

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE



LIFEGUARD KENYA



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ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Name	Life guard Kenya
Physical Address	Along Nyama Villa road, Komarock South primary School
Country	Kenya
Legal Status	Community Based Organization
Registration Details	Was registered under social services in 2018: Reg. no. SCSD/EMB/CBO/5/4/2018(0085)
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1.0. INTRODUCTION

Lifeguard Kenya is a community Based organization located at Kayole Estate near Nyama Villa within Embakasi sub- County, in Nairobi County. Lifeguard Kenya was started in 2018 with the sole aim of providing paralegal services and rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with the law in Embakasi and Njiru District in Nairobi County. Lifeguard has also worked with other players within the criminal justice systems in strengthening Criminal Justice systems in Nairobi County. We offer various interventions to clients including counseling, paralegal services, alternative dispute resolution, environment adjustment report, family tracing, reintegration, and economic empowerment to vulnerable households among many others. Our vision is to create a safe and nurturing environment for all children, where they are protected from harm, provided with appropriate care, and given opportunities to thrive. Lifeguard Kenya has been consistently working towards the realization of a society where people, specifically the most vulnerable children in conflict and/or contact with the law and women are capable of determining their socio-economic destiny and contributing positively to society, by empowering them to grow, expand and realize their full potential and capabilities by providing holistic support in the form of psychological support and emotional care, emergency humanitarian aid, skills and livelihoods training, small business start-up support, employment opportunities, counseling, vocational training, and scholarship opportunities in collaboration with stakeholders in Kenya's correctional system.

The organization works in Kenya, Nairobi informal settlements and slums especially in the larger Embakasi and Njiru districts.

1.1. Strategic Objectives

1. To safeguard the rights and welfare of vulnerable children against abuse and neglect in the society.
2. To ensure maintenance of updated data on children issues in the society.
3. To effectively co-ordinate alternative children care and protection.
4. To increase the capacity of families and communities taking care of vulnerable children through capacity building.
5. To promote reduction/ elimination of gender based violence and Sexual gender based violence in informal settlements.
6. To advocate for the legal rights and welfare of children and GBV survivors (both women and children).
7. To provide access for all through alternative dispute resolution to promote peace.

8. To provide paralegal services to affected children and women.

2.0. VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

2.1. Vision

“To create a safe and nurturing environment for all children, where they are protected from harm, provided with appropriate care, and given opportunities to thrive.”

2.2. Mission

“To actively engage in child protection initiatives, provide rescue operations for children at risk, establish safe houses for victims, and utilize data predictions to identify and prevent potential child abuse cases, through collaboration with stakeholders, community education, and advocacy to eliminate child exploitation and trafficking within our community”

2.3. Slogan / Motto

“Every child thriving in safe and secure society”

2.4. Values

- ✓ Dignity: We appreciate and uphold the innate worth of every child.
- ✓ Fairness and integrity: We are impartial, reasonable, just and without discrimination for children
Integrity: We have an ever accompanying honest, accountable, transparent and moral ethics to mentor children.
- ✓ Solidarity: We take sides with the children, to safeguard their rights and welfare
Team spirit: We cherish and build trust, respect and responsiveness for strong and healthy working relationships for the benefit of children.
- ✓ Community participation: we pro-actively create opportunities for vigorous, inclusive and long-term involvement of beneficiaries and stakeholders in our work.

3.0. LIFEGUARD KENYA PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

In implementing its objective, Lifeguard Kenya implements programs to address various issues within the community. The key programmes are child protection; gender based violence; women empowerment and paralegal services.

3.1. Child Protection and Safeguarding

Lifeguard Kenya recognizes that violence against children remains a critical concern for all girls and boys (especially the most vulnerable) especially in areas where the organization works. Children who experience violence are often left with long-lasting negative social, emotional, mental, physical and spiritual consequences. Under the Child Protection Programme, Lifeguard Kenya implements the following interventions/ activities:

a. Mentorship and community empowerment

The intervention targets to sensitize communities and raise awareness on children’s rights and protection; as well as mobilizing community-level activity to realize children’s rights and protection. Lifeguard Kenya establishes capacity and awareness activities targeting children, their families and local communities to identify risks, and prevent and respond to protection concerns. At the same time, Lifeguard Kenya works with the national and local government and non-governmental actors to strengthen the capacities of formal child protection services and ensuring linkages between the formal and informal, community-based services.

b. Rescue and integration

Lifeguard Kenya initiated a rescue and integration activities under the child protection program. The intervention targeted vulnerable children neglected by families; street children; and the orphaned vulnerable children (OVC). The organization has engaged various stakeholders in formation of human rights defenders and lobbying for the initiation of safe houses for rescued children. Further children in the

informal settlements are subjected to child labour including domestic work that prevents them from attending schools and accessing other basic needs. Lifeguard Kenya also rescues these children and facilitates them to acquire education through sponsorship and family support.

The intervention also addresses Home tracing, Reintegration and



LIFEGUARD KENYA
Centre for the Dignity
Okoa Mtoto

PEACE FOR CHILDREN
JUSTICE FOR ALL

**OKOA
MTOTO**

RECOGNIZE RESPOND REPORT
What you need to know about
CHILD ABUSE
Child abuse include physical,
Sexual and emotional abuse, neglect
And risk of harm.

LET'S MAKE HIS/HER LIFE BEAUTIFUL

GBV COMMAND CENTRE TOLL FREE: 611
+254 722 466 501 +254 795 989113
+254 782 928900
Gender and child protection Police Free Toll line: 0800730999

STOP
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

EMPOWERING GIRLS AND BOYS
WITH EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Substantiating the right and welfare
of children
in the society

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reunification of children with their families after doing community dialogues through participatory education theatre on Family Group Decision Making. The FGDM members include the family group of the child, community representative, welfare worker, caseworker, counselor and DCO staffs. Through this initiative, Lifeguard Kenya ensures children are reintegrated back to their communities and families safely. For instance, in the past 3 years the initiative targeted four statutory Children institutions (SCIs) run by the Department of children services (DCS) in Nairobi County, they entailed Nairobi Children remand home; Dagoretti Girls Rehabilitation; Kabete boys Rehabilitation; and Nairobi Rescue Center. These also entail provision of psychosocial support to children in the justice system

c. Online child sexual exploitation and abuse

Children living in urban areas are confronted with the risk and reality of online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA). This has been worsened by the low level awareness and capacity to address the issue with victims receiving little support, and few offenders are brought to justice. Lifeguard Kenya under the child protection program has initiated OCSEA activities in collaboration with government and public institutions; frontline workers and caregivers to disrupt the harm it is causing to children. Lifeguard engaged in creating awareness on the topic of online child sexual exploitation and abuse – including the role of technology – through effective, widespread community forums and IEC materials. The organization also provides capacity to caregivers to talk to children about their lives online, and challenge taboos that prevent children and adults from talking about sex or from seeking help. The intervention also works with other school programs to train and inform children of the safe ways they can use to disclose difficult experiences and obtain support outside of their family or community members.



d. Children life challenge clubs

Working with schools in the area of operation, Lifeguard Kenya has established Children Life Challenge Clubs in selected schools in the area. Currently the organization has initiated the initiative in 10 schools

whose aim is to educate children on life skills; create a platform for children to discuss issues affecting them; educate children on their rights and safeguarding; create an avenue for identifying risks and challenges faced by children; and equipping children with the skills and knowledge to address issues affected them within the community.



Children and youth engaged during the 116 Child help line campaign

e. After care programmes, Guiding and counseling

Lifeguard also provides after care programme, guiding and counseling services to affected children, their families and caregivers. This came about due to limited availability of Government social workers in the areas. The follow-up on cases are normally led by Lifeguard Kenya, where possible (i.e. where local social workers were in place) in coordination with the local Social Welfare office. For low and medium risk cases, the Lifeguard Kenya members who identified the cases are responsible for follow-up. These imply accompanying the child and his or her caregivers to the community structures or service providers, and discuss and inform next steps with the child and caregivers. The activity also ensures that counseling sessions are done in a child friendly settings that sets up a supportive and non-judgmental environment where the beneficiary can freely air their issues, where their dignity, opinions are respected or seen to be respected and their confidentiality is protected.



Lifeguard team training school going children on child protection and safeguarding issues- their rights, opportunities and abilities.

3.2. Gender Based Violence

Gender-based violence (GBV) is one of the most severe forms of gender inequality and discrimination in Lifeguard Kenya area of operation. GBV remains one of the most pervasive human rights violations of modern time. It is an issue that affects women and young girls disproportionately, as it is directly connected with the unequal distribution of power between women and men; thus, it has a profound effect on families, communities, and societies as a whole. In Kenya, about 34 per cent of women have experienced physical violence since age 15 and 13 per cent of women have experienced sexual violence at some point in their lives (KNBS, 2022). To address these cases of GBV, Lifeguard Kenya engages in the following interventions and activities:

a. Family Mentoring Family

Lifeguard Kenya has established Family Mentoring Family initiative. The initiative addresses the roots of GBV by engaging families, community members, and men in discussions about harmful cultural norms, such as child marriage and wife inheritance. Further the initiative supports the formation of Family Group decision making for households affected by gender based violence. The family members and the community stakeholders are invited to come up with family ingrained solutions to the roots cause of the gender violence, guided by the Lifeguard Kenya counselors and social workers while laying strong emphasis on the participation of the family members and the children, in carrying out in-depth assessment of the child/ family needs.

b. Mediation, Mentorship and counseling

Victims of GBV are provided with mentorship and counseling services by Lifeguard Kenya counselors. Further the counselors also provide mediation in order to foster reconciliation among partners engaged in the violence. Lifeguard Kenya adapts a client centered approach where both non directive and eclectic counseling technique are deployed to help the beneficiary craft their own solutions and develop coping capacity that are sustainable.



Community engagement forum on matters affecting the community especially on child protection and child rights especially to education and other basic needs

3.3. Women Empowerment Program

Unpaid care and domestic work affects a lot of women within the Life Guard Kenya operations area. This work include: cleaning the home; cooking; washing and dressing children; looking after sick or disabled family members; and collecting fuel or water. When women lose their time to unpaid care work, they lack crucial time to increase sustainable productivity and better access markets; to know how to claim their rights, to participate in decision making and to rest. When women spend less time on unpaid care work, they have more time for paid work, farming, making improvements to their home or farm, socializing, participating in their community, advocating for their rights, taking a part in family and community decision-making, and resting. Further women in the area are vulnerable to gender based violence and sexual abuse. In this regard Lifeguard Kenya has been implementing women empowerment initiatives to improve their livelihoods and economic status.

This includes:

a. Voluntary Savings and Loaning Schemes

Lifeguard Kenya support women to form groups and train on table banking and financial literacy to improve their finances and economic wellbeing. The trained beneficiaries are also linked with the Bank to access financial services. These savings go a long way to help them establish income generating activities and improve their economic situation and livelihoods.

b. Entrepreneurship skills

The organization provides training opportunities to selected women in tailoring and computer services. They are also engaged in training on entrepreneurship and business management. This has enabled the women in the area to be empowered economically and able to improve their livelihoods and support their families.



Lifeguard Kenya beneficiaries and teal receive certificate awards after completion of training sessions.



Tailoring sewing machines received by Lifeguard Kenya for the women empowerment training.

3.4. Community Paralegal Program

Lifeguard Kenya has over three years' of experience in handling paralegal and mediation cases within Juvenile and Criminal Justice sectors through successful implementation of several interventions:

a. Community paralegals services

Life guard Kenya offers community paralegal services. The organization uses several strategies to advance justice. These include: public education to increase awareness of the law; advising clients on legal process, and options for pursuing remedies; assisting clients to navigate authorities and institutions; mediating disputes; organizing collective action; and fact-finding, investigations, and monitoring. The services are provided to any community members in need but specifically targets abused/ violated children and women.

b. Alternative justice system

Life guard Kenya employs informal justice systems, such as customary and traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, that are often more accessible and affordable than formal justice systems within the area of operation. The organization where necessary engages State-sanctioned institutions such as chiefs, the police, probation officers, child welfare officers, village elders under the County government, and the chair of *Nyumba Kumi* groupings, among others in addressing disputes within the community.

c. Advocacy on child matters

Legal advocacy is also conducted within the paralegal program. Lifeskills addresses legal matters especially on children custody and maintenance. Advocacy activities are carried out through advocacy forums targeting the community. The advocacy agenda are also shared through community sensitization activities, children life challenge forums, family groups among other platforms. This has enabled addressing custody and maintenance challenges facing affected children in the area of operation.



Lifeguard Kenya representatives engaging local administration and leaders on addressing community issues affecting children and women in Embakasi central area

3.5. Cross-cutting activities

Overall the organization engages in various cross-cutting activities in addressing the three main programs: child protection; gender based violence and paralegal program. These entails:

- Sensitizing care givers and service providers on their role in child neglect and abuse prevention.
- Deepening public awareness on the rights and welfare of children and scaling up behaviour change campaign to adopt understanding of safeguarding.
- Hosting cultural events to highlight the place of culture in child rights and welfare.
- Convening cultural events with safeguarding messaging to influence behaviour change.
- Conducting positive parenting sessions.
- Adoption of rescue and referral mechanisms.

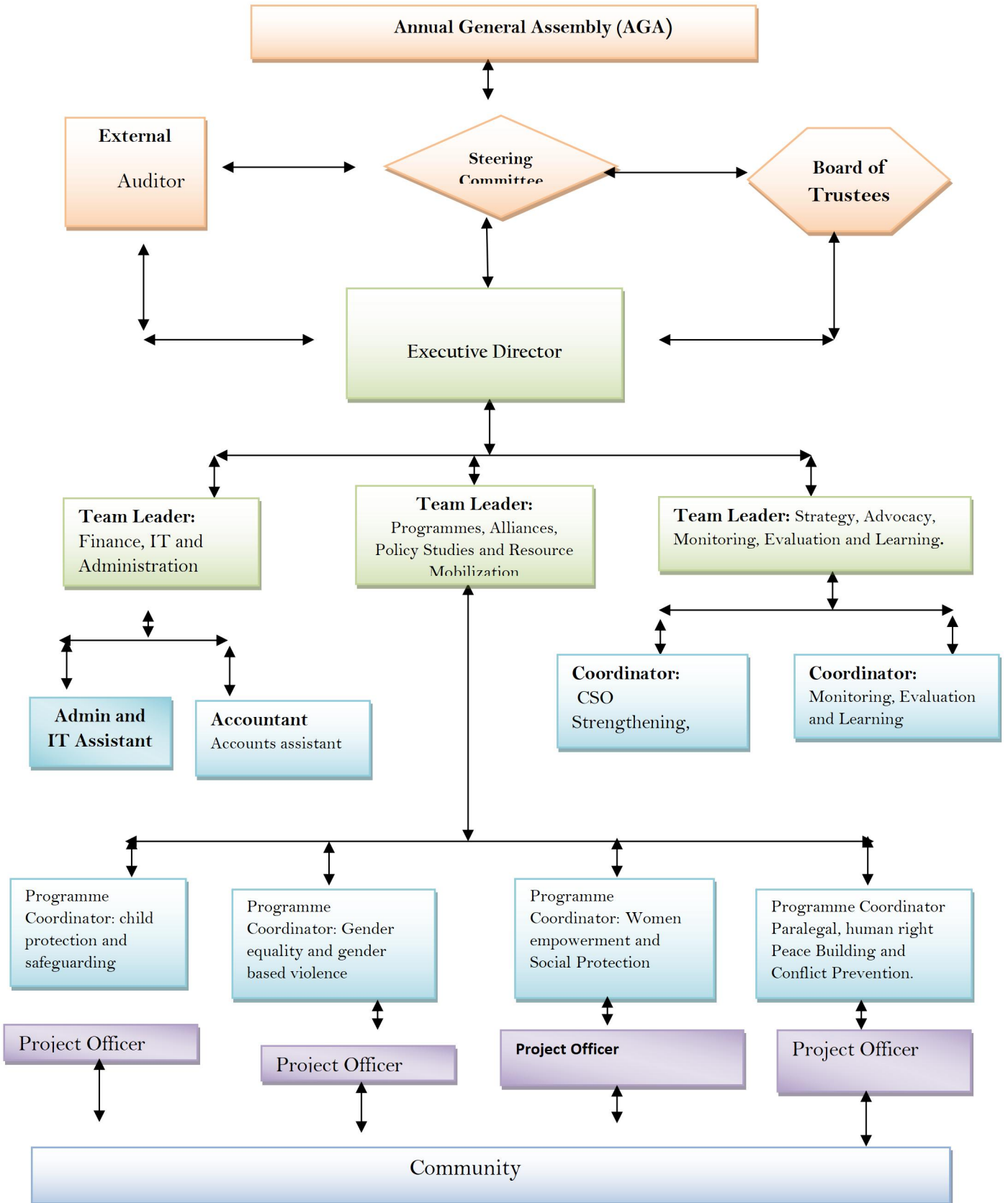
4.0. KEY PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

- Life guard has addressed 10,100 cases of child abuse within Nairobi county for the past 4 years;
- Supported 13,878+ children who have been abandoned and neglected through rescue and referrals as well as use of the justice and criminal justice systems;
- Handled and supported 3,605 women and young girls faced with gender based violence through various approaches including trainings of IGAs; Startup packages; Psychosocial support; VSLA and legal support.
- Addressed 7,832 cases of sexual abuse through counseling; paralegal services; outreaches and enhancing capacities of community and children/teens at risk or survivors of sexual abuse.

5.0. PARTNERS

Name of Partner	How we engage with the partner
CESVI	Improving reintegration through tracing, counselling, family group decision making reintegration approach. Beneficiaries reached include households affected by GBV; Human rights defenders; social workers; children survivors of abuse; legal stakeholders and community health workers
Wangu Kanja Foundation	Strengthening the community response on GBV and ADR to community Health workers in Embakasi and Njiru sub counties
Ministry of health (Global fund)	Sub Project Implementing Entity(SPIE) (TOWA round 4 and round 5 Credit No. 4336KE)
National and County Government	Collaboration with the government ministries and public institutions in implemented related programs.
Local organizations	Partnership in implementing local programs in the different sectors that they are working in.

6.0. LIFEGUARD KENYA ORGANOGRAM





7.0. ACTIVITY PHOTOS



Women being trained under women empowerment program



Children life challenge club members performing during community sensitization forum



Distribution of sanitary towels to vulnerable girls in the community



Lifeguard team carrying out identification of children needing rescue process in Dumpsites within Embakasi and Njiru District- photo Dandora Dumpsite



Lifeguard Kenya team with the local chief inspecting households' cases and situation following flooding.



Lifeguard Team rescuing an abandoned child after birth at a local hospital in Kayole, Embakasi