



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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COVER IMAGE: ESTHER NTUYOTO

(One of our sponsored children in Kajiado County, Kenya)



Elvis Mutahi Githinji
Chief Executive Officer

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

In empowering communities within the villages, we seek to address matters of health, Education, Food Security, Public Hygiene and Infrastructure development.

Family unit is our basic approach when dealing with empowerment. We believe when you empower a family you empower a community. This is well achieved through the Spec ideology holistic empowerment approach.

As an African based organization our principles and aspirations derived from our understanding that every human being exists for each other and humanity ought to seek and restore love, dignity, peace, truth and happiness for all. Equality may not be achieved to all but equitability is essential and promotes fairness. This is what VEE stands for and hopes to achieve. When we walk to villages and see the needs our nature shouts back at us to remind us that, VEE is, because of who we all are, we are one and our needs and concerns should be seen in the same lens embraced, shared and addressed to the benefit of all. Within our projects our main focus is to improve food security through promoting modern and mechanized approaches to food production, distribution and processing. We endeavor to see the farming communities benefit from maximum returns of their hard-earned investments whilst engaging in their day-to-day agricultural activities. In the last year we have given start up capital for farming to 15 of our farmers' self help groups.

I believe empowerment should be and must be holistic and self-sustaining; this eradicates dependency and creates innovativeness that spurs growth and development within families and communities. The approach to it is holistic: this is our belief that is not just a belief but has been tested and proven to be the right way.

Village economic empowerment is a non-governmental organization that started in the year 2012. The main aim of this organization is to empower marginalized communities. Empowerment is a very broad word and many times empowerment is misinterpreted to refer to support or aid towards material or monetary needs. Village economic empowerment through years of experience with marginalized communities within our region we've learnt lessons that made us understand deeply that empowerment is a holistic approach. Our empowerment approach ascribes to SPEC, while working to create independent and self-reliant societies.

In empowering communities within the villages, we seek to address matters of Health, Education, Food Security, Public Hygiene and Infrastructure development. We partner with donors, fundraise for projects and mobilize the communities to form small groups where they contribute towards a certain common venture this groups are called Self -Help Groups.



LAST YEAR'S IMPACT AT A GLANCE

90

PRE-SCHOOL
CHILDREN

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to seek and advocate for solutions that enhance food security, quality education, clean and safe water, health, sanitation and infrastructural development.

470

SPONSORED
CHILDREN

COVID AID

389

FAMILIES RECEIVED
COVID AID

500

FARMERS

1312

CHILDREN HELPED
DURING THE
EXERCISE

852

ADULTS REACHED

Finding solutions to illiteracy and advocating for early childhood education within marginalized communities.

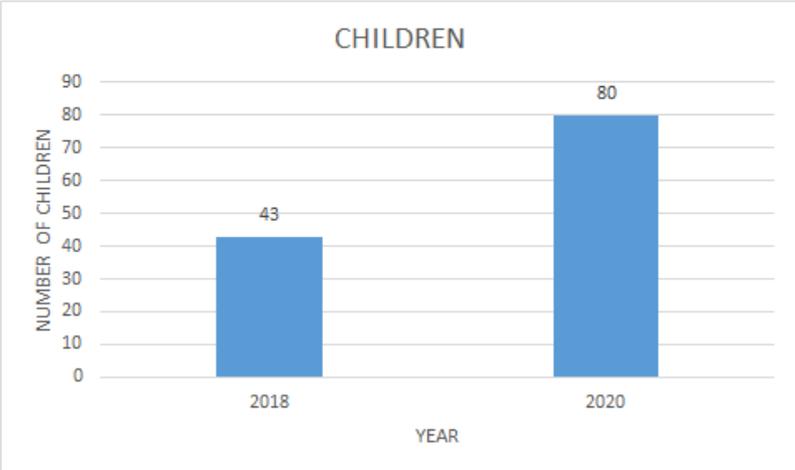
Image: Classroom Opening in Osiligi, Kenya



**Access to quality early childhood education
OSILIGI PRE-SCHOOL, ILBISIL, KAJIADO COUNTY**

Project: Opening of New Classroom

The year for child sponsorship started on a high with the official opening of a new classroom in Osiligi Pre-School on the February 26th 2020. A timely development considering the various challenges that they were facing before. Small children could not go to school since they would have to walk long distances to access education. They were also saved from animal-human conflict since the area has wild animals mostly elephants. Access to education previously would have them wait till they are old enough to walk to school on their own; this is when they could start school. The load has also relieved the parents the stress of having to take their children to school. They can now be able to concentrate on other domestic and income generating activities for their families.



The graph shows the increase in number of pupils attending Osiligi Pre-School after the new classroom. The pre-school only had 43 pupils in 2018 and as of year 2020, there were 80 children. It shows a stride towards ensuring that children have equal opportunities for learning. Our sponsored children and other children in the community are now able to access early childhood education.



COVID LEARNING PROGRAM

ILBISIL, KAJIADO, KENYA

In March 2020, with the onset of the pandemic in Kenya all schools were closed. This meant that the children could not go to school and had to find other ways of learning such as through digital media. This forms part of the reason as to why the Covid learning program came on board.

The main aim of the program was to enhance holistic learning of our children as they grow and develop to teenage-hood and adulthood.

The specific objectives were:-

- To ensure that the children are engaged all through despite the pandemic.
- To prepare the learners for the re-opening of schools.
- To train them on fundamental lifestyle issues such as hygiene especially during this time as we fight Covid-19.
- To ascertain the potential and talents of the children as well as nurturing them as they grow

The Covid learning program was an 8 week learning session for our children in the program and those from the community. The program began on the 13th of October and ended on 3rd of December.

The program was set to take place in all of our program areas. The planning entailed a detailed curriculum of the units to be taught to different children according to their age groups. The making of the curriculum was a joint effort between the teachers, community and Village Economic Empowerment stakeholders. The children were to be taught for four hours on three week days each week.

The program was successful in Ilbisil with the other two areas Kinari & Karangatha only learning for two days. This was due to government restrictions in the two areas .

**HOW DID THIS PROJECT
IMPACT THE COMMUNITY?**



PROJECT IMPACT

Ilbisil had four learning centers:

Long'oswa, Naibala,

Endapodapoi and Osiligi. Our

target was to

register 30 students per center

in order for us to strictly follow

the Covid-19 regulations

The turn-out is more than our

projection of 30 students in a

centre. Osiligi had 54 pupils in

Lower Primary and 10 in the

Upper Primary. Out of these only

10 in the

upper primary have been

consistent over the weeks. 9 of

them are in our program. (2 in

upper & 7 in lower Primary).

Long'oswa the consistent

number of pupils are 80, 23 of

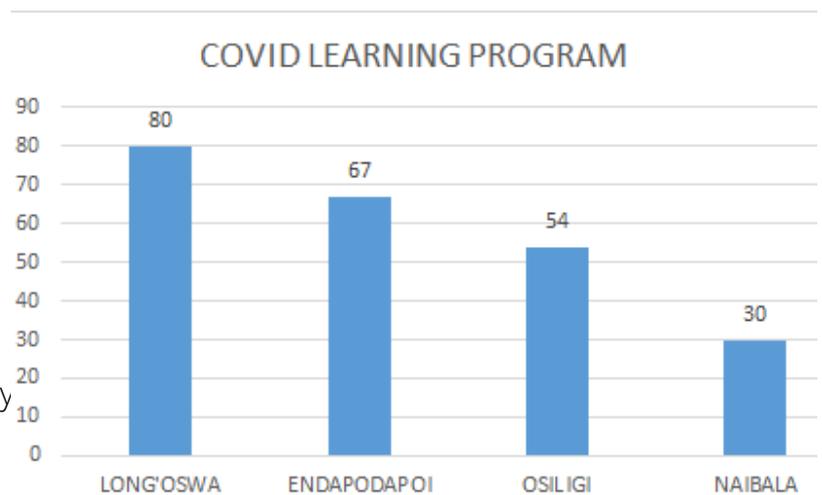
them being from our program.

Endapodapoi has a total of 67

pupils, 6 of them belong to our

program and Naibala had 30

children



"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you." B.B King

Curriculum Highlights

- ***Health and Hygiene***
- ***Environmental Activities***
- ***Basic Learning***
- ***Life skills and Livelihoods***
- ***Balanced diet & nutritional deficiency***
- ***Drug, substance & Medicine Abuse***
- ***The Human Body***
- ***Adolescence (Physical and Emotional Changes)***

" The Covid learning program has really helped my child, she now knows Kiswahili unlike before."

Alice Nosotua's Mother



CHILD SPONSORSHIP

KINALE, KARANGATHA & KAJIADO

Throughout the year, we have received several letters from god parents to respective children. All the letters reached the specific children and most of them replied. These letters serve a great purpose of putting smiles on our sponsored children and more often lift their spirits. Our children always feel the need to put in more effort most especially in education since they understand and are very grateful for the support. We also had a letter writing exercise that took place in all of the three areas. The exercise underwent different stages of mainly planning and implementation. The planning phase entailed training of the community members on letter writing and outlining the procedures to be followed during the exercise. We had a total of 10 community members from Ilbisil, Karangatha & Kinari that were trained and were to pass on the information to other community members that were to help in letter writing. Each of the groups in our areas was to have a representative that would be in charge of assisting the children in letter writing.

Each of our areas had a specific date set for the exercise. It was a joint one that included letter writing, photo taking and handing over Christmas gifts to the children.

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A young boy is shown from the chest up, carrying a large bundle of supplies on his back. The bundle consists of several blue and white bags, some of which are wrapped in clear plastic. He is looking off to the side with a neutral expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and what appears to be an outdoor setting.

***Addressing food insecurity
within villages and promoting
economic stability within
households/ families***

PROJECT: COVID AID

With the goals of the year already set and hope high in order to achieve the different milestones, Covid-19 was not part of the plan at all. In March 2020, when the first case of Covid-19

was reported in the country, the changes that took place were inevitable. With the various measures put into place including travel restrictions; livelihoods adjusted and more specifically for our sponsorship families. Our families in our three areas are largely dependent on farming/ agribusiness and trade that had been immensely affected by the restrictions imposed to mitigate the spread of the disease.

This necessitated the need for Covid relief/ aid that could cushion them during this time. The main objectives for this project were:

- i. To cushion our families from the impacts/effects of the pandemic.
- ii. Boost families' provision amidst job losses and loss of income.
- iii. Ensure that families are abiding by the regulations put in place through facilitation of essentials at the time.

The exercise was carried out in each of our program areas with each of our sponsored families getting the aid. In Ilbisil, each family received hand wash tanks, five kilograms of rice, five kilograms of beans, six face masks, cabbages and carrots. In Kinari and Karangatha each family received five litres of hand-washing soap, five kilograms of beans, five kilograms of rice and six face masks.

Offering modern and sustainable food production solutions in order to enhance food security within villages.

Starting March 2020, VEE-BMZ set on a roll to implement projects and trainings aimed at changing the lives of the people in Ilbissil, Kajiado county. The main goal is to impact their lives through farming, hygiene and healthy feeding to curb malnutrition.

To effect the aforementioned, the following programs and activities were scheduled, to span between 2020 and 2022.

- a. Trainings on hygiene and nutrition.
- b. Trainings on agriculture (basic crop management)
- c. Building of greenhouses complete with drip systems.
- d. Supply of drip irrigation kits to selected families
- e. Building of the sorting and storage facility.

In March 2020, the government of Kenya imposed a partial lockdown, restricting movements in and out of key cities in Kenya which had recorded high numbers of COVID-19 infections. This made it impossible to start the implementation of the project as scheduled. We however purposed to develop and seek approval for architectural plans for the sorting and storage facility to be built in due time. At the same time, we also acquired NEMA approvals to ascertain that the construction shall have no negative impact on the environment.

During this period, we worked from home sourcing for suppliers and contractors whom we invited to bid for the greenhouse installation works. Soon after, the lockdown was lifted, and we were free to move around. This then allowed us to set up the 3 greenhouse structures in October-November 2020. They measured 15meters by 8meters, complete with 3 1000liter capacity water tanks, 3 steel tank stands and complete drip irrigation systems. The greenhouses were then planted immediately.





***Addressing food insecurity within villages
LONGOSUA, ILBISIL, KENYA.***



We are in the process of approving the agricultural training curriculum, which is scheduled for April 2021. In this training, the agronomists have identified the following topics to be covered;

- a. Crop production under drip irrigation
- b. Drip system maintenance
- c. Basic crop management practices
- d. Integrated pests and disease managements
- e. Rain water harvesting and conservation methods.

These trainings are set to equip them with basic knowledge on how to tend to their crops after the installation of the drip irrigation kits in their respective homesteads. The farm manager will then be tasked with the duty of supervision and paying visits to every member to offer guidance and help them to achieve the desired results of quality crops. The water tanks and steel tank stands have already been delivered to site, a model drip irrigation kit installed on the demo site for the trainees to see and understand how it works, and after the trainings are complete, will be installed immediately thereafter in their homesteads.



Financials

*For The Year Ending December 2020
(The Figures Below are in Kenyan Shillings)*

REVENUE	
Grants and Donations	15,596,705.27
Total	15,596,705.27
EXPENSES	
Administration expenses	2,200,523.00
Project expenses	13,313,759.00
Depreciation	41,292.00
Audit and accountancy fees	229,579.00
Total	15,785,153.00
Operating deficit	188,447.73
Non-operating gain	3329.00
Change in net assets for the year	1,551,098.70
Net assets at the beginning of the year	2,602,837.17
Net assets at the end of the year	4,153,935.87

***Village Economic Empowerment financial position is strong and we are not currently running a deficit. The financials you see here are a snapshot in time and operating deficit reflects a 188,447.73 ; part of balance carried forward from 2019 surplus.**

The information presented above is drawn from Village Economic Empowerment's financial statements and audited by Edgeworth Consulting. They are available upon request