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## 2023 ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

**REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION PROGRAMS.**

**JANUARY 2023 – DECEMBER 2023**

**Empowering Children, Youth, Girls and Young Women!**

## **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS**

SCDO	- Strategic Community Development Organization
CYW	- Children, Youth and Women
GYW	- Girls and Young Women
CR	- Child Rights
CRC	- Child Rights Club
CC	- Climate Change
COP 26	- Conference OF Parties 26
CBOs	- Community Based Organizations
MCCRN	- Mombasa County Children Rights Network
GBV	- Gender Based Violence
DAC	- Day OF The African Child
GCE	- Girl Child Education
CRVPF	- Children rights prevention fund
PFR	- Parenting for Respectability
VSLA	- Village savings and loans association



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## **DETAILED SCDO 2023 NARRATIVE REPORT.**

SCDO implemented the activities aimed at protecting the Rights of Children, Youth and Women (CYW) in the society through enhancing CYW empowerment on self-reliance, resiliency and social/economic advancement and improved advocacy on child rights/ well-being protection.

The primary strategic pillars of this implementation plan are;

### **1. CHILDREN RIGHTS AND CHILD PROTECTION**

To improve community involvement and responsiveness in Child Rights and child protection issues through positive parenting with a focus on youth mothers.

### **2. YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND WELL BEING**

To improve youth's self-reliance and independency by mentoring those to boost their career pathways and steer them to the right career based on their skills and also promoting collaborative learning in the community.

### **3. GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

To enhance leadership and governance through increased women and girl's participation in vetting of leaders and providing an enabling environment for youth contribution in the governance.

### **4. RESEARCH,CONSULTANCY AND NETWORKING**

To enhance strategic partnership and networking with like-minded organizations in matters regarding child protection and women empowerment.

## **STRATEGIC PILLAR 1: TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND RESPONSIVENESS IN CHILD RIGHTS AND CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES THROUGH POSITIVE PARENTING WITH A FOCUS ON YOUTH MOTHERS.**

### **1.1 Child rights club formation**

SCDO secured funding from CRVPF on prevention of violence against children where we are implementing as a cluster with other two organizations: Kenya Alliance for Advancement of children Rights (KAACR) and Candle Light empowerment Kenya (CLEK) in Kanamai sub location Kilifi County, and we are focused on working with the schools around to form more child rights clubs in schools. SCDO has been working with other local partners and office of the area MCA Shanzu ward in ensuring children rights are protected. SCDO and partners has also worked closely with the school management committees in advocating for good a good school environment in schools. As a result we have trained 10 teachers two each from the five project schools in Kanami on the good school manual, who will in turn train other teachers, non-teaching staff and the children.

### **1.2 Children and Climate Change**

Climate change plays a key role due to the current global warming effects. SCDO mnaged to partner with the women empowerment fund and ST joseph primary school in kanamai where we had a tree

planting session during the international Day of the girl child. We managed to plant 100 trees at Kanamai.

### **1.3 Child participation in International Children Days**

Strategic Community Development Organization, The Office of The MCA Shanzu Ward and other partners the New Dawn Youth Africa and We Inspire Africa together held the Day of The African Child Celebrations in Acapulco Shanzu to remind the community of the importance of the African child, and celebrate the African child through holding an open air celebration event.

The community parents, neighboring school going children and out of school children were well represented in the event, the office of the MCA with the MCA being the representative thanked the people of Shanzu ward for turning up welcomed SCDO and its partners asking them to work with and for the people, SCDO and its the partners took the opportunity to reflect on the theme of the days celebration 'The rights of a child in digital Environment' and educate the community and the children of the importance of understanding and respecting the Childs rights and more so in the digital world where most children are subjected to cyberbullying. parents were asked to be keen in understanding what their information their children are being expose to in the digital platforms as the children were urged to report any rights violation cases to their parents and or teachers, the organization then appreciated the girl child for their positive response and participating in the days event via giving out sanitary towels to them



### **1.4 PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

SCDO being part of the Kilifi cluster has been able to carry out various project activities on prevention of violence against children including:

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Parental for Respectability is a five module program set to improve parenting in the communities, the program is inclusive as it applies to both parents, it focuses on correct and proper ways which parents should use in upbringing of children. SCDO members together with other stakeholders and partners were trained by CRVPF facilitators and program coordinators on skills to be used in training of community facilitators who with the help of organization members are to implement the program in the community. Parents selected to train other parents in their own community as Community Based Facilitators received a five day training at Bamburi Beach Hotel. Strategic Community Development Organization, under Kilifi Cluster with other organizations held a five day training of the CBF's to be trained on positive parenting and also hold weekly reflective sessions in the community groups on the same, the training is under the CRVPF which aims to Creating safe environments in homes, school and communities for the agency and resilience of children and adolescents in Kanamai Mtwapa, Kilifi County Kenya.

The Parental For Respectability (PFR) is a parenting 5 module developed by the Center for Transformative Parenting (CTP) group in Uganda which funds the Child Rights Violence Prevention Fund (CRVPF) a project being carried out in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. SCDO works with candle light and KAARC (lead organization) as a cluster in carrying out this project in five villages (Mjengo Mapya, Majengo Central, Barani, Maweni and Mabambani) in Kanamai Kilifi County, the cluster had earlier received a training on the first three module of parenting which then the cluster members taught the parents facilitators to pass the same knowledge to the parents, the first training was carried out at the end of January 2023 for 5 days, the cluster then resumed for a second training on the end of July to complete the remaining 2 modules.

SCDO and other two organizations (candlelight for empowerment& KAACR) which form the kilifi-PVAC cluster conducted a two day training of School-going children on the safe environment for them, the training was held at Barani primary where a field officer from SCDO and other partner organizations were present to help the teachers who were training the students, earlier on, the organization officers had been trained and later trained the teachers who are supposed to train student, the aim of the training is to ensure leaners are aware of their environment both at school at home and while on their way to and from school, this will then enable them to know dangerous places to avoid and the types of dangers and what to do when found in a dangerous place. The greater picture is to ensure violence against children is minimized and even stopped thus the leaners need to be educated so that they can know the types of violence the perpetrators and what to do in case one is violated. The training involved a representative from the five schools that are taking part in the prevention of violence against children project in Kanamai.

SCDO project officer and the team leader among other Kilifi PVAC cluster members accompanied DR Godfrey for a 2-day field visit to different villages in Kanamai where the project is being conducted, to monitor how the CBF's are carrying out the facilitation sessions and also to get parents reviews on the project its strengths and where it can be strengthened as well as the challenges being experienced at a community level. All the parents appreciated the project, and it was seen that the CBF's are doing a commendable job, the parents asked for the project to be prolonged in order to realize more positive impact.

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*Children participating in PVAC activities in Kananmai*



Children in Child Rights Clubs giving their views on policy matters and issues affecting them

**STRATEGIC PILLAR 2: TO IMPROVE YOUTH'S SELF-RELIANCE AND INDEPENDENCY BY MENTORING THEM TO BOOST THEIR CAREER PATHWAYS AND STEER THEM TO THE RIGHT CAREER BASED ON THEIR SKILLS AND ALSO PROMOTING COLLABORATIVE LEARNING IN THE COMMUNITY.**

### **2.1 Media advocacy**

SCDO managed to partner with other local youth organizations and have been able to carry out different media advocacy online on different issues including World menstruation day and on international Day against child labor. We have been able to do different media advocacy on our social media platforms conveying different advocacy messages.

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## 2.2 Mentorship

SCDO conducted a capacity building on young girls and women on negative gender norms in the society. The aim of the training was to equip and challenge young girls to stand against negative gender norms in the community and fight for spaces like leadership, GBV and teen pregnancies.

SCDO being one of the implementing partners in the CRVPF project which covers three dimensions which are children in school, children out of school and parents. SCDO with the other implementing managed to train the out of school adolescent leaders on life skills to the ten out of skill mentors. The mentors are carrying out weekly sessions with the other out of school adolescents.

## 2.3 LAUNCH OF GENDER CHAMPIONS

SCDO launched the gender champions on the 25th march 2023 at Makadara Teaching and Referral Hospital-Utange, this is after the champions successfully completed the training which has been in progress for the last one year the aim of the training was to ensure gender equality by raising awareness cases of gender norms and gender stereotyping. The chief Guest was the Mjambere MCA who promised to work with the organization and the champions in successfully ensuring the project implementation. The champions were awarded with a certificate and a reflector jacket to be used in the community during the implementation of the project.



*Launch of gender Champions held in Shanzu*



**STRATEGIC PILLAR 3: TO ENHANCE LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE THROUGH INCREASED WOMEN AND GIRL'S PARTICIPATION IN VETTING OF LEADERS AND PROVIDING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR GIRL'S CONTRIBUTION IN THE GOVERNANCE.**

### **3.1 Safe Circle discussions**

20 GYWs attended and participated in the safe circle discussions that were held in the office. 5 of these GYWs are teen mothers, 1 out of the 5 has continued with her education. They were mentored on positive parenting, understanding the importance of parent- child relationship and the importance of school continuation.

The GYWs were also trained on the rights and responsibilities of children, the importance of promoting and protecting child rights.

SCDO has continued to hold safe space discussions with girls from Shanzu where young girls are given opportunities to discuss and provide solutions to their problems. We also mentor the girls on matters gender equality and fighting for their rights.

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As TWG on SGBV, we held a meeting to discuss safe guarding of girls and women, strategies on how to cover hotspot area already identified and identify front line workers in case of abuse during the election. A work plan was rollout on the same

## 2 Leadership

The team leader managed to be chosen and join the UNESCO youth forum in Kenya. Which is a forum involving young leaders under UNESCO in Kenya. This provides a learning and interactive opportunity with other young leaders all over Kenya.

SCDO paid a visit to the office of the MCA as part of its objective to lobby with leaders and seek for opportunity and position to work with the leaders in Utange Shanzu, the visit was meant to introduce the organization to the MCA's Office as the organization had recently changed its location so as to inform the MCA's office of the organization and its activities in fighting for gender equality and the rights of Women Youth and Children, the organization representative discussed several issues with the MCA including how the two can work together to help the community members and it was agreed they begin by holding the Day of the African Child celebrations jointly as a starting point and also as an information to the community of the two parties working together.



### 3.4 Collaboration

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SCDO has been working together with NEW DAWN YOUTH AFRICA and office of the area chief Shanzu in combating the issue of climate change which has been on the rise, as a result we managed to plant 20 trees at the area chiefs office.

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SCDO also managed to partner with ST Joseph school and office of the women enterprise fund during the international day of the girl child which was held in ST Joseph school kanamai, we managed to plant more than 100 trees. Kilifi PVAC cluster, a cluster within which SCDO is a member conducted a stakeholders meeting to inform the stakeholders of the current steps the project has taken in the community where the implementation of the project has reached and the way forward of the project with the time of implementation nearing the end, the stakeholders were also asked to relay their inputs on the project first on if they feel there is any change within their communities, and what they feel can be done in order to realize more positive changes and what can be added to better the implementation of the project, the members agreed there is some positive change although they feel more will be realized if the project took a longer period of implementation, the stakeholders also urged the project to involve the stakeholders more and the reports from the activities to be also shared with them for their reporting and documentation.

**SCDO managed to attend KAACR'S AGM meeting and also registered as KAACR members for the year 2024.**

Strategic Community Development Organization partnered with KAACR and the She Leads movement to participate in a walk as a way of starting off the 16 days of activism against GBV. The Organization and partners held the walk from white house in Mshomoroni to Junda with community members, gender champions, she leads movement girls and the organization members, who all sensitized the message of equality and an end to GBV in the society, the procession then reached Junda in a church where the community had an opportunity to listen to the local leaders, and heads of the organizations as well as one of the donors, every member who spoke urged the community to be vigilant in fighting for equality in the society as well as the abolishment of the societal norms which are biased and male dominance, the 16 days of activism is celebrated worldwide from the 25th of November to the 10th of December and is centered mainly to fight GBV cases in the society. this being a major area of concern among the area of work in SCDO, the organization thus had to ensure it is well represented in the function and that then community members are well informed on the cases of GBV and how one can be of help to either prevent, stop occurrence and also relevant places to report.



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*She Leads project Annual Walk to sensitize the community on GBV and the girl power*



Meeting with women leaders at the assembly



Education day with Mombasa Governor AbdulSwamad

### **3.5 Celebration of international days**

SCDO has partnered with different organizations in celebrating various international days including, world women day, international day against child labor, and day of the African child, world education Day, international youth day, world menstrual day and international day of the Girl child.

SCDO with a representatives of the Gender Champions held an impromptu activity to celebrate the world against Child Labor at Good Hope Children's Home in Utange, the Team leader and the rest of the teams visited the Children's Home in the afternoon with an aim of educating the Children on their rights and the difference between child labor and their duties and responsibilities. The members available were informed of the duties and responsibilities of children and its importance and also what child labor is and its effects, from the crowds response it was seen that child labor exists in Utange where most children are asked by their parents not to attend school but help them in earning a living to take care of the younger siblings, in some cases girls had to do hard labor to find little coins for their necessities like sanitary towels, lack of knowledge, irresponsible parenting and poverty is the main cause as per the crowds response, the members were asked to take photos with advocacy messages after which sanitary it's were issued to all of them with the boys being asked to take the same to their sisters or friends.

SCDO joined other organizations in celebrating the International Women's day at mwakirunge in Mombasa. The theme being DIGITAL innovation and technology for gender equality, where women were encouraged to embrace digital and technology ways in conducting their daily activities such as trading and communication so as to be able to achieve gender equality and have equal opportunities as everyone in the digital world.

SCDO and other CSO's as well as the office of the governor of Mombasa participated in the celebration of the Mombasa County education day, with the theme being to offer quality education for leaners empowerment through digital transformation , good preforming schools were awarded and different leaders used the opportunity to encourage students on the importance of education and discipline as well as raise awareness of the challenges students and teachers face such as most students abusing drugs and

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joining gangs in the community, however most students were congratulated for their good behavior and innovativeness in education with those partaking in robotics urged to carry on and represent the county well in the next level robotics and innovative technology competitions.

The International Youth Day was celebrated on the 12th of August at the county offices grounds in Mombasa where the county government leaders led by the Governor, different stakeholders and CSO's joined the Youths of Mombasa in celebrating their day, with the leaders urging youths to keep peace in the county as most insecurity issues are associated with the youths, they also urged the youths to be innovative and appreciate the digital platforms in creating jobs and seeking for jobs, the youths through the youth representatives, urged the current governor to continue with the then governor's plan of helping the youths through the Mombasa youth funds, saying the funds has enabled the youths to set businesses but since it was stopped many have suffered.

SCDO also partnered with Stretchers Youth Organization, Her Narrative, Swahili pot hub and the county government of Mombasa on commemorating the World menstrual Day on 28/05/23 at Swahili pot hub Mombasa. Different young people and stakeholders came together in commemorating this special day with the theme being making menstruation a normal factor by 2030.

SCDO, the office of the County Government; Kilifi, and other partners joined together with young girls to celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child at St Joseph Foundation Kanamai-Kilifi. The theme being 'our time is now our rights our future' local leaders and women leaders in various organizations and institution urged the girls to work hard be disciplined so as to achieve it in life. young girls had an opportunity to interact with influential women in the society and national government such as one of the directors of WEF ambassador sophy, who urged the girls it is their time to learn they will then become ladies then a woman and finally a mother, girls were told to use the opportunities they have to become successful as most women have made it and success is not only for men, they were urged to combat community issues as they grow up such as poverty and climate change, in conjunction to this they had an opportunity to plant trees as a step to begin combating society problems



*Hon Mishi Mboko speaking to journalists during the International Women's Day Celebration*

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## **STRATEGIC PILLAR 4: TO ENHANCE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND NETWORKING WITH LIKE-MINDED ORGANIZATIONS IN MATTERS REGARDING CHILD PROTECTION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT.**

### **4.1 Participatory monitoring of Child Rights implementation**

SCDO worked through Mombasa County Child Rights Network (MCCRN) to encourage and mobilize the community members to participate in public participations meetings on child rights protection and promotion.

MCCRN continues to raise concern on the lack of awareness on children's rights and urged SCDO among Other CBOs to create more empowerment and advocacy sessions on child rights.

Through MCCRN SCDO supported and participated in the Kenya Children Assembly revival where children had an opportunity to elect their leaders who will represent them in airing their issues.

SCDO also managed to attend KAACR'S national workshop in Nairobi at Jacaranda hotels as part of KAACR partners, we also managed to register as KAACR members. This platform creating a learning and fundraising network for us as an organization.

Kilifi PVAC cluster, a cluster within which SCDO is a member conducted a stakeholders meeting to inform the stakeholders of the current steps the project has taken in the community where the implementation of the project has reached and the way forward of the project with the time of implementation nearing the end, the stakeholders were also asked to rely their inputs on the project first on if they feel there is any change within their communities, and what they feel can be done in order to realize more positive changes and what can be added to better the implementation of the project, the members agreed there is some positive change although they feel more will be realized if the project took a longer period of implementation, the stakeholders also urged the project to involve the stakeholders more and the reports from the activities to be also shared with them for their reporting and documentation.

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## **4.2 Children, Youth and Women (CYW)online protection**

SCDO team leader attended a meeting organized by KAACR on OCSEA. Online child sexual exploitation has been on the rise thus the need to work around child online sexual exploitation and coming up with measures to combat the same.

### **Challenges during the period**

1. Late disbursement of funding from the donors has been a big challenge especially in meeting our admin and other costs making us closed own for a while due to lack of funds.
2. Being a young organization, SCDO fully relies on grants. Project implementation was hampered due to less funding making it hard to cover core costs.
3. Climate change has stood in our way when it comes to implementation of our programs in the community starting from the famine and later floods which caused havoc in Mombasa County, this led to us not having constant numbers in our mentorship sessions.
4. The economic crisis in our country has affected us a great deal with the level of inflation and high cost of living which has also been challenging for us in meeting our organizational needs.
5. Lack of financial, legal and counselling services to cases on GBV and mental health since as a growing organization with limited funds we are not in a capacity to and there is need in the community.

### **Major achievements**

1. SCDO managed to launch our gender champions in March whom we have been training especially on matters gender. The gender champions will take the issue on gender equality to the community and also enhance other community members.
2. SCDO managed to create a good working relationship with office of the area MCA whom we carry out community activities together and also able to share other opportunities with our young people.
3. Rising interest of participation and volunteer presented by young people from the area around due to the commitment and work we do in the community.
4. SCDO managed to finalize on its organizational documents and now have our house in order with the required documentations in place.
5. SCDO with the kilifi cluster members has successfully completed our first year implementation of the PVAC project in Kanamai and are now working on continuation of the project for the second year.
6. SCDO managed to secure a small funding from KAACR as a result of the SHELEADS project where we are implementing a four month program on MSICHAN ELIMIKA JIINUE program in the community.
7. SCDO managed to host some donors from the Government of Canada courtesy of CREA in our office where they advised us to work on our financial systems which will make it easier for us to receive funding from donor when we have our financial systems in place.

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## Photo Gallery



*Working with the local administration to enhance climate knowledge to the community*



*Planting trees to mitigate climate change in the community*

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*Parenting for Respectability training*



*A visit from Canadian Embassy and Care International*



*A visit from Canadian Embassy and Care International at our offices in Shanzu*

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*Partnership with Swahili Pot*



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