



THEME
**RIGHT TO PROTECTION:
 STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

*Celebrated on June 16th, 2006
 at Wath Ong'or Centre, Nyatike Division,
 Migori District*

BY



**ST. CAMILLUS DALA KIYE
 CHILDREN WELFARE HOME**

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

HIV	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
IEC	Informative, Educative & Communicative
DO	District Officer
DCO	District Children Officer
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
OCPD	Officer Commanding Police Division
DEO	District Education Officer
DSDO	District Social Development Officer
CBO	Community Based Organization
NGO	Non- Governmental Organization

OVERVIEW

Each year, since 2005 Migori district have been marking the Day of the African Child on June 16th. Under the provisions of the structure of the Area Advisory Council, an Organizing Committee whose members comprise key persons in government departments, NGO, and CBO is always formed at the district level to steer the entire organization for the day's celebrations. The secretary general and convener of all the organizing committee meetings is always the District Children's Officer.

Last year's celebrations were hosted by St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home in Karungu division as per the resolutions of the organizing committee. For this year 2006, the committee resolved that the day be hosted by World Vision at Wath Ong'er center in Nyatike division. The committee allocated shares of responsibilities and budgetary contributions to every organization/stakeholder in the district. St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home joined the entire Migori District in marking the Day of the African Child at Wath Ong'er Market Center at 25km distance away.

This year's Day of the African Child was celebrated remarkably and at a time when the theme was resounding fresh memories about cases of violence against children in the district and the republic of Kenya. The day provided an open forum for stakeholders to identify, explore and reflect the integrity of our communities in preserving the present for our future. The creation of Child Protection Units at all levels was underscored and all are responsible.

INTRODUCTION

St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home is a Faith-based, Child-focused and Development Integrated Organization. The organization is the initiative of 'The Order of the Servants of the Sick' (Camillians) in Kenya. The organization serves basically as a Charitable Children Institution and is situated at the deep southern shores of Lake Victoria in Karungu Division, Migori District, Nyanza Province in the Republic of Kenya. The organization's interventions address child suffering within communities without any religious or political biases

The program has a vision of children who are fully integrated into the community, exploring their potentials and contributing to their own future progress. The program is committed to work with and for orphans and vulnerable children through empowering, need-based and compassionate caring responses to the devastating impacts of HIV/AIDS in Nyatike and Gwasssi communities. The program mobilizes and engages community responses that empower households living with children for improved quality of life, decrease their chances of HIV infection and become healthy and productive members of Nyatike and Gwasssi communities. The organization exists to improve the quality of life of OVC and their household members in Nyatike and Gwasssi communities.

Dala Kiye Program designs need-based interventions and believes that children are innocent, dependant and already vulnerable. They are also curious, active and full of hope. Their future should be that of joy, peace, of playing, learning and growing. Their future should be shaped in harmony, tolerance and co-operation. Their lives should mature, as they broaden their perspectives and gain new experiences. The program is cognizant of the fact that a family has the primary responsibility of nurturing and protecting children and introducing them to the culture, values and norms of their society. For the full and harmonious development of their personality, children should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.

Currently, the program is rolling out three OVC programming models aimed at strengthening the existing community structures. The program interventions respond to the specific and general needs of OVC at identified different levels of needs:

1. *Family-based Care Model* reaches out to OVC living with their caregiver in the community. This model was initiated in the year 2000 designed on the basic assumption that a child has somebody within the community to provide care and support. This intervention is modeled to compliment the responses of the caring community to maintain and provide comprehensive care and support to the children within the community settings. 4,692 children are currently reached out in the community through this model
2. *Foster-family Care & protection Model* started in 2003 reaches out to OVC living under circumstances devoid of human interests in the community. This intervention is modeled on the background that a child is living under difficult circumstances that threaten to paralyze his/her future. A number of children suffer in the community in the hands of their caregivers and become even more vulnerable. Such children are common among the heterogeneous beach communities, disjointed families and exposed children in need of protection. This model therefore provides an alternative family within the community where the children are reintegrated for a period of time. The intervention currently reaches out to 60 children in five foster families - Bethlehem, Median, Nazereth and Shechem.
3. *Foster-family Care & protection for Children with Special Needs Model* reaches out to OVC living with AIDS. This model was initiated in 2005 to reach out to children living with AIDS, already enrolled on ART and is under the care of aged and /or sickling caregivers. A majority of such children are referred from ART points of service presenting with high incidences of malnutrition, non-adherence to drugs, opportunistic infections and poor health seeking behavior. The model provides an alternative family with facilities to respond to the ever-increasing complexities of the needs of children living with AIDS. Currently 31 children are reached with ultimate target of 60.

All these levels of interventions are community-focused, participatory and sustainable. The activities are comprehensively formulated with a commitment to implement the National Legislations, Policies and Action plans for the protection of the rights of children in Kenya.

THEME, OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Theme

The theme for this year's Day of the African Child was '**Right to Protection: Stop Violence Against Children**'. The African Union Commission, in collaboration with the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child declared June 16th of every year "The Day of the African Child". Marking the day honors and celebrates the initiatives taken to improve the life chances of children throughout the African continent. The day serves as an instrument to encourage similar exemplary initiatives in promoting the rights and improving the well being of children.

Objective

To improve protection to children against all forms of violence committed to them in communities of Migori district.

Expected Results

1. Raised awareness among community members on all forms of violence committed against children.
2. Increased knowledge among children of their duties and responsibilities to their caregivers within the communities caring for them.
3. Empowered community members to report incidences of violence committed against children to cadres of authorities in the community.
4. Strengthened capacity of all cadres of leaderships in the community to address child abuse in the community.

ACTIVITIES AND ACTUAL RESULTS

1. Processions.

At 10 o'clock in the morning a procession was flagged-off by the area chief at a distance of 3 kilometers to the venue – Wath Ong'er center. About 800 people, majority of who were children had gathered at the starting point. The procession was lively as all participants were in jovial mood with children Carrying the burner and flyers of the day. The children sang welcoming songs as they walked along the road to the venue. The entire area provincial administration including the lowest cadre of village elders participated in the procession. A number of invited guests from other parts of the district who were just arriving and other community members who were on their own business also joined the procession. 430 children and 12 staff from Dala Kiye Program including the director, Fr. Emilio Balliana participated in the procession.

The overwhelming participation of community members and children in the procession demonstrated effective community mobilization and high awareness about the Day of the African Child. The messages that were passed across to people during the procession on informative, educative and informative materials draw more attention to those who were unaware of the day.



Children & adults participating in the procession carrying the burner and fliers for the day

2. Opening Ceremony

The procession reached the venue by 11 o'clock. The host for the day was World Vision, being a key collaborator closest to the venue. More guests and community members from other parts of the district were arriving and settling for the day. A number of members of community based organizations from Karungu and Nyatike divisions arrived in time. The government departmental representatives from the divisions and collaborators were all settled for the day. A number of pupils, teachers, and other community members drawn from every part of the district were also settled at the venue in time. The area District Officer also arrived in time to officiate over the day's events. The District Children's Officer together with other district departmental heads were already settled at the venue to mark the day.

Over 2000 people were altogether gathered and a call for order for opening ceremony was observed by an opening prayers opening remarks coordinated by the Master of Ceremony (the DSDO area office). During the opening ceremony a group of children repeatedly read out the following messages in unison amidst cheers from other children:

**WE WELCOME YOU ALL TO THE
ANNUAL JUNE 16TH
CELEBRATION
OF THE DAY OF THE
AFRICAN CHILD 2006**

WE ARE PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE OVER 500
CHILDREN
WHO WERE MASSACRED
IN JUNE 16TH 1976
IN SOWETO SOUTH AFRICA BY THE APARTHAID
REGIME.

BY THE APARTHAID REGIME.

WE VENERATE THE COURAGE OF
CHILDREN
IN REALIZING THEIR RIGHTS

**WE SALUTE ALL CHILDREN
AND DECLARE
ANY FORMS
OF VIOLENCE AGAINST
THEM, A VICE**

WE, CHILDREN
ACKNOWLEDGE ALL EFFORTS MADE BY OUR
PARENTS, GRANDIES, UNCLES, AUNTIES,
SYMPATHISERS AND ELDERLY BROTHERS AND
SISTERS TO PROTECT US.

**THIS IS THE DAY THAT
THE LORD HAS MADE THAT
WE BE GLAD AND REJOICE
IN IT
COMBATING ALL FORMS OF
VIOLENCE AGAINST US.**

**WHAT
ARE YOU DOING
TO STOP
VIOLENCE
AGAINST CHILDREN????**

STOP !!!!

- ☐ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- ☐ PSYHICAL ASSAULT
- ☐ CHILD LABOUR
- ☐ DRUG TRAFICKING
- ☐ FEMALE INFANTICIDE
- ☐ EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE
- ☐ STIGMA & DISCRIMINATION
- ☐ SUBJECTION TO TRADITIONAL
FULNFILMENTS

3. Presentations by Children.

8 different primary schools participated in marking the Day of the African Child. The children from these schools made educative presentations articulating various forms of violence against children in the community. Through 9 pieces of songs, 6 sets of skits and 5 tunes of poems the children focused on the following:

1. Articulating different forms of violence against children in the community
2. Admonishing the perpetrators of child abuse in the community
3. Expressing appreciations to the initiatives protecting the children rights in the community
4. Expressing solidarity and concerns to all the children who have met violence in their lives and subjected to vulnerabilities devoid of human interests.
5. Advocating for the care and protection to disadvantaged children in the community
6. Appealing to the community leaders and all cadres of authority in the community to ensure right to protection and stop violence against children in the community
7. Lamenting and warning people against HIV/AIDS being the main cause of deaths that leave children behind in despair and desolation.



Children presenting a lamentation song on child violence.

4. Presentations by community lyric entertainers.

A renowned community entertainment group known as Oguda OTC presented a thrilling entertainment that was very rich in educating people on how to stop violence against children. The vernacular lyrics sent far reaching cultural obligations in protecting orphaned children lest we bear the brands of curses spelt by the tears of the diseased parents in the community.



Community entertainment group – Oguda OTC

5. Speeches

Under the coordination of the District Social Development Officer (DSDO) and as the master of ceremony of the day, Informative and educative speeches were delivered by a 9 guest speakers in the order specified below:

5.1 Area chief

The chief delivered opening remarks welcoming all to the venue and highlighted on the situation of OVC in his Wath Ong'er location.

5.2 OCPD Nyatike

Being in charge of ensuring security to all, he observed the various forms of violence committed against children and warned everyone that has been involved in violating the rights of children to stop.

5.3 MoH Representative

The office of ministry of health remarked on a number of children who have been assaulted and sustained physical injuries indicating that children are meeting violence. He admonished the perpetrators.

5.4 District Education Officer

The DEO emphasized on the fact that primary education is free and compulsory for all yet other children are still denied their right to education.

5.5 District Children's Officer

The officer delivered a fairly long speech educating people on the revised Children Act, regulations for Charitable Children Institutions, adoption and fostering. She identified forms of violence to children and sensitized people on the stipulated penalties for offenders.

5.6 World Vision

The representative evaluated the performance of KATSO project in the area and encouraged the children and their caregivers to shun away violence in the community.

5.7 St. Camillus Karungu - Fr. Emilio Balliana

The director of Dala Kiye program lamented that many children are still living in difficult circumstances yet the government and many agencies were claiming to be in the community to address their plight. He protested that a lot of resources were being misdirected and contributing to perpetuating violence against children instead of ensuring quality care and protection to children.

5.8 Child-Guest

The child-guest from Dala Kiye Program expressed heartfelt appreciation to the care and support that disadvantaged children have received. He wished all children could access the same kind of care. He also pleaded with those charged with protecting children to take up their responsibilities since children are already vulnerable.

5.9 Guest of Honor – The Area District Officer

The DO delivered a long closing speech observing all dimensions of violence against children. He encouraged the NGO, CBO and individuals that are undertaking genuine initiatives to care for children to continue the more. He warned those caregivers, other relatives, teachers and agencies that expose children to risks to stop.



The guest of Honor, area District Officer delivering closing remarks.

During the speeches the following issues were brought out by a number of speakers:

- o That the community members are very tolerant to child violence and most cases of child abuse are never reported for redress.
- o That child neglect is quite rampant in most parts of the district and quite common among children whose parents are still alive especially single male-headed households.
- o That, children too have a duty and responsibility to the communities caring and protecting them.
- o That some Orphans are impoverished by the unscrupulous and unlawful appropriation of property they are entitled to inherit from their parents and they are rarely able to take legal action to protect their inheritance rights.
- o That in most parts of the district the community social safety nets are broken down and child-headed households are increasing and that an increasing number of such children find themselves thrust in the roles of parents taking greater responsibilities of bread winning and caring for the other younger household members.
- o That some children, after losing their parents attempt to move out of their homes seeking for care and support from relatives and sympathizers who instead abuse, exploit and discriminate against them and subject them to loss of their family identity and inheritance rights.

- o That under the guise of discipline, a number of children have been assaulted, ill treated, discriminated and exposed to heartbreaking suffering and pains.
- o That some orphans are still not yet reached by support services in the district and are lacking parental care, love and protection hence undergo distress from the loss of a dear ones, social isolation and regressive cultural experiences that lead to shame, irritation, fear and rejection.

6. Distribution of social support materials to selected OVC households

Courtesy of the Area Advisory Council, material support was extended to 20 selected child-headed households and a total of 67 children from the selected 20 households benefited. Each household received 10kg of maize, 6kg of beans, 6 kg of rice and a blanket. The DO and the DCO led in the distributions.



Distribution of materials to selected OVC households

7. Provision of Meals and Refreshments

An estimated number of 2200 children from 8 primary schools and over 200 adults including guests and caregivers participated in marking the day. St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home fed at least 1000 children on a half a loaf of bread and a 300ml bottle of soda each. All the guests and other children were provided with meals by other collaborators as had been allocated by the committee.



A group of children from a school settled for a meal

8. Football Match.

Being a crowd-pulling event a football match was played between Modi and Ong'er primary schools. This was the last event of the day. Modi primary school won the match 3-1 and carried this years Day of the African Child winners title.



A team of football preparing for the match

ACHIEVEMENTS

Having marked the day, the following achievements were made based on the objectives:

- o Over 2000 people, majority being the children from communities in the district participated in marking the day. Despite ad hoc logistical challenges, the day's programme was toed and all was successful.
- o Participants were drawn from all cadres of leadership and authority in the community. This reinforced the advocacy call for the protection of children by all in the community.
- o Incidences and forms of violence against children were articulated. Many participants were therefore educated on child rights and sensitized on the paramount need for child protection in the community.
- o The DCO had ample time to educate participants on the newly revised Children ACT and on the new regulations on charitable children institutions, adoption and fostering. The communities knew little about all these regulations and were more prone to violate them. The DCO's emphasis on child participation brought a new ray of light in how to stop violence against children.
- o Disciplinary actions and specific penalties for violators of children rights were fairly spelt out to the participants. Certain issues normally taken for granted by many people in caring for OVC were explained and mythical issues were demystified thereupon.
- o In as much as rights are entitlements and children do not need to struggle to get them, it was also the opportunity for children to be helped to understand that they too have duties and responsibilities to their caregivers and community at large.
- o The OCPD and the DO explained and gave out ways possible on reporting and handling cases of valance against children in the community. Much fear was explained off as it dawned on participants that it was solely individual responsibility to protect children in the neighborhoods.
- o A call for action was made to address child abuse in the community and step up all initiatives that care and support OVC.

CHALLENGES

- o A majority of children from the district could not participate in marking the Day of the African Child because of the location of the venue being far off from most parts of the district. Some groups of children and adults could not afford the transportation costs and other implicated logistics.
- o The period for organizing the activities for the day was short since the organizing committee met within the last one week to the main day. This frustrated efforts to mobilize adequate resources and plan for more enriching activities.
- o A number of organizations/stakeholders were caught unaware of the day's celebrations since information was not disseminated in time.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The contribution from AED of Kshs. 54,600.00 was spent as specified below:

Particulars	Cost	Remarks
Transport Expenses	36,500.00	A lorry was hired to transport 430 pupils and 12 staff to Wath Ong'er and back to Dala Kiye
Provision of meals	11,725.00	35 crates of 300ml bottle of soda were bought to supplement other contributions to feed over 1000 children on a half a loaf of bread and a 300ml bottle of soda each.
Burner	6,375.00	A burner for the day was designed locally at a cost of Kshs. 6,375.00.
TOTAL	54,600.00	

Signed By: _____

Designation: _____

Date: _____

Official Rubberstamp: