



MAY NEWSLETTER 2019



There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women.

The month of May 2019, PHARP focused on empowering and enabling women leaders located in Kipeto, Kajiado West and a group of youth's leaders in Jilore, Kilifi Counties. The purpose of working with each selected group is for each individual to understand how their ideas, opinions and strengths are critical in achieving peace and disciplining others within the family and at community levels.

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On 3rd to 4th May 2019: On these two days, PHARP trained 12 Christian Union youth leaders who represented 4 schools within the locality of Jilore ward. These leaders were trained on the basics of discipleship and how to effectively run small discipleship groups during the Christian union sessions that are held weekly. Each of the leaders received two copies of the '*Finding your place in the world*' discipleship manual authored by Joe Williamson. This manual looks at depth on the discipleship basics acronym tSOAR (time, truth, trust, surrender, obey, abide and reconcile). The manual is a great resource which seeks to promote personal relationship growth with God, peers, co-workers and with family. We pray that these Christian Union leaders will stay focused and strengthened as they do the work of God in their schools.



Christian Union leaders in training

On 7th to 8th May 2019: Youth training took place at PHARP Center in Vithunguni, Malindi in Kilifi County. This group of youths are young teenagers who were forced out of school due to early pregnancy. Research shows that more than 51% of Africa's population are children. One in six children across the globe are living in communities affected by conflict. Children are at risk now than at any time in the last 20 years. It is very unfortunate that we are accustomed to saying that children are the future. But the question is: how can they have a future when they don't have a present? PHARP staff in Malindi worked with 8 young children of ages 14 who became mothers at this very tender age. Majority of these youths in Kilifi from Mijikenda community are grappling with challenges of education, unemployment and religious conflicts (Muslims and Christians) and all these force young men and women to engage in activities that affect their childhood. Parents are at crossroads on how to provide the basic factors that contribute to healthy development of their children. Such factors as: love, security, food, shelter, education, family, opportunities for self-expression and also healthcare are a far cry within Kilifi County. Therefore, young girls and boys will engage with terror gangs and prostitution in order to get some of these they lack. As the teen- mums shared the stories of their lives, it was evident that some had gone through a lot of trauma. it's out of these stories that one could see the challenges that surrounds the whole idea such as poverty, peer pressure and dysfunctional families to mention but a few.

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PHARP is currently working with 6 teenage mothers at the PHARP center who desire to return to school. However, before this happens, we are walking with them on matters of their spirituality as we hold weekly discipleship sessions with them as they are taught on trauma healing, forgiveness and peacebuilding. We call on our readers, who feel touched to help these teenage mothers be given the skills that can help them in the new roles they have assumed as young mothers. With \$300 you support the 6 teenage mums get one-week residential training. With \$450, you support the 6 teenage mums to get a supply of diapers and food for their children for a month.

Tatu, a teen- mum in class seven at Sosoni primary school is from the neighbourhood adjacent to the PHARP centre. She was impregnated by a fellow teenager. Her family and friends were advocating for abortion, because this was a great shame. The father was a community elder and she was only 14 years. The PHARP contact person engaged the family on issues pertaining to their daughter's health and more so what God's word says on the whole matter. Tatu was able to carry the baby for nine months, unfortunately she delivered but the baby did not live to see a new day. This really traumatised her very much. The baby was buried but now she became very secluded. After several visits from some PHARP women beneficiaries, she was able to overcome the pain and shame and attended the discipleship training. Tatau, having met other fellow teen mums and sharing their stories, she is now open to learning and gaining skills that will improve her life.

On 10th and 11th May: Two disciples from PHARP -Malindi were taken for training which was held at Kibokoni residence in Malindi town. The training aimed at strengthening participants in their faith and networking them with other leaders from Malindi area (Kisumu ndogo, kakuyuni, Msoloni and Msabaha neighbourhoods).

The disciples had several sessions of learning as well time with God. Topics covered included: Why and how to do ministry in the neighbourhood, steps of journeying with those who want to follow Christ, Quite time with God, Evangelism among others. Jona, a youth disciple being mentored at PHARP said this; *"Through this training and the information shared, I have seen the urgency of helping others know Christ"*.

After the training, Jona who is a school dropout and a potential leader was charged to start a small business that would help him get in contact with many people, so that he may use that tool of trade as a discipleship platform. As we talk now, he is in the finishing process of setting up a simple barber shop, which he operates under a big tree by the main road. The proceeds from this vocation will help him get transport for doing missions and evangelism.

Dear readers, let us continue to pray for Jona and other youth disciples who are committed to the work of God, that their passion and zeal shall not die. And more so, they can be financially supported too.



Left: Jona (in a marron shirt) in a team building session. Right: Jona at his work station

On May 16th: 9 women leaders coming from Maasai community met at the PHARP office for a time of learning and sharing. These women are culturally pastoralists and they solely rely on what their husbands tell them. This means that the women are not yet fully aware of the potential that they carry in terms of development and discipleship. The women were trained and enlightened on how they can better improve themselves both spiritually (discipleship), physically (education) and economically (poultry farming). Borrowing from the words of Mother Teresa, women learnt that; *‘they should be faithful in small things because it is in them that ones’ strength lies’*. PHARP supported them to start a joint activity of chicken rearing. The structure is complete and 30 chickens already bought. This joint activity will bring them together as they study from God’s word and share responsibilities of taking of the chicken which promotes peace and co-existence.



Left: Madam Susan (orange scarf) teaching on discipleship. Right; Women leaders in group discussion.



The chicken structure of Maasai women being supported by PHARP for economic empowerment

Thanksgiving and Prayer request

1. We thank God for the good health of PHARP team and the provision for May activities
2. We thank God for the rain that the country is experiencing after a severe drought.
3. We thank God for a simple guest house of 4 rooms that was set up at the PHARP center in Malindi. We pray that our readers and supporters would help us to add more rooms so that we can house more participants for residential trainings.



Simple 4-bedroom guest house

4. Pray for the relationship between Rwanda and Uganda (Countries in East Africa) which are not in good relationship as before.
5. Pray for training targeting church and community leaders to be held in Malindi, Kilifi County in the month of June.
6. Pray for women at Kipeto location who have started an initiative that will bring them together and grow them economically.