

Breaking Barriers and Building Futures: Inclusive Health and Education with Think Care Foundation



Faith Simiyu - Cohort 41 - Kenya

As a Program Lead at Think Care Foundation, Faith develops strategies and frameworks that help guide program design work in a clear direction. She is skilled at identifying problem areas, challenges, and barriers to the meaningful impact that is inhibited by imbalanced systems and structures. Faith is an advocate of disability-centered design in program implementation.

Think Care Foundation is a startup that leverages the power of inclusive design to co-create health and education that is sustainable and affordable to young persons with disabilities. As a Program Lead at Think Care Foundation, Faith develops strategies and frameworks that help guide program design work in a clear direction.

Think Care Foundation was conceptualized and inspired after going through the YALI program.

Think Care has so far partnered with 50 schools running the SRH programs that target adolescent girls who are abled differently. Over 1,000 girls have received sanitary towels and panties since we commenced our program.

We pride ourselves in engaging different partners to gain a global view or perspective of issues that affect our clients and delve into coming up with new or improved solutions or innovations to tackle these issues at the local community level. We grow this number yearly. We look forward to engaging with 9000 Adolescent girls and mentoring them on sexual reproductive health & and life-skills programs.



Faith N Simiyu Cohort 41 - Kenya

Faith Simiyu is a seasoned professional with a passion for implementing impactful health and development projects in marginalized communities. As the Program Lead at Think Care Foundation, she leverages her extensive experience to integrate disability-centered design thinking into project management, aiming to address inequalities and enhance social policies in Africa.

Through the YALI program, I created a great network and took up opportunities from the enriching experience of being a part of the YALI RLC EA program and made strides towards growth and building sustainable solutions. I learned about the YALI RLC East Africa Program through a colleague. I grew my leadership skills and now I can make far-ranging decisions within complex contexts or scenarios. I gained strong professional relationship-building skills and built transformative collaborations which has transformed Thynk Care into an award-winning organization. Strategic alliances have conferred on us a lot of advantages that we may not have achieved on our own.

The Global Startup Awards with support of the Global Innovative Initiative Fund and A Billion Girls CoLab through IDEO.org have been a great enabler in providing access to mentors, coaches, and angel investors who have provided exposure, recognition, and visibility to our solutions in new geographies and demographics. Other strategic partnerships we have established are with academia and experts in education and health from the University of Nairobi. But perhaps the more valuable partnerships with the rehabilitation centers, county governments, communities, and schools have been critical in addressing unforeseen future developments.

Our target is to scale Thynk Care Foundation programs to all counties in Kenya with a focus on transforming access to healthcare and education among young adolescents with disability. We hope to achieve this by seeking collaborations and partnerships with the Ministry of Health, the county governments, and relevant social units to ensure we strengthen our capacity to carry out the core function of providing quality health and education services.

YALI Leadership Program provided a great opportunity to interact with other young leaders in Africa to learn, share, and be empowered with knowledge and skills in engaging and serving communities. It has been a valuable addition to my current professional experience, it was a great exposure that has equipped and positioned me to be a better leader in my sector and sphere of influence. I have gained a global perspective of issues that affect my community and have since delved into coming up with new or improved solutions or innovations to tackle these issues at my local community level.

I have experienced societal biases as a woman social entrepreneur in Kenya. A large portion of the population still believes that a woman's place is in the kitchen. Hence, a woman venturing into business may be viewed as a societal misfit. These biases are also witnessed when it comes to certain ventures or even funding opportunities.

“I have learned that we must embrace our vision as African changemakers. Our unique perspective is the driving force behind the transformative change that Africa needs in the areas of Inclusive health and education. There’s no shortcut. I can now see the change in the lives of our young adolescents and the ripple effect reverberates across the borders of our own country, Kenya. We must create unique solutions for Africa by Africans.”, Faith Simiyu – Project Lead, Thynk Care Foundation.

