



HOLISTIC
LEARNING
INNOVATIONS

Talent, Peace and Employment

Country: Kenya

Target Age: 15 Years

Learning Areas: Reconciling Tensions | Engaging
Out of School Youth | Communication,
Collaboration | Confidence | Health and Wellbeing

THE CONTEXT

Kiunga Youth for Peace and Development is a community organisation based in Kiunga, Lamu County, Kenya. Kiunga is a coastal community bordering Somalia to the north and the Indian Ocean to the east, where fishing and small-scale farming are the main sources of livelihood. The community faces significant educational challenges, including low academic achievement, a cultural preference for educating boys over girls, and high rates of school absenteeism and dropouts – particularly among girls, many of whom do not advance beyond primary school due to early marriages. These issues contribute to a growing number of idle and unemployed youth, some of whom are vulnerable to recruitment by militant groups. Insecurity has further exacerbated the lack of job opportunities and disrupted access to education. The organization's key priorities are to promote inclusive access to quality education—especially for girls—create employment opportunities for youth and enhance community safety and stability.



Kiunga community participating in a public meeting



Design Team Member Aboud Ali interviewing a Youth.



Design Team member, Athman Engaging A youth.

THE CHALLENGE

Insecurity and ongoing conflict in the area has a strongly detrimental effect on youth, who struggle to find opportunities in both employment and education. Young people need access to opportunities not only to thrive, but also to ensure they are not a target for radicalisation and recruitment into militia groups. This has become a significant concern not only for parents but also for Kenya as a nation and the global community at large. Young people in the area have often been noted to be in direct conflict with security forces due to ethnic and other tensions, which can push them further into the margins of society and away from positive engagement with the community.

“Youth from Kiunga are disadvantaged as they lack opportunities due to being marginalized and mainly because of the lack of infrastructure that has led to the community being cut off from developments.”

Ali Jeilan, Chair-person of Okoa Kiunga Youth Group

THE INNOVATION

TALENT, PEACE AND EMPLOYMENT – TALANTA, AJIRA NA AMANI

The organisation aims to address these challenges by engaging young people in sports and games clubs which promote wellbeing, understanding and help reduce conflict. The group provides the necessary resources to support youth participation, sometimes reaching out to well-wishers and donors for additional support. Sports include active games like football, as well as cognitive games like chess. The activities promote problem-solving, self-confidence, communication, and collaboration, and aid in reconciling tensions between different groups – a key competency for this age group for Schools2030 Kenya and aligned with national priorities.

Kiunga Youth for Peace and Development provides specific opportunities to bring young people and members of the security forces together to engage in games like chess, offering a space that promotes tolerance and mutual understanding between groups that have sometimes been in conflict. The sporting activities also have the added bonus of promoting a healthy lifestyle, boosting endorphins, relieving stress and reducing instances of anxiety and depression.



Design team member Abdulkadir engaging with Kiunga Location Senior Chief and community member



Design team member Abdulkadir Interviewing a Youth Girl on the girls participation in sports



Design team member Abdulkadri engaging With Kiunga high school students



Security Personnel Giving life lesson to Youth

THE IMPACT

The activities have been in place for three months, with a total of 70 boys and 30 girls actively participating. Among the boys, 30 are from the village and are not currently enrolled in school, while 20 of the girls are also non-school-going youth. By occupying young people meaningfully in this way, it makes them less vulnerable to being recruited by militant groups and importantly, gives them a sense of community.

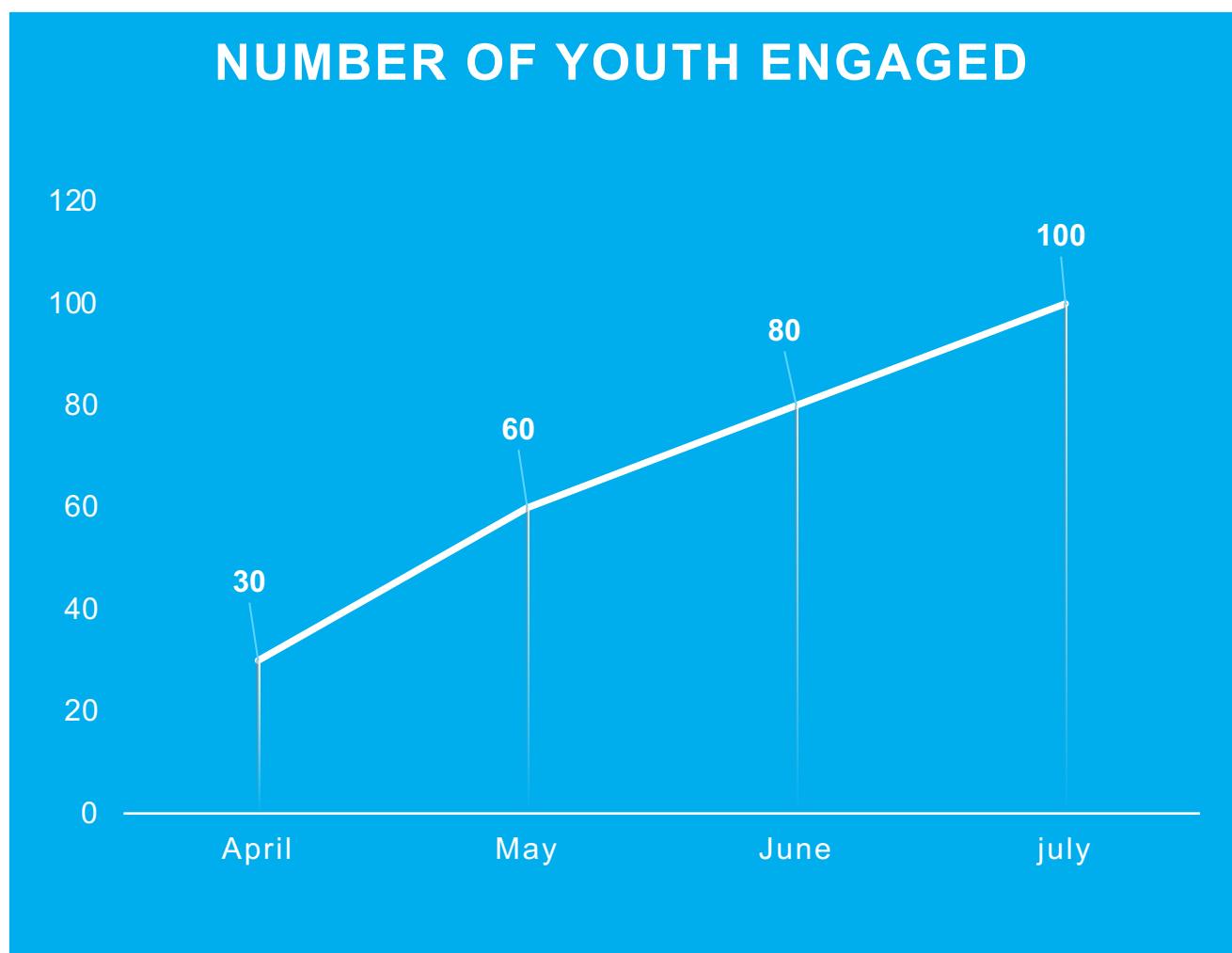
One notable outcome so far has been the increased participation of girls in sports activities, which has had a significant impact on their self-esteem and confidence. The games have also proven to be a powerful medium for bridging gaps between youth and security forces, fostering collaboration and mutual understanding. Furthermore, it has helped break down stereotypes by a significant percentage, contributing to a more inclusive and supportive environment for both boys and girls.

“Sports can unite people as well as be a life changer in giving youth a chance to express themselves.”

Mohamed Aboud, Assistant Chief
Kiunga

THE IMPACT (CONTINUED)

The graph below shows the number of youth participating in sports before the introduction of the innovation and after.



Meet the Design Team



I have been in this role for four months. Favorite things about my work is that I love to see the organization being one of the leading organization in uplifting the lives of my community. My ambition is to gather resources for my community in order to make it a safe place .

ABDUL MOHAMED

Team Leader/coordinator



I have been working in my role as observer for four months. My favorite things about my work is to observe whether we are moving in the right order. My ambition is to see my community in a better position in terms of livelihood.

ABOUD ALI

Chairman/observer



I have been working for this position for four months. My favorite things about my role is to remind the team about time keeping. My ambition is to make this organization a better example to other organizations.

AMINA TWALIB

Treasurer/timekeeper

Meet the Design Team



*I have been in this role for four months.
Favorite things about my work is communicate about
what has not been done and what ought to be
completed.
My ambitions is to see myself as a role model.*

AHMED ATHMAN

Member/communication



*I have been working in my role for four months.
My favorite things about your my work is to mobilize
youth in participating in activities.
My ambition is to help youth achieve their ambitions.*

SECRETARY/MOBILIZER



*I have been in this role for four months.
Favorite things about my work is keeping records.
My ambitions is to see myself helping girl child to
succeed in life.*

THUREYA ALI

Records/member



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