



**Workshop Report**  
**Submitted by: Brian Magwaro**  
**Coordinator Destiny Vision Youth for Sports and Development**

## YOUNG COUNTY CHANGE MAKERS

### **Acknowledgement**

I wish to thank all the participants without whom the event would still remain a dream. I again wish to thank the unconditional support of our mentor Madam Betty Okero, the CEO of the civil society organization Network, Mr. Ishmael Shem, the secretary General for Blue Cross Kenya, Mr Tom Kuyo, the Business growth and development manager Equity bank Kisumu, Mr. Benard Kiptoo, the branch manager Family bank Kisumu, Madam Phoebe Makanda, the Kisumu district Youth Development officer, Mr Eugene Otieno, a young entrepreneur and software developer for Nokia East Africa, Anthony Alando of the Secure the Future Kisumu. I would also like to acknowledge the financial support from the British council Global Change makers and finally I wish to give special thanks to my Co facilitator, Mr. Michael Ogweno the Project Coordinator for Be the Change Academy.

Brian Magwaro

Coordinator  
British Council Global Change Maker

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### Background

#### Introduction

The British council Global change makers engaged our Coordinator Mr. Brian Magwaro in a worldwide competitive application process to the Africa-Euro Youth summit that was held in Brussels, Belgium in June 2012, he was among the only 60 qualified applicants selected by a panel of professional judges. The lessons learnt from the Summit propelled the need to raise young leaders, volunteer, social entrepreneurs and activists in our community around Kisumu, hence The Young County Change makers.

#### About Destiny Visions for Sports and Development

**Destiny Vision** is a registered Youth led Organization which employs a skill building concept involving reaching young people with activities that are cost effective, sustainable, youth- led and which also appeal to the aspirations of the youth; that of achieving independence, freedom, and personal growth through constructive interdependence, cross – generational dialogue, acquisition or improvement of life skills and leadership. We stand under a slogan “**Youth for brotherhood**”. Our vision is to create a community free from discrimination, idleness, hatred, incitements and violence. Through our activities, we bring youths and children from different slums with different backgrounds and from different ethnic communities together to identify their resources and potentials there after empower them on life skills for violence prevention, conflict resolution, health and environment conservation with a project pitch “**Play for brotherhood promote solidarity**”. Through a grant facilitated by British Council Global Change makers, the organization Planned for a two day skill sharing workshop dubbed ‘Young County Change Makers’ hosted at the Ministry of Youth and Sports hall in Kisumu County.

#### Methodological Approach

The venue was quiet and private. Careful thought was given to the choice of participants and the group was chosen to reflect a range of views, experiences and the needs and issues faced by young people from different neighborhoods in Kisumu. The role of the facilitators was to guide and also contribute to the discussions. The responsibilities of the facilitator included: ensuring that all views are heard and respected including; ensuring that the discussion remains focused and not letting participants become embroiled in the detail of a side issue ; generating positive and productive group interaction through probing for further information and asking the group to respond to statements by an individual; encouraging critical reflection and guarding against the group tendency to provide only positive responses; recording the main points of the conversation.

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### Young County Change Makers

#### Issues faced by Young people.

Kenya has a large, growing, and increasingly urban youth population. Youth aged 15–30 represent 32 percent of the population; the youth population by 2009 was approximately 11 million. The young people in this age group were expected to increase to 16 million by 2012. This high population growth is accompanied by rapid urbanization, (**Kenya Cross Sectoral Youth Assessment Revised Report November, 2009**) These youth face a complex reality, a bigger percentage of the deaths resulting from HIV/AIDS is faced by young people, It is estimated that 7,000 young people between 10-20 are infected each day in the world. To express more vulnerability of the youth, the (Waki commission report P.34) reveals that over 75 percent of the out-of school youth do not have regular, full-time employment, according to Form for African Women Educationist (FAWE, 2000) more than 273 million youths of between 17 -21 years are out of school and of these 148 million (54%) are young girls. In Kenya, as many as 40,000 of these youth are entering the labor force each year with tertiary education, and facing an employment market that has only created 150,000 new jobs in the past six years, this has resulted to an increased crime rates and drugs and substance abuse among the young people due to peer pressure as a result of idleness. Also 100 million children drop-out of school before completing secondary cycle (four years) two thirds of them are girls, this population engages into early marriage and other practices like transactional sex as an alternative for survival thus increasing their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.

In our meeting with Mr Job Mboga the Head Administrator for the Alliance Francaise in Kisumu, he stated that 'The youth comprises a bigger percentage of the Kenyan population and specifically Kisumu and therefore for progressive changes, their involvement in community development programs and activities is very key, they also have a number of talents that they can involve in changing their communities and also to generate income for themselves, however, much needs to be done in the efforts to change the perceptions and attitudes of these very young people, such traits as; impatience and lack of proper knowledge on how to utilize their talents as an income generating tool.' These sentiments were shared by Mr. Benard Kiptoo, the Branch Manager for Family Bank Kisumu who also said that young people needs proper mentorship and an attitude of saving should be cultivated in them to make easy their entrepreneurship life once they shall get into it. Mr. Tom Kuyo, the Business growth and Development Manager at Equity Bank Kisumu also said that the young people and specifically the ones going through education needs much encouragement and proper mentorship, he said through examples of their wings to fly scholarship programme that the young people who thinks that they cannot make it in education has proven to be best students with continuous encouragement and support. Great encouragement and support was accorded to our intentions for the Young county Change makers program.

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### Young County Change Makers

#### **Objectives**

The key objective is to discover, inspire and develop young people between the ages of 15-26 in leadership, volunteerism and social entrepreneurship through trainings, sports and differential mentorship.

#### **Planning and Mobilization**

We engaged different learning institutions like; Primary, Secondary Schools, Colleges and universities, CBOs, NGOs, FBO, Government correctional facility like the Children remand home and social networks in our two week application phase for the purpose project introduction to the institution administrators, orientation to the applicants on the objectives of the project and confirmation of dates and venue. This enabled us to receive an overwhelming number of applications amounting to 100 in the short span of time and thereby proceeding to the competitive selection process for 30 participants. This was a clear indication that young people within Kisumu are in need of such opportunities.

#### **Speed dating and workshop introduction**

The workshop commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September with self introductions of the participants and the facilitators. The introductions were lead by Brian Magwaro, the coordinator who also provided an insight of the project's overview and a discussion on the participants expectations in collaboration with Michael Ogweno, the Project coordinator Be the Change Academy Kenya. This was then followed by warm up games and energizers to make them feel free and also instill self confidence among themselves.

Madam Betty Okero, the CEO of Civil Society Organization Network, provided an inspirational talk on 'Young People as change makers, taking back your power and living a life of dignity'. This was directed towards making the participants to know themselves and to understand their potentials in order to make decisions and to be prepared to take responsibilities for them. She further challenged the participants to write anonymous description of themselves on pieces of paper which were later displayed and ignited debate. Questions were also raised to her in matters of the Kenyan constitution, gender, assumptions behind the increase of young commercial sex workers in Kisumu, unemployment rate of young people and way forward, she satisfactorily addressed the issues raised and in her concluding remarks, she indicated that it is a high time young people took entrepreneurship seriously to create employment for themselves since it is true that there are few employment opportunities in Kenya. Brian Magwaro took the participants to a journey of idea growth where they had the opportunity to discover the need in their various communities, each participant had time to think and reflect on the problems they are facing as a community. After coming up with the challenges they face, they had to think about all their circle of concern and the circle of influence. They discovered that there are a lot of challenges that they are concerned about but there is only a circle that they can influence, they were also able to think about creative and cost effective ideas that can bring changes in the community. He also took them through the Global Change Makers Tool kit which will help them in growing their projects.

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### **Group Discussions**

The participants were thereafter put into groups in order to discuss on the issues faced by young people in their different neighborhoods. From the discussion, the following issues emerged;

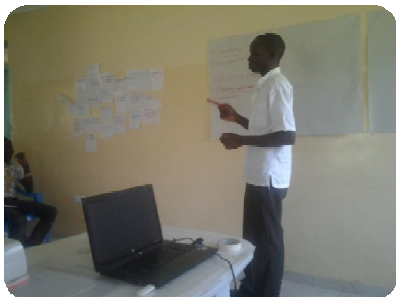
1. Drug abuse as a result of overcrowded drug sellers within their neighborhoods.
2. Irresponsible sexual behaviors and commercial sex work as a result of poverty.
3. Unemployment and underemployment.
4. School dropouts due to negative peer influence and lack of adequate financial resources.
5. Need for easy money and therefore falling prey to persons ready to use them to champion their vested personal interests in the community like drug trafficking, attacks on opponents in the case of politics.
6. Lack of regular mentorship opportunities and platforms where they can express or build their talents.

The platform was then given to a representative of the Mrs. Phoebe Makanda , the District Youth officer who shared the services of the ministry of youth which are targeted to the participants, Mr. Jack indicated that young people in Kisumu are very reluctant to take up such opportunities and he thought that maybe it is as a result of them not having information of the existence of the same. He encouraged the participants to group themselves and visit the Ministry of Youth offices for business capitals ranging from Ksh 20,000 to Ksh 50,000. He also advised that the youth should look at themselves as individuals and do things which will aid to their developments and not to subscribe to groupings that will only destroy their personalities and future. Much praises were echoed by him concerning the Young County change makers and urged that since it is the first of its kind they have ever hosted in Kisumu, it should be a regular activity to build and change the perceptions of the young people. Eugene Otieno, a young IT entrepreneur and a software developer for Nokia East Africa said in his presentation during the workshop that nothing is impossible since everything involves passion and practice. He said that in order to realize dreams, they should set missions and work hard towards realizing them. Mr. Eugene shared his life story with the participants which propelled a long silence and expression of surprises in their faces. This motivated them greatly as we could tell this from the wide smiles in their faces at the end of the presentation.

### **Workshop Conclusion and Resolutions**

1. Full membership to be open to young people between the ages of 15-25 however they must undergo a similar training as the one just concluded
2. Young county change makers to engage young people in regular training activities and to provide mentorship linkages for the YCCM participants in different fields of interests eg entrepreneurship, leadership, arts etc.
3. The participants should be registered to the Global Change makers' website and link them with other change makers from the rest of the world.
4. Member of the YCCM will be engaged in international days of celebration like, intl. peace day, world aids day and other social philanthropic activities as volunteers.
5. Initiate community competitions in areas of art like Music, drama, sports for young people in school and out of school in order to nurture their talents and to train them in life skills

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