

# LIVE AND LEARN IN KENYA INT'L ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT 2019



EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO THE FUTURE

# **ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT 2019**

The year 2019 was very successful especially on construction funding and children sponsorship.

We had a number of activities other than our normal school learning progress and our feeding program. We had health workshops and medical checkups for the children, construction, farming and dairy cattle keeping, visitors from the USA, Netherlands and Germany and my visit to Germany among other activities. Parents and children received Christmas presents before we closed our project for Christmas festivals.

Below are some of our activities throughout the year;

## **1. HEALTH**

### ***a) Female Genital Mutilation and Domestic Hygiene workshop***

February 6<sup>th</sup> is World Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Day. All opinion leaders were speaking out against Female Genital Mutilation. FGM refers to all procedures that involve the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injuries to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It is incredibly painful, traumatizes girls and results in numerous negative health consequences that last decades.

Globally, it is estimated that over 140 million girls and women have undergone some form of FGM. Currently, more than three million girls, the majority under 15 years of age, undergo the procedure each year. Although the Demographic Health Survey of Kenya shows that FGM among 15-49 year olds declined from 37.6 per cent in 1998 to 27.1 percent in 2008-2009, the figures are still too high and progress has been far too slow.

Data shows that Kenya achieved an annual rate of reduction of 6.6 percent in the prevalence of FGM between 2005 and 2010. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF joint program to end FGM, focuses on

protecting girls and women by accelerating abandonment of FGM and providing care for its consequences has been operational in Kenya since 2008 to support national and grass root efforts.

Research into the practice shows that FGM is practiced by different ethnic and religious groups within the country in different ways. FGM is far more prevalent among the Somali (98 percent), Kisii (96 percent) and Maasai (73 percent) communities. As a result, FGM is also geographically unevenly spread in Kenya; it is more visible in rural areas than urban areas. It is important to note that FGM is against the law in Kenya.

In Nakuru, FGM is being practiced by the Kalenjin community although secretly and illegally. During the workshop, some parents especially the Kalenjin were shy to speak about the vice. Parents from other tribes felt free to discuss the subject and asked questions.

We invited Dr. GK Mbugua to moderate the workshop. Parents were also taught about their domestic hygiene. They were taught about taking their children for medical checkups and keeping their domestic environments clean. Finally, they were taught how to teach their children about personal hygiene and how necessary it is for their health and well-being.



*Photos above show the workshop in progress*



### ***b) Children Deworming***

At the end of May, we invited a local Health Officer to come and do a medical checkup for all of our children. A number of health cases were noted. Most cases were referred to the health centre and other referral hospitals around Nakuru. Children received anti-worm medication and multi-vitamins. These checkups are done on a routine basis. This has kept our children healthier.



***Teachers helping a public health officer to administer anti-worm and multi-vitamins tablets***

## **2. DAIRY CATTLE**

Last year we began our dairy cattle project. The main objective was to have milk for our children. This was to save money by not having to buy milk from street vendors.

We bought 3 pregnant dairy cattle ( Whispy, Riziki and Elisabeth). Whispy was the first to give birth on Christmas day 2018. By mid-January, all 3 had delivered.

We had enough milk for our children from January to October when milk reduced because all the 3 cows are pregnant again. They used to drink milk 3 days in a week instead of the former twice a week. This has helped to keep our children healthy, and at the same time we saved money we had used to buy milk.



*Whispy with her calf*



*Elisabeth with her calf*



*Riziki with her calf*



*Grown up calves*



### **3. DINING /MULTI-PURPOSE HALL**

Mid last year we started the construction of our dining/multi-purpose hall. Due to limited funds, it took us a long time to complete. But the quality of work done was very high as it can be seen in the photos below.



***Front view of our multi-purpose hall***



***The complete dining hall, kitchen and water tanks for rain harvesting***

#### **4. FARMING**

Every year we lease land to add on our school farm to plant crops for our feeding program. This year we leased 3 acres of land. We have planted maize and beans. Parents always work the farmland - from planting to weeding and harvesting. This always saves money that would have been invested in buying maize and beans for our feeding program. In early June parents were weeding the fields.







*Above photos shows parents weeding in both leased and our school fields*

### ***Harvesting***

This year, maize production was very high compared to beans. We harvested about 45 bags of maize and 2 bags of beans. The maize we harvested will be enough for our feeding program throughout the year 2020.

Parents, staff and children helped in harvesting. Parents did the digging of land, planted, weeded and helped in harvesting. We are also planning to lease land for the same next year if it is available to us.





***Children, parents and staff harvesting maize on our school field***



***Children helping parents to shell beans***

## **5. MUSIC FESTIVALS**

Extra-curricular activities are part of the education syllabus in Kenya. It helps to identify children's talents and in developing them. Our children performed very well in academic and extra-curricular activities. This year our children performed very well in poems and Mashairi. They reached the regional level. These children have promoted our school in our region. Everyone is asking where Live and Learn in Kenya Education Center is. It has also shown people that talents can also be found in the slums.



***Our children on stage at the county level***





*A certificate for our children at sub-county level*

## **6. KEN IN GERMANY**

On April 29, 2019 I traveled to Germany on the invitation of Rosenthal Outlet Center in Selb. The company paid my traveling costs.

While in Germany I met a number of our sponsors who received me warmly and took care of me like one of their own. They took me to different parts of Germany and the Czech Republic.

I was received at the airport by 3 sponsors, Sylvia, Dirk and Alexandra. It was a warm reception. I was hosted by Dirk's family for the first 2 days and the last day, while Peter and Brique hosted me for about two weeks. It was a good experience staying with these two families.

During my stay in Germany I also visited some sponsors' homes. I visited Edgar and Elisabeth, Jörn and Kathrin, Stephan and Carola, Alexandra and Alex among others.

I had a good talk with Uli Pötzsch the Mayor of Selb. I informed him of all that we are at Live and Learn in Kenya. I appreciate the support we receive from his office and invited him to visit our project in Kenya.

I also visited one of the high schools: Stein Gymnasium in Stein - where I gave a presentation about LLK projects in Kenya to students and teachers. They were very interested in what we are doing. Some students promised to share the information with their parents.

On April 4<sup>th</sup> I had an opportunity to attend the annual LLK member's meeting in Selb, Germany. Attendance of the meeting was the highest ever according to members present. Some members informed me that it was because of my presence. I informed the members about what we are doing in Kenya. I also informed them about our immediate needs - kindergarten construction and a solid gate for our school. Members were very happy to meet me and share a Kenyan-German experience with food and drinks.



*Silvia, Dirk and Alex receiving me at the Nürnberg Airport*



*Talking to students and teachers at the Stein Gymnasium*





*A warm reception at Elisabeth and Edgar's home*



***Receiving a present from Ulrich Potzsch , the Mayor of Selb***

I am very grateful to Frank Kaiser and Silke Küstner at the Rosenthal Outlet Center in Selb, Germany for inviting me and facilitating my travel to Germany. I was invited to talk about Kenya - a beautiful country, its culture and art, and

the country's tourist attractions during their Late Night Shopping on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Most customers enjoyed my talk about the BIG FIVE animals in Kenya. I proudly represented Kenya in this function, I sang the Kenyan National anthem and a Kenyan flag was raised at the Outlet Center. It was a good experience for me.





***Above photos were taken when I was giving a talk to customers at the Rosenthal Outlet center in Selb. With me are Brique Zeiner and the travel agent, Walter Wejmelka.***

Generally I enjoyed staying in Germany for the two and a half weeks. My heartfelt appreciation goes to Frank and Rosenthal Porcelain Company for inviting me and facilitating my travel, Peter and Brique for hosting me for two weeks and all sponsors who made my stay comfortable.

### **7. UNIVERSITY GRADUATION**

Four university students from our project graduated during the year 2019. Luciana Achungo, James Oduor , Titus Ong'ayo and Erick Otieno Otang'o.

Luciana graduated with a Bachelor of Education degree in Christian Religious Education and Kiswahili. James graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and Mathematics. Titus Ong'ayo graduated with Bachelor of Education degree in Mathematics and Chemistry, while Erick graduated with a degree in Mass communication and Journalism. We are all proud of them. At the moment we are remaining with 12 students at the university. One will be graduating in April next year.



*Luciana Achungo during her graduation*





***James Oduor with his mother on graduation day***



***Titus Ongayo and Erick Otieno during their graduation at Kibabii University***



## **8. VISITORS FROM GERMANY AND NETHERLANDS**

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, we received 19 visitors from Germany, the USA and the Netherlands. Four came from Netherlands while 15 travelled from Germany. They all stayed for 10 days. While in Kenya they were involved in a number of activities. They visited sponsored children's families, repaired and made playground items for our children, visited micro-credit activities and especially important for the children: played, sang, danced and did handicrafts with them. This is an important and memorable time for all involved



***The Dutch guests at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport***



***Children and staff welcoming visitors at the LLK Center***



***Most of the visitors were sponsors to our project children. They visited their home to see their living conditions as seen in the above photo.***





***Elisabeth Kempf at her sponsored child's home. She came with many presents***



***Above is Ilan Nyoro's mother salon. She received a micro-credit from Ilan's sponsor to start this salon. The business is doing well. She has used the profit from this salon to start another business of selling firewood.***

## **9. BIG PARTY**

The big party is always the climax of our visitors' visit. Parents and invited guests join children and visitors in celebrating our annual event. This year it was held on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The day started with the official opening of **Renate Angermann** playground and the **Klaus A. Grünling** dining/multi-purpose hall. The children's playground was sponsored by the late Renate Angermann and her son Dr. Kay Angermann. It took thousands of euros and days and days of hard work on their part and other sponsor's hard work to make this possible. We are very grateful for their profound generosity.

Other activities on that day include pre-school graduation, presentation of presents to top performing children, teachers, staff and guests and official introduction of the Day care children of 2020 among others.



***Official opening of the dining/multi-purpose hall with a special thank you to all of the wonderful mothers whose hard work forms us and our children***





***Pre-school children with their certificates. They will be joining grade 1 in 2020***

The guests left for Nairobi the following day - on November 3<sup>rd</sup> to their respective countries after a very successful trip. Parents, children and LLK staff were very grateful for the visitor's generosity.

### **10. CHRISTMAS PRESENTS**

Every year, both parents and children receive Christmas presents from our organization. This gives them the possibility to celebrate Christmas like other able families.

This year children received high quality LLK T-shirts and their parents received a live chicken, vegetables, maize flour and rice.

Both parents and children were very happy as they walked home with their presents. They thanked sponsors for their generosity as they wished them a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2020.



*Parents with their Christmas presents*



*Happy children in their t-shirts*





*Christmas presents event was aired on a National Television (KBC)*

## **11. CONSTRUCTION**

### ***a) Kindergarten Construction***

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> we had a ground-breaking ceremony for the kindergarten construction. I joined visitors in breaking ground. We received a donation of 25,000 Euros from well-wishers in Germany towards this construction. This was enough for one classroom and two toilet blocks. At the time of writing this report another well-wisher from the USA donated funds for the construction of the remaining two classrooms. We are hoping to complete this construction by the end of January 2020.



***Ground breaking of Kindergarten construction***



***Construction in progress***





***Kindergarten by the end of 2019***

***b) Administration, Library and Clinic Block***

In mid-December, we started the construction of an administration block with a library and a clinic. A donor from the USA has donated \$70,000 to construct the building.

We are expecting to officially open these two constructions on June 6<sup>th</sup> 2020. We expect the sponsors from USA , Brique Zeiner, our Chairperson and other guests to grace the occasion.



*Administration, Library and Clinic block under construction – January 2020*

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