

2018



UPENDO ORPHANS & VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Nairobi, Kenya

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Upendo Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Education Programme

Upendo Centre was initiated in 1995 by St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Kangemi, as a Centre for children at risk such as orphans, street children, children facing sexual and physical abuse, and abandoned and neglected children. The main objective of the program is “to rehabilitate, educate, and integrate orphaned/abandoned children and those from poor families who face different abuses within Kangemi community.” This is achieved through access to education, psychosocial care, and holistic support. Since its inception, more than 500 needy children have benefited from the program. The main programs include education and nutritional support, psychosocial and medical support, extracurricular activities and empowerment programs for parents/guardians.

In 2017, Upendo provided a total of 141 students at different levels of their education with educational, nutritional, medical and psychosocial support. All 141 students (77 girls, 64 boys) in various education levels (kindergarten to secondary school) received full scholarships.

Academic Performance

A total of 6 students (3 girls, 3 boys) sat for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCSE) in November 2017 scoring a mean grade of 303 out of a total score of 500.



Activities/Projects Implemented

- **Educational and scholastic materials Support:** This program involves payment of school fees, buying of school uniforms, and other necessary scholastic needs for beneficiaries. This enables beneficiaries to attend school. In 2017, 98 pupils (55 girls, 43 boys) in primary school, as well as 22 students (11 girls, 11 boys) in Secondary received educational support.
- **Psychosocial Support:** The dysfunctional nature of some of the families from which beneficiaries are drawn coupled with their exposure to the risks of sexual abuse as well as limited access to information on reproductive health within the slum necessitates the need for psycho-social support to offer a safe mechanism for healing. All beneficiaries have access to psychosocial support.

- **Medical Support:** The lives of a vast majority of the slum residents are characterized by poor health due to their low incomes resulting in limited access to basic health care. Children from the most vulnerable households are therefore routinely exposed to infectious and opportunistic diseases requiring medical attention but such families cannot afford to pay for consultations and related costs of prescriptions. In response to this reality, Upendo beneficiaries are offered medical support to access basic medical care.
- **Nutritional Support:** The school retention rates for children from poor households are characteristically low as many often drop-out opting instead to scavenge for food along the alleys within Kangemi slum and beyond. In 2017, Upendo provided nutritional support to 139 children (21 children at the Upendo Unit, 98 in Primary School and 20 in Secondary School).