

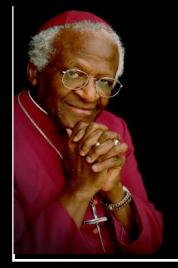


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Gratitude

"Ubuntu"—I am, because we are, and we are, because I am. Our heart of gratitude always recollects your spirit of Ubuntu throughout the year. We acknowledge the generosity and Ubuntu of our volunteers, individuals and partner organizations for entrusting us with your support. Together, we are called to action, to promote and restore human dignity especially for orphaned and vulnerable children and youth.



'We belong in a bundle of life. My humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up, in yours. A person is a person through other persons. A person with Ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed, or treated as if they were less than who they are.' — **Desmond Tutu**

2022 Volunteers

- Brigitte Kerroum Reinhard Weiss Lidia Gallego Roca Nastassja Illi Robin Gockel Jocken Harder
- Heinrich Ruehl
 Marialena Papaefthymiou
 Melissa Molich
 Michael Poots

Our Partners



















John Wilson Foundation (JOWI-F)



















To All our Supporters,

It has been a joy to see the transformation in our young people, filled with hope for the future. Though we were still recovering from Covid-19 pandemic in the first half of the year, we were fortunate to join hands with new partners by mid year. The new programs will be a great opportunity especially for our youth to increase access to education, technical and business training opportunities.

I am proud to be working with the staff and thanks to the resilient and innovative spirit of the team, our board and our partners, we have been able to rise from the ashes and begin afresh with renewed hope and enthusiasm for what the future holds.

Warmest wishes,

Wilfred Ownor

Wilfred Owuor **Executive Director**

Dear Friends,

Through the highs and lows of our work in Rarieda for more than 20 years, we have never lost hope that change is possible and that our communities can build a healthier socio-economic environment for their children and youth. We have learned that everything has a time and a season. And that each is not without a greater purpose.

The challenges our children, youth and communities face are indeed difficult. But whose are not? As we have seen especially in the last 2 years, all of our brothers and sisters across the globe are experiencing challenging times. I would like to encourage everyone to remember that 'this too shall pass'. Gratitude comes easily when everything is going our way. Over the years we have learned to give thanks especially in difficult times. A grateful heart creates positivity, joy and happiness which becomes a most extraordinary contagion. It opens space for blessings and miracles in everyone's life.

Something new is emerging for us in Rarieda. We have an awakening that is stirring. The vulnerable children we have cared for since the early 2000's are now youth; and they are hungry for change. This is their time. They want to be agents of their own development. Their creativity, passion and insights are kicking up the dust and are saying YES! to social change and the work needed to bring about the change they want to see. They are saying YES! to teamwork and service to protect the environment and build the community. They are saying YES! to becoming the best version of themselves.

I love what I am seeing and couldn't be more proud. Thank you to all for continuing your journey with us. Every ounce of your support is worth 1,000 kilos of gold.

Blessings to you all.

Michael Ostitag

Michele Ostertag

Founding Trustee



Rafiki wa Maendeleo Trust works in Rarieda sub-county in Western Kenya. We believe children are our future. Encouraging their engagement as active participants in positive community development nurtures them to become change-makers and leaders for the future



Vision

People believing in themselves and working together to build a vibrant and progressive community.



Mission

To empower communities to create positive change, especially for children and youth

Values

INNOVATION

We nurture talents for creativity and entrepreneurial spirit.

COLLABORATION

We are committed to teamwork and positive partnerships.

EXCELLENCE

We strive for quality in service delivery and learning outcomes.

RESPECT

We recognize and advocate for the uniqueness and dignity of every individual.

INTEGRITY

We demonstrate high standards of ethical conduct including honesty, accountability, transparency and trust.



Strategic Pillar 1: COMMUNITY WELLNESS

We encourage psycho-social wellness of children and youth by enhancing participatory community-driven programs that reduce vulnerability in children's homes.

Strategic Pillar 2:



We promote education and training for children, youth and families as the foundation stones to build confidence and dignify their means of earning a living.

Strategic Pillar 3:



RIGHTS & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

We encourage community participation and strengthen community led advocacy in order to improve access to basic services for children and youth.

2022 PROJECT OVERVIEW

2022 PROJECTS	OBJECTIVES	COMMUNITY WELLNESS	DIGNIFIED LIVELIHOODS	RIGHTS & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
Agrijobs for Youth	Stimulate economic opportunities for young people in the agri-food sector.	V	V	
Covid Response	Improve food security and spur economic growth for family businesses affected by Covid-19	V	V	V
Education Scholarship Program	Increase enrollment, progression and transition for children across different levels of learning	V	V	
Faulu na Agribiz (Translation: Succeed with Agribusiness)	Invest in Youth Agri-Business Start-Ups	V	V	
IMARISHA (Translation: To Strengthen)	Ensure comprehensive HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and support to vulnerable Households for children and youth.	V	V	V
I READ (Investing in Rural Education &	Increase literacy, gender parity and academic performance for children	V	V	V
Koteyo Water Project	Clean potable water for community health and well-being	V		v
Medical Camps	Specialized health services for vulnerable communities	V		
Resilient Youth of Rarieda	Create social and behavior change for improved health and environment through sporting activities.	V		٧
RTRC Technical Vocational Training	Build self-reliance in youth through personal leadership, technical skills acquisition and income generation.	V	V	V
Shelter Construction	Build homes and restore hope for dignified living	V		V
YES! Youth Empowered Solutions	Motivate youth with personal leadership, technical and small business enterprise skills to make a sustainable living.	V	V	V

COMMUNITY WELLNESS

Our community wellness programs look at the interconnectedness of individual -personal internalized states, social-collective issues, and the cultural and anthropological constructs around this relation. For individuals living in poor communities, the stability of their internalized state is highly dependent on access to basic needs including food, water, shelter; as well as the intensity of social pressures and stigma they face when they are unable to meet their basic needs.

When we work with families to help them meet their basic needs, it is our approach that matters most. Respect for every individual is paramount for psychosocial wellness and for nurturing human dignity. It goes beyond providing children and families with food, shelter, access to water, healthcare etc. It's about how we can build a better sense of self and community. It is expressed through caring and respectful relationships that communicate understanding, tolerance and acceptance. It is remembering to consider how children, youth and families feel and think about themselves and their life. It is about how we connect our interactions and spirit to "Ubuntu" – "I am, because we are, and we are, because I am". This is Rafiki's approach to participation and how we encourage community - driven responses to reduce vulnerability in children's homes.

Participation is not an activity or programmatic area like early childhood development, nutrition or economic strengthening. It is a way of being, seeing and doing within Rafiki and our communities which contributes to the healthy development of the community as a whole and different groups within the community.

We encourage psycho-social wellness of children and youth by enhancing participatory community-driven programs that reduce vulnerability in children's homes.





In 2022, our community wellness programs reached out to children, youth and their family members with clean water, food, shelter, solar lighting and health services.

Water

- 4.8 kms of pipeline installed to improve access to clean water for 3,000+ people.
- 30 water filters for safe drinking water for 121 family members.
- 3,000 using Water guard as a point-of-use treatment for household drinking water.



Solar Lighting

197 solar lights installed bringing total number of families with solar lighting to over 1,040 homes.



Food

Food baskets provided for 176 families suffering from malnutrition either due to HIV/AIDS or from the Covid crisis.





OUR IMPACT

Healthcare

- EYE Camp: 175 individuals screened with 98 receiving glasses.
- Dental Camp: 200+ dental checks & tooth extractions.
- HIV Testing & Counseling, Family Planning and STI services: 473 individuals.
- Gender Based Violence referrals and care: 66 individuals.



Shelter

33 houses for 152 children were built bringing the total number of homes to 90 and 441 children now living in safe and secure shelter.

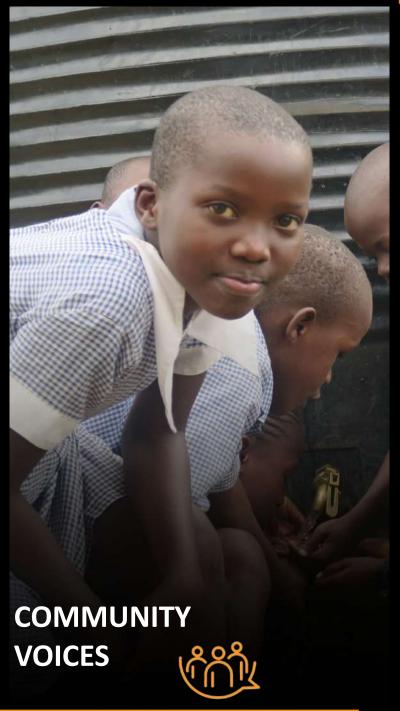


Psychosocial Support

- Pastoral Care: 112 youth
- Covid counselling: 240 individuals
- Health empowerment: 712 individuals



COMMUNITY WELLNESS



ur school is different today. We have a lot more fun learning. We use eReader tablets in some of our classes which have lots of books that we normally don't have in class. It's a lot more interesting than just listening to the teacher talk.

I'm one of the lucky girls who attends Ruma Primary School, one of the 6 IREAD schools. Every week someone from Rafiki visits us which makes school more interesting. Some of us get to use the eReader tablets, others the storybooks from the mobile library. We even have electricity now in some of our classrooms. I participate in the monthly girl talks about our menses, about hygiene, protecting ourselves, and I also receive sanitary towels for the month. This keeps me in school so that I don't have to sit at home on the days when I have my period.

Our teachers are also more interesting since the IREAD program came to our school. They are a lot more patient and smile more than before. I think they also like teaching with the eReader tablets.

At home we now have a solar light so that I can read and do my homework at night. Before, we didn't always have light at night. When we didn't have enough money to buy kerosene for the lantern, it was dark. When we did have kerosene, the smell made me sick, I would cough a lot and my eyes would water. It's much better now. Even my grandmother is nicer. She comes to school when Rafiki teaches parents and guardians. She has learned new things about farming, ways to stretch her little money to do more, and how to be a better parent. I love this because my grandmother likes me a lot more now. Since my mother died, she has been very tough on me. But these days she talks to me instead of hitting me when I have done something wrong. She has even learned how to rear chicken instead of just eating all the eggs. We now have more to eat!

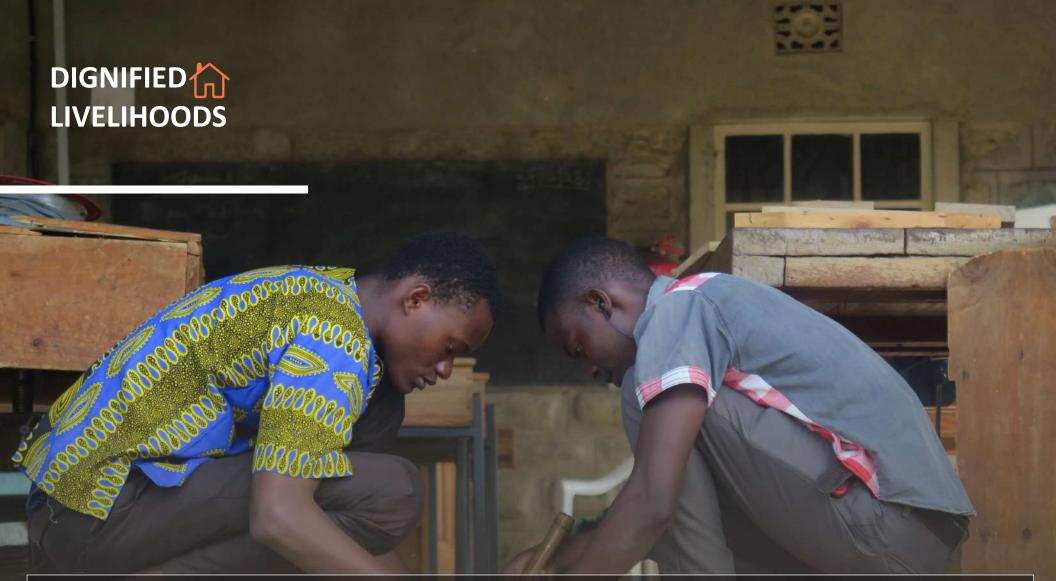
— Ruma Student



orothy is a Community Health Volunteer (CHV). As a CHV, she provides HIV education and traces patients who miss appointments within the Misori Health Facility catchment population. The impact of Dorothy's work was highlighted in the case of a patient at Misori clinic who had a high viral load of above 1000 copies by January 2022 and had defaulted on taking their ART medication for six months. During Dorothy's counseling sessions with the patient, she learned that the patient was struggling to accept their HIV status. Dorothy also realized that the patient had not disclosed their status to their spouse out of fear of being stigmatized. By offering HIV referral services, Dorothy was able to positively impact the patient's life and ensure they received the necessary ART medication at the facility. Within 6 months, the patient recorded a lower viral load of 560 copies, increased CD4 count and weight gain from 42kg to 54kg. The patient was also able to disclose their status to their spouse so that they could learn different coping and prevention strategies as a couple.

Overall, Dorothy's story highlights the importance of community-based interventions, peer education, and adherence counseling to improve case management and patient outcomes, and reduce risk of HIV transmission. Her work serves as an inspiration for other Community Health Volunteers and Peer Educators seeking to make a difference in the lives of those living with HIV.

*Name has been changed to protect privacy



Education is an important threshold for socioeconomic empowerment. As a transformational tool education and training instil the knowledge, skills and competencies necessary for a fulfilling work life and a stable social life. Through education, children, youth and families have the foundation stones to build confidence and dignify their means of earning a living.

Rafiki believes a well-educated and trained workforce is a prerequisite for sustainable development. Most rural areas across Kenya do not have a workforce skilled enough to generate and stimulate economic growth locally from the grass-roots level up. In order to achieve locally driven and community owned development and poverty reduction initiatives, education and skills training programs are needed. By harnessing talents and developing skills and character, young people can become resilient, resourceful, self-reliant, and income secure.

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OUR IMPACT



Students gained placements into universities in the following disciplines:
LLB Law, Computer and Mechanical Engineering,
Actuarial Sciences, Clinical nursing, Teacher Training,
Environmental Sciences,
Community Health and
Social Work.



Youth (24 Male and 108 Female) trained in the Street Business School program of which over 60% had at least one business, with 24 new businesses formed.



Enhanced gender parity in school attendance was realized through Sexual Reproductive Health education and sanitary towel support for 2,000 adolescent girls.



Students enrolled under industrial attachment, comprising: 6 in Electrical, 12 in Plumbing and Pipe Fitting, 2 in Garment Making, 2 in Hair dressing & Beauty
Therapy, 2 in Masonry and 1 in Carpentry.



Adult learners who participated in the adult literacy program demonstrated 71% improvement in reading and counting; and increased income through small scale farming.



Cumulative number of youth trained on business and financial literacy with links to micro-credit and an additional cohort of 132 enlisted for graduation.



Children benefited from 300 e-reader tablets improving their vocabulary and literacy levels.



Small businesses affected by Covid trained in an accelerated business recovery program.



y name is Daisy Achieng', I was born in Kisumu county in 1991, I am a mother of 4 children and currently live in Gagra West village in West Uyoma ward, Rarieda sub-county. I have been volunteering at Rafiki since 2016 and have a passion for working with the community. When the Rotary Youth Empowerment Solutions (YES!) program was launched in 2021, I volunteered as a Youth Health Ambassador (YHA) and joined the Rotaract Club of Rarieda. The team members elected me as their President in 2022. On the side, I had a small business in Gagra which helped me earn a little bit of money to help take care of my children. I was working hard, but my business wasn't doing very well because I didn't know some of the basic business skills.

Rafiki invited me to participate in the Street Business School (SBS) training program supported by the YES! program. I joined with hopes of learning business management skills and to sharpen my entrepreneurial skills. After graduating from the SBS program and improving my business, Rafiki saw that I was doing really well and they invited me to train as a SBS coach. I travelled to Uganda for the training and I am now a certified Coach for SBS.

I love my work and I feel like my dream of making a difference is coming true. I get really excited whenever I can train other youth and women to become business champions. Having been in the trenches myself and understanding the challenges youth and women face when they go into business, I can relate to their struggles. Since they know that I was also once in their shoes, they take my advice and encouragement on because they believe me when I say they can make it. It's an amazing experience when I see participants blossom and become more self-confident. I am grateful to be able to make a positive change in the fight against poverty.

Quotation

"I am now empowered with business and entrepreneurship skills which are relevant for our community. I will work hard and play my part to enabling youth to become self-reliant.' Daisy.







YOUTH HEALTH AMBASSADORS: Community Youth Health Ambassadors (YHAs) are educated and armed with the knowledge they need to engage with community youth to improve overall health through education and advocacy initiatives that address infectious disease, sexual reproductive health, family planning, and sexual and gender based violence. YHAs utilize public forums to engage youth in dialogue to bring about new health seeking behavioral norms.

COMMUNITY HEALTH VOLUNTEERS: Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) are trained members of the community who work as a link between the community and health facilities, providing basic health services such as health education, disease prevention, and treatment. They lead their communities to share a common vision for a healthy community; advocate for health improvement, betterment of quality of life, and teach community members about their right to access health services and responsibility to seek health services.

THEATRE GROUPS. Theatre is a strong social phenomenon and powerful medium to promote freedom of expression, equality in the home and in society; as well as to educate and advocate around community issues. Our 2022 theatre groups performed in Rarieda's market places to disseminate health information and reinforce positive health messages. Engaging local experience and using vernacular language helps overcome literacy barriers and provokes emotional and analytical responses.

ROTARACT. Rotaract fosters leadership and responsible citizenship, encourages high ethical standards in business and promotes international understanding and peace. In 2022 Rarieda Rotaractors carried out service projects as a way of taking action to address climate change and the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, and lack of access to education. Throughout the year, Rotaractors participated in multiple service projects from planting trees to building homes for families in need.



Enhanced gender parity in school attendance through school based sexual reproductive health education and sanitary towel distribution for 2000 vulnerable adolescent girls.

Children moving into newly constructed and secure houses with their families.

Youth reached with Gender Based Violence sensitization.

5,287

235

Community members reached with Reproductive Health Education and Family Planning through theater groups.

Youth sensitized on HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

Families enrolled in the National Health Insurance Fund.

Youth receiving HIV Testing & Counselling, Family Planning and STI services.



s a youth health ambassador (YHA), I was part of a team that mobilized youth of Luanda Kotieno Beach for numerous peer-to-peer health education sessions. Luanda Kotieno beach has one of the highest rates of HIV infections in Rarieda Sub County. Sex for fish and money is still the biggest driver of new infections.

In the sessions, we talk openly about HIV, the myths and misconceptions. We talk about how it compromises the immune system and explore different methods of prevention, including the use of condoms, pre-exposure prophylaxis and post-exposure prophylaxis especially for cases of Gender Based Violence. We encourage youth to go for HIV testing and counseling, how to reduce risk of infection, as well as how to provide care for infected loved ones. We talk about nutrition, how to manage stress, and the importance of drinking clean water. The sessions create a lot of awareness, understanding and courage. We challenge youth to go for HIV Testing and Counseling. Learning that you are HIV positive can be one of the most difficult experiences that you go through in life. You may feel scared, angry and sometimes very discouraged, but we encourage youth to live positively and responsibly.

Being a Youth Health Ambassador helps me feel like I can actually do something to make a difference in our community. I can be active and a change agent. It's a lot better than complaining and feeling frustrated by the poverty and rampant diseases in our community. I see lives changing for the better and this gives me a sense of purpose in life. **

Betty, a trader, put it in context... "As a single mother of three living with HIV, I have learnt the importance of taking care of my immune system. Before, I only focused on medication. But now I see why it is important for me to pay attention to what I eat and the water I drink, as they are both crucial in keeping my viral load low."



Rarieda Training & Resource Centre is a registered Technical Vocational Education & Training (TVET) center whose programs emphasize personal development, acquisition of technical skills and income generation as pre-requisites for self-reliance and poverty alleviation in the rural area. By expanding skills and talent in the rural area, youth develop their own solutions to local problems and become positive change makers in developing the economic base of their communities.

Vision: A leading regional Centre of Excellence in technical vocational training, community development, and evidence based training.

Mission: To improve and enrich the lives of the youth and the community by providing holistic and quality technical vocational training and community development.

The program integrates Education for Sustainable Development and fortifies youth in leadership and life-skills, technical skills and small business enterprise, so that students can thrive in rural areas or in activities related to rural areas in a sustainable way.

MAIN COURSES

- Food and Beverage Production
- 2. Garment Making
- 3. Hair Dressing & Beauty Therapy
- 4. Welding
- 5. Plumbing & Pipefitting
- 6. Carpentry & Joinery
- 7. Electrical Installation
- 8. Solar Photovoltaic
- 9. Masonry

SHORT COURSES

- 1. Sustainable Agriculture
- Computer Packages
- 3. Work Readiness
- 4. Entrepreneurship



RTRC HIGHLIGHTS



- Full time students enrolled in technical courses and 19 part time students in ICT
- German Expert volunteers trained our RTRC instructors in Agriculture, ICT, Beauty Therapy, Welding and Plumbing.
- Swiss Solar Engineers trained our RTRC electrical and solar teachers in Solar Voltaic Installation and developed the curriculum for the new training course
- American librarians trained our RTRC team in library automation and barcoding
- 32 Students completed their 18 months technical training and passed their National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) examinations.





We believe in giving back to society and encourage our students to take part in Service Learning community development projects. Service-learning offers RTRC students unique opportunities to link what they learn in the classroom to real world situations in their communities. Often, these experiences push them out of their comfort zones to see the world in new ways. Service-learning experiences are transformative for our students and teach them how to think critically about the world around them. It encourages youth to become proactive, *innovative citizens*, people who see beyond surface causes and effect change in their communities and beyond.

In 2022, our RTRC students participated in numerous Service Learning projects including:

- House construction for needy families
- Metal door and window fabrication for the new houses
- Fabrication of beds, tables and doors made for students
- Tank base, tanks and gutter installation for rainwater catchment in homes, schools and health facilities
- Piped water installation in homes
- Floor repairs in public school classrooms
- Tailored school uniforms for orphaned children
- Hairdressing service for differently-abled children and the elderly
- Electrical wiring and lighting installation in public schools
- Solar lighting installation in homes



Name: Valery Priscilla Age: 24 years old

Place of Origin: Wagoro Village

Social status: Single parent

Occupation: Hairdresser and Beautician

Valery was brought up by her step mother after her mother passed away. From the time she finished secondary school, at Nyamira Girls School, she had to stay at home with no hope of pursuing further education due to lack of finances. Valery then got married and gave birth to one child. After an unsuccessful marriage, life became very difficult as a single parent. In 2022, she enrolled into the RTRC scholarship program and joined the Hairdressing and Beauty course in June. By December she was already earning an income by freelancing and working in community salons during school holidays and weekends. She is now able to earn enough to feed and care for her child and all the six relatives she lives with. Valery is acknowledged as a Change Champion and also serves as a Youth Health Ambassador. She leads Health Advocacy campaigns at RTRC and in the community.

"I have had so many amazing experiences through Service Learning. The biggest gift for me has been to share my skills with people who are in need. Our Service Learning activities have taken us to care for kids in orphanages, special needs schools, hospitals, community gatherings and to NGOs who care for orphans, widows and the elderly, widows and orphans." - Valery

RTRC BOARDING



We enhanced our pastoral care program for RTRC students in 2022, engaging them in psycho-social support programs to encourage self reflection, awareness and open dialogue. Students participated in movie and game nights, followed by conversation and debates to explore key issues that affect young people in their families, friend circles and communities. They also completed a series on 'Habits of Highly Effective People'. Inspired by the first habit of being proactive, a select group of students came together to make DIY mops in order to hasten the cleaning processes in the boarding hostels. To an outsider it might not seem like much of a feat, but to these students it is hardcore proof that they have what it takes to solve problems in their community. They just needed somewhere to start.

We also incorporated morning prayers, meditation and mindful movements into their morning rituals. This made a radical difference for the students. Their moods improved, they had more focus throughout the day and even better sleep.

"A while back, my understanding of who I was is not as I view myself today. I am even surprised that I can understand some difficult things with different lenses compared to just a short time ago. Before I started meditating I couldn't stand in front of people and speak. But now I start by inhaling slowly and deeply, then exhaling slowly, so that I can control the speed of my heartbeat. This really helps me with public speaking though many don't know my little secret. Also, my decision making and reasoning abilities with other people have improved compared to before. And when it comes to concentrating in class, I can manage my thoughts before I drift off and daydream. A class lesson can go on until the end without me being distracted by my thoughts. Do I still fall asleep in class? Not at all!"

- Boarding student



2 o22 was a significant year for the RTRC library attained official registration certification with the Kenya Library Association.

In June, our Library partnered with 6 schools in a global 'READ ALOUD' challenge, a program organized by our partners Story Moja Publishers. Over 600 of our school children participated alongside 147,496 children from across the country. The objective was to promote a culture of reading, and the goal was to have as many children reading aloud the same book at the same time from different venues across Kenya. It was an exciting event for all and one to remember!

Also in June, our partners American Friends of Kenya invited all their respective Institutional Librarians for a library training workshop. Following the training they visited RTRC to support in sorting, classification, cataloguing and collection development. They also helped us to automate our library management system to Library World OPAC system.

Throughout 2022, our faithful librarian coordinated a mobile school library program with 17 schools. All schools received new books every two weeks on a rotating basis, enabling us to provide reading material for over 5,000 school children.



RTRC NEW BEGINNINGS

2022 NEW TRAINING PROGRAMS LAUNCHED!

Solar Photovoltaic:

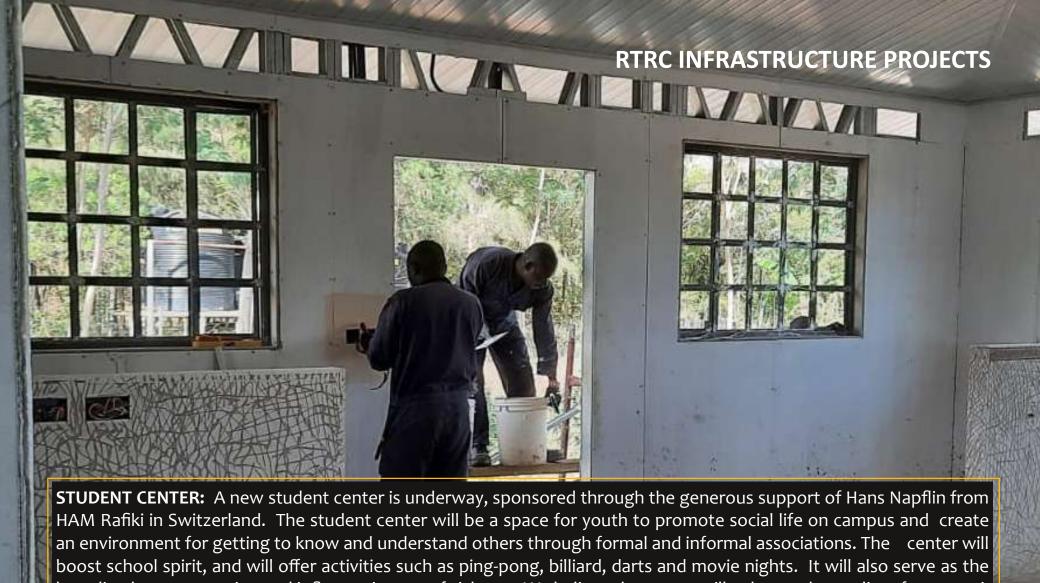
By May 2022 we launched a Solar Voltaic training program for youth to access modern skills and techniques for decent jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities in the renewable energy value chain. A 2020 UNESCO study reveals that some 30,000 solar technicians will be needed in Kenya by 2025. Our aim is for our youth technicians to acquire the requisite Solar PV skills to succeed in this market.

Food & Beverage (F&B)

F&B is an important component of Kenya's hospitality industry, offering the bulk of employment in the hospitality sector whether through independent catering establishments or larger restaurants and hotels. The new F&B course at RTRC equips students with knowledge in various aspects of the Food and Beverage sector, providing students with a good understanding of the industry sector. We are poising youth to provide excellent food services to customers across Kenya, enabling them to experience dignified and fulfilling work opportunities.





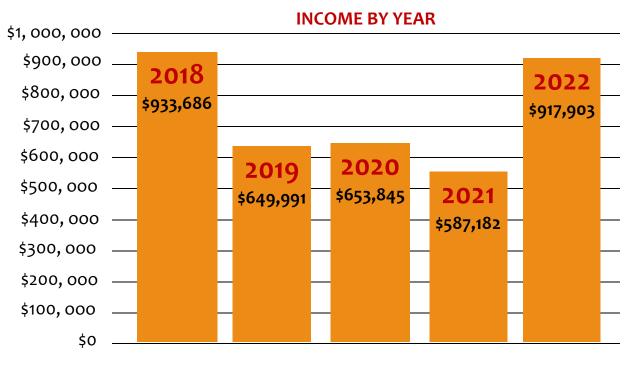


boarding house reception and infirmary in case of sickness. We believe the center will enhance the quality of community life especially for boarding students.

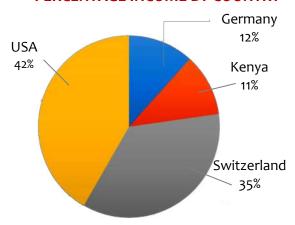
KITCHEN & CANTEEN: Through gracious donations made in memory of one of Rafiki's earliest supporters, the late Willy Ostertag, Rafiki was able to launch the construction of a new kitchen and dining hall. The new building is set to house the training of the F&B program in 2023 upon completion. The new kitchen will have eight cooking stations, along with a large dining area for students to gain experience in cooking as well as serving guests. Karibu to all when we open in 2023!

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS





PERCENTAGE INCOME BY COUNTRY



2022 EXPENDITURE BY DEPARTMENT

