



Lifesong Kenya

Empowering Exceptional Young Men



LIFESONG KENYA PROFILE

About Us



Lifesong Kenya is a nonprofit organization that was founded by James Ouma in July 2013.

James deeply felt the need to mitigate the Gender-Based Violence GBV inflicted to the vulnerable youths through their early stages in life up till the time that they find themselves in the Juvenile Justice System as children or youth who fall in the following categories:-

- are either in contact with the law (these are youth in need of care and protection), or
- in conflict with the law (these are youth in need of care, protection and rehabilitation since they are victims conditioned by poverty and harsh environments).



Our Mission

To be a beacon of hope, healing and transformation, where boys can heal, regain their strength, and rewrite the stories of their lives.



Our Vision

To re-create a world where boys and young men can reach a place of:-

- Self-acceptance
- Self-reliance
- Self-expression
- Self-development
- Self-achievement

Background History



Lifesong Kenya was inspired through the lived-experiences of James Ouma, our founder

"I want people to imagine what it feels like to grow up without knowing what you're worth and live without purpose in life. That's the reality facing millions of boys and young men who are growing up without a dad or a father-figure around the world."



— Hawi James Ouma, Founder & Executive Director

The drive to start supporting boys and young people was born out of his experience growing up without a father. The vision got clearer when he got arrested in 2005 and stayed in police custody for 8 days.

In 2012, the desire to do something about wrongful arrests and incarceration was birthed in July 2012 when James met 100 boys at the Nairobi Remand & Allocation Prison, at Industrial Area.

James discovered the psychosocial limitations that condition these boys to be deviant in nature, or get wrongly accused of the crimes they have not committed.

Overwhelmed by the reality in the background story of each boy, James decided he will be visiting the prison facility each Friday, which was his off day from his work as a children's TV producer and that's how programs by Lifesong Kenya began.

In the routine visits, Lifesong discovered the following gaps:

- 60% of the boys had not been visited by their families, needed someone to accompany them to court and someone to visit their families and the people they had wronged. This was a clear indicator that the boys come from dysfunctional families where there was a lack of parental responsibility and care.
- 75% of the boys who got released from prison soon came back as hardened criminals because of the vicious cycle they had found themselves in. This brought about the aspect of reintegration and mentorship to break the cycle of recidivism and reducing the chance of the boys ending up in adult prison as hard-core criminals.
- Most of the families of the young youth offenders are vulnerable and poor hence the need to engage them in parental care sessions as well as offer economic support to the families.
- Male youth in the community need guidance from adult male role models who can provide mentorship, training and job placements to prevent them from engaging in social vices.

Our Programs

Youth who have gone through wrongful incarceration, neglect exploitation, violence or sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment need restorative justice, job skills and a safe space where they can receive after-care support for their healing and restoration.

Here are our programs.



Keeping Boys in School

We are equipping boys to stay in school beyond Grade 3 by sponsoring their education and empowering them to treat women and girls with dignity, honor and respect.



Halfway House for Boys

We offer transitional housing for boys who need healing from stigma and trauma from wrongful incarceration, neglect, exploitation, violence or sexual abuse.



Transformative Justice

Empowering young offenders to take full responsibility and make amends is the key to healing and reconciliation with their families and their communities.



Lifesong for Mothers

Providing business training and business start up seed capital that enables mothers of our boys and young men to start small businesses and generate income.

Testimonials

The boys and young men that Lifesong Kenya works with at our correctional facility have a more positive attitude and high chances of successfully reintegrating back into the community. They are well behaved, productive and exit prison with more confidence and hope. I strongly encourage well wishers to support this initiative.

Charles Manene, Welfare Officer

Our Projects

Because at-risk youth lack opportunities to grow and become independent, our approach seeks to address this. Our desire is to buy land where we can build our facility and grow our own food from farming, rabbit keeping, goat rearing and produce surplus that can be sold in the local market. Here are our projects.



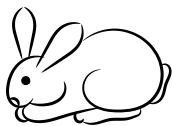
Upcycling Bottles

Collecting discarded bottles and upcycling them into products that can be used as drinking glasses, pencil holders, flower vases, and other household items



Poultry Keeping

Keeping poultry that help produce eggs that can be consumed at the Halfway House and be sold to earn our organization income and create employment for our boys and young men.



Rabbit Rearing

Keeping rabbits in order to teach our boys hands-on skills they can use to get jobs when they exit our program while at the same time, earning income for our organization.



Goat Rearing

Rearing dairy goats to produce milk that can be used at our Halfway House and for creating by-products that can be sold in the local market.



Cycling Hub

Creating a Cycling Hub where boys in our programs and those in the community can learn how to repair a bicycle and use cycling as a means of transport and a tool to generate and earn income.



Digital Skills Hub

Using computers and the power of digital skills and technology to equip the boys with skills they need to create jobs and generate income.

Testimonials

As a mother, it is hard to accept that your son is involved in wrong-doing. I would get really agitated and question my capacity as a parent. But, Lifesong Kenya held my hand by helping my son to overcome his struggles through coaching and constant guidance.

M.M, Single Mom

Our Achievements So Far

We have made significant achievements in our work that we would like to scale up in order to amplify our reach and impact in the lives of male youth, their families and the communities. We believe that our success can be replicated in other partes of Kenya and the rest of the world.

Here are our achievements so far:-



1,200+ male youth served



Over 10 years of commitment



5 cycling events organized



4 AgriBusiness Projects started



3 Counties covered



Housed 10+ male youth



9 Court Cases Resolved



Funded businesses for mothers



Started upcycling wine bottles

Testimonials

"Lifesong provided a place for me to stay, meals and a safe space where I was able to rebuild my life. They also organized a WhatsApp Group that enabled me to find a new job and the money that I needed to move out of the Halfway House and be able to pay rent in my own house."

— Sam 'The Tourist' Ouma, Halfway House beneficiary

Our work in pictures...



Invest in Our Potential



Having established programs and projects that already running our plan and goal is to impact the lives 1,000 male youth this year. We have the drive, passion, dedication and the potential to equip, empower and influence the lives of more youths as an organization.

We already have a ready market for chicken meat, eggs, rabbits, goat milk and upcycled glass. We would also like to add motorcycle repairs, barbering, cycling hub and other businesses that will enable Lifesong Kenya to offer tangible skills training and income generating activities that will have long lasting impact in the lives of boys and young men that we support.

All we need is capacity building for our team, resources, partner linkages and funding. We welcome individuals as volunteers or donors as well as corporates and institutions to invest in our potential to impact the lives of more boys and young men.

Our Pressing Needs...

- Paying for rent at Halfway House
- Paying for utilities - water, electricity, internet
- Food supplies - rice, flour, beans, cooking oil, sugar, cooking gas etc
- Animal feeds (chicken, rabbits, goats)
- Paying school fees for boys
- Vocational training for youth
- Staff allowances
- Buy land and build our Halfway House and Lifesong Complex

How to Support Us

MPesa Paybill: 574329 | Account: Lifesong
Wave App: +254 719 573 780
PayPal: donations@lifesongkenya.org

Bank: Faulu Microfinance Bank Limited
Account Name: Lifesong Kenya
Account Number: 1004372146
Branch: Ngong Road
Swift Code: FAUMKENA

Contact

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