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## Appendix 2: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Climate Health Camp Report

### Comprehensive Project Report: Climate Health Camp

**Theme:** Creating Climate-Resilient Communities by Championing the Advocacy of the Climate-Health Nexus for Vulnerable Persons in the Community



**Location:** Full Gospel Churches of Kenya, Kyang'ombe, Kitengela, Kajiado Sub-county

**Dates:** October 27-29, 2023

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## Introduction

The Climate Health Camp was organized with the goal of building climate-resilient communities by highlighting the crucial link between climate change and health. Vulnerable populations, particularly those in Kitengela and Kajiado Sub-county, were the primary focus. The camp provided vital health services while also educating the community on climate-related health issues. The three-day camp served a total of 1,500 individuals, with partners offering services and awareness activities that impacted the health and environmental consciousness of the community.

## Objectives

- Raise awareness on the intersection between climate change and health.
- Provide free healthcare services to vulnerable populations in the community.
- Promote eco-friendly living practices to foster sustainability and climate resilience.
- Encourage partnerships and collaboration for sustainable community health.

## Partners:

- Full Gospel Churches of Kenya, Kyang'ombe
- Kajiado Sub-county Health Management Team
- Gem Trust Kenya
- Green Focus
- Mind Africa
- Daystar University Nursing Students

## Approach:

### Day 1: Civic Education and Awareness

**Lead Partner:** Green Focus Kenya

The first day of the camp was dedicated to civic education, focusing on how climate change directly impacts community health. **Dr. Ojijo**, an expert from Green Focus Kenya, conducted an engaging session on eco-friendly living, emphasizing sustainable practices that individuals could adopt to mitigate climate-related health risks. His presentation used real-life examples from the community, such as the increase in respiratory diseases due to environmental degradation, to illustrate the urgent need for climate action at the grassroots level.



## Day 2: Health Camp and Community Engagement

Day two saw a more hands-on approach, as the camp provided essential health services to the community. A healthcare team attended to participants offering:

- General medical consultations
- Reproductive health services
- HIV/STI screening
- Dental and optical services
- Free medications

**Gem Trust Kenya** led a community advocacy initiative with a caravan, driving healthcare workers through local neighborhoods to engage residents on climate and health matters. **Dr. Sarah Kimaiga**, CEO of Najimudu Empowerment Initiative, delivered a powerful message emphasizing the importance of community collaboration to strengthen health systems and build climate resilience. She called for collective efforts to address the pressing health needs of the community.





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### Day 3: Church Service and Environmental Action

**Lead Partner:** Full Gospel Churches of Kenya, Kyang'ombe

On the third day, a church service was held to reflect on the success of the camp and encourage further collaboration. **Rev. Charles**, of Full Gospel Churches of Kenya, expressed gratitude for the contributions of all partners and praised the impact of the camp. He stressed the importance of continued partnerships and community engagement to ensure sustained health and environmental benefits in the future.

In line with the camp's environmental focus, **Najimudu Empowerment Initiative** distributed over **3,000 seed balls** to community members, which were planted in open spaces around the area. Additionally, three saplings were planted in the church compound, symbolizing the long-term environmental impact of the camp. These saplings were entrusted to the church's youth group for ongoing care and maintenance.



#### Outcomes

- **Health Impact:** Over 1,500 community members received crucial health services, including general consultations, reproductive health services, HIV/STI screenings, and medications.
- **Increased Environmental Awareness:** The civic education sessions raised awareness on the climate-health nexus, equipping participants with knowledge on sustainable practices for a healthier environment.
- **Community Engagement:** The advocacy caravan and community outreach programs successfully engaged local residents, spreading messages on the importance of eco-friendly living and collective health action.

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- **Environmental Action:** 3,000 seed balls were planted, contributing to local reforestation efforts, and three saplings were planted in the church compound as a legacy of the camp's environmental commitment.

## Challenges

- **Last-Minute Partner Withdrawals:** Some partners pulled out at the last minute, leaving gaps in key areas of implementation.
- **Limited Dental and Optical Services:** There was a high demand for dental and optical services, but the camp was unable to meet the full needs of the participants.
- **Financial Constraints:** Najimudu Empowerment Initiative faced budget deficits that limited the camp's reach and resource provision.
- **Medication Shortages:** Some fast-moving medications were not available in sufficient quantities, affecting service delivery during the camp.

## Lessons Learned

- **Early Planning and Resource Mobilization:** For future camps, planning should begin earlier to allow for adequate time for resource mobilization. This would ensure better preparedness and reduce budgetary pressures.
- **Engaging Partners in Advance:** Involving partners early in the planning process and assigning clear responsibilities would help avoid last-minute withdrawals and ensure smoother implementation.
- **Expansion of Environmental Activities:** The next phase of the camp should include a larger area for sapling planting to amplify the environmental impact.
- **Setting Up a Technical Working Group:** Establishing a dedicated technical working group to handle planning and execution would help alleviate the burden on Najimudu Empowerment Initiative and ensure a more streamlined operation.

## Conclusion

The Climate Health Camp was a resounding success, benefiting over 1,500 community members through health services and environmental education. The partnership between healthcare providers, environmental advocates, and community leaders created a strong foundation for future collaboration. With lessons learned from this phase, future camps can expand their reach, enhance services, and deepen the community's resilience to both health and climate challenges.

**News Paper Feature :** <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/realtime/2023-10-29-medics-decry-knowledge-gap-between-health-and-climate-change>

### Photo Gallery :

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1f1kpn37uF5TzHb0HmEMuv1DWsAMUuH0y?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1f1kpn37uF5TzHb0HmEMuv1DWsAMUuH0y?usp=drive_link)



# Najimudu

## Empowerment Initiative