

JUNE 30, 2022

# Daraja 360 NEWSLETTER

Be a Bridge of Love

VOLUME 1



## BUILDING A SOCIETY OF HOLISTICALLY EMPOWERED INDIVIDUALS

By Director Regina Kamoche

Empowered people can help to achieve a sustained economic growth and sustainable development, through education, health care and employment. They, also, have the potential to integrate economic, cultural and social policies to achieve a better life for all. Empowerment makes people powerful, able and active to participate. Then they will get the power and the ability to work for poverty eradication.

Empowering individuals and communities is necessary to attain equal distribution of available resources so that a few do not benefit from the labor of many. Each human has the right to share natural resources and participate in gainful work; however, these rights are not honored in all Nations. Laws, policies and practices have restricted fair access to resources needed to sustain families, reserving opportunities for a privileged few. Empowering people means engaging all persons in economic activity.

As a community based organization, Daraja 360 envisions a holistic empowered society where vulnerable families, children, and youth live decently and sustainably.

We look to unlock the potential within vulnerable women, youth, and children to help them use it innovatively by equipping them with general mentorship in life skills, academics, and entrepreneurship skills.



Half-Yearly Newsletter

## Newsletter Highlights

The Journey Towards Sustainability & Profitability for the Women & Youth Program

Education & Life skills Holiday Program

2022 Daraja 360 "What Next After KCSE?" Form 4 Leavers Camp

5 Things Every Youth Should Know

New dawn for Simon Karugo

## Partners

Rock Bridge Ministries  
Tumaini Mission Center  
Scripture Heritage  
Lifestyle Ministries  
Style Mantra  
Zaidi Afrika  
Tiankara  
Taraji House  
Nakuru County  
CSMI



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## Daraja Staff

# The Journey Towards Sustainability & Profitability for the Women & Youth Program

Women and Youth Economic Empowerment is a pillar program of the Daraja 360. The initiative seeks to address unemployment among the vulnerable groups by providing them with cloth making and entrepreneur skills for sustainable development.

For the past two years, this program has seen steady growth and transitioned, from making bags and accessories to producing quality school and corporate uniforms.

Last year, we managed to make uniforms for 4 schools and serviced tenders for 3 clients. To increase our capacity we needed to open an outlet.

That's when the idea of opening the Daraja Uniform Shop came to help us improve our production capacity, meet the growing demand for uniforms and expand the cloth-making business from manufacturing company to retailing and business-to-business.

Some of the products & services offered by the women & youth in Daraja 360 include:

- ✓ **All sizes of school uniforms (Tracksuits, Medical school uniforms, Lab coats, Tunics, Sweaters, Jumpers, Shirts, Skirts, Socks, etc)**
- ✓ **Staff/corporate uniforms**
- ✓ **Training vulnerable women & youths**

We understand the value of our customers and how to make sure that they are always satisfied with our services, in this regard, we have incorporated an excellent customer care attitude that will ensure that from design to implementation, our clients are carried along.

We offer our clients quality and standard products by not only meeting but exceeding their expectations to favorably compete with the best uniform brands in the industry.

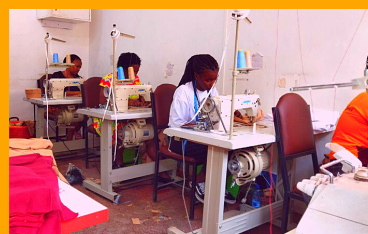
Currently, the shop is doing well and the marketing team is busy looking for new orders from schools, corporates and public institutions

## 1st & 2nd Quarter Achievements

1. Opening of the Daraja 360 uniform shop
2. Trained & Upskilled 8 women & youth on uniform making
3. Acquired new highly specialized sewing machines
4. Partner with professionals to capacity building the production team on speed & quality
5. Acquired more space for production & storage
6. Provided industrial attachment for 4 women
7. Serviced tenders for various businesses, schools & the department of youth affairs & social service



Jane Kenji Cutting Materials for School Shirts



Production Team Working on School Uniforms



Martha & Esther Quality Checking Uniforms Before Delivery



Section of the Daraja 360 Uniform Shop



# EDUCATION, & LIFESKILLS HOLIDAY PROGRAM

*"Intelligence plus character—that is the true goal of education."*  
— Martin Luther King

## 7 - WEEK LONG - BREAK HOLIDAY

In -school mentorship program also known as teens & youth life skills training is a key program under the Daraja 360 that targets primary and secondary students aged between 13 years to 18 years old. This program helps to develop character and instill resilience in young adults to cope with life challenges while allowing them an ample time for academic revisions.

The Covid 19 pandemic left a huge scar in the Kenya education system, and in order to resume the normal school calendar, students had to go for a long-holiday break after being in school for more than 11 weeks straight with just a short mid-term break in between..

Daraja 360 in conjunction with other partners like Lifestyle Ministries, Nakuru Players Theatre and CSMI organized a 7-week educational and life skills training for the highschoolers.

There were a range of activities to keep the teens informed, engaged & entertained. They included: academic tuition, mentor talks, outdoor activities like swimming, hikes, gym sessions, theatre shows and bible study, group therapy and personal counselling sessions.

In the same period, we also held the Shujaa Positive Parenting Program which played an important role in strengthening parents-children relationship. These sessions help parents to understand their children better, know their strength and weaknesses, and instill a sense of self-disbelief.

## Program Achievements

1. Developed interpersonal skills and intrapersonal skills
2. Set appropriate goals, manage stress and time effectively.
3. Improved the Youth self-esteem, confidence and social competence.
4. Reached and facilitated the program for 25 students
5. Most students have started exhibiting positive attitude toward life & education
6. That is reflected on individual improved performance
7. Three students were elected for leadership positions as school prefects and monitors.
8. Improved better relationship with parents



*Mentees Watching a Play at Nakuru Players Theatre*



*Mentees at Kunste Grounds for Swimming Activity*



*Mentees during a hiking experience*



*Mentees at Lifestyle Gym for physical exercise*

# Annual Form 4 Leavers Camp

Being a young person is an interesting phase in life. It is a season characterized by many questions that begs for honest answers. Who am I? what your purpose in life? what do I want to pursue? what is the right time to get a partner?

This among many other questions informed Daraja 360 in partnership with other like-minded organizations to provide a platform for the young people to grow their mental, physical and spiritual wellness. The practical life skills is meant to help young adults go through life without succumbing to the pitfalls of identity crisis, addiction, abusive relationship, which eventually leads to self-destruction.

## Identity

Identity crisis is a major issue among the youths. The camp offered the mentees a chance to learn about the factors that shape one's identity & the potential threats to one's identity. Our identity is shaped by our purpose in life

## Building Healthy Relationship

Healthy relationships are built on healthy communication, mutual respect, and trust. In any relationship you must feel valued and your boundaries respected

## Mental Health & Wellness

Many Youth are having difficult time coping with the stresses of life. Mental wellness topics was timely in helping them understand their emotional, psychological, and social well-being

## Alternative Career Pathways

Away from the traditional concept, there are other opportunities Youth can persue with much better remuneration rates, low pressure, better working hours and greater personal satisfaction.



*Director Regina & Martha Posing for a Group Photo with the Campers*



*Campers keenly listening to a mentor talk*



*Campers during the morning aerobics & praiserobics session*



*Camp session*

2022 Daraja 360  
"What Next After KCSE?"  
Form 4 Leavers Camp

We thank everyone who've  
supported our programs for the last  
6 months.

# New dawn for Simon Karugo

New dawn for Simon Karugo, a 6 years old boy with Cerebral Palsy. Simon stayed at home and could not join school with his peers due to his disability. This is despite the government introducing laws that protect such vulnerable groups.

Simon's parents, on the other hand, somewhat ignorant and lack of right information weren't aware of the special units for children living with various disabilities, where they could enroll him for special education. Similar stories can be heard out there of parents lacking proper information on how to manage children living disabilities.

At Daraja 360, we seek to address some of the challenges facing people living with disabilities in daily life through a special program. The program creates a safe bridge for this special group so they can feel and be part of the community. We do that through parental support groups where parents get sensitized and informed on the available opportunities and services for the PWDs in the national government.

Simon's mother, Josephine Muthoni attended one of the group session and got to learn about healthy parenting skills. Daraja went a head to facilitate medical and educational assessment for Simon. The Educational assessment and research center (EARC) confirmed that Simon is fit for placement in a regular institution, but provisions be made for his mobility.

The parents are casual laborers who could not afford to purchase a specialized wheelchair. The Lions club of Nakuru came in handy and graciously donated a mobility device for the boy. He is currently placed at lanet Primary school –one of the inclusive learning institution. We thank all supporters for their help in seeing Simon through school.



Simon Karugo with his Parents

*"In the spirit of inclusiveness and ensuring that every child is brought on board matters education, we are keen to ensure children who are at risk of missing out on their rights to education e.g. PWDs, orphans, and street families, are facilitated to have access to quality education"*

**Assistant Director Daraja 360: Martha Muiruri**