



Final report to:

**THE GUERNSEY OVERSEAS AID COMMISSION**

June 2014

- **Project title:** Enabling Orphaned and Vulnerable Children in Kibwezi District, Kenya, to Reach their Potential
- **Reference:** 2013/128
- **Report period:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014
- **Project duration:** 1 year
- **Local partner:** Rescue Team for HIV & AIDS
- **Location:** Kalulini, Kathyaka, Ngandani, Ndetani and Mikuyuni, Kibwezi District, eastern Kenya
- **Grant amount:** £33,227

**Summary**

Advantage Africa is pleased to report that this project is now complete and all activities and outcomes have been achieved in line with the original project plan.

The main objectives from the project proposal were to:

1. Construct a new nursery for early childhood education, equipped with learning resources, playground equipment and trained teachers for up to 80 children in two classes.
2. Provide 500 mosquito nets and 180 hygiene kits and training to protect against life-threatening malaria.
3. Provide 60 families with beds to sleep off the floor and protect against parasitic infections.
4. Create opportunities for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) to learn about health, HIV and farming and to take part in sports and games, be creative and enjoy their childhood at a weekly 'Kids Club'.
5. Provide training and support for caregivers through regular home visits and community open days with specialists such as nutritionists and sanitation engineers. These activities will help orphans and vulnerable children to grow up in a secure environment and ensure the project is sustained into the future.

**Achievements by Objective**

**Objective 1. New Nursery for Early Childhood Education**

The new nursery school facility is now fully constructed, consisting of two large classrooms, an office and staff and pupil toilets.

Advantage Africa's local partner, Rescue Team, started this project objective by identifying a suitable 1.5 acre plot of land and completing all the land procurement legalities. Then metal fencing and gates were erected around the compound and the water tanks were purchased for use in construction prior to their final installation for water catchment. After the foundations were laid a group of women who are parents and caregivers to the project beneficiaries (orphans and vulnerable children) contributed to the project themselves by using soil in the compound to mould and fire 3,000 bricks for the building. Roofing, plastering, painting and electrical wiring were completed to a high standard and large windows for good natural light were fitted. Safe fire exits (window bars attached to opening windows) were included and wide double doors and ramped

access was incorporated to allow for easy access for children and adults with wheelchairs or restricted mobility. The nursery has also been furnished with desks and benches and equipped with learning resources. Outside, swings and slides have been installed to help with the children's physical education and for use at play times.

*The completed nursery school*



*Children playing on the new swings and slide*

The community are excited by the prospect of the nursery school opening soon and the process of pupil enrolment has now started. The nursery will be formally open to pupils for the new school year in September 2014 although due to the enthusiasm amongst local families some children have already started to turn up for impromptu lessons! Rescue Team

have identified teachers for the nursery and one of their existing staff members is attending teacher training in Early Childhood Development at Kibwezi Teacher Training College. This new nursery school is the first educational facility for pre-school children in this very rural and semi-arid location and represents a big step forward for the whole community.



*Children celebrate the nursery completion*

## Objective 2. Mosquito nets, hygiene kits and training to protect against malaria.

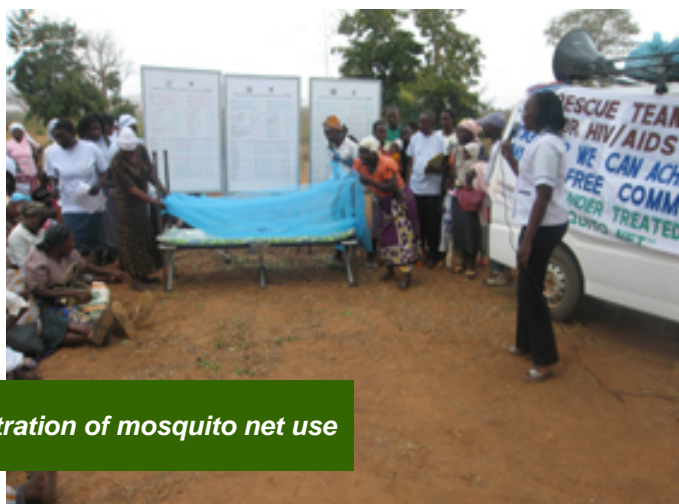
This objective was comprehensively achieved with a well-planned and extensive programme of outreach work in the five project sub-locations. In line with WHO recommended practice, the provision of mosquito nets and hygiene kits to beneficiaries was backed up with community educational events covering associated health and sanitation issues. To make the education



*Malaria prevention outreach*

appropriate for community members, Rescue Team used inventive 'edutainment' media, including devising small drama sketches and demonstrations on how to hang and maintain the mosquito nets, all in the local language. Rescue Team staff also worked closely with the local administration, community health workers, schools and religious groups in all locations. This approach helped to mobilize the communities to attend the project's events and to identify families in most need.

During the project period, 500 mosquito nets were successfully distributed to OVCs in most need. Many of the mosquito nets are shared by children at night so the beneficiary numbers are significantly higher than the number of nets supplied. The demand for hygiene kits was extremely high and the project team managed to make savings by bulk purchasing and supplied over 300 kits even though the original budget was for 180.



*Demonstration of mosquito net use*

At Kathyaka Primary School the Sub-Chief commented *'We have never seen anyone coming this far to support our needy children before and we thank Rescue Team for supporting our children and please please don't fail to come back and make our children smile again, may God bless you!'*



*Distribution of hygiene kits*



*Community Watching drama*

### **Objective 3. Beds to sleep off the floor and protect against parasitic infections.**

After initial surveys it became clear that very many of the disadvantaged children living in the project locations do not have beds or mattresses and have to sleep on the bare floor at night. This is not only cold and uncomfortable but also leaves children vulnerable to contracting parasitic infections.



*Some of the new beds and their recipients*



*Essential renovation of a beneficiary's home*

The project provided for the supply of beds to 60 families, which were gratefully received by the beneficiaries. A further 40 of the most disadvantaged families received help with essential work on their homes such as fixing roofs and crumbling walls.

**Objective 4. Opportunities for orphans and vulnerable children to learn about health, HIV and farming and to take part in sports and games, be creative and enjoy their childhood at a weekly 'Kids Club'.**

**and Objective 5. Training and support for caregivers through regular home visits and community open days with specialists such as nutritionists and sanitation engineers.**

The project has taken advantage of internationally recognised days to promote and reinforce the health and sanitation messages which are integral to the project. In the project year these were the Day of the African Child and International Candlelight Memorial Day. For example, on the Day of the African Child (June 16<sup>th</sup> 2013) an event was organised for 150 children and 200 adults and many leaders from the beneficiary communities attended. Themed role plays, songs, dances and poems were performed by children and women's groups. During the day hygiene kits were supplied to 80 girls and 40 boys.

The project has been very active with the social welfare of orphans and vulnerable children, both through their community outreach, and events held at the Rescue Team Centre. The weekly Kids Club has been held every Sunday during the project year at the Rescue Team Centre. It caters for between 80 and 120 children and provides a safe and nurturing environment for orphans and

vulnerable children to play and learn with their peers. The children are supervised by local community health workers who volunteer their time. The children play games and sports, read children's books and get an opportunity to watch films on the TV. As part of the fun, the OVCs are equipped with age appropriate knowledge about health, sanitation and social issues which will affect them as they grow up. Currently the children attending Kids Club are aged between 1-16 years, but Rescue Team have plans to split the club into two groups with 13-16 year olds having separate activities. Also now that the construction of the new nursery school is complete, the kids club will be relocated and the outdoor play equipment will be used on Sundays. Muthiani Mulwa an 8 year old who attends kids club says 'Attending kids club has helped me to learn how to read and write very well.'

Once a month the orphans and vulnerable children are provided with a nutritious meal and at the same time the benefits of good nutrition and ways to secure good food are shared with the caregivers (guardians, many of whom are elderly grandparents or other relatives from the extended family). Forty five caregivers (who look after 97 OVCs) have also formed a group which meets every month in the spirit of self-help and mutual support. During these meetings Rescue Team has provided advice and training to the caregivers, and has offered additional support to families in most critical need, for example through the small home improvement grants mentioned above.

Caregivers have also been assisted to start their own income generating activities, including weaving of baskets, mats and ropes (over 100 made to date) in addition to the brick making they undertook for the nursery construction. Their collective income to support the children so far is over £300 – a significant amount in the local context. They have bought milking goats for the six most deserving households and as the animals breed the offspring from these goats will be given to other group members. The group also has plans to invest in two bullocks to hire out for ploughing, and use to cultivate their own small plots.



**Women caregivers making baskets to sell**



**Winners of the school debates celebrate!**

The project has also initiated a debating competition for local secondary school pupils in order to further the project's information and awareness raising activities. During debates, pupils are given health topics to consideration in their schools e.g. Is abstinence the best solution to HIV prevention among young people? The pupils from different schools then come to the Rescue Team centre for a final competitive debate with external adjudicators. The winners receive text books and other educational resources. This initiative has proven very successful in getting health messages over to a young target audience.

## Summary of Expenditure

The grant from the Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission was fully spent as itemised in the table below. To complete the project activities fully, an additional contribution was allocated from Advantage Africa's own unrestricted funds. This included top-up funds for central project running costs, teacher training and part of the electricity installation for the nursery (see numbered budget notes).

Activity	Budget £s	Expenditure (Guernsey Overseas Aid Com- mission)	Expenditure (Advantage Africa)	Total Expenditure (£s)	Note No.
Purchase of 1.5 acres of land and Nursery Construction – classrooms and toilets	14,285	14,285	369	14,654	1
Furnishing and equipping nursery and play-ground equipment	2,863	2,863	231	3,094	2
Orphans and vulnerable children education and welfare including mosquito nets and hygiene kits	15,054	15,054	926	15,980	3
Central project running costs including Co-coordinator allowance, telephone and office costs	1,025	1,025	180	1,205	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33,227</b>	<b>33,227</b>	<b>1,706</b>	<b>34,933</b>	

### *Expenditure notes:*

1. Advantage Africa funds were used to fully complete the electricity installation and toilet construction.
2. The Advantage Africa funds were used principally for security guard costs at the new building site.
3. This included expenditure on 500 mosquito nets and over 300 hygiene kits along with teacher training and a range of assistance for orphans and vulnerable children and their caregivers as described in the report text. Advantage Africa contributed additional funds (£926) towards teacher training, holding educational events (e.g. Day of the African Child) and school debates, and some costs of visits to OVCs homes.
4. Most of this expenditure was on the allowance for the project co-coordinator in Kenya, and Advantage Africa contributed to a shortfall in Rescue Team's office and communications costs.

### **Thank you to the Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission**

On behalf of the Rescue Team staff and all the project beneficiaries Advantage Africa would like to thank the Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission for their support. This project has had a wide and life changing impact on the lives of some of the most vulnerable children in Kenya, both in their immediate and long-term future. It has also broadened the ambitions of Rescue Team as an organisation, to do further work in new areas of community health.

