

Kengele Children's Network
Phase 2 2009
October/November Activity Report



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Introduction:

The Month of October was a bit busy month climaxing the Kengele phase 2 that sort to enhance communication between the children and the society and other stake holders to influence the necessary and desired change for the best interest of the children.



During this Month, out of the impact created by the consistent child participation approach adopted by the Kengele project, some of the organizations working with children have gained interest to learn from the admirable activities by the children.

These Organizations include:

- APHIA 2 Nairobi (USAID funded project) through child fund organization
- St John Pumwani in Eastleigh
- The Miss Koch initiative

To the end of this phase key results have been noted where children in this project have learnt to exercise their leadership skills and be able to voice out the issue concerning children in this community.

The Kengele children's network continues to grow and remains a model admired by many, as a good way for child empowerment.

Activities in October/ November

- Exchange program with St John Pumwani
- Exchange with Shepherds Junior school
- Mentorship program plenary interaction with Kenyatta University students
- Saturday meetings
- Preparations for Kengele magazine
- APHIA 2 talks to sponsor the March issue of Kengele magazine

Exchange Program with St John Pumwani children's program

Kengele children received a courtesy visit by their peers from St. John Pumwani that also serves children from Majengo slums in Nairobi. Basically the success story of the Kengele Children's program has been read and heard by different initiatives for children and many of those are willing to learn and implement the approach in the areas where vulnerable children continue suffering.

During this visit the children from both areas shared their experiences of being children, the challenges they face and the action points to overcome. Both areas were in unison that education is the key to overcome most of the social problem the children face, and a means to success. Ignorance and abuse of children rights also came as one of the major concern creating a disconnect between children and the adult population.

The Kengele children continue to show exemplary competence and confidence in speaking out and holding discussions on matters about children. The children evidently show that they are informed and are able and willing to take up actions necessary to facilitate the change they desire using the skills and information they have gradually acquired throughout the Kengele project.





Exchange with Shepherds Junior School

The relationship between shepherd's junior school and the Kengele children's network has grown from a mere exchange program in Kengele face one to a continued quest for friendship and education support to the vulnerable children of the Korogocho slum.



The school has offered once again to support 2 more children drawn from the Kengele network. This has not only come due to the need for better academic environment, but also due to the academic competence and performance potential showcased by the 5 children who secured scholarship after the face one of the project. These children have shown that with confidence, support, hard work and a conducive environment, the children from the slum can equally or better perform than their counterparts in well up regions.

During this terms visit, the Kengele children facilitators participated in the tent activities, facilitating sessions on HIV/AIDS and better ways for the teenage children to avoid infection so as to achieve their goals in life. For the children who joined the project just as mere slum children and now able to organize a discussion confidently to their peers, it's a remarkable achievement that lives long after.



Mentorship program: - A plenary interaction between Kengele children and Kenyatta University students

As one of the initial activities towards Kengele phase 3, the mentorship program has to be well designed and approached to achieve key results. For this reason under the education program, we managed to mobilize around 30 students from Kenyatta University, to interact with the children and seek possible means to initiate individual and group mentorship to the children in Kengele.

Most of the students expressed willingness to participate in the program and offer their time towards this just to guide and be as role models to the children whom can otherwise adopt other social ills at their disposal. One of the motivating statements was, “that for bad things to happen, it takes good men to do nothing”.

The children interacted freely with the students and most of them admired the achievements by the students and felt motivated by the stories about the student’s backgrounds and the simple decisions that can shape lives. Kengele face three will be seeking to continue with the program so as to facilitate better academic performance among children.

Saturday Meetings

The Saturday meetings have now become part of the life for the Kengele children. They have continued coming up with interesting ways to keep their meetings lively and activities through which they can keep on discussing and addressing the different social issues affecting them in the community.

Apart from just meeting, the children have thought of the following activities as a way of keeping their agenda at the top of the mind among the community members:

Photography
Music and Dance
Theatre
Magazine
Story telling



Preparation for Kengele November Issue

The Kengele magazine has for sure had an impact in the community and gradually gaining recognition in other areas too. Since its launch in July, children from different areas have been trickling their articles to the Kengele editing team. This has been inspiring and the children have been working to finish the preparation of the November issue as planned.

Though they got late, the magazine is now ready for print, and the production of this issue will be of importance to keep the consistency of the magazine's objectives. We hope to produce the issue by 15th December since the children will be on a long holiday.



Some of the editors

For this reason the magazine has attracted APHIA 2 project to partner in the production of the March 2010 issue.

APHIA 2 talks to sponsor the production of Kengele magazine March 2010 issue:

Recently the APHIA 2 Nairobi which is a project by USAID through different NGOs on matters of HIV/AIDS, expressed interest to partner with Kengele project in production of the March 2010 issue. Through one of the implementing organizations, Child fund, APHIA 2 works with more than 14,000 children from different parts of Nairobi, children who are affected or infected with HIV.

After seeing the first issue of Kengele, the organization thought of partnership to use the platform created by the magazine as a tool for information education and communication by the children and among different stakeholders around children. The aim is to produce 17,000 copies to go out to all the children under APHIA 2 and other networks for Kengele for free for the March 2010 issue.

This will be a remarkable achievement by the Kengele project and for sure opening up to other parts.

Conclusion:

The Kengele process remains a unique approach towards promoting child participation for social change, and a process that have proved necessary for children in such backgrounds or others in disturbing backgrounds. So far the achievements are quite enormous and the impact is evidently going to last long among the children, the community and the future which these children will be part of.

This process attests that giving children a chance, believing in them and assuring them of the potential in them, facilitates so much, than what the conventional organizations have always assumed to be the needs for children.

Kengele process has been evolving and gaining so much from the creative approaches by the children whom have made the project successful for them and for the sake of a future which belongs to them.

What many assumed can never be achieved by children and more so slum children, have come to pass, with as young as 10 year olds giving hope to a community that has seen young generations perishing through the police bullet, drugs, immorality, and loss of hope.

