

# HERO STORY

## International Awareness Day for Avoidable Deaths (IAD4AD)

2026



VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS  
  
**SENDAI FRAMEWORK**  
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030

## Reducing burn deaths and injuries amongst vulnerable communities Kenya

***Mr. José Njuki-Imwe Ngunjiri, Fire Safety Officer, Advocate and Educator, Africa Fire Mission, Kenya***

José Njuki-Imwe Ngunjiri, Africa Fire Mission, Kenya, has transformed community safety from an abstract concept into practical, lifesaving action in Kenya. By leveraging personal experience as a burns survivor, José has dedicated himself to preventing avoidable deaths through hands-on fire prevention and safety training initiatives. He has empowered community members to act when seconds matter most. His work has strengthened local capacity, ensuring that lifesaving interventions begin long before formal emergency services arrive. José is focused on sustainability. He delivers training, develops local champions, mentors new instructors, and builds community ownership around prevention. As a result, knowledge spreads, preparedness improves, and safer behaviours become embedded in everyday life. He is even the star of a children's fire safety show that was created and aired on public television in Kenya. José is replicating his work in Nigeria, Malawi and Zambia. In contexts where preventable injuries and deaths are far too common, José's leadership is closing critical gaps in response and resilience. His work saves lives, repeatedly, by creating communities that are trained, equipped, and ready to protect one another.



José Ngunjiri's actions have strengthened response capacity in high-risk communities. His mentorship model has multiplied impact by developing new local instructors, expanding reach beyond single events. Communities report increased preparedness, faster emergency response, and greater confidence to intervene safely. In 2025, over 250,000 individuals received life-saving education. Kenyatta National Hospital reports a



40% reduction in hospitalizations from burn injuries from Mathare Valley (Nairobi) and directly attributes this reduction to prevention initiatives spearheaded by José. He is replicating his work in Nigeria, Malawi and Zambia. Jose has reduced risk exposure and helped build a sustainable culture of prevention and resilience.

José represents the very best of community leadership - he teaches lifesaving skills and he inspires others to carry them forward. His commitment to preventing avoidable deaths is creating safer, stronger communities long after the training ends.