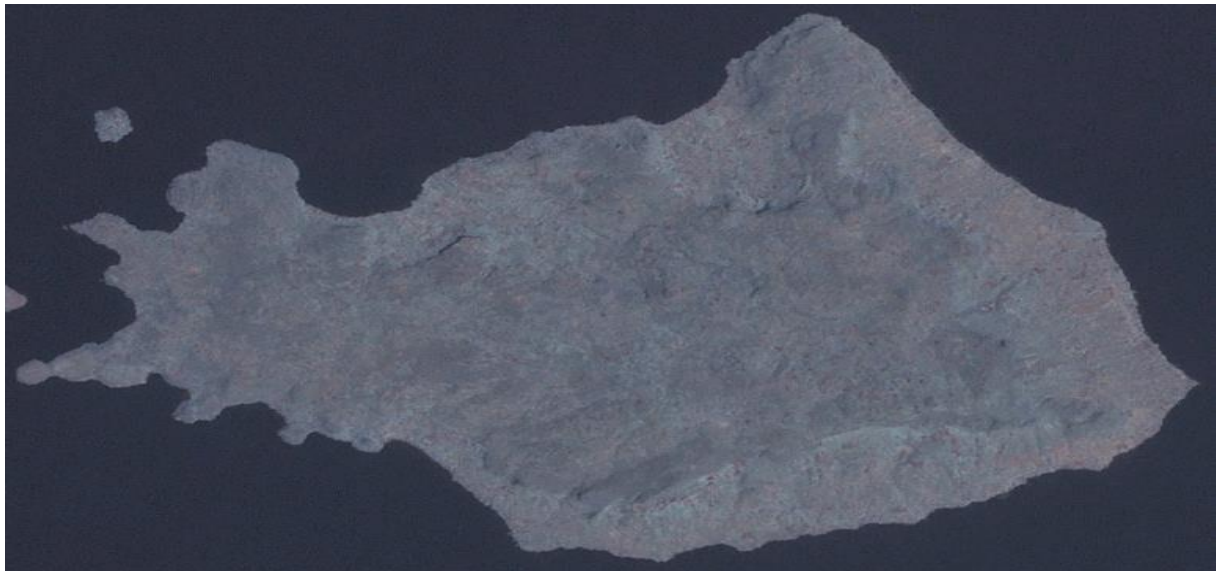


**About Mfangano Island:**



**Satellite image of Mfangano Island.**



Mfangano Island is 65 km<sup>2</sup> in area and rises to 1,694 m at Mount Kwitutu. It has a population of over 26,000 people. Administratively, Mfangano is part of Mbita Constituency, Homa Bay County, Kenya.

As one of Lake Victoria's largest islands, it lies in the boundary waters of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Most inhabitants live near the water for ease in fishing and collecting the day's water supply. The water's edge of the island is quite rocky with a few black sandy shores

Most residents are descendants of the Abakunta people, who sailed across the lake from Uganda over fifteen generations ago. Mfangano Island is home to the largest population of Olusuba (or Suba) language speakers in Kenya. However, Olusuba is becoming rarer because of intermarriage between Suba men and Luo women from the mainland, as traditionally children learn their "mother tongue," that is, their mother's language. Other languages spoken on the island include Luo, Swahili, and English. Members of the Luo tribe are concentrated on the eastern side of the island, primarily fishermen, and subsistence farmers.

## **EBENEZER HAPPY HOME-MFANGANO ISLAND** (*The chosen home*)

Transportation on the Island consists mainly of walking and boat travel in small wooden handmade boats that sometimes sail. There are bicycles and motorbikes now since the government cut a road that circles the island.

The government has also worked hard to ensure a consistent electricity supply within the island, using generators. This has led to growth within the region and improvement in the economic ability of the island. Fishermen can now store their fish as they wait for the markets on the mainland.

The island is heavily affected by the high rate of HIV/AIDS. It is on record that it has the highest rate of HIV in Kenya. Many orphaned children on the Island are victims of the parents who died of HIV/AIDS. The community being a fishing people, the spread of HIV is very high, and there is a great need to mentor young people through God's word and self-care education to live a moral life and this is the main reason why Ebenezer Happy home Mfangano exist. We intend to equip young people with God's word, self-care education and training on utilization of locally available resources to generate income for self-sustainability.

### **Ebenezer Happy home Mafangano Island:**

#### **Mission:**

Ebenezer happy Home was founded on a small Island in the Middle of Lake Victoria in Homabay County, Kenya in December 2020 to provide a haven to the growing number of orphaned and destitute children affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. We provide food, shelter, education, clothing, a safe and loving environment. Our desire is to provide a holistic solution: physically, spiritually and socially; to help foster future leaders within Mfangano Island.

#### **Vision:**

To empower **orphans and vulnerable children** (ovc) through mentorship and acquisition of life skills in order to be able to use locally available material to sustain their lives and that of the poor community around them.

## EBENEZER HAPPY HOME-MFANGANO ISLAND (*The chosen home*)

### How Ebenezer began:



**Ebenezer Happy Home** sits on Mama Mary Aoko Otieno's farm at Ramba Village, on Mfangano Island in the middle of Lake Victoria. It is in South Nyanza province in the Western region of Kenya approximately 500km West of Nairobi-Kenya's capital city.

Mama Mary did not have any good house except for a grass-thatched mud house that her husband left her in as a widow in 1999. The house was leaking and Mary could sometimes pray that it does not rain in the night for fear of the house being flooded both from the leaking roof and the surface runoff from the nearby stream.

Her main prayer was "God give me a house big enough to accommodate my children and grandchildren"

By God's Grace a team of good Samaritans from Catholic Church visited the Island in 2002 and were going round homes to identify people to support. They quickly build Mary a small two room's house to relocate her from the worn-out, leaking, inclined and almost falling grass thatched mud house.

She lived in the house for close to 20 years. In 2020, her children build her the current spacious 3 bedroom house which she gladly shares with the orphaned children from the community as their own home.

On the same compound sits a free Methodist church building attended by a small local



congregation from the local community.

Mary extended her welcome to the children to live with her in her home after noticing a great poverty that the children were going through. These children who attended Sunday school in the church could over stay back in the church building long after the end of Sunday



## EBENEZER HAPPY HOME-MFANGANO ISLAND (*The chosen home*)

school with the hope to get something to eat. She occasionally invited the children to her house after Sunday school to share a meal and the children eventually had no option but to stay around even longer.

Together with other church members, Mama Mary and her first born daughter pastor Ruth Otieno generously accepted the proposed idea of housing the children and that is how Ebenezer Happy Home Mfangano Island started.



Mama Mary Aoko Otieno (Over 21 years widow) Welcomed orphans to live with her in this house which is currently the main accommodation for the 20 children in the program.

Mary is blessed with 3 hectors of land which she shares with the children for cultivation. Food produced on the farm is used to feed the children

in this home.

### EBENEZER HAPPY HOME- MFANGANO ISLAND LEADESHIP:



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**Pastor. Ruth Akinyi Matunga-Chairperson.** I'm a pastor by God's grace and serving the people of Mfangano Island. I'm a wife and a mother of 6 children. I'm truly blessed to wake up here every morning and just seeing how God is at work here by pouring His joy in the lives of these people. It has been a privilege working with a vibrant community who are optimistic to overcome their challenges someday.

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**Cosmas Otieno- Coordinator/resource mobilizer.**

I'm a Mfangano Island native. This Island is beautiful and a mazing place to experience God's presence from the hills, black sand beaches, sea breeze, land breeze, the busy fishing industry, amazing blue and sometimes green waters surrounding the Island. The people all reflect God's image here.

I'm a born again Christian and I love serving others first. I went through the challenging life of an orphan at a tender age (primary grade 7) and by God's Grace a Good Samaritan from the US educated me by funding my bachelor's degree in education science.

## EBENEZER HAPPY HOME-MFANGANO ISLAND (*The chosen home*)

Since my knowledge of Christ Jesus as Lord and saviour of my life, I have been constantly and prayerfully looking for ways to help the less fortunate in my local community. I'm very passionate about supporting orphans to realize their full potential in life.

I love to work with my own hands to produce food which I always gladly share with people without food. I look forward to a time when majority of young people will work independently and tirelessly to be change makers in their own lives in little ways.

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**Roby Oguta- treasurer/accountant.** Mfangano Island is my home and home to many other less fortunate community due to geographical challenge of being an Island. Not many people or NGOs or even government itself visit this Island. The people are very jovial despite the economic challenges they go through. I'm a graduate accountant from African international University by God's grace. I'm currently serving as project accountant with Redeemed gospel church development centre in partnership with compassion Kenya-Oyugis branch. As a born again believer, my passion is to serve less fortunate people through hands on projects that can empower them to be self-sustained.

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Phone: +254796720037



**George Abuka- Secretary/ Assistant Coordinator.**

I'm from Mfangano Island and currently a student at **The East African University** studying **Computer science and IT**. I love playing key-board and singing with the children at Bygrace home. I coordinate prayers and weekend activities at the home where we just bond with the children and share God's word at the church and at home during my holidays.

Working at the home farm is the highlight of all my holiday breaks. I get opportunity to serve the children and the old grandmas with my God given physical energy at the farm before I can be able to support them financially upon graduation from my studies. E-mail:

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**Michael Orifa – Home and project Manager.** I was born and raised on Mfangano Island. I managed to train as primary teacher currently working with Teachers Service Commission of Kenya. I'm born again and love Jesus as my personal saviour. I like to share the love of God with other people especially the less fortunate on this Island.

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**Paul Jomo – Farm manager.** I'm born and raised here on the Island. I always feel blessed serving these children with the hard work we all put together at the farm growing fruits, sugarcane, maize, sweet potatoes, yams, tomatoes, kales, carrots, and much more.

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**Nelly Sayo Opiyo- Home Matron.** I was born and grew up in Western –Kenya. I got married on Mfangano Island in December, 2013. I have since then loved the amazing L. Victoria that we don't have back home where I was born. The people here are kind and loving them is the best gift I can give in return for the warm welcome in this community. I love the opportunity I have to mentor the children especially young girls to be responsible citizens in the near future.

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**Mary Aoko- Elder and intercessor/prayer Leader.** I was born and raised in Asembo (mainland- 6hrs away from Mfangano). I got married on the Island and got 5 children. I came to know Jesus better on this Island. I didn't have any good house when my husband passed on 22 years ago. I was left in a grass-thatched mad house with children. The house was leaking all the time it rained. I remember praying for several years to get at least not a good house but one that does not leak when it rains. God heard my prayers and 20 years later my children constructed me a spacious non leaking

house. In my thanks giving to God for this house, I have welcomed a few orphans to live with me in the house and call it their home.

## EBENEZER HAPPY HOME-MFANGANO ISLAND (*The chosen home*)

Each morning is a blessing to see the children around me and I love teaching the children how to pray early in the morning and then go to the farm and teach them agricultural work in the farm where we get all our food from. To God be the Glory.



**Maurine Odhiambo Omondi- Member.** I was born and raised in central Nyanza province away from Lake Victoria. I got married on the Island 4 years ago and I love to serve in this ministry alongside my husband and our two lovely daughters. We get opportunity to grow crops on the farm and eat healthy food directly from the garden. Evening devotions are great opportunity to connect with God and the larger family.

I studied social work and community development at African institute of research and development studies. I'm currently

working as customer care and call coordinator for Western region at MFI (Indian Company).

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Phone: +254711757163.



**Erick Oguta –Member.** Serving God through these children has been a blessing to me. I get to humble myself even more each day. God of the bible is present on this Island. Blessings.

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Phone:



**Everline Achieng– Member.** I was born, raised and got married in Mfangano Island. It is really a good place to be. We have most locally available resources we need to survive. Helping children is a blessing from God.

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## EBENEZER HAPPY HOME CHILDREN.

1. Sheilah Mziga
2. Monicah Atieno
3. Mary Akinyi
4. Valary Akinyi
5. Nyithind Min Ochieng.
- 6.
- 7.

## **EBENEZER HAPPY HOME-MFANGANO ISLAND** (*The chosen home*)

### **SELF SUSTAINED PROJECTS:**

1. Crop Farming:
2. Fish farming (floating cage system)
3. Rental housing
4. Academy.