

JANUARY –APRIL 2020 PROJECT UPDATE

The year 2019 was very successful. We enrolled 60 new children. We constructed two classrooms, thus completing our Kindergarten, and a multi-purpose/dining hall. A number of our youths joined high school, middle level colleges and university. We received visitors from Germany and the Netherlands in October. Parents and children received Christmas presents before we closed the year. We received a huge amount of funds from USA and Germany for the construction of the Kindergarten classrooms and administration/library and day clinic.

a) Construction

The year 2020 started on a high note with lots of construction work. The Kindergarten block and Administration building construction continued from last year. We also constructed the guards' quarters, which houses our two guards. (Stonewick and Daniel.) We also constructed a storage room and extended the cowshed to accommodate the increased number of animals.

The administration block comprises of offices (manager's, secretary and another one for the social worker), modern library and a day clinic. It also includes washrooms and an underground water tank with a capacity of 50,000 liters. We are expecting them to be ready for use as from the end of May.

The Kindergarten block has 3 classrooms, teachers' office and washrooms for boys and girls. It was ready for use since the end of January. Both buildings were installed with water harvesting tanks.



Kindergarten Block



Administration block



Guards' Quarters

b) Exam Results

In the year 2019 18 students sat for their high school final exams while 22 sat for grade 8 final exams. Out of the 18 who sat for high school exams, 4 qualified for University while the rest will be joining middle level colleges within the next months as soon as the pandemic is over.

The 22 students who sat for grade 8 exams, 12 passed highly to join high school. The rest went to vocational training to study different trades. Some went for tailoring, others for hairdressing and mechanics among other trades.

c) Farming

This year we leased 2 acres of land for farming instead of the usual 3 because of lack of funds. We planted maize and beans for our feeding program. The farm was ploughed by hired tractor and planted by parents. We bought seedlings and fertilizer. Parents also came for weeding. In two weeks' time they will apply top dressing fertilizer.



Parents planting maize and beans on our leased farm



Parents weeding the leased farm

d) Covid-19 (Corona Virus)

On March 15th the government of Kenya through President Uhuru Kenyatta announced the closure of all educational institutions (from kindergarten to university). This was because of increased Covid-19 infections in the country. We closed our school on March 16th after talking to our children on how they will be receiving classwork from teachers through their parents. To date, Covid-19 infections have reached 582 people, 26 deaths and 190 people have recovered from the coronavirus. So far we don't know when schools will reopen.



Our girls making face Masks

As all of our parents live below poverty level, all of them were hit hard with this virus in that they didn't have any form of employment at all. Most of them do casual work and now that people must stay at home, they are no longer able to even find work cleaning houses. So, most of them could not even afford food for a meal. The children are not allowed to come to our education center for meals and the children and their families were literally starving. Brique and I finally figured out a way to get funds to the parents for food and soap through MPESA. The funds are transferred to their mobile phones, which they can fetch from an MPESA office. Those without a mobile phone or possibility to receive the funds otherwise come to the Center at designated time to fetch the money personally. Our most heartfelt appreciation to the many kind people who donated money for their food and other basic requirements. Both parents and children were very elated and grateful. Each family received 3,000 Kenya Shillings (about 30€) for April and 2,500 Shillings (about 25€) for May. We are hoping and praying for donations for June and July – and for as long as the virus rules our lives!

Now that it is mandatory for everyone to wear a face mask in Kenya, we made face masks for all our parents, staff and children. All these were made by our girls from our tailoring workshop. They will have to be replaced often, so that we are thankful for all donations toward them.



Parents without mobile phones receiving money for food and soap



Parents with face masks from our workshop

Written by Kenneth Branda – Project Manager – Nakuru, Kenya - May 6, 2020

Proofread by Brique Zeiner – Chairwoman LLK Int'l and LLK e. V. – Selb, Germany – May 7, 2020