

## ARRIVAL

It's been a journey. When we first arrived in Nairobi, we were very excited about a lot of things like moving to a new city and living in a new place with different people. We were also excited to learn skills from a different culture and work environment that will help assist Inkululeko in achieving its goals, and help us grow as individuals. We were very excited about the experience and we still are looking forward to learning all the above-mentioned new things.

## THE YOUTH CAMP - UGANDA

The youth camp had a very big role in preparing us emotionally, physically and mentally for the exchange. The trainings and workshops prepared for us were crucial and intense, but at the same time, applicable and constructive. They prepared us for things like culture shock, and gave us tips on building cross-cultural relationships, which helped us work with people and understand their environment. We were given tips on the do's and don'ts, which helped us conduct the trainings, learn new skills and adapt to spending time in unfamiliar places. We learned about leadership, activism, photography, and many more outdoor activities, which also played a huge role in helping us connect and network with the youth from different organisations and different countries all around Africa.

## INTRODUCTION TO DEYI-K

After a week in Nairobi, we had our first formal meeting with the other participants, staff and some of our employees from Destined Youth Initiative. They introduced us to their workplace and told us more about the organisation. We were welcomed as one of their own. We felt at home and really, still do.

## SITE SEEING & WORK PLACEMENT

We were taken to all the sites in the Slums where we run our Entrepreneurship training with the assistance and partnership with LVCT (an organisation &/NGO that is dedicated to offering integrated HIV & Gender-based violence services). We worked closely on one of their exciting projects called "THE DREAM GIRLS", which is targeting adolescent girls and young women. This programme complements DEYI-K's vision of empowering young women and youth, training and coaching them on how to apply for jobs in order for them to be better.

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The LVCT then mobilises the girls and DEYI-K runs the trainings, and so far, we have started with trainings on Entrepreneurship. The experience has been extremely exciting. I am learning so much from it and the response from the girls is positive.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAININGS

**RIABAI-KIAMBU:** I was placed in Kiambu site alongside Mr E. Nyariki. The trainings were awesome. The girls were optimistic, full of ideas and committed. Working at Kiambu gave me a deeper understanding of life in the slums, and the difference of lifestyles and opportunities in Nairobi.

**KAWANGWARE:** Working in this particular slum taught me so much about self-manners, being humble and the importance of ambitions and setting goals for yourself. The girls there are competitive, they are ambitious, and they are lacking the skills, necessary resources, and knowledge to reach the goals they have set for themselves. The DEYI-K trainings provide exactly that. DEYI-K plays a very huge role in empowering the youth, committing themselves in bringing change and allowing equal opportunities for all the previously disadvantaged youth and school-leavers. It has also been a very exciting experience working alongside my colleague (Philemon Odemba),

who is one of the Norec participants, because we were able to share ideas and discuss new strategies to keep the trainings exciting and more informative for the youth.

## OPPORTUNITIES - INKULULEKO

LVCT's (DREAM GIRLS) programme is a great opportunity for DEYI to push the agenda of empowering girls through training and coaching. The two organisations have different working strategies for the same ultimate goal, which is to empower, equip and bring about change. Inkululeko has a very great opportunity to implement these programmes back in South Africa and has been successful. Seeing how LVCT mobilises for DEYI-K and how these two parties work together to achieve this goal has made me more interested in looking for ways we can implement such trainings and such a unique programme in our organisation. Below are few of those ideas -

1. Inkululeko can partner up with an organization that will provide:
  - mobilisation
  - stationary
  - logistics
  - trainers / additioanl stuff (if needed)

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NB: I did a small research on DAC and it is one of the possible potential organisations to work with.

2. we can find ways to get our trained youth on the data-base relevant to what they want to do, according to the trainings and skills they have acquired from the trainings that Inkululeko will be offering. E.g.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

We can find ways to partner with entities like NYDA, NAC, DSRAC etc to get trained youth on their data-base and other entities that assist the youth with further guidance that can easily enable them a chance to access grants, funds and help them with registering their new businesses. We can also identify ways to get accreditation so the youth could earn certificates that will show proof of training and attendance. I believe this will also make it possible for us to get the youth interested in our trainings, knowing that if they don't get a chance to access grants or are not lucky enough, at least they have obtained something tangible out of the training that may still assist them to access opportunities elsewhere. That would also help them attach their CV's and grant applications as part of their experience and achievement.

## EMPLOYABILITY

We can look at how Inkululeko can partner-up with organisations or entities like HARAMBEE (a not-for-profit social enterprise with extensive experience building solutions and innovations that can solve the global youth unemployment challenge), to find ways on how we can get the trained youth on their data-base for possible employment/placement. I think this would be a great opportunity as their vision complements Inkululeko's. Harambee works in South Africa and Rwanda with businesses, governments, young people and many others who are committed to results that can work at a scale. I am still looking forward to learning more from DEYI-K and their programmes to see many more opportunities for both organisations. I believe I am still going to learn more from Deyi and gain more knowledge on how to expand as an organisation and achieve the ultimate goals.

## OPPORTUNITIES DEYI-K

Having learnt so much from the entrepreneurship trainings and the partnership Deyi has with the LVCT in Nairobi, I realised the importance of

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partnership, providing people with knowledge and skills. Even with a few resources and access to funds and grants, you can empower for a better change. The trainings are the best opportunity for Deyi-k and I am learning a lot. I am looking forward to the employability trainings as well because looking at the environment, I see the need that DEYI is fulfilling. It just activates my passion for empowerment even more.

## STRATEGIES - DEYI-K

Implementing the after-school programme would be a very great opportunity for DEYI-K, mostly because it would give them a chance to create even greater change in the challenge of unemployment and school drop-outs.

Deyi-K would start by training the youth from schools, challenging the intolerance of the youth that drops out of school, the low expectations for the slums & villages youth. They would assist youth in improving their grades, and help them plan, apply and succeed in university. DEYI-K is fortunate to be working with LVCT, because this would give them an opportunity to access (free sanitary towels for the girls that are in need in their after-school programmes, to keep the girls in school), as this organisation (LVCT) is dedicated to offering youth educational programmes to prevent teenage pregnancy and HIV and AIDs.

DEYI-K can offer skills training on EMPLOYABILITY and ENTREPRENEURSHIP to the youth that are not able to go to university and those that did not qualify, together with the youth that is being mobilised by LVCT. This can also assist DEYI-K to create their own data-base of the youth (both girls & boys) that trained in those fields, so they can follow up on and be able to empower them to create change and meet their goals.

## CONCLUSION

The experience of the Norec exchange is amazing. Working with these two organisations in partnership (INKULULEKO & DEYI-K), who are committed to empowering and providing a more sustainable and positive change for the youth, students, and young women, is a humbling one. I am grateful to be one of the participants that Inkululeko has trusted with carrying our vision, and will return with more knowledge to share to come together and work towards this change.

*NB: I am looking forward to touring around Nairobi and the villages with DEYI-K, which I believe will give my colleague and I the chance to assist DEYI-K in recognising the schools for the afternoon programme, the needs in these schools, the environment and more opportunities, like extra activities, it can possibly have in those programmes. (for now, we have only briefed the participants informally about the programme for we haven't started with it according to the timeline and the programme schedule.)*