larger outreaches mobile hospitals reach 64 villages each year. They provide consultations, HIV tests, immunizations, cervical cancer screening and family planning free of charge. Central to the health program is an unprejudiced work ethic that aims to give a compassionate and professional service to people of all backgrounds and ages. This is an essential component, as many refuse healthcare due to stigma, fear and taboo. Our Medical Centre provides free family planning, antenatal care, HIV testing and more.

**KEY MILESTONES**

**In 2020, Dandelion Medical Centre**

reached the following number of people with services: Family Planning (3,723), Immunization Services (1,934), Antenatal Clinic (731), HIV Testing Service (1,704). A total of 3,028 clients were attended in our outpatient department for general treatment.

**34 safe spaces set up**

with backpack nurse services reaching the following people; Family Planning (15,551), Immunization (3,535), AnteNatal Clinic (518), Cervical Cancer screening (169) and HIV Testing Services (1,041).

**204 Community Health Volunteers trained**

and sensitized over 10,000 people on Sexual Reproductive Health, Gender Based Violence and COVID-19 prevention measures and what to do in case of suspected cases.

**256 safe births**

at Dandelion Medical Centre, who are also active in immunisation and their mothers administered postpartum family planning with successful PMTCT.
Adult and maternal mortality rates are key indicators of the health status of a population. The population of Baringo County is extremely young, with 60 percent of the population under 20. Maternal mortality in Baringo (488 deaths per 100,000 live births) is higher than Kenya as a whole (374 deaths per 100,000 live births). Skilled Birth Attendance is still low in these rural areas. Investments in family planning and safe skilled maternity spaces will save the lives of women and children in the region and it will accelerate community progress by helping girls stay in school, promoting healthier pregnancies, averting child and maternal deaths, and supporting women’s full economic participation.

Dandelion Africa has a Hub and Spoke approach, combining the Back Pack Nurse Model who refer expectant mothers to the Dandelion Medical and Maternity Centre in a marginalized area at the border of Nakuru and Baringo to help reduce the maternal and child mortality. We offer free maternal services enabling the very poor to access quality maternal and post partum contraceptives. 256 Safe deliveries in 2020 and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV an important indicator in ensuring reduction of child mortality in our region.
Our Girls for Leaders, Boys for Change program works with over 50 schools in communities that practice Female Genital Mutilation. We have over 5000 girls in the program and have engaged over 3000 boys and men who champion to end FGM. This program addresses cultural and logistical impediments to girls’ education to increase their probability of staying in school. The Program encourages boys to understand, respect and support the rights of girls and women. In 2020 99% of program participants went back to school.

### KEY MILESTONES

**12,000+ youth reached**

by 32 youth peer providers who reach out to the youth in social places, social media platforms, river sides and salons with information on SRH and GBV. As a result 72,000 condoms were distributed to motorbike riders and youth in social places and demonstration on correct use and disposal.

**New Youth Centre in 2021**

Due to high demand and numbers of youth interested in youth friendly services, we are constructing a youth centre that will accommodate over 100 youth. The youth centre will have a training hall, library, indoor games, SRHR clinic and a counseling room.

**10,000+ girls & boys reached**

through the program Girls for Leaders, Boys for Change with information on Sexual Reproductive Health and Gender Based Violence. Despite the fact that there was COVID-19, the program was able to be reached in the safe spaces for the Back Pack Nurse in 34 villages where Youth Peer Providers would have talks on GBV and SRH sessions.

**10,000+ sanitary towels distributed**

to needy and vulnerable girls this year both in school and villages after the onset of COVID-19.
We train women from rural areas to save and borrow their own money (table banking) and start small businesses for self-sustainability. Women in rural, marginalised areas, are trained on business skills, health, especially Family Planning, Gender Based Violence and Human Rights.

**KEY MILESTONES**

**40 women's groups saved up to 1,607,475 KES ($14,587 USD)**
as part of our Economic Livelihood programs. From the 40 women's groups a total of 8,866,505 KES was applied as revolving loans throughout the year for different projects which resulted in 298 new business start ups.

**189 women trained**
on Sexual Reproductive Health information. Among topics covered included; human anatomy and reproductive health, family planning, childbirth, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, adherance,taking care of your body, dealing with rape, reporting processes, seeking psychological help and open communication on sexuality.

**3046 women trained**
in reporting processes on Gender Based Violence cases, curbing teenage pregnancies in their homes, addressing intimate partner violence and COVID-19 Prevention measures.

**60 water tanks delivered**
to households translating to 322,500 litres of rainwater harvested. 660 people are direct beneficiaries of the water tanks. There was a notable decline in waterborne diseases in these villages from a total of 439 cases in 2019 to 329 cases in 2020. Tank uptake has increased by 143% in 2020 from 2019. The women in these households will spend less time finding water and dedicate their time to income generating activities.
Introducing Hassan Almasi, a young father and Sexual Reproductive Health Champion from Mogotio who shared his story of change with us recently after he participated in our SRH training.

“I’m a young father to one daughter and a proud beneficiary of the Back Pack Pack Nurse services. I live far from the nearest government health facility and accessibility to health care was a challenge before Dandelion opened their Maternal Safe Space in my village. I was trained at Dandelion Africa on the importance of male involvement in family planning, I had been thinking it was a women’s issue. I’m currently fully involved as far as the sexual reproductive health of my young family is concerned and I recently took my wife for a long term method of contraception and immunization of my daughter where I also accompanied her to the Maternal Safe Space. These spaces ensure that young men like me get involved because this spaces are private, safe and offer essential services where we need them the most.”
ADVOCACY

Our Advocacy programs are community-based and aim to empower the community to access their rights and to be accountable in order to produce change. Resources are distributed equally between men and women which enable the whole community to own the process of change and encourage open conversations to address issues.

KEY MILESTONES

350 Community gatekeepers & 66 chiefs reached
through Jukumu Langu advocacy program. We have developed standard operating procedures to deal with GBV cases by the stakeholders and duty bearers in 23 villages through training on GBV response mechanisms, survivor-approach strategy and GBV reporting process.

Over 5000 educated on GBV
in 8 villages. The GBV champions have reached them through their monthly community initiated forums. Currently, there’s a well-structured community support system for prevention against GBV.

10 youth groups formed
and registered savings groups after undergoing business training. (An entrepreneurial training that empowers women and youth living in poverty to change their lives by launching their own businesses)

100 plus GBV champions
become part of the GBV Prevention and Response Mechanism Network. This is the very first ever GBV Prevention and Response Network in both counties we work in and it is through the presence of such an active network that the County selected Dandelion Africa to spearhead GBV advocacy under the umbrella of Rongai GBV cluster.

200 plus men championing call to end Female Genital Mutilation
as our GBV champions across different villages. We have also engaged 1500 youth in building their capacities on Human Rights and good governance through training on economic independence and gender based violence
In Kenya, one in two girls in rural areas marry by age 19. One in ten girls aged 15-19 years in Baringo County have begun childbearing with 10% of girls aged 15-19 reported that they have undergone Female Genital Mutilation. Amplifying voices and providing education opportunities for girls through girl-centered and community-driven programming has proven that the challenging realities of thousands of girls in Baringo can be transformed to create a better future where girls are able to pursue their dreams and ultimately beating the odds to uplift their community. This is the story of Joy Kamuren, a Girls For Leaders program Beneficiary.

"I came to learn of Dandelion Africa in 2014, when I was in class 7 at Athinai primary school, where we were being mentored on Sexual Reproductive Health and self-awareness as girls from the marginalized rural areas. Through the mentorship, I built my confidence, understood my sexual reproductive health rights and became more aware of myself. Later, I transited to high school where I chaired the Girls For Leaders/Boys For Change Club. It is during this particular time that I developed interests in the world of technology and fortunately, after high school, I was able to apply for a STEM program in Akirachix under the mentorship of Dandelion Africa to pursue my dream of changing the world through technology. I graduated in 2020 with a Diploma in IT and I’m so very proud of the kind of a woman I’m becoming. Dandelion Africa has amplified my voice and given me opportunities to thrive. Beyond the skills of IT, I’m a leader in my own capacity.

- Joy Kamuren, Girls For Leaders, Beneficiary.
COVID-19
The pandemic remains a huge challenge to our communities and our work. Communities are not able to gather in groups as they normally would to spread information. However, we have found other ways to be effective, including social media, small groups meeting and door to door conversations. The pandemic has also affected our school programs and community members have suffered from anxiety around accessing health services in fear of being tested for COVID-19, however this has reduced by engaging CHVs, men's champions and youth peer providers who have been doing door to door visits.

The second wave of infection has come with an upsurge in the number of infections. Infections are now at community level and the health care providers are currently more engaged with the increasing COVID-19 patients which impacts the uptake of reproductive health services. Our Back Pack Nurses are playing a larger role in the community by going out to visit more often and working in the safe spaces.

Heavy Rainfall & Tribal Conflict
In 2020, we experienced heavy rainfall which also affected accessibility to some of the health outreach sites due to bad roads. Our response to this challenge was to drive to peoples homes where possible.

In some areas, there were tribal conflicts due to the land disputes and rehabilitation of Mau forest by the Kenyan government. This affected our mens training to reduce stigma on family planning and reproductive health.
I work for Dandelion Africa as the Gender Officer with the Women Empowerment Program. I joined the Team in 2017, and from that time I have gained a wealth of wisdom, knowledge and skills that have enabled me become a better version of myself. I have grown professionally to being promoted as Gender Officer from starting out as an Accountant. This has enabled me to engage with over 5000 women and youth in the community we work in. This was really encouraging to me because I could see how much I was coming out of my comfort zone to breaking glass ceilings I had put up. This was made possible from the constant leadership and mentorship process I receive daily from our Team Leader Wendo Aszed. I have learnt to balance my work and personal life, make financial investments for my future, work on emotional and social intelligence and advance on research work. I have seen these words come to life...

What are we if we do not help each other?
GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Our Board of Directors comprises a diverse group of individuals committed to Community Development and the growth of Dandelion Africa. Our Board members include:

Shaees Ahmed (Chair), Roseline Leiro (Vice Chair), Joseph Washira (Treasurer), Wendo Aszed (Founder), Fatima Bintou Haase, Faith Dentewo

Our Community Board is an advisory group comprised of community members in our rural areas representing a wide range of actors including PWD, Youth, Security, young women and men who monitor and advise the organization on community driven strategies. These individuals are important community leaders tasked with engaging both the organization and our communities. Our community Board members include:

Harun Muchai (Chairman), Kefa Odeyo, Joy Jelimo, Margaret Kiptoo, Julius Kangogo, Gideon Kipkoech, Collins Omondi, Rose Achieng, Florence Muriuki, Festus Panyako, Caleb Kibichi Venzentina Ekai.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER - FAITH JEROP YATOR

In 2020 we welcomed new Board Member, Faith. Faith coordinates outreach and linkage activities and is a Senior Administrative Assistant in the Directorate of Research, Innovation and Outreach at Kabarak University. She is also a part time lecturer in the School of Business and Economics. Faith is already bringing so much knowledge and experience to our Board.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Wendo Aszed - Executive Director
- Harun Muchai - Administrator
- Sally Wuodi - Gender Officer
- Bilha Chemutai - Accountant
- Ruth Nderitu - Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
- Daniel Kipkosgei - Project Officer
- HealthJoy Jemutai - Project Officer Youth
- Sarah Waihenya - Clinical Officer
We will continue to:
- Run maternity clinics with 50 deliveries per month and expand Back Pack Nurse safe spaces to 44 spaces
- Run Girls for Leaders Boys for Change programs in 55 schools with 10,000 students
- Train 75 groups on business skills and GBV intervention
- Run advocacy training in 100 villages to curb FGM resurgence due to COVID-19

**Expand into new regions**
We would like to tackle the root cause of gender-based and sexual violence and work with communities to come up with their own solutions to these complex issues. We intend to grow deeper into some of the arid and semi arid areas of Suswa and Naivasha Rapland in 2021.

**More economic opportunities for women and youth**
Through our community-driven strategy, we will work towards provision of economic opportunities for women and youth by increasing their access to financial/non-financial business development services to improve income-generating capacity, productivity and competitiveness by enabling them to design and launch their own businesses for economic empowerment.

**Increase community knowledge & participation**
We will increase community knowledge about public service provision and access to rights, improve public participation in county governance, decision making spaces and access to service providers and strengthen community oversight role in public service provision so that systemic, cultural issues like FGM and GBV can be addressed at the community level.

**AREAS OF NEED**

**Purchase an ambulance**
We are looking for $50,000 to buy and equip an ambulance to reduce maternal and child mortality. Whereas the Dandelion Medical Centre continues to provide free maternal and child health services to vulnerable communities, our facility is 45 Kilometers to the nearest referral government health facility. This puts mothers and children at high risk of death in the event of a Postpartum hemorrhage or Asphyxia. The ambulance would offer a lifeline to mothers and other patients to reach more medical assistance when needed.

**Build a new youth centre**
We are looking to improve access to opportunities for business for women and youth by creating more safe spaces for them by constructing a centre, we have so far raised $10,000 and looking for a further $90,000 to complete and equip the youth centre.
CONNECT WITH DANDELION

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