

KWAKAKULU ORPHAN CARE PROJECT (KOCP)

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PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT APRIL 2017

OUR MISSION

Through education to provide opportunities for the promotion of sustainable livelihoods among HIV orphaned children and their guardians in Kwakakulu Sub-location and gradually extending this initiative to the wider community (pop. 6400).

ACTIVITIES

- To promote education through primary, secondary, technical & 3rd level institutions
- To promote sustainable agriculture
- To promote agriculture as a business
- To promote water harvesting techniques
- To promote tree planting and bee-keeping
- To promote fish farming and the growing of mushrooms
- To assist in the building of houses for the poorest in our society
- To promote the use of methane gas for lighting and cooking
- To promote recycling of waste plastic to produce furniture, water tanks and crafts
- To promote the use of solar energy for lighting
- To promote the making of cooking briquettes through dried pressurised organic matter and waste paper
- To promote food security in every homestead through our MOTTO "OMO" "OPERATION MWOLYO OUT". 'Mwolyo" is a word for relief food given to us during famine times by the government or NGO's
- To serve God through these goals

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The project commenced in the year 2000 when 16 AIDS orphaned children were identified in the Kwakakulu village. For three years it was funded through contributions by the Christians of St. Patrick's Catholic Church Kwakakulu who collected funds for the orphans during Sunday services twice a month. At that time all of the 16 orphaned children were in primary schools.

The cause of the increase in orphan numbers was due to the increased prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the neighbourhood and the consequent death of many breadwinning parents. Kwakakulu borders Emali town on the Mombasa-Nairobi-Uganda Highway that is frequented by long distance drivers and with it the development of the sex trade. Emali is also the commercial centre for the Kwakakulu area. In April 2015 there were 107 orphaned children from 47 families within the village. All orphans stay with their grandparents or next of kin until they are grown up and can fare for themselves. There is no institutionalisation of orphans. With paralegal advice they are enabled to access their rightful inheritance and gain a secure livelihood in their community.

The Springhill Trust and Polytechnic

In 2006 through consultations between Fr. John Mahon, the project committee and The Springhill Trust from Ireland, it was decided to promote the education of orphaned youth and provide skills training by constructing a polytechnic. Through the initiative of Mr. Eamonn Tynan (Chairman of the Trust) the scope of the Kwakakulu Orphan Care Project (KIDP) was broadened to include the development of the wider Kwakakulu community to form the KIDP - the Kwakakulu Integrated Development Project. A number of agricultural projects developed from this initiative particularly the terracing of land and the provision of drought resistant seeds. However the frequency of seasonal drought and poor harvests in recent years makes food production the community's top priority.

The buildings in the polytechnic include five permanent classrooms, two of them funded by Naechstenliebe Weltweit NLW), a conference hall, a dining hall, a residence for boys and one for girls, five toilets with washroom facilities and one semi-permanent workshop. During the construction of these buildings overseas donors paid several courtesy visits to ensure work was being done to required standards.

The polytechnic began offering certificate courses in January 2008 and was officially opened on 23rd August 2008 by Eamonn Tynan (Founder) and Lisa Maher (Chairperson) of the Springhill Trust.

The Springhill Polytechnic offers the following courses:

- masonry and carpentry
- tailoring and dressmaking
- motor vehicle mechanics
- IT computer courses
- welding
- food Science & catering
- hairdressing & beauty science

All students at the polytechnic must do Computer Science (IT) and be exposed to modern farming on the project's agricultural plot within the school. The polytechnic has an enrolment of around 80 students both boys and girls.

All students who have sat for the government grade 3 trade tests during the years 2009-2016 passed thus maintaining a 100% pass record. The polytechnic is lucky to have highly qualified staff some with long experience. In 2011 the present manager Ms Esther Mwangi introduced the popular Food Science & Catering Course.

While on a two year tour of duty in Kwakakulu volunteer **Dermot Donaghy** contributed in great part to the construction, floor tiling & equipping of both the boys and girls dormitories, the dining room and the setting up of a state of the art computer suite at the polytechnic.

Naechstenliebe Weltweit (NLW) German NGO

In 2009 the NLW funded the drilling of a borehole 160m deep and installed a solar powered pump to draw up to 15,000 litres of drinkable water to the surface daily. This has enabled the project to commence market gardening in 7 greenhouses and fish production in 6 ponds and to supply the local community with water when the Kilimanjaro water supply fails. NLW also donated 4 petrol driven pumps to the 3 sub-communities of Kwakakulu enabling the inhabitants to pump water from the Muooni River bed to irrigate their shambas (gardens) on the river banks.

NLW also funded the construction of 2 classrooms at the polytechnic in 2014 to house the Food Science and Motor Mechanics classes. In March 2016 NLW funded the construction of a Community Centre with kitchen, store, meeting room and office facilities. This building acts as a focal point for community affairs.

Benefactors from Overseas

Between 2011 and 2015 students and teachers from **St. Joseph's Academy** in Kildare Town Ireland and students and parents from **Blackrock College** and the **Rock Mission Fund** in Dublin constructed 2 classrooms, 2 dormitories with water tanks and latrines at the Springhill Polytechnic. With assistance from the charities **Global Action**, **Kildare Town Community School** and **Misean Cara** (Ireland), sixteen homes with water tanks, toilets and washrooms were built for destitute families. The charity **ASK (Aids Support Kenya)** through **Brian Wates** and the **Sheffield Outreach Group** from the UK through **Angela Wood** assisted in the education of orphans and in purchasing land for the construction of the Kwakakulu Community Dispensary. The Kwakakulu Integrated Development Programme (KIDP) now provides an array of social outreaches: primary health care, clean water, education, skills training and the promotion of sustainable

agriculture; the challenge facing Kwakakulu now is to knit all these amenities together and make them work.

We wish to thank all our other benefactors for supporting us over the years:

from Ireland: Martin Duffy, Pauline & Brian Doyle, the Mahon Family, John Conlon, Ollie McCormac, Robert Gallagher, Michael & Fiona O'Hanlon, David Moffitt

from the USA Diane and Len Young, Jack Myer

from Canada: Mission Possible (Holy Rosary Parish Guelph) & the Molto Family,

from the UK, Diana Schofield, Ciara & Chris Jones

from Dubai: Kim Krisko

from Holland: Ben & Joke Sellmeyer

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The project has been under the management of eight women and one man selected by guardians from the three zones of the village. Mrs Theresia Paul is both the manager and liaison with the wider community. There is one patron Mr. John Matheka (founder) who when requested offers to assist the committee. All committee members are people of the highest integrity within the community. The core business of the project management committee is to enable the orphans to avail of educational opportunities equal to any other child.

ADMINISTRATION

Each of the 3 zones at Kwakakulu has three women representatives who play the role of 'mother' to the orphans from a particular zone. The committee members undertake voluntary services to meet the needs of the orphans. The project committee addresses the needs of orphaned households assisting in food assistance, the provision of seeds for planting and training in sustainable agriculture through seminars. The committee also promotes water harvesting through black liner catchment ponds and through the building of gabions (dams) at the nearby seasonable river. This is designed to uplift living standards of all people with access to the riverbank. However a number of the water pumps are not functioning which gives cause for concern and is impeding progress in the struggle against hunger and malnutrition.

Training for Management

- An orphan Lawrence Nyamai completed his Sustainable Agriculture Training Course of 15 months duration at Baraka Agricultural College receiving his certificate in December 2014. He now heads the Agriculture Department of the Kwakakulu Orphan Care Project (KOCP).
- Lawrence and Theresia Muoti Kiilu the KOCP Treasurer completed a 4 day in-house training course in Project Cycle Management. Theresia followed this up by undertaking a month's training in Women's Community Leadership Roles at Corat Campus Nairobi in July 2015.

Beneficiaries

Over the past 5 years the committee has assisted

- 51 orphans in primary schools
- 20 orphans in Secondary schools
- 24 orphans in technical schools
- 16 orphans in university colleges
- 21 have completed courses and are employed.

7 students are HIV positive and receive free medical attention.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

Kwakakulu village is being transformed into a learning centre for the promotion of modern agricultural practices thus enabling people to do farming as a business through the use of certified seeds for drought resistance crops.

The project committee has been facilitating farmer education through seminars held annually. We have so far held seminars on health (HIV/AIDS prevention and management) and agriculture - growing of fruit trees, promotion of drought resistant crops such as cassava, sorghum and millet, zero grazing for cows and goats, growing of fodder trees (*Sasbania Sasban*) and grasses coupled with soil conservation practices. Facilitators for the seminars have been sourced from professionals in related fields both from the government, NGO's and the private sector

CONSTRUCTION TO DATE

- **at the polytechnic:**

5 classrooms, 3 administrative offices, and roof tile store, a shed for welding, a shed for brick & roof tile making, an assembly hall, boys and girls dormitories, a fully furnished computer lab, 4 large water tanks, 5 wash rooms & latrine blocks, a dining room and adjacent kitchen using

biogas from cattle manure for cooking, a large fish pond, a chicken house and a connection to Kilimanjaro Water Supply. Since 2011 the administration of the polytechnic has devolved to the County Government thus ensuring it's sustainability into the future.

- **In the project compound:**

7 greenhouses, 6 fish ponds, 1 mushroom house, 1 chicken house, 10 productive beehives, a borehole with solar pump, a connection to Kilimanjaro water supply, a tree nursery for fruit, fodder and indigenous tree propagation. The Community Centre was completed in March 2016 by NLW to facilitate ongoing education in agriculture, livestock management and related community development skills.

- **In the community:**

16 houses with water tanks, grain-stores and washrooms for orphans & their guardians; bench terracing at 40 homes; 5 petrol driven pumps to irrigate shambas (gardens) in 3 communities bordering the Muooni River; 2 biogas facilities enabling the beneficiaries to cook using gas produced from cattle manure and so reduce the need to fell trees for firewood.

- A **Dispensary** has been constructed by the Kwakakulu Community Board on land purchased for 9000 euros by the Kwakakulu Orphan Care Project on behalf of the wider Kwakakulu community (6400 pop.)

Proposed for 2017/18

- **Mayatima Building:** (Mayatima means Orphans)

Construction of an upmarket three story block of apartments on a 100'x100' site at Emali Township is contemplated. Proceeds are intended to provide income for the ongoing education of orphans in the Kwakakulu Orphan Care Project. An estimate for the construction of this building is **55,000 euros**. It should also be noted that there are numerous AIDS orphans in Emali needing educational assistance.

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- A **volunteer** is requested by the Kwakakulu Youth Polytechnic to instruct students in welding, building construction, joinery and the recycling of plastics and paper. The commitment expected of this volunteer is 1 to 2 years. Maintenance of a volunteer for a year is **6000 euros** (500 euro per month). Added cost will be for a return flight **1400 euro** and personal insurance **3000 euro**.
 - The purchase of **4 petrol driven water pumps with irrigation pipes @ 1000 euros** to increase the area under irrigation ~ **4000 euros**.

- Purchase of drought resistant seeds totalling **3000 euros** (cassava, sorghum, millet, chic peas, cow peas); fertilizer **4000 euros** fruit trees (banana, papaya, orange, mango, guava); fodder trees such as Sasbania Sasban, Arobaini; indigenous trees (to counter deforestation) and flowering shrubs for bees. Making of 20 Top Bar hives @ 20 euro (20x20=**400 euros**) and extension of beehives to suitable environments. Sub-total cost **7400 euros**.
- Grand total (excluding Mayatima Building) **20,000 euros**.

WORKING TOGETHER TO ACQUIRE FOOD SECURITY THROUGH "MYETHYA" GROUPS

Mwethya are groups of people who come together for a common purpose. Such groups have been part of the Kamba way of life for generations.

The project committee is trying to reach out to all the people of Kwakakulu who have land fronting the Muooni River or can hire land to enable them to grow crops through irrigation using water from the existing ponds. More recently five petrol driven water pumps donated by Naechstenliebe Weltweit in Germany enable the community to extend the area of irrigated land on a 4 mile stretch of the seasonal Muooni River.

As from January 2017 overall management and funding for the Kwakakulu Orphan Care Project will be undertaken by Eamonn Tynan, the Chairman of the Springhill Trust <eamonn@springhill.ie>

Fr. John Mahon will remain on as mentor/adviser.

We are determined to achieve our goals.

KWAKAKULU ORPHANAGE PROJECT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Mrs. Dorcas Mwanja - Chairlady
2. Mrs. Rebecca Wandii Pius - Secretary
3. Mrs Theresia Paul - Manager
4. Mrs. Evelyn Peter - Treasurer
5. Mrs. Rachael Musyoki Kala - Member

Mr. John Matheka - Patron