

CHILDREN AS PEACE BUILDERS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS

Children engaging and supporting their peers, including reaching the most vulnerable

Sub-Saharan Africa: Kenya

As part of their actions to help fulfill Sustainable Development Goals, 'Re-Imagining New Communities', an organization in Kenya is currently working with vulnerable children (including children in street situations, children with disabilities, children in institutions, and children from low-income communities) addressing violence and protection, mental health, and peace building. 'We are implementing a child-led community peace programme called Children-Led-Community Peace Labs (CLCP-Labs) in the urban settlements of Nairobi and other counties. This programme seeks to shift the perceived role of children living in low income communities from vulnerable victims of conflict to agents of change in their communities. We have to design programmes that support peer to peer learning, collaboration, and intergenerational dialogue and sustainable conflict transformation strategies'. Through their interventions, peace clubs, and training programs children are being empowered to become peace builders in their communities and in their schools if they're enrolled.

'I'm from Glory Primary School. CLCP-Labs has helped me to maintain peace between me and other children and that is why I can call myself a young peace-builder. Peace is the coming together, sharing ideas and a state of no war. Conflict is a quarrel or misunderstanding or argument. Causes of conflict in a society are: poverty, unequal distribution of resources, discrimination, tribalism, gender inequality, religious differences and inequalities. Causes of conflict in a school are theft of stationery, lack of respect, truancy and poor communication. Ways of resolving conflict in a society are appreciating other people's culture, respecting human rights and respecting all members of the society. If there is peace in the communities then there will be peace in the country.' Testimony from Baran, 10 years old.

Re-Imagining New Communities

