

BLOWING FUN BACK INTO SEX



PATHWAYS

MEANINGFULLY ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

REPORT BY PATHWAYS



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SAFER IS FUN

Safer is fun, this was the 2021 theme for the International condom day commemoration across the globe, and Pathways policy institute together with The link empowerment initiative Githurai, Population Services Kenya (PSK), DSW, and the ministry of health came together to commemorate the International condom day which wittily happens on the 13th of February (the day before valentines) every year, at The Link Empowerment Initiative Center at Githurai. This commemoration was done as an outdoor activity whereby there was the provision of services that included the distribution of condoms, cervical and breast cancer, provision of family planning services as well as Sexual and reproductive health information from health care providers.

As the day's activities went on there was one very memorable brief moment of shy laughter and embarrassed looks on the young men and women's faces when the many boxes of condoms were opened and the demonstrations on how to correctly use and dispose of condoms were conducted by the peer educators present. There was even a moment of complete confusion and silence when the female condom was brought out for the demonstration, most young men, later on, explained they were skeptical on whether it really exists or is a myth since most of them had only heard of it. They were astonished when they saw it and got the chance to touch it. On learning that it is estimated that every year, more than one million people acquire sexually transmitted infections and there are 80 million estimated unintended pregnancies globally they all agreed that condom use is indeed paramount.





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By also tying in the conversation on youth empowerment and explaining with emphasis that the youth are actively responsible for the betterment and growth of their lives and that this can only be achieved by they make informed decisions about their sexual health and preventing oops! Moments that end in unintended pregnancies evoked a lot of hums of acknowledgment and head nods from the audience.

There was an interactive question and answer session followed by a music break for the young men and women to interact in readiness for the last activity of the day. The international condom day commemoration was climaxed with a condom-blowing competition that left everyone breathless and in stitches as everyone tried to blow a condom without breaking it. This exercise was aimed at the destigmatization of the condom and conversations around condom use. It was Pathways policy institute's innovative and lighthearted way that would definitely remain memorable to the young men and women to explain that wearing a condom correctly and consistently prevents pregnancy and STIs including HIV and was also aimed at sparking healthier sexual choices once they went back to their daily normal lives.

The goal of the day which was to explain that safety and fun in sex are not mutually exclusive and it is very possible to have fun safely and responsibly through condom use was met because the audience was a lot more relaxed around the condom use conversation by the end of the activity, this was also observed by the number of young men and women who freely took condoms home with them.



