

# Stowelink News

## ABOUT US

Established in 2016 Stowelink Foundation 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.



## WHAT'S IN THIS QUARTER'S ISSUE:

- MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE
- STOWELINK NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS
- HEALTH DIVISION UPDATES
- ADVOCACY DIVISION UPDATES
- RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION UPDATES
- CONNECTING TO THE WORLD
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## 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

As we close another quarter, I am filled with gratitude and pride in what we have collectively achieved. Your dedication and hard work have been nothing short of exceptional.

First and foremost, a heartfelt thank you for the successful implementation of Phase 3 of the STEP UP project. The team's commitment to this initiative aimed at unraveling the intricate connection between Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and climate change is truly commendable. Now that we have entered the research stage, I eagerly anticipate the valuable insights that will emanate from your diligent analysis of the data gathered over the past year.

Simultaneously, launching the 21st NCDs and Climate Change Project (Phase 1) marks a new beginning. I have full confidence that the team will carry the same enthusiasm and expertise into this endeavor, continuing to make a positive impact on the communities we serve.

Our recent participation in the UN High-Level Meetings in New York was a milestone moment. It was an honor to engage with global leaders and experts in the field. Special thanks to our team members who represented STOWELINK with distinction. The opportunity to meet Dr. Tedros, the Director-General of the World Health Organization, was a highlight and a testament to the growing recognition of our work on the international stage.

Looking ahead, the excitement builds for the activities planned in the next quarter. We have an opportunity to build on our successes, explore new partnerships, and further our mission of creating healthier and more resilient communities.

Remember, it is the collective effort of each member of this team that propels STOWELINK Foundation forward. Your passion, expertise, and commitment are the driving forces behind our impact. Let's continue to push boundaries and strive for excellence.

Thank you once again for your unwavering dedication. Here's to the remarkable journey ahead!



**Stephen Ogwen- Founder and CEO**

## BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT OF THE QUARTER

### STOWELINK FOUNDATION AT THE UNITED NATION HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS IN NEW YORK

Stowelink Foundation through its CEO was represented at the United Nations High Level Meetings. Ogwen's contributions spanned three significant events, each with a unique purpose and mission:

1. Global Obesity Forum by the World Obesity Federation
2. AI for Healthy Cities Forum by the Novartis Foundation
3. Enhancing Healthcare Through Innovation Forum by the NCD Alliance



# Notable Achievements Of The Quarter



## STOWELINK CHIEF PROGRAMS OFFICER MEETS WITH BAN KI MOON DURING THE AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT

Stowelink's Chief Program Officer got an opportunity to meet H.E. Ban Ki-moon, the 8th Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) at the Africa Climate Summit. H.E. Ban Ki-moon, through the Ban Ki-moon Center for Global Citizens, has demonstrated commitments to work with global leaders and changemakers to tackle climate change and economic upheavals. He has sought to be a bridge-builder, giving voice to the world's poorest and most vulnerable people and strengthening world pandemic response initiatives. As the chief architect of the 2030 agenda for SDGs, he joined host of delegates to discuss climate change adaptation and reinforce the need for increased attention and budgetary allocation for climate change mitigation efforts.

## STOWELINK JOINS THE LAUNCH OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN TO TACKLE NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Stowelink joined the Non-communicable Diseases Alliance Kenya (NCD Alliance Kenya) to launch the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan for tackling chronic diseases in Kenya. The plan provides a roadmap toward reducing preventable morbidity, mortality, and disability due to NCDs in Kenya. Speaking during the launch, Dr. Issak Bashir, the Head of the Department of Family Health in the Ministry of Health, noted that the Strategic Plan 2023-2027 is a response to the epidemiological transition from communicable diseases to non-communicable diseases being experienced in Kenya. He insisted the need for a concerted effort to address NCDs risk factors and management gaps to achieve the desired health outcomes. A member of the alliance, Stowelink pledges to support the full implementation of the strategic plan.





# Health Division Updates

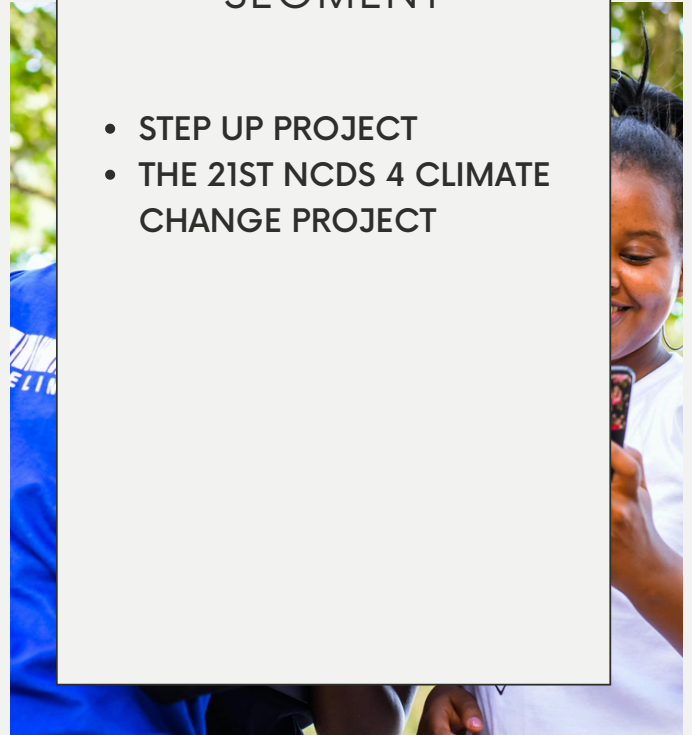
## ABOUT THE DIVISION

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

- STEP UP PROJECT
- THE 21ST NCDS 4 CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT



## BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT OF THE QUARTER

### Research paper development and analysis of the STEP UP Project

This quarter stowelink began the analysis of the STEP UP project data that has been continuously getting collected for the past 1 year as the project has continuously been getting implemented. This data analysis will lead to the development of a research paper and an publication showing the impact of this project.





# PROGRESS OF THE STEP UP NCDS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT

## UNVEILING INSIGHTS: STOWELINK FOUNDATION EMBARKS ON DATA ANALYSIS FOR STEP UP PROJECT

In an exciting development this quarter, STOWELINK Foundation has initiated the comprehensive analysis of data accumulated over the past year from the STEP UP project in the Nairobi Githurai area. This pivotal stage marks the beginning of a rigorous process that will eventually culminate in the production of a research paper, shedding light on the profound insights into the interconnection between Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and climate change.



### **Data Collection Milestone:**

The STEP UP project, implemented over the course of a year, has been diligently collecting data since its inception. This data spans a diverse range of variables, reflecting the intricate relationship between NCDs and climate change among the youth in the Githurai area. Through in-person training sessions, an online course, and the innovative use of the NCDs 365 mobile application, the project aimed to empower the youth with knowledge to foster sustainable health practices and climate resilience.

### **Data Analysis Process:**

The current phase involves a meticulous examination of the collected data. STOWELINK's team of researchers and data analysts are employing advanced statistical methods and data visualization techniques to draw meaningful insights from the wealth of information gathered. This rigorous analysis aims to uncover patterns, trends, and correlations that will form the basis of the forthcoming research paper.

### **Path to Publication:**

As the data analysis progresses, STOWELINK Foundation is gearing up for the preparation and submission of a research paper that encapsulates the findings and outcomes of the STEP UP project. The paper will be a valuable contribution to the scientific community, providing evidence-based insights into the impact of tailored educational initiatives on youth awareness regarding the interconnectedness of NCDs and climate change.



### **Importance of the Research:**

The significance of this research extends beyond the academic realm. The interplay between NCDs and climate change is a critical aspect of public health, particularly in urban environments with burgeoning youth populations. Understanding the dynamics of this relationship is crucial for implementing effective interventions and fostering sustainable health practices. The STEP UP project, and consequently, its research outcomes, not only contribute to the scientific discourse but also inform policymakers, healthcare practitioners, and communities about the shared risks and potential solutions.

# THE 21ST- NCD YOUTH CHAMPIONS 4 CLIMATE CHANGE

The 21st NCDs Youth 4 Climate is a project that aims at creating a movement of trained and empowered NCDs champions called The Twenty-Firsts who are knowledgeable on NCDs and climate change and the close interrelationship between the two topics. The Twenty-Firsts will be responsible for educating their communities on these topics thus creating a snowballing impact and as a result improving on literacy and practices aimed at leveraging co-benefit solutions and impact gained from action on NCDs and climate change.

## DELIVERY PLAN

Stowelink proposes to deliver on this project by following this model.

1. Identify and train at least 40 youths from each of the 10 institutions of higher learning that we have clubs in or are working with health and environment clubs.
2. Engage the trained NCD champions also identified as the Twenty Firsts in activities such as tree planting, cookstove technology lessons, to gain practical knowledge of these co-benefit actions on NCDs and climate change.
3. The Twenty-Firsts will then be tasked with training and educating their communities on the same knowledge and recruiting new members through the health and environmental clubs that they are members of. This will ensure the sustainability of the project beyond the funding.
4. The project will also leverage the NCDs 365 app and the NCDs For Public Health Online Course both by Stowelink's knowledge partner, NCDs Champions, to enhance the learning, monitoring and reporting processes of the project. The online course will enable the students to learn and have a reference point as well. The NCDs 365 app will be updated with information on NCDs and climate change to provide on-the-go access to this information to the Twenty-Firsts. More than that the app will be the central platform where all updates, communication, and reporting from all the institutions will be managed. These components are key to this project as they will ensure the sustainability of the project and easy replication of the project to other locations.
5. The project will also have a very strong research component with Quarterly KAP (Knowledge, attitude, and practice) surveys which will be conducted to establish the impact of the project on the desired outcomes e.g behavior change and knowledge retention among many others.



Recently launched, Phase 1 of the project is a dynamic stage that involves reaching out to higher education institutions. This endeavor is designed to establish robust partnerships with these institutions, enabling collaboration on the critical issues of NCDs and climate change. Keep up with us for more updates

# 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 decision 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

- PRESS STATEMENT AT TOBACCO FARMING
- RESET ALCOHOL INITIATIVE FORUM

## BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT OF THE QUARTER

### STOWELINK FOUNDATION AT THE UNITED NATION HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS IN NEW YORK

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# STOWELINK PARTICIPATES IN THE PRESS STATEMENT ON TOBACCO FARMING AND THE CONTROL OF TOBACCO USE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Stowelink, together with major tobacco control players and NCD advocates, gathered at Sarova Stanley Nairobi on August 14th for a press statement on Kenya's contribution in reducing tobacco production and promoting alternative farming for public health. The statement was necessary because of the implication by the Trade and Investment Cabinet Secretary in Kenya that a thriving tobacco business is beneficial for the economy.

The joint Statement was spearheaded by many organizations in Kenya. They included the NCD Alliance Kenya, Kenya Tobacco Control Alliance (KETCA), Consumer Information Network (CIN), International Institute For Legislative Affairs (IILA), National Taxpayers Association, Kenya Network of Cancer Organizations (KENCO) and Students Campaign Against Drugs (SCAD).



## STOWELINK IS REPRESENTED IN THE RESET ALCOHOL INITIATIVE FORUM

Stowelink was represented by Mr. Oduor Kevin at the RESET Alcohol Initiative Forum. The initiative is geared toward bringing together national governments, civil society, research organizations, and global leaders in public health and alcohol policy to develop and implement evidence-based alcohol policies from the World Health Organization's (WHO) SAFER technical package. The object of this forum was to present an assessment report on proposed amendments to the Alcohol Drink Control Act (ADCA) in Kenya, 2010, and the corresponding county legislation. The International Institute for Legislative Affairs (IILA), with support from Movendi International and Vital Strategies, is advocating for alcohol control through taxation, and legal and policy changes.

Some of the amendments proposed in the ADCA 2010 include anchorage of alcohol taxation in the legal instruments as one of the fiscal measures to reduce consumption.



# 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

- NCDs AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH: DATA ANALYSIS

## BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT OF THE QUARTER

### DATA ANALYSIS FOR THE NCDs AND CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT

This quarter stowelink began the analysis of the STEP UP project data that has been continuously getting collected for the past 1 year as the project has continuously been getting implemented. This data analysis will lead to the development of a research paper and a publication showing the impact of this project. See the full update on the earlier segment.



# 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 AT THE UN HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS
- ENCOUNTER WITH WHO BOSS, DR TEDROS

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See the full update on the earlier segment.





## 1. GLOBAL OBESITY FORUM BY THE WORLD OBESITY FEDERATION

The Global Obesity Forum sought to address the pressing issue of obesity, a global health concern that directly impacts the achievement of SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being). Ogwen Stephen's insights played a crucial role in fostering discussions, strategies, and policies to combat the obesity epidemic and enhance global health



## 2. AI FOR HEALTHY CITIES FORUM BY THE NOVARTIS FOUNDATION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming the healthcare landscape. At the AI for Healthy Cities Forum, Ogwen shared his expertise on how AI can be leveraged to create healthier and more sustainable urban environments. The forum explored innovative solutions and applications to advance SDG 3 and make healthcare more accessible and effective.



## 3. ENHANCING HEALTHCARE THROUGH INNOVATION FORUM BY THE NCD ALLIANCE

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) continue to pose significant health challenges worldwide. The Enhancing Healthcare Through Innovation Forum, organized by the NCD Alliance, provided a platform for Ogwen to discuss innovative approaches and solutions for tackling NCDs. His contributions aimed to expedite the achievement of SDG 3's targets by 2030.



Stowelink Foundation's involvement in these high-impact events reinforces our dedication to improving global health and well-being.



# ENCOUNTER WITH DR. TEDROS, WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL IN NEW YORK

New York, USA – It was a bright and brisk Sunday morning during the “Walk the Talk” run in New York, and for Ogwen Stephen, it marked a momentous occasion. He had the privilege of meeting Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO). The encounter was brief yet profoundly inspiring, taking place just before the run.

For Ogwen, this encounter was a remarkable highlight in his journey as a health practitioner and advocate. The opportunity to shake hands and exchange words with Dr. Tedros, even as he battled a leg injury, left an indelible mark. Dr. Tedros’ presence at the event demonstrated his unwavering commitment to supporting health advocates and promoting awareness about health, not only in the city of New York but globally.



Meeting Dr. Tedros had been a longstanding aspiration for Ogwen. As a health professional, he had admired Dr. Tedros’ dedication and the global impact of his work. This meeting was a testament to the remarkable heights that one can reach through unwavering commitment and continuous efforts in their respective field.

Ogwen extended his heartfelt appreciation to the World Obesity team, Johanna Ralston, and Amber Huert, whose pivotal roles facilitated this memorable meeting. The meeting with Dr. Tedros served as a source of inspiration and motivation for Ogwen, reinforcing the significance of the work he and his colleagues are engaged in.

As he looks ahead, Ogwen is determined to continue his journey with renewed energy and inspiration, always aiming for new heights in his quest to make a meaningful impact on global health and raise awareness about critical health issues.



# Acknowledgements

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**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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