

UPENDO METHODIST CBO NEWSLETTER – 2013

www.upendo.co.uk

I am delighted once more to present to you our Annual Report for the year 2013. The past year turned out to be a very busy year for the Organization with some new programs being initiated. The Organization runs the following projects and programs:

Upendo runs 7 programs as follows:



Some of our orphans

- Education
- Feeding
- Healthcare
- Psychosocial support
- Outreach
- Shelter improvement
- Skills Empowerment/vocational skills
- Nursery, Day Care and Primary Schools for income generation

EDUCATION PROGRAM

The breakdown of where our orphans are schooled is shown below.

| Location | Total | Male | Female |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Secondary School | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Primary School | 33 | 23 | 10 |
| Nursery School | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| Likoni Blind School. | 1 | - | 1 |
| Vocational School | 3 | 3 | - |
| Partial Sponsorship | 14 | 9 | 5 |
| Total Supported | 63 | 41 | 22 |

Two more children joined secondary school after passing the primary school examination. Three who did not do well in the primary examination were admitted to a local vocational Crafts Centre to obtain skills that will enable them to earn a living after completion of the 2-3 year courses. They opted for Carpentry, Plumbing or Electrical & Electronics.

FEEDING PROGRAM

The program has maintained a highly balanced menu which includes vegetables, fruit, cereals, meat, rice, beans, fish, ugali, etc. During the year under review the project received a lot of food donations from the local community.(photo)

HEALTH PROGRAM

In May 2013 a health-care seminar was held for members, guardians and the children. There were demonstrations of hand washing, tooth brushing and bathing, along with other health talks.



A regular health-care program was established which includes giving the children deworming tablets, bathing soap, toothpaste, etc. at regular intervals throughout the year.

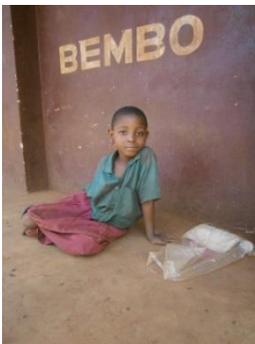
The members and guardians were also taken through our new Child Protection Policy which was drafted by a Human Rights Lawyer.

OUTREACH PROGRAM

We look after two children at a distance. Fatuma Chonga Aziza Omari is in a special school because she is totally blind. Despite this disability, Fatuma is getting on well at school thus giving hope to her mother who could not afford to support her to go to school without our help. The stigma in the community is also a challenge but the mother has accepted Fatuma as she is and is determined to support her to lead an independent life.



Fatuma during a visit to Upendo



Aziza Omari at school

Aziza Omari lost her mother in a fire disaster many years ago and ended up with an aunt at the age of about one year. Upendo supported the rest of her family of 8. She grew up knowing the aunt as her mother but the aunt also passed away in 2012. She feels insecure in life. We continue to support Aziza in education, feeding and counseling when we visit her at school and home.

SHELTER IMPROVEMENT

A house was renovated for two of the children in our program at a cost of Kshs.88,500 (US\$1000). It costs approximately Kshs. 190,000 to construct a completely new house. More houses will be done once funds are available.



Volunteers to Upendo visit one of the houses to be improved

RESOURCE CENTRE

We constructed a new resource centre in January, 2013. Furniture and books were acquired and the facility is now in full use as an area for reading, discussions and doing homework.



The Resource Centre



Teachers and Children during a reading session

SKILLS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM



The aim of this program is to provide an opportunity for the orphans to develop skills through part-time vocational training so that they will be able to earn a living once they enter adulthood regardless of their performance at primary school examination.

VOLUNTEERS

We hosted many volunteers in 2013 from all walks of life. Some brought in their special skills like sports, counseling, teaching, crafts etc.



VISITORS AND DONATIONS

Over 100 people visited the Project and donated food, clothes and money in 2013. The climax of these took place on 23rd December when a Media House called Bahari FM visited the project and donated food and sanitation items. It was a big day with a lot of fun.



Upendo Children receiving food & other assorted donations from Bahari FM officers



Bahari FM Head of Radio addressing Upendo children, Members & Guardians

The same day, Kenya Commercial Bank (Kilifi) officers visited, donated food stuff and interacted with the children.



Upendo children singing as they receive food donations from Kenya Commercial Bank Officers



Rev. Maureen Jones from UK being welcomed by an orphan to Upendo.

CRAFTS DAY



It has been a tradition of the Orphans to make Christmas Cards and decorations for their sponsors each year. This workshop was held on 5th December, 2013. The cards were gorgeous and portrayed the great appreciation the children have for the support from their sponsors.

END OF YEAR CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Orphans Project hosts an end of year party which is the real Christmas for most of the children because at home the day is not celebrated due to the families' financial. It is a time the Members, children, Guardians and a few invited guests gather to wish each other a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It was a colourful occasion full of singing, dancing and taking a meal together.



NURSERY SCHOOL

In 2013, the nursery school had an enrolment of 72 pupils from Class 1 to Class 3. It employs 3 full-time teachers and a Head Teacher.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

The primary school had a total enrolment of 52 pupils and employed three teachers.

The conducive learning environment has contributed to good academic performance.

CONCLUSION

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to the Upendo Board of Management, Directors of Upendo UK who are our Overseas fundraisers and custodians of overseas donations, all our regular sponsors of the children, once-off donors, Upendo Members, Guardians, the children and the Kilifi community at large for their great dedication and commitment towards the success of the activities in 2013. I continue to be greatly humbled and inspired to be involved with the Project so as to realize our objective of " assisting orphans to become independent and responsible citizens of our Society."

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU!

Grace Mzungu, Administrator