YOUTH LEADERS 4 HEALTH

Only if you want to reap in future you must invest in future, yes investing in youth is investing in future. Health Promotion Tanzania in partnership with RESULTS UK with funding from Comic Relief embarked on investing in Youth Leaders for Health for health system advocacy for Malaria. A year has elapsed with amazing results that has not only impacted communities, national level but also regional level. During the 2020/2021 we have appreciated what late Nelson Mandela said "…Young people must take it upon themselves to ensure that they receive the highest education possible so that they can represent us well in future as future leaders……". Below we summarize Youth Leaders Testimonies.

Being a youth leader for health has enabled me to critically examine gaps and challenges that need immediate action in community health systems strengthening as well as checking the means to push governing authorities and other stakeholders to implement the sustainable solutions to those challenges. My role as a youth leader has geared my passion to encourage my fellow youth to gain skills on the use of advocacy as a tool for change in different aspects of their interest as it brings conspicuous results when done smartly.

Isack Kaniki
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My journey as youth leader for health has exposed to a diverse group of fellow youth leaders and mentors who have constantly shared their experiences, knowledge and skills. Having the opportunity to engage regionally at the African Union and Commonwealth has given me a rare opportunity to understand my role as a young person is critical and I can use my voice to advocate for issues that affect people in my community. Ever since, I have been better positioned to influence decision makers at my community to take the needed actions in the fight against malaria with a much greater focus of strengthening health care systems to not just address malaria, but killer diseases such as TB, HIV and non-communicable diseases that continue to kill millions of people. The future belongs to the youth, and now more than ever, I committed to use my voice to influence, inform and educate.

Salome Kavishe
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Being a lawyer by profession, I never would have imagined the extent to which advocacy can bring about change. As a youth leader for health, I have been fortunate to learn from the best mentors to understand the underlying problems in my community, identify solutions through evidence, engaging decision makers with the right messages and at the right time. In a period of less than a year, I have been presented with a rare yet crucial opportunity to advocate for health systems strengthening, eradication of malaria and debt relief for health – all of which has enhanced my knowledge and skills. I have been able to diffuse the knowledge I gained to other young people like myself who are committed to use their voices to bring change. I continue to influence decision makers at my community to eradicate malaria by placing the community at the center. I have seen the value in my voice, and I vow to continue using my change as a young person to impart change in my community.

Damas Mwambe
Lawyer
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Through the Youth Leaders for Health Program, I have been empowered with smart advocacy skills in health systems strengthening. I am now using the skills to develop a what is going to be a successful advocacy campaign for the organization I am working with. I am excited that I have been able to practise the skills in real work environment which I believe will yield greater impact in the future.

Dorina Mathayo
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Health Promotion Tanzania (HDT)

"As a youth leader for health, my value and focus has been to mentor other youth and educating them on the importance of amplifying their voices to present problems facing communities. Young people are more receptive to change and have a large stake in creating a visionary future. As a youth leader, I have been able to elevate my role in facilitating positive change in structures, policies and procedures that are demand-driven to address health needs of the communities".

Rebecca Stanley
Youth Leader for Health - Tanzania
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The youth leaders for health program has heloped me to incorporate and implement the skills and experiences I have gained to promoto healthy lifestyle and create health care awareness programs such as using insecticide-treated mosquito nets and engaging the community in the fight against malaria. On a personal level, being a youth leader has been significant in my career and shaping my focus. I am now pursing a master's degree in global health to learn new concepts, enhance my knowledge and transform it into practise. I am excited to continue advocating for health systems strengthening to ensure that quality health services and interventions reach to the most vulnerable people in the community. I strongly believe that investing in health and well-being of the people is key in eradicating poverty and achieving sustained health improvement and development.

Edna Mgunda
Student - Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
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"As a Youth Leader for Health I have ensured that health systems strengthening & a focus on diseases such as Malaria & Neglected Tropical Diseases in light of COVID19 continues to be a part of national and international discussions involving the youth and other stakeholders within the health sector".

Farhan Yusuf
SHOPS PLUS - Tanzania
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"Going across the communities, training people, meeting local leaders and government officials has provided me with an immense opportunity. An opportunity that has brought impact to me and the community. I have been able to stand not only in words but in action to support better health for all. The power of young leaders for health in advocacy for health systems strengthening is truly incredible and should not be undermined as it yields indispensable results at every level".

Aloyce P. Urassa
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"I have raised the level of familiarity in health systems and advocacy through learning the best strategies and steps towards achieving advocacy outcomes. With that knowledge, I have played a role in assisting, educating, and supporting my community in make informed and appropriate decisions for their health including advocating to decision makers on the urgent need to strengthen healthcare systems".

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HEALTH PROMOTION TANZANIA
H.D.T
"Every Life of a Mother and Child Counts"

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