

2015

JESUITS OF EASTERN AFRICA PROVINCE



**[ST. JOSEPH UPENDO ORPHANS & VULNERABLE CARE
& SUPPORT CENTRE]**

2015 PROFILE

Brief History

Upendo Centre was started in 1995 by St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Kangemi, as a Centre for children at risk, including street children, children facing sexual and physical abuse, and, abandoned and neglected children. The program aims to give equal opportunities to these marginalized groups through access to education, psychosocial care and holistic support. Since its inception, more than 450 needy children have benefited from the program.



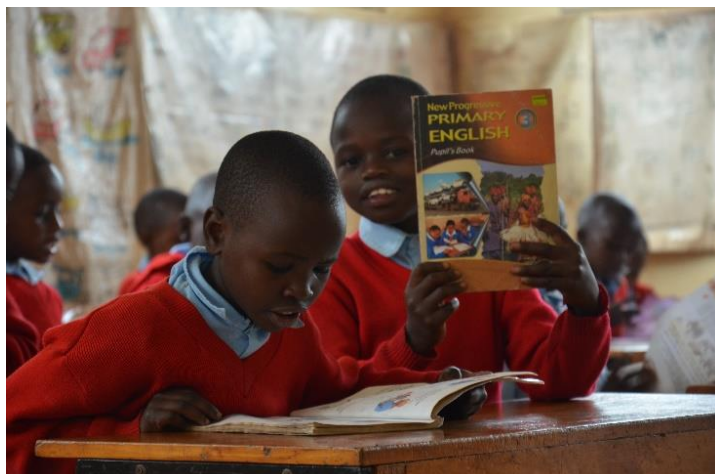
Other ongoing activities include medical evaluation, intervention and psychosocial support.

Objectives

- To reduce the number of orphaned and vulnerable children suffering from psychosocial problems through identifying the psycho-social needs of children in the community and make interventions that focus to better the situation.
- To increase the educational levels of orphaned and vulnerable children in Kangemi community as a way of addressing and correcting damaging past experiences of the children to progress
- To facilitate empowerment programs for families within the community through trainings and development of Income
- To provide basic medical assistance and reduce malnutrition rates among Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Kangemi

Activities/Projects Implemented

In 2015, 191 orphans and vulnerable children directly benefited from the program.



Activity 1: Children enrolment and integration

- **Unit Intake:** through a needs assessment exercise, 22 children were identified and enrolled into the program; 18 of them qualified and were enrolled in the unit program while 4 were directly integrated into primary school. Currently, the unit program has 22 children.

- **Enrolment to primary, secondary and tertiary institutions:** 152 beneficiaries were enrolled in different schools; 95 children were enrolled at St. Joseph primary school, 42 enrolled in different secondary schools, while 15 post-secondary youths were integrated into various tertiary level institutions. All beneficiaries were provided with tuition fee and scholastic materials. The Centre engages in continuous monitoring to ensure retention and excellent academic performance by the students.

Activity 2: Nutritional support

- **Nutritional support:** children at the Unit program are offered two meals (breakfast and lunch) on a daily basis. Food items are donated by parishioners and prepared by two cooks and parents volunteering their time. The Centre runs a sack gardening project that supplements the vegetables required. Meals for students in other primary and secondary schools are also subsidized by the Centre. The nutritional support offered allows for improved nutrition in the beneficiaries and reduced malnutrition cases.

Activity 3: Co-curricular activities

- **Life skills and sports:** Play equipment were acquired thereby increasing sporting activities for the children. The youth at the Centre run a pool table project that allows for outsiders to play pool at a small fee; this enables them raise funds for its maintenance and gives them a chance for enhanced group therapy and support.



Activity 4: Capacity Building

- **Parents/Guardians empowerment:** Three training sessions on economic and social empowerment were conducted resulting in improved family welfare. The parents' self-help group enabled parents to make savings which boosted their economic capacities. Quarterly meetings between the Centre's staff and parents/guardians were carried out thereby creating a better working relationship and improved monitoring and follow-up visits. Feedback from parents/guardians through stories of change and recommendations also improved the project's planning for future interventions.

Challenges

One of the main challenges faced by the program is limited financial resources which in turn lead to delays in implementation of yearly activities.

To support this program, kindly email the Development Director:

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