

# Stowelink News

## ABOUT US

Established in 2016 Stowelink is a registered youth-led organization whose primary ethos and vision is to inspire healthier communities through innovative community health projects that embrace people at the core of its processes.

We prioritize our work by engaging young people and youths actively in the health sector with focus on the major health priorities including; Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) prevention, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDs through social behavior change. In achieving this objective we will address meaningful youth engagement in; health, and social inclusion; research learning and development; and health systems strengthening.

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## OUR MISSION

To inspire healthier communities through innovative community health projects that embrace people at the core of its processes.

## OUR VISION

To provide quality health services through technology innovation and partnerships to enhance fulfilling lives.

# Message From The Executive

## Unveiling Stowelink Newsletter

We are elated to share with you our first edition of The Paradise Newsletter. This Newsletter highlights our notable achievement, big wins, upcoming events, community and global work which has continued to captivate world attention and bring awards and recognition to Stowelink. For over 6 years now, Stowelink has remained steadfast in sharing its work through various innovative ways. Definitely, this is another classic opportunity that we endeavor to demonstrate to our supporters and fans the amazing work our team do on a daily basis, the dream we have for the communities that we labor to serve and how our work has transformed lives.

In this first edition, we have highlighted Our Vihiga NCDs study recently published by a reputable international journal, exclusive health interviews with big media names in Kenya and Stowelink innovative project that earned us an award at QHKA 2022. Also find out who is our next One Young World Ambassador, what our Chief Program Officer had to say during the second phase of NCDs Dairies and an appeal made by our own CEO to Kenyan Cabinet Secretary of Health Hon. Mutahi Kagwe.



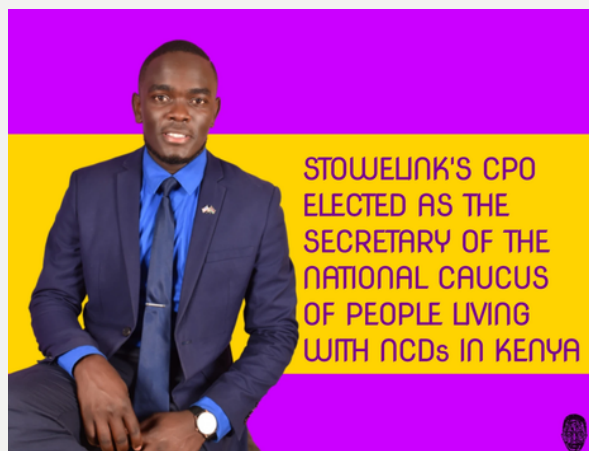
## BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT OF THE QUARTER

### Stowelink Wins QHKA Award

With the return of QHKA after two years break due to COVID19, stowelink NCDs 365 project presented by our Chief Program Officer was nominated under Student Innovation Protect of the Year category. During the Third Edition of QHKA event held at Safari Park Hotel, This project emerged as the winner of this category.



# Notable Achievements Of The Quarter



## ODUOR KEVIN ELECTED AS THE SECRETARY TO THE NATIONAL CAUCUS OF PLWNCDS IN KENYA

Stowelink's Chief Program officer Mr. Oduor Kevin elected as the Secretary to the National caucus of people living with NCDs in Kenya. Mr. Oduor brings a wealth of managerial and organizational skills to this National Caucus which is vital for its prosperity. He will not only serve as the Secretary but also demonstrate the strength and influence that young people have in the work on non-communicable diseases. This caucus brings together People Living with NCDs with the aim of representing the voice of lived experience. This initiative have wide influence on policymaking and academic work around NCD space.

## STOWELINK CONTRIBUTING TO RESEARCH WORK

Acknowledging the limited information on NCDs, Stowelink is moving with the speed to contribute to this knowledge gap. Upon completion of NCDs Advocacy project in Vihiga County, our team undertook a cross-sectional study to establish the factors that influence NCDs literacy this county. A sample size of 55 respondents were interviewed and data collected were analyzed using statistical methods. From our findings it is worth reporting that; Community NCDs based programs, patient support groups and cultural issues have great influence on NCDs literacy level.



## STOWELINK WINS STUDENTS INNOVATION PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Stowelink's NCDs 365 project was among the three projects nominated for the Quality Healthcare Kenyan Award (Students Innovation Project of the Year category). The project has achieved great milestones towards NCDs literacy and bridging NCDs knowledge gap in Kenya. In colorful event to celebrate Third Edition of QHKA, the NCDs 365 project was declared winner of Student Innovation Project of the Year.

The project was conducted in two phases where phase one and two encompasses NCDs related messages and animated videos respectively. The third phase will present NCDs lived experience stories by PLW NCDs to give hope to people living with NCDs

# Health Division Updates

## ABOUT THE DIVISION

Under this division, our primary focus is to implement relevant health programs to serve our community. We primarily aim at making information and diagnostic services on non-communicable diseases available to ALL at ALL times in RELEVANT formats but also focus on the other components in our behavior change communication that include Mental Health, Drugs and Substance Abuse and Sexual and Reproductive Health.

We mainly focus on preventive primary healthcare by providing health education and diagnostic services. Our vision in this division is to ensure that the communities we serve live a healthy and productive life.

## WHAT'S IN THIS SEGMENT

- NCD 365 Project update and phase 4
- Stowelink Annual Report 2021 now out
- Stowelink produces the 2nd NCD Diarist

## BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT OF THE QUARTER

Stowelink produces second NCDs Diarist: Mr. Oduor Kevin

The Global NCD Alliance is implementing the NCD Diaries project as part of the Our View, Our Voices Initiative. Recognizing that people living with chronic diseases (Non-Communicable Diseases) are not just recipient of services but also co-creators of solutions, the NCD Alliance is giving them an opportunity to be heard and most importantly, be meaningfully involved in NCDs advocacy. Find out more about our Second NCDs Diarist here (<https://stowelink.com/2022/04/20/stowelink-produces-the-2nd-ncd-diarist/>).





# NCDS 365

## PROJECT



NCDS 365 Project is a health awareness and literacy project that has recognized the urgent and pressing need to improve literacy and access to relevant services for non-communicable diseases by sharing messages, developing toolkits and leveraging new innovations. The project also debunks the myths and misconception around the NCDs. It leverages the social media and the huge mobile penetration to share NCDs messages, animated videos and NCDs lived experience stories.

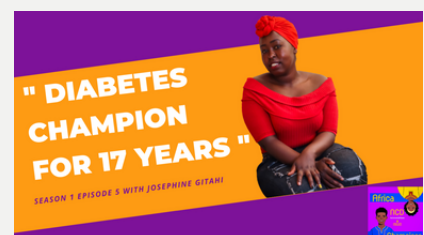
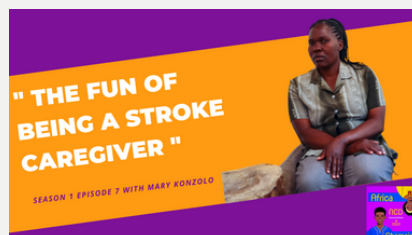
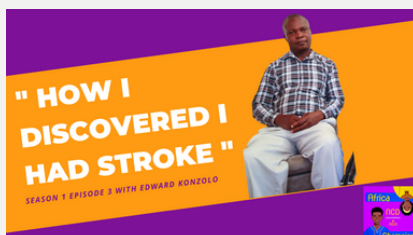
## NCDS 365 PHASE 4

### THE AFRICA NCD CHAMPIONS PODCAST

The Africa NCD Champions podcast is a podcast that aims at sharing life experiences of people living with non-communicable diseases from Africa. The podcast aims at educating, informing, and inspiring the world through these stories. Non communicable diseases like cancer, obesity, hypertension, asthma and even diabetes are still the leading killer diseases and now more than ever, awareness through the voices of people who have lived with these diseases is needed and this podcast is here to amplify those voices.

This is a continuation of our 5-year project the NCDs 365 project which aims at improving literacy for non-communicable diseases. This year we will be sharing real life stories and experiences of people living with these diseases in a bid to continue to enhance literacy, spread awareness, demystify myths and amplify the voices of champions living with non-communicable diseases.

Catch and follow the podcast on the links below <https://anchor.fm/africancdchampions>



# ANNUAL REPORT

## STOWELINK ANNUAL REPORT 2021 NOW OUT

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ANNUAL REPORT  
STOWELINK INC



The Stowelink 2021 annual report is officially out. The report is a culmination of an in-depth analysis of what happened in 2021 documenting all our impact and success. The annual report is visually compelling, telling our stories through the delightful photos and amazing imagery that will ensure that as you read it you are immersed into the experience.

Catch up with detailed, comprehensive and exclusive updates on our projects and success stories by grabbing a copy of Stowelink Annual Report available on our website (<https://stowelink.files.wordpress.com/2022/04/stowelink-2021-annual-report.pdf>).

## NCD DIARIES

### STOWELINK PRODUCES THE 2ND NCD DIARIST

The Global NCD Alliance is implementing the NCD Diaries project as part of the Our View, Our Voices Initiative. This forum is to enable NCDs patients, support groups, caregivers and survivors to share their lived experiences since they form vital part of in the NCDs advocacy and solution findings. Stowelink is committed to ensure that such individuals are give opportunities to be heard and form part of advocacy campaign .

NCDs Advocates supports individuals in contextualizing their lived experiences of NCDs while reflecting on the key pillars of the Advocacy Agenda of People Living with NCDs. Diarists are also be encouraged to crystallize and put forward their calls for action on NCDs through the narrative of their NCD Diaries.

Through this initiate, Stowelink takes pride in producing the second NCDs Diarist, Mr. Oduor Kevin-our Chief Programs Officer. Read more here (<https://stowelink.com/2022/04/20/stowelink-produces-the-2nd-ncd-diarist/>)



# Advocacy Division Updates

## ABOUT THE DIVISION

The Stowelink advocacy division focuses all issues advocacy. This division aims at addressing and contributing actively to the key advocacy asks that are in line with our organizations values and missions. More than that ,the advocacy division is also responsible for the media and communication features of the organization ensuring that the organization is positioned correctly in the public.

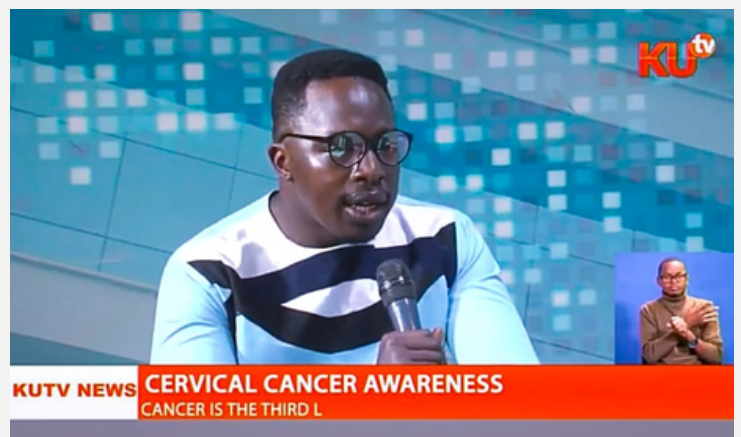
## WHAT'S IN THIS SEGMENT

- Focus on Cervical Cancer
- Legal and policy strategies Training
- Building Community Health Worker Network
- Youth-NCDs Agenda to Kenyan Cabinet Secretary of Health

## BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT OF THE QUARTER

### Let's us Talk about Cervical Cancer

STOWELINKS CEO, OGWENO STEPHEN was live on prime time in KUTV talking about cervical cancer awareness. In his submission he addressed a few issues on cervical cancer with his key messages being a focus on prevention, HPV vaccination and male involvement to boost cervical cancer screenings and HPV vaccinations.





# Advocacy Division Updates

## STOWELINK AT THE LEGAL AND POLICY STRATEGIES FOR NCD PREVENTION TRAINING

On the 16th and 17th February, Stowelink participated in a training on legal and policy strategies for NCDs prevention through promotion of healthy diets. The training which was facilitated by Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network (KELIN), with the support from International Development Law Organization (IDLO) brought together health professionals and representative of NCDs focused organization. This two-day event at Nairobi Safari Club focused on harnessing participatory multi-sectoral approaches to promote healthy diets through health policy dialogues. The training aimed at promoting the consumption of healthy diets through disruptive interventions



## BUILDING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS NETWORK

Stowelink continues to engage with its network of community health workers at Njathaini on the topic of nutrition and its importance to community health. In our meetings, we continue to find new innovative ways to address the challenge of malnutrition in the community and we are very privileged to be engaging with the local governments as well.

At Stowelink we believe that the community health workers play crucial and integral role in improving community health outcomes.

## OGWENO STEPHEN REPRESENTING YOUNG PEOPLE'S NCDS AGENDA TO (THE MINISTER) CABINET SECRETARY OF HEALTH MUTAHI KAGWE

Ogweno Stephen, CEO Stowelink Inc, had an opportunity during the NCCK's launch of the Afya Njema NCDs Strategic Plan where he presented the NCDs agenda for the young people of Kenya to the Cabinet Secretary for Health in Kenya Mutahi Kagwe. During his submission to the CS, Ogweno Stephen highlighted 3 key advocacy asks that the young people of Kenya wanted to see considered and implemented in the NCDs space in Kenya. The CS went ahead to confirm his commitment to standing with young people in the NCDs agenda and also highlighted the current steps that the government is already taking to ensure some of these asks are met.





# Research & Development Division Updates

## ABOUT THE DIVISION

Stowelink Research and Innovation Segment showcase research work, innovative activities and publications that have been conducted by Stowelink or its executive that is related to the work that we do

### WHAT'S IN THIS SEGMENT

- Vihiga County Research publication on NCDs
- Our Views on Future Africa Health Technology

## BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT OF THE QUARTER

### Publication of Vihiga NCDs Study

Stowelink Research department carried out a cross-sectional study in Vihiga county following our recently concluded IPAB project (Increasing Priority, Attention and Budget allocation for NCDs). This was purposefully to assess the factors influencing non-communicable diseases literacy levels in Kenya. A sample of 55 respondents were interviewed and data collected were analyzed using statistical methods. From our findings it is worth reporting that; Community NCDs based programs, patient support groups and cultural issues have great influence on NCDs literacy.



# RESEARCH PUBLICATION

## NCD LITERACY LEVELS IN VIHIGA COUNTY

**Methodology:** The study used a qualitative cross-sectional study design to collect data through questionnaires and interview guides administered through focused group discussions and key informant interviews.

**Results:** The study reported that community health programs and initiatives on NCDs, patient support groups, culture and misinformation influence NCD literacy levels. The study findings indicate that culture and misinformation, patient support groups, and community health programmes and initiatives are three key components that need to be considered when improving NCDs literacy levels.

**Conclusion:** The study also concludes that IPAB project helped boost the resident's knowledge and understanding of NCDs. The findings of this study offer critical insights to Vihiga County Government to tailor their NCDs advocacy programs to fit local context thereby enhancing the knowledge and understanding on NCDs.

Read the full research on our website



## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

### THE NECESSARY RISE OF AFRICA'S HEALTH TECH



#### The Necessary Rise of Africa's Health Tech

Jan 26, 2022 | **STEPHEN OGWENO**

Stowelink CEO's recently published article on Health Tech titled "The Necessary Rise of Africa's Health Tech". In this article, Mr. Ogwen argues that African health-care sector continues to struggle with lack of resources and funding. He suggests that creative uses of technology will offer possibilities for improved access to medical treatment. However, to achieve this, he advises that Africa must build on development and opportunities presented by pandemics to spur explosive growth on Health Tech. In Conclusion, he pens that "the future of health care in Africa depends on innovation. The adoption of new technology can create opportunities to improve health literacy and access to care for all Africans. The Coronavirus pandemic was a catalyst for growth in health tech on the continent. Now entrepreneurs and government must sustain the momentum"

# Stowelink Connecting to the world

## ABOUT THE DIVISION

This segment demonstrate our passion to connect with the world while promoting NCDs Advocacy. Our team is keen on reaching the world audience with active NCDs work that aims at promoting NCDs Literacy and contributing to the NCDs knowledge gap across the globe. We leverage the strength of social media and our networks to work with world advocates and leaders to have maximum impact on the community that we endeavor to serve.

## WHAT'S IN THIS SEGMENT

- Stowelink to ONE Young World Upcoming Events
- Stowelink Taking over Harambeans Global summit 4
- Stowelink Exhibition At At The UK High Commissioner For Kenya
- Stowelink at the 4th African Youth SDGs Summit
- Stowelink Partnership with Mentee Global Organization
- Stowelink's CPO Speaks At The Africa Healthcare Webinar
- Stowelink Participates In A Forum On Elimination Of Trans Fatty Acids

## BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT OF THE QUARTER

Stowelink send the second One Young World Ambassador to the world

Stowelink is over the moon with the good news that hit us a few weeks ago. We have managed to produce another One Young World ambassador. This speaks to the caliber of the leaders we have here at Stowelink who are driven, passionate and committed to making transformative difference in the world. Our first ambassador was Ogwen Stephen the CEO of Stowelink and now our second ambassador is Oduor Kevin, our CPO.





## STOWELINK TO ONE YOUNG WORLD

One Young World is Global Leadership Summit bringing together the brightest talent from every country and sector to debate and devise innovative solutions to the world's most pressing issues is convened every year. This year stowelink is delighted after our Chief of program flies to present our work at One young world summit. Mr. Oduor who made it the final stage of the interview won the AstraZeneca scholarship to enable him represent Stowelink in the United Kingdom during this year's summit in Manchester from 5th to 8th September 2022.

## STOWELINK TAKING OVER HARAMBEAN GLOBAL SUMMIT

The Harambeans Global Summit is a premier example of the best that Africa has to offer in terms of entrepreneurship, impact and networks. It brings together entrepreneurs, funders and innovators for Africa development agenda. Stowelink through the CEO was well represented at this global gathering of entrepreneurs where incredible networks and African development plans are made. This demonstrate our commitment in working with and through others to achieve a maximum impact on the Africa communities. This global summit has enable stowelink to meet and pursue funders to invest in the stowelink development programs.



## STOWELINK EXHIBITION AT AT THE UK HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR KENYA

In an auspicious gathering of top scholars and learners from the commonwealth, Stowelink was privileged to meet and interact with the UK High Commissioner for Kenya. Our CEO Ogwen Stephen who is also a commonwealth scholar was among the 5 people who were chosen to carry out exhibitions at the residence of the commissioner.

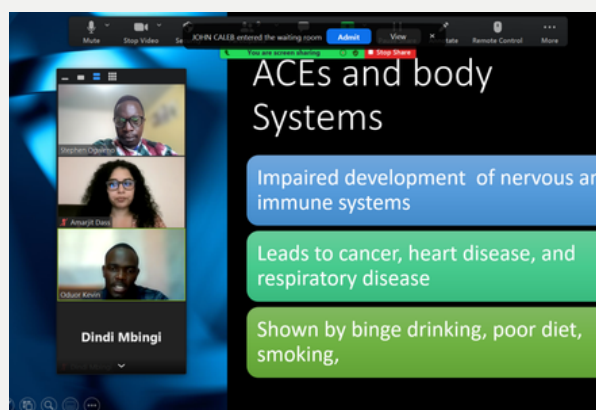
Stowelink took this opportunity to showcase its work that have had a huge impact on our communities. The UK High Commissioner commended Stowelink for progressive projects which have continue to respond to African problems. This was a greater motivation of the day .



## STOWELINK AT THE 4TH AFRICAN YOUTH SDGS SUMMIT

The fourth African youth summit took place in Ethiopia during the second week of March 2022. Our CEO alongside guest from Amref Health represented Africa at the summit.

The topic for discussion was youth innovation in health, building better from COVID 19 pandemic. In this conversation, Ogweno Stephen highlighted the importance of embracing innovation moving forward and pointed out the importance of continuously being flexible and adaptable during this recovery phase post covid 19. He also pleaded with the developed countries to be generous in sharing Covid 19 vaccine with undeveloped countries to enable the world have concerted efforts in curbing further covid19 waves.



## STOWELINK PARTNERSHIP WITH MENTEE GLOBAL ORGANIZATION

During the World Health Day on 7th April 2022, we joined Mentee Global Organization to host a webinar on adverse childhood experience. Mentee is global knowledge sharing and support community. MENTEE offers a lifelong supportive program so that every marginalized person in the world can have the power to shape their own future.

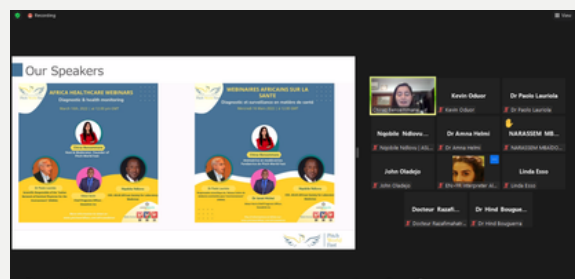
The key speakers included Amarjit Dass, Oduor Kevin (CPO Stowelink) and Stephen Ogweno (CEO Stowelink) who hosted this informative session. The webinar aimed at increasing participants understanding of Adverse Childhood Experience and how the phenomenon has adverse impact on health.

## STOWELINK'S CPO SPEAKS AT THE AFRICA HEALTHCARE WEBINAR

It was our greatest pleasure to have received an invitation to speak at the Africa Health Webinar Series hosted by Pitch World Fast organization. Acknowledging that COVID-19 disrupted health service delivery across the world, more so in Africa, there is a greater need for the African continent to foster collaboration and partnership owing co-dependence and governments.

Africa must learn from the lessons emerging from the crisis on the continent and at a global level and prepare for a new reality & economic dynamic

While speaking at this forum, Mr. Oduor acknowledged that access to diagnostics helps improve health outcomes. He also explored how countries can build on the growing momentum around diagnostics and increase access.



## STOWELINK PARTICIPATES IN A FORUM ON ELIMINATION OF TRANS FATTY ACIDS

With support from Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAII), International Institute for Legislative Affairs (IILA) organized a stakeholders' sensitization meeting for the project dubbed, "Advocating for Effective Regional Regulatory Mechanism for Elimination of Industrially Produced Trans-Fatty Acids (TFAs). This workshop brought together health professionals, relevant government ministries, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), private sector player among others.

Stowelink is glad to have participated in this workshop and together with fellow participants, we explored ways through which we can support the process of eliminating TFAs in the East African Community

# Acknowledgements

Special Thanks To:

## THE STOWELINK INC EXECUTIVE TEAM

- Stephen Ogwen
- Oduor Kevin
- Naila Chebet
- Ongola Otieno
- Harrizon Ayallo



We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to transform and empower lives.

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