

RADICAL SEASONS:

A FOUR YEAR RETROSPECTIVE REPORT





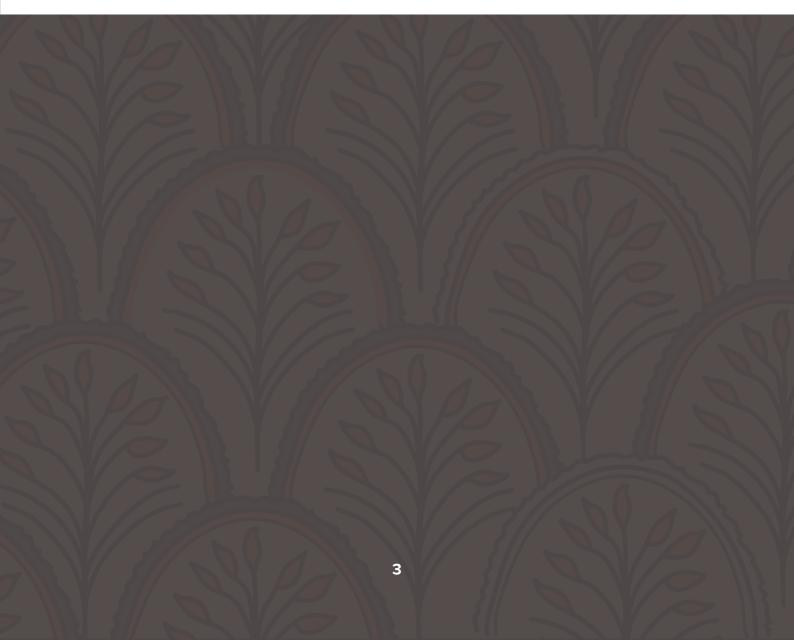
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About the Report

Our name, Zamara Foundation, was birthed from a deep understanding of her meaning. Identifying and responding to the name is a declaration that we have aspirations and inspirations, hope and guidance; we are intuitive and perceptive and understand ourselves and human nature. This is where our story begins, under the meaning of our name. In the four years of owning this name, we have sowed our dreams to strengthen the voice, choice, and agency of adolescent girls and young women in all their diversities in marginalised communities to challenge and transform the status quo in Kenya and East Africa. These seeds have grown within us and taken root in our geographical context and globally. Our dream is a society where young women and girls' leadership and sexual and reproductive health are recognised, protected, and respected. In the four years, we have committed to mobilising and strengthening the voices of young women and girls in marginalised communities to challenge and transform the status quo. Throughout the years, Zamara Foundation has sowed seeds of feminist transformational leadership, sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice, policy advocacy, and efforts to end child marriage in Kenya and East Africa. As the seasons unfolded, Zamara Foundation grew in people, programmes, and partnerships. She became a fertile soil — a testament to the pruning and nurturing by the women who bore her. Radical Seasons is a four-year retrospective report of Zamara Foundation, where each seed tells a story of resilience and growth.





- Zamara Foundation is a place where you can dare to dream.
- Zamara Foundation is where you are seen, loved, and cared for.
- Zamara Foundation is a place for all.
- **Tamara Foundation is a space for innovation.**
- Zamara Foundation is a place where your power will be regained and retained.
- Zamara Foundation is a place where women are the main characters.
- Zamara Foundation is a place where information is localized and popularized.
- Zamara Foundation is a peace area.
- Zamara Foundation is a place where integrity is upheld and respected.
- **Zamara Foundation is a place where your voice is heard.**
- Zamara Foundation is a place where you feel welcomed.
- **Zamara Foundation is a place where you leave enriched.**



A note from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of Zamara Foundation,

As we reflect on the past four years, it fills me with immense pride to see how far we have come on our journey with Zamara Foundation. Our name, deeply rooted in meaning, symbolises our commitment to empowering adolescent girls and young women in marginalised communities. It is a name that represents aspirations, hope, and the unwavering belief in the transformative power of individuals and communities.

Throughout this time, we have worked tirelessly to amplify the voices of young women and girls, to challenge the status quo, and to advocate for their rights and agency. Our efforts in feminist transformational leadership, sexual and reproductive health, and ending child marriage have made significant strides, thanks to our team's dedication and our partners' support.

As we present Radical Seasons, our four-year retrospective report, each page tells a story of resilience and growth. It is a testament to the countless seeds we have planted, nurtured, and watched flourish. But our work is far from over. There are still challenges ahead, still barriers to break, and still lives to uplift.

Together, let us continue to sow the seeds of change, cultivate environments where every young woman and girl can thrive, and build a future where their leadership and rights are recognised, protected, and respected.

Thank you for your unwavering support, passion, and commitment to the vision of Zamara Foundation. Together, we can create a world where every girl's dreams are within reach.

In Revolutionary Love,

Esther Wambui, Executive Director, Zamara Foundation.

GGGGGGGG

A note from the Board Chair

I am honoured to share with you the profound impact and progress we made from 2019 - 2022. It has been an incredible journey marked by dedication, perseverance, and a steadfast commitment to our mission.

From the beginning, we embodied our values, aspirations, and collective determination to mobilise and strengthen the voices of young women and girls in marginalised communities to challenge and transform the status quo.

In Radical Seasons, our retrospective report, you will see the fruits of our labour, the stories of resilience, and the evidence of our collective impact. From advocating for sexual and reproductive health rights to challenging societal norms that perpetuate child marriage, we have been at the forefront of change, thanks to the tireless efforts of our team and the unwavering support of our partners.

As we celebrate our achievements, we also recognise the challenges that lie ahead. The journey towards gender justice is ongoing, and much work remains to be done. But with your continued support and dedication, I am confident we will continue to do the work.

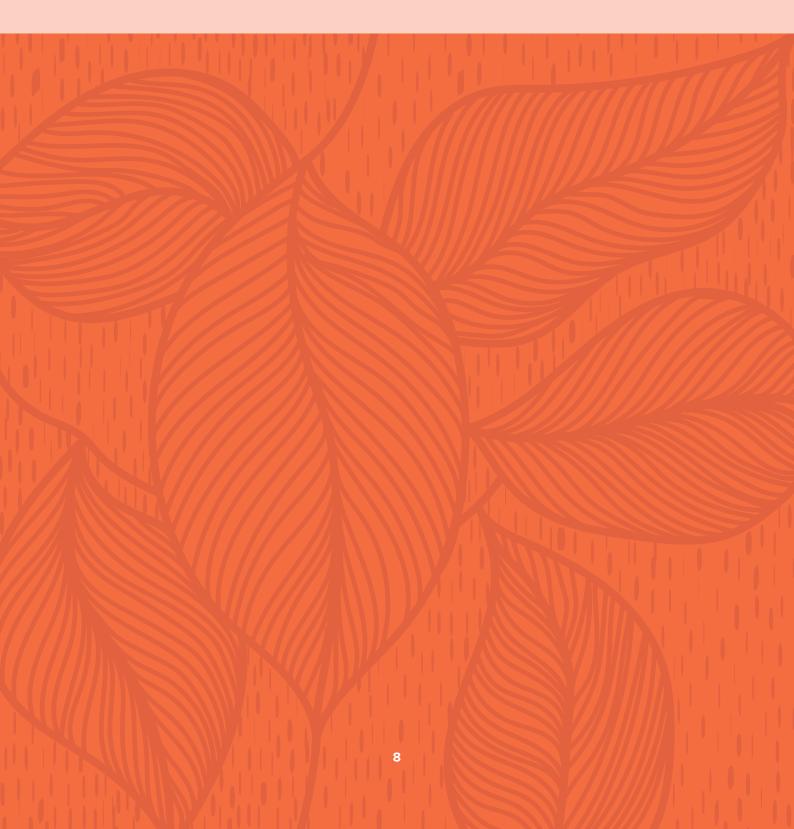
Thank you for standing with us on this incredible journey.

In Revolutionary Solidarity,

Board of Directors, *Zamara Foundation.*

Seeds, Soils and Water

At the start of Zamara Foundation, we imagined a society where the leadership and sexual and reproductive rights of adolescent girls and young women in all their diversities are recognised, respected, and protected. In four years, we planted, nurtured, and grew seeds under four programmes. Our programmes have inspired young girls and women to engage the responsible parties meaningfully to boldly challenge the anti-gender movements that sabotage the realisation of their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).



Feminist Transformational Leadership Institute (ZaFLI)



"I found friends, sisters, and a family in ZaFLI. I was in awe of how much grace, knowledge, and love the young women in my cohort embodied."

- ZaFLI Participant



Every year since 2022, we have held the Zamara Foundation Intersectional Feminist Institute (ZaFLI). We host young women between the ages of 21-29 years who are actively advocating for SRHR in Kenya. With the faculty including topics on sexuality, feminism, intersectionality, and SRHR legal and policy frameworks, the young women leave the five-day retreat better equipped to advance reproductive and sexual rights in Kenya. The first ZaFLI was held with more than 23 young women from Nairobi, Kiambu, Kilifi, Kwale, and Mombasa Counties. The gathering held discussions on sexual reproductive health rights from a feminist perspective, understanding the history and theoretical and legal frameworks of the feminist movement. Looking ahead, we see how this space continues to hold intergenerational dialogues and build constituents of young feminists who understand the intersecting patterns between different power structures that show how women's social identities overlap in creating experiences of discrimination based on gender, class, sexuality, ethnicity, etc.



"I learnt how to deal with backlash as a feminist. How to go back to the drawing board, in case my advocacy strategy doesn't go as planned; how to work together with other feminists." - ZaFLI Participant







Rooted Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Resilience in Kenya and East Africa

Zamara Foundation's vision is safe environments where adolescent girls can learn to set goals, identify role models, deal with life's challenges, and make informed decisions about their lives. In four years, we have partnered with sister organisations, including the Hijabi Mentorship Program and Ngamani Primary School, to host safe spaces conversations with girls between the ages of 15-17 years. From discussing life goals and what it means to be like the people they admire as role models to engaging in age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health and rights topics, we demystified myths and misconceptions about SRHR. We encouraged discussions of family planning, sex, and pregnancy.





A Symphony of Radical Bodily Autonomy

As we progressed with our safe spaces conversations, we included young women, sex workers, girls living with HIV, and young mothers and girls from underserved communities. We watered their minds with knowledge and strengthened their voices to challenge oppressive systems and the status quo. Onwards and onwards, we are building a critical mass of knowledgeable adolescent girls and young women, actively disrupting discriminatory and oppressive practices and systems in Kilifi and Mombasa Counties, and Matuga Sub-county.

As a member of the Women Global Network for Reproductive Rights Africa (WGNRR) under the Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Project, we participated in consultations with other members from Kenya, Malawi, and Tanzania. Our consultations strengthened skills in effective advocacy and campaigning strategies for the advancement of adolescent SRHR in the Eastern Africa region, and strategised for joint regional/national advocacy sessions with duty bearers and decision-makers.

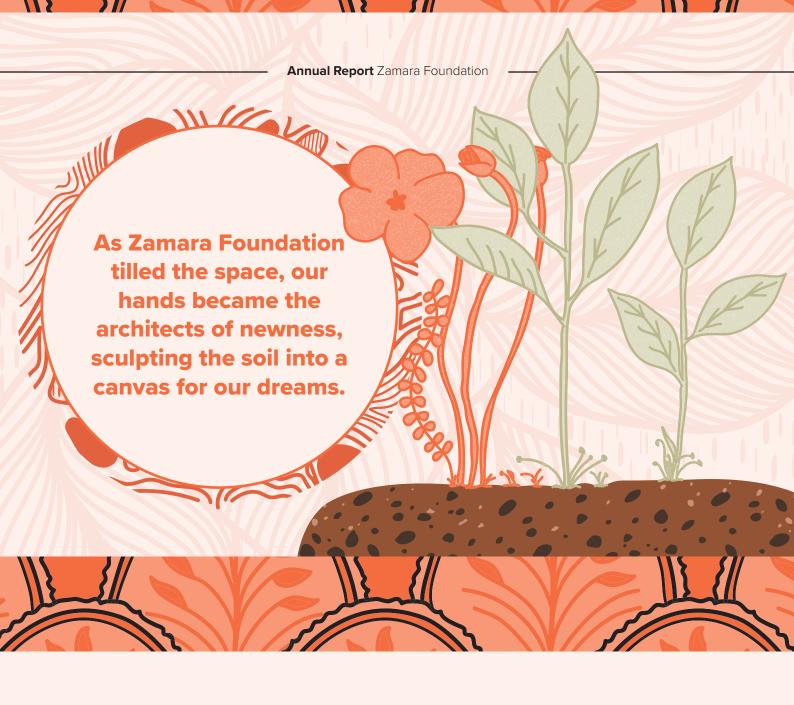
Using Effective Advocacy Strategies to Uproot Restrictive SRHR Policies and Laws in Kenya and East Africa

Zamara Foundation grew in understanding of her calling over the years and saw herself in the midst of co-labourers fighting against gender inequality and patriarchal systems. This was important for our mission as we knew we could not work in silos. A seed planted without nurturing will not grow. And we led our policy advocacy work with that understanding. Using tools to plough the weeds, uproot anti-gender movements' agenda and water new ways of thinking, our work was both physical and digital.

Zamara Foundation partnered with other co-labourers in weathering the storms and seasons through strategic convenings, releasing position papers, statements, and radical disruption using social media channels to advance the rights of women and girls in Kenya and East Africa.

Impact Analysis on the National Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Policy 2015 in Kenya

As Zamara Foundation tilled the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights space, it was important for us to evaluate the land and the foundations upon which the reproductive rights of women and girls rest. Together with other grassroots organisations in Nairobi, Youth Changers Kenya and Youth Accountability and Strategy Network, we conducted an analysis of the impact of the National Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Policy in Kenya (2015). With the technical support of WGNRR Africa and funding from HIVOS, we used the Health Rights of Women Assessment Instrument (HeRWAI) tool, internet-based research, online youth consultation, and group discussions to identify gaps in the policy and the need to meaningfully engage pregnant adolescents and young mothers in the development of interventions aimed at reducing pregnancy.



Position Paper for the National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy 2015

Together with our co-labourers, we continued our advocacy on the ASRH policy 2015. We realised that in order to harvest the realities we dream of, we must keep toiling. In that spirit, we conducted a youth-led assessment of the ASRH policy 2015 and documented the views of adolescents and young people in Nairobi, Kakamega, Kiambu, Kisumu, and Machakos Counties. Our consultations weaved the SRHR needs of adolescents and young people, with particular attention to adolescent girls. The views captured triggered discussions to prioritise the SRHR needs of adolescents and young people, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attending the Eighth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

We took our dreams and advocacy tools to the Eighth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD). We knew what we wanted to achieve, and we knew

the importance of our voice in regional spaces across the continent. Our dreams were as visible as our participation at the ARFSD. We discussed the need for radical implementation of concrete policies to ensure that women are adequately represented at all levels of decision-making. With African governments present, it was important for us to emphasise the need to strengthen the evidence for the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda through better gender data, statistics, and analysis to effectively monitor progress among women and girls across all goals and targets.

Unpacking the Legal Frameworks, Communities Narratives and Perceptions of Violence against Women in Kenya

As the seasons unfolded, we knew that achieving our dreams was embedded at the intersection of multiple systems of oppression and patriarchal battles. We became more intentional and deliberate in the meaningful inclusion of communities and survivor-centred approaches in designing solutions towards ending violence against women. In 2022, we mobilised local communities and survivors to tell their own narratives and shift the status quo on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), especially as it relates to the frameworks in place. We honoured community voices in Mukuru kwa Reuben, at the Ruben Centre, for open and honest community dialogue in partnership with SGBV Survivors Network in Kenya, Survivors of Sexual Violence (SSV), and representatives from the sub-county office. The dialogues presented different perspectives on SGBV and forged strategies to end violence against women and girls in all their diversities.

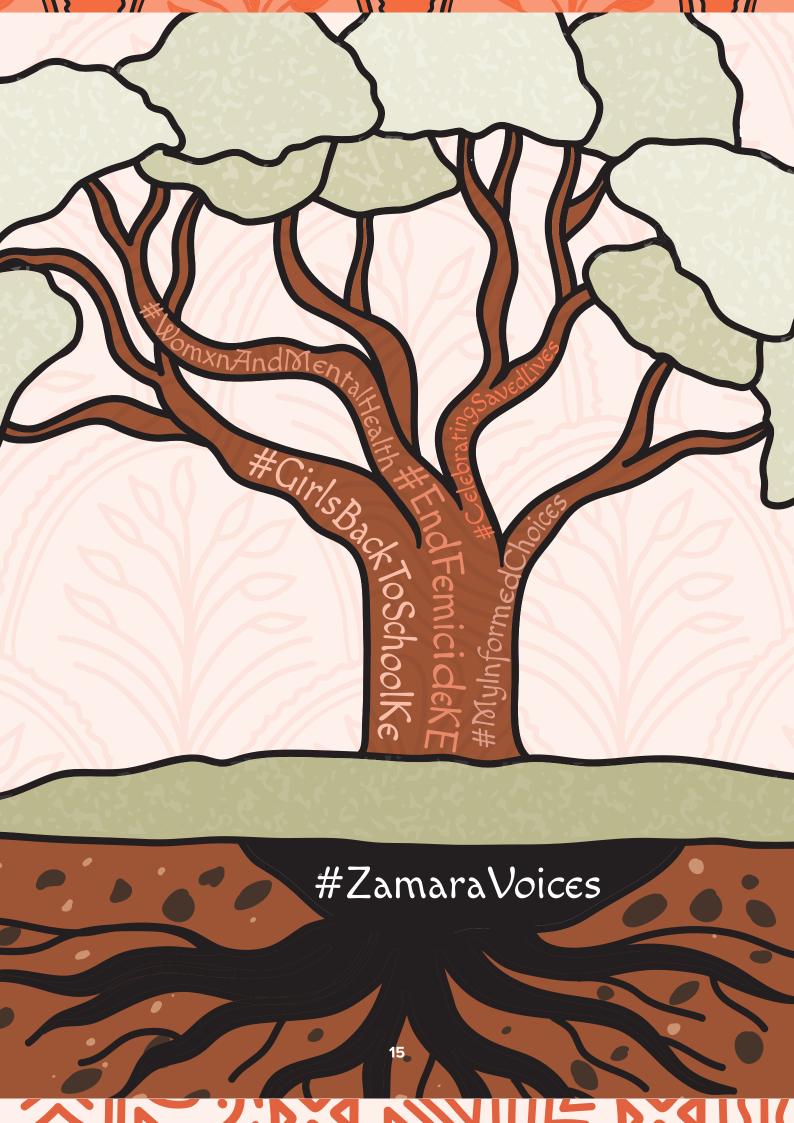




Reclaiming our Bodies with Radical Hashtags

As a feminist homegrown organisation with adolescents and young women at the centre of our vision, we built a community over the years with partners in Kenya and East Africa, both online and offline. Through the use of digital and social media, we mobilised young feminist women and girls to amplify their voices to challenge anti-gender movements and advance SRHR. We hosted disruptive conversations in various formats and mediums, including on YouTube and Twitter (X). Our digital advocacy has increased online conversations around reproductive rights, particularly abortion, comprehensive sexuality education, LGBT rights, same-sex marriage, and gender-based violence. In spite of the rise in fundamentalism and anti-gender movements challenging SRHR bills and access to legal and safe abortion in East Africa, the Zamara Foundation has led discussions to spread correct information and positive messages to ensure that conversations around sexuality are normalised and no longer considered taboo. From #GirlsBackToSchoolKe, #CelebratingSavedLives to #MyInformedChoices, #EndFemicideKE and #WomxnAndMentalHealth, we have echoed the voices of adolescents and young women and amplified the power of their collective actions across Kenya and East Africa.

We planted #Zamara FoundationVoices in the digital space, and we are witnessing the power of collective voices and a community of adolescents and young women centring themselves in SRHR narratives.

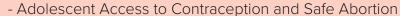


#PassTheEACSRHBill

The East African Community Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Bill 2021 is one of the key milestones towards a sustainable resolution because it seeks to implement the East African Community Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Strategic Plan 2015 – 2030. Together with partners in East Africa, we have led virtual brown bags, webinars and Twitter spaces to increase public knowledge through #VoicesOnEACSRHBill to ensure that even as we call for the bill to be enacted, it is backed by the community. Our digital advocacy to #PassTheEACSRHBill further strengthens advocacy efforts and meaningful engagements, especially during the implementation of the bill.









#RightToAbortion

The Malindi case prompted us, with our partner, Youth Empowerment Movement Kenya, to host a virtual chat on the high court ruling. We celebrated the win and progress on SRHR advocacy with the high court ruling ascertaining that abortion rights are human rights, and that the sexual and reproductive rights of girls and women in all their diversities should be upheld. The message is clear. It is unconstitutional to arrest women, girls, and marginalised groups for seeking abortion care.

#MyMentalHealthKe

Critical to our advocacy for safe abortion for women and girls is mental health advocacy. As we advocate for reproductive rights, we understand the importance of emotional and social well-being. We have led the mental health discourse, particularly to raise awareness about the mental health ecosystem and how stigma associated with abortion affects the mental health of women and girls. Our goal is to encourage help-seeking behaviours and emotional well-being practices, and prevent suicide.

#StopContraceptiveStigma

The stigma around access to and use of contraceptives among adolescent girls and young women negatively impacts their health. As we envision a society where the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls are respected and protected, we recognise that this cannot be achieved without access to contraception, delivered in a way that respects the dignity, autonomy, and privacy of women and girls. Using the #StopContraceptiveStigma, we are demystifying the myths that reinforce the stigmatisation of girls' and young women's access to contraceptives.







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"We need to remind young girls and women that it is their right to decide when to reproduce. Let's remind them that they can be in control." - Sarah



#ReligionAndSRHR

In the rise of fundamentalism and the influence of religious groups on policies and laws to further control the autonomy and agency of women and girls, we used the #ReligionAndSRHR to lead conversations on the rise of religious fundamentalism and how it has consistently challenged the realisation of sexual and reproductive health and rights in Kenya. We increased the awareness of religious fundamentalism actions and how they manifest in the SRHR space.

#KnowThefacts101

Increasing positive information and changing narratives on sexual and reproductive health, including contraceptives, is one of the things we love to do at Zamara Foundation. Over the years, we have created awareness of contraception as a human right. Using the #KnowTheFacts101, we are bursting myths about contraception, including its access and use.



"Access to contraception enables adolescent girls and women to exercise their right to comprehensive bodily autonomy." - Wendy



#TheActualTruth

As we moved through the seasons of our calling, we discovered an increase in false information about sexuality, sexual health, and rights. We saw the influence of anti-feminist and anti-gender movements perpetuating false narratives on bodily autonomy and integrity. Particularly in Kenya, we witnessed the growth of anti-choice organisations, some of them posing as comprehensive healthcare clinics — called "crisis pregnancy centres" (CPCs), to spread false information about abortion, birth control, and sexual health. Zamara Foundation embarked on a truth journey using the #TheActualTruth to burst the myths on CPCs and how they limit access to correct SRHR information and services.

#WomnInPoliticalLeadership

The political climate in Kenya and Africa presents an urgent need to close the gender gap in representation at all levels. Zamara Foundation continues to highlight and condemn all forms of violence and discrimination faced by women in all their diversities in politics, especially during election seasons in the country. We also use the opportunity to unpack good governance practices that foster women's political participation in all their diversities.





















Testaments to Voices, Choices and Agencies

Throughout our years, we uphold the powerful voices of adolescent girls and young women who are shaping the world's future towards the emancipation of women and girls one story at a time, as they share their lived realities to expose the challenges of women and girls navigating oppressive systems and owning their voices, choices, and agencies.



COVID-19 STORIES - Young Afrikan Feminists

This curation of different conversations on how COVID-19 affected Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) culminated in the e-book dubbed "COVID-19 Stories". In these stories, we highlight young feminists from Africa who addressed the effects of COVID-19 within their communities and personal lives.



"I looked forward to Fridays every day because I knew a young Afrikan Feminist from another country would share how they were coping, and I used that to do the same. COVID-19 was a dark period for us all and the created space by Zamara Foundation helped us cope much better." - Patricia Humura



Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Women in Africa

It has been proven historically that pandemics, epidemics, and conflict have a greater devastating effect on women and children, and leave those in the minority even more vulnerable. This is because of women's low economic status in society. In this report, the Zamara Foundation gave a brief country analysis of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa using Botswana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and Zimbabwe as case studies. The report also provided recommendations and words from African feminists on various human rights issues and the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa.

TusemeZane Sasa

TusemeZaneSasa is a Swahili phrase that means "Let's talk now, let's have a conversation". We created TusemeZaneSasa to build solidarity. A space for everyone: girls, young women, and gender-expansive persons. Through the podcast, we hosted conversations about sexuality, sexual health, reproductive justice, real-life stories, and experiences. It is a place where we educate, get educated, challenge our biases, and have fun while at it.

Zamara Foundation Voices on International Day of Safe and Legal Abortions

The restrictive abortion laws in East Africa continue to contribute to the stigma surrounding abortion, which makes it difficult for women to access the healthcare and support they need. We documented stories of young women making a case for access to safe, legal abortion and the importance of making unsafe abortions history.

Deepening Indigenous Knowledge of Sexuality

Sexuality in African culture is viewed from a conservative lens, and the historical knowledge is often from the colonial era. Over the years, at Zamara Foundation, we have reflected on the concepts of sexuality and the indigenous knowledge of sexuality. We ask ourselves how has the narrative of conservative sexuality, particularly for African women, been institutionalised and who benefits from the perpetuation of this narrative? We have since hosted conversations and sparked curiosity to understand the links between culture and sexuality, demystify myths and misconceptions of culture and sexuality in the African setting, and deepen the understanding of indigenous knowledge and its contribution to sexuality.





Testaments to Nurturing and Growth

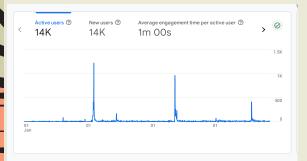
In seasons, Zamara Foundation has welcomed siblings and nurturers who are committed to watering the seeds we have planted and the hopes we have. We share a testament to the healthy soil of our farmland throughout the seasons.

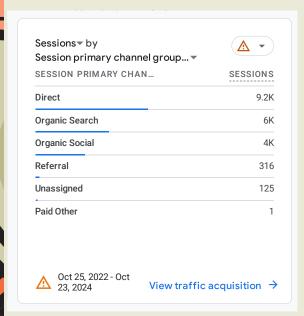
- Counties Nairobi, Kilifi, Kwale and Kajiado
- Number of projects 8 projects
- Number of partners Over 50 partners

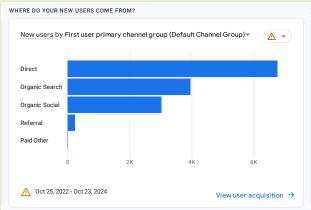
Social media following

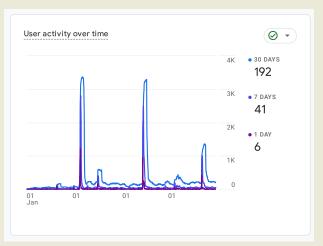














User activity by cohort Based on device data only						
	Week 0	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
All Users	100.0%	3.0%	0.5%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Sep 8 - Sep 14						
Sep 15 - Sep 21						
Sep 22 - Sep 28						
Sep 29 - Oct 5						
Oct 6 - Oct 12						
Oct 13 - Oct 19						
6 weeks ending Oc	nt 10				View re	

Views by Page title and screen class	⊘ →
PAGE TITLE AND SCREEN	VIEWS
Zamara Foundation Voice.C	7.5K
Zamara Foundation Vacanc	4.9k
Zamara Foundation Zamara	4.6K
Zamara Foundation Page no	2.3K
Zamara Foundation Zamara	1.9k
Zamara Foundation About Z	1.7K
Zamara Foundation Contact	1.4k
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Event count by Ever	nt name 🥥 🔻
EVENT NAME	EVENT COUNT
page_view	33K
session_start	20K
scroll	19K
user_engagement	18K
first_visit	14K
click	2.7K
file_download	1.8K

Analytics report for Zamara Foundation's website snapshots from © 2024 Google | Analytics home | Terms of Service

Lessons

As we moved through the seasons, we picked up lessons along the way...



We have learnt that meaningful change is most effectively achieved through collaborative efforts. Building strong partnerships with feminist organisations, community movements, and policymakers has significantly enhanced our impact and reach.



Understanding the unique cultural, social, and economic contexts of the communities we serve is crucial. Tailoring our programmes and interventions to fit each community's specific needs and realities has been essential for sustainability and effectiveness.



We have recognised the importance of investing in the leadership development of young women and girls. Providing them with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to become agents of change within their own communities has been a cornerstone of our work.



Over the years, we have encountered various challenges and obstacles that have required us to adapt and innovate. Being flexible in our approach and willing to pivot when necessary has been key to overcoming these challenges and continuing to make progress towards our goals.



Advocacy is crucial in driving systemic change and addressing the root causes of inequality. We have learnt that digital and in-person advocacy efforts are essential for influencing policies and practices that affect adolescent girls' and young women's rights and well-being, locally, nationally, or internationally.



Achieving sustainable change takes time and requires a long-term commitment. We have learnt the importance of persistence and patience in our efforts, understanding that meaningful impact often unfolds gradually over time.



Centring the voices and experiences of the communities we serve has been instrumental in shaping our programmes and strategies. We have learnt that listening to the needs and priorities of community members is essential for designing relevant and impactful interventions.



Celebrating successes, no matter how small, is a political act. Similarly, we have learnt the value of reflecting on and learning from failures or setbacks, using them as opportunities for growth and improvement.



Board members

Nebila Abdulmelik

Evelyn Kaliti

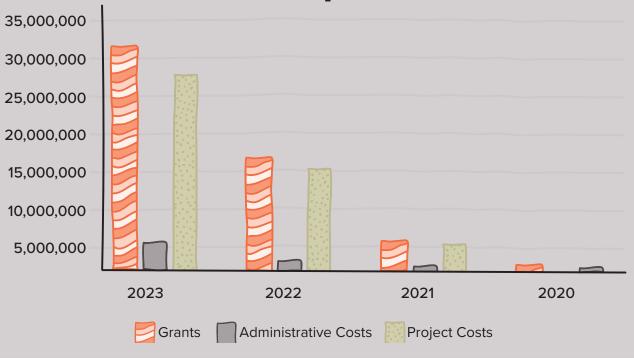
Ruth Nekura -Transitioned in 2020 Eloise Burke -Transitioned in 2021



Financials



Grant vs Expenditure



Grant growth

