

Catholic Diocese of Homa Bay

St. Arnolds Nyalienga Catholic Parish

EDUCATION AND YOUNG PEOPLE

LONG-TERM PLAN: 2021 to 2031

(Prepared by Fr. Charles Odira)

Preamble

The Catholic Church is perhaps one of the oldest faith institutions with reliable and sustainable structures in the whole world. The sustainability is based on long traditions, inspiring scriptures, clear leadership systems and network. The Church is committed to provide leadership in integral development, social, spiritual and pastoral needs of the society. Besides, the Church has demonstrated a more specific commitment to addressing the current issues related to the climate change and integral human development since Pope Francis released the encyclical on the care of our common home in 2015.

In Kenya, there are at least 26 dioceses covering every part of the country with hierarchical link from grassroots to the national level, over 2000 Parishes; over 12 million Catholics, over 2000 educational institutions, several pastoral centers, shrines, retreat centers, hospitals, children's homes etc. These are among the many opportunities that the church can use to create awareness creation and implement the long-term plan in view of bringing transformation to the society.

Besides, the Catholic Parishes are interlinked both at the diocesan and national levels. In order to achieve our goal we shall use a **horizontal and vertical** strategy whereby one successful story in a particular parish influences the neighboring parishes and spreads from thereon to other dioceses and the rest of Africa eventually. It is like a movement that then leads to a wide acceptability and inspires commitment and participation.

St. Arnold Catholic Parish is going to be a piloting parish in view of up scaling its model to the rest of the Catholic world in Africa through adoption and sharing of best practices. The focus is EDUCATION and YOUNG PEOPLE. The young people will use the available and familiar spaces for communication such as social media and the local/faith-based radio stations to share best practices and awareness creation.

Working with the Catholic University of Eastern Africa:

In order to experience greater success, the Catholic University will support the project through research and training of participating institutions (see the second long term plan for the Catholic University). Besides, the University will offer another

opportunity for expanding the concept of faith in the nine (9) countries of Eastern Africa, which represent AMECEA (Association of Member Episcopal Conferences of Eastern Africa).

SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Strength

- Faith owned assets; land, institutions and human capital
- Well organized leadership structures from grassroots to the top
- High numbers of the Catholic faithful
- Networking and good relationship with people of other faiths

Weak

- Lack of balance between spiritual and material assets
- Lack of sufficient capacity to manage the faith assets
- Lack of sufficient financial/capital resources
- Lack of sufficient awareness

Opportunities

- The young people are well organized within the church structures
- Many young people are willing and ready to make sustainable wealth through hard work
- The young people trust the church leaders and feel safer within the Church
- The church avails space for peer training and self realization
- The existence of many youth movements in the Catholic Church
- Love for nature

Threat

- Due to the COVID 19 pandemic many young people dropped out of school
- Lack of employment among the youth
- Lack of institutions to offer systematic training for young people on entrepreneurship skills
- Lack of access to information and programs
- Lack of financial capital to start investments
- Resort to destroy nature for survival

MAIN GOAL:

Empowering the Young People through education and technical skills to practice sustainable investments and environmental stewardship

Objective 1:

PROVISION OF TECHNICAL SKILLS

It is a reality that not all the young people secure places in higher formal education due to lack of sufficient facilities, or qualification, or money.

The intervention required is to provide vocational trainings and programs with focus on entrepreneurial skills.

Strategic Objective:

Establish Center for training young people on Church land

This will provide access to technical training and education on entrepreneurial skills. Technical and vocational courses like: tailoring, electric and electronic training, renewable energy, ICT, carpentry, mechanic, welding, smart farming and other relevant causes as per the demand.

Investment benefits:

Short term:

- Income for the Church through fees for the program
- Income from the products sales

Long term:

- Empowerment for the young people to start their own business
- Provision of employment for the young people

Objective 2.

ENSURE RELIABLE ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The world has become a global village, thanks to information technology. COVID19 pandemic has even necessitated the use of social media and Internet in human interactions. Provision of communication and information services is inevitable in the 21st century and beyond. Faith institutions will provide more sustainable, stable and consistent spaces for this aspect especially for the young people.

Strategic Objective:

Establish a Computer and educational resource center

This institution will be fitted with books and computers and Internet connection. It will offer space for the young people to access information and enhance a culture of

reading. The young people will be equipped with the knowledge of the issues around the world and learn from the shared global values.

Investment plan benefits:

Short term:

- Income through subscription fees,

Long term:

- Employment opportunity
- Knowledge is an investment,
- The beneficiaries will give back to the community.

Objective 3:

ESTABLISH PEER LEARNING PLATFORM FOR THE YOUTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The young people excel when they identify with a particular group of like minds. GYM (Green Youth Mentorship) is a program within the parish created to promote environmental stewardship. Members have identified opportunity within the Church regarding tree planting and are committed to exploit it by starting a tree nursery which will provide tree seedlings to Christian families, churches and all who are lovers of environment at a reasonable cost. This initiative will be twofold: caring for environment and also creating sustainable wealth for the young people.

Strategic Objective:

- Formation/strengthening of youth groups (GYM - Green Youth Mentorship)
- Establishment of tree nurseries on Church land
- Development of a distribution/sale plan for the seedlings
- Establish demonstration farms on Church land

Investment Plan:

Short term:

- Tree seedlings will be sold as an income
- Distribution and planting of tree seedlings at a cost
- Farm produce will be sold

Long term:

- Promotion of environmental conservation leading to increase of forest cover

- Self -employment for the young people
- Learning new forms of farming for food security

Table 1:

Strategy 1: Provision of technical and entrepreneurship skills	Actions	Performance indicators	Target
	Establish technical and vocational education training (TVET)	Complete structures	Young People of post secondary education
	Provide courses/programs: Carpentry, electric and electronic, tailoring, ICT, welding.	Number of those enrolled for the courses and income	Young people
Strategy 2: Access to information	Establish a resource center	Completed physical structure	Young people
	Furnish it with books	Number of beneficiaries	Young people
	Place enough computers and internet	Number of beneficiaries and income	Young people
Strategy 3: Practical activities and implementation	Formation of youth group (GYM)	Registration of the group	Young people
	Identification of activity/project space	Availability of the space	Young people
	Training for the members	Skillful young people	Young people

TIMELINE

Year	Activity	Target	Deliverables
2021-2022	- Awareness - Fundraising - Structures	St. Arnold Nyalienga	- Number of people aware - Finances, - Structures
2023	Parish level	St. Arnold Nyalienga	- Parish Technical institute, - Resource Center, - GYM
2024	Deanery level	Homa Bay's deaneries	- Established Technical institutes, - Resource Centers, - Youth Organizations
2025	Diocese level	Homa Bay	- Established Technical institutes,

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resource Centers, - Youth organization
2026-2027	Metropolitan level	Kisumu, Nairobi, Mombasa, Nyeri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established Technical institutes, - Resource Centers, - Youth Organizations
2028-2029	National level	KCCB's dioceses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical institutes, - Resource established Centers, - Youth Organizations
2030-2031	Regional level	AMECEA's countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established Technical institutes, - Resource Centers, - Youth Organizations