KISUMU YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2013
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From diverse viewpoints, 2013 was one of the most special years for Kisumu Youth Football Association. Once again, we have demonstrated through various KYFA projects that sports is an effective tool in Life Skills Education and behaviour change amongst children and youth in Kisumu County.

For the 9th year, KYFA organized the annual football leagues for children and youth in Kisumu’s informal settlements and peri urban areas. These out of school competitions organized from April to December provided opportunity for 2815 boys and girls to engage in positive recreation activities at their free time out of school, develop and showcase football talents and learn basic life skills of teamwork, sportsmanship, respect, honesty and hard work. A total of 1015 matches were played by 131 football teams, 21 of them being ladies teams.

Additionally, KYFA successfully organized the 5th edition of KYFA Ladies Tournament with 18 teams and 317 players participating. Participating girls competed in a well organized tournament which also had components of motivational talks, life skills sessions and skits integrated in the morning and evening program of the three day event.

KYFA also partnered with The British High Commission to train 22 coaches as community coaches under the Premier Skills program. KYFA also trained two coaches on integration of health education during coaching courtesy of Kenya Sports for Development Partnership. This is in line with the organization’s goal of developing mutually beneficial partnerships with other organizations.
The Football and Beyond project funded by Kenya Community Development Foundation had two components: a girls mentorship program and a sports for advocacy program for children with metal disabilities. The mentorship program involved pairing up successful young women with teenage girls organized around football teams. The Advocacy through sports program involves supporting sporting activities in special units and in the community and utilizing these activities as platforms for advocating for acceptance, support and increased socio economic opportunities for all children with disabilities. Some of the key results of the project include:

a) 99.04% of teenage girls in the project stay in school for a whole year
b) 100% reduction in school absenteeism due to menstruation amongst girls in the project as a result of improved access to sanitary pads
c) Each of the 12 special needs units provided with at least 3 balls and at least half of the schools set aside and support 1 day a week for organized sports activities.

KYFA fully began implementation of the Football for WASH project in 2013. The project seeks to contribute to improved access to water and sanitation by school children in Kisumu County. The project provides a combination of hygiene education, safe water and sanitation facilities which give school children fundamental WASH services and an opportunity to nurture skills that they are likely to maintain as adults. Football is a key entry point in the schools and amongst the children. KYFA has supported trainings of 64 primary school teachers as Football and Life Skills coaches to drive this project in schools. The organization has also provided sporting equipment to schools and supported several intra and interschool activities.

The organization continues to work with other partners including Kisumu Peace Festival in promoting peaceful coexistence amongst community members in Kisumu. Additionally, the organization acted as a link between Philips and Obwolo Primary school in establishment of a Community Lights Centre at the school field.

Lastly, KYFA has began implementing the 2013 – 2016 strategic plan. The plan outlines strategic areas that the organization wishes to engage in and specific milestones to be realized. Enactment of the strategic plan has also resulted in creation of three distinct structures with specific mandates including Board of Trustees, the association and the secretariat.

Even with these numerous milestones, a few challenges were encountered. These included delayed funding for competitions and increased community expectation on what KYFA should deliver.
1.0 ABOUT KISUMU YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Kisumu Youth Football Association (KYFA) is a non-profit community sport-for-development organization that has been hosting football competitions in the greater Kisumu area since 2004. In addition to running boys and girls leagues from March to October of each year, KYFA provides technical football trainings and engages in numerous community development activities. We see sports as a low-cost, high-impact tool for advancing a broad range of community development objectives.

1.1 OUR WORK

a) League Competitions

KYFA organizes football leagues for children and youth between ages 8-18, girls and boys as a basis for other activities to take place. Through these leagues, over 3000 youth players get to participate in structured competitions. Key achievements include

- Professional competitions guided by Competitions Manual and Child Protection Policy. There are weekly league updates in the Standard newspaper since 2011
- Average of 2,377 players registered per year since 2007 with number of girls teams and players TRIPLED since 2010 (from 6 to 21 teams in 2013)
- Selected Under 13 KYFA players qualified for East Africa Cup semi-finals in 2012
- Integration of three (3) teams composed of rehabilitated street boys in the leagues

b) Capacity Trainings:

- Coaches Training- KYFA offers technical soccer trainings to its member coaches in order to improve quality of local football and develop teams and players.
- Referee and First Aid Training- The First Aid Training Programme provides local volunteers with knowledge and skills on basic safety and emergency response during sports activities. Additionally, KYFA trains locals with interest in football as referees. The referees are graded and regularly assessed in order to indicate areas of improvement and enhance the quality of competitions.
- Informed Decision Making (IDM) Training- This programme promotes character-building and behavior change by educating the team captains on making informed decisions on relevant challenges faced by young people, such as peer pressure, drugs and alcohol, sex and sexuality, etc. Trained captains thereafter share the information with team members
c) **Themed Tournaments organized by KYFA:**

- **Play for Peace Tournament** - KYFA in partnership with local organizations under Kisumu Peace Festival organizes a Football Tournament aimed at uniting all communities in Kisumu towards making Kenya a peaceful country.

- **Annual Sports Day for Children with Special Needs** - KYFA organizes a sports day for over 160 children with special needs from 12 different special units. This is aimed at giving opportunities to the children with mental disabilities to participate in various enjoyable activities outside school. These events also promote community awareness on the rights of disabled children.

- **KYFA Ladies Nationwide Tournament (2009 – 2013)** - draws upon teams from all over Kenya for a 3-day competition combined with mentorship activities. The event currently allows a total of 20 girls’ teams to register in Under-15 and Free Age categories.


d) **Community Development Projects and Programmes:**

- **Football and Beyond** - this project uses football as a means to reach out to some of the marginalized members of society – namely, girls and mentally challenged children. Mentors are recruited, trained and linked up to female teams and players. Additionally, KYFA works with twelve (12) special needs units by providing them with football equipment and regular opportunities for playing sports.

- **Community Led Action for Child Rights and Welfare** – This project seeks to increase effectiveness of protection and development mechanisms and opportunities for overall well-being of the girl child and children with disabilities at family, community and local government levels in Kisumu County.

- **Football 4 WASH** - a project launched in 2012 with a goal of reducing diseases and changing behavior on WASH principles through football programs in selected primary schools. KYFA, in partnership with KNVB and other organizations uses football as an entry point to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene in selected schools. The project is being implemented in 32 primary schools in Kisumu North, Kisumu East and Nyando districts.

- **Academic All Stars Programme** - This initiative recognizes outstanding academic achievers amongst KYFA players. It was launched in 2011 and has recognized over 300 players by rewarding them with certificates and school supplies.

- **Tree-Planting Project** - In 2012, KYFA in partnership with United Millers planted 10,000 trees in public spaces all over Kisumu Municipality. Not only was this an initiative towards the environmental preservation and conservation, but it was also a fundraising initiative for the KYFA leagues.
1.2 Our Vision
KYFA strives to be a leading youth sports-for-development organization in Africa

1.3 Our Mission
KYFA provides structured football activities and engages in community development to improve the lives of children and youth

1.4 Our Team
KYFA has three major administrative structures; the Competitions Committee, the Secretariat and the Board of Trustees. Additional members of the Competitions Committee and the Board of Trustees shall be ratified during the 2014 Annual Members General Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competitions Committee</th>
<th>Secretariat</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Members</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seth Oduor</td>
<td>Kevin Obware – Programs Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Ondiege</td>
<td>Bernard Ogendi – Trainings Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duncan Omondi</td>
<td>Moses Odhiambo – Competitions Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Anemba - Administrative Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sharon Olang’ -- Intern</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Markus Madloch – International Volunteer</td>
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**Board of Trustees**
Frederik Eijkman

1.5 Where we work
KYFA’s leagues operate in five major geographical zones within Kisumu Municipality: Kajulu, Otonglo, Manyatta, Nyalenda and Town. Additionally, KYFA implements a project called Football For WASH in partnership with KIWASCO and SANA International in the whole of Kisumu County.
2.0 KYFA PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

2.1 Out of school children and youth competitions Project

2013 marked the 9th year of annual football leagues for children and youth in Kisumu organized by KYFA. The leagues ran from April to December. These out of school competitions provided opportunity for 2815 boys and girls to

- Engage in positive recreation activities at their free time out of school
- Develop and showcase football talents
- Learn basic life skills of teamwork, sportsmanship, respect, honesty and hard work

The following figures represent some of the statistics during the season

2.2 Overview of 2013 in numbers

- 131 teams participated
- 2815 players registered; 2157 boys; 568 girls registered.
- 18 Leagues organized, 4 girls’ leagues (three U14 and one U18)
- 57 league committee’s officials running all competitions as volunteers
- 256 coaches and 53 referees involved in competitions
- 1015 Matches played
- 31 Average matches per weekend
- 12 Red cards; 121 Yellow cards

2.3 Community involvement and volunteerism

2013 competitions were successful because of hundreds of volunteers serving us coaches, referees, first aiders, league committee officials, peer educators and mentors. Each zonal committee also had a teachers’ and parents’ representative.

2.4 Partnership with local schools
In order for KYFA to realize holistic development of children and youth, the organization continues to develop relevant partnerships with different service providers. The association has engaged 14 schools directly in the girls’ mentorship program and football activities. The schools also provide space and permission for pupils to play.

2.5 Fields for competitions

For safe and enjoyable competitions, the association mobilized community volunteers in miner rehabilitation and maintenance of football fields. Most of these fields belong to local primary schools.

2.6 Girl’s participation

In the 2013 season, KYFA realized the rise in girl’s participation with a total of 23 teams participating compared to 20 teams in 2012. All participating teams were assigned mentors and peer educators who took them through bi-monthly mentorship sessions and in addition to bi-monthly football leagues.

2.7 KYFA Ladies Nationwide Tournament

For the 5th year, KYFA successfully organized the 2013 Ladies Tournament with 18 teams and 317 players participating. Teams came from 10 different counties within the republic. All participating girls were accommodated at Shaurimoyo Primary School with motivational talks, life skills sessions and skits integrated in the morning and evening program of the three day event.

2.8 Mini Leagues and championships

At the end of regular KYFA leagues in November, 2013, two top teams from each league were selected to participate in mini-leagues with a total of 800 players from 36 teams playing. 10 teams qualified for the championships from the mini leagues, two from each age category. Being the last day in KYFA’s calendar of activities, new champions were crowned after entertaining finals.

Community members keenly follow a KYFA match during the 2013 finals
2.8 The organization of KYFA competitions

KYFA’s competitions are run by different committees elected by members from participating clubs with specific mandates. These committees include

a) **The Vetting Committee** - This committee of six (6) members advises on the correct age category for each player in the league. The process ensures good and fair football competitions as the children play and compete in the correct age categories.

b) **League and zonal committees** - The League and zonal committees are elected by teams participating in a given league and within a given zone respectively. They host league matches, solve disputes and are responsible for the smooth running of the leagues. In 2013, a total of 27 disputes ranging from suspected overage, alleged biasness by referees and coaches misconduct were formally handled by the committees. Wherever necessary, appropriate disciplinary actions were taken.

c) **Competitions Committee** - This is the main governing body of KYFA Competitions with a mandate of supervising all competitions and committees. They handle appeals from the league and zonal committees. It has eleven (11) with representatives from each zone, coaches and referees committee, the secretariat and two nominated female representatives.

d) **Referees and coaches** - KYFA referees and coaches also have their respective elected officials with a mandate of ensuring their professional growth and welfare.

**Note:**

In order to prepare for league matches, players spend at least 2 hours every evening after school.

*Under 16 2013 winners, Okore Golden Youth receive their winners trophy from KYFA Trustee*
in training sessions. They also spend about four (4) hours in the fields on Sundays during league matches. This means that children and youth in KYFA programs spend at least fourteen (14) hours every week in positive recreational activities off the streets.

3.0 Capacity Trainings

3.1 Premier Skills Course in partnership with Premier Skills

KYFA hosted a Premier Skills coaching course in June, 2013. The course was funded by the British Council. A total of 22 coaches from the community benefited from the interactive four day course.

Above, KYFA staff members with the British High Commissioner to Kenya, Dr. Christian Turner during the course.

3.2 Football for Health and Education Course

KYFA in partnership with Kenya Community Development Partnership hosted a five day coaching course in September, 2013. The course focused on mainstreaming issues of Health and Education during coaching sessions.

The training brought together community coaches from 9 KSDP members in Western Kenya. Instructors were sourced from Tranzoia Youth Sports Association and KYFA, two organizations that have been running programs on Sports, Health and Education. Over a period of five days, participants were taken
through the course content that had both theory and practical sessions. At the conclusion of the training, all participants were given a written exam to test their understanding of contents covered. They all demonstrated competence in the areas covered.

### 3.3 Football and Beyond

The Football and Beyond Project was conceived as a result of the following challenges affecting school-going girls between 12 and 18 years of age and children with mental disabilities. These challenges often prevent them from remaining in school and attaining their full potential.

- High rates of teenage pregnancies often leading to school dropout and early marriage or prostitution
- High prevalence of HIV/AIDS amongst teenage girls
- School absenteeism due to lack of sanitary pads or unaffordable sanitary pads
- Peer pressure
- Lack of mentorship for girls and few role-models
- Inadequate communication within families leading to ignorance amongst girls about sexuality and reproductive health
- Heavy domestic workload

Children with mental disabilities experience their own challenges. These include

- Stigma from the community through exclusion from activities that “normal” children participate in.
- Lack of opportunities and adequate equipment to participate in sports and recreation activities.

The progress towards realization of project outcomes is as follows

**Outcome 1: 50% reduction in cases of teenage pregnancy amongst KYFA girls**

Mentorship through sports involves discussions on abstinence, relationships and general informed decision making amongst the girls. Out of progress reports presented, only four girls got pregnant out of 416 girls in the program. This represents 0.96%
Analysis of these cases has revealed hostility and lack of parental support and guidance as key factors in the pregnancies. Even though they were part of the mentees, the environment at home was not supportive of the general areas of both knowledge and values covered. For example, one girl from the Obunga slums lacked a proper place to sleep and would share a neighbor’s house from where she got impregnated

**Outcome II:** 50% reduction in school absenteeism due to menstruation amongst KYFA girls’ clubs

100% of girls in the program received monthly supplies of sanitary pads courtesy of donations from Chandaria Industries. As such, there was no reported case of girls in the program being absent as a result of lack of sanitary pads. For sustainability, the organization has trained three beneficiaries as tailors on making affordable reusable sanitary pads.

**Outcome III:** Each of the 12 special needs units provided with at least 3 balls and at least half of the schools set aside 1 day a week for organized sports activities.

All the 12 special units were given 3 balls and other games equipments. Additionally, special units have integrated the use of sports in enhancing learning in the units. The termly zonal sports days and annual sports day has also served to create awareness on the rights, abilities and situation of these children.

**Outcome IV:** Formalization of a partnership agreement between 12 schools with mentally challenged children and ratification of a sports curriculum agreement with at least 50% of head teachers

The 12 special units have formed a consortium/partnership to advocate for the rights of children with special needs and lobby Kisumu community including education stakeholders, business community and local government officials.
to provide opportunities and safeguard rights of the children with special needs.

All special units have signed MoU’s to integrate sports in special units’ learning.

Additionally, there has been increased exposure to the learners because of movement to different schools during the zonal sports days and to town during the annual sports day for children with special needs.

4.0 Football for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The Football for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene project seeks to contribute to improved access to water and sanitation by school children in Kisumu County. The project provides a combination of hygiene education, safe water and sanitation facilities which give school children fundamental WASH services and an opportunity to nurture skills that they are likely to maintain as adults. The project also builds capacity of pupils, teachers and parents for sustaining WASH and football facilities within the school and the neighboring communities. Football acts as an entry point for the school children as well as a medium for hygiene education.

KYFA jointly implements the project with SANA International and KIWASCO.

Activities implemented in 2013 include:
- 14 schools provided with metal goal posts in their school pitches with approx 1,400 children in F4W and whose fields had no goal post, now have a better field and are using them for trainings and intra and inter-school competitions.
- An average of 2000 children participate in the weekly Worldcoaches trainings in the 32 F4W schools.
- At least 3 F4W trainings per week in schools conducted by Worldcoaches.
Basic football drills and WASH skills covered in the training sessions

2 teachers per school in the 32 F4W schools complete a training course as Worldcoaches in football and life skills education

An average of 3 trainings per week executed by trained Worldcoaches in the F4W schools

2 football teams of both gender established at each F4W school comprising an average of 25 players

A total of 836 intra-school matches hosted in F4W schools from March to October, 2013

An average of 2000 children involved in intra-school competitions

2 interschool matches played by each of the 20 F4W schools’ boys and girls teams against a partner neighbouring school

To strengthen the partnerships on WASH amongst the stakeholders at the grass root level, KYFA has joined a Kisumu County WASH forum where planning and sharing of knowledge is done. The government sectors through their sub county offices have continued to play their advisory and support role as well as provided guidance on policies and regulations, linkages to existing government structures and facilitated on external actors. Interschool competitions, joint activities such as debates, songs, trainings and meetings at county level have improved tremendously the understanding of the F4W project amongst the schools by sharing of experiences and knowledge.

4.0 Joint activities with other actors

4.1 Kisumu Peace Festival

The Kisumu Peace Festival is a non-profit, non-partisan and non-political movement which began in Kisumu, but which seeks to promote peace in and around Kisumu and to spread the peace message across Kenya and East Africa. For the third year, KYFA served in the steering committee of the festival thus helping promote peaceful campaigns and inter ethnic coexistence.

Specifically, KYFA coordinated an interactive event whose purpose was to bring together members of the police service and youth from hotspots in Kisumu City, to
dialogue, consult and play together and thus improve the relationship between police and the community.

a) The Workshop
The workshop was interactive. Adult learning and conflict transformation facilitation methods was applied to encourage participants to express themselves without hurling insults and blames on either party. A clearly selected case study was used to help participants discover from such episodes some of the issues, problems and possible solutions that they could apply. The facilitation process was conducted in a way that helped participants to make informed decisions freely, without any coercion, in order to move forward and disengage from the stalemate of violent confrontations hence pursue more connecting values.

b) Soccer Match
Football is a very popular sport in Kisumu and draws crowds. A Match between the police and the youth was a crowd puller and passed a very powerful message of possibility of the two protagonist groups cooperating to ensure peace and security. The Soccer Match was conducted as fair play. There was a warm up activity before the match followed by the explanation of the theme of the match and the process to the crowd. After the match there was a cool down followed by a moment of reflection where the players reflected on what went on in the game. In address to the spectators, the players connected what they experienced during the match to daily life experience. The players identified negative
experiences and positive ones. They resolved to apply the positive experiences in their relationship.

c) Emerging Issues
In order to identify key issues and tackle them, the facilitators gave opportunity for the participants from each group to give their perceptions on the other group and to identify the problem that has caused conflict between the two groups. The issues were then reconciled

I. Reconciliation of the Issues and Recommendations
The perceptions and issues raised by the participants were subjected to analysis at plenary and the following reconciled issues and recommendations emerged:

1. That public education should be carried out on, amongst other issues, the reforms going on in the police force, including issues around professionalization of police services, retraining of the officers and equipping of the stations.

2. That as required in the Constitution, a review should be made on the Police posting in Kisumu to ensure that it reflects the face of Kenya. The posted officers should also be given orientation into the local culture and tendencies, so that they are not perceived to be a force for subjugation, but rather a service to the people for the security of their lives and property.

3. That rather than carrying out the infamous raids, the police should work with the youth and other community structures to establish a strong structure for community policing. This will promote cooperation between police and youth and ensure that information on criminal elements in the community is obtained without undue conflict between the police and the youth.

4. That police should route out corrupt elements that frustrate the cause of justice within the service. Whenever evidence of crime is provided by the public, sources of such information should be protected to avoid instances where the criminals target the whistleblowers.

5. That the police service should apply the Police Code of Conduct to ensure that discipline is upheld in the services. Officers who are not adhering to the law should be disciplined.

6. That it is however important to carry out public education on the need for the public to appreciate that, in the event that a group attempts to free an arrested suspect, resists arrest, destroys property, threatens life or violently attacks a police officer, such officer is allowed by law to use force, in some circumstances even lethal force.
5.0 Organizational Development

5.1 Strategic plan
In March, 2013, KYFA adopted the new 2013 – 2016 Strategic Plan. This document amongst others builds on KYFA’s major strengths and milestones over the past eight years as well as opportunities identified both locally and in the region. The strategic goals being pursued include the following

1) To provide high-quality soccer competitions, opportunities and trainings
2) To create awareness and improve practices in our key community development areas
3) To develop a team of community stakeholders committed to serving children
4) To initiate and manage partnerships and alliances for learning and greater impact
5) To build an effective and professional organization that upholds principles of transparency, accountability and gender equality

In order to fully implement the strategic plan, the organization has amongst others amended its constitution to reflect proposed administrative changes that would promote good governance, efficiency in operations and effectiveness in delivering services to Kisumu’s children and youth.

Key inclusions in the constitution include

- Separation of duties into three structures; the Association, the Secretariat and the Board of Trustees
- The Association oversees all competitions while the Secretariat offers technical guidance and training to the association as well as coordinates non-competitions office projects.
- The Board of Trustees on the hand provides strategic guidance, oversight, fundraising and leadership.

5.2 Annual General meeting

As has been the practice, KYFA held its annual general members (AGM) meeting in February, 2013. A total of 58 clubs were represented. Members adopted changes to the competitions manual and approved the 2012 Financials.

5.3 Special Members General Meeting

A special Members general meeting was held in August to perform the following duties

a) Elect a new chairman as the term of office of Mr. Joseph Kibore had come to an end
b) Adopt amendments to the constitution  
c) Adopt the new strategic plan  

The election of the chairman was successfully undertaken with Seth Oduor being declared chairman. Additionally, proposed amendments to the constitution were debated by members, amendments made and finally adopted. The 2013 – 2016 strategic plan was also adopted.

5.4 Challenges

a) Funding – The Association depends on external funding to run its competitions. With increasing number of children in KYFA activities, there is increased challenge to have a sustainable funding strategy.

b) Community expectation – KYFA’s programs target children and youth from low income families and such, community expectation on what KYFA should offer is very high. These include school uniforms,

c) Under-staffing – At the beginning of 2013, the organization has a staff of five staff members based at the office. The then Manager, Rachelle Strawther resigned with her position taken by Kevin Obware who was then the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. With the projects being implemented, the workload at particular times of the year was heavy. However, the presence of a volunteers and an intern helped save the situation.

6.0 Partnership development and networking

KYFA continued to work with a number of organizations in 2013. We thank you all for your generous support.