

## **VIRTUAL TEACHERS TRAINING ON EVIDENCED BASED DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION INTERVENTION TAKES PLACE IN KENYA AND NIGERIA**

Healthy thinking a Swedish based NGO in partnership with Africa youths on crime prevention (ACYRIP) based in Nigeria and Slum Child foundation based in Kenya conducted a six weeks training on drug demand reduction for school teachers.

The project which was targeting Africa school teachers came about after an initial two years piloting which was done between Healthy thinking International and Euticauls Academy in Kibera slums in Nairobi, Kenya.

The results of the project, which were quite impressive in terms of student participation and attendance in school with increased Academic performance and reduction in drug usage among those that participated in the project opened the mindset of the project to be upscale to other region in Kenya as a country and the continent at large.

Emergence of Covid-19 brought a new reality to the world with many things changing and taking shapes from one region to another, this has prompted many people, institutions and organizations to think of a better approach to ensure things run down smoothly, this brought a about the online engagement.

The first phase of the virtual training took place in Nigeria with 25 teachers enrolling for the virtual training. The second phase was done in Kenya with 20 teachers from 20 schools that are based in the slums enrolling for the training that went on for three consecutive weeks and later an online graduation was done where each of the participants received a certificate of training. Lessons covered included drug policies in schools, how to engage students as peers in handling drug problem in schools among other issues.

Facilitators included experts from Nigeria, Kenya and Sweden who have rich background on the subject matter especially when it comes to working with children and youth from the areas the project had a catchment.

The Kenyan project will be taking the post training initiative where the trained teachers will be involved in developing drug polices and work plan for their schools such that when the school resume it is all system go.