

WERK Quarterly Newsletter

Linking Research to Advocacy and Action

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WERK invites you to present your research findings or research proposals to WERK members in the coming months.

This will be a great opportunity for you to get invaluable feedback from your peers.

Please contact info@werk.co.ke for further information

From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to this 1st edition of WERK quarterly newsletter for the year 2023. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep our members up to date with the latest organizational and program activities and secondly, to bring forth issues on education, women and girls, gender and research.

In this issue, we highlight the activities that have taken place between January 2023 and March, 2023, WERK programs and up-coming events.

We hope that you will find the information useful. We would like to welcome suggestions and contributions from members for future publications.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sophia Yiega, Executive Officer, WERK

WERK 2022 AGM

The Annual General Meeting was held on 25th March 2023 at WERK offices. The hybrid meeting was chaired by the chairperson of the board, Dr. Alice Omariba. During the meeting, members:

1. Approved the WERK budget for the year 2023.
2. Approved the audited report for the year 2022.

Watoto Wote Twende Shule

I MUST LEARN; HOWEVER, I CAN LEARN WELL IF SUPPORTED - The Story of Maria Naisampo, Nkaimurunya Primary School

Maria Naisampo (not her real name), a grade four pupil from Nkaimurunya primary school located in Kajiado North sub-county excited her head teacher, madam Charity when she joined school after dropping out due to challenges in the home set-up. She comes from one of the slum areas in Kajiado North where she lives with her mother and their other siblings under very difficult circumstances.

The parents separated and they were left under the care of their mother and her father cannot be traced. The urban related challenges including lack of basic commodities, food, clothing, health and proper shelter made her life unbearable in school. She reported regular absenteeism, poor academic progression and later dropping out.

While at home she contracted HIV/AIDS as she tried to look for alternative sources of income to support her siblings, a behavior she was introduced to by her mother.

After the chiefs and assistant chiefs were trained on mobilization and enrollment of Out of School Children (OOSC) learners, they were mandated with the responsibility ensuring all school going children were mopped up and referred to the nearby primary school for enrollment.



Learners at Kimana Primary School, Kajiado County receiving school bags donated by UNICEF Kenya

Maria benefited from the mop up. She was enrolled at Nkaimurunya primary school without a uniform, school bag and any other scholastic materials to enhance her learning.

Madam Charity is a kind head teacher well known for supporting OOSC and vulnerable learners in her school, a value that has seen the school enrollment numbers increase compared to other primary schools in that slum. She admitted Maria in grade 4. The class has high number of pupils with fewer desks forcing some learners to sit on the floor. However, she secured Maria a sitting space to make her comfortable and increase her desire to learn.

She has also linked Maria to the nearby health facility to be supported with ARVs to improve her health. Maria was among the girls who received the school bag and other scholastic materials from UNICEF. Madam Charity, is confident that the project support received from the project though little compared to the ratio of challenges learners in her school, will go a long way in improving access and retention of learners in school. She cannot wait to repair the broken desks to curb the challenge of insufficient desks.

COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING

WERK collaborated with UNICEF in enrolling 100 adolescents students (both boys and girls) from 10 secondary schools in Narok County in mentorship and community service learning to equip them with relevant 21st century skills to prepare them for life and work.

Community Service Learning is carried out with an aim of making the learners get to learn more about the community and themselves while fulfilling a need in the community as they apply skills and knowledge gained in classroom. That is, exploring opportunity to infuse the class work with real life experience in a way that make them identify a common problem with possible solutions that they then take lead in offering.



Students and teachers undertaking Community Service Learning at Regional Pastoral Training Centre, Narok County

In Kilifi County, 92 adolescents (36 boys; 56 girls) drawn from seven schools visited Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) at Gede Malindi. They were accompanied by seven teachers (2 females, and 5 males). The learning centered on climate change effects and opportunities. Learners were taken through opportunity of forest/ tree propagation and restoration strategies with focus on quality seed selection and management, soil testing and improvement, pest and disease control, and nursery establishment and manage.



Students and teachers at Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) in Gede Malindi during the Community Service Learning Activity

Dissemination of Education for Life Project Report

The EFL project came to an end with the dissemination of the findings of the endline report that took place on 22nd March, 2023 at Pride Inn Azzure, Westlands.

The project aimed at addressing the educational issues affecting Out of School Girls (OOSGs) and how to improve their life chances. ActionAid International Kenya was the lead agency in a Consortium, which comprised Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) Kenya and Leonard Cheshire (LC). WERK was the external evaluator of the project with Dr. Charity Limboro leading the research.



Launch of the WERK 2023 - 2025 Strategic Plan

The mid reviewed Strategic Plan was developed by members through an inclusive, participatory and extensive process of discussions and deliberations. The Strategic Plan:

- ♦ Aims at enabling WERK to achieve its objective of promoting education and social development outcomes for girls and women.
- ♦ Sets out to build on the achievements of the previous Strategic Plans.
- ♦ Draws from the lessons of the previous strategies; different research papers; and interviews with the WERK team and stakeholders.
- ♦ Sets out a new vision and mission to drive WERK for the next 3 years as we aim at building an equal society where children, both girls and boys can access education.
- ♦ Elaborates key priority areas, which WERK should focus on to enable it achieve the target objectives.

Coming Up

PRESENTATION IN DAKAR

Dr. Mary Otieno, member of WERK, will represent the organization in Dakar, Senegal, at an e-learning Africa conference, on 24 – 26 May 2023. Dr. Otieno will present the preliminary findings of the EdTech research project.

Edtech Hub is a global research partnership that aims to empower people by giving them the evidence they need to make decisions about technology in education. In Kenya, WERK is a research partner alongside the Hub research team for Hub-led research study, which focuses on the use of personalised learning.

WEBINAR

WERK has organized a webinar on **Analysis and interpreting quantitative data in social science research** to take place on **11 May 2023 at 4.00pm**. This is the first of a series of webinars organized for this year.

The link to join on line will be shared via email.

Don't miss out!

EDTECH MIDLINE DATA COLLECTION

WERK is preparing for the Random Control Trial (RCT) data collection in Muranga county. A fresher training for the data collectors is scheduled to take place on 11th and 12th May, 2023, in Nairobi. Thereafter, data collection will take place from 15th to 26th May, 2023



**Webinar Series
2023**

Topic
Analysing and Interpreting Quantitative Data in Social Science Research

**Presenter, Conrad Watola
Data Scientist**

**11 May 2023
4.00pm to 5.30pm**

**For more information:
Wambui 0712 995 084**

www.werk.co.ke



FINANCING VIOLENCE FREE FUTURES IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA: MAKING INVESTMENTS THAT ACCELERATE PROGRESS & ACCOUNTABILITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

WERK has been collecting data in 13 countries, with an aim of establishing how the linkage between development assistance dedicated to ending violence against women and girls and improved state accountability contribute to (a) evidence generation; and (b) partnerships with governments in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) to uphold their obligations on the rights of women and girls. The exercise is almost complete.

THE 39TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR THE ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT (AEAA)

The Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) will host the 39th Association for Education Assessment in Africa (AEAA) annual conference on 21 to 25 August 2023, at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

More information about the conference can be found on <https://www.aeafrica.org/>

This quarterly newsletter is produced by Women Educational Researchers of Kenya (WERK). The articles are contributed by WERK members. Articles from non members who would like to share their experiences on issues concerning education, women and girls, gender and research issues are welcome.

All contributions should be addressed to info@werk.co.ke

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