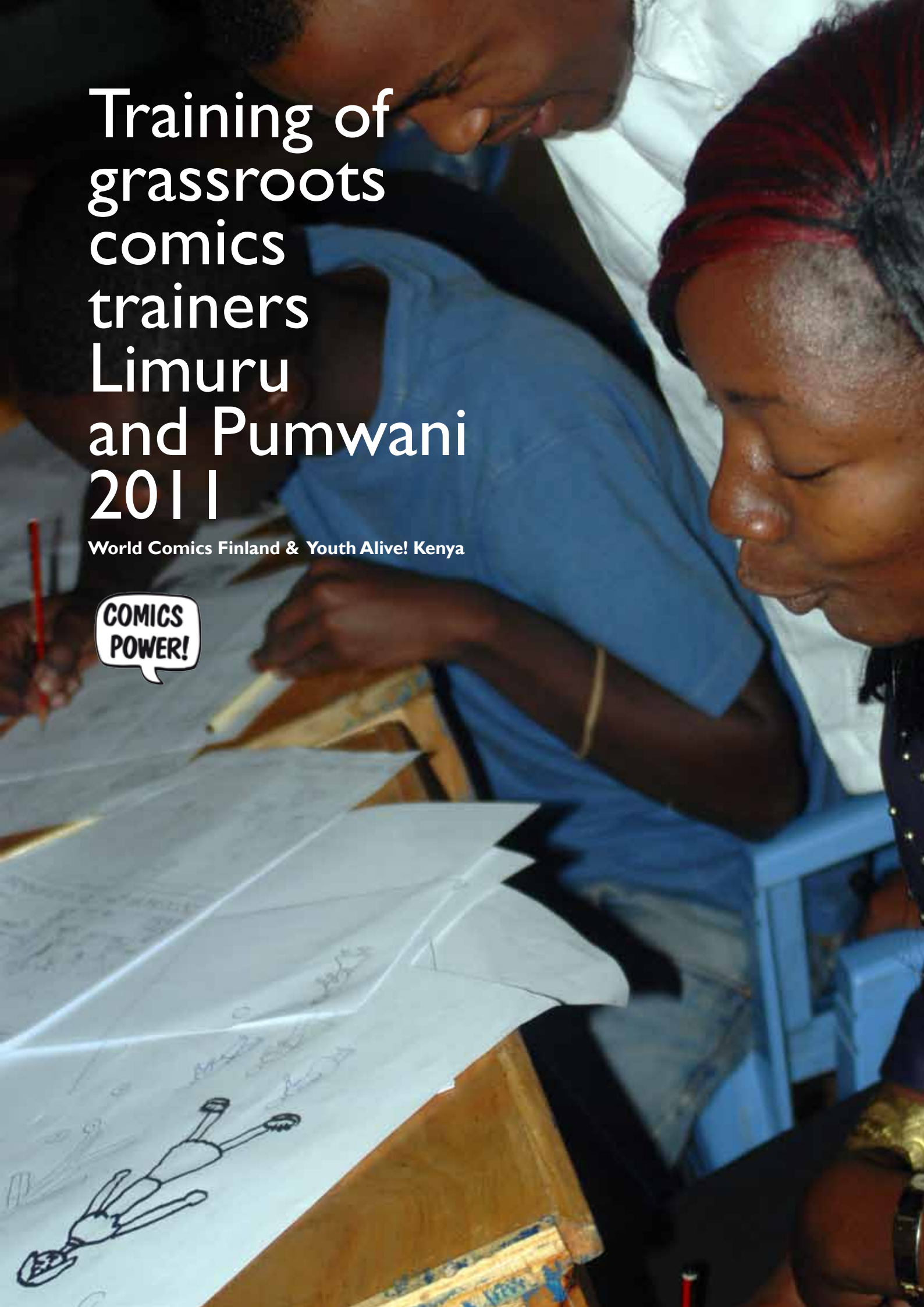


# Training of grassroots comics trainers Limuru and Pumwani 2011

World Comics Finland & Youth Alive! Kenya

COMICS  
POWER!



# Report from the workshops in Limuru and Pumwani for training of grassroots comics trainers, arranged by Youth Alive! Kenya and World Comics Finland, October 3-12, 2011

Organisations:

**YOUTH ALIVE! KENYA,**

House 24, Ngong Road,  
Opposite Ligi Ndogo,  
Nairobi, Kenya  
[www.youthalivekenya.org](http://www.youthalivekenya.org)

**WORLD COMICS FINLAND,**

Vanamontie 4 E 156,  
01350 Vantaa, Finland,  
[www.worldcomics.fi](http://www.worldcomics.fi)

SUPPORTED BY OFFICIAL  
DEVELOPMENT AID FROM THE MINISTRY  
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

## PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOPS:

1. To teach the method of grassroots comics to 18 activists from Youth Alive! Kenya's own programmes and network of NGOs.

2. To train these 18 activists to independently run comics workshops for young people and other groups, so that they can use grassroots comics to express their opinions in campaigns and as a tool in advocacy programmes and to promote civic awareness and human rights.

Venue and duration: Jumuia Conference and Resort Centre, Limuru, 5 days, and Pumwani Social Hall, Kamukunji, Nairobi, 3 days.

Resource persons: Comics trainers Hanna Arvela and Leif Packalen from World Comics Finland and project assistants Rachael Wandia and Reuben Muriuki from Youth Alive! Kenya.

Funding: Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Cultural Cooperation Funds.



*Irene Mumbua (in the middle) leads an energizer exercise at the Pumwani workshop.*



# Workshop for training of comics trainers (Limuru)

## OCTOBER 3

**Morning:** After introductions, the participants (see full list on page 15) chose human rights as the main theme. Everybody focused on a subject which was relevant to his/her work. The subjects included health care issues, violence against women, police behaviour, gay and transgender rights, street children, post-election violence, etc. The story proposals were read aloud and discussed.

**Afternoon:** The participants' stories were ready to be turned into four-panel wallposter comics. After some drawing exercises and explanations of the basic rules of comics and the concept of grassroots comics, the participants were ready to start working on their visual scripts.

## OCTOBER 4

**Morning:** Short summary of the experiences of World Comics Finland. Samples from different parts of the world demonstrating the variety of issues dealt with in grassroots comics.

**Afternoon:** The participants were divided into two groups with Hanna in one group and Leif in the other. The visual scripts were gone through and all participants started their artwork. They got individual instruction in inking. Before the end of the day all comics were ready for photocopying which was done in the market outside the Conference Centre. Now the four-panel wallposter comics were ready.



*The rules of the workshop were agreed upon and written on the flipchart.*



*The entrance to the Jumuia Conference and Resort Centre in Limuru.*



*From left: Albert Ogechi, Millicent Awino, Festus Mwiti, Jonathan Nzuki, Michael Oduor, James Iregi.*



*From left: Ezekiel Njenga, Irene Mumbua, Aisha Rashid, Riva Jalipa, Buthania Ibrahim, Dan Owala.*



*From left: Thomas Orungo, John Gathimba, Kevin Uduy, Jones Muchendu, and Rachael Wandia.*



## OCTOBER 5

Morning: Critique and review sessions. The story, readability, and the balance between images and text were reviewed and commented for each comic.

The eight-page comics format (A6-sized pages from a double-sided photocopy) was introduced and given as an additional assignment. (Eleven participants finished their eight-page comics booklets before the end of the workshop.)

Afternoon: The participants went in small groups to the nearby market to seek community response to their wallposter comics. Most of the response was positive, although there were some complaints about the language (English) of the comics. The participants were pleased that their comics created discussion and they got several suggestions of where to paste up them.



*Hanna leads the critique discussion in her group.*



*Readability of the comics is always emphasised. Drawing from Leif's travel diary.*





*The participants took their comics to the nearby market and asked people to comment. The comics were viewed with enthusiasm and they generated a lot of debate, which is the whole idea of grassroots comics.*





*Teaching exercises in three groups.*

## **OCTOBER 6**

Morning: The Training of Trainers -part started. The setup for the test workshop to be held the following week in Pumwani, Nairobi, was presented and the Training Plan for Wallposter Comics Workshop (40 pp) was explained and discussed step by step.

Afternoon: The participants were divided into three training teams: Jumuia Comics (JC), led by Millicent, Lion, led by Buthania, and Comics Power (CP), led by Aisha.

The participants made short teaching demonstrations within their own teams, receiving immediate feedback. After that, each group was asked to prepare a teaching demonstration in full session. The demonstrations were: The concept of grass-roots comics, the visual script, the critique session.

The three training teams made detailed plans with task lists and schedules for the training in Pumwani. Now everybody had a clear idea of what was expected from each team member.



*Jumuia Conference and Resort Centre is an inspiring environment for an intensive workshop.*



## OCTOBER 7

Morning: All the training material which is available on World Comics Finland's website ([www.worldcomics.fi](http://www.worldcomics.fi)) was presented by Leif.

Hanna gave instructions on how to give individual support to participants in comics workshops.

The participants learned also how to convert their four-panel wallposter comics into strips that can be published in magazines, in brochures, etc.

Leif explained how to write proposals for comics workshops and what should be included in budgets.

Afternoon: An evaluation of this part of the workshop was made. It was overwhelmingly positive: the participants were confident that they could now teach the method of grassroots comics to others.

Transfer to Nairobi.

October 8-9 free weekend



*Kevin, Jemob and Millicent share a joke.*

# Test workshops (Pumwani)

## OCTOBER 10

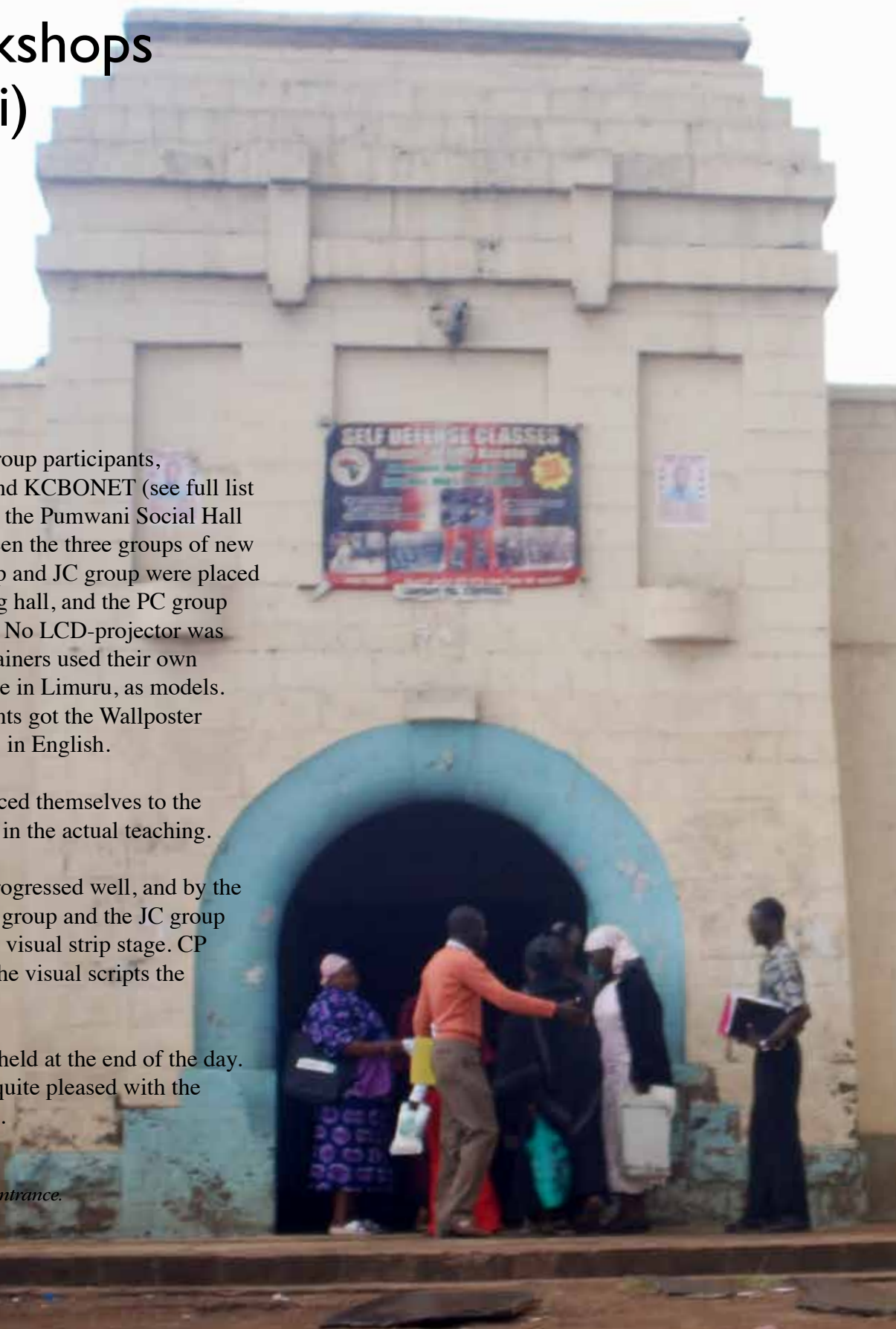
Morning: The 32 test group participants, selected by KAPLET and KCBONET (see full list on page 15) gathered in the Pumwani Social Hall and were divided between the three groups of new trainers. The Lion group and JC group were placed in two corners of the big hall, and the PC group was in a separate room. No LCD-projector was available, so the new trainers used their own wallposter comics, made in Limuru, as models. All test group participants got the Wallposter Comics Manual (24 pp) in English.

Hanna and Leif introduced themselves to the groups but took no part in the actual teaching.

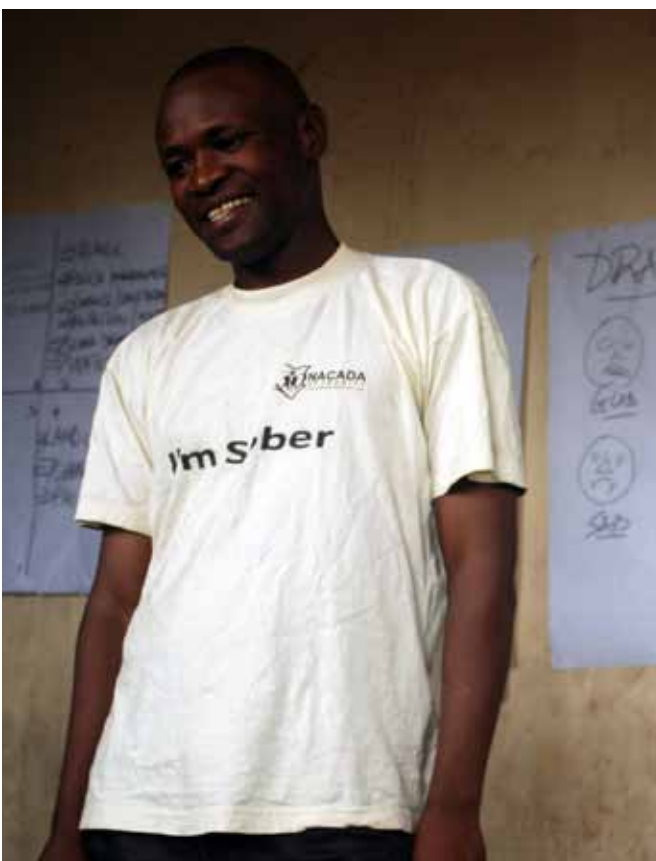
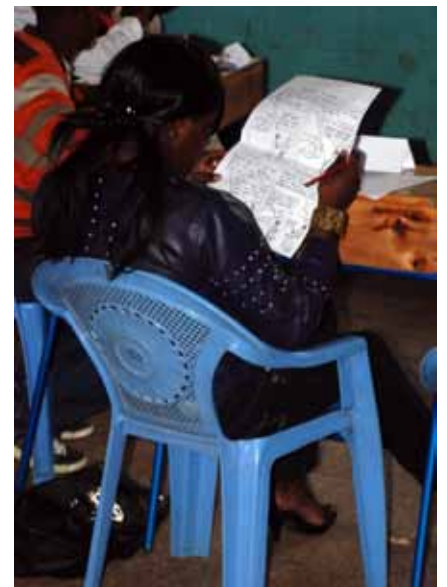
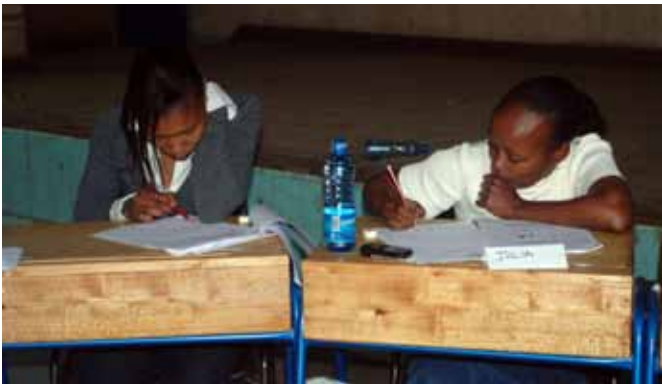
Afternoon: the work progressed well, and by the end of the day the Lion group and the JC group had already reached the visual strip stage. CP group started work on the visual scripts the following morning.

A trainers' session was held at the end of the day. The new trainers were quite pleased with the progress they had made.

*Pumwani Social Hall, main entrance.*







*From the test group workshop at Pumwani Social Hall.*

## **OCTOBER 11**

Morning: Work started at 9.00 and by lunchtime all participants were already working on their original artwork. When these were ready, they were photocopied in a nearby shop. Five copies were made of each comic: one for Youth Alive! Kenya, one for World Comics Finland, and three for the participant, who also got the originals.

Afternoon: The participants prepared their wallposter comics for the following day's critique session and distribution.

A trainers' meeting was held to plan the following day's critique and review sessions. The JC group had already had a small critique session with the visual scripts on the wall. This was a new idea, but obviously quite useful for everybody in the group who could see and comment the stories at this stage.



*Distributing the comics and getting feedback from passers-by at the Pumwani Market.*





## OCTOBER 12

**Morning:** There was a heavy downpour in the morning, and some participants came late. However, after the critique sessions, all the groups were ready to distribute their wallposter comics in the neighbourhood and get feedback.

Pumwani Social Hall is situated in a busy market area, so it was easy to find walls where to paste up the comics, which were shown to vendors, customers and passers-by. The themes of the comics were corruption, joblessness, crime, alcoholism, drugs, violence against women, etc. People looked at the comics with interest, and agreed that the subjects were serious social problems. The feedback to this community intervention was in general positive. Since most of these comics were in Swahili, there was no language problem.

The test group teams came back and reported on their experiences and the feedback. They got a certificate and left after lunch.

**Afternoon:** Final session with the new trainers. The quality of the comics which had been made by the test group participants was overall on a high level. The comics were interesting and relevant and their readability was good.

Executive Director Joan Kariuki of Youth Alive! Kenya joined the workshop and presented the well earned certificates to the new grassroots comics trainers. The workshop ended with some closing speeches.

*Kevin prepares the certificates for the "JC"-group.*

## OCTOBER 13-14

Leif and Hanna had post-workshop meetings with Executive Director Joan Kariuki, Project Secretary Rachael Wandia, and Finance and Administration Officer Maureen Njuguna at the office of Youth Alive! Kenya. Money matters were settled and plans for the continuation of the project and the accounting of project funds were discussed.



Helsinki, 22 October, 2011

Hanna Arvela  
Comics Trainer  
World Comics Finland

Leif Packalen  
Chairman, Comics Trainer  
World Comics Finland



*The new trainers and their instructors at Jumuia Conference and Resort Centre.*



**Jumuia Conference and Resort Centre ToTs group participants, October 3 –7, 2011.**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
1 Jones Muchendu	Undugu Society of Kenya
2 Millicent Awino	KAPLET-Kamukunji Paralegal Trust
3 James K. Iregi	INUKA TRUST/M.C.R.C.
4 Kevin Uduny	INUKA TRUST/Huruma Youth Group
5 Festus Mwiti	Gay Kenya TrustGKT)
6 Ezekiel Njenga	KCBO-Net-Kamukunji Community Based Organization Network
7 Michael Peter Oduor	KAPLET-Kamukunji Paralegal Trust
8 Irene Mumbuya	U-TENA
9 Buthania Ibrahim	Undugu Society of Kenya
10 John Gathimba	Undugu Society of Kenya
11 Dan Owala	KAPLET-Kamukunji Paralegal Trust
12 Jonathan Nzuki	U-TENA
13 Aisha Rashid	AFRA – Kenya (GKT)
14 Riva Jalipa	Refugee Consortium of Kenya
15 Thomas Orungo	KCBO-Net-Kamukunji Community Based Organization Network
16 Sitati Dawo	Pamoja Youth Foundation (PYF)
17 Albert Ogechi	U-TENA
18 Reuben Muriuki	Youth Alive! Kenya
19 Rachel Wandia	Youth Alive! Kenya

**Pumwani Social Hall test group participants, October 10 – 12, 2011.**

1 Victor Odongo	KAPLET
2 William Taifa	KAPLET
3 Ardiaziz Hassan	Star of Peace
4 Ms. Vivian Ogutu	KCBO-NET
5 Martin Taichuki	St. John's Community
6 Juma Salim	KCBO-NET
7 Anthony Kamau	Faulu Self-help Group
8 John N'ganga	Bahati Community
9 Kevin Odhiambo	KAPLET
10 Mohamed Athman Mwaura	St. John's Community
11 Erick Otieno Owuru	KAPLET
12 Ms. Vivian Omono	KAPLET
13 Ms. Mildred Aiwso	KAPLET
14 Paul Nakumba	KAPLET
15 Evans Omony	St. John's Community
16 Ms. Lucy Macharia	KAPLET
17 Ms. Julia Macharia	KAPLET
18 Ms. Margret Mwanza	KAPLET
19 Ramadhan Said Shaban	KCBO-NET
20 Ms. Pauline Akinyi	KAPLET
21 Ms. Monica Mureithi	KAPLET
22 Ms. Hamida Mohammed	St. John's Community
23 John Njoroge	KCBO-NET
24 Tony Shiva	KCBO-NET
25 Moses Wameru	KCBO-NET
26 Barnabas Okethi	KCBO-NET
27 James Onsowu	BTM Inhahe
28 David Makori	KAPLET
29 Alex Muluta	KAPLET
30 Ms. Lucy Nduta Ndungu	DPC member
31 Ms. Regina Mukai	KBG
32 Ms. Ines Wayiuki	KCBO-NET

# HEALING FROM THE P.E.V.

1,300+ PERSONS WERE KILLED AND 6,000+ DISPLACED DURING THE 2007-8 POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE



3 YEARS LATER, OVER 300,000 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS) REMAIN IN IDP CAMPS



THERE ARE ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF IDPS



BUT PEACE-BUILDING EFFORTS ARE HELPING COMMUNITIES TO COME TOGETHER AGAIN



BY RIVA JALIPA  
REFUGEE CONSORTIUM O  
KENYA

*"Healing from the P.E.V."*

This story promotes efforts to heal the wounds from the Post Election Violence in Kenya in 2008-2009.  
Story and artwork by Ms. Riva Jalipa from Refugee Consortium of Kenya.



# INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING



ART BY  
VIVIAN

*"Increase in cost of living".*

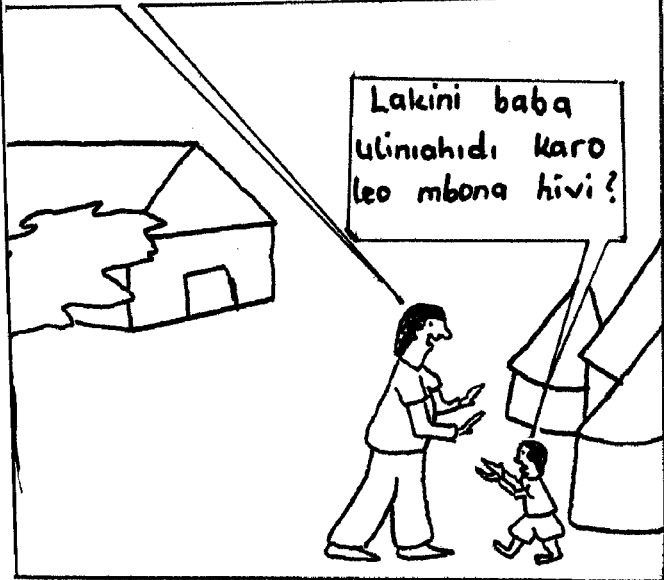
*The story is about the plight of the very poor, who have few chances of getting help.  
Story and artwork by Ms. Vivian Omono from Kamukunji Paralegal Trust.*

## HAKI YANGU YA ELIMU

Weee..! Sina pesa leo kwa hivyo hakuna kwenda shule. Baki hapa ufyeke nyasi.

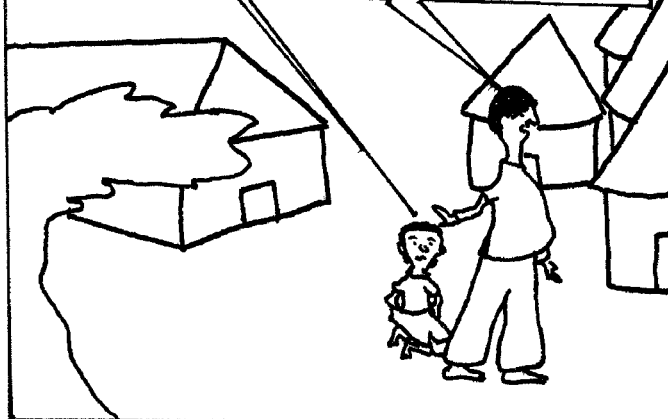
HAKUNA SHULE TEMA!

Lakini baba uliniahidi karo leo mbona hivi?



Kumbuka nina haki, na ELIMU ni mojawapo ya haki hizo. Ni vyema unipe karo au...

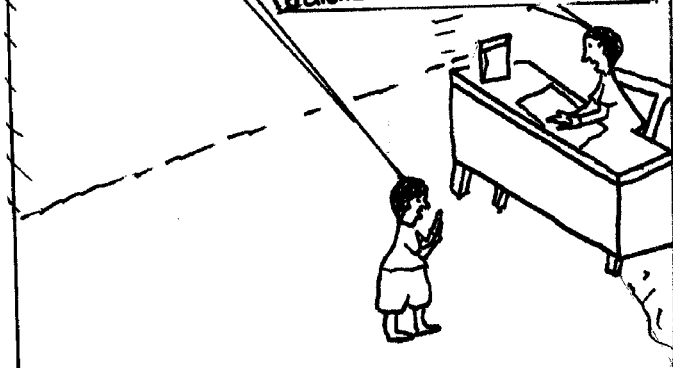
We! Mina haki pia. Na MUTUTHO ni mojawapo ya haki zangu kumbuka nataka uwe makanga ndiyo unibebere sare.



IN BE'S OFFICE

Shikamoo? Nojua haki zangu kama mtoto, na ELIMU ni mojawapo ya haki hizo. lakini baba hataki nirudi shuleni. kazi ni kunywa tu.

Wapi baba? usijali kijana shuleni utarudi kama watoto wengine nipe daliliza tu.



Habari mzee? Mbona unazipuuzia haki za watoto? Kila mtoto anakaki, 'ELIMU' ikiwemo. Nakuamuru umrudishe kijana shuleni ama nikuchukuliye hatua

Ndiyo boss, nitafanya ulivyoni amuru lakini naomba usimchukuliye hatua

HUREE..



ART BY: MILLICENT AWINO

"Haki Yangu ya Elimu". (My right to education).

The father does not allow his son to go to school and insists that he should help him in his work.

The boy goes to the District Office and asks an officer to explain to the father that he should attend school. The father agrees.

Story and artwork by Ms. Millicent Awino from Kamukunji Paralegal Trust.



# POOR GOVERNANCE

KEVIN UDONY: H-TOWN YOUTH GROUP



## "Poor governance"

The story is about young people that are tired of the old leaders and want changes in Kenya. Story and artwork by Kevin Udony from H-town Youth Group.

GAY RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

FESTUS



## "Gay rights are human rights".

A man and a woman beat up a gay person, who is pleading them not to kill him. A police officer intervenes and arrests the couple. Story and artwork by Festus Muri from Gay Kenya Trust.

# MAKE MONEY!!

Compiled by Irene U-TENA



## "Make Money!!"

The story is about children taking cocaine and dropping out from school and dying at an early age. The drug dealer does not care. Story and artwork by Ms. Irene Mumbua from U-Tena.



[WWW.WORLDCOMICS.FI](http://WWW.WORLDCOMICS.FI)



[WWW.YOUTHALIVEKENYA.ORG](http://WWW.YOUTHALIVEKENYA.ORG)