

**LIVE AND LEARN IN KENYA INTERNATIONAL**

**P.O.BOX 17208, 20100-NAKURU, KENYA**

**ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT OF 2015**



**TOGETHER WE GROW-WE ARE MAKING THE DIFFERENCE**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

The year 2015 was a very successful year for us. We achieved a lot as an organization. The most important change was moving from a rented office in Koinange –Shabab to our new land in Parkview Barut.

We officially moved to our new school on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 after building 2 classes and an office. During this year, we also started a pre-school and a tailoring workshop. They are both doing well. In 2015, we were also able to construct another classroom for next year's Class 3. This is also the year we took the highest number of our project students to University.

These are just a few of the activities we carried out this year.

Below are some of the activities we did this year;

### **a) School Opening**

After the building of classrooms for classes 1 and 2 we moved from the rented office in Koinange to Parkiew on 3<sup>rd</sup>, January 2015. We had stayed in Koinange since 2007 when we founded our organization 'Live and Learn in Kenya International'. This saved us the monthly rent of 30,000 Kenya Shillings and the 5,000 shillings per day to Koinange Primary where we had been renting a classroom for our feeding program for our children.

We started with two classes - Classes 1 and 2. We employed 3 teachers, one man and 2 women. We took our class 1 of 2014 from public schools to start as class 2 at our school. We took all class 1 children from the local community. This has cultivated our relationship with the local community. Classes began on January 5<sup>th</sup> when the first term started and after having paid all relevant Ministry of Education charges.

During the official opening of our school on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, our sponsors led by Live and Learn in Kenya Chairperson (Debra Brique Zeiner) came from Germany to take part in this important event in our history. Parents, children and local leaders were invited to witness this occasion.



***This is the Live and Learn in Kenya Education Centre***





***Debra Brique Zeiner and Kenneth Branda after officially opening the school***



***Very attentive class 1 of 2015 with Madam Phyllis Kuloba***

### **b) Class 8 results and High school placement**

In the year 2014, we had 35 candidates who sat for class 8 exams. Out of this number 17 children passed very well for secondary school - they scored more than 250 and above out of the possible 500 marks. This was an improvement from the previous year where we had 14 children who joined secondary school. The difference joined vocational training to study different courses. Among them were mechanics and tailoring. A number of children who completed vocational training last year also received starter kits from their sponsors like Elvis Asinga in the photo below. This will enable them to start their own workshops.





### **c) Tailoring Department**

In March, 2015, we started a tailoring workshop at our centre. This was necessary because we were spending a lot of money on school uniforms. We save nearly 1,000 Kenya Shillings per school uniform by sewing them ourselves. Our price is lower compared to Shah Outfitters where we buy uniforms. Other than making school uniforms for our school children, we make uniforms for other children who are not on our project at a subsidized fee. We also make other casual clothes at a reasonable price.

This workshop is guided by our social worker, Mary Otieno. Only former children who went through our project and were trained as tailors work here. After class 8 we had taken them through vocational training and they decided to come back to assist their 'sisters and brothers'. The little profit made was initially used to buy benches for our feeding program. But when no more benches were needed, we began buying plastic chairs. Our plan is to have enough chairs and a tent for use when we have visitors instead of having to rent them. So far we have bought 70 plastic chairs. Our target is to have 200 chairs and 2 tents.



*Work in progress in our tailoring workshop*





***Benches bought from tailoring profit***



***70 plastic chairs bought from workshop profits***



***Children in uniform made from our workshop***

#### **d) Nursery school Intake**

As mentioned above, we started our school with classes 1 and 2 on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2015. Most of the children in class 1 come from the area around the school. The level of education here is very, very low according to the local education officer, Mr. James Njenga. Most children in our class 1 missed the basic nursery education due to various reasons from poverty to ignorance. Based on this background, I advised our teachers to start teaching these children basic education due to their shaky background. At the moment, most of these children are now able to read and write basic sentences which they could not do when we admitted them.





***Top class children with their teacher-Anne***

This, with all of our children on the program having sponsors for the first time in the history of LLK, we were informed to take on preschool children. We admitted 30 children -15 boys and 15 girls. We are gender sensitive. Anne Nyongesa, a well-trained, experienced teacher was employed to teach the preschool class. I am sure that by the time they reach class 1 next year, they will be well prepared to begin primary. This will enable our primary school teachers to teach their classes without the problem of having children who are not able to keep up with the rest. They will be starting class 1 on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2016.

We have also admitted the new preschool (top) class of 2016. They have already been introduced to their new teacher and have had some basic lessons.

On November 7th, all top class children had a very colorful graduation. They graduated from top class to class 1. This ceremony was presided by Debra Brique Zeiner, our Live and Learn in Kenya Chairperson.



***Top class graduation ceremony on 7<sup>th</sup> November***

### **e) High school results and University placement**

Of the 8 students who sat for high school exams last year, 5 qualified for university. All the 5 students joined university on 31<sup>st</sup> August. They are Charles Mungai, Titus Ong'ayo, Erick Otieno Otang'o , James Oduor and Luciana Achungo. Charles will be studying a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science and Technology, Titus a Bachelor of Education Science, Erick will be studying Journalism and Mass Communication, James will be studying Computer Science and Mathematics and Luciana is aiming for her Bachelor of Education.

This year two of our university students completed their studies. Martin Odhiambo and Judy Chepkoech. Martin graduated in December with second class upper division BSC degree in education, specializing in Mathematics and Chemistry. All of our university students received laptops to assist them in research. Below is a photo of Robinson Kenga with his laptop.







# LAIKIPIA

P.O. Box 1100-20300,  
NYAHURURU,  
KENYA



# UNIVERSITY

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## OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR (ACADEMIC AFFAIRS)

REG. NO: N13/3/1305/015  
WANJIKU CHARLES MUNGAI  
PO BOX 3253 Nakuru - 20100  
Nakuru Kenya  
Tel: 0702739816

Date: 24th July 2015

### LETTER OF OFFER

DEAR WANJIKU CHARLES MUNGAI

Following your application for undergraduate studies, we are pleased to inform you that you have been offered admission to Laikipia University for a Regular Degree Course in **Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science and Technology)** in the School of Science & Applied Technology.

The programme is designed to take **four academic years consisting of two semesters each and one session on attachment/practicum**. The programme will be offered at Laikipia University Main Campus and all new students will be required to report to the University Registration and commencement of first semester studies of 2015/2016 academic year on **1<sup>st</sup> September 2015**.

Your registration as a student of Laikipia University shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. **Verification of your qualifications by the University.** You must therefore, present the originals and copies of the following documents on the day of reporting: KCSE results slip or certificate, school leaving certificate, national ID or birth certificate.
2. **Acceptance by submitting a signed a Letter of Acceptance form LU/RAA/F6.**
3. **Submitting a dully completed Student's Bond of Good Conduct form LU/RAA/F20.**
4. **Payment of all the fees and charges as per the fees structure given overleaf.**

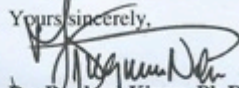
If you accept the offer under these conditions, you should complete the enclosed forms, namely, Letter of Acceptance (LU/RAA/F6), Personal Details (LU/RAA/F7) and Student's Bond of Good Conduct (LU/RAA/F20). Additionally, you are required to undertake Medical Examination using form (LU/RAA/F8). Your parent or guardian must complete form (LU/RAA/F9) if you are below 18 years of age. All the above dully filled forms must be submitted on the day of registration.

If, however, you are unable to accept the offer or report as required kindly complete the relevant section (either A or B) of the enclosed LU/RAA/F6 and return to the Registrar (Academic Affairs) Laikipia University, P.O. Box 1100-20300, NYAHURURU

You will also be required to make your own arrangements during the year to meet Catering and Book/Stationery expenses. There are limited bed-spaces in the University hostels and allocation will be on first-come first-serve basis on the day of registration. However, there are sufficient and affordable private hostels in the vicinity. Catering services are available on campus at a subsidized cost.

We look forward to you joining Laikipia University. On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor; I look forward to welcome you and wish you success in your studies.

Yours sincerely,

  
Dr. Raphael Kiugu, Ph.D.  
Registrar (Academic Affairs)

*Vision: A University for valued transformation of society.*

*Mission: To serve the students and society through research, education, scholarship, training, outreach and consultancy.*

LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY IS ISO 9001:2008 CERTIFIED



(Above) Admission letter of one of our university students



***Martin Odhiambo with his mother on his graduation day***

#### **f) Feeding program**

Feeding is an integral program on our project. It helps both children and parents. We feed our children every day of the year. When they are in school, we pay for their meals in their respective schools. Over the weekend and during school holidays all children come to our center for a well-balanced and warm meal.

Parents/guardians of these children come in groups to prepare and serve food to their children every day. This is their contribution to our project as we don't pay them.

This feeding program has caused children to stay in school as nearly all of our parents/guardians live in abject poverty. They cannot afford 3 meals a day. This program also saves parents a lot of money and time for making lunch for their children. They also share the remaining food after the children's tummies are full. The children are healthier and the improvement in their class work is obvious. A quote from our Chairwoman "I've never seen such healthy children coming from slums before".





***Children enjoying a nutritious meal at our center***

### **g) Holiday tuition**

Holiday tuition is very important for our children. It has given them the chance to improve in their classwork. We have this tuition during April, August and December holidays. Immediately after schools close, program children come to our school for tuition. Our teachers are present from 8 am to 4 pm for tuition and extra-curricular activities.

During lunch break children enjoy a warm lunch before they start extra-curricular activities in the afternoon. This tuition is one reason that our children perform exceptionally well in school.





***Our class 1 during tuition lessons with Madam Linda***



***High school students during December holidays tuition. They are taught by Martin Odhiambo***

### **h) Class 3 construction**

On 27<sup>th</sup> of July, we started the construction of another classroom at our school. This will be class 3 in 2016. Due to unavailability of steady funding we decided to construct this classroom in stages. The first stage was from the foundation to the floor slab. The second stage was the superstructure and then finishing. By mid December the classroom was ready for lessons to begin on January 5<sup>h</sup> when schools open.



***A completed class 3***

### **i) Children's presents**

Presents are very important to children. They motivate them to work hard in school other than uplifting their lives. Our children always receive presents from sponsors. Top performing children also receive presents from our organization at the end of the school year.

Some sponsors send packages to their sponsored children while others send us money to buy presents for them from here. Among presents given/bought for children are clothes, shoes, food stuff, utensils and books. Children also receive Christmas presents from their sponsors. This year, they all received school bags and caps. Both parents and children are very grateful when they receive these presents.







***Above photos shows Liz Kendi with presents from her sponsor and top performing children with their presents from our organization***

### **j) Our Project's Parents/Guardians**

Parents/guardians are very important stakeholders to our project - just like sponsors, staff and the children themselves. They participate in a number of activities such as cooking for our children during weekends and school holidays, manual work like clearing and fencing our school among others. We have parent's meetings at least every 3 months to update them on the project progress.





***The Live and Learn in Kenya head teacher talking during a parent's meeting.***





***Parents clearing and fencing our school***



***Parents preparing a meal on a weekend***

### **k) Sponsor's Visit**

Our sponsors, led by the Live and Learn in Kenya International Chairwoman, visit our project every year. They usually visit at the end of October and leave early November. This year they arrived on 30<sup>th</sup> October and left on 8<sup>th</sup> November. They were a group of 10.

While here they participated in a number of activities. Among them were a 3-day sports festival, visits to micro-credit projects, visits to sponsored children's families, teaching parents to sign their names and reading simple words, games among other activities.



*A photo of sponsors who visited this year*





***Mama Miriam Mbone (in orange top). She received funds from Miriam's sponsor to start this business last year.***

We have a number of parents who have received seed money to start income generating activities. Some parents received funds from sponsors of their children while those living with HIV/AIDS also received credits from our project. They do different business - from food kiosk to the selling of second hand clothes and vegetables kiosks. Sponsors visited this group to evaluate their progress. Most of them earn profits, which enables them to meet their daily basic needs. Visitors were impressed with their progress.



***This is Peter Kachanja's family. When sponsors visit, they bring presents of food, clothing, etc.***

All sponsors who visit our project visit the homes of their sponsored children. They want to have a feel of the environment their sponsored children live. Some of the sponsors have a hard time holding back their tears when they leave these homes after seeing how some of these families live. For some of the families having a bed is a luxury. Some families have 8 to 10 children in a single room of 10 by 10 feet. The sponsors leave knowing that their sponsorship is a huge assistance to a brighter future for these children – and not just filling their tummies for the time being.



***A parent's class in session***

Most of our project parents are illiterate. Most of them did not have the opportunity of going to school due to abject poverty. Every year a number of them receive lessons from Brique Zeiner, teacher and the Chairwoman of Live and Learn in Kenya. She needs only 3 days to teach them the alphabet, how to read basic words and how to write their names. These parents receive a certificate of completion, which they proudly accept with a raised head and full of self-respect.

### **I) Christmas presents**

Every year we give presents to both our project children and their parents/guardians. This is because all our parents are so poor that it is close to impossible for them to afford a descent Christmas meal.



This year all of our parents received a live chicken, rice, maize flour and vegetables for Christmas to feed their entire family. The children received school bags and caps.

Parents received the food on December 21st and children received theirs on December 23<sup>rd</sup> - just before we closed the project for Christmas. Both parents and children were very happy to receive their presents. The parents were singing and dancing through the streets of Ronda slums while taking their families' food home. They thanked our sponsors for their generosity and wished them a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year



***Parents happy to receive their Christmas presents - Their smiles tell it all!***



**Children with their Christmas presents - school bags and caps**

**This report is prepared by,**

**Kenneth A. Branda**

**Live and Learn in Kenya, Project Manager**