

Stowelink News

ABOUT US

Since 2016, we've worked with 80+ partners to deliver practical, community-first programs across 10 African countries through grassroots public health campaigns, health innovation and research, and policy advocacy across Africa maximizing impact with minimal cost, ensuring lasting change.

We focus on tackling the most pressing health challenges affecting youth and communities across Africa through evidence-based, youth-led interventions.

We focus on the major health priorities, including Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), sexual and reproductive health AND 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 transform public health across Africa by equipping youth to lead powerful, innovative initiatives that promote health equity, prevent noncommunicable diseases and related public health challenges, and uplift entire communities.

OUR VISION

A global model for youth-led public health transformation in Africa and beyond.

Message From The Executive

The fourth quarter of 2025 marked a defining period of growth, recognition, and deepened impact for the Stowelink Foundation. Over these three months, we strengthened our role as a leading voice in mental health, noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), and universal health coverage, while continuing to center lived experience, youth leadership, and evidence-driven advocacy.

We are proud to see our team's work recognized nationally and globally. Notably, Naila Chebet Koech received the NCD Alliance Kenya Media Award for her leadership in mental health and NCD advocacy, and Naila and Ogwenko were honored to be named UHC Champions of the Year by the Global UHC2030 Coalition. These recognitions affirm the power of community-rooted leadership and lived experience in shaping health policy and practice.

This quarter also reflected our commitment to strengthening institutional capacity and partnerships. We celebrated the graduation of our Chief Programs Officer, Oduor Kevin with a Master of Public Health, hosted strategic engagements with global partners such as Children for Health, and contributed to regional and global collaborations spanning Africa and Europe. Our work featured prominently at Kenya's first National NCDs Conference and in global conversations on obesity policy, digital health, and tobacco industry interference.

Through sustained media engagement, research dissemination, digital health programming, and advocacy campaigns, we continued to translate knowledge into action, amplifying youth voices, promoting healthier workplaces, advancing sustainable health financing, and challenging systems that undermine public health.

As we close the year, I am deeply grateful to our partners, supporters, and communities for walking this journey with us. Together, we are not only shaping conversations but influencing systems toward equity, accountability, and health for all.



Stephen Ogwenko- Founder and CEO

BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT OF THE QUARTER

STOWELINK FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS YOUTH VOICES, LIVED EXPERIENCE CHAMPIONS & DIGITAL HEALTH INNOVATIONS AT KENYA'S FIRST NATIONAL NCDs CONFERENCE

The Stowelink Foundation had an impactful presence at the First National Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Conference, where we amplified youth voices, elevated lived experience champions, and presented new scientific research demonstrating the power of digital health in strengthening NCD prevention across Africa.



Notable Achievements Of The Quarter



STOWELINK'S NAILA CHEBET KOECH WINS AN AWARD AT THE NCD ALLIANCE KENYA MEDIA AWARDS 2025

Stowelink Foundation is proud to celebrate a remarkable milestone achieved by our Mental Health Lead, Naila Chebet Koech, who has been recognized as an award winner at the NCD Alliance Kenya Media Awards 2025.

Naila received the award under the category Lived Experience Feature (Patient-Focused Storytelling)—a category dedicated to honouring powerful narratives that center patients' voices, lived realities, dignity and access to care.

STOWELINK FOUNDATION AT THE HEART OF GLOBAL OBESITY POLICY: A MILESTONE IN LIVED-EXPERIENCE LEADERSHIP FOR AFRICA

When the World Health Organization released its first global guidelines on the use of GLP-1 medicines for obesity treatment, the Stowelink Foundation was proud to see its lived-experience leadership represented at the highest level. Through the participation of our founder and Global Advocacy Lead, Ogweno Stephen, the Foundation contributed to shaping a guideline that reflects not only science and ethics—but also the realities of communities across Africa.



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

- AU-EU NCD 365 PHASE 6 PROJECT
- UNMASK THE TACTICS TOBACCO PROJECT UPDATE
- PHYSICAL HEALTH IN NCDS SERIES

BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT OF THE QUARTER

Stowelink Foundation partners with the African Union and European Union to implement phase 5 of the NCD 365 Project

In 2025, the Stowelink Foundation led one of the most impactful cross-continental youth health initiatives under the AU-EU partnership—an ambitious project designed to elevate youth leadership in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) prevention and mental health advocacy across Africa and Europe. Through this initiative, Stowelink advanced its mission of empowering young people with knowledge, digital tools, and platforms to participate meaningfully in global health conversations.



STOWELINK FOUNDATION'S AU-EU NCD COLLABORATION PROJECT



Funded and supported by Africa-Europe Foundation

NCDs 365 Project : Phase 5

ACHIEVEMENTS IN SUMMARY

3

LONG FORM INTERVIEWS
RECORDED AND POST
PRODUCED

121

INDIVIDUALS SIGNED UP ON
THE AU-EU GROUP ON
LIFESTEN APP

8

AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE
GROUP

25

SHORT VIDEOS AND
REELS PRODUCED

7.5

HOURS OF CONTENT RELEASED
ALREADY

1

DASHBOARD DEVELOPED TO
HOST CURRENT AND FUTURE
HEALTH RESOURCES

36,112

COMBINED SOCIAL MEDIA
REACH BY 5TH NOV 2025

1. Background

The NCDs 365 Project is Stowelink Foundation's flagship youth-led initiative aimed at advancing awareness, advocacy, and action on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through digital innovation and cross-sector collaboration. Since its inception, the project has successfully mobilized youth across Africa to engage in health promotion and policy advocacy.

Phase 5 of the project, "NCDs 365: Youth for Health Equity Across Continents", focuses on strengthening Africa–Europe cooperation by connecting youth leaders, advocates, and organizations from both regions.

The project aligns with the AU–EU Summit agenda, emphasizing youth-led solutions, digital health, and health equity as drivers of sustainable health systems.

2. Objectives

The main objectives of this phase were to:

- Strengthen Africa–Europe collaboration on NCDs and health equity through youth-led engagement.
- Increase visibility of youth-driven contributions in the global NCD advocacy space.
- Promote dialogue and digital exchange between youth and policymakers around NCDs, climate change, and digital health innovation.

3. Target Audience

- Youth aged 15–35 years across Africa and Europe
- Youth-led health and advocacy organizations
- Policymakers and global health stakeholders engaging in the AU–EU partnership and broader global health discourse



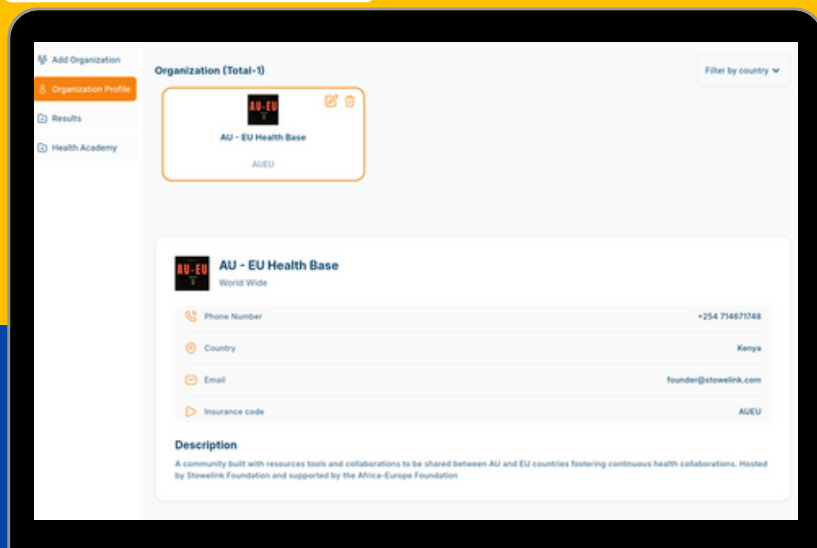
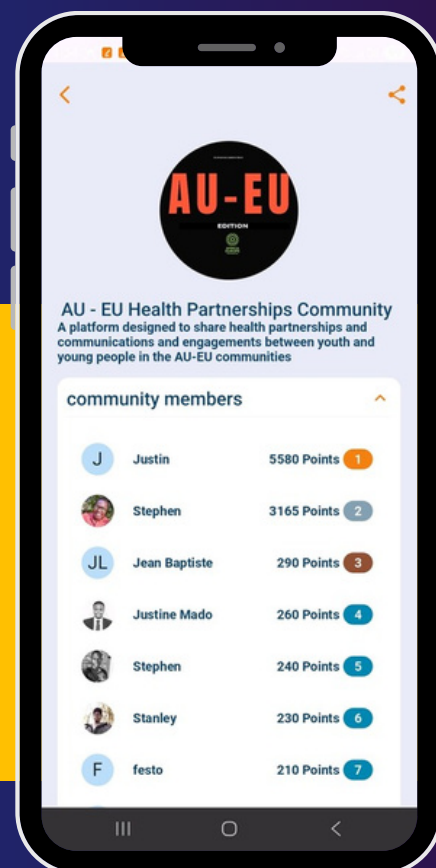
SUMMARY OF PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The NCDs 365: Youth for Health Equity Across Continents project effectively bridged Africa–Europe youth health collaboration by blending storytelling, technology, and advocacy. Through 3 long-form dialogues and 25 short-form educational videos, Stowelink amplified youth voices in NCD and mental health discourse across 8 countries.

Over 121 participants joined the new AU–EU Health Collaboration Hub on the Lifesten App (Previously the NCD 365 App), which now serves as a live community for cross-continental health dialogue. The initiative recorded 7.5 hours of educational content, reaching over 36,000 people through digital campaigns, with projected growth beyond 50,000 viewers through ongoing post-project dissemination.

The project not only delivered on all proposed outcomes but also expanded the scope by developing a dedicated digital resource dashboard to host future health education materials, ensuring sustainability and continued engagement beyond the project timeline.

Below is a summary comparison of project deliverables (as proposed) versus **actual achievements by project end (November 2025):



SUMMARY OF PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Deliverable (Proposal)	Planned Output	Actual Achievement	Remarks / Outcome
Youth-Led Digital Dialogue Series	3 online youth-led dialogues between Africa and Europe on NCDs and health equity	3 full-length dialogue videos recorded, post-produced, and disseminated (Clare Hanbury & Ogweno Stephen; Lucía Feito Allonca & Ogweno Stephen; AU-EU Collaboration Special Feature)	Achieved as planned. Reached 36,000+ viewers through online platforms.
Creative Digital Campaign	5 short social media videos highlighting youth-led perspectives	25 short videos and reels produced from the dialogue series for Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Facebook	Exceeded initial target by 400%; strong engagement and youth participation.
Cross-Continental Storytelling Hub	Develop a digital feature on the NCDs 365 App for youth storytelling and advocacy	Feature integrated into Lifesten Health App (previously NCD 365 App); 121 youth participants across 8 African and European countries joined the AU-EU group	Achieved and scaled; created ongoing engagement hub for collaboration.
Digital Promotion & Outreach	Reach 50,000 young people through digital channels	Combined reach of 36,112+ (as of 5th November 2025), expected to surpass 50,000 by Q1 2026	Target nearly achieved within reporting period; ongoing organic reach growth.
App Dashboard Development	Create a resource space to host health stories and materials	1 dynamic dashboard developed to host health education materials, youth stories, and AU-EU advocacy content	Fully achieved; established for continuous use post-project.
Project Duration	15 Sept – 31 Oct 2025	21 Sept – 7 Nov 2025	Extended to accommodate post-campaign engagement and analytics collection.
Content Hours	Not specified	7.5 hours of high-quality digital content released	Demonstrates rich multimedia output supporting sustained advocacy.

PARTICIPANT VOICES

"This project helped me understand that youth-led collaboration across continents isn't just possible, it's powerful."

— Youth Advocate, Kenya

"I felt more confident in speaking about NCDs and mental health after seeing leaders like Lucía and Ogweno share real experiences."

— Medical Student, Spain

"The app-based health academy made learning interactive and practical; it changed how I think about my own health choices."

— Youth Participant, Rwanda

KEY SHORT-TERM IMPACTS

- Improved confidence and communication capacity among youth advocates.
- Enhanced knowledge and visibility of AU–EU health policy collaboration.
- Strengthened digital engagement networks for NCD and mental health advocacy.
- Demonstrated scalable hybrid model for advocacy—blending dialogue, storytelling, and technology.

LONG-TERM IMPACT PROJECTION

Based on evidence gathered, the project is expected to yield the following long-term impacts:

- Sustained youth leadership in cross-continental health advocacy and NCD prevention.
- Policy awareness translation—bridging the Political Declaration's global commitments with grassroots understanding.
- Institutional collaboration models that integrate youth voices into AU–EU health frameworks.
- Expanded digital health ecosystems, leveraging the Lifesten Health platform for scalable education and engagement.

CHALLENGES FACED

- Limited coordination time due to overlapping schedules across continents.
- Variability in digital accessibility, especially for rural-based youth groups.
- Delayed funding disbursement as 2nd half of budget not released yet affecting the project.
- Resource constraints for deeper follow-up engagement beyond initial campaign phases.

NEXT STEPS AND SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

To ensure continued impact and sustainability, Stowelink proposes to:

- Expand the AU–EU Youth Health Network into a permanent working group.
- Integrate NCD and mental health content into ongoing Lifesten Health digital programs.
- Establish a digital repository of video dialogues and learning resources for open access.
- Pursue co-funding opportunities with regional partners for continuous AU–EU youth engagement.
- Host annual reflection dialogues to track progress and share best practices on health equity collaboration.

UNMASK THE TACTICS KE TOBACCO PROJECT

The Stowelink Foundation is proud to join a nationwide four-week digital campaign focused on tobacco industry monitoring and control in Kenya. The campaign, coordinated by the Kenyan Tobacco Industry Monitoring and Control Group, brings together public health experts, youth advocates, and civil society organizations committed to exposing harmful industry tactics and empowering young people with accurate, evidence-based information.

As part of Stowelink's long-standing commitment to preventing NCDs and combating harmful commercial determinants of health, our team—led by Founder Ogweno Stephen—is actively contributing to this national effort. This campaign aligns strongly with our mission to protect youth health, strengthen public awareness, and advocate for healthier environments.

Running under the hashtag #UnmaskTheTacticsKE, the campaign disseminates daily educational posters, videos, and youth-friendly content across social media. Each week culminates in a video summary co-hosted by Stowelink's Ogweno Stephen and fellow advocate Oduor Kevin, breaking down the week's findings in simple, engaging language.



WEEK 1: THE TRUTH ABOUT TOBACCO & NEW NICOTINE PRODUCTS

The first week sheds light on traditional tobacco products as well as the rapid rise of vapes, nicotine pouches, and heated tobacco devices among Kenyan youth. Key messages include:

- Health harms associated with all nicotine products
- Debunking “safer alternative” myths
- Exposing how new products are aggressively pushed into African markets

Stowelink emphasizes that nicotine addiction—whether smoked or vaped—poses a major risk to adolescent health.



WEEK 2: INDUSTRY TRICKS & TARGETED MARKETING

This week uncovers manipulative tactics used to hook young people, including:

- Influencer partnerships
- Colorful, flavor-focused branding
- Youth-driven cultural marketing strategies
- Stowelink continues to warn that these tactics often bypass regulation and fuel long-term addiction.

WEEK 3: SPOT IT, STOP IT — YOUTH AGAINST MANIPULATION

This week equips young people to identify, question, and report harmful marketing. Themes include:

- Recognizing digital misinformation
- Understanding advertising loopholes
- Empowering youth leadership in tobacco control
- The goal is to build a nationwide youth movement against tobacco industry interference.



WEEK 4: THE FUTURE WE CHOOSE

The final week focuses on solutions and youth-led action:

- What individuals and families can do
- What schools and teachers can implement
- How youth groups and communities can stay vigilant

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

The campaign includes:

- Daily awareness posters
- Weekly video breakdowns
- Interactive Q&As and community discussions

Follow the journey via #UnmaskTheTacticsKE across social media platforms.

This campaign represents another major step in Stowelink Foundation's work to protect young people, strengthen national NCD prevention efforts, and counter harmful commercial influences. We remain committed to building a healthier, more informed generation for Kenya and the region.



TiMR_{KE}
Tobacco Industry Monitoring & Response-Kenya



TiMR_{KE}
Tobacco Industry Monitoring & Response-Kenya

PHYSICAL HEALTH & NCDS PROJECT Q3 UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to the rising burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), Stowelink Foundation launched a multimedia education series promoting physical activity as a preventive tool. Through podcasts, video series, and personal stories, the campaign highlights how consistent exercise—particularly morning workouts and structured fitness routines like gym attendance—can transform health outcomes. With a focus on storytelling and real-life experiences, the series aims to inspire sustainable behavior change across Kenya and beyond.

INTRODUCTION

Non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular illnesses are on the rise, with physical inactivity being one of the leading risk factors. Recognizing this challenge, Stowelink Foundation has launched a health education initiative focused on building sustainable physical exercise habits. This multimedia series features expert discussions, personal reflections, and actionable guidance to help individuals integrate fitness into their daily routines—starting with small, consistent steps.

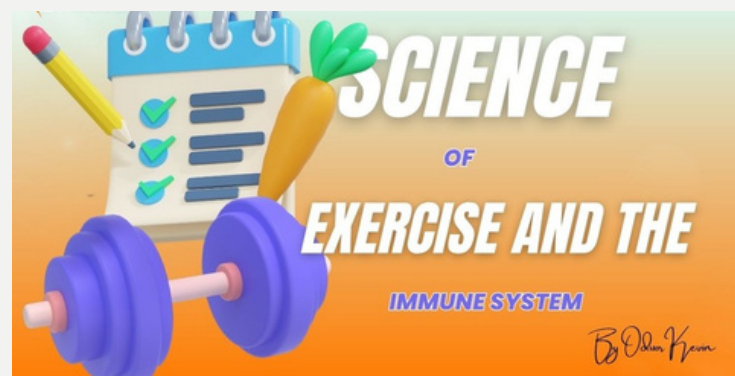
The project has been spearheaded by Program Officer Oduor Kevin, whose personal fitness transformation forms the foundation of the series. His journey from a sedentary lifestyle to an active, gym-focused routine underscores the practical benefits of physical activity in NCD prevention. His insights are supported by evidence-based recommendations and strategies aimed at empowering communities to take control of their health.

KEY EPISODES AND LEARNINGS THIS QUARTER

Episode 21- the final episode of the Physical Exercise and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Series, titled “Creating an NCD-Conscious Workplace.” This episode concludes a multi-part series aimed at raising awareness on the role of physical activity in preventing and managing NCDs.



Episode 20 – The Science of Exercise and Immune System Boosting. This episode explores the critical link between physical activity, immune system performance, and the prevention of non-communicable diseases.





Episode 19 – The Role of Physical Exercise in Enhancing Mental Health

The relationship between physical exercise and mental health continues to be one of the most compelling areas in public health — especially in the context of non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention. We explore this important link, highlighting how staying active can significantly improve mental well-being and overall quality of life.



Episode 18 – The Role of Community in Sustaining Physical Activity

At Stowelink Foundation, we continue to explore innovative ways to promote healthy living and reduce the burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). In the 18th episode of our Physical Exercise and NCDs Series, we focus on an often-overlooked yet powerful driver of sustained physical activity — community.

Episode 17 – Technology and Fitness — How Wearables are Transforming Health Tracking

Technology is redefining how we approach fitness and health. In this 17th episode of the Physical Exercise and NCDs Series, our Chief Programs Officer, Oduor Kevin explores how wearables and apps are helping people take control of their wellbeing in new and exciting ways.



Episode 16 – Fitness & Women's Health: Breaking Myths That Hold Us Back

At Stowelink Foundation, we recognize that physical activity is a powerful tool in preventing and managing non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Yet, women's fitness continues to be surrounded by myths and misconceptions that discourage many from fully embracing exercise.



Advocacy Division Updates

ABOUT THE DIVISION

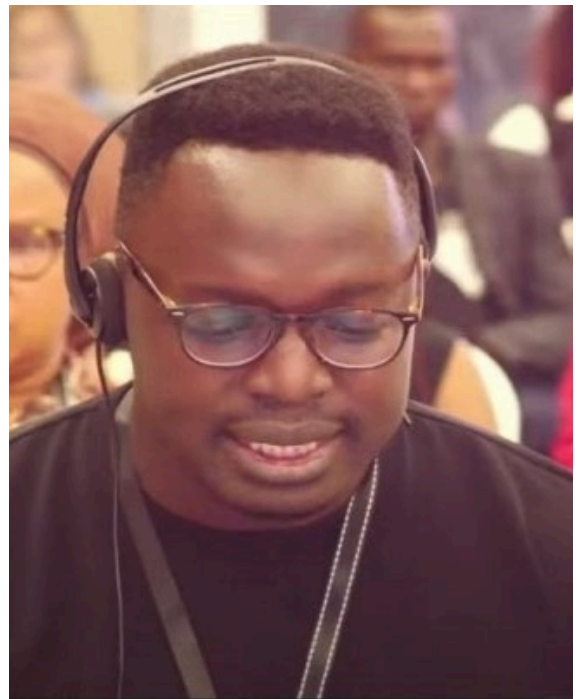
The Stowelink advocacy division focuses all issues advocacy. This division aims at addressing and contributing actively to the key advocacy asks that are in line with our organizations values and missions. More than that ,the advocacy division is also responsible for the media and communication features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

WHAT'S IN THIS SEGMENT

- ADVOCACY FOCUS ON TOBACCO CONTROL
- WINNING UHC CHAMPION AWARDS
- WINNING NCD MEDIA AWARDS

STOWELINK FOUNDATION WINS BIG AT THE UHC CHAMPIONS AWARDS

Stowelink Foundation joined global and regional health leaders at the Seventy-fifth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa (RC75) to champion stronger, coordinated action on obesity and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) across the continent.

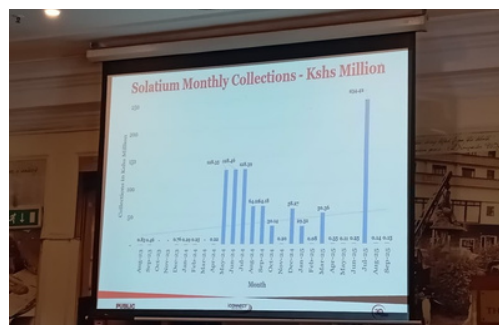


ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE HEALTH FINANCING THROUGH TOBACCO CONTROL

Stowelink Foundation representatives led by CEO Ogwen Stephen and Chief Programs Officer Oduor Kevin, participated in a stakeholders' meeting organized by the National Taxpayers Association (NTA).

The meeting brought together key actors in health financing and tobacco control to discuss strategies for enhancing and sustaining health financing through compliance with World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines. A central focus was the Tobacco Control Fund (TCF) — established under Kenya's Tobacco Control Act — and the Solatium Compensatory Contribution, a levy paid by tobacco manufacturers and importers.

Together with partners like NTA, KRA, and other stakeholders, we remain dedicated to ensuring that every shilling collected through tobacco-related levies contributes to building stronger, healthier communities.

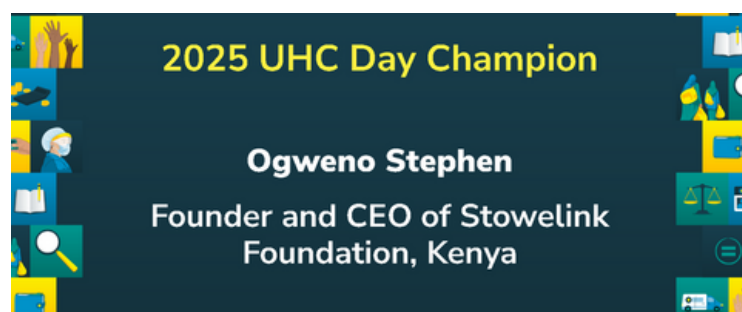
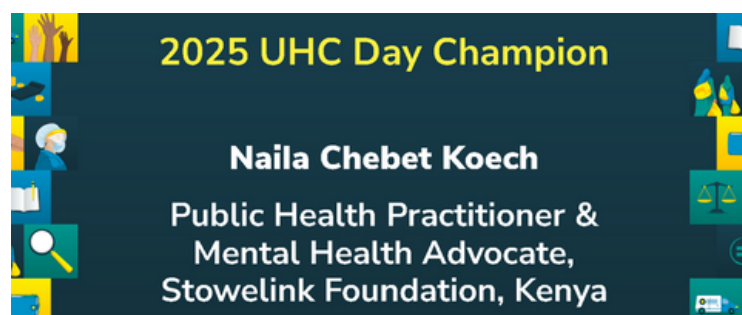


TWO STOWELINK MEMBERS WIN UHC CHAMPION OF THE YEAR" BY GLOBAL UHC2030 COALITION

We are thrilled to announce that Ogwen Stephen and Naila Chebet, from the Stowelink Foundation, have been awarded the prestigious title of UHC Champion of the Year.

This recognition was bestowed upon them by the Global UHC2030 Coalition during World Universal Health Coverage Day, celebrating his relentless dedication to making "Health for All" a reality.

This award is not just an organizational milestone; it is a testament to the power of youth leadership and strategic advocacy in transforming healthcare systems across Africa.



STOWELINK WINS THE NCD MEDIA AWARD AT THE NCD ALLIANCE KENYA MEDIA AWARDS 2025

Stowelink Foundation is proud to celebrate a remarkable milestone achieved by our Mental Health Lead, Naila Chebet Koech, who has been recognized as an award winner at the NCD Alliance Kenya Media Awards 2025.

Naila received the award under the category Lived Experience Feature (Patient-Focused Storytelling)—a category dedicated to honouring powerful narratives that center patients' voices, lived realities, dignity and access to care. The award recognizes storytelling that drives equity, amplifies marginalized voices and highlights gaps within health systems, particularly in relation to Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Championing Mental Health Through Lived Experience

Naila's winning feature drew from her lived experience in mental health, using storytelling as a tool for advocacy, healing and systemic change. By sharing personal realities, her work challenges stigma, promotes empathy and encourages health-seeking behaviour, especially among communities that are often unheard or underserved.

Her story stood out for its authenticity and impact, demonstrating the power of lived experience in shaping public discourse, influencing policy conversations and humanizing health systems. It is a reminder that behind every statistic is a person whose voice matters.

Advancing NCD Advocacy at Stowelink Foundation

As the Mental Health Lead at Stowelink Foundation, Naila plays a critical role in advancing the organization's mission to address non-communicable diseases through prevention, advocacy, community engagement and education. Her work spans mental health awareness, community trainings, digital health communication and partnerships aimed at strengthening people-centered health systems.

This award reflects not only Naila's personal commitment to mental health advocacy but also Stowelink's broader vision of leveraging storytelling, innovation and youth leadership to drive sustainable public health impact.



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

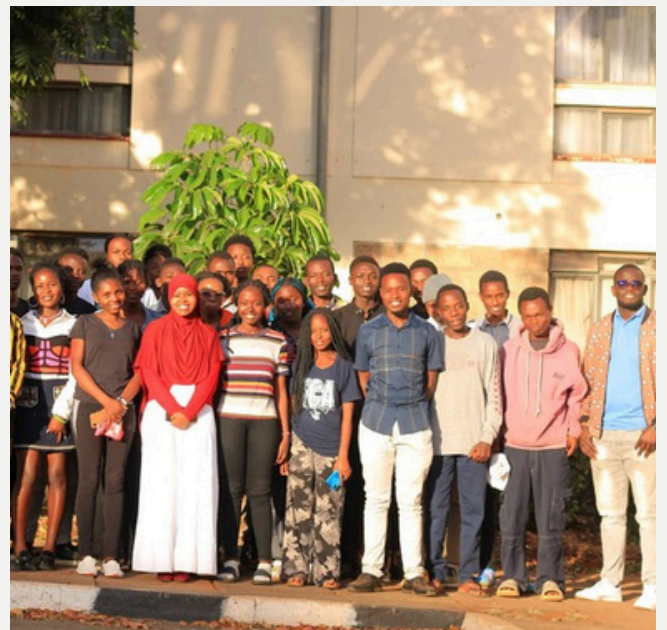
WHAT'S IN THIS SEGMENT

- NEW RESEARCH PUBLISHED WITH MDPI CHILDREN JOURNAL

BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT OF THE QUARTER

NEW RESEARCH PUBLISHED WITH MDPI CHILDREN JOURNAL ON NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN CHILDREN

We recently published a paper in Children, one of the world's most prestigious medical journals. The paper, co-authored by Department of Pediatrics, Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York, NY , we explore NCDs in Children Systems-Based Approaches to Incorporating Nutrition into Medical Care.



ABSTRACT TO THE PAPER

REFLECTIONS ON THE LANCET COMMISSION ON INVESTING IN HEALTH'S GLOBAL HEALTH 2050 REPORT

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) affect over 2.1 billion children globally, accounting for 15.9% of deaths in children under 20 and contributing 174 million years lived with disability. Integrating nutrition care into NCD management within health systems can save lives, reduce costs, and improve quality of life. Nutrition interventions have been found to improve survival rates in children with cancer by 30%. Incorporating early nutrition interventions in hospitals is associated with a 36% reduction in per-patient costs. Despite these clear benefits, nutrition care is often not readily accessible as part of NCD management in children. Access to trained nutrition professionals is limited, and nutrition training for healthcare workers is often inadequate. There are cost-effective and scalable models for delivering high-quality nutrition care, but scaling these models will require commitment to capacity building, training, technological innovation, and monitoring frameworks. Coordinated, multisectoral responses are needed urgently to incorporate nutrition sustainably into healthcare systems to confront the growing burden of childhood NCDs.



CITE THIS ARTICLE

Walters, M., Barr, R., Breda, J., Celletti, F., de Bragança, J., Huybrechts, I., James, O., Kozlakidis, Z., Marsden, P., Ogwen, S., Ortiz, R., Beck Popovic, M., Ralston, J., Vilar-Compte, M., & Ladas, E. J. (2025). Non-Communicable Diseases in Children: Systems-Based Approaches to Incorporating Nutrition into Medical Care. *Children*, 12(11), 1503. Reflections on the Lancet Commission on Investing in Health's Global Health 2050 report Ralston, Johanna et al. *The Lancet*, Volume 406, Issue 10498, 29 – 30 [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(25\)01090-6/fulltext?rss=yes](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(25)01090-6/fulltext?rss=yes)

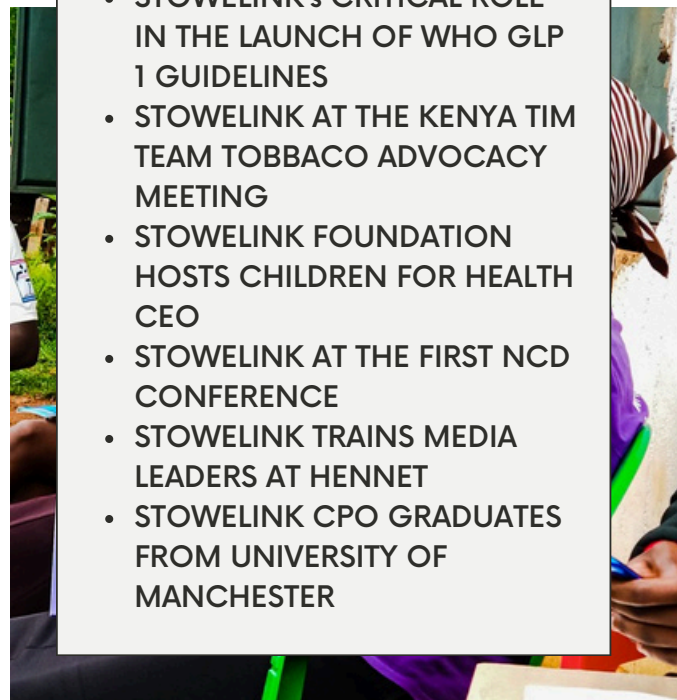
Stowelink Connecting to the world

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's CRITICAL ROLE IN THE LAUNCH OF WHO GLP 1 GUIDELINES
- STOWELINK AT THE KENYA TIM TEAM TOBBACO ADVOCACY MEETING
- STOWELINK FOUNDATION HOSTS CHILDREN FOR HEALTH CEO
- STOWELINK AT THE FIRST NCD CONFERENCE
- STOWELINK TRAINS MEDIA LEADERS AT HENNET
- STOWELINK CPO GRADUATES FROM UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER



BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT OF THE QUARTER

STOWELINK FOUNDATION AT THE HEART OF GLOBAL OBESITY POLICY: A MILESTONE IN LIVED-EXPERIENCE LEADERSHIP FOR AFRICA

When the World Health Organization released its first global guidelines on the use of GLP-1 medicines for obesity treatment, the Stowelink Foundation was proud to see its lived-experience leadership represented at the highest level. Through the participation of our founder and Global Advocacy Lead, Ogwen Stephen, the Foundation contributed to shaping a guideline that reflects not only science and ethics—but also the realities of communities across Africa.



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For Stowelink, this milestone is deeply rooted in our mission: ensuring that youth voices, lived experience champions and African perspectives sit at every decision-making table shaping the future of NCD care. Our involvement in the WHO Guideline Development Group helped ensure that the document reflected the struggles often overlooked in clinical debates—stigma, access, cultural context and the silent burden faced by families living with obesity in low-resource settings.

KENYAN TOBACCO INDUSTRY MONITORING TEAM REVIEWS PROGRESS AND STRENGTHENS ADVOCACY



the Kenyan Tobacco Industry Monitoring and Response team convened for a strategic training and review meeting to assess progress made in tobacco control advocacy and monitoring efforts across Kenya. The meeting brought together civil society actors, researchers, and advocates committed to countering tobacco industry interference and strengthening public health protections.

A key highlight of the meeting was a detailed showcase of progress under the #UnmaskTheTactics campaign. The campaign continues to expose how tobacco industry actors and front groups infiltrate advocacy spaces, distort public narratives, and promote misleading messages that lack any public health basis. Through coordinated digital advocacy, community engagement, and monitoring, the campaign is strengthening the capacity of advocates to identify, document, and counter these harmful strategies.

Ogwen Stephen, Founder of Stowelink Foundation delivered a project update outlining recent milestones, emerging risks, and next steps for the tobacco industry monitoring work. His update emphasized the importance of sustained vigilance, evidence-based advocacy, and cross-sector collaboration to ensure that tobacco control policies are not weakened by commercial interests.

STOWELINK FOUNDATION HOSTS STRATEGIC VISIT FROM CHILDREN FOR HEALTH FOUNDER CLAIRE HANBURY

Stowelink Foundation was pleased to host Claire Hanbury, Founder and CEO of Children for Health, during a recent visit focused on strengthening long-standing collaboration and shaping the future of child-centered health advocacy. Claire is not only a trusted partner but also a supporter and investor in Stowelink Foundation's mission. Over the years, Stowelink and Children for Health have worked closely to design and implement innovative health education initiatives that place children at the center of prevention effort.



Both organizations reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that children are not treated merely as beneficiaries of health programs, but as active contributors and advocates for healthier societies. The conversation also explored future joint projects that will continue to prioritize prevention, life skills, and health literacy from an early age.

STOWELINK FOUNDATION ENGAGES MEDIA LEADERS AT HENNET FORUM ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND NCDS IN KENYA



Stowelink Foundation, represented by Ogwen Stephen, joined national and county media leaders at the Health NGOs Network (HENNET) Media Sensitization Forum on Primary Health Care (PHC) and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). The event, organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Health's Primary Health Care Department, aimed to strengthen the media's role in advancing Kenya's health agenda.

During his session, "NCDs, PHC and the Next Generation: Reframing Media Narratives," Ogwen shared insights from Stowelink Foundation's community programs, emphasizing the need for accurate, accessible, and youth-centered health reporting.

He encouraged media practitioners to move beyond statistics and tell stories that highlight community voices, grassroots innovations, and youth-led solutions that are improving health literacy and driving behavior change.

Stowelink Foundation applauds HENNET and the Ministry of Health for convening this timely dialogue and remains committed to collaborating with media partners to ensure Kenya's public health narrative is accurate, inclusive, and community-centered.

Together, we can shape a new era of public health storytelling — one where every voice counts and every story drives change.

STOWELINK FOUNDATION AT THE FIRST KENYAN NATIONAL NCD CONFERENCE

The Stowelink Foundation had an impactful presence at the First National Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Conference, where we amplified youth voices, elevated lived experience champions, and presented new scientific research demonstrating the power of digital health in strengthening NCD prevention across Africa.

Showcasing Lived Experience & Youth Voices Through Our Video Series

As part of our commitment to meaningful participation, Stowelink produced a special video series from the conference, spotlighting:

- Young people actively working on NCD advocacy
- Lived experience champions sharing honest, powerful stories
- Youth-led solutions emerging across Kenya
- These videos provided a platform for authentic voices that often go unheard in national policy spaces, reinforcing our belief that young people must be at the center of Kenya's NCD response.



At the First Kenyan NCD Conference, Ogwen presented a new scientific paper assessing the feasibility and effectiveness of cross-country mobile health (mHealth) interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa—research that arrives at a pivotal moment as digital innovation becomes central to health systems across the continent.

For over a decade, Ogwen and the Stowelink Foundation have championed youth-centered health education, digital health tools, and preventive strategies. His latest publication strengthens the evidence base for how mobile technologies can enhance health literacy and empower communities across Africa.



STOWELINK CPO GRADUATES FROM UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

Stowelink Foundation is proud to celebrate a significant milestone in the professional journey of our Chief Programs Officer (CPO), who has officially graduated with a Master of Public Health (MPH) from The University of Manchester, United Kingdom, with Distinction.



This achievement represents more than an academic qualification—it reinforces Stowelink Foundation’s commitment to evidence-based leadership, strategic program design, and impactful public health action. As an organization working at the intersection of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), climate change, food systems, and health equity, strong technical leadership is essential to our mission.

The MPH training equips our CPO with advanced skills in epidemiology, health systems strengthening, policy analysis, and research translation. These competencies directly strengthen Stowelink’s ability to design scalable interventions, integrate robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and influence policy and advocacy efforts at national, regional, and global levels.

Beyond the academic achievement, this graduation reflects a journey shaped by personal experience and professional dedication. The loss of both parents to non-communicable diseases has deeply informed our CPO’s commitment to NCD prevention, early action, and community-centered public health solutions. This lived experience continues to guide Stowelink’s programming and advocacy, ensuring that our work remains grounded, responsive, and people-centered.



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

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