

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



ST. CAMILLUS DALA KIYE CHILDREN WELFARE HOME

A Compassionate Response to HIV and AIDS Impacts on Children



January – December 2020

Program Profile

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| Organization: | St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home |
| Program Name: | Dala Kiye Program |
| Programming Areas: | Orphans & Vulnerable Children (OVC) & HIV/AIDS |
| Program Location: | Karungu Division, Nyatike Sub – County |
| Reporting Period: | January 2020 – December 2020 |

Introduction

St. Camillus Dala Kiye Program is founded on Christian virtues of love and compassion to deprived and devastated children in the community. The Program is an initiative of the St. Camillus Mission and the surrounding Christian community to address the needs of Orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS.

St. Camillus Dala Kiye works with livelihood challenged communities to assist them in re-establishing control over their own future, promoting self-reliance, enhancing their self-management systems and uplifting their living standards. The organization works with communities and local partners in their quest to support OVC. The Organization provides care and support to OVC in the core areas of food and nutrition, health, education, shelter and care, child protection, psychosocial support and life skills. To help promote sustainability, the project also rolls out economic empowerment programme to the OVC caregivers by providing entrepreneurship and agricultural training and assisting them to come up with income generating activities of their choice. During the process of reviewing her relevance and long-term strategic direction, Dala Kiye appreciated the need to engage in sustainable development, and the need to re-invent holistic approach in her programming strategies which serves to empower communities to engage in uplifting their livelihood in a sustainable way.

Dala Kiye Program emerged from the dumbfounding experiences in the St. Camillus Mission Hospital where patients being admitted were terminally ill AIDS patients and subsequently died leaving behind children. These deaths were steadily increasing not only within the hospital but also in the entire community and the numbers of children whose lives were falling apart were also escalating. These children were deprived, devastated, prejudiced and subjected to lead lives devoid of human interests. This prompted the initial inception of St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home in 1998 and was eventually registered in July 2002 with the Department of social Services, Migori district as a Charitable Children's Organization to address the welfare of Children affected By AIDS in Karungu community.

Nevertheless, the reality of phenomenological and the socio-economic dynamics in the community have made it necessary to broaden the mandate to encompass community development precepts. The Organization is a non - political and non - profit making initiative. The Program operations depend on both financial and material resources mobilized from individuals and Non-governmental organizations. Through community based needs assessments, projects are designed and developed and sent to donors for considerations. The Organization prepares its financial reports as articulated by the donors accordingly to accredit accountability and transparency. The program is implementing different OVC projects modeled on School - Based care, Community Foster Family Care and Foster Care and Protection for Children with special needs.

The physical facilities of the program comprise of the following:

- (a) An administration block with furnished and equipped offices, meeting room, library, auditorium and washrooms.
- (b) A well-furnished and equipped dining hall with a capacity of 300 children and also housing laundry room and stores.
- (c) Six family houses for hosting 60 children living with HIV and AIDS
- (d) A recreational facility for sports/games for both the children and adults. These include ball games, athletics and bathing.
- (e) A public primary and secondary school [B.L. Tezza Complex Schools] with OVC forming a greater proportion of the total pupil population.



Dala Kiye is designed in such a way that it is child friendly. The rights of the children are well protected. Moreover, Dala Kiye projects is comprehensively formulated with a commitment to implement the National Legislations, Policies and Action plans for the protection of the rights of children in Kenya. The program is based on a framework of wide consultative process involving all stakeholders. The program implementation team is headed by the Program Director who is the chief Administrator of all the initiatives of the St. Camillus Mission in Karungu. The team comprises of qualified and competent professionals who are responsible for finance & administration and program development & management.

Currently Dala Kiye is fully involved in the support of the OVC affected by the HIV and AIDS. It is designed in a way that each child living in Dala Kiye Children Home acquires the basics in life including food, water, clothing and other personal effects. In addition to this each child is able to get the medical attention from St. Camillus Mission Hospital which is very close.

The Key Interventions in the year 2020

Education and Vocational support

Over the years, St. Camillus Dala Kiye has been at the forefront of promoting education initiatives within the project catchment area. These initiatives range from fees or school levies payment to the needy children to massive infrastructural improvement projects such as ECD block constructions and classroom renovations. The actions in the education sector are meant to help retain the children in school and also to help improve the learning environment for the children. In the year 2020, the programme continued enabling the children to be retained in school and thus continue with their studies. The children opened the schools as usual in the month of January 2020. However, this did not take long due to the Covid 19 Pandemic.

The outbreak of the Corona virus ended up to closure of schools and actually the education sector was affected greatly. In the month of March, the school calendar was closed and children had to go back to their various homes. A lot of information concerning how to be cautious not to be affected and on how to prevent the spread of this pandemic was all over the media.

Dala Kiye children were also informed on how to be cautious about this Pandemic. The program was also affected and the children remained in the institution between the months of March to August. Movement was minimal and very few people could be allowed in the institution. Actually unless of urgency, nobody was allowed in the institution. At the main entrance there was sanitizers and one had to sanitize before entering. Moreover, face masks had to be worn throughout the period when one was in the institution.

Due to the situation in the world, the administration of the Dala Kiye had to come up with the schedule which was to ensure the children within the institute are not staying idle. Again, it was fit for the children to remain within just to prevent them from contracting the disease while at home. The timetable was set in a way that the children got time to study, to play, to socialize and also to do some extra curriculum activities. In the morning hours, the children from various classes were able to catch up with their academics and revision. They did this while gathered together in different houses or rooms to discuss or study together. This session took place between 08.30 in the morning until 11.30. At midday the children had time share their talents. They had lunch then afterwards they had a brief rest.



Around 3.00pm in the evening the children did some manual activities. They tended the flowers, watering them as well as trimming the flowers too. They ensured the compound is clean. Despite the situation at hand about the Pandemics, the children had to be supported in various ways including psychological, physical as well as socially.



Psychological Support.

Regarding psychological support, it is clear that this support helps the vulnerable children and their caregivers to cope with mental and emotional challenges. Children face illness and often suffer as a result of the death of parents. Psychological effects of these problems may make it hard for them to take part in everyday activities such as going to school. To address the psychological needs of OVC, Dala Kiye facilitated group guidance and counseling sessions for OVC enrolled in the program. During the Pandemic period, the children had time to discuss among themselves. The foster mothers plus the social worker had various session to share with the children.

Physical Support.



outdoor games like football, athletics among others.

Physical support is key in the growing children. In this case, the children during the pandemic time basically had session which enabled them to become physically fit. While in school before the pandemic, the schools where these children go to learn had period including games time and extra curriculum activities to help them become physically fit. When the schools were closed due to pandemic, the administration designed a timetable whereby, this physical support was offered. This included, playing indoor and

Social Support

Social support is very significant when it comes to the growing children. In this case, the pandemic did not hinder the children from this support. Nevertheless, precautions were put across just to avoid any infections. As stated above, visitors were not allowed to visit the institute, unless there was a great need.

The children celebrated their birthdays in their corresponding months in the last Saturday of the month. During these birthday parties, they also had time to dance, play and show case their talents. When cutting the cake, it was a joyful moment and this strengthened their bonds. In these great events, there is no doubt they grew socially. In addition, the foster mothers played a keyrole in coaching them how to sing and dance as well.

Games were not left behind, as this was a great moment to socialize also. The Dala Kiye children no doubt appreciated so much in playing games including football and athletics.



Report compiled by

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