

MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY STRATEGIES
IMPLEMENTATION BY NGOS IN KENYA: A CASE OF ADVENTIST
DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY**

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ABSTRACT

Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) is defined as the science of the anticipation, recognition, evaluation and control of hazards arising in or from the workplace that could impair the health and wellbeing of workers, taking in to account the possible impact on the surrounding communities and the general environment. The World Bank (2011) adds that all occupational health and safety programs aim in fostering a safe work environment which incorporates the protection of employers, suppliers, customers, family members, nearby communities and all members of the public who could be affected by a company's operations. In addition, typical occupational health and safety risks common to majority industrial sectors may be classified as physical, chemical, ergonomic, and biological risks that involves meeting legal responsibilities, establishing organizational health and safety structures, developing written health and safety policies, assessing risks, training the workforce, workforce consultation, monitoring and improving safety performance and providing safe facilities (World Bank, 2011) Since the late 1970s, NGOs have played an increasingly prominent role in the development sector, widely praised for their strengths as innovative and grassroots driven organizations with the desire and capacity to pursue participatory and people centered forms of development. This study seeks to assess the steps put in place by NGOS in Kenya to establish the successful implementation of health and safety policies by NGOs in Kenya. indicates that the scope of occupational safety and health has gradually and continuously evolved resulting from global social, political, technological and economic changes as in recent years, globalization of the world economies and the evident repercussions have been perceived as the catalyst for change in the working environment and consequently in the scope of occupational safety and health, in both positive and negative ways. He adds that liberalization of world trade, rapid technological advancement, significant developments in transport and communication, shifting employment trends, changes in organizational cultures and practices and the size, scope, structure and life cycles of enterprises all generate different types and patterns of hazards, exposures and risks in addition to the dynamic demographic changes and population movements. The most successful and developed economies have demonstrated that workplaces designed according to good principles of occupational health, safety and ergonomics are also the most sustainable and productive as wide experience from countries show that a healthy economy, high quality of products or services and long-term productivity are difficult to achieve in poor working conditions with workers who are exposed to health and safety hazards (Hamzoui, 2007). The Adventist Development Relief Agency based in Kajiado County was be used as a case study. The study was adopt a descriptive research approach using both qualitative and qualitative statistical methods. The study was be based in Kajiado District. Sample of all health centers run by NGOS in Kajiado was form the population of the study. The study was use purposive and random sampling approaches. The staff of various NGO health clinics in Kajiado was be interviewed while questionnaires was be issued to selected health users in Kajiado. Data collected was be and collected and analyzed. The findings was be presented using pie charts, diagrams, tables and reports. Data collected was be used to draw conclusions on the research topic. The study was be conducted between January and March 2014.