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# SEMI ANNUAL REPORT

January-June 2023





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# REFLECTIONS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Hello friends!

Thank you for taking the time to read about our work. As you enjoy your reading, we also request that you share some feedback on what we might do differently in the next report or specific programs.

We concluded 2022 with a lot of fulfillment, having achieved a number of targets and most importantly contributing to the democratic process in Kenya through various interventions.

We hoped to carry the same spirit into 2023 and thus had a very successful strategic planning meeting in December. It is from this meeting that it became clear what Re-Imagining New Communities really needs to achieve in the short and long term. There was clarity in our work and this was quite rejuvenating to the team. To achieve the right results, we came up with an activity calendar that would guide our monthly, quarterly, and the year's work. Our key focus this year has been to cement our work with churches through Faith for Peace Program, reach more children and communities through our Children Led Community Peace Labs, and contribute to the YPS agenda in Kenya.

We are glad that this semi-annual report offers a glimpse of what we have done and where we hope to be in the next half of the year.

I want to sincerely appreciate #TeamRNC (Grace Wendo, Nicholas Jumba, Eric Momanyi, Kevin Ochieng, and all the volunteers) for putting in extra effort to see that we achieve all our targets in the first half of this year. This is the best team anyone can work with! Re-Imagining New Communities is guided by strong core values to ensure

that the working environment is safe and enjoyable for everyone. Secondly, I want to appreciate our technical team (Grace Wangari, Gregory Okumu, Dr. Felix Bivens, Mwihaki Mundia, Paul Turner, and Noam Oren) for all the time they spare to listen and offer unparalleled support to our plans, strategies, and goals. Your wisdom is what has made us reach this far. You are truly appreciated.

Thirdly, I want to recognize the contribution of our partners and friends. We couldn't achieve anything without the financial and in-kind support from these wonderful people and organizations. **We One Action Network**, we are humbled by your financial support towards our Children Led Peace Labs Program. You not only provide financial support but also keen to see our work grow. We are honoured to have you team WOAN!

Thank you **Central Synagogue**, New York for your financial support. It was so humbling to read about your delight in our work and eventually committing to support us. Lastly, we appreciate our friends, **Inua Village to Global Foundation** and **Grace College of East Africa** for their collaboration and continued support.

As the year progresses, we would like to invite everyone who is interested in working with children, teachers, religious organizations, and social justice to join us and be part of the difference we are creating in various communities in Kenya.

Asante Sana

**Sahlim Charles**  
Executive Director  
Re-Imagining New Communities



**Sahlim Charles**  
*Executive Director*

# REFLECTION FROM TEAM MEMBERS

Re-Imagining New Communities is keen on empowering communities and individuals to find their voices and make a difference. Re-imagining New Communities is unconventional and daring, I believe this is the recipe for its success.



**Grace Wendo**

Re-Imagining New Communities has a good structure and strategies of working, the team is keen on details, something that's evident in the kind of work and impact we produce.



**Kevin Ochieng**

Being a volunteer at Re-Imagining New Communities has been bliss. It is wonderful to work with like-minded people towards helping a community. I have particularly enjoyed the flexibility of my role and the peacebuilding projects with kids.

**Flavia Bosire**



Re-Imagining New Communities is on the right path, the growth trajectory is visible. It just needs a little bit of patience.

**Eric Gisore**

The organization is doing a good job at equipping and nurturing a new crop of peacebuilders and leaders.

**Janice Anyango**



Re-Imagining New Communities has been fundamental in community transformation. It has brought a new picture in matters of peacebuilding to a level people can understand what peace is and not just mentioning the word but a deeper grasp for it and also understanding conflict and that conflicts can be positive.

**Nicholas Jumba**



Re-Imagining New Communities' vision of enabling collaboration across differences to tackle underlying issues within communities is what I appreciate about working with it.

**Linda Nifa**

As a volunteer, my experience with Re-Imagining New Communities has been informative and eye-opening. I like that we have programmes that deal with people of all ages and regardless of gender. I look forward to more learning experiences and partnerships both locally and internationally.

**Awonda Linda**



# SUMMARY

At the start of the year, Re-Imagining New Communities laid out its plans for 2023 with a key focus on working with teachers, children, religious leaders, and other social change agents within urban settlements, specific rural communities in Kakamega, Vihiga, and Kitui counties to support them in developing practical strategies and collaborations aimed at shaping the conversation around their livelihoods, peace, and social issues.

Specifically, this year we are deliberate in ensuring that we provide safe spaces for individuals and organizations to share their experiences and core issues within their communities and workspaces.

## This is achieved through:

**Building the resilience  
of children and entities  
working with children.**

**Providing safe spaces that  
allow sharing of conflict and  
other struggles among  
community members.**

**Carry out impactfully tailored  
training and learning for  
individuals and organizations to  
build their capacity in  
peacebuilding and conflict  
resolution.**



Therefore, this five-month report is a reflection of what the organization has done between January and June 2023.

The first half of the year provided an opportunity for Re-Imagining New Communities to firm up its programs and focus areas as well as build a reliable community of peacebuilders, advocates, and like-minded individuals and organizations.





# SO, WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

## a) TEENS4PEACE

To kickstart the year, Re-Imagining New Communities facilitated a one-day peacebuilding and conflict resolution training for teenage footballers from Dandora- an informal settlement in Nairobi. The training was held on 20th January 2023 at Maono Africa Center For Transformation and lasted for two hours.

**Why the training:** This intervention was informed by the recent incidences of teenagers (13-17 years old) engaging in criminal activities like mugging, robbery, and other acts of cruelty within the community. Reportedly, these teenagers are mostly young footballers. One key incident is of a 16-year-old boy (name withheld) who died from mob justice after he mugged and stabbed a resident in his neighborhood.

Cases of teenagers involved in criminal activities are on the rise across Nairobi County, late last year a teenage girl was arrested in connection with a series of robberies in Langata, Nairobi. The 16-year-old student was tracked by detectives to her parent's house after area residents raised the alarm that there was a group of young men robbing pedestrians within the High-Rise area (*Nairobi New September 22nd, 2022*). Another 16-year-old teenager was arraigned at Kibera law courts alongside four adults on charges of robbery with violence charges.

For years, Dandora has been synonymous with organized crime and insecurity. Although there are many good initiatives that seek to transform the community into a safe hub, the continuous cases of criminal activities portray this area as a pestilent place for anyone.

**The objective of the training** - The training was aimed at providing basic skills for the teenagers to analyze and learn how to resolve conflict nonviolently.



The training brought together fifteen footballers from the Zuka football club- one of the football teams that support children within Dandora.

The training started with an exercise called "Who I Am"- This exercise entails the participants sharing about themselves and a description of their neighbourhood through drawing. One of the key highlights from the participants' drawing is a depiction of insecure neighbourhoods and on the flipside availability of informal playing grounds.

Further, the participants explored the meaning of conflict and where they have witnessed conflict in their lives. This session invited participants to think of personal experiences of conflict. Collectively, participants looked at the impact of these experiences on their lives and how they can respond differently in those cases. Some of the other areas covered were contributors to conflict and taking personal actions.

The training ended with participants committing to putting into practice what they had learned and participating in the second phase of the training.

You can watch some of the highlights of the training through the below links:

[Sahlim Charles on the teenage footballers training in Nairobi](#)  
[Kevin Ocheing on the Teenage Footballers Training in Nairobi.](#)

## b) FAITH4PEACE

In partnership with the Grace College of East Africa, Re-Imagining New Communities facilitated a two-day training workshop for pastors and church leaders drawn from 16 churches working in Kajiado, Nairobi, and Kisumu.

The training workshop was intended to support and build on the past experiences of religious leaders in shaping conversations around peacebuilding, leadership, and self-care. More specifically, the objectives of the workshop were to:

1. Deepen the pastors' understanding of their critical role in creating adequate space for conflict resolution.
2. Provide a shared understanding of the linkage between effective leadership, purpose, and building sustainable systems for churches.
3. Strengthen pastors' skills in storytelling, detecting conflict at an early stage, and designing solutions for their churches and communities.
4. Help the pastors learn from experiences of successful and unsuccessful practices dealing with conflict in the church, workplace, home, and communities.

Some of the topics covered in the workshop include self-awareness, storytelling, communication skills, leadership, conflict resolution, and church management.

Read the full report here- <https://www.rncommunities.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Faith4Peace-February-2023-Report.pdf>

Watch participants' responses to the workshop through the below links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqJ4Qahj7wI>

<https://youtu.be/zWhANxJRmGo>

<https://youtu.be/xqJ4Qahj7wI>





## c) CHILDREN-LED COMMUNITY PEACE LABS

The second cohort of CLCP-Labs was held between the 25th- 28th of April and brought 10 together primary school teachers from Vihiga and Kakamega counties. The training program was sponsored by We One Action Network, a USA-based organization working in Kenya. The three-day program was hosted by Inua Village to Global Foundation's Village to Global Achievers School, one of their schools in the Emuhaya sub-county, Vihiga County.

Prior to the learning workshop, we had a laid-out plan to engage the participating schools. This included;

1. Early school recruitment; recruitment of schools started at the beginning of March. This gave the recruiting team ample time to send out invitation letters and follow-ups. This process enabled the schools to nominate teachers who would participate in the learning workshop.
2. Meeting with education officials within the two counties. We held familiarization meetings with various departments of education in Kakamega and Vihiga. This was an opportunity for us to get to know the education sector as well as introduce our work to the Ministry of Education.

April's learning workshop focused on introducing participating teachers to peacebuilding, conflict management, and effective ways to work with children and how to develop sustainable relationships with fellow teachers, parents, pupils, and other stakeholders within their communities.

This workshop is designed to build the resilience of teachers through;

1. Increasing the teachers' capacity and understanding to facilitate peacebuilding activities for their learners, fellow teachers, and schools.
2. Creating spaces for teachers and children to share their experiences of violence or conflict through play, music, drawing or any other means comfortable to them.
3. Increasing the resilience of participating teachers and children by providing positive role models and mentors.



You can read, below, a separate article on why its key for teachers to engage in peacebuilding

<https://www.rncommunities.org/blog/why-we-engage-primary-school-teachers-in-peacebuilding-work/>

At the end of the three days of training, the teachers had the following to say:

- This training has been an eye-opener to us on a way to establish CLCP-Labs within our schools and communities.
- The training was interesting and educative.
- The workshop was very educative, and lively, there was also active participation, and activities were also enjoyable.
- The workshop was well organized and conducted well, the activities were participant-centered and geared towards an understanding of concepts learned.
- All were quite educative and based on child teaching and parents-centered. To assist them in solving critical issues in their schools.
- Engaging, interactive, empowering, educative, and eye-opening.

Summary video of the April training;

[Highlight of the CLCP-Labs April Learning workshop](#)

Read the full report here- <https://www.rncommunities.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/CLCP-Labs-April-Report.pdf>

The next learning workshop will be held in the month of August and will bring together primary school teachers from Kajiado and Nairobi counties.

#### d) COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

On 5th May, Re-Imagining New Communities held a community dialogue with the residents of Kyatune Location, Mutomo sub-county in Kitui County. This dialogue was preceded by a series of meetings with the senior chief and community members.

The community dialogue held at the senior chief's camp in Mutomo brought together 15 key stakeholders from the community including four assistant chiefs, village administrators, community health workers, a community development officer, women group representative, youth representative, village elders, and faith leaders with an aim of discussing how they can solve some of the underlying issues affecting their community. The



leaders discussed common challenges facing their various localities, possible solutions, and what needs to be done to achieve the latter.

The key highlight was the need for capacity building and raising awareness on pertinent issues.

The key challenge facing Kyatune Location as identified and verified by the leaders is **substance abuse**. Other challenges include; Water, Gender-based violence, Violence against children, Food insecurity, Health, Unemployment, and Poverty.

These challenges also showed that there was a need for the community to collaborate with existing organizations in the community to mitigate some of the challenges and the essence of meaningful engagements build the capacity of the leaders to bring sustainable solutions in their community.



## e) OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

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### **i. Teenage Pregnancies and bodaboda riders**

The number of teenage pregnancies has been on the rise in the country. Bodaboda riders have been identified as some of the perpetrators of this menace

Read more;

<https://www.rncommunities.org/blog/bodaboda-riders-and-teenage-pregnancies-in-kenya-understanding-the-root-causes/>

### **ii. Effects of conflict on children.**

When conflict erupts, children are the most vulnerable. During clashes, children are left orphaned, separated from their families, or worse, they are among the many casualties and this leaves them very susceptible to child labor, sexual exploitation, or even child trafficking, thus resulting lasting effects. As an organization, the well-being of children is paramount. Protecting them physically, emotionally, psychologically, and/or mentally from harm is critical and must be prioritized.

Related articles;

<https://www.rncommunities.org/blog/children-in-conflict-areas-need-support/>

<https://www.rncommunities.org/blog/should-children-be-involved-in-political-demonstrations/>

To counter the effects of conflict, we have created safe spaces where children can talk about their fears using different forms of art, through CLCP-Labs and Teens 4 Peace. These programs mentor and support children into becoming active and responsible citizens.

We value inclusion which is why we emphasize supporting marginalized communities and providing opportunities where everybody's opinion is valued and individuals and communities are at the center of identifying and finding solutions to emerging issues.

So far, we have received heartwarming testimonials from the teachers, parents, and pupils as well.

Here are a few testimonials from our YouTube channel;

[https://youtu.be/yC0tdDsT\\_sU](https://youtu.be/yC0tdDsT_sU)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyllC4xtJL8>

<https://youtu.be/m1J-N8TLm1U>

<https://youtu.be/iHt5nfrrn6Y>

## f) NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS



### I. We One Action Network

In January, we welcomed We One Action Network as our first institutional partner.



### II. Central Synagogue

In April, Central Synagogue became our latest partner.

## CONCLUSION

The next half of the year will be instrumental in achieving our 2023 action plans and objectives.

Through continued collaboration, our work has the potential to impact many more communities. We also acknowledge efforts from other organizations and entities and believe that there is need for stronger partnership for everyone working within related areas so as to bridge any existing gaps.





## CONTACTS

[www.rncommunities.org](http://www.rncommunities.org)

Email: [hello@rncommunities.org](mailto:hello@rncommunities.org)

Office: + 254 705 644 947

+254 719 636 726 | +254 768 452 990