Annual Report
2021
In rural Kenya, 70% of women and children lack access to appropriate primary healthcare. On average, there are 500,000 maternal deaths in the country each year because of poor access to reproductive healthcare and infrastructure. And we know that 40% of rural Kenyans live in poverty compared to 28% in urban areas.

**Dandelion Africa is determined to change the health and economic outcomes for women in rural Kenya. It is a matter of life and death that simply cannot wait.**

Dandelion Africa reduces maternal and child mortality by providing quality and accessible healthcare to communities in hard to reach rural areas. We do this through a medical facility, our backpack nurses who go door-to-door and a network of over 100 unpaid community health volunteers.

We provide free quality healthcare to children under the age of five. We encourage women to access affordable reproductive health services, enabling them to have time for productive work and engage in economic and leadership opportunities.

Dandelion Africa works with communities and government on practical and systematic change so that communities in rural Kenya have access to quality healthcare. We engage boys and men so they are agents of change and champion women’s health and livelihoods.
Where We Work

Kenya Map showing the areas where Dandelion works.
Dear Friends and Partners,

Greetings from Dandelion Africa

2021 was a year that saw both the Covid-19 vaccine arrive and countries failing the Climate Change challenge with “A code red for humanity.” according to UN Secretary General António Guterres’ in the UN report released in August.

Despite the transformation of the COVID-19 pandemic from a health to an economic and social crisis, we have made significant strides by building and opening a Youth Centre, and providing proximate and timely health services by purchasing an ambulance with your support.

The greatest challenge during these times has been access to essential services for marginalized groups and the re-emergence of retrogressive cultures that hinder the development and progress of our communities.

Providing 15,000 women with contraceptives, safely delivering over 500 babies and witnessing the transformation of 10 new villages ending Female Genital Mutilation / Cutting have been key milestones for us and the communities we serve.

*Martin Luther King said*  “Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Every step toward the goals requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.” You as our partners have been tireless and dedicated to the reduction of suffering of our rural communities, and I thank you.

We still have a lot to do to ensure every woman, girl and boy lives a life of dignity, and I believe that with your continued support we can continue to impact more people.

On behalf of the board, I wish to thank all our partners and friends for your support during the year 2021. I am grateful to the community and team for being tireless in envisioning change.

I hope you enjoy reading this Annual Report.

**Wendo Aszed**

*EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*
A snapshot of our programs

HEALTH
- Health Centre
- Back Pack Nurse
- Sexual Reproductive Health

ADVOCACY
- Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation
- Gender Based Violence prevention

WOMEN'S LIVELIHOODS
- Economic Empowerment
- Climate Change Mitigation
- Sexual Reproduction Health

GIRLS FOR LEADERS / BOYS FOR CHANGE
- Youth Centre
- Girls for Leaders
- Boys for Change
Health

Our key objective for the health program is to improve the provision and access of Sexual Reproductive Health services for women and young girls in hard-to-reach areas.

MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH SERVICES OFFERED

**Safe Deliveries trend**

![Graph showing Safe Deliveries trend from 2019 to 2021]

- **3,486 people tested for HIV**
  - of whom 823 were pregnant mothers to improve prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission of HIV. Over the past 3 years, there has been reduction of mother-to-child transmission of HIV by 3% due to access to antenatal Care services for women living in rural areas. 958 women were screened for Cervical and Breast Cancer.

**Nutritional Diseases Declined by 42%**

in 10 villages as tank uptake increased by 19%. This was contributed by the continous Water, Sanitation and Hygiene education in the community.

**530 skilled deliveries**

conducted in Dandelion Medical Center this year reducing maternal and child mortality rates. Unskilled deliveries has reduced by 70% over the past years because of free services and proximity of quality delivery services.

**4,110 children under 5 years de-wormed**

of whom 3,295 received routine immunization against common childhood illnesses. This contributed to the County’s immunization coverage from 56% to 63% in 2021.
Sexual and reproductive Health and Community Health Volunteers support through BackPack Nurse model

16,655 women of reproductive age received family planning of their choice through mobile Backpack Nurse and Dandelion Medical Center. This has enabled them to engage in more productive economic activities that will eventually translate to improved livelihoods.

60+ Male champions trained on Sexual Reproductive Health information to reach fellow men in their respective villages for behavior and attitude change towards family planning and other Harmful Cultural Practices like Female Genital Mutilation and Teen Marriages. They have been able to reach out to 2,000 + men both young and old.

74 pit latrines were constructed through Action and Dialogue days interventions steered by the Community Health Volunteers. This intervention has helped curb waterborne diseases that are very common in arid and semi-arid areas.

18,000 plus people have been reached with Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, and Covid-19 prevention information in Baringo, Nakuru, Narok and Kajiado counties by the Community Health Volunteers and the Youth Peer Providers.

18+ women benefited from Bilateral Tubal Ligation a permanent method of family planning. This reflects the change of attitudes and behaviors amongst women and men in rural areas.

1,871 households were registered by Community Health Volunteers under the community health strategy. All the relevant health indicators were collected and assessed per village to strategize disease occurrence prevention.

10 Community Health Volunteers graduated from an 8-month Village Business School training course to equip them with knowledge to start their businesses for their sustainability.

50 Community Health Volunteers trained on ODK which will ease data collection in the communities for monitoring, evaluation and learning.
COVID - 19 Prevention and treatment

Effects of Covid-19 in rural areas
Violence against women and girls increased globally as the COVID-19 pandemic combined with economic and social stresses continued into 2021. In rural areas of Kenya, limited access to essential services like sexual and reproductive health and reduced peer support exacerbated these conditions. Women and girls were more exposed to GBV and harmful practices including FGM, following the instituted containment measures of the pandemic.

Community Challenges
Women economic livelihoods were greatly affected during the pandemic, with Dandelion women savings dropping in 2020 by 48% and started recovering in 2021 and increased by 10%. There was an increase in loan uptake by 67% between 2020 to 2021.

COVID-19 Mitigation
Dandelion Medical Centre got approval to administer Covid-19 Vaccines and vaccinated over 1,000 people through our Back Pack outreach, reaching communities who have no access to health facilities.

Oxygen for local Covid referral hospital
In partnership with Gould Foundation, 10 oxygen cylinders and other equipment were donated to Mogotio Sub County hospital to support the large numbers of Covid 19 patients from around Baringo and reduce the mortality rate associated with the pandemic.
I had a safe delivery of my twins at Dandelion Medical Centre after 3 other deliveries at home. Previously, we did not have a health facility nearby and therefore it was the norm for women like me to deliver at home.

Thank you Dandelion Africa for prioritizing maternal and child health care.

Jacinta Ekeno, beneficiary
Dandelion Medical Centre
Advocacy

Our Advocacy program contributes to respect for and fulfillment of human rights, deepening democracy and realization of gender equality through increase awareness and responsiveness by the community on Gender-Based Violence against women and men and increase responsiveness and coordination by stakeholders and duty bearers on reporting process.

Efforts to eradicate Female Genital Mutilation

Kenya Current FGM/C Prevalence : 21%
42.6% of women aged 15–49 who have undergone FGM/C were cut between the ages of 10 and 14.

45+ girls rescued
from early marriage and taken back to school in Majimoto, Mogotio, Lomanira, Sagasarik and Molosirwe villages by GBV champions. The information of their whereabouts was shared during one of the monthly community dialogue forums. In addition, 3 more girls in Suswa went back to school after duty bearers interventions.

2 supporters of FGM denounced
The harmful cultural practice in Narok East and came out publicly to support the fight against this harmful cultural practice. The FGM/C prevalence in Kenya is 21% down by 7% in 10 years.

10 more villages declared Anti-FGM
Gender equitable community-based support system mechanisms are in place across 10 villages with 30 more male Gender-based violence champions in Narok East reaching their peers with information on ending Female Genital Mutilation. This has created a community support system to have public discussions about the impact of Gender-Based Violence on their community and enhance prevention.

65+ GBV champions
across 8 villages formulated their community development agenda for sustainability after acquiring knowledge on the Right(s)Way Forward Model which addresses issues of community ownership to ending retrogressing cultures that stagnates community development.
Gender-Based Violence Prevention Network formed
Communities in Naivasha, Suswa, Marigat, and Molo sub-counties have access to quality and comprehensive GBV support services across sectors with improved sustainability of GBV prevention and response interventions in their villages after the formation of a GBV Prevention and Response Network.

600+ gatekeepers & 100 village elders trained
GBV community committees have been activated across Baringo, Nakuru and Narok East counties after we trained Nyumba Kumi cluster heads (Community policing gatekeepers) and village elders on security structure and Gender-based violence prevention and reporting process. In addition, 25 new NyumbaKumi committees were selected across Narok East and Nakuru counties. 50% of the committee members are female.

89 Football team coaches trained on SGBV
We now have a network of 350 young men as GBV champions across Mogotio, Eldama Ravine, Kabarnet, Kabartonjo and Marigat sub-counties.

29 cases of Gender-Based Violence reported
with 18 currently pending in court. Further, more than 20 survivors of GBV have accessed psychosocial support and counselling at Dandelion. Defilement cases have topped the list amongst the GBV violations this year with one conviction where a perpetrator of defilement was sentenced to life imprisonment. 2 perpetrators of domestic violence were released on bail.

Sustainability of the advocacy program

3 Community-based organizations
located where Female Genital Mutilation and unskilled delivery is at 80%, were mentored on Leadership, CBO Management, Communications, development of results framework and budgeting. They are currently implementing projects to support FGM interventions, maternal child health, girls and boys education in their communities.

Lobbying bears fruits
in Majani mingi using the Rights Way Forward Model. After 3 years of lobbying and engaging stakeholders through Community Action Plan on the need to have a health care facility for 23,000 people. The Majani Mingi community are currently happy as the facility has been built and handed over to them.
10,000+ including 200 people living with disability reached

with information on Sexual Gender-Based Violence during community dialogue forums and 16 Days of Activism Against GBV Campaign held by GBV champions. In addition, over 190 community members had a joint dialogue session with their duty-bearers in Kampi Turkana which resulted in the provision of national identity cards to the Turkana community.

180+ chiefs trained

on alternative disputes resolution, the legal framework in addressing community challenges, economic development, stress management and their roles in preventing and responding to Sexual Gender-Based Violence in their communities. This has resulted in a coordinated approach in addressing GBV and efficient programming with improved enforcement of laws and policies towards GBV prevention and response.

30 Gender Desk Police Officers

From eleven Police stations received training on Standard Operating Procedures of prevention and response of Gender-Based Violence. This strengthened collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government will ensure that the police officers are collecting data and information on GBV that would help in mainstreaming GBV innovative interventions.
Women's Livelihoods

In our Livelihoods programs, we train women from rural areas to save and borrow their own money (table banking) and start small businesses for self-sustainability. We trained them on business skills, climate change mitigation through water projects, smart farming, and Family Planning through their groups.

**Economic Livelihood**

**500 women started businesses**

that generated group profits. These projects include, but are not limited to, tent for hire service, steers fattening and selling of tree seedlings.

**60 Women graduate from Baringo and Nakuru counties**

through the Village Business School entrepreneurship course. They received recognition and gifts from the Baringo County Women Representative for their determination to pursue and graduate despite their advanced age.

**Leadership training for 293 women**

on influencing decision-making processes within their communities, getting out of their comfort zone and taking up leadership positions in the community.

**25+ persons living with disability**

registered with social services to form a group to champion for their rights as persons living with disability and registered with the National Council for Persons Living with Disability to access rights and privileges under the council.

**90 Women trained**

on the Rights Way Forward Model that will enable them to develop sustainable strategies to promote gender equality and a sustainable environment for their communities. They will then share with duty bearers and support the process of their community growth.

**30 women living with HIV**

received training on alcohol dependency and its effects on drug potency. In addition, they were trained on the importance of ART adherence and Viral Load suppression which has led to a reduction in HIV related deaths.
Smart Farming and Sustainability

3 Eco sites established
for training on permaculture. Dandelion Africa eco site has trained an additional 150 women on permaculture and use of natural resources.

50,000+ trees planted
through the Community Health Volunteers’ income-generating activities. The tree seedlings consisting of fruit and indigenous trees. They sold over 15,000 tree seedlings over the year.

$15,000 raised by 3 new Community Based Organizations
The CBOs executed a boys engagement community initiative through 4 primary schools and 4 football teams while Mother to Mother CBO began their tree nursery project. They incorporated table banking as a sustainability measure to increase their savings and boost the project. In addition, Ommom CBO started sensitization of communities to end FGM/C and improve education for girls in Kampi Turkana.

47 water tanks distributed
to women totaling 282,000 liters of harvested water. 564 direct beneficiaries are accessing clean water, thus reducing cases of waterborne diseases, saving time to focus on productive work and money in purchasing water. This has enabled women to sell clean water to the community and engage in smart farming.
The women empowerment program has allowed me to live the kind of life I never thought I would. I'm among the women from the Berur women group who have benefited from sexual reproductive health trainings and ended up taking contraceptives so that I could plan my family. This access to information has translated to having more time to do my other jobs such as bead-work and spending quality time with my children. In addition, I have been able to save money through table banking, took a Dewdrop tank and joined a dancing group where we create awareness on the importance of education, peace and ending gender-based violence. I'm currently a community health volunteer in my village ensuring that no woman is being left behind when it comes to access to health.

- Everyline Kigen (member of Berur womens group and beneficiary of our Women Empowerment Program)
Girls for Leaders

This program addresses cultural and logistical impediments to girls' education to increase their probability of staying in school. We encourage boys to understand, respect and support the rights of girls and women.

32 Youth Peer Providers reached out to 17,000 youth at the community level with information on SRHR. This resulted in 1,081 youths being referred and receiving SRHR services at our various safe spaces translating to more youth spending their time and resources to expand their businesses.

3,450 Girls from vulnerable communities received sanitary towels. this will reduce vulnerability to violence and help keep them in school.

5 of the Best academic Performers in the Country during the National exams in March 2021, were from our Girls For Leaders, Boys for Change program. 6,225 Girls for Leaders and 5,836 Boys For Change, received information on SRHR, which has led to improvement in performance in schools due to training on confidence.

Early Childhood Development Center set up in Raplands with support from the community. This will aid in easing access to education for children under five who previously had to travel 5KM to the nearest school.

Dandelion Africa Youth Centre was officially opened and is up and running, serving the youth in Mogotio and Rongai sub-counties. The youth have access to the new library, ICT materials, and a fully-equipped youth clinic offering services to them in a youth-friendly set up.
underwent Alternative Rites of Passage training, which included training on the effects of FGM, menstrual hygiene, early pregnancies, school dropouts, and the importance of education. This will help these girls make informed decisions on their bodies to protect them and others from FGM, leading to more girls finishing school.

107 Girls in Nakuru & Narok
underwent Alternative Rites of Passage training, which included training on the effects of FGM, menstrual hygiene, early pregnancies, school dropouts, and the importance of education. This will help these girls make informed decisions on their bodies to protect them and others from FGM, leading to more girls finishing school.

120+ teenagers trained on ICT
from surrounding Sarambei and Koyumtich villages and online safety, bringing technology to hard-to-reach areas. This has given youth in these areas exposure and an opportunity to discover different interests, it has given them a stepping stone to compete with youth from urban areas on matters technology.

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26 Student Peer Educators mentored
from 4 schools in Marigat Sub County on the GFL/BFC curriculum, giving them enough information on SRHR to give to their peers. They will train 260 students in their schools with this new curriculum. This will result in a reduction in the number of teenage pregnancies and drop out, resulting in a high transition rate in the region.

39 Bright, Orphans and Vulnerable Children
are in Dandelion Africa scholarships program allowing them to be in school and find their way to a promising future.
I joined the Girls for Leaders program in 2014 while in primary school. I have grown over the years all thanks to the sexual reproductive health information I have been receiving from Dandelion Africa coupled with education opportunities and importantly, how I have been mentored as a girl from the village. I never thought of transiting to the next level of education due to several challenges in my village. However, in 2019 I sat for my Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education Exam and passed with flying colours. I used to access the library services at the Dandelion Resource Centre and that gave me a plus. Through the Girls for Leaders program, I got a scholarship to study Information Technology and, in 2021 November I graduated as a Software Developer. I’m so proud of this milestone and it feels great to be able to compete with other girls from the urban areas on matters concerning technology.

Rebecca Anyango,
Beneficiary Girls For Leaders
As a young man, one of my biggest flex has been learning how to use contraceptives, demystification of myths and misconceptions surrounding the methods of family planning and championing opportunities for education for girls in rural areas through Menstrual Hygiene Management. Dandelion Africa gave me purpose and I’m passionate about mentoring other boys as well.

Paul heads the Menstrual Hygiene department and has been instrumental in mentoring other young boys in hard-to-reach areas.

A few years ago, Dandelion Africa selected me for a training on Gender Based Violence. I did not understand why I was being involved as a man yet I knew that GBV was a woman’s issue. More pieces of training were brought to my attention including Rights Way Forward and Sexual Reproductive Health and I got to learn why it was important for me to be engaged as a young man. In addition, I acquired facilitation skills and my attitude on violence against women and girls changed. I’m currently a Right(s) Way Forward facilitator by training and GBV Champion in my village by passion.

I want to lobby fellow men to ensure that our communities are safe against any form of violence.

Noor Othim, Advocacy Program beneficiary
I joined Dandelion Africa 4 years ago as a volunteer with the Youth program. In 2019 I was assigned a role in the health department as a program assistant where I later transitioned as the program lead. All this has been possible through continuous training and mentorship. My mother gave birth to me at home and working with the communities through outreaches has allowed me to identify various gaps existing in different communities and come up with sustainable solutions.

Daniel Kipkosgei, Program Officer Health
COMMUNITY UPDATE

The opening of the Dandelion Africa Youth Centre has allowed more youth and adolescents to engage safely with access to the library, ICT Hub and Youth friendly clinic.

We scaled up our programs to Marigat which is in Baringo South.

SUCCESSES

- Perpetrators of Female Genital Mutilation in Narok denounced the practice and came out publicly to support the fight against this harmful cultural practice.
- A perpetrator of defilement found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment.
- Referrals at Dandelion Medical Centre eased by the new ambulance
- 19 women successfully underwent the Bilateral Tubal Ligation (BTL), a permanent family planning method. It implies that there has been a gradual change in attitude and behavior among community members.
- 60 women graduated from our entrepreneurship course through our Village Business school.
- Over 120 teenagers from the rural Mogotio and Rongai sub counties trained on ICT.

CHALLENGES

- There has been a shortage of short-term family planning commodities in the country especially injectables.
- Covid-19 fluctuating infections continue to affect the cost of commodities and movement and gathering however our trust with the government and services essentially has allowed us to proceed with activities in the area we work.
- 2 defilement cases were withdrawn due to the unavailability of witnesses.

PARTNERSHIPS & ADVOCACY

In partnership with Kabarak University, 120 adolescents from Baringo and Nakuru were able to receive training on ICT, Music, and performing arts. This training helped them understand more about careers in music and ICT.
EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

We finally celebrated the long awaited Dandelion Africa 10th anniversary which came along with our rebranding.

Our Founder and Executive Director Wendo Aszed, participated at the Innovations in International Philanthropy Symposium on how to build sustainable relationships with proximate leaders for greater impact. In addition, she had the honor of interviewing Malala Yousafzai on her report: "A greener, fairer future: Why leaders need to invest in climate and girls’ education." Watch it here: https://youtu.be/9-GT314wYJM. Wendo was also featured in PHILANTHROPOD - Impact Stories From A Global Community in September. In addition, Wendo Aszed was awarded change champion 2021 by Population Matters along with Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

IN THE NEWS

We officially launched our new ambulance for emergency health response at our Dandelion Medical Centre. Many thanks to DAK Foundation, PWF and our Swedish friends for making this dream a reality for our communities.

AREAS OF NEED

- Support to construct Dandelion Medical Centre - Kilimanjaro in rural Kajiado South.
- Set up of an ICT career hub and up-cycling program at the newly built Youth Centre to improve youth economy and employability.
- With the high number of women referred for the Cesarean section from Dandelion Medical Centre, we are looking for support to construct and equip a theater unit for minor surgeries by 2023.
What We're Doing in 2022

- Setting up Katorongot Community Centre to reach 3,000 vulnerable people.

- Mentoring 4 more Community-Based Organizations for sustainability of community action.

- Construction of Dandelion Medical Centre in rural Kajiado South to reduce the high prevalence of unskilled deliveries in the pastoral community by reaching 23,779 key population.

- Set up of an ICT career hub and recycling livelihood youth program at the newly built Youth Centre.

- Girls For Leaders Boys For Change Program to scale deeper with the engagement of male champions and growth to 65 schools in regions with over 70% FGM prevalence.

- The Backpack Nurse model will scale outward to train an additional 100 CHVs serving 20 villages that lack access to Maternal ChildHealth.

- To reach over 10,000 people through Baringo county Marathon edition to mark 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.
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