



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSE KENYA

About Us

Reproductive Health Accountability and Response Kenya-RHARK is a registered Community-Based Organization (CBO) operating in Siaya County. Since 2020, RHARK has collaborated with government agencies, local and international partners, and urban and rural communities to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), promote gender equality, and advance social justice. RHARK empowers adolescent girls, young women, and young people by ensuring their active participation in decision-making and advocating for accountability from duty-bearers. The organization integrates gender equality and equity principles into development initiatives, creating structures and opportunities for young people of all diversities to exercise their Sexual Reproductive Health Rights.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) form the core of RHARK's programs, with a strong focus on adolescent girls, young women, and young people. The organization actively engages in policy advocacy, comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), and the creation of safe spaces where young people can access accurate SRHR and mental health information. RHARK also collaborates with health facilities to promote positive health-seeking behaviours and ensure access to essential reproductive health services.

Vision:

A society of young women and youth without unmet SRHR needs.

Mission.

To contribute effectively to SRHR response and sustainable development through an empowered community that promotes gender equality, women's rights, and youth participation.

Core Values.

- Transparency and Accountability.
- Equity and Intersectionality.
- Integrity.
- Innovation.
- Collaboration.

Our Programme Areas.

- Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights.
- Mental Health and Wellness.
- HIV/AIDS Prevention and support.
- Gender equality and Empowerment.
- Governance and Policy Engagement.

Addressing Critical Challenges.

RHARK plays a vital role in addressing the "Triple Threat" of new HIV infections, teenage pregnancies, and gender-based violence (GBV), which disproportionately affects young people in rural areas. Their efforts include:

1. Early Unintended Pregnancy.

Reducing Early and Unplanned Pregnancies by promoting Comprehensive age-appropriate sexuality education, raising awareness, and advocating for access to reproductive health information and services. RHARK fosters open community discussions and empowers young people to make informed reproductive health choices.

2. HIV/AIDS

Tackling HIV and AIDS through engaging young people in prevention education, testing, and treatment programs, working with health facilities and peer educators to promote awareness and safer practices, and strengthening referral systems for those living with HIV.

3. Gender, GBV, SGBV

Elimination of GBV and SGBV cases in the communities through awareness creation, strengthening reporting and response mechanisms, and supporting survivors in accessing justice, healthcare, and psychosocial services. Creating safe and supportive environments free from harm and discrimination is a priority.

Key interventions.

RHARK utilizes a holistic and inclusive approach, employing strategic interventions to empower young people and advance SRHR:

- 1. Integration of Life skill sessions and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)** sessions into both formal and informal learning environments through collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Health, schools, teachers, and peer educators to create and strengthen school health and social clubs, safe spaces where students can learn about reproductive health, gender equality, and personal development. For out-of-school youth, community-based learning sessions provide access to this vital information and skill-building through community safe spaces.
- 2. Intergenerational community dialogues** to bridge the gap between generations by facilitating open discussions about SRHR, cultural beliefs and practices, gender norms, and youth empowerment between adolescents, young women, parents, guardians, and community leaders which aims at fostering positive narratives on activities that support knowledge and skills sharing of young people and empowerment about their RHR.
- 3. Community sensitizations and outreach programs**, including health talks, mobile clinics, peer education sessions, and distribution of IEC materials, to raise awareness and enhance access to SRHR services, particularly for marginalized and underserved populations.
- 4. Multisectoral Collaborations with various relevant stakeholders**, including government agencies, healthcare providers, civil society organizations, and community-based groups, to strengthen partnerships, enhance service delivery, improve policy implementation, and create sustainable solutions.
- 5. Policy Advocacy** to protect and promote the SRHR needs of young people through policy dialogue, participation in stakeholder forums, and working with policymakers to align laws and policies with the needs and rights of young people

RHARK continues to create a supportive environment where young people can make informed decisions, access quality reproductive health services, and actively participate in shaping policies that affect their lives.

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