

THE Catholic University of Eastern Africa

TANGAZA COLLEGE

Institute of Social Ministry

PROJECT REPORT

STREET CHILDREN IN KAWANGWARE

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INTRODUCTION

Riruta ^Gsatellite is a fast growing suburb of Nairobi. Its neighbors are the sprawling slums of Kawangware, Kabiria, Ngando and Riruta East. There are over 300 children who are either homeless or have ~~ran~~ away from home, thus ending up in the cold at night. Behind the shops and petrol stations is where you will find them sleeping, some have managed to build cotton houses which are usually destroyed by the rains during the wet seasons. Other than just being homeless or having ~~ran~~ away from home, some of the street children have been driven to the streets by the poor conditions at home, Domestic violence also contributes to the increase of street children →

It is due to the alarming increase of street children in Riruta and the neighboring slums that Koinonia Community Youth Organization, was started (KCYO).

KCYO: <

Who are they?

Koinonia community is a group of African lay Christians founded 1988 with the aim of promoting community sharing in material and spiritual aspects of life and working towards the development of the society at large. It is through this vision that Koinonia community identified the problem of street children in Riruta ^Satellite where they actually have their center located. So Koinonia < Committed itself towards the holistic development of the street children and thus the Koinonia community youth organization.

The survey also revealed that ^{from} this street children ^{are} (neither are) they of age, to be working nor have they the skills for employment e.g. tailoring, masonry, carpentry etc. So for their survival, they collect bottle tops, scrap metal, waste paper, plastic bags and other garbage which they sell for a few shillings, ^{ex. ic} that can only buy them glue, miraa, bhang and chang'aa.

Also, the health of these slum-dwellers and street children is ^{poor} so poor because of the inadequate shelter. The children do not find much difference ^{between} sleeping on the streets, on corridors or inside a plastic shelter which can hardly accommodate a family of eight. Hygienic conditions are ^{so} poor, and there are no toilets, and the population is congested. Should there be a disease outbreak, it always ends up in a situation ^{that is} almost uncontrollable. With ^{these} survey, the Koinonia community decided to start a youth project with the following objectives

THE AIM OF THE PROJECT

Most of the children in the streets have no homes or have run away from their homes. They spend their nights in the shade of shops and theatres. They eat what others give ^{to} or collect the left over food from behind the hotels. They have no idea of what ^{is going to} happen, the next moment or about their future. The children of the streets and slums have no way of getting education, and their hopes are unfulfilled. Society regards them ^{as} ineligible to be called human beings. It is not their choice to be ^{called} street children or parking boys/girls, but that is what society has labeled them.

The aim of the youth project in Kawangware is to promote basic education for the adults and the youth that are in the slums. Through ^{this} education, the youth are able to understand life, their dignity and their rights in society. The boys and girls,

who are studying in the various government schools in Kawangware, have a greater chance of forming themselves as educators. They are able to understand and analyze the various problems of the society. Through the youth the project is playing a great role in educating the ~~people of the down-trodden society~~. It is the dream of the ~~community youth organization~~ ^{Kivuli} to participate in fulfilling the dreams of the unwanted, marginalised people of the slums. KC70

THE OBJECTIVES

1. To provide shelter for the homeless children.
2. To assist children to go back to their homes with a living hope.
3. After basic education and skills training, to provide job opportunities in various companies in collaboration with the business community.
4. Provide an effective education for the character formation of the children. The center insists on an effective Christian or moral formation for the children. Most of them have been sexually abused and exposed to other unhealthy practices of the society. A number of children have become prey to child labor in various homes and businesses. The ~~kivuli community youth organization~~ ^{Kivuli} hopes to be a liberator to these suffering youth.

ACTIVITIES

The project so far can only accommodate boys through the night, ~~but~~ during the day, the girls are also present. Some of the activities related to the mentioned objectives are as follows. ~~as follows~~ ^{discussed below}

Feeding

Feeding is a main factor when it comes to the rehabilitation of the street children. They are given three meals a day: Breakfast, lunch and supper. These include a supply of nutritional supplements such as milk, meat, eggs, beans, vitamins, mineral mixtures and carbohydrates.

Health care

There is a weekly medical check up for the children. ^{accordingly, a} nurse or a doctor visits the center to ~~check on the children's health once a week~~. Those with minor ailments are treated and those with major ailments are taken to ~~the~~ government hospitals to be given ^{further} ~~maximum~~ medical care. Some common diseases often treated in the center are stomachache, headache, malaria, venereal diseases, HIV positive cases, and outbreak of virus and bacterial infection.

Prevention of any disease in ^{Kivuli} is of great importance. They are encouraged to maintain hygiene, e.g. washing of hands before meals, cleaning their utensils, environment, toilets, clothes, ^{and} washing themselves everyday, etc.

Recreational activities

There are several recreational activities, which provide conditions for their normal development. Holiday camping, indoor games e.g. karate, and video shows as well as other sports activities which are all important in their physical and human growth. They learn at the same time to socialize, ~~and~~ how to use their own talents as well as singing, drama etc. ^{and}

Domestic activities

Only those boys who sleep in the center are ⁱⁿ these activities. The boys share among themselves some responsibilities in and out side the dormitories and kitchen. These include sweeping and mopping ~~the~~ dormitory floors of the house, cooking, cleaning ~~the table~~ after meals and taking care of the general compound. This gives them a sense of being helpful, ~~and~~ they seem to enjoy doing this work.

Spiritual activities

The boys pray before having breakfast and before going to bed. ² Sunday, Fr. Kizito celebrates mass with them. Those who are big, read the bible and act as alter boys. They have a wonderful choir that sings during mass. On Sunday afternoons, there is spiritual counseling and fellowship.

Educational Activities

Other activities for the rehabilitation of the boys concerning education are as ~~the~~ ^{these} follows: Immediately after coming into the center, the boys are taught the basic education, ~~ie~~ reading and writing. Then they are enrolled into ~~the~~ government schools in Kawangware for their formal education. There are those boys who are too old to attend the primary level education, they are enrolled in training ^{technical} schools in order to acquire skills of trade. There is a day set by the center once a year (~~presents day~~) where the best and most improved boys are given presents.

FINANCES, BUDGETING AND MANAGING

From my observation and the little information I gathered ~~is that~~ the major source of finance comes from foreign donors. Local donors ~~only provide~~ ^{provide with} services like water connection, transportation, ~~and~~ used clothing and prayers. Though I found out that the major donors were foreigners, ~~the only thing found out about them is that~~ most of them are, either married couples or elderly people, ~~and that~~ they come from Denmark, Germany, Italy, Finland and Netherlands.

BUDGETING AND MANAGEMENT

It was not possible for me to find ^{out} anything about the project's budgeting. The only person who is in charge is the coordinator and the founder. So I couldn't get anything on their past and present it in my report. I was only provided with their financial system manual, which again I couldn't tell whether they use it, or not.

KIVULI CENTRE

FINACIAL SYSTEM MANUAL

PREPARED BY

COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS

(CEDCON)

KIWAMBOGO HOUSE
NEW PUMWANI ROAD
NAIROBI

The purpose of this manual is to lay out the financial systems that shall be used by ~~kindi center~~ ^{KC 10}. It will serve as an important tool for reference and for enhancing the accounting function of the center.

We have tried to make this manual easy and simple to follow. It is designed to adapt to the changes in future in order to accommodate an expanding accounting function. For it to be a useful guide, it has strictly adhered to;

The following accounting systems are incorporated:

1. The analysis cash book
2. Cheque payment system
3. Receipts system
4. Petty cash/impres
5. Inventory system
6. Payroll system
7. Management reports.

Additions may be made in future as the center grows.

THE ANALYSIS CASH BOOK

An analysis cash book with at least 16 columns is maintained for the center. All receipts are recorded on the left handside of the cash book. All payments are recorded on the right side of the cash book. Each column represent a general ledger account. At the top of each column, the account name is indicated.

The columns on the receipts side are as illustrated in the following example:

Table A: Receipts Side of the cash book

Date	Details	Recip t No.	Cash	Bank	Grant s	Batik sales	Gard ening Sale	Impre st	Other Receipt s	Am t
2-1-98	Mr. X	001	0	5000	5000					
3-1-98	Mrs. Y	002	500			300	200			
4-1-98	Cash Banked		(500)	500						
	TOTALS		-	5,500	5,500	300				

Receipt book is maintained and any income either cash or cheque is receipted. All the receipts are then posted to the receipts intact without using part of it to pay for expenses. All cash expenses are illustrated in the table below:-

Table B: Payments side of the cashbook

Date	Details	Cheque No.	Cash	Bank	Salaries & wages	School fees	Text Bks & uniforms	Other payments details	Amount
2-1-98	Mr. X	101	-	8000	8000				
3-1-98	Y	102	-	3000			3000		
4-1-98	Tailors School	003		7500		7500			
	TOTAL		-	18500	8000	7500	3000		

Each column represents a general ledger account. Totals are used to prepare a trial balance when preparing the accounts for audit.

Note that the last two or three columns are reserved for payments that are not very regular. The first and the second of the three columns should be used to write the details of either payment or receipt. The third column is used to record the amount.

The cash book balance is got by subtracting the total payment from the total receipts and is carried forward to the following month.

3. The Receipts System.

All receipts by the Centre are receipted and banked in the Centre's account. The serialised receipts are posted by the receipt number and date in the cash book. Only one receipt book is used at any one particular time. This ensures that control of the receipted money and banking is smooth. Any receipts through bank transfers are also receipted and posted in the cash book.

4. The Cheque Payment System.

As much as possible, payments are made by cheque book and other accounting documents are properly kept in a lockable place and only used by authorised officers. Before the writing of a cheque, a payment voucher is raised. The payment voucher gives the details of each payment. The signatories sign the cheques after perusing through the payment voucher.

They also sign the payment voucher as a sign that they agree with the payment. The officer approving or authorising the payment must also sign the payment voucher.

Supporting documents such as receipts and invoices are attached to the payment vouchers. A payment vouchers' file is maintained where all the payment vouchers and the support documents are filled in a sequence using the cheque number.

5. Imprest/Petty Cash System.

Where payment cannot be made by cheque, an imprest is withdrawn from the bank which is equal to the expense. Where some balance is unused, then it is receipted and rebanked. Accounting of imprest is done promptly after the money has been spent. Where this is not done promptly, it is recovered from the staff members' salary.

At the right time registration of employees with various government departments such as P.A.Y.E., N.S.S.F., N.H.I.F. is done.

8. Management Reports.

Currently accounts reports are prepared for the committee. These are:

- (a) Receipts and payments accounts, monthly and cumulatively, showing the date. This report is a summary of the receipts and payments within a particular month. It also shows the bank and cash balances.
- (b) Bank reconciliation statement
This statement ensures that all bank transactions have been recorded into the cash book. It also ensures that all bank charges and transfers are properly recorded in the cash book.

6. Inventory System.

An inventory system is essential for the Centre. An inventory of all the assets is done and register opened indicating what assets the Centre has. Even the assets that have been donated are recorded showing who the donor is and the date of acquisition. Another inventory book for consumable supplies is opened. This is especially crucial for it controls the usage of the kitchen supplies. This also makes it possible to monitor how the supplies are procured and used.

7. Payroll System.

All the permanent staff of the Center have a letter of appointment duly signed by the chairman of the Centre. It is kept in their personal files. A copy of job description is also filed in the personal files. A payroll is to be prepared monthly accurately showing all statutory deductions and advances. A payroll book is purchased and maintained every month.

LONG TERM AND SHORT TERM STRATEGIES

The short and long term strategies of the objectives are seen in the various activities of the project. These are provision of food, shelter, medical care, recreation, educational activities, counseling primary (formal) education, and vocational training.

Feeding:

Feeding is a main factor when it comes to the rehabilitation of the street children. At ~~kiyuh~~ the boys have three meals a day. These consist of breakfast, lunch and supper. The food given is basically nutritious and enough (not too little not too much). They try to maintain the standards of feeding as those that are usually found in homes. Also meal times at ~~kiyuh~~ are regarded as a socialization process thus ~~you will see~~ the staff eating and trying to chat with them.

Shelter

Shelter creates an alternative environment for the children whose lives are difficult. A shelter is a place where children can feel relaxed and comfortable, safe and well looked after. This is what ~~kivuli~~ defines as shelter. Kivuli actually is a Kiswahili word for shade. Under this shelter Kivuli makes it possible for the boys to practice, learn and recover the skills and habits of good interpersonal relationship. In other words, Kivuli is trying its best to give a homely impression which will make the boys feel at home and so be able to go through the process of rehabilitation.

Health care

There is a regular medical help for the boys. A government doctor who visits the center once a week attends them to every week. Prevention of any diseases at the center is treated with great importance. The boys are encouraged to maintain hygiene by washing hand before and after meals, cleaning their utensils, environment, toilets, clothes, washing themselves everyday etc. These help them psychologically to understand that a healthy body is a sound mind.

Counseling

Always it has been difficult for the boys to look at street life experience as the past. This has led to some of them going back to the streets. In the streets there are drugs, freedom to do what you want, and go where you want. In the streets there are no responsibilities, one has to survive and at times the idea of survival is adventurous, thus exciting. Kivuli has been counseling the boys in order to help them get out of the street life addictions. They have come to understand that the boys find street life and the life in the center as two different worlds. Thus the need for a close and an understanding person to always be there to counsel them.

Recreation

There are several recreation activities, which provide conditions for their normal development. Going for outings, holding football matches, watching videos and practicing martial arts are all important for their physical and human growth. During these occasions they learn how to socialize and how to use their talents in sports or acting. Kivuli has made sure there are enough recreational facilities to keep the boys entertained during their free time.

Long-term strategies

Long-term strategies would be various approaches, which should include formal and informal education, vocational training, provision of community medical facilities, shelter, feeding programs. Other than the above strategies there are various more. That is, child or family oriented rehabilitation, improve the situation of children in trouble versus preventing additional children from going to the streets and changing structures that discourage youth growth or helping small or individual groups grow.

Strengths

This project has responded to the present challenge in the African continent regarding the street children plight and in a particular way by focusing the program on destitute boys and girls who ended up in the streets. The religious/Christian foundation of the staff was put into action in their everyday service to the boys and few girls (those who visit the center) which is an effective way of witnessing to the

needy youth. I observed that the work (staff's) is not just taken as an employment but as a call to dedicate one's life to work.

The way the co-ordinator Mr. Otieno Charles supervises and notes the usage of items in the center was outstanding and encouraging.

So far, Kivuli has made a good progress in establishing a good relationship with the government.

It has also managed to establish good relationship with other internal individuals, organizations and external organizations that have encouraged a good working relationship.

There is a clear division of labor and each staff's expertise and interest helps others to know who is doing what and at what time. And that all the needed services are carried out efficiently.

There are staff meetings, and evaluations and on-going evaluations and follow-up plans. There is an atmosphere of seriousness and discipline in both staff and children.

The ecumenical composition of the staff though not yet strongly felt in among the boys was impressive.

The informal education offered to the newly admitted children from the streets is of a high standard such that all those ready for the primary education are always admitted to the schools and perform well.

WHAT CAN BE IMPROVED? (WEAKNESSES)

Unlike the staff, it is very clear that the boys lack the strong values of ecumenical composition. I believe that each religion when fully lived in a committed way lives to the full values of the kingdom of God, which we are all living and working for. Though these children may have come from the streets to a Christian based youth center there should be respect for those who are Muslims.

On the part of the kitchen there is lack of close supervision of the cooking and distribution of food. Utensils are known to disappear without any trace. At times the amount to be cooked is less according to what has been recorded from the stores.

The lacking of the presence of an adult during some recreational activities is very evident. This is through the small fights that occur during a game, the injuries that occur and some videotape that are watched by the boys.

The disciplining of these boys is very poor. First of all, the person in charge of disciplining is just too young to care what effect he is having on the boys by disciplining them. Beating up the boys regardless of their age is not right and having a boy kneel for hours is damaging to his knees and back. The point is that this punishment have a very negative physical and psychological effects on the children which some of these boys have already experienced from the streets. I believe punishments should not teach the children to hate, fear and revenge but to grow, love and change the better.

MY RECOMMENDATION TO THE KIVULI COMMUNITY YOUTH ORGANISATION

The recommendations made here are mostly related to the weaknesses I observed in Kivuli. Some of the staff of Kivuli and others (involved in the rehabilitation of street children) may not agree with me regarding some of my points, not because they are not correct, but may be due to our differences in convictions and also maybe due to some openness. My aim is not to be negative but to be open and honest for the good of the project in the future.

Recreational materials

Recreation materials should be checked before they are left free for the boys to use. This is because some facilities like video tapes may be damaging if what they are giving to the children is not scrutinized. eg if a video tape has a lot of violence, some immoral values or show irresponsible heroes, then it will be damaging for the young boys who are not yet firm on their values.

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Corporal punishment

This recommendation is in regard to corporal punishment and discipline which could be due to a lack of understanding of the characteristics of pre-adolescence and adolescence. It is also in connection with the official education policy and rights of the child which Kivuli staff need to know. I therefore recommend that the staff attends seminars or refresher courses that will help them understand and deal with adolescence.

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Also information or materials concerning the official education policy and rights of the child be provided for the staff to read. Impact the more the staff understands about children the better they will be able to achieve the objective of the project.

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Understand/counseling young people

These boys besides having being marked by street life, most of them are also facing a transitional period (a time of adolescence). Normally, there are many things taking place in them which they and the staff need to know and cope with. Though they may be going through a very normal process the staff or some of the staff do not know or understand what is happening to the boys thus unable to help, support of guide them to cope with their growing characteristics.

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Effective communication

Effective communication among staff members can prevent any obstacle arising within the daily programme or any special programme. Honesty, integrity and accountability are not practiced in relation to only material things but, most important too, is the use of time. There is need to address unplanned day off and absenteeism. The recommendation is also in relation to the time table of the adults and informal education students. This time tables should be followed strictly. Regarding this, the staff should nominate a time keeper for all the schedules in the center.

can prevent any obstacle

Faith

Children and youth of all ages have spiritual needs which should be provided for. They need something to believe in. They need someone powerful to rely on. They should be trained in godliness and need to learn how to pray and be involved in activities of the various religions. I therefore suggest that an ecumenical spirit and religious pluralism be encouraged and promoted. In doing the center will be respecting the rights of the boys and girls regarding their faith. ~~Knowing very well that~~ Such a composition of a project will be more demanding to the staff and all those involved in the project. Hence the staff should not take these boys and girls for granted and not respect their human rights to a choice of faith or religion, be it Islam, Christianity or traditional Religion.

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CONCLUSION

As my conclusion I would like to suggest that groups like the Kenya Human Rights Commission Report should present to Kenyans the opportunity to share information on the nature and extent of the problem of street children with the ultimate goal of providing materials for policy guidelines.

This is by providing a forum of developing strategies to combat or deal with the problem of street children and to the state that is engaged in this problem. We should provide an opportunity for collecting views to be presented at a public forum for policy makers.

The following crucial areas need to be addressed.

1. Organize family life courses for those planning to marry and educate the married.
2. The Director of children's department through the national body would enforce the rights of the child. The National Children Council which will hopefully implement and effect laws affecting the children.
3. The unemployment issue should be tackled.
4. The mushrooming slums in urban areas should be addressed urgently.
5. ~~Our leaders must address themselves to land policy.~~ Arable land lying fallow should be taxed.
6. Leaders should address themselves to the education policy in order to keep abreast with the rapid changing society in social-economic issues and focus particularly towards free education for the poor if at all we can't afford free for all.
7. Street children should be seen as a disease that may become chronic hence identify the source and treat it effectively.

In the Christian communities the faithful are called to bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).

Responsibility is entrusted to all the faithful to contribute to one another's growth and journey towards wholeness. If one member suffers, all members suffer. If one member is honoured all members share this joy. We are all the body of Christ. (Corinthians 12:25-27).

Our scriptural tradition offers many images, instances and metaphors to describe the ways God heals, restores and reconciles people to wholeness and the relationship of love and justice. God's work of redemption and liberation is fully realised in Jesus. It is in and through Jesus that we learn to be a welcoming, forgiving and reconciling people.

In responding to this proclamation, we as Christians are reminded that the justice of which Jesus and the prophets speak, is not limited by or found primarily in the principle of fairness. Nor, in equality of access to goods and services of the community. Rather justice grounded in Christian faith is found in the experience of Brotherhood and Sisterhood in a loving community that promotes our common humanity and that shares life, compassion and selfless love in the service of one another. In responding to this, we should take care of street children.

Pastoral care is achieved or forfeited in the quality of relationship in the children at school. In the school's daily and routine life, the ways in which people

interact with one another is a significant determinant of each person's sense of selfworth, belonging and well being.

The fostering of high quality interpersonal relationships among teachers, students, parents and auxiliary staff is a responsibility shared by everyone. Teachers in particular set the tone and priority of pastoral care by their witness and example. They need to be known as caring, compassionate adults who take a real interest in the lives of their students. Similarly, street children students need to recognise their peers. Such recognition brings with it a responsibility to uphold and nurture these life giving values and qualities.

