

NOTES FOR FINAL REPORT OF SGG's SPECIAL ORPHANS PROGRAMME [Oct 2013 – Sept 2014]

INTRODUCTION

Within the membership of MMO in Busia County, Kenya there are 11 women's groups who provide support for approximately 550 'orphans or vulnerable children' [OVCs] under the age of 14 years. Each group is meant to have 50 such children, although it is usually more than 50 children who benefit through this project. These orphans receive home-based care, often from an older member of their extended family. They also receive support from these 11 women's groups, who provide a weekly meal and occasional other support e.g. help with school fees.

IMPACT OF PROGRAMME

The following are notes showing the major effects of this project.

Galilaya Women Group was one of the few groups to show limited interest in this table banking initiative. At the original meeting to discuss the Special Orphans Programme, a few guardians representing only 15 of the 50 OVCs came. Thus, those present were divided into only 2 sub-groups.

- Sub-group A added 1 cock + 8 hens to those they already had. By July 2014 they had sold 50 chicks at Ksh 100/- each, and also 9 crates of eggs at Ksh 300/- each. Furthermore, they now have 33 poultry,
- Sub-group B established a small tree nursery at a cost of Ksh7,800/-. It is difficult to calculate how profitable this has been because some customers/members have taken seedlings but not yet paid for them. However 1520 seedlings were produced, with each being sold for Ksh 5/- each. The number of seedlings produced was disappointing, with the group paying insufficient attention to watering. Rain fed watering is inadequate & too risky for this type of venture. This was one of the few unsuccessful schemes launched within this programme.

Jerusalem Women Group consisted of 6 sub-groups which met with varying success:

- Sub-group 1 purchased 36 chicks for Ksh 9,000/-. 18 have subsequently died, but 8 have been sold to give an income of Ksh 4,000/- and the remaining 10 have grown sufficiently to be worth Ksh 5,000/-,
- Sub-group B rented a plot & planted arrowroot at a cost of Ksh 9,000/-. They anticipate a harvest worth about Ksh 32,000/-,
- Group 3 purchased 17 hens for Ksh 9,000/-, and now have 37 in total worth Ksh 18,500/-,
- Group 4 invested in a maize-growing and are expecting a profit of Ksh 6,000/-,
- Group 5 bought 2 pigs & a calf for Ksh 9,000/-. The current market price for this livestock is Ksh 11,500/-,
- Group 6 invested in 32 young chicks and again several died. The remaining poultry are worth Ksh 10,000/-, so there has been a small profit of Ksh 2,000/-.

Khuyala ECDC has 36 members. The group is responsible for the running of an Early Child Development Centre where some 80 children receive a daily meal and have their first introduction to formal education. The 6 sub-groups invested as follows:

- Group 1 bought 2 goats. They now have an additional 2 kids,
- Group 2 bought 12 hens at Ksh500/- each with the remaining funds being used for vaccinations & feeders. They now have 27 hens + 20 chicks,
- Group 3 are practising cereal trading, and spent most of their funds on 2 large sacks of maize,
- Group 4 bought 10 hens, but used half their funds to construct a poultry house. At present they have 20 hens who are laying eggs,
- Group 5 bought 2 pigs with the remaining funds spent on pig feed. They now have 7 piglets in addition to the original 2 pigs,
- Group 6 bought 2 sheep, both of which are now pregnant,
- There was also a project for the whole group. With this larger income-generation scheme the members purchased 66 hens. At present we have no further information about how this scheme has developed.

Lonely Orphans are based at an ECDC near Matayos market. 58 OVCs are currently attending, and these children come from 3 separate CBOs ie. Lonely Orphans, Asante Kwa Jembe, and Tenda Farmers. Each of these CBOs divided their guardians into 2 sub-groups to give 6 sub-groups in total. Their investments were as follows:

- The 9 members of Bidii invested their Ksh10,000/- by purchasing 1 boar + 3 piglets for Ksh4,000/-, 7 laying hens for Ksh5,000/-, and 100 seedlings for Ksh1,000/-. This meant that the group initially owned 200 small eucalyptus & grevillea trees, but seasonal drought & pests reduced this number to 130 by July 2014,
- The second LO sub-group, called Upendo, has 10 members, who used their funds to purchase 200 seedlings at Ksh2,000/-, bought 2 hens at Ksh1,000/-, bought a banana sucker for each member at Ksh2,000/-, used Ksh4,000/- to rent a plot where they could make bricks, and bought various seeds to plant vegetables. We have yet to receive a report on how successful they have been,
- Baraka sub-group from Asante kwa Jembe bought 5 hens for each of its 5 members. This was combined with internal table-banking, and from these 2 activities they gained Ksh8,000/- income. From this income they used Ksh 4,000/- to rent a plot for planting vegetables & passion fruit. We do not yet know how successful this latter enterprise has been,
- The second group from Asante kwa Jembe invested an additional Ksh2,000/-, which came from the sale of chicks & eggs from poultry already acquired. With this Ksh12,000/- fund they bought each member 8 smaller hens. They also practised internal table-banking, from which they gained Ksh5,000/-. Ksh2,000/- of this latter money has been used to purchase a pig,
- Tenda Farmers sub-group A bought 3 hens + 1 cock for each of the 5 members of the group,
- Sub-group B of Tenda Farmers decided to invest Ksh10,000/- in cereal-trading. They bought 2 large sacks of maize at a time when the market price was Ksh50/- for a 2kg tin. They kept the maize until the market price reached Ksh80/- per 2kg tin. This enabled this group of 4 farmers

to gain an income of Ksh 16,000/-. Ksh14,000/- of the income was used to buy a cow, while the remaining funds were used to purchase school uniforms.

Mukwano Community Action for Women Development is a large group with several activities. Relevant to the Special Orphans Programme are the following:

- Group A has a monthly subscription of Ksh 50/- per member. This is used for internal table-banking and by July 2014 Ksh 7,000/- was available in the kitty. The group also has a tree nursery, from which they have gained an income of Ksh 23,000/-. Furthermore, each member of this group has received 20 seedlings to plant on their own shamba, and there in July there are still 1,500 for sale in the nursery,
- Group B used their funds mainly for poultry. By July 2014 this group had gained Ksh 13,700/- from poultry sales as well as having Ksh 4,800/- in the table-banking kitty,
- Group C is also involved in a combination of table-banking & a tree nursery. These activities have brought a combined income of Ksh 25,000/- to the group,
- Group D invested their funds in vegetable production as well as internal table-banking. By July the group had gained an income of Ksh 7,500/- from vegetable sales & Ksh 3,000/- from table-banking,
- Group E invested mainly in an oxen & plough team, which brought an income of Ksh 15,000/- during the following rains. Ksh 5,000/- was also obtained from internal table-banking.

Namulekhwa Wedinye used their table-banking funds to invest in various small business enterprises e.g.

- Upenda sub-group operated on an individual basis. One person started with Ksh 4,000/- capital and sold maize. She gained Ksh 2,000/- profit from this. Another sold oil for a profit of Ksh 500/-. A third used her capital of Ksh 3,000/- to cook and sell mandazi. She gained profit of Ksh 1,200/- by June 2014. Yet another used funds to trade in fish, which gave a profit of Ksh 650/-. The fifth lady also traded in maize and gained a profit of Ksh 1,500/-. Thus, in less than one year a profit of Ksh 5,850/- was generated from initial capital of Ksh 12,000/-. This is Kenyan small-scale enterprise at work,
- Tuinuane sub-group invested their Ksh 10,000/- in cereal-trading and obtained a profit of Ksh 3,500/-,
- The 3 members of Fanya Bidii sub-group used their Ksh 12,000/- for internal table-banking, and generated only Ksh 950/- in interest,
- Lekhabaleke wako sub-group invested in a vegetable plot which gave a profit of Ksh 3,000/-.

SGG have worked with Namulekhwa Wedinye for several years, and they have proved to be one of the most reliable groups within MMO membership. However, their reports are usually very limited with officials there having problems both of English and literacy.

New Hope Emaseno is a group based around a small orphanage 'Gladys' Childen's Home' where some 22 orphans stay. During the early stages of this programme Gladys did not follow the example of others and contribute ie. deposit funds in the table-banking. Several attempts were made to encourage her see the advantages of implementing an income-generation scheme rather than constantly looking for donations, but all to no avail.

After heated discussions with MMO staff it was decided to continue giving Gladys a small feeding allowance but to exclude New Hope Emaseno from the table-banking part of the programme. The only other benefit Gladys received was 22 banana suckers, one for each orphan in her care. In 2014 Gladys began to see the advantages of income generation activities, and when the Treedom tree-planting scheme began in March 2014 she became an active tree-planter. By November 2014 she had planted 400 Grevillea within her shamba.

Siguli Orphans Centre has been a partner with SGG for several years. The main activities in the past have been feeding the 35 children who come daily to the Centre, tree-planting and various table-banking schemes. The most recent scheme was a successful poultry project, and in October 2013 the group members decided to use Special Orphans Programme to expand that particular project. Thus, it is impossible to which benefits accrued from the present SOP scheme and which derived from the previous table-banking. Nevertheless, the group reported that they had collectively 190 poultry in November 2013, whereas by June 2014 they had 257 with a further 81 sold since the previous November. Concerning the 3 sub-groups of OVC guardians:

- The 6 members of Group A had 79 poultry,
- Group B reported having 88 poultry,
- Group C reported having 75 poultry.

Siritanyi is a loose group who care for some 50 children. 16 of these children are under the care of one woman who is the dominant and most skilled member of the group and also Treasurer of MMO. Several of the women in this group preferred to work on their own rather than work as a small group. Their low initial investment and subsequent low profits suggests that this is not the best policy for income-generation schemes. This approach to development produced the following results:

- Julia Ojwang invested Ksh4,000/- in her timber workshop. By June 2014 she had made a profit of Ksh3,000/-. Ksh2,000/- of this enabled one 13 year old orphan to pay school fees, and thereby attend Standard 8. The remaining Ksh1,000/- enabled Julia to open a small teashop selling mandazis etc,
- Anne Fundia used her Ksh4,000/- investment to start cereal-trading. She makes a profit of Ksh 450/- on each maize sack. Two other members are engaged in this cereal trading, but again profits are low,
- Tabitha Otieno was the only member of Siritanyi to make a substantial investment, which was used to develop tomato production in a greenhouse. The tomatoes were something of a failure, because the supporting frames proved to be inadequate. Nevertheless she gained an income of Ksh15,000/-. Now she is experimenting with sukumawiki in the greenhouse,

Upendo Support Group consists of 25 members.

- on 29/3/2014 members were given 200 fruit trees ie. 8 trees each. These were mangos, avocado or bananas intended to improve nutrition within the household,

- in November 2013 the Upendo membership was divided into 5 groups in such a way that each sub-group was responsible for 10 orphans. They all raised funds which were then credit matched, and the funds used for an income generation scheme of their own choice,
- Group A rented land & planted groundnuts + beans. They harvested 100kg of beans which were sold to give an income of Ksh9,000/-, and also produced an income of Ksh7,500/-. This gives an overall profit of Ksh6,500/- from an initial investment of Ksh10,000/- less than one year ago. The group have begun a monthly contribution system to build up capital, and now have Ksh10,500 /- for their next investment,
- Group B could only raise a much smaller initial capital, which they invested in similar activities to Group A. By August 2014 they had made Ksh6,000/- profit from an initial investment of only Ksh6,000/-,
- Group C used their funds to buy maize, beans, cassava + omena. Thus they have started a cereal-trading business,
- Group D were able to raise only Ksh4,000/- for their scheme. They used this to purchase 1 pig, 4 cockerels, + 5 hens. They now own 3 pigs, 1 cock + 10 hens,
- Group E were the wealthiest sub-group in Upendo. They contributed Ksh6,000/- [about £42], so had a total of Ksh12,000/- to invest. With this they purchased 3 pigs + 3 goats. After some months 2 pigs were sold for Ksh2,000/- each & 2 goats for Ksh2,500/- each to give an income of Ksh10,000/-. This was shared between the 5 members of the group and used to pay school fees for the OVCs. The group still has 1 pig & 4 goats, so has made a healthy profit.

By November 2014, FOCUSA are the only group not to have reported on the results of their October 2013 table-banking investments.

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