



UPENDO ORPHANS SUPPORT PROJECT

P.O. Box 898, Kilifi

NEWSLETTER – Dec 2008

A lot has happened since February when we sent out the last newsletter.

I welcome you to Upendo Newsletter, which will update all of you on our activities.

Despite the price fluctuations of essential commodities in our country, the Upendo ladies have strived to keep the project going. All our programs i.e., feeding, education, health care and outreach have progressed well. To date we are supporting 35 orphans at the centre and 15 children in the outreach program.



DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC PLAN

Upendo ladies and some of their supporters held a 3-day workshop in April to enable them develop a strategic plan for the orphans project. The strategic plan serves as a road map for activities that will strengthen the project economically, socially, spiritually and physically. This will help achieve their main objective of assisting orphans to become independent and responsible citizens of this society. Some of the objectives have already been implemented. A highly qualified and experienced teacher has been employed to run the nursery school efficiently thus generating more income to support the orphans project. However, the group members should note that a successful strategic planning depends heavily on an internal leadership commitment and the involvement of all stake holders. As we look beyond our borders, let us remember that development begins with the individual.

HEALTH CARE

The program managed to help our crippled boy to undergo two operations to correct the deformities. He is now using crutches and still undergoing physiotherapy.

Another 2 siblings in the outreach program had to undergo surgery to correct deformities caused by fire burns. The operations were successful. The youngest, Aziza (right), who lost her toes, is beginning to walk. Apart from minor ailments, the orphans are very healthy, undoubtedly helped by the good nutrition we provide.



VISITORS

2 members of Karibuni Trust which is one of our regular donors visited the project and homes of some orphans to see the living environment. The children in the outreach program were also visited by their sponsors. There were many other visitors from within and outside the country. Karen David, a visitor from the UK (with daughter Sophie, right), decided to raise funds through a parachute jump. It was worrying but she landed successfully.



ACHIEVEMENTS

- Increased no. of supported children from 31 in February to 35 to date.
- Employed qualified and experienced nursery school headteacher.
- Developed a strategic plan for 2008 – 2010.
- All money for sponsorship in 2008 was received.
- Sale of tree seedlings , 2nd hand clothes , hire of plastic chairs generated funds.
- Visit by a good number of sponsors to see project and encouraged the implementers (Upendo ladies)

I am humbled to see a good team of staff members who are part and parcel of the project success. I feel honoured to see children running to greet me while eager to receive a motherly hug. This is something very special and satisfying to both the kids and ourselves. All this is possible with your support. Come and experience the lovely social interaction .

On behalf of the Upendo family, I sincerely thank you for your concern, compassion and support.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Grace Mzungu (Administrator) and Margaret Mackinnon (Fundraiser)