

## **Project Kamenju (Kenya)**

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### **Understanding the role of Kenyan Collegiate athlete support personnel in the pursuit of clean sport**

This project will investigate the anti-doping roles of Kenyan Collegiate athlete support personnel (ASP), specifically coaches and team managers. The main objective is to develop an understanding of what behaviours coaches and team managers undertake to prevent doping, and what the personal and environmental factors that influence this role are. This will be achieved through a multi-method approach, involving of two studies: 1) focus groups and 2) surveys.

The proposed research is a first step in addressing the absence of evidence related to ASP beyond Westernised countries. Gaining insights into ASP roles in more diverse environments is pivotal, given the importance of context, including structural and cultural factors, in influencing coach behaviours (Patterson & Backhouse, 2018). Indeed, it responds to calls for the development of tailored and targeted anti-doping education opportunities for ASP (Patterson, Lara-Bercial & Backhouse, 2019), as it ensures that current practice in Kenya is understood before intervention development work is undertaken in next steps. In this vein, to maximise the impact of this research on policy and practice, the research team will seek to i) develop relationships with 'end users' (e.g., Kenyan Anti-Doping Agency, Kenya Teachers Colleges Sports Association), and ii) disseminate findings at key events (e.g., the African Union Anti-Doping Forum).

Kenya is of specific interest due to its historical associations with doping. Various substances are used by athletes across sports and levels of competition, according to a 'task force' report commissioned by the Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Sports (Republic of Kenya, 2014) and recent doping-related suspensions issued by the Athletics Integrity Unit (2019). The collegiate context within Kenya is the focus of the research because ASP working in these environments may go on to work at elite levels of competition and they are working with individuals who will become the next generation of elite athletes and/or the next generation of ASP themselves (as many student-athletes are engaged with subjects such as Physical Education). Thus, targeting this population maximises the chance of reaching these populations before they enter elite sport.

Due to the lack of research in Kenya, it is unclear if ASP in this context are fulfilling the anti-doping roles given to them through the World Anti-Doping Code (WADC; WADA, 2015). For example, the WADC states that all members of ASP must be knowledgeable of rules applicable to them and their athletes and should use their influence to promote anti-doping attitudes amongst their athletes. Notably, research in Westernised countries illustrates that ASP are often passive in their approach to anti-doping due to several individual and environmental factors, including a lack of knowledge and confidence, a perception of low risk of doping in their context (i.e., country, sport, level of competition) and because anti-doping responsibilities lay with someone else in the sporting context (e.g., coaches defer to medical staff) (Allen et al., 2017; Mazanov et al., 2015; Patterson & Backhouse, 2018). The current research aims to investigate if ASP exhibit the same roles and are influenced by the same individual and environmental factors.