

Milimani Rusinga Project

April 2020

Let's join hands together

Sharing Love Building Hope Changing Lives

Serving the most vulnerable in the community

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Dear Donors, supporters and friends,

We hope our Newsletter finds you all safe and well. At this unique time in our world with the outbreak of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Milimani Project Board sends love, light, courage and hope to you and your loved ones.



In the midst of this crazy time when the news is full of concerning statistics, there is a bright light found in the many acts of kindness being performed. At this time, a little help can go a long way. We cherish our relationship with each of you. We send our virtual hugs and love.

We thank you for your continued connection with our project

Milimani project has a strong, spirited, sustainable mission:
Provide high-quality care and love to orphan or vulnerable children. We strive to stabilize and Provide hope for orphaned and underprivileged children."

FEEDING PROGRAM



We thank you for your continued support towards feeding the hundreds of children under our care.

Because of your support we are able to provide continuous feeding program that has contributed to the enhanced growth of the children at the Centre.

Previously, our children suffered the most from ill health, hunger and malnutrition. Most of children were born with HIV. They kept on fainting from hunger during class time. They were skinny and malnourished. We lacked financial resources to provide all the meals daily. This quarter they have improved dramatically as they continue with their HIV drugs. They are healthy and performing at the head of their classes.

CONSTRUCTIONS OF NEW CLASSROOMS



Three different international volunteers organized for online fundraising and managed to construct three additional classrooms this quarter. This was in response to the circular sent by the Ministry of

Safe and conducive for learning

education citing that the kind of classrooms we have are (corrugated walls) are not safe for learning and threatened to shut down the centre.

The classrooms are more precious with proper light and ventilation. and are conducive for learning. The children are enjoying using them

REST IN PEACE

On a sad note, we would like to inform you about the death of Angel Gabriel Manase who passed on in the month of March. Gabriel, 6 years, was suffering from anemia and pneumonia at the same time. She will be missed by her classmates in Kindergarten class and the whole school. She was a quiet lovely and dedicated child.

May Angel dance with the Angels.

Many other children became ill during this time, possibly due to the prolonged flooding and the cold weather. Our corrugated classrooms also contributed to this. Fortunately, the rest of the children were able to make full recoveries.



CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES

The quarter saw more challenges with weather extremes. Drought-like conditions prevailed at the beginning of the year which led to water shortages, followed by long periods of heavy rain, which lasted many more months than usual.

The heavy rains caused severe flooding in the lower side of the island. The heavy rains made the water level in Lake Victoria to rise and overflow. This is a blow to farming activities and led to many farmers being unable to harvest crops this year, leading to food shortages and rising prices.

The climate change effects have posed higher infrastructure risk. Transport sector plays critical roles in agricultural production by facilitating food availability and accessibility.



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

We are doing everything possible to ensure that our children are safe from all sorts of harm. The child protection policy document is signed by everyone at the school who directly handles the children. The violation of the children's rights may lead to expulsion from the organization.

In the month of February, we expelled one of our longest serving teachers,

Mr Peter Arum. Harming the children in the name of punishment had become chronic despite several verbal and written warnings.

It was a painful decision to make but we had to do it for the safety of the children under our care. It is our obligation to do it.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION PROJECT

We have been in the forefront in combating and mitigation of the catastrophic impacts of climate change using permaculture approach to enhance the increment of the forest cover and combat desertification and help maximize carbon capture. This is intertwined and integrated with other austere projects gearing towards the enhancement of the livelihoods of poverty stricken and destitute households.

One gets irked immediately any environmental conservation and restoration endeavors is to be undertaken in Rusinga Island, Lake Victoria region of Kenya. Perhaps one would ask why and maybe how? The last time a major forestation and reforestation initiative was undertaken to restore the already depleted landscapes and loss of biodiversity, indelible memoirs of roaming livestock being a major setback continue to linger in the minds of many as Rusinga is well known for uncontrolled livestock hence posing major threat and setback to insitu and exitu conservation endeavors ever since.

All is not rosy for Rusinga Island as it is not spared from the harsh negative impacts of climate change, as seasonal calendars have changed, crop failures is rampant, biodiversity is dramatically lost, natural resilience of the island's habitat is fast disappearing as this plunges the island further into a severe socio economic and environmental turmoil.

The ecological state of affairs in Rusinga Island is reminiscent or congruent to an ecocide. The drastic change in biological calendar and loss of diverse indigenous trees tells it all. Human activities have direct bearing on natural habitat. Ecological footprints in the island are becoming overwhelming as the locals encroach the hilltops to cut trees to sell in the local beaches to earn livelihood. Erosion and depleted bare hilltop landscapes are warning signs of desertification emerge.

Start on small scale advocacy to enlighten the community members on the usefulness of concerted efforts to take care of nature, this will also be coupled with energy saving stoves to help reduce energy wasted while using the three stones currently predominant in many homes around. Seed funding is needed to set up this project.

One child one tree

Working with five selected schools to establish woodlots. Each child to plant one tree and take care of it every year.



The selected schools need fences and farm tools to realize this. At the moment we have set up one at Milman Iattract Academy. Our tree nursery already has one thousand seedlings.

We work closely with Michael Odula Memorial Forest, situated at Tom Mboya High School.



HIGH SCHOOL AND VOCATIONNAL TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP

The project is a community educational initiative, designed to assist orphans and vulnerable children who are in abject of poverty with no body to care for them to access education ; secondary, university of vocational training due to lack of fees to be paid.

This quarter, three girls have been sponsored and are enjoying their studies in High school. This is a great achievement we have made to promote girlchild education.

The prevalence of HIV/AIDS epidemic and rampant poverty in Kenya whereby many families live below poverty line i.e less than one £ per day, have made many children disparate and face critical social and economic problems and challenges including non-accessibility of education and training opportunities.

In order to set up and concretize the scholarship fund, the project requires immediate sponsors, fundraisers and donors in aid of the needy and desperate children who need school fees to fulfil their ambitions in life by acquiring education.

High school fees needed per child / student per year is £ 430 (for boarding schools). This excludes uniforms, books and other requirements when they are joining the school. These additional requirements will be there only once. The fee can be paid in installments.

The fees needed for Vocational training per student per year is £ 235 and as well excludes books, technical equipment aprons, over coats. The fees paid vary from institution to another and can be increased at any time when deemed necessary by the institution management. Many children are in dire need of sponsorship and are in the waiting list. We are appealing with friends to support



NEW TEACHING STAFF

At the beginning of the year, we had high staff turnover and recruited a new team. At first it was a blow losing that number but we later on realized it was a blessing in disguise. The newly recruited team met the standard and qualifications required by the Ministry of education. The team love their work and have the children at heart. The support from NHR organic oil company made it easier for us to pick the best. Cases of corporal punishment is a thing of the past.

The new teachers have come up with new ideas on how to improve the academic standards and the children welfare in general. The fresh impetus include beatification of the compound where they planted the flowers, planting grass in the playing ground so that the children don't get hurt, controlling soil erosion that damaged the road to the school, introduction of remedial lessons to cater for slow learners among other things.

RECRUITMENT OF SCHOOL CLERK

To relieve the director from doing all administrative work, the management recruited Grace Akinyi to be the new clerk. She is a dedicated young girl from the community. Her work involve handling petty cash, purchasing school items, banking volunteers fee and organizing for the payments including staff salaries.

Grace is a very passionate person who loves helping people and above all, she is a lover of God.

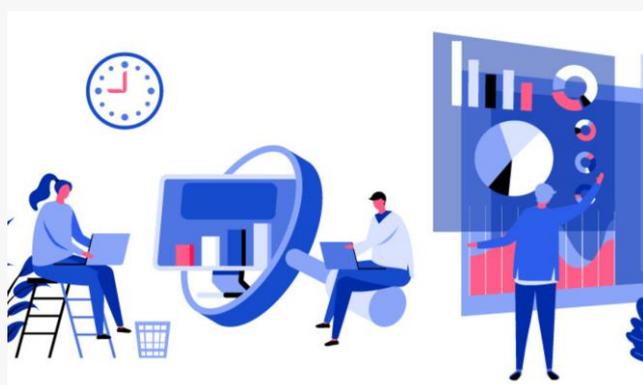
Grace is single and lives with her family in the community. We are so excited and blessed to have her as part of our team.

SOLAR ELECTRICITY AND COMPUTER STUDIES

Information and communication Technology has been introduced in the new curriculum. This requires that our school has computers which we still lack. We are seeking for help from well-wishers to enable us install solar electricity and purchase computers for the ICT lessons.

This will also serve as a community resource centre and those coming for computer services such as browsing, printing and photocopying are charged some little fee for sustainability purposes. The services are only available in Mbita which is about ten kilometers away and costs 2 pounds to and fro. This is a lot for the population that live below one £ per day.

Clean and renewable energy for the poor and vulnerable rural communities is one of our major focus areas. Technology innovation initiatives are aimed at helping us operationalize and decentralize renewable energy solutions in the rural areas of Kenya.



APPRECIATIONS

SUPPORT FROM KOLINKA AND ORGANIC OIL COMPANY

We thank Kolinka and NHR Organic Oils in the UK for the confirmation of monthly support of GBP 500 per month. This is 80% of our monthly budget. Your support made it easier for us to pay the staff promptly and effectively.

Today, the teachers are happy than ever because they are sure of their pay at the end of each month. This has resulted to provision of quality education and care of the children. They are now working overtime and taking their time to do private coaching to the slow learners. Child care and love has now moved to another level. Without your support we wouldn't be here.

SUPPORT FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play a very important role in our organization. We have made great steps with the help of our international volunteers. Their physical and financial support has been comendable to us.

Through their volunteer fee and donations this quarter, we have been able to purchase food for the kids although their support is unpredictable and cannot be planned with. Their support went towards feeding program.

We are now worried about the next step after the corona outbreak distablized everything and international travels cancelled.

Thank you to all our donors, volunteers & supporters!

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