

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



ANNUAL REPORT

2022



**A Compassionate Response to
HIV and AIDS Impacts on Children**

January – December 2022

Program Profile

Organization: St. Camillus Dala Kiye Children Welfare Home

Program Name: Dala Kiye Program

Program Areas: Orphans & Vulnerable Children (OVC) & HIV/AIDS

Program Location: Karungu Division, Nyatike West – County

Reporting Period: January 2022 – December 2022

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. During the process of reviewing its 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.

The Dala Kiye Program emerged from the experiences in the St. Camillus Mission Hospital where patients being admitted were mainly terminally ill AIDS patients who subsequently died leaving behind their children with no one to take care of them. 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 program is implementing different OVC projects modeled on School-Based care and Foster Care and Protection for Children with special needs.

The physical facilities of the program comprise of the following:

1. An administration block with furnished and equipped offices, meeting rooms, library, auditorium and washrooms.
2. A well-furnished and equipped dining hall with a capacity of 300 children and also housing a laundry room and stores.
3. Foster Family Houses - 6 units of self-contained family houses each with at least 10 beds capacity for children living with HIV/AIDS.
4. Sports field and recreational facilities - for children and adults. These include ball games, athletics and shower points.
5. Early Childhood Education Center (Nursery)

Dala Kiye is designed in such a way that it is child friendly. The rights of the children are well protected. Moreover, Dala Kiye’s projects 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. The program implementation team is led by the Program Director who is the chief Administrator of all the initiatives of the St. Camillus Mission in Karungu. Currently Dala Kiye is fully involved in the support of the OVC affected by HIV and AIDS. It is designed in a way that each child living in Dala Kiye Children Home acquires everything a child needs including food, water, clothing and other personal effects as well as receiving the proper medical attention from St. Camillus Mission Hospital.



The Key Interventions in the year 2022

FOSTER FAMILY CARE AND PROTECTION FOR OVC WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

This model aims to foster whilst improving the quality of life of OVC living with HIV and Aids within environmentally enabling alternative families. A high percentage of children living with the mentioned conditions are often under the care of poor caregivers who are isolated or shunned by the community in addition to most of the time being elderly and sick. The model issued by the Dala Kiye center provides alternative family-like facilities to respond to the increasing complexity of the needs of children living with HIV.

All the children that fall under this category are already enrolled in ART and under the care of needy, sick or elderly caregivers who cannot take proper care of the young ones, especially with the correct assumption of the ARV drugs, essential for them to continue living a normal life. The process of selection usually implies the referral from ART points of service in addition to the presence of high malnutrition, non-adherence to drug intake, opportunistic infections, demonstrating lower resilience and with poor health seeking behavior. The Dala Kiye program reached 60 OVC with this care model in the year 2022.



PROGRAM PERFORMANCE DURING 2022

EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING SUPPORT

Over the past years, Dala Kiye has been at the forefront of promoting education initiatives within the project area. These initiatives range from fees or school levies payment to the needy children to massive infrastructural improvement projects such as constructions and renovations of classrooms in school buildings.

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 2022, the program reached 95 children with education support. Majority of these children were enrolled in nursery, primary, secondary schools. A small number are enrolled in middle level colleges and universities.

- Early Childhood Education Center (Nursery) with **45** enrolled, **3** under Dala Kiye and **42** are self-sponsored children.
- Primary school (B.L. Tezza Complex Primary School) - registered as a public school with **351** children enrolled, **57** are enrolled under Dala Kiye and **294** are self-sponsored.
- Secondary school (B.L. Tezza Complex Secondary School) – registered as a public school with **1,200 students in total**, of which **18** students sponsored by Dala Kiye, **69** sponsored by CEI (Conferenza Episcopale Italiana) and **1,113** are self-sponsored.
- **9** students in other Secondary Schools and **4** in College or University sponsored by Dala Kiye



From the year 2020-2022 with the outbreak of Coronavirus, the closure of schools and the education sector was greatly affected. In the month of March, the school calendar was closed and there were many precautions about how to stay safe and minimize the spread of the virus. In the Dala Kiye, a schedule was prepared for the children to be able to carry out their school work without leaving behind their academic and educational growth. The timetable consisted of study time, play time, socializing and carrying out extracurricular activities.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

Regarding psychological support, it is clear that this support helps the OVC and the caregivers to cope with the mental and emotional challenges that they face including the suffering as a result of the death of their parents. Psychological effects of these problems make it hard for them to take part in everyday activities such as going to school. To address the psychological means of OVC, Dala Kiye in 2022 facilitated group guidance and counseling sessions for the OVC affected by HIV living in the center, usually this happened twice a year and included guidance on the proper intake of the ARV drugs, making sure the children understand the importance of administering this correctly for their health and wellbeing. During the pandemic that was still affecting the world in the year 2022, the children had time to discuss amongst themselves fears and issues they face as well as sharing their emotions with others. The foster mother and the social workers had various sessions to share with the children.

PHYSICAL SUPPORT

Physical support is key in a child's life, both for their mental and physical wellbeing. In the first few months of the year 2022, with the continuing worries for the spread of the coronavirus, the children had limited space confined to the Dala Kiye compound. Bi-weekly sports sessions were organized by the host mothers, the administrator and other employees, which enabled them to be physically active through the movement of their bodies. Tournaments and sports events were organized frequently to make these activities more fun for the children and included playing indoor and outdoor games like dance competitions, football, volleyball and athletics.

SOCIAL SUPPORT

Social support is very significant when it comes to a child's wellbeing as well as interaction with others. In the year 2022, the pandemic did not hinder the children from this support. Nevertheless, precautions were put across just to avoid any infections. Visitors were limited, more controlled but still essential for the interaction with the children.



MONTHLY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Monthly celebrations for birthdays still occurred on the last Saturday of the month. During these birthday parties, the children also had time to dance, play and showcase their talents. The favorite part for the children is always the snacks, soda, popcorn and most importantly, the cutting and eating of the cake. During each celebration, the ones celebrating their birthdays receive a small gift such as some pen and pencils or other school material. The foster mothers play a key role in coaching them on how to sing and dance as well.



VISITORS

This year was marked by quite a number of visitors coming to the Dala Kiye center. When visitors come to the center they understand the importance of the work being done, interact with the children, share stories with them and often bring donations which can vary from school supplies, to clothing and food. The visitors of the year 2022 include the Sisters from Macalder Baby Care home, a group visit organized by Fr. Francis Maina who is the Superior of Caledonia Community from Nairobi, visitors from the Association of Sisterhood of Kenya who gave encouragement and prayerful speeches to the Dala Kiye community. Students from Tabaka Nursing School also paid a visit and organized sports activities such as football and volleyball matches with B.L. Tezza Complex Secondary School.

The matches brought entertainment and excitement to the children as they were seen shouting to the top of their voices cheering the teams. The General Mother of the Sick from Camillian Sisters, Sr. Lucia Walker together with her Vicar Sr. Liberty and other sisters visited the center as well as children from St. Joseph Alendo Primary School Karungu donated some school supplies to the children. Some privileged visits included some workers from Safaricom mobile network in Migori as well as the Karungu Deputy Officer Commandant of Police Station, Mr. Nassoro Muvene and Deputy Imams of Karungu mosque, Mr. Habib Masa. During Christmas, Mr. Paul Kiage a friend to Fr. Emilio and his family who live in Nairobi donated clothes and food to the children.

ST. CAMILLUS DE LELLIS

In the month of July 2022, we celebrated the feast of St. Camillus. The children joined the community for celebrations which started with Holy Mass at the Medical ward. During this day, two novices took their first profession.

DAY TRIPS

In March 2022, children went to visit the Tabaka M. Hospital to enhance their social skills in a new environment; they made new friends and enjoyed visiting another hospital managed by the Camillians.

DALA KIYE ADMISSION AND EXIT PROCESS

Usually the school term and examinations terminate at the end of December of every year, by that time the children in class 8 Primary have come to an end to their time at the Dala Kiye center and proceed by studying in Secondary or vocational schools or returning back to their family homes. In January and February then, the process of replacing these children with new ones is complex and divided into the application of possible candidates, the verification of all the correct documents, a home visit and assessment and the acceptance into the center. In 2022, because of the pandemic, schools finished in April 2022. The 13 children who finished their class 8 examination remained in the center until 25th April 2022 and the whole process of new admittances was then postponed. The second group of people who joined class 8 in April 2022, ended the school year in December 2022, leaving 6 new spaces for new children to replace them.



VICTORIA FARM

St. Camillus Dala Kiye, to help promote sustainability, in 2020 has launched the Victoria farm project with a focus on an economic empowerment program for OVCs and their caregivers, offering the development of operational and entrepreneurial skills in agriculture, with the aim of fostering the development of activities capable of producing income. The children take part in weekly activities assisting with the maintenance and correct management of the farm and its animals.



In 2022, the Victoria farm with its animals has provided nutritional meat and eggs to the 60 children living in the Dala Kiye center, in addition to creating an income from selling its produce to the St. Camillus hospital for its patients.

In 2022, **800 laying hens** were bought for the optimal production of eggs which are a good source of cheap and high quality protein as well as being rich in selenium, vitamin D, B6, B12 and minerals such as zinc, iron and copper. In 2022, about every 4 months, 300 broilers hens for meat production were purchased for a total of **900 broilers hens** for the year 2022. Additional purchases include: **2 pigs**, who after a few months gave birth to more than 10 piglets as well as **3 cows** for the production of meat. With the wonderful support from The Fathers Foundation in the USA and Il Mondo Una Famiglia, an Italian NGO, Victoria farm received a donation for the construction of the Cow-pen and a Friesian Cow that they named Victoria respectively. The support was received with both hands as the cow was to produce nutritious milk for the Dala Kiye children.

THE DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD 2022 CELEBRATION

THEME

ELIMINATING HARMFUL PRACTICES AFFECTING CHILDREN PROGRESS ON
POLICY AND PRACTICES SINCE 2013

VENUE

ST. CAMILLUS DALA KIYE

DATE

SATURDAY, 18TH JUNE 2022

Introduction

The Day of the African Child was instituted in 1991 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the then OAU instituted in memory of the 16th June 1976 student uprising in Soweto, South Africa. Since then, the OAU and its successor, the AU, have used the DAC to remember these children, to celebrate children in Africa as well as to inspire a sober reflection and action towards addressing the plethora of challenges that children in Africa face on a daily basis. This year's celebration was planned to address the protection of the African child's rights through a theme of **Eliminating harmful practices affecting children's progress on policy and practices since 2013.**

The African Children are facing various challenges in life such as early marriages, maternal deaths, female genital mutilation, child trafficking, variation and low enrolment in school and child abuses. Therefore, the need for the stakeholders coming together to help address this.

This year's celebration was marked at Dala Kiye attended by 253 people, 33 adults and 220 children. The participants included the children from the four Homes namely; Macalder Baby Care, St. Paul of the cross, Tonga Passionist Children and Dala Kiye, B.L. Tezza Special School for the deaf and other neighboring schools, invited guests, parents and caregivers.

The day started with the Holy Mass and then the participants were taken through the Day's programme and welcomed everyone to the celebration with a freestyle dance song. Fr. John began with introducing the four children's home i.e. Macalder baby care, St. Paul of the cross children Home, Tonga Passionist children home and Dala Kiye that were in attendance.

The occasion picked up with interesting and educative activity i.e. entertainment. The children of Macalder baby care started it off and presented their three entertainment items; two poems all about the rights of the child e.g. right to nutritious food, shelter, life, education, play and they also called upon the parents and guardians to help protect these rights. The last item was a dance to

show how the children are talented in waist twisting and body flexibility. Dala Kiye children followed with a dance. B. L. Tezza Special School also went to the stage to dance and showed the crowd that despite the challenge they have they could also dance the music tune like any other child in the society.

Speeches then followed from the Area Chief, Sr. Dorcas of Macalder Baby Care, Sr. Jane from St. Paul, Br. Maurice of Tonga Passionist Children Home, Elizabeth, the social worker from Dala Kiye shared her gratitude, Steve from the 'We World' organization, representing the children's department was also privileged to share his speech highlighting the day's theme: **Eliminating harmful practices affecting children's progress on policy and practices since 2013**. He then concluded by calling everyone to help promote children rights.

Entertainment continued, Dala Kiye came to stage with a traditional dance with messages supporting the occasion like no to child abuses, importance of education, productive work e.g. supporting the parents.

The occasion ended with a word of prayer for God's blessing, protection and provision to every participant.



HOLISTIC FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BASED CARE CEREMONY

VENUE: BABY CARE HOME, MACALDER

DATE: 19TH NOVEMBER 2022

On this day, Dala Kiye children, together with other local orphanages: The Baby Care Home of Macalder, St. Paul of the cross from Kadem and the Passionist Children from Tonga gathered to celebrate together as well as share their experiences and challenges. During this day the children had the opportunity to interact, play, laugh and smile together and even showcase their talents in dancing, singing and reciting poems. The event was supported by the Association of Sisterhood of Kenya.

The day started with the celebration of the morning Mass, presided over by Fr. Patrick from the St. Camillus Mission in Karungu who since November 2022 is also the Dala Kiye Administrator. After the Mass, all the visitors were introduced and the events for the day started. The entertainments included songs, traditional dances, plays, poems that offered communication to the participants such as the importance of education, nutrition as well as the good morals towards the welfare of the children.

There were also speeches from the other invited guests and representatives of the homes. The speeches were words of encouragement, support and acknowledgement. And finally, lunch was provided by the Sisters of Macalder with the cutting and eating of a cake. The day brought the children together by sharing their experiences. We express our gratitude for the Association of Sisterhood of Kenya who sponsored the event.



Report compiled by

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