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KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme

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The Global Health Network Conference 2022, University of Cape Town, South Africa
Aims to Increase interest in science among students, and nurture researchers’ appreciation of incorporating young people’s voices into research.
Adopting SEP in COVID 19

- Exploring the virtual platform
- Consulting and engaging stakeholders
- Consensus building with teachers
- Conducting online sessions
- Reflection meetings

**October - Jan 2021**
Partial reopening
Piloting the online platform with 5 schools

**June – Sept 2020**
Program refocus to covid 19 coping mechanisms
Review of materials and methods

**Jan – June 2021**
Adopted virtual platform to deliver career talks, YAGs

**July 2021 -**
Phased reopening; adapted a blended model
Engagement takes the form of continuous participatory involvement. We bring on board education stakeholders, teachers, and KEMRI resource persons to plan, implement, evaluate, and reflect on the proposed interventions.
Virtual activities leverage existing School ICT infrastructure

Career talks – 10 Secondary schools, 500 Students

YPAG – 3 Schools – 43 students

Essay Competition – 19 schools; 46 Students, 19 teachers, 2 scientists

Comic Book – 4 primary schools, 168 students; 1 School led activities,

Question and Answer session with researchers- 3 schools
Challenges and solutions

- **Restricted Access to schools**
  - Adopted online Platform.

- **Limited access to ICT**
  - Piloted with schools with ICT
  - Provided data bundles

- **Tight school calendar**
  - Co–planned with teachers
  - Aligned with the extracurricular activities time slots

- **Uncertain policy environment**
  - Maintained closed collaboration with GoK line ministries.
Results and Conclusions

- Primary school engagement
  - Sickle cell anaemia awareness - primary school
- Science & Engineering Fair - secondary school
- Secondary schools online Careers talks/ YPAGS
- Review and planning meetings with teachers
- London International Young scientist Fair
- Online Science Essay Competition
- University Engagement
Results and Conclusions

- **Leveraging** on technology is ensured continuity of school engagement activities implementation in the context of a pandemic.

- Maintaining a **blended approach** – use of both online and face-to-face create a balance of consistency as well as taking which at times is affected by policy, environment, and logistical shortcoming.

- Adopting **co-planning** with teachers improves the quality of implantation as a result of effective communication, consensus building, and ownership of program activities.
Acknowledgements