

PROGRESS REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024



In March, 2021, the Green String Network began piloting Kumekucha Quest with funding from Grand Challenges Canada. Kumekucha Quest is an innovative movement that adapts Green String Network's existing community-led social cohesion Programme, 'Kumekucha: It's a New Dawn', for children, teenagers, and young adults aged 10 to 24 years old in Kenya. The movement comprises three Programmes: Kumekucha Quest (for 18 to 24 year olds); Kumekucha Vijana (13 to 17 year olds); and Kumekucha Watoto (10 to 12 year olds).

IMPACT

68% improvement in overall wellbeing based on the WHO Five Wellbeing Index

58% decrease in levels of post traumatic stress based on the HTQ

100% increase in knowledge and awareness on trauma and mental health

100% using emotional regulation tools by Programm end

See the **Kumekucha Quest Impact Report** for an in-depth reporting of findings.

VISION

Kumekucha Quest is a uniquely designed initiative that engages and supports local youth volunteers to facilitate and sustain the change they wish to see in their communities. At its heart, it aims to build connections between community members, foster mentorship and learning within these new connections that promote hope and healing, and empower them to flourish without any formal framework. Kumekucha Quest is a social movement, not simply a collection of Programmes, and is designed to offer long-lasting healing and transformation to communities. We are working to transform communities—or, more specifically, to have transformed youth transforming their communities—and, with your help, we can reach those most in need of these Programmes.

PROGRESS

Since we last updated you, the Green String Network has continued to facilitate the engagement of 1,000 young Kenyans in well-being practices via the Kumekucha Quest (KQ) youth programme. As of our last reporting, we continue to embed KQ into existing programming with a nexus on branches of education (schools, teacher, training), criminal justice (prisons/corrections, probation, diversion), and social care (orphanages/children homes, foster care).



Throughout this quarter, we actively engaged with various institutions and organisations, achieving significant milestones that indicate a broader impact. Our efforts to scale up KQ have led to promising partnerships with community-based organisations like Teen Seed, specialising in SRHR and Gender-Based Violence, and Break Margins Africa, which focuses on livelihood initiatives.

Additionally, our curriculum development and research endeavours have received a considerable boost. Collaborating with Tangaza University College and enlisting the services of an accreditation consultant, we are advancing the facilitator accreditation process for KQ's facilitators. There has been continued engagements with Samba Sports Youth Agenda and Akilimali as this quarter promises the launch of KQ excursions and Kumekucha Watoto Vijana (**KWV**) School Clubs/Holiday Camps as well as 'Meals, Music, and Mental Health' events to unite parents and elders.



MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY JAN TERM VISIT

In January, we had the privilege of hosting a team of students and professors from Manchester University, located in North Manchester, Indiana. During their visit, we organised excursions to various organisations including the Ewaso Ngiro North River Basin Development Authority and the Regional Pastoralists Peace Link, in Isiolo, where the students and faculty got first hand experience on how grassroots peace efforts focused on wellbeing were drivers of sustainable peace. Additionally, we took the group to Kwale where they engaged with Sambasports Youth Agenda and enthusiastically took part in a Chachawiza sports event.

These initiatives not only fostered cultural exchange but also enhanced collaboration among our organisations. As a result, we hope this trip will increase our visibility to other learning institutions, organisations and communities thereby expanding our audience reach. Furthermore, it has created avenues for potential funding opportunities and collaborations as we showcase the impact and relevance of KQ to sustainable peace and improved wellbeing.



EXPANDING KQ AND KWV PROGRAMMES

At the beginning of the year, Grand Challenges Canada formally approved KQ's Transition to Scale, with continued partnership with Samba Sports Youth Agenda and Akilimali Associates in the implementation of KQ community events in Mombasa and Kwale counties. These events will utilise the sports for development model, kayamba, bonfires, KWV Clubs/Holiday Camps, and 'Meals, Music, and Mental Health' events to unite parents and elders, therefore fostering intergenerational dialogues and communal healing.

ACCREDITATION PATHWAY FOR KUMEKUCHA QUEST FACILITATORS

In Collaboration with Tangaza University College, we have made significant progress in advancing the accreditation process for Resource Facilitators (**RFs**), Circle Keepers (**CKs**), and Youth Mentors (**YMs**) within the KQ movement. This partnership initiates the development of Diploma and certification curricula tailored to meet the University's rigorous standards, as well as those set by the Commission for University Education (**CUE**) and Technical Vocational Education and Training (**TVET**).

With these programmes, our aim is to integrate KQ into university settings, allowing facilitators to graduate with a Certificate or Diploma. We are actively involving accreditation consultants in this collaborative process, prioritising the enhancement of programme quality and efficacy through thorough evaluation, resource enhancement, and official accreditation in conjunction with Tangaza. This milestone will enhance the programmes' reputation, ensuring adherence to established benchmarks and providing participants with an innovative, comprehensive, and immersive learning journey rooted in a healing-centered approach.



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HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Throughout KQ, our social media platforms have emerged as crucial channels for our fundraising efforts. We acknowledge their invaluable role in amplifying our message and engaging our audience effectively.

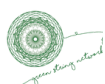
Below, you will find direct links to specific posts that you can readily share across your social media platforms to amplify our message and encourage support for our cause. We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support and commitment to supporting our youth wellbeing project.

- A [spotlight](#) on Samba Sports Youth Agenda
- A testimonial from [Makite Samuel](#)
- Our approach to [Youth Mental health](#)



THANK YOU

to all our donors and volunteers for your continued support. Your contributions are truly helping to transform youths and, by extension, transform communities across Kenya.



**THE GREEN STRING
NETWORK**

HEALING-CENTRED
PEACEBUILDING



www.green-string.org



info@green-string.org