

DADA DIARIES

Monthly Newsletter

We're back with another edition of Dada Diaries, bringing you the latest updates and inspiring stories. Let's take a look at what's new and exciting in the journey toward empowering girls and women.

HOW Ksh.3000 COULD CHANGE LIVES

A Little Goes A Long Way...

Your Weekend	Her Term
 Coffee	 Sanitary Pads
 Tickets	 Bar of Soap
 Fast food	 Underwear
 Cab Fare	 Towel
 Slippers	
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Transform a Life with Just a Small Act of Kindness
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TEEN & YOUNG MUMS ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PILOT PROJECT



Did you know that the cost of your weekend plans could transform a girl's entire school term? For just Ksh. 3,000, you can provide a Dignity Pack that helps keep girls in school, confident, and focused on their education

GENERATION PARLIAMENT



A DIFFERENT TYPE OF LOVE

A Different type of Love

Love is.....**Dignity**
Love is.....**Advocacy**
Love is.....**Support**
Love is.....**Action**
Love is.....**Education**
Love is.....**Empowerment**

Love is more than words. It's what we do.
Let's create a world where every girl is safe and empowered.

This Valentines LOVE differently .Support A Dada Today

Love goes beyond words; it's reflected in the actions we take to make a difference

Teen & Young Mums Economic Empowerment Pilot Project

In June 2024, the Inua Dada Foundation partnered with the Korogocho Community to launch a six-month Teen and Young Mums Economic Empowerment Pilot Project. This initiative aimed to empower thirty teenage and young mothers (ages 20-24) by equipping them with skills to upcycle waste materials into marketable products. The project emphasized creating sustainable income opportunities, promoting environmental sustainability, and building entrepreneurial skills among participants. The key activities included workshops on upcycling, mentorship, product development, and community engagement.

Objectives

- Provide Economic Empowerment:** Offer teenage and young mothers a sustainable source of income through the sale of upcycled products.
- Promote Environmental Sustainability:** Reduce waste in the Korogocho community by converting it into useful items.
- Enhance Skills and Capacity Building:** Train participants in upcycling techniques, business management, and product marketing.



Despite successfully identifying and selecting participants, facilitators, and a project lead, certain activities did not happen according to the agreed work plan due to the following reasons:

- Market Access and Digital Training – Logistical and resource challenges delayed the implementation of the market access digital training sessions.
- Community Fair and Exhibition – due to insufficient raw materials collected by the participants, there were not enough finished products to display.

The following activities were partially completed.

- Upcycling Workshops: Six (6) sessions had been planned; however, only one session was conducted due to scheduling and financial challenges.
- Mentoring and Counselling Sessions: These sessions were to take place throughout the project. However, only one session was held as it depended on other activities that were not conducted



Challenges Faced

Resource Mobilization – budgetary constraints and insufficient raw materials by the participants challenged the full realization of the project.

Communication Challenges - Timely communication challenges impeded effective planning and coordination, leading to delays and cancellation of some activities.

Team Selection – Better and more professional sourcing and selection of project facilitators and qualified community social workers who actually work with teen mums on a regular basis and are conversant with their cases.

Lessons Learned And Recommendations

Teen mums normally face unique challenges that require comprehensive support to help them rebuild their lives.

1. **Economic Empowerment Programs:** Vocational training, entrepreneurship workshops, and small business grants can equip them with skills to achieve financial independence.
2. **Educational Support:** Back-to-school scholarships and flexible learning options, such as evening classes and online courses, enable them to continue their education while caring for their children.
3. **Mentorship and Psychosocial Support Services:** These provide guidance, emotional resilience, and a sense of community.
4. **Childcare Services:** Access to affordable childcare services allows teen mothers to pursue education or employment without additional burdens.
5. **Health Education:** Health and reproductive rights education ensures they make informed decisions about their well-being.
6. **Partnerships:** Collaborations with organizations and government agencies can create sustainable pathways for their reintegration into society.

Conclusion

A holistic approach, combining education, economic empowerment, and emotional support, is key to helping teen mothers regain confidence and secure a stable future for themselves and their children is still a very real need, and Inua Dada Foundation continues to explore partnerships, resources and projects to incorporate a Teen Mum's project in its mainstream activities.



Youth Advocacy: Generation Parliament Sustaining the Momentum

In 2024, Inua Dada Foundation in partnership with the **United Nations Foundation**, launched a six-month youth advocacy network project dubbed “Generation Parliament Sustaining the Momentum”, aiming to equip about forty (40) university going students with essential advocacy skills, focusing on key concepts such as Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and digital advocacy.

Participants were selected from two institutions in Nairobi to build their capacity in responding to GBV and SRHR cases. At the **University of Nairobi (UoN)**, students were chosen from the Schools of Medicine, Law, Sociology, and Journalism. At the **United States International University (USIU)**, the selected students came from the Faculties of Criminology, Psychology and International relations. The cohort was additionally made up of students from various economic backgrounds, refugee students and persons with disability.

The launch of the project was held on **July 26th, 2024**, at the Pride Inn Hotel in Nairobi with 39 students (32 female & 7 male) attending the training. Various facilitators engaged the participants in topics such as SRHR, GBV, storytelling in advocacy, and building movements. These topics are crucial for bringing people together to advocate for important causes effectively.



Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights



Gender Based Violence



Storytelling in advocacy



Building movements.

Inua Dada Foundation over the next six months, involved the students in online training and reviewing its advocacy toolkit. The goal was to revamp the toolkit to address relevant issues and provide updated advocacy guidelines, ensuring it remains a valuable resource for ongoing and future advocacy efforts.

LESSONS LEARNED

- 1. Co-Creation Enhances Relevance:** Actively involving students in developing tools and activities ensures outputs are meaningful, practical, and reflective of their experiences.
- 2. Inclusivity is Critical:** Designing projects that include students with disabilities and underrepresented groups leads to more comprehensive and impactful outcomes.
- 3. Capacity Building Drives Sustainability:** Equipping participants with practical advocacy skills ensures they can continue addressing challenges independently.
- 4. Safe Spaces Foster Engagement:** Providing supportive environments encourages open dialogue on sensitive issues, enhancing participation and effectiveness.
- 5. Partnerships Strengthen Sustainability:** Long-term collaborations with universities and local organizations ensure continuity and scalability of project outcomes.



Challenges Faced

The students felt that the below listed topics were not adequately discussed, and steps have been taken to include the same within the toolkit and future learning sessions:

1. **Male Role in GBV and SRHR:** Several comments from the students indicated that the role of males in addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) was not adequately covered.
2. **Menstruation Safety:** A few participants suggested that more focus should be given to menstruation safety.
3. **Disability and GBV/SRHR:** There was a mention of including discussions on disability in the context of GBV and SRHR.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations for Future Training were made as below:

1. Enhancing Engagement.

Incorporate more interactive sessions and group activities to maintain engagement. Reduce the number of speakers per session to avoid information overload.

2. Extended Training Duration.

Consider splitting the training into multiple sessions to allow more in-depth coverage of complex topics.

3. Increased Male Representation.

Ensure future trainings cover the role of men in GBV and SRHR advocacy. This implies that topics related to the role of men in GBV and SRHR advocacy were not adequately covered and could benefit from more focus.

4. Incorporating Real-life Case Studies.

Use real-life case studies and storytelling to illustrate the impact of advocacy.

5. Feedback Utilization.

Continuously gather and integrate participant feedback to refine training programs.

CONCLUSION

The Generation Parliament Youth Advocacy Project, implemented by the Inua Dada Foundation in partnership with university students, focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout its stages. The project involved students from various backgrounds, including those from marginalized communities, rural areas, and underserved communities, ensuring broad representation. By creating safe spaces for dialogue and providing support tailored to specific needs, the project demonstrates Inua Dada Foundation's effort in enabling Kenyan youth to build networks and advocate for social justice and policy change in Kenya. It is planned that in 2025, the youth advocacy network will continue to expand, equipping more students with advocacy tools to make their voices heard.

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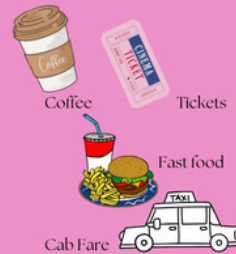
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Upcoming Memorable Dates in March 2025

Date	Event	Theme
02-Mar-2025	World Teen Mental Wellness Day	The theme for 2025 is to support and care for teens in a way that improves their mental health
08-Mar-2025	International Women's Day	#AccelerateAction
18-Mar-2025	World Social Work Day	Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Wellbeing
22-Mar-2025	What Women Want Summit	Empowered Women, Unstopabble futures

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