



Following Kenya's first free election in 2002, it was expected that free press and open dissemination of information would become the norm. However, in 2005, Freedom House named Kenya as one of only two countries in the world whose media freedom ranking was shifted from "partly free" to "not free." The apparent lack of severely inhibits Kenya's ability to quickly and effectively circulate desperately needed information, particularly to rural areas. Much of the country doesn't have access to electricity or other useful outlets for receipt of information beyond government propaganda and word-of-mouth.

Compounding the issue is Kenya's government failure to provide basic health and social services. Medical clinics often lack electricity, the ability to sterilize instruments, and transportation to move patients who need greater attention. Cultural taboos leave communities in the dark over issues such as maternal health and emergency preparation, limiting any spread of useful knowledge about family care that revolves around the subject of sex.

Without proper resources and communication channels, impoverished communities continue to be haunted by reversible problems. FSD's grassroots community development initiatives attempt to arm underserved groups with the information they need to make change for themselves and their families. Programs go directly toward offering the educational, legal, vocational, health, and psycho-social support that is desperately needed. These resources aim to empower communities to break cultural taboos, expand resource potential and information sharing, while ensuring that project work is sustainable for the long term.

Internship/Volunteer opportunities in community development in Kenya include:

- Support community initiatives through several activities: distribute medications, mosquito nets, and referrals to people in need of treatment for serious illnesses; support orphans and vulnerable children through lunch programs, vocational training, and psychosocial support; and/or conduct outreach campaigns related to mobilization, sensitization, and health education.
- Support the training and field work of peer educators who are deployed into communities to organize informational events, distribute condoms, offer health education, and help their villages develop HIV prevention strategies.
- Work with an organization's community initiatives aimed at health and vocational development in the Mtongwe neighborhood of Mombasa. Provide training and resources to community health workers; offer water, garbage, and sanitation solutions and support; and/or enhance youth and women's capacity building initiatives.
- Assist staff at a community resource center for students and community members to access multi-media information and lessons on health issues, making use of the center's video hall, computer stations, and CD-Rom collection. Support staff in community outreach efforts addressing family planning, mother to child transmission prevention, and voluntary HIV/AIDS testing and counseling. Conduct home visits to supply HIV/AIDS sufferers food, painkillers, and transportation to local hospitals.

For more opportunities in community development in Kenya, visit our website or contact us directly.