



## **M.E.A.K, UK - Report for Fondation Eagle: February 2021**

### **Project: Ananda Marga Academy Kiembeni Home School Fees Programme, Kiembeni, Mombasa County, Kenya**

#### **Donor:**

Fondation Eagle, Switzerland

#### **Donor's reference:**

FF 547

#### **Charity:**

Medical & Educational Aid to Kenya

#### **Date of acceptance:**

11<sup>th</sup> June 2020

#### **Date donation received:**

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

#### **Amount of Donation:**

A one-off donation of £7,000 to fund the school fees for 200 children for 1 term. 909,000Ksh was used for the project, with an underspend of 1000Ksh (£7.69)  
(910,000.00 KSH at the exchange rate of £1 to 130 KSH)

#### **Duration of project:**

School term 2, that began from October, 2020 to January 2021, due to lockdown restrictions

#### **Estimated number of beneficiaries:**

210 children directly benefitted from the grant, but the donation had a broader impact with the entire family & the extended family benefitting, as can be evidenced by the 'bio-data' reports that show the school fees are often paid for by the extended family.



**Children from grade 4 & grade 8,  
who benefitted from the funding  
in October 2020**

## Project background:

Like many African countries, Kenya has been severely impacted by the Covid pandemic. Despite some easing in lockdown restrictions from the date of acceptance of this project, there has been an almost total cessation of the tourist, retail, & construction industries & any business relying upon the Port of Mombasa. There is no furlough system in Kenya & thus, tens of thousands of people are out of work with ensuing food deprivation & poverty.

All schools were closed in 2020, which led to more children being on the streets & created restlessness among the large teenage & younger adult population. It is considered vital that younger children should be returned to school as soon as possible to continue their education & be fed one meal a day whilst there. They should not be on the streets because their parents can no longer afford to educate them in such difficult times.

The Ananda Marga Academy & Sister Didi, who manages the girls home & school are very well known to the MEAK Directors, who have supported the facility for over 20 years. The home looks after 22 orphaned or abandoned girls & is financially supported by a small surplus that is generated from the primary school that educates approximately 500 children within the Ananda Marga compound. The parents of these children pay approximately £35 a term for their education & daily lunch at the school.

The pandemic has resulted in a significant number of parents becoming unemployed and unable to afford school fees. This could result in children dropping out of school & having the secondary effect of negatively impacting the girl's home. Over the years this home has saved literally hundreds of young (& sometimes very young) abandoned & vulnerable girls, giving them a safe, secure & homely environment to be brought up in, much in contrast to some of the deprived & abusive situations from which they have come.



**Children having lunch in small groups. Note, the blue water tank in the background that allows children to wash their hands before eating.**

## Project report:

Unsurprisingly, the project was embraced by the community. Families applied for the funding & were vetted and accepted based on need.

Below is the project report letter from Sister Didi & some of the 'bio data' from the families on which they were selected to be recipients of the funding. The remaining bio data is included as appendices to this report.

### ANANDA MARGA ACADEMY KIEMBENI

PRE PRIMARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL AT KIEMBENI ESTATE

REGISTRATION NO PE/2471/2004

ANANDA MARGA CHILDREN'S HOME

CHILDREN'S CHARITABLE INSTITUTION

COMMUNITY PROJECTS MANAGED BY ANANDA MARGA MISSION IN KENYA

PLOT 4450/II/MN, PO BOX 83923 – 80100, MOMBASA, KENYA +254 734671992

28<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

Foundation Eagle

Attention: Bhavna

Through Michael and Dee Belliere, Directors, MEAK

RE: **Follow up on School Fees Programme**

Once again, we thank the Foundation Eagle for their assistance to the needy parents of Kiembeni Estate, Mombasa. We had received the kind donation for School Fees Programme (for 200 school children) and a further donation for Children's Home basic needs on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2020. At that time, everyone expected that the schools would open in July or August. It was then pushed forward to September and finally to October. We all understand what a difficult time everyone is having due to the loss of lives and livelihoods.

The Kenyan schools re-opened for limited classes only on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2020. Secondary schools are to receive only the Form IV's and primary schools are to open with Class 8, the candidate class, and Grade 4, the first class in the New Curriculum. It was planned that other classes would join them phase wise, giving chance to the schools to meet the protocols. As of this date, there is some uncertainty about when the other classes will join; that is due to increase of cases.

Our school opened well and by this week, 55 children reported for Class 8 and 56 for Grade 4. Fortunately, we renovated part of the school hall, so that allows us to receive Grade 4 in two streams, and there is no crowding. The children are also supposed to wear masks.

We have identified 54 parents in classes 4 and 8 who are needy and invited them to receive the benefit of waiver of school fees for this term. They are very relieved and thankful!! In order to clarify the matter, we took note of the Bio Data of the benefitted children and their parents. It is important that the parents know that school fees will be charged next term. I think you will find the Bio Data forms interesting to read. It proves that your intervention has saved the parents from worry over school fees allowing them to purchase food for their children. The school is benefitted as there now is scope to pay the teachers and subsidize the lunch programme for the pupils. Teachers are grateful.

I am attaching the Bio Data forms and some photos of the beneficiaries, as well as a couple of photos showing the protocols in place. Note that about 10 parents have not yet come to fill their forms, but we are expecting them by next week.

When other classes return, we will continue to offer benefits to the most destitute of parents.

Thanks again and wishing you well in all endeavours.

Yours sincerely,

Didi A. Giitika, Project manager

**ANANDA MARGA ACADEMY KIEMBENI**

SCHOOL LEARNERS BEING ASSISTED WITH SCHOOL FEES

DUE TO DESTITUTION CAUSED BY PANDEMIC

**TERM:** Term Two: October – December, 2020

**31 - BIO DATA OF RECIPIENTS AND PARENTS' SITUATION - INTERVIEW**

1. NAME OF PUPIL: AGATHA NGWE
  2. CLASS: 4
  3. DATE OF BIRTH: 14 – 11 - 2011
  4. NAME OF PARENT: FLORENCE ZIGHE
  5. OCCUPATION: BUSINESS – SELLING SECOND HAND CLOTHES
  6. WITH WHOM DOES THE PUPIL RESIDE? : BOTH PARENTS
  7. PLACE OF RESIDENCE: CHEMBANI (VILLAGE)
  8. REASON FOR NEED OF ASSISTANCE: BUSINESS HAS GONE DOWN DUE TO CORONA AND THE SECOND HAND CLOTHES ARE NOT COMING TO THE COUNTRY REGULARLY; HENCE NO PROPER INCOME AND MY HUSBAND IS OUT OF JOB DUE TO CORONA.
  9. HOW WILL THE PARENT COVER THE FEES NEXT TERM? I WILL SAVE AND ALSO EXPECT THE CONDITION TO CHANGE AND BUSINESS TO TURN AS USUAL.
  10. REMARKS: VERY THANKFUL FOR THE ASSISTANCE. IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR US TO PAY THE FEES. MAY GOD BLESS THE SPONSORS.
- SIGNED: FLORENCE ZIGHE, MOTHER

**ANANDA MARGA ACADEMY KIEMBENI**

SCHOOL LEARNERS BEING ASSISTED WITH SCHOOL FEES

DUE TO DESTITUTION CAUSED BY PANDEMIC

**TERM:** Term Two: October – December, 2020

**46 - BIO DATA OF RECIPIENTS AND PARENTS' SITUATION - INTERVIEW**

1. NAME OF PUPIL: MARYANNE NJERI
  2. CLASS: 4
  3. DATE OF BIRTH: 11 – 6 - 2011
  4. NAME OF PARENT: ISAAC C. MBUGUA
  5. OCCUPATION: REPAIRMAN AND ELECTRICIAN, WIFE SELLS COCONUTS
  6. WITH WHOM DOES THE PUPIL RESIDE? : PARENTS
  7. PLACE OF RESIDENCE: MAJAONI (UGANGE ROAD, ABOUT 2 KM)
  8. REASON FOR NEED OF ASSISTANCE: BECAUSE OF THE CORONA PANDEMIC, THE BUSINESS BECAME SLOW AND AS FAR AS THE COCONUT SELLING, PRICES HAVE SHOT UP AT THE MARKET, THUS MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GET A PROFIT LOCALLY.
  9. HOW WILL THE PARENT COVER THE FEES NEXT TERM? I EXPECT THE BUSINESSES WILL IMPROVE.
  10. REMARKS: I AM VERY THANKFUL FOR THE ASSISTANCE AND WISH ALL CONCERNED GOD'S BLESSINGS.
- SIGNED: ISAAC C. MGUGUA, FATHER

**ANANDA MARGA ACADEMY KIEMBENI**

SCHOOL LEARNERS BEING ASSISTED WITH SCHOOL FEES

DUE TO DESTITUTION CAUSED BY PANDEMIC

**TERM:** Term Two: October – December, 2020

**24 - BIO DATA OF RECIPIENTS AND PARENTS' SITUATION - INTERVIEW**

1. NAME OF PUPIL: SHEDRACK JUMA KITSAO
2. CLASS: 8
3. DATE OF BIRTH: 6 – 11 - 2002
4. NAME OF PARENT: JUMAA KITSAO KATANA
5. OCCUPATION: SALES (UNIFORMS)
6. WITH WHOM DOES THE PUPIL RESIDE? : GRANDFATHER
7. PLACE OF RESIDENCE: BOMBO (VILLAGE NORTH OF KIEMBENI)
8. REASON FOR NEED OF ASSISTANCE: BECAUSE DUE TO CORONA VIRUS, THE BUSINESS COLLAPSED. I WAS OUT OF JOB SINCE MARCH AS WE WERE NOT SELLING UNIFORMS DUE TO THE CLOSE OF SCHOOLS AS A RESULT OF CORONA. I RESUMED JOB ON MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> AFTER RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS.
9. HOW WILL THE PARENT COVER THE FEES NEXT TERM? GOD WILLING, I WILL BE ABLE TO PAY AS I AM BACK ON THE JOB AND EXPECT TO CONTINUE IF THINGS ARE GOOD.
10. REMARKS: I DID NOT EXPECT IT AND I AM VERY THANKFUL FOR THE ASSISTANCE.

SIGNED: JUMAA KITSAO KATANA

**ANANDA MARGA ACADEMY KIEMBENI**

SCHOOL LEARNERS BEING ASSISTED WITH SCHOOL FEES

DUE TO DESTITUTION CAUSED BY PANDEMIC

**TERM:** Term Two: October – December, 2020

**21 - BIO DATA OF RECIPIENTS AND PARENTS' SITUATION - INTERVIEW**

1. NAME OF PUPIL: MARTIN KOMBO
2. CLASS: 8
3. DATE OF BIRTH: 18 – 3 - 2006
4. NAME OF PARENT: RAYMOND NGOME KOMBO
5. OCCUPATION: DRIVER
6. WITH WHOM DOES THE PUPIL RESIDE? : MOTHER  
(BOTH PARENTS ARE ALIVE, BUT SEPARATED. MARTIN LIVES WITH MOTHER AND FATHER USUALLY PAYS FEES.)
7. PLACE OF RESIDENCE: BAMBURI
8. REASON FOR NEED OF ASSISTANCE: BECAUSE FOR NOW IT IS SIX MONTHS I AM OUT OF JOB DUE TO CORONA PANDEMIC AND I DON'T KNOW WHEN I WILL RESUME BACK. (I AM ONLY CALLED WHEN THE JOB ARISES ON TEMPORARY BASIS.)
9. HOW WILL THE PARENT COVER THE FEES NEXT TERM? GOD WILLING, I EXPECT I WILL BE CALLED BACK SOON AS THE SITUATION IS NOW A BIT BETTER.
10. REMARKS: I APPRECIATE THE ASSISTANCE AND I PRAY GOD TO BLESS THE DONORS AND THE SCHOOL AT LARGE.

SIGNED: RAYMOND KOMBO



## Challenges:

Several challenges have needed to be overcome to complete this project. The challenge that has had the greatest impact is the constant changeability of the Covid-19 situation.

Schools re-opened in October, but to only 2 of the 10 classes. Thus, on the preliminary report we could only issue bio-data for approximately 25% of the students who had benefitted from the programme. The remaining classes restarted on January 4<sup>th</sup>. There was a delay on collating the bio-data due to not all the children attending on the first week & because the Government introduced many new requirements that schools needed to fulfil to allow them to re-open. For example;

- Temperature checks had to be recorded for each child, each day.
- An assessment of each child in every subject needed to be completed & the results entered online. This was a major undertaking as the school's computer systems are inadequate & the software was unable to cope with the whole nation trying to upload all the results. Thus, the teachers were very busy & unable to complete all the family interviews to obtain the bio-data straight away.

All of these protocols were monitored by the Government, who sent staff to check how the new processes were being implemented, meaning they needed to be adhered to in a timely manner.

In addition to this, there were other challenges faced by the Ananda Marga organisation. These include:

- **Selecting the recipients of the funding:**
  - This was an extremely difficult task as many families were worthy of assistance. However, Sister Didi knows these families well & was able to identify which families were the worthiest of the funding.
- **New government rules and regulations for Covid-19:**
  - The government introduced new measures to address issues of transmission of Covid-19, which included:
    - Social distancing rules being employed to minimise the numbers of children in classrooms. Fortunately, some renovation was done to the main school hall which facilitated social distancing & pupil numbers did not have to be reduced.
    - Temperature checks on arrival at school;
    - Increased handwashing facilities; and
    - The use of face masks. Getting children to wear face masks is difficult in any school setting & as the photos show, the children did not always wear them correctly.
- Not all school years were allowed back, leaving some children still unable to attend school

A future challenge will be the affordability of school tuition for many of these families once this term is over & they will need to pay for schooling again.



**Temperature checks on arrival at school**

## Project impact:

This was a highly successful, low cost intervention, devised to get children from impoverished families back to school.

The bio-data forms provide great insight into the individual hardships of families & the direct impact of the pandemic upon their livelihoods in all spheres of work. It is very obvious to see just how grateful these families were for the school fees 'holiday' & how they realise already that they will need to take advantage of this to save for the next term's fees.

## Budget details & summary:

The sum of £7,000 (910,000Ksh) was transferred from the MEAK account to that of the Ananda Marga Academy Kiembeni, where it was used to cover the cost of fees for 1 term for 210 pupils in need. In total 909,000Ksh was allocated, leaving an underspend of 1000Ksh, which was donated to charity

Below is a breakdown of the different years and the numbers of pupils per year. The school fees per term vary & are more expensive for the more senior pupils. The term is listed as term 2, despite starting at different times in the year. The full budget with each child's name is included as an appendix to this report. PP = pre-primary.

Date	No. of pupils	Class	Term 2020/1	School Fees per term	Total
12/10/2020	28	8	2	4800	134400
	17	4	2	4600	78200
	11	4	2	4600	50600

09/11/2020	8	8	2	4800	38400
	11	4	2	4600	50,600
04/01/2021	14	PP1	2	3400	47,600
	18	PP2	2	3400	61,200
	12	1	2	3800	45,600
	15	2	2	3800	57,000
	15	3	2	3800	57,000
	22	5	2	4600	101,200
	19	6	2	4800	91,200
	20	7	2	4800	96,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>210</b>				<b>909,000</b>

## Thank you:

MEAK and Ananda Marga Academy Kiembeni wish to thank Fondation Eagle for the generous grant that has enabled so many impoverished families to be able to send their children to school, having been so severely impacted by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Fondation Eagle can feel justifiably proud that they have made such a difference to so many children's lives. We hope to sponsor further projects to support the Ananda Marga Academy in Kiembeni as this deprived part of Mombasa will take a great deal of time to recover from the severe economic hardship associated with the pandemic.

We look forward to further similar collaborative efforts with Fondation Eagle on projects in the future.





**Lower primary  
students**



**Upper primary  
students**



## **Appendices (see attached):**

- 1, 2 & 3 – Bio-data
- 4 – Detailed budget