



For adolescents living in the slums of Langas and Yamumbi in the north-west of Kenya, poor role models, drug and substance abuse, violence, and a lack of adequate sexual education are detrimental to emotional development and divert students from their educational and career paths. In 2020, Edmund Rice Eldoret Empowerment Program (EREEP) continued delivering life skills workshops, which aim to develop healthy and informed individuals who are motivated to pursue their career goals.

Stephen, one of 945 students who participated in life skills workshops in 2020, is a bright student who is respected among his teachers and peers. In 2019, EREEP volunteers became aware that Stephen had developed a problem with substance abuse. A volunteer was assigned to work closely and confidentially with Stephen to support him through his struggles. In early 2020, during a life skills workshop about the impacts of drug use and drug addiction, Stephen took the initiative to openly discuss his past troubles with his classmates.

Having now abandoned drug usage, Stephen is taking an active, positive role with his peers, encouraging them to develop resilient personalities resistant to peer pressure and the influence of drugs. ■

