

# UPENDO METHODIST CBO NEWSLETTER – 2012

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Upendo Methodist CBO wishes to welcome you to the newsletter which will update you on our activities for 2012. The CBO runs 3 projects namely - Upendo Orphans Support Project, Upendo Modern Nursery School and Upendo Modern Primary School.

## **ORPHANS SUPPORT PROJECT**

The Orphans project was able to admit 4 orphans during the year after review by the Chief of Kilifi

and visits to the child's home. To date there are 56 orphans in the project. The Orphans Project continued to run the following programs: education, feeding, healthcare, psycho social support and outreach shelter improvement throughout the year.



## **Education program**



15 orphans are in our nursery school. The children in this group are aged between 4–8 years. They come from within Kilifi Township location which is our area of operation. These children are performing well academically. All the children in nursery, primary and secondary school have been upgraded to the next class.

## **Feeding program**

Our menu is comprehensive and has contributed to the good health of the

children who are always happy and relaxed. The program caters for 56 orphans and 84 nursery children. The funds to support this programme come from individual orphan sponsorship money. The local community has also been giving one-off donations of foodstuffs to support the Orphans Project.



## **Healthcare**

The Women's Group has continued to oversee the health of the children. Some of the members conduct health sessions by demonstrating to children how to bathe, brush their teeth and how to maintain good hygiene at home. A medical camp for children and guidance was conducted by a visiting volunteer doctor from Australia. A separate fund, kick-started by them, has been established to enable us to focus on this activity. The main health problems we are dealing with currently are ring-worm and scabies.





## **Outreach program**

The families in this program were visited as planned. The project was able to meet their physical and emotional needs. The youngest child, Aziza, has grown drastically, is at school and is able to communicate well. Her brother Ibrahim is also growing very fast and enjoying going to school at last.



## **Volunteers**



During the year the project hosted volunteers from within and outside the country. These volunteers served in the classrooms, kitchen and data entry. Some were able to visit the homes of the orphans and meet the members of their extended families.

## **Partial sponsorship program**

The 16 children in this program continued to receive educational needs and lunch daily. 3 of them will be sitting for the primary school entrance exams in the New Year and thereafter their parents will take charge of their educational needs. The remaining 13 will complete nursery school in November 2013.



## **Shelter improvement**

This is a program started in 2010. To date, 2 new temporary houses have been built for two families to give the children a decent environment. Many of the orphaned children continue to live in dilapidated huts. To the right is one of the newly built houses next to the family's old one. It illustrates some of the challenges



these children go through. Shelter, food, health care is not a right but a privilege to them.



**Psychosocial support** This is ongoing. It has included teaching the children their basic rights, discussion of issues they experience at home and school, and solutions. These are normally interactive sessions in a conducive environment for the children to share with their peers, freely express themselves and, in the process, relieve the stress these they face daily. A young human rights lawyer renders the services twice a month. The outcome of these sessions is that the older children are now counselling the younger ones who may have faced challenges at home or school. The organization has

developed a child protection policy which includes the children's and guardians' roles. Early intervention will reduce cases of infringement of children's rights.

## **New resource centre**

Upendo Orphans Support Project is a day care centre and provides after-school care. The number of children has been increasing and, with it, the need for more facilities to meet their physical and emotional needs. Construction of a resource centre started in November 2012 and this should be operational in January 2013. This will provide a conducive environment for learning in a relaxed atmosphere. We hope to use it to instil a reading culture in the children by providing books and running supervised reading sessions.

## **NURSERY SCHOOL PROJECT**

There are 95 pupils in the school from KG1 to KG3. Out of these, 15 are orphans under the Upendo Orphans Support Project. A new project to provide day care at a fee for babies from 1.5-3 years was started in January 2012. This is working well as mothers are able to leave their little babies under the care of the school while they go for their daily chores and pick them in the evening. This will boost the income for the Orphans Project.

There are five nursery trained teachers. The school has been emerging amongst the 1<sup>st</sup> three during zonal exams which involves 20 schools. A graduation ceremony for those qualifying for primary school intake was held in November.



## **PRIMARY SCHOOL PROJECT**

The primary school has 35 pupils in Class 1 and Class 2. The school will start Class 3 next year. There are two teachers. Parents and teachers meetings are held at the end of each school term to review the performance of their children and the school in general. The parents are taken through a planned talk on early child development, hygiene, nutrition, and the parents' and teachers' roles in child development.

The children visited a local nature park in Mombasa. This was an opportunity to see some of the animals and plants they have been reading about. They were also able to see visiting children from other schools and visit the public beach and enjoyed horse rides.



## **CONCLUSION**

Upendo CBO is alive and well and has grown further in 2012 with support from many individuals. Our immediate next challenge is to fund the administrative costs needed to sustain this level of activity and to find the funds for the secondary school education needs of our children. We ask you to continue to support us in this.

Best wishes for Christmas and 2013 from the children of Upendo and their carers.