



VIJANA NA TAIFA
Pamoja Strong

Concept Note

Raise for Autism Campaign – Phase 2: From Awareness to Action

By Vijana Na Taifa (VNT)

1. About Us

Vijana Na Taifa (VNT) is a registered **Community-Based Organization (CBO)** based in Nairobi, Kenya. Founded in **2017**, VNT empowers communities through **volunteerism, social action, and advocacy**.

Since its inception, VNT has been at the forefront of **grassroots impact initiatives** — including monthly community clean-ups, **dignity pack donations** to schools and women's prisons, and volunteering in medical camps.

These activities have strengthened community ties and enabled us to identify key social challenges affecting **marginalized and vulnerable groups**.

2. Mission

- To empower communities and champion inclusion by addressing social, health, and educational challenges through sustainable initiatives.

3. Vision

- A society where every individual, including persons with disabilities, enjoys dignity, inclusion, and equal opportunity.
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4. The Journey to the Raise for Autism Campaign

Through our community outreach, VNT identified a growing number of children exhibiting signs of autism. Conversations with parents and caregivers revealed:

- **Limited awareness** and widespread myths about autism.
- **Lack of affordable therapy centers** and trained teachers.
- **No autism units** in most public schools.
- **Absence of national data** on autism for planning and resource allocation.
- **Stigma** that forced many children to be hidden at home and excluded from education.

In response, VNT launched the **Raise for Autism Campaign – Phase 1: Awareness** in 2025.

During **World Autism Awareness Day 2025**, VNT organized a **5KM Autism Awareness Walk** from Garden City Mall to the Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE), graced by key leaders, teachers, parents, and advocates. The event successfully sparked a **national conversation on autism inclusion**.

5. Key Outcomes from Phase 1

- Reached thousands with autism awareness and education messages.
 - Created a national platform for parents and caregivers to share experiences.
 - Highlighted the urgent need for therapy, inclusion, and data.
 - Reinforced autism's recognition under the **Persons with Disabilities Act (2025)** as a milestone for policy and advocacy.
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6. Why Phase 2: From Awareness to Action

While Phase 1 raised visibility, the **gap between awareness and action** remains vast. Many families still lack access to therapy, trained teachers, and support systems. Phase 2 aims to translate the awareness gained into **tangible, sustainable solutions** that transform lives.

7. Objectives of Phase 2

1. **Establish Autism Research and Resource Center.**
 2. **Set up free community-based therapy centers.**
 3. **Acquire a Mobile Autism Assessment Truck** to reach underserved areas.
 4. **Collect and maintain national autism data** to support evidence-based policy and planning.
 5. **Empower parents and caregivers** through training and resources for home-based therapy.
 6. **Train Early Childhood Development (ECD) teachers** in autism identification and support.
 7. **Advocate for the establishment of autism units** in public schools across all counties.
 8. **Provide dignity packs** for autistic children to support comfort and inclusion in schools.
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8. Expected Outcomes / Impact

- Increased access to therapy and early intervention services.
 - Reduced stigma and improved inclusion in education and social spaces.
 - Enhanced teacher and caregiver capacity to support autistic learners.
 - Availability of reliable national autism data for government and stakeholders.
 - Stronger advocacy and policy frameworks supporting autism inclusion.
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9. Target Beneficiaries

- Children with autism, particularly in rural and low-income areas.
 - Parents and caregivers of autistic children.
 - Teachers and school administrators.
 - Broader communities and county governments.
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9. Planned Events Under Phase 2 (2026)

Event	Theme / Purpose	Date & Venue
Autism Golf Classic	“Swing for Inclusion” – Raise funds for therapy & training	6th March 2026 – Muthaiga Golf Club
Autism Half Marathon	“Run for a Cause” – Raise awareness & mobilize communities	29th March 2026 – Uhuru Park, Nairobi
World Autism Awareness Day	“Together for Inclusion” – Empower children & celebrate diversity	2nd April 2026 – Kasarani Stadium

Each event will feature community engagement, corporate partnerships, media coverage, and fundraising to sustain campaign objectives.

11. Long-Term Vision

VNT envisions a **sustainable ecosystem** where every child with autism in Kenya can access therapy, education, and inclusion without barriers.

By bridging the gaps in awareness, services, and policy, VNT aims to transform autism from a challenge into a platform for **inclusion, innovation, and empowerment**.

12. Sustainability and Partnerships

The success of this initiative depends on **strong partnerships** between government agencies, corporates, learning institutions, and communities.

VNT is committed to transparency and accountability in resource management and impact delivery. Through joint action, we aim to ensure that autism inclusion becomes a **national and community priority**.

13. Conclusion

From grassroots clean-ups to national autism advocacy, **Vijana Na Taifa (VNT)** continues to champion inclusion, empowerment, and sustainable impact.

Raise for Autism Campaign – Phase 2: Awareness to Action marks the next chapter of this journey — one that will turn compassion into action, and awareness into measurable change for thousands of children and families across Kenya.

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