

# GRAPESYARD ORGANIZATION



## GRAPESYARD SCHOOL PROGRESSIVE ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR THE PERIOD: JAN - MARCH 2014

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Grapesyard was founded in 1999 as a Community school in Nairobi's Korogocho slums to reach out to orphans and vulnerable children who back then did not have access to primary education. The now runs with more than 900 children dropping in to the education centre each morning, Monday to Friday.

### **Mission and Vision:**

*Vision:* A healthy educated child in the informal settlements and economically challenged communities.

The project aims at addressing extreme poverty in Korogocho community through education for children and economic empowerment for women.

## **Operational context**

### **Community setting:**

Korogocho is an informal settlement on the eastern side of Nairobi CBD. The poorest of the poor live in Korogocho. Families of between 8 – 10 people live on less than US\$1 a day and the area is characterized of a high population density approximately 200 people on a 2km square meters. Majority of the people are not employed but depend on casual work on construction sites and the neighboring industries.

Housing are basically shacks, which are not planned, measure about 8x10 feet in size and made of recycled iron sheets and mud.

There is no functioning sewer system and few households have pit latrines. Others have none, forcing inhabitants to use polythene bags in their houses and throw them out into the open. This has severely compromised sanitation. Korogocho is neighboring a large dumpsite called Dadora dumping site, the only one for the entire Nairobi County and the largest in Africa. It has further compromised the sanitation and the quality of air in its neighborhoods. Besides children escaped from school and homes to scavenge the dumpsite for discarded food and metal and plastic recyclables for sale. Children grow up into adulthood in the dumpsite and have formed armed criminal gangs to man the dumpsite and commit crime in the neighborhood.

An estimated 5,000 girls are caught up in the commercial sex trade, without protection, as a way to support themselves after fleeing poverty, hunger and domestic hardships from their homes. HIV/AIDS pandemic is on the rise and its prevalence rate is estimated at 14% by KAIS, with no Government run hospital in the entire area.

In the past 15 years life expectancy in this slum has decreased from 57 to 46 years and deaths and disease burden has forced many children to take up caring roles for their sick parents and siblings.

## QUARTER ONE (JAN -MARCH 2014) OBJECTIVES

- Provide quality education support to 900 children in Alice for school.
  - Inspire children through extra curriculum activities for holistic development.
  - Maintain and improve the project’s facilities and equipments for both learning and work efficiency.
  - Sustain feeding programme for 900 children.
  - Sustain distant child adoption programme for 177 children and open up adoption programme for more needy children.
  - Sustain kitting of 177Twins sponsored children and file updates.
  - Sustain volunteers hosting to complement local workforce.
  - Network with other schools.
- Hold one day medical camp for Korogocho community

### ACTIVITIES FOR JAN-MARCH 2014

ACTIVITY	ACHIEVEMENT	REMARKS
<i>Child education support.</i>	Quality education for 900 children was realized. Class 8 has 34 Children who will sit for 2014 national examination KCPE.	The school continued to experience high number of admission seekers for 2014. Over 100 children have since f been admitted since January 2014. More are still approaching the school for learning space.  Majority of children who did 2013 KCPE joined secondary form one.
Extra curriculum activities	Physical education (PE) is ongoing. All classes participate in PE lessons. Music and drama, scouting, and environment clubs at are also running	The music group is expected perform in term 2 at County level Music.
Child support (Distant adoption)	A total 177 children were supported through Alice for Children program. This was an increase from 141 in the 4th quarter 2014.	Some children left school for varied seasons but more children were taken by distant adoption programme.
Networking/Experience sharing	Shared lessons and experiences	The website is still active. The address is <a href="http://www.grapesyardkenya.org">www.grapesyardkenya.org</a> . The organization can be reached through <a href="mailto:info@grapesyardkenya.org">info@grapesyardkenya.org</a> / <a href="mailto:grapesyard2002@yahoo.com">grapesyard2002@yahoo.com</a>  Twitter handle: @grapesyardORG Face book: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/news@grapesyard.org">news@grapesyard.org</a> The school was represented in educational networking meetings and does joint exams with the neighboring schools.

Volunteer service	The 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter of 2014 begun with volunteers.	Volunteers offered valuable service in Alice for School
Feeding	Feeding went on smoothly for 900 children. No major hitches were noted except the occasional rise in food prices and increased demand for food by children. This is expected to come down in coming months.	Feeding faces challenges of hygiene nature due to the open trench running across the school with raw waste. There is also the increased demand for food by children because of the swelling school population.
Maintenance, Admin costs, rents and salaries	The physical infrastructures toilets, classrooms kitchen etc are well maintained. Salaries, wages, administrations cots and rents were paid in time. The school is undergoing new painting in readiness for 2014 education calendar.	Rate of break down in school is high with repair costs running high. This is because of the increased number of children crammed in a small space.

## **PROJECT RESULTS ACHIEVED:**

### **Activities:**

- All children who did KCPE 2013 passed, over 90% joined secondary education.
- The organization celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of committed community service.
- The Children and staff was feted for the good work they did in 2013. This will go a long way in sustaining good results and overall productivity for the good of the children.
- Child education support 900 children in Alice for school were realized.
- Feeding programme for 900 was success. Feeding is running 5 days a week.
- School bought a plot and added one more classroom for Preschool section. The two will enhance the quality of learning for the children
- Physical facilities, classrooms, toilets, are working but need repairs



- More needy children were taken up by distant adoption programme, from 141 to 171 children. More children (30) will now have their hopes restored.
- Physical education and extra curriculum activities were upheld in the quarter.
- Sustained networking.
- Life skills training was began with support of World Friends. The focus is still on class 7 for both boys and girls. This will empower them with knowledge in life skills.

#### **CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Two teaching staff left the organization for better paying employment in other schools. The school was able to find equally good replacements.
- The open trench with raw waste run through the school is a health risk especially during rainy season.
- Serving of food to children during lunch hour is still a problem because of lack of dining hall and big table in the kitchen. There is need for big tables for serving food.
- Playground: Grapesyard School lacks playground for the children making it difficult for physical education for holistic child development.
- Life skills training are still concentrated in school but children will need to expose to environments out of Korogocho slums to complement the trainings.
- The school lacks a proper library and a librarian to manage the books effectively. There is need for expansion so that a library can be set up and a librarian assistant hired to take care of the textbooks.
- Mobilizing stake holders in the health sector for a one day medical camp for Korogocho community did not succeed.



#### **QUARTER TWO (APRIL – JUN 2014) PLANNED ACTIVITIES:**

- Increase learning space in Alice for school to accommodate 1,000 children.
- Making of new desks for 100 children
- Expand child support program to reach more needy children, with healthcare and education support to take up more need children.
- Carry out quarter two children file update for sponors in time.
- Carry out School feeding for 1,000 children in Alice for School
- Buying of big tables to use in the kitchen to prepare and serve food.
- Maintain equipments and physical facilities/including Internet Mast in Alice Village
- Send school clubs such Music and Drama club, Scouts Club, Environmental Club etc for 2014 activities.
- Capacity building workshops for programme staff.
- Reactivate local fundraising drives.
- One day Medical camp for Korogocho community.