



From Teenage Parenthood to Empowering Futures

In the heart of Kibera, one of Africa's largest slums, where dreams are often overshadowed by the harsh realities of life, a remarkable story of resilience and hope emerges. It's the story of Reuben Apuya Mutua, a young man who, against all odds, transformed his challenging past into a beacon of light for his community through the Teenage Pregnancy Awareness Project (TePA).

Reuben's story began in 1994 when his father who was just a 15-year-old boy in class 7, fell in love with a girl in class 5. It was a relationship born out of youthful curiosity, without the guidance or mentorship they desperately needed. Their love led to an unexpected pregnancy when the girl was just 14, and she gave birth to a baby boy. Their lives took a dramatic turn as they faced societal judgment and hardship.

The young mother had to make the heartbreaking decision to halt her education and take on the immense responsibility of caring for her child. She came from a humble background, making her journey even more challenging. Meanwhile, Reuben's father continued with his education but was forced to leave school after his KCPE to contribute to child support.

Life in Kibera was an unending struggle for them both. The girl faced discrimination and contempt from society, often being neglected and spoken ill of. She fought to secure any job she could find to provide for her child. Tragically, the child's father passed away prematurely, intensifying her burdens.

In the slums of Kibera, Reuben saw young girls falling victim to teenage pregnancies, much like the situation his family had endured. He witnessed how these girls approached men for support, only to be exploited in exchange for their desperation. The vicious cycle of teenage pregnancies, lack of mentorship, and limited access to menstrual hygiene products haunted the community.

However, Reuben's determination to overcome his circumstances prevailed. With the support of a relative, he managed to complete his primary and secondary education. He faced countless hurdles, especially when it came to paying school fees, but he was driven by a desire to make a difference.

Reuben's journey took a pivotal turn when he enrolled at Strathmore University, specializing in Communication for Development. In 2022, he graduated with the knowledge and determination to give back to his community. It was here that the idea of the Teenage Pregnancy Awareness Project (TePA) was born.

TePA was founded with a clear mission: to prevent young people from falling victim to early pregnancies and to empower them to reach their full academic potential. Reuben's goal is to break the cycle of teenage pregnancies that had affected his own family and countless others in Kibera.

Through TePA, Reuben shares his personal story, serving as a living testament that dreams can be realized despite adversity. His dream is to create a community where teenage pregnancies are rare, where menstrual hygiene is a basic right, where families are united and strong, and where entrepreneurship drives sustainable development.

Today, Reuben Apuya Mutua is not just a survivor, but a symbol of resilience and hope for Kibera's youth. As he stands at the helm of TePA, he invites you to join him on this extraordinary journey. Your support can help transform the lives of young boys and girls, providing them with the guidance, resources, and opportunities they need to break free from the cycle of teenage pregnancies and poverty.

Together, we can create a brighter future for slum dwellers, one where every child has the chance to dream, learn, and succeed. Join us in supporting the Teenage Pregnancy Awareness Project and be a part of this incredible story of transformation and empowerment. Your contribution will not only change lives but also help build a community where dreams are nurtured and realized, and where hope shines brightly.