



Youth Talent Development Program Outcome Evaluation

Project: Meru, Kenya

Lead Evaluators: Mary Wanjiku, David Wamae, Virginia Kahuha, Anthony Kinoti, Peter Mworio; Consultants: Becky Spachek and Melissa Velazquez

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Program Background: In 2011, Meru project started a Youth Talent Development Program to work with sponsored members between the ages of 13 and 35. The goal of the program is to create an avenue for youths to realize their talents and support them to enrich their talents for future benefit. The program looks to encourage the youth's participation and ownership of the program, to enhance discovery and development of diverse talents amongst the youths, instill discipline aimed to bring uniqueness in the whole program, and to enlighten youths and create a room for them to come together and feel part of the body of unbound family. By organizing events that encourage youths to participate in talent development activities, the project aims to provide the support youths need to enrich their talents for future benefits.

Purpose of the Evaluation:

- To better understand if youths perceive to have an enhanced discovery and development of diverse talents
- To evaluate other potential impacts and consequences of the program
- To utilize the findings for developing any potential developments in the program

Methods:

- Survey of 393 sponsored youths (program participating as well as non-participating)
- Focus group discussions with 86 sponsored youths

Key Findings and Conclusions:

- 86.6% indicated that they discovered an individual ability through participating in Unbound activities.
- The focus group discussions revealed that more youths are encouraged to continue with school and stay away from drugs because of the platform the program has provided to interact with other students, thus, reducing the rate of school dropouts.
- Youths report to have discovered their talent and express their commitment in nurturing that with further practice in the future
- Some youths also expressed demands of their school and additional burden of time and effort that these programs require as reasons behind their lack of enthusiasm or participation in the program

Learnings and Report Recommendations:

- The findings revealed that the majority of the youths perceive to have added value through the program and discovered their talents during their participation in extra-curricular activities.
- Based on the recommendations of the youths for further developing this program, the Meru project is exploring potential to liaise with other Kenyan projects to have an inter project activities in different areas and find trained referees.