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Annual Report





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EXECUTIVE

Summary

Mr. Sahlim Charles



2023 stands out as a crucial year for Re-Imagining New Communities, marking a significant stride in fortifying our interventions, collaborations, and efforts to promote sustainable development while enhancing the capacity of various stakeholders. From the outset in January, our vision for the year was crystallized through the formulation of a comprehensive work plan. I am pleased to report that we successfully accomplished 75% of our outlined activities for 2023.

A noteworthy achievement was the implementation of the Children-Led Community Peace Labs learning workshops, a near-perfect initiative that positively impacted over 12 schools across five counties. Surpassing our initial expectations, we left a great mark on the lives of hundreds of children, teachers, parents, church leaders, and numerous

organizations. It is noteworthy that these accomplishments were realized with limited financial support, underscoring the remarkable commitment and passion demonstrated by our team.

Therefore, I extend sincere appreciation to our esteemed advisory board, our exceptional team, partners, and collaborators who played a pivotal role in making the accomplishments of 2023 possible. As we head into 2024, our focus pivots to laying the groundwork for infrastructural development, strengthening existing collaborations, and expanding our impact by cultivating new networks.

In conclusion, the collective effort of re-imagining possibilities has set the stage for an impactful 2024. Together, we look forward to amplifying our positive influence on communities and individuals alike.

REFLECTIONS

from **Noam Oren**

Member of the Advisory Board

As we depart from 2023, I find myself reflecting on the impactful experiences that have shaped the past 12 months. From a corner of the world far from my own, I had the privilege of learning about Re-Imagining New Communities and its inspiring mission to build stronger and more empowered communities. Upon meeting Sahlim, we forged an immediate connection, emphasizing the universal nature of his dedication to fostering community-led actions.

In the course of the year, I've witnessed Re-Imagining New Communities emerge as a powerhouse of initiative and hard work. The team's commitment extends beyond borders, with projects reaching outside of Nairobi, touching every facet of society. From supporting



youth development to empowering leaders, the organization's impact spans health, communication, documentation, peacebuilding, literacy, and more.

Despite the challenges that accompany transformative efforts, the prospect of Re-Imagining New Communities' growth and deepening impact in various fields is truly exciting. Every small contribution, however small, becomes a valuable part of their journey towards positive change.

As I close this chapter of the year, I want to express my gratitude for being a part of Re-Imagining New Communities' transformative journey. I look forward to continued collaboration and the unfolding of new stories in the coming year.

REFLECTIONS

from **Grace Wangari,**

CLCP-Labs Facilitator

It has been such an honor seeing the growth of Re-Imagining New Communities which started with a single program - Children Led Community Peace Labs in 2021.

Having impacted 16 children from across Nairobi settlements, the organization has extended its wings to various other counties supporting different groups but most importantly remaining committed to its transformative agenda



of supporting community schools in creating safe environment for its learners and communities around them.

2023 has been an exceptional year for the organization having trained and supported over 26 teachers from 12 schools and mentoring them to become active peacebuilders.

It has also been exciting to see that most of the participating schools have initiated peace labs in their schools.

About Re-Imagining New Communities



Re-Imagining New Communities is a visionary organization rooted in the belief that the strength of humanity lies in its ability to unite diverse communities. At the core of our mission is the commitment to fostering connections and sustainable partnerships through the transformative power of peacebuilding, cultural exchange, and meaningful conversations. We understand that transcending barriers—be they linguistic, racial, cultural, or stemming from differing worldviews—is essential for collaborative efforts to thrive

Our obligation is multi-faceted, guided by the belief that children's hearts are leaders in the pursuit of peace. We celebrate the kaleidoscope of voices within communities, recognizing the unique perspectives that each individual brings to the table. Through pioneering research, we seek to illuminate the hurdles that communities face, giving rise to waves of positive transformation that can reshape the landscape of collaboration.

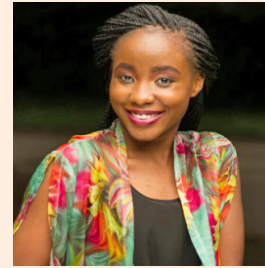
Meet the Team



Sahlim Charles
Executive Director



Grace Wendo
Administrative Manager



Janice Mshimba
Production Assistant



Laura Agwena
Communication Assistant



Eric Gisore
IT support



Grace Nduta
Program Volunteer

Meet the Advisory Board



Noam Oren



Grace Wangari



Paul Turner



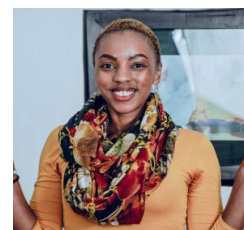
Dr. Felix Bivens



Pastor Bonface Makanda



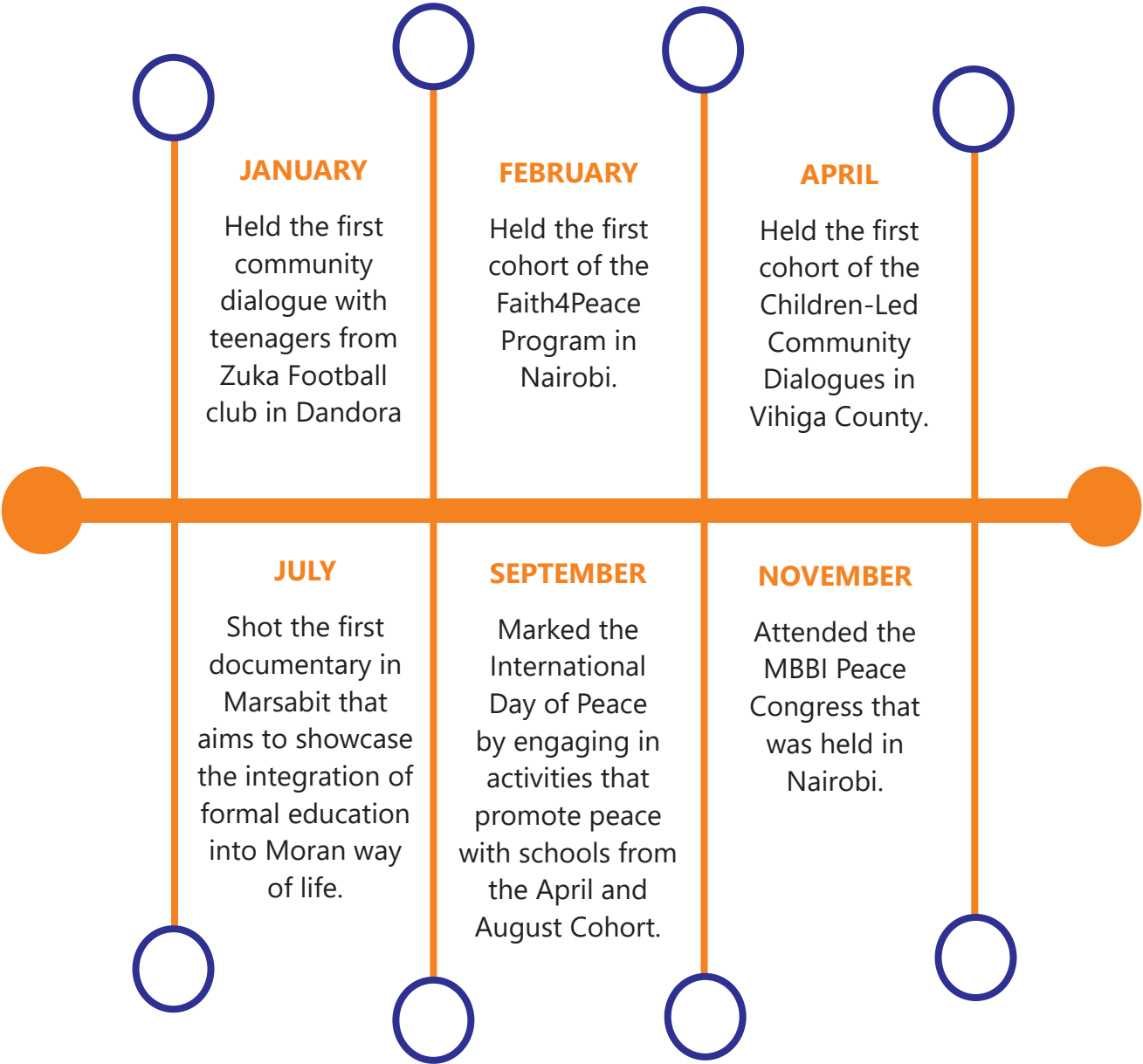
Gregory Ochieng Okumu



Mwhiki Mundia

Year in Review and Key Milestones

Looking back on the year, it's like seeing a colorful mix of different people, strengths, beliefs, and flourishing communities. Our work, built on the principles of getting along and understanding each other, have become even more clearer and visible.



PROGRAMS AND IMPACT

Children Led Community Peace Labs (CLCP-Labs)

The learning workshops offered invaluable experiences to teachers by providing them with tangible tools and profound insights through interactive sessions on conflict resolution, active communication, empathy-building, and culturally sensitive teaching, enabling the teachers to gain practical skills they can immediately apply within their schools and communities.

With financial support from [We One Action Network](#) and in collaboration with [Inua Village to Global Foundation](#) and GMI Church, Ongata Rongai, we successfully held three learning workshops of CLCP-Labs in Nairobi, Vihiga, Kakamega, and Uasin Gishu Counties.



Key Achievements from the Workshops

- Establishment of Peace Labs in the schools.
- Increased awareness on the needs of children.
- More cohesive engagement between the schools and their communities.
- Children's comprehension of conflict and peacebuilding.
- Participation in the International Day of Peace.



Transformations from the Children-Led Community Peace Labs;

April Cohort	August Cohort	November Cohort
Village to Global Achievers School – fosters harmony between and among teachers and learners through the skills learnt.	Shalom School Preparatory Education Center – established CLCP-Labs to enhance children collaboration and involvement in community development.	Shine Academy Education Center – aims to address students’ basic needs for overall well-being.
Vihiga Education City – promotes children leadership CLCP-Labs	Furaha Inua Global School is focused on anti-bullying rules and peacebuilding integration.	Korogocho Glory School envisions a violence – free environment through awareness and action plans
St. Patrick Education Center – implements activities that raises awareness on the violation of children’s rights.	Holy Trinity prioritizes implements activities that raises awareness on open communication for moral values.	Lucia Global School aims to addresses challenges like financial crisis, poor living standards, and violence.
Mukhunzlu Primary School is encouraging agricultural activities for peacebuilding and dropout prevention.	Beatrice Telewa Memorial School- set up CLCP-Labs to enhance guidance and counseling services.	Kibera Girls Soccer Academy’s aims to inspire, a peaceful society, tackling challenges like physical abuse and child labor through peer education and awareness campaigns.

For more details on the impact realized through the three learning workshops, please click the below links to read more:

[April Cohort](#)

[August Cohort](#)

[November Cohort](#)

Faith4peace

In Kenya, religious organizations and leaders play a pivotal role in fostering cohesion, harmony, and sustainable peace within communities. Recognizing the perceived neutrality of churches, a recent report underscores their potential to collaboratively bring about positive change and reconciliation. The Faith for Peace (Faith4Peace) Program, conducted in collaboration with Grace College in East Africa, is designed to enhance



the leadership skills and capacity of religious leaders. The program focuses on key aspects such as leadership, storytelling, conflict management, team building, and change management.

The training workshop, spanning two days, sought to deepen the understanding of 16 pastors and religious leaders on conflict resolution, mediation, create a shared understanding of the link between effective leadership and sustainable systems, and strengthen skills in storytelling and conflict detection. The workshop's success shone through in the overwhelmingly positive feedback, boasting an impressive 95% satisfaction rate ranging from very good to excellent. The hands-on approach, practical components, and the workshop's alignment with participants' needs underscored its effectiveness.



In summary, the Faith4Peace Program underscores the ongoing significance of sharing knowledge and fostering development among religious leaders. It recognizes the evolving

Read more, about this year's cohort, [Here](#)

Community Dialogues

Aim to empower communities by providing them with a space to actively participate in shaping conversations around their livelihood, development etc. The collaborative nature of these dialogues ensures that the diverse voices within the community are heard, contributing to a more inclusive and comprehensive approach to community building.

2023, the dialogues include;

Teenagers for Peace

"Who I am"

Re-Imagining New Communities responded to the tragic death of a 16-year-old boy due to mob justice by initiating interventions to bridge the generational gap and foster understanding among the youth. As part of intervention, we conducted one session with young footballers from the Zuka Football team in Dandora, Nairobi.



The focus was on helping understand the importance of conflict resolution, discipline, community and building cohesive team. The teenagers learnt this through an activity called "Who I Am," that gives an overview of their communities, highlighting social amenities, recreational spaces, insecurity issues, economic activities, and relationships with neighbors. Through this activity, the teenagers were able to highlight their neighborhoods in terms in safety and insecurity.

Teenagers gained great insights on self-awareness, conflict transformation and recognition of diversity. They also discovered varying family setups and backgrounds among their peers, as well as the challenges of being raised in volatile environments. The session enhanced their understanding of their communities and recognized opportunities for talent utilization.



In conclusion, the overarching message conveyed was that; **conflict can be resolved without resorting to violence, one doesn't to resort to petty theft to solve their**

problems and understanding one another is key to building a peaceful community.

Kyatune Community Dialogue

The community dialogue involved 15 stakeholders among them 5 chiefs, youth representatives, ward admin, CSOs among others, who explored underlying factors within their communities.

From the discussions, and learning, youth empowerment emerged as a priority by addressing substance abuse through mentorship and skill-based support. The complex challenges require collaborative efforts and strategic prioritization. Immediate action points included asset mapping to identify local resources and forming alliances with local stakeholders for effective problem-solving.

Read the full report [here](#)

Research (Literature reviews)

Resource Conflict.

Early this year, we delved into the critical issue of resource conflict in Kenya, particularly in arid and semi-arid lands heavily relying on natural resources. The study explores conflicts stemming from climate change, environmental degradation, population growth, migration, ethnic rivalry, and political instability. The research question focuses on the causes and consequences of resource conflict.

Study objectives include analyzing historical, political, socio-economic, and environmental factors contributing to conflicts, examining stakeholder roles and interests, assessing impacts on human security and livelihoods, and exploring prevention and resolution mechanisms. The literature review highlights the colonial legacy, post-independence land policies, ethnic rivalries, population growth, climate change, and natural resource extraction as key contributors to conflicts.

In summary, the report emphasizes the need for a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted causes and consequences of resource conflict in Kenya and advocates for sustainable and inclusive approaches to prevention and resolution.



Teenage Pregnancies.

In September, the we conducted a comprehensive literature review on teenage pregnancy in Kenya, emphasizing its global context, prevalence, and implications for health, education, and socio-economic outcomes. Approximately 15% of Kenyan women aged 15-19 experience pregnancy or childbirth, with regional variations, noted in counties like Kakamega, Samburu, West Pokot, and Marsabit, exploring causes and risk factors such as poverty, lack of education, early marriage, sexual violence, cultural norms, and peer pressure.

Data analysis uses the 2022 KDHS report to explore teenage pregnancy rates by county, demographic characteristics, and socio-economic factors. The literature review provides a foundation for nuanced exploration, encompassing historical, cultural, socio-economic, and policy dimensions.

The team aims to conduct interviews in Kakamega to gather more community perspectives, evaluate local policies, and tailor evidence-based recommendations for targeted interventions in the region. By engaging local stakeholders, we seek to uncover insights that contribute to addressing teenage pregnancy in Kenya comprehensively.

Communicating For Communities

Inua Village to Global Foundation

Re-Imagining New Communities provided support to Inua Village to Global Foundation in addressing their communication, branding, and campaign requirements. This assistance involved strengthening communication strategies through capacity-building sessions. The foundation's impact is now more effectively showcased, thanks to our collaboration.



Utugi Angels Community

Re-Imagining New Communities supported [Utugi Angels Community](#) by providing communication consulting services, amplifying outreach, and supporting advocacy efforts. Our collaboration ensured clear communication of the organizations' goals. This partnership enhances Utugi Angels Community's capacity to effectively convey its mission to a wider audience.



[Utugi Angels Community](#) is a registered non-profit organization that focuses on empowering individuals with special needs through a holistic approach. Their services span nutrition, healthcare, safety, psychosocial wellness, education, livelihood, cottage industries, environmental care, food conservation, and advocacy. They've positively impacted over 920 children and adults with special needs.

Impart Change

Re-Imagining New Communities conducted a self-awareness and conflict management training for 15 young women affiliated to [Impart Change](#). The session empowered participants with valuable tools for personal growth, resilience, and effective navigation of challenging conversations.



Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Technology (L.E.T.) Bootcamp.

For the second year, Re-Imagining New Communities partnered with [Steering for Greatness Foundation](#) in convening the annual Bungoma Bootcamp that brings together school and out of school youth to learn about leadership entrepreneurship and how to leverage technology for their personal and community development.



CONFERENCES, TRAININGS AND SEMINARS ATTENDED

Content Creation and SDGS Training

The two-day interactive sessions on content creation and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), hosted by Gamboribus (vi) oxide brought significant benefits to the Re-Imagining New Communities. The training deepened our team's understanding of the SDGs, providing a solid foundation for aligning our initiatives with global sustainability goals. The emphasis on content creation skills equipped the team with practical tools for effective communication in their peacebuilding efforts.



The training provided inspiration, innovative approaches, implementable ideas, and a hands-on approach to problem-solving, fostering a creative mindset within the team, a holistic toolkit to elevate and invigorate the organization's peacebuilding initiatives.

Institute of Economics and Peace



Through the Ambassadors Program, two of members gain access to the Institute of Economics and Peace's wealth of expertise and knowledge in the field of economics and peace. This knowledge transfer equips Re-Imagining New Communities with a deeper understanding of the economic factors influencing peace, enhancing their capacity to address complex issues within communities.

Kuza Amani Fellowship

The fellows program offered by the International Centre for Peace, Human Rights and Development in Africa (IPHRD) and One Tribe is poised to bring significant benefits to its fellows.

The fellowship offers a unique opportunity for the Re-Imagining New Communities team to engage with a diverse group of 25 young peacebuilders from Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan, and Nigeria.

The participation of Grace Wendo, our Admin Manager, in the fellowship program not only expands her knowledge and skills but also opens avenues for collaboration, cross-cultural learning, and the exchange of innovative ideas. This collective



experience positions Re-Imagining New Communities to elevate its peacebuilding efforts, fostering a more impactful and sustainable impact within the communities it serves.

Mediators Beyond Borders International Peace Congress

Participating in MBBI's International Peace Congress offered Re-Imagining New Communities a unique chance to broaden perspectives, learn from global experts, and collaborate on addressing the profound impacts of identity, belonging, and migration. This event enriched our toolkit for effective peacebuilding in diverse, dynamic contexts.



The Moth

The annual event hosted by Adele Onyango, gathered a global community to share stories on vulnerability, cultural norms and careers, becoming, and maturity. The event was held at the Catholic University of East Africa.



Andishi Africa Annual Dinner

The dinner brought together African and Children's literature enthusiasts to celebrate the diversity of storytelling, shared passions for literacy and positive change. Re-Imagining New Communities was represented by Grace Wendo.



ACCORD Youth Dialogue

The dialogue themed, Youth Building Peace: Highlighting Best Practices in Youth, Peace and Security at the YouthConnekt Africa Summit gathered young people from across East and West Africa to discuss their countries' National Action Plans for Youth, Peace and Security. They drew valuable insights from delegations from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria, who shared their experiences and best practices in implementing similar plans.



Regional Peer Learning Exchange on Conflict Related for Youth in the Horn of Africa.

A two-day regional Peer to Peer Learning Exchange on Conflict-related Trauma on Youth in the Horn of Africa organized by IPHRD, brought together youth from Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Somalia. Re-Imagining New communities' Executive Director Sahlim Charles, explored the Relationship between unhealed trauma and cycles of violence, and its detrimental effects on individuals and communities during a panel discussion. IPHRD is exploring ways to build upon the success of this exchange and support ongoing peer-to-peer learning initiatives in the region.



Well-being Immersion Workshop

Re-Imagining New Communities participated and benefited from the Well-being Immersion Workshop organized by Mindful African Initiative and its partners. The workshop focused on educators'; self-awareness, capacity to provide emotional support to learners and explored breath-taking techniques for wholesome wellbeing.

Youth Religion and Mediation Course 2023

Sahlim Charles, Executive director was one of the 17 global leaders that took part in the Youth Religion and Mediation Course, by the Network for Traditional Mediators and religious peacemakers. The course took place both online and in person; the in-person training was held in Helsinki, Finland.



COLLABORATORS AND PARTNERS



We One Action
Network



Central Synagogue



Euphrates Institute



United States
Institute of Peace



Macondo Book
Society



Inua Village to
Global Foundation



Utugi Angels
Community



Impart Change



The Grace College
of East Africa



Glory Ministries International
– Ongata Rongai

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL REPORT

This year, we received financial support that significantly impacted our work from



[We One Action Network,](#)



[Central Synagogue,](#)



[Euphrates Institute,](#)



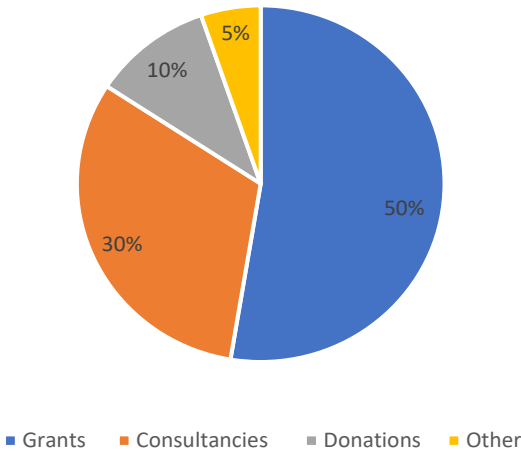
[Gregory Ochieng](#)



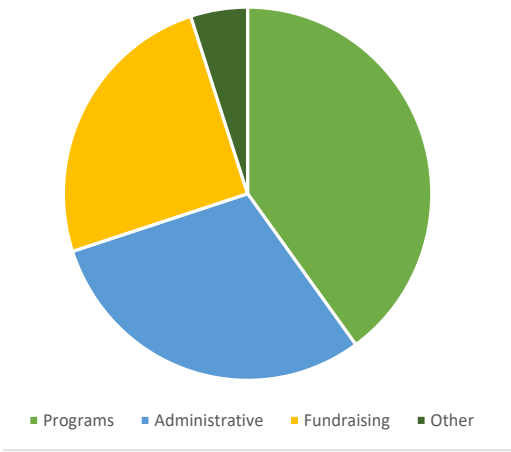
and [Ilan Bass](#)

We also provided consultancies in the areas of communication and project management to several organizations.

Financial Report



USE OF FUNDS



FOCUS AREAS FOR 2024

Children-Led Community Peace Labs

- Conduct two learning workshops with the capacity of 10 teachers in each cohort.
- Conduct a Trainer of Trainers.
- Engage participants from previous cohorts and enthusiasts in monthly virtual learning sessions.
- Support members of CLCP Lab's in each school.

Participatory Action Research

- Conduct research on the role of parents in child evangelism.
- Conclude the research on teenage pregnancy in Kakamega.

Faith4Peace

- Develop a comprehensive curriculum.
- Train, support and mentor at least 500 pastors and religious leaders.
- Conduct a minimum of 3 leadership workshops in Kakamega, Mombasa and Nairobi.

Communicating for Communities

- Continue supporting grassroots organizations in their efforts to foster development in their communities through capacity-building pieces of training on communication skills and documentation.
- Seek collaboration with more grassroots organizations that offer mutual benefit to the organization.

Community Dialogues

- Hold 4 community dialogues in Kakamega, Vihiga, Nairobi, and Mombasa with teachers, farmers, local administrations, and religious leaders.

WITH GRATITUDE

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one who played a part in supporting Re-Imagining New Communities throughout the incredible endeavors and adventures of 2023.

Your unwavering support—whether through intellectual contributions, kind gestures, or monetary assistance—has been the driving force propelling us forward. It's your tireless efforts and belief in our vision that have brought us to this point, and for that, we are truly grateful.

Let's celebrate the collective achievements and the shared commitment to making our vision a reality.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

Asante!



CONTACTS

www.rncommunities.org

Email: hello@rncommunities.org

Office: + 254 705 644 947

+254 719 636 726 | +254 768 452 990