The Paradigm Is Shifting

Our team and community began 2021 with hopeful hearts. Despite the ongoing global COVID19 pandemic, which continues to shine a harsh light on inequitable systems and shifting our realities, it calls on us all to rise and press for change.

At Clean Start, we work alongside women, girls and children fighting for justice, to be seen, to be heard and to be included in opportunities. Our team has dedicated their lives to ensure that we continue building an ecosystem that supports the impacted into the future, because they know the dire consequences when we don’t. And it’s this important work that keeps us going and reminds us of what’s at stake.

Some of the bitter sweet impact on our ecosystem from the COVID-19 pandemic is that while on one hand it has brought to the forefront the urgent need to decongest the prisons, the releases not only pose the glaring challenges of reintegration back into a society with no jobs, no housing, no community, but also, now the challenges have been amplified as the Covid-19 pandemic has driven many more parts of life online. From my own personal experience of imprisonment and what I have seen with other women impacted by the Criminal Justice System, the prison system, is really like walking into a time warp. You need support in everything to rebuild your life, as you leave prison only to quickly realize you have entered a new world, now one dependent on technology and innovation. We are addressing these gaps in digital literacy amongst our constituents, both in prison and the formerly imprisoned, training them on all the preliminary steps of navigating the virtual classes and services as this is our future, which has positively enabled us widen our reach in the prisons we work in and to the formerly imprisoned women, in whichever part
of the country they maybe, embracing the benefits that technology brings. It’s on this note that we are seeking support with laptops.

Inequality is the greatest threat to justice and our commitment to change has not wavered. We are committed to showing the world the power of second chances when offered to formerly imprisoned women, girls and children, elevating them by providing them with resources, opportunities in entrepreneurship, jobs, education and healing, with passion, hope and love.

This first quarter we managed to inject capital in the income generating activities of 23 formerly imprisoned women, we got 140 formerly imprisoned women in the Circles of Healing, we are journeying with 16 girls as they continue with their education post leaving the Juvenile Justice system and investing in responsive care of children accompanying their mothers in prison.

We are so thrilled to welcome our first two governance Board members Renee Ngamau and Dr. Patricia Murugami. They have hit the ground running with supporting the Clean Start team efforts towards achieving our goals and objectives. We are all so excited by the oversight role they are both playing and can’t wait to see the great impact this will have on our community and ecosystem. Read more about them and what they had to say in this newsletter.

As we come to the end of quarter one of 2021 and International Women’s Month, whose theme was #ChooseToChallenge, we ask you to #ChooseToChallenge — not just on International Women’s Month, but every day. Challenge the way things have always been done. Challenge systemic inequalities. Challenge everyday biases. Become part of the change.
Leadership's not a destination, it's a journey.

I first met Teresa Njoroge, the founder and CEO of Clean Start in 2016. We met at Langata Maximum Women Prison, a place we were both very familiar with. We met amidst a lot of celebration as we were receiving a mutual friend who was being released from prison. Three years later in May 2019 I was privileged to join the Clean Start Team, a team of 14 amazing ladies then, as the Managing Director. With the organization being at its start-up phase my responsibilities included over-seeing the day to day administrative and operational functions, as well as putting into place the necessary structures, regulations and policies. Today as I leave Clean Start, I leave a very fulfilled person seeing that the organization has not only moved to the growth stage but has expanded both in terms of capacity and mandate.

On a personal note, I must say that Clean Start has been more than an employer to me. It has become my second family, a family of new sisters and friends. In Clean Start I did not only find a team of ladies with whom we shared a common faith and passion but also a space that allowed

May you be inspired by the leadership, resilience and character on display by our community in the updates covered in this newsletter. To take up your mantle, find bravery and be the much needed light to support the women, girls and children, impacted by the criminal justice system.

With gratitude,

Teresa Njoroge,
Founder and CEO.
me to grow in so many areas. It is in Clean Start that I got my “Second Chance”, my new lease of life, my self-esteem and my confidence back. I have felt at home being amongst sisters who have slept in a prison cell, scrubbed prison floors, eaten prison food from a “mururu”, squatted while being counted and worn a “kunguru”. These sisters like me, have been given a second chance at Clean Start and like me are committed to giving other women coming from behind the bars a second chance too. That is why although my season at Clean Start is over, having accomplished what I had been tasked to do, I am stepping out of Clean Start into the Coalition of Formerly Incarcerated Women (C.O.F.I.W). C.O.F.I.W is a social movement of formerly incarcerated women, like myself, that has been catalyzed by Clean Start, to respond to issues of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women and children and be the lead voice to effect change.

Thank you Teresa for having given me the chance to serve at Clean Start. Thank you Clean Starters for having made my time at Clean Start so memorable.

“Life is full of second chances. When they come be more intentional, courageous and appreciative”

Rebecca Mumo
Outgoing Managing Director
Changing Phases and with Faces

A transition quietly took place early this February when the Clean Start family opened their hearts and hands to welcome me into the new role of the Chief Operating Officer. This comes full circle for me, as a gender and development practitioner coming from the donor world where in my previous post I served as a grant maker for social justice organizations such as Clean Start; that is working to address the stigma and discrimination faced by women and girls impacted by the criminal justice system.

My vision for the organization as I step into the shoes of the outgoing MD, Ms. Rebecca Mumo is –

- **To build a resilient and robust organization that serves as a centre of excellence for showcasing best practices in organizational strengthening and sustainable impact models in the Global South.**
- **Catalyse movement building through the incubation of the Coalition of Formerly Imprisoned Women (COFIW) for scale of our tested models of integration.**
- **Improve effectiveness and efficiencies across board through systems integration, talent development and investment in ICT infrastructure that enables data management for knowledge generation in the criminal justice sector.**
- **Actively engage our partners, collaborators and supporters in renewed commitments to collectively amplify the voices of the women, girls and children who we serve for dignified lives.**

To the team, I reiterate my commitment to service leadership that seeks transformational change that spans beyond our legacy; with grace and humility, we shall stand in solidarity as we seek to address systemic change, one step
at a time. I look forward to engaging with you and thank you for your continued support and goodwill extended to our beneficiaries through the Clean Start family.

Thank you.

Susan Kihara-Nguu
Chief Operating Officer
Clean Start Governance Board
Members

We take great pleasure in announcing and welcoming two of our Governance Board members.

**RENEE NGAMAU**

Renee is a qualified lawyer and holds a Masters degree in Financial and Banking Law from the University of London. She has worked in some of the top law firms in Kenya and in England. Renee is an enthusiastic volunteer, supporter and voice for various human rights and welfare issues. She currently serves as the board chairperson for Amnesty International Kenya organisation.

On joining the Clean Start Board she says, “It is with humility and with gratitude that I accept the invitation to serve on the Board of Cleanstart. The ethos of this organization represents everything that is great about Kenya - that we are a society of second chances, that no one should be judged solely on the basis of their past, that if we come together, no matter our background, we can make a positive change and that everyone has something to offer. The history of the incarceration of women in Kenya is full of injustices of legislation and of criminal law practice. Consider this. There are about 10,644 convicted women prisoners in Kenya, according to data from the 2017 Economic Survey, published by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. Of these, approximately 70% ie about 7000 women, are incarcerated under one Act alone - the Liquor Act - for brewing liquor which across our border, is not only legal, it is regulated and sanctioned by the State. Women are being jailed for economic crimes of poverty and the
cultural "crime" of brewing, something which has been in our tradition since before colonization. Most of the jail terms are short, the conditions brutal and the effects, extremely disruptive. Where women are the sole breadwinner of nucleus families, their children instantaneously become street children. When these women are released, they are poorer, often disinherited, with no access to good conduct certificates, and often, they do not even know where their children, now the victims themselves of the ravages of the harsh streets, are. Consider then the options of the women - the allure to going back to what they know - brewing, and, with it the increased chance of being jailed again. In the meantime, their children, often abused, neglected, hungry, homeless, and vulnerable, become easy targets for gangs, drugs, rape, and defilement, radicalization, and more. Our response as a society is to round them up and "disappear" them that we may not be confronted with our collective responsibility, or perhaps our collective shame. If a society is to be judged by how they treat their most vulnerable, then we cannot just talk about what is wrong. We must each do something, to change things. The women at the leadership and in the secretariat, most of them, women affected by the criminal justice system, are doing something, they refuse to be bound by their histories, however checkered. This is such courage and bravery. This is such a statement of strength and of hope for a different future for themselves, or those currently serving prison terms or in borstal homes, and for this nation as a whole. I pray that in my small way, I can contribute as a lawyer, as an activist, and as a Kenyan, to helping to bring about the change that stops the criminalization of poverty, the incarceration of cultural practices. I look forward to serving alongside the eminent members of the Board, and to making a difference. Together, with intent, and consistent steps, we can. Thank you."
Dr Patricia Murugami

Patricia is the Chief Executive Officer of Breakthrough Leadership Transformation Group, a firm that provides board and C-suite leadership advisory services (www.blt-group.com). She is also an experienced, internationally certified executive Transformational Coach serving senior leaders across the globe. She is a published author of a book titled ‘Rise’. She is also an authentic leadership pod-caster, management and business educator.

Dr Murugami holds a Doctorate in Business Administration (DBALeadership, Authenticity and Governance) from International School of Management, France. She is a TEDx Fellow having represented Africa by sharing her leadership ideas at TEDx-IESE in Barcelona and hosts a YouTube channel called Breakthrough with Patricia Murugami dedicated to raising leadership potential through digital media.

On joining the Clean Start board she says,

“Each human being has a deep need to be seen, heard & to know that our life matters. This is a critical & urgent need for the lives Clean Start serves. It is a humbling honour to be appointed to serve on the Clean Start Board.

My leadership intention is to increase the visibility, reach & impact of the purposeful work of Clean Start as we aim to improve the lives of women and girls in their next chance in life while influencing positive change in local and global policies governing justice, education, work and business."
New Clean Start Team Members

Susan Kihara - Chief Operating Officer

Susan is a social change agent who believes in connecting ideas and people to resources for social justice. As a gender and development practitioner, her work has seen her mobilize resources and connect women and girls to opportunities in the Global South. She is focused on studying and implementing best practices on interventions to improve the lives of women and girls impacted by the criminal justice system in Africa. As the Chief Operating Officer at Clean Start, she is keen to strengthen the institutional capacity to ensure as many women and girls impacted by the criminal justice system are empowered.

Njambi Mungai – Head of Comms, Media and Advocacy

Njambi Mungai has always been a passionate advocate for the rights of women and children. Through her story telling and communication skills, she is intent on ensuring that the challenges that women, girls and children who have gone through the criminal justice system are brought to light. To use media to illuminate the areas that need to be improved and the victories that these women, girls and children experience. To advocate for change in the system that affects women, girls and children in this area.
Gene Amondi - Monitoring, Evaluation, & Learning and Research Assistant

Gene is very passionate about issues involving women and girls especially when it comes to their rights and empowerment. She is a firm believer in making an impact in someone’s life either directly or indirectly.

OUR INTERVENTIONS

Tables of Support

Jane Ouma – Tables of Support Team Lead

Clean Start facilitates Formerly Imprisoned Women with skill, small business training and linkages to business opportunities that enable women access economic opportunities. A Table of Support includes access to seed capital that is geared towards improving and stabilizing the women’s livelihood.

The main activity for the ToS in the month of February was to do a needs assessment and baseline survey for the women in our database. The exercise was conducted across all the chapters for the women who were ready for the loans. One of the criteria used as guidelines were:

- One must be an active member in a Circle of Healing.
- One must have savings in her chapter circle.
- One must be in active business or is willing to start a business.
- One must be ready to take and refund the loan with a one percent interest rate.
- One must have a personal savings account.
Our target for Q1 was to assess 40 women. By end of the year, we plan to assess 200 women for loan disbursement. Out of the 20 women we assessed in February, 14 of the women qualified as the first cohort for the year. The exercise is continuous throughout the year 2021.

Other than the loans for businesses, we also link the women with mentors who journey with them in the line of psychosocial support. We will do short business training from Q2 through to Q4.

Here are some of the formerly imprisoned women who have benefited through our Tables of Support.

### Jane Kioo

She stays in Kariobangi and is the leader of the Blessed Women Circle, she is a business lady who sells second-hand clothes and shoes, she also sells old newspapers, and hopes to get a loan from Clean Start in order buy new stock of clothes, sandals, and shoes to boost her old stock.

### Leah Machitsa

She stays in Kangemi and is an assistant leader of the Kawangware circle (Women Empowerment Group), she is a business lady, she sells green groceries, and she hopes to get a loan from Clean start to boost her stock since she used her savings and money for new stock to pay fees for her daughter who is sitting for form 4 examinations.
Jane Njuguna

She stays in Gakune and is a member of the Kawangware Circle (women empowerment group), she is a business lady, she sells groundnuts and sesame seeds, she would like to start selling ice too to the neighbouring school since there is demand from the kids and hopes to get a loan to buy a cooler and containers for making ice.

MARIAM NZEIMANA

Mariam is a fashion and design expert who has a lot of experience in the fashion industry. She is a Rwandese citizen who lives in Kenya. Mariam runs her business at the Kampala Business Centre along River Road. She has been in this business for over five years now. Just like Priscilla, Mariam has also experienced hardship in business since the pandemic. Slow business and high rental costs in town have only contributed to her dilemma. She is however hopeful that things will return to normalcy and business will return. Mariam is applying for a business loan in order to restock her business.
CAROL CIKU

Caroline runs her small Special Uji shop at the Westlands market. The shop has been operating for the last one month and says business has picked. Caro is also selling honey and is looking forward to adding more items in the shop as soon as she gets a loan. Caroline was released from Langata Prison last year in May. She has had a lot of family support.

Circles of Healing

Milkah Njau – COH Team Lead

The vision of COH is to help the Formerly Imprisoned women take the journey towards trauma healing, and psycho-social support both inside the prisons and upon their release.

Clean Start has been journeying with the woman while she is serving term in prison and also when she exits prison through reintegration. This is done six months prior to exiting prisons and those serving long term sentences were also put into consideration. Some of the psychosocial challenges that stood out as lessons learnt were trauma, stigma, shock, rejection, bitterness, unforgiveness, wanting to hide behind a veil are some of issues that lead the Clean Start coaching team to come up with a program that
will help the imprisoned woman and formerly imprisoned woman deal with these issues at a personal level by digging deep inside of herself and using coaching skills she will acquire during training of the program, develop coping mechanism that will help her while serving and post release back to the society.

When the imprisoned woman leaves prison, she will be incorporated into the already formed circles of healing on the outside where steady follow up will be done as she reconnects back to the society for a period of six months. She will later join a table of support to be empowered economically.

This year we journeyed with women from the different chapters including the Blessed Women’s group, Nyeri women’s group, Kawangware empowerment women’s group, Machakos women’s group, Muranga women’s group and Neema group.

We also sensitised the officers in charge as well as welfare and teaching officers on the Ufunuuo program which is an integral part of the women’s journey from healing to capital injection to enable them earn decent means of livelihood.

Here are some of the Formerly Imprisoned Women in their respective circles of healing
Irene Ouko - Research Monitoring and Evaluation Lead.

The MEAL department at Clean Start is responsible for the measurement, monitoring and evaluation of all projects and programs undertaken by the Organization. It ensures that there is consistency in the objectives and success indicators of programs. M/E helps in working out what difference we make through the projects. Clean Start with partners can then learn and improve its performance in future.

Clean Start is dedicated to the robust monitoring and evaluation of our programs and the inclusion of our community in this process.

The community identifies the focus of Clean Start’s services through annual random surveys by use of google forms. In 2020, Clean Start recorded responses from 50 Formerly Incarcerated Women (F.I.W) from different parts of the country in Kenya regarding social Impact on our approaches and thoughts around how we can improve their experiences. We conducted an annual survey of Clean Start beneficiaries. The survey serves two primary purposes: to establish a representative community “baseline” or random control group against which to measure our program outcomes and functions, as a community needs assessment, helping to inform program development.

Through our metrics and evaluation from the Circles of Healing and Tables of Support, we have seen an increased understanding of how the Circles of Healing and the Tables of Support work (ownership). Women are free to share their experiences when safe healing spaces are created. Women are able to support each other emotionally, there is connection to one another and the willingness to support each other as well as an improved understanding of their needs and approach. Formerly Imprisoned Women are more aware of their issues and are able to open up in these spaces. For the TOS, women have owned the idea of pooling the resources (money) and then lend to other members who are in need, improved self-financial determination, FIW sharing their skills (hand skills) with the other women in the circles, there is connection to one another and the willingness to support each other in the circles.

When it comes to how has the quality of your life changed as a result of the Circles of healing and the Tables of support compared to how they were before.
In addition to the annual survey, lessons learnt through our team/staff services greatly inform our program impact and efforts. For example, the following are as a result of Clean Start’s interventions: we have seen a drastic increase in the number of FIW taking part in building the economy - engaging in small businesses, improved relationship amongst the FIW who are in small businesses - supporting each other, increased household income, the FIW are meeting their family needs - self-reliant, 55% of FIW have access to finance (increased financial literacy.

These are only a few examples of some of the systemic shifts that our services have catalysed, allowing our community – the women and their children to lift themselves out of poverty to lives of promise.

**Research Funded by Ford Foundation**

**Divergences in access to Justice and Human rights violations.**

Funded by the Ford Foundation, we have embarked on a crucial research project to investigate: the disparities in access to justice and violation of rights for women and
their children within the Kenyan Criminal Justice system. This will enable us have the much needed data in our ecosystem that will be a useful resource in this space. 75% of all the imprisoned are young poor people charged with petty offences and state regulated offences. Imbalances in the socio-economic dynamics in society lead to abuse of power, police brutalities, violation of human rights and failure by the state to meet its international obligations as enshrined in various international Human Rights treaties.

**Purpose and objectives of the study**

While we have some data on this matter, from our constituents in prisons and those rebuilding their lives post imprisonment, we would like achieve the following:

1. **Better understanding of the process for access and administration of justice as it relates to women and petty offences.**
2. **What is the mandate (opportunities) of the state to ensure that a woman does not end up in prison?**
3. **Why does a woman who has committed a petty offence end up in prison and what is the impact of this imprisonment?**

This research will support Clean Start to build a strong advocacy strategy that will involve our constituents to hold the government to account, increase accountability of local authorities and uphold the citizen’s human rights and dignity. The research will shed more light on key advocacy areas including:

- **Why do women “commit” petty offenses?**
  - Are these offenses or is it “criminalised” poverty?
- **What are these offenses?**
  - Decriminalisation
  - Declassification process and public participation
- **Why do women who have ‘committed’ these petty offenses end up in prison?**
  - What are the options/alternatives to imprisonment?
  - What are the barriers in access and administration of justice for women who have committed petty offenses?
- **Impact of imprisonment of the women on:**
  - The relations: The women, Their children, Their spouse, Family
  - Within the prison

Clean start quarter one 2021
In the community
o Structural/systemic issues e.g. certificate of good conduct acquisition
o How can the issues identified be changed? How does Coalition of Formerly Imprisoned Women (COFIW) DISRUPT the system?

Geographical Coverage for the Study.
This research seeks to highlight the discrepancies in access to justice among the poor and the rich alike, some of the human rights violations experienced by human rights defenders, the marginalized and the poor in form of police brutality and how corruption has delayed or denied access to justice and reforms within the criminal Justice system. The study will be conducted in 10 counties (Nairobi, Machakos, Muranga, Nyeri, Narok, Nakuru, Embu, Kiambu, Migori and Mombasa). We seek to establish the possible strategies to address some of these human rights desecrations and determine the support available to champion for possible alternative justice systems and reforms. Conversations will be held with the office of the DPP (Director of Public Prosecutions), NCAJ (National Council on the Administration of Justice, AJS (Alternative Justice Systems), Judiciary, Judges, policy makers, law makers and the community.
In the future, we hope to integrate this with our programming on reintegration, citing a glaring gap in the availability of data on successful or unsuccessful reintegration.
Girls and Children Team

Mumbi Muguongo - Children and Girls Team Lead

Reconnect and Rebuild

Clean Start has been journeying with girls from Dagoretti Rehabilitation school post their release from Juvenile Justice System and into mainstream education. We have experienced some challenging issues and learning opportunities. We have taken on an approach which will see continued assessments and follow up on the girls with increased family engagement in the education and well-being of the girl.

We hope our interventions will result in better performance in academics and interpersonal skills, increased family engagements, higher retention in school, enhanced character building and resilience in the girl.

In the first quarter we have been able to visit those still in the institution and get to speak with them on their hopes and aspirations beyond the national exam.

Despite not having good quality learning opportunities, this year’s candidates are optimistic about their performance in the national exam. We are journeying with 12 candidates from Dagoretti Rehabilitation School.

We have also visited the girls in the mainstream schools, and also conducted home visits.
We currently have seven girls in the Juvenile Justice System with Elinah and Pendo in class eight while Brigit is in class five. Diana, Lydia and Samantha are in high school FORM 1 while Lucy is in FORM 2. We unfortunately had Jackline drop out of FORM 1 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and now helps out in a hairdressing shop in Nyeri county. We also have 11 girls in Dagoretti Girls Rehabilitation School who are candidates for Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) this year and we hope to see how best they will transition to high school depending on their performance.
Clean Start was part of the Discharge Board Meeting at Kamae Girls Borstal Institute to review the girls ready for release on 18th February 2021. Those present in the discharge board meeting were The Director Offender Rehabilitation and Correction Hon. Madam Mary Khaemba, The Regional Commander Nairobi County, Director Probation and After Care, stakeholders present in this meeting were, A Hand of Friendship, Philemon Foundation, the probation office, and the heads of the various institutions within Kamiti Maximum Prison. The institute currently holds 33 girls.

We had 21 girls being reviewed during this meeting who had served 1-year sentences and above and were due to be released back to their families. For some of these girls the home environment was a little bit hostile and could not be released back to the same environment. Most of these girls come from very poor background and dysfunctional homes leading them to commit crimes because of poverty.

Some of the crimes committed by these girls are stealing, truancy with some

Girls in the Juvenile Justice System

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being convicted for child neglect among other petty offences.
We have 9 girls who will be sitting for the KCPE exams in March 2021. 15 girls will be sitting for the vocational training exams (grade 3 NITA exams) in March. The institution had not received funds for the registration of exams from treasury with the 3rd of March deadline for registration fast approaching.

Clean Start through well-wishers managed to meet this need and pay for the registration fees for the NITA exams for the 15 girls in the institution. The total amount paid by Clean Start was Ksh. 90,030. We continue to find ways of collaborating with Kamae Girls Borstal and other girls in the rehabilitation centres to ensure that these girls are successfully reintegrated and they can continue with education in mainstream schools, post-release.
Gone to soon

We are mourning the sudden passing of one of the girls we have been journeying with. Jackline Gacheri.

Gacheri was a hardworking girl, who was hoping to join secondary school and finish her form four. She was a humble girl who related well with other girls in the school and teachers as well. She loved dancing and beauty.

Jackline Gacheri in early January 2021, complained of headache and fatigue while in school, which later made her weaker. She was taken to a local hospital and later transferred to Kenyatta National Hospital, where she was diagnosed with leukemia which was already at an advanced stage. She succumbed to death on the 20th of February 2021. May she rest in peace.
Responsive Care Program for children who accompany their mothers to prison

Clean Start safeguards the holistic well-being of children living in prison with their mothers through responsive care. We have observed the officers embracing the idea of rolling out of the Responsive Caregiving training program.

In our programming, the Clean Start- Kidogo Partnership Programme on responsive caregiving has progressed to sensitization of Senior Prison Officers, prison welfare officers and the day - care officers who are responsible for "mama Watoto- the caregivers of the children inside prison, "Mama Watoto’s", who are inmates assigned to watch over the children at the day – care.

During these sessions, the officers share their highlights and challenges in working with children in prison with their mothers. These virtual sessions have provided a platform for learning, with the participants sharing best practices and learning from each other’s context. They have also understood the role of a caregiver in a child’s development. The officers have committed to incorporate play, singing, dancing and conversation with these children; which contribute to a child’s holistic development, and promote responsive care-giving.

Enhancing Child Care in prisons

Clean Start in partnership with Kidogo has continued to work with the caregivers in the prisons by offering a training program on Responsive caregiving in an effort to improve caregiving practices.

In this first quarter we have trained the welfare officers of the five prisons we are working in through a virtual platform.
We understand the crucial role a caregiver has in the formative years of a child and for this reason we have extended the training to the “Aya” or “Mama Watoto”. This is the inmate who is assigned to take care of the children in the day-cares within the prison. We believe that by equipping the caregiver with knowledge on responsive caregiving, we will be working towards ensuring positive outcomes in the later years of the children accompanying their mothers to prison despite their stay in the prison during their early years. The 5day training will be followed by continued mentorship with the hope that the learnings will manifest in the day to day handling of the children.

**Partnership with Kenya Paediatric Association (KPA)**

We are pleased to have KPA as a partner in our children’s program. Our three focus areas in this partnership are:

**Advocacy**
Creating awareness of the plight of the ultra-vulnerable children who accompany their mothers to prison, addressing their growth and development. Collaboratively seeking platforms to raise this awareness and seek support.

**Early Childhood Development Project (ECD)**
Including the children of imprisoned mothers in the Early Childhood Development projects - tapping into the existing programme - under Kenya Pediatric Association KPA / American Association of Pediatricians AAP / and the Ministry of Health - how best to benefit from the existing ECD project currently being carried out jointly with KPA, AAP and Ministry of Health.

**Research**
Generating data to help inform policy makers - currently designing the survey to help gather more local data on the plight of children.
The child exiting prison

Clean Start journeys with the children exiting prison at age four who leave their mothers behind by offering interventions geared towards their successful reintegration. This is made possible by taking on a holistic approach on the needs of the child, which mainly focuses in having the child live in an enabling environment to thrive. Our main efforts in the reintegration process are in working with the child’s caregiver in support of an income generating activity so that the caregiver is able to support not only the child exiting prison but also the other children in the home, some of whom in most cases are the child’s siblings.

Maggie (not her real name) is one such child. Having accompanied her mother to one of the womens’ prison since she was three months old, Maggie has grown up as her home. She is now four years old and recently left prison to join her family on the outside. In our interventions, we partnered with various stakeholders in ensuring that she continues with school, offer psycho social support as life on the outside will require adjustments and most importantly journey with her caregiver in family strengthening.
Coalition of formerly imprisoned women (C.O.F.I.W)-

Cyprine Omollo - C.O.F.I.W Team Lead

C.O.F.I.W would want to support 500 women at grassroots level to be authors of their own development and to advocate for non-custodial sentencing for petty offender and Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

We aim to support 500 women at grassroots level to be authors of their own development and to advocate for non-custodial sentencing for petty offender and Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

Clean Start is in the process of registering the Coalition of Imprisoned and Formerly Imprisoned Women in Africa. The registration process is ongoing. We have women on our database who will be registered to be members of COIFIW-Africa.

We intend to hold out first general meeting in June and a second meeting in December 2021

We encourage all women out there who would want to be part of the coalition to get in touch with us for registration on +254797535164 or +254735535164. They can also send us an email at support@cleanstartkenya.org

New Partnerships formed between Dec 2020- March 2021

Sarah Nasimuyu – Fundraising and Partnerships Team Lead

Fundraising and Partnerships department works to build a reliable and Sustainable revenue base and linkages to strategic partners to support Clean Start’s Mission and Programs.
Kenya Pediatric Association (KPA)
We are partnering with KPA to promote early childhood development and nurturing care for children accompanying their mothers to prison. We are working together to ensure optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants and children living in prison with their mothers.

Southern Africa Litigation Center – SALC
We are partners of SALC—SALC is a joint initiative of the International Bar Association (IBA) and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA). Its mission is to promote and advance human rights, democratic governance, rule of law, and access to justice in Southern Africa through strategic litigation, advocacy and capacity strengthening.

Cyrus R Vance Center for International Justice
Clean Start is a partner of Cyrus R Vance Center for International Justice. During the 10th anniversary of Bangkok Rules in December 2020, Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice featured Clean Start’s Circles of healing (COH) in and out of prison that provide peer led spaces for women to achieve trauma healing and reconciliation within self, family and with the society.

Street Business School (SBS)
Street Business school works to end generational poverty by empowering women as entrepreneurs. They equip women living in poverty with the knowledge they need to build sustainable business. 2 Clean Start staff are set to be trained by SBS as trainer of trainees and thereafter transfer the same knowledge to hundreds of women in our economic empowerment program.

Mommy and Me ministries (MMM)
We partner with Mommy and Me Ministries, Inc to support children living in prison with their mothers. Based in Chicago USA MMM works to reduce the traumatic effects that exposure to violence and the incarceration of mothers have on children and youth. In December, MMM carried out a fundraising drive to provide kiddie packs for 52 children accompanying their mothers in five women prisons in Kenya.
International Women’s Month Celebrations

Athena40 Conference

This year’s International Women’s day was a huge highlight for Clean Start. In partnership with Athena40, Clean Start was part of the 3rd Athena40 Global Conversations marked across five cities in the world. The theme for this year’s International Women’s Day 2021 was “Female Leadership in Times of Crisis” shared around stories unique to each city.

Clean Start together with Athena40 put together an online webinar to mark the day, with keynote statements and a panel discussion focused on this year’s theme and how that has impacted the life of women and especially the formerly imprisoned women, and their children.

Among our key Speakers we had His Excellency, Mr. Manoah Esipisu, MBS Kenya High Commission to the UK, Hon. Madam, Mary Khaemba, Director Offender Rehabilitation and Correction Kenya Prison Service. The panel was moderated by Chilande Kuloba Warria, MD, Warande Advisory Centre, Panel discussions were led by Teresa Njoroge, CEO and Founder Clean Start, Susan Kihara, Chief Operations Officer Clean Start among other speakers who were mostly formerly imprisoned women.

International Women’s Day is celebrated annually on 8 March.
It offers an opportunity to reflect on progress we have made as Clean Start, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by our women who have continued to play extraordinary role in the history of our organization and how we can continue to build a community of women who are a support system to each other.

You can catch the conversations here

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_5_-qvNy40

Clean Start Internal Campaign
As Clean Start, we choose to celebrate the women in the organization with the #IChooseToChallenge theme for 2021. All Clean Start team members were able to express the things they stand for and what they choose to challenge. It also included powerful quotes from ardent supporters and friends of Clean Start who have been integral cog in our journey to help these women, children and girls. The campaign ran for 31 days in the month of March.

Thank you for your continued support. It is this much needed support which makes it possible to continue transforming the lives of the most vulnerable women, girls and children in Kenya. Especially during these very difficult times.

Your support is invaluable. It enables us grow a robust and strong organization, the first of it’s kind, led and inclusive of the voices of the impacted at every level.

Looking forward to an impactful quarter two.

With gratitude,
The Clean Start Team
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