

## CAMBRIDGE – KENYA FOOTBALL FOR DEVELOPMENT- EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME

### Introduction:

Cambridge – Kenya Football For Development (CKFFD) is a strategic cooperation between SEP – Oyugis and Cambridge, MA - USA, focusing on development through football. The cooperation has the goal of educating young girls and boys in Kenya in health and agriculture through football-based programmes. It also focuses on improving the relationship between young people in the USA and Kenya through cultural exchanges. Behind this cooperation is the Two-Wheeled Foundation, which has worked together with the participants in Cambridge to fundraise for SEP programmes. In the month of April 2012, this initiative supported the education of 30 SEP members, and provided 180 girls and boys with fertilizers for their horticultural programmes.



*SEP members and their parents and guardians gather to witness the distribution of fertilizers and school uniforms for their sons, daughters and some, their grand children. At the centre is one the parents sharing with her colleagues how football and agriculture programme in SEP helps her daughter through education. Her daughter is one of the few talented SEP members accessing secondary education scholarship. Far end are SEP volunteers – George and Benson, compiling the list of beneficiaries in both Agriculture and school uniforms. This year, the SEP education and agriculture programmes received financial support from FIFA'S Football For Hope (FFH), GIZ/YDF and CKFFD. A total of 180 members received fertilizers, while 30 pupils received school uniforms.*

The idea of supporting the children through school uniforms is to encourage all young children in SEP to access education, provision of uniforms is a motivation, since some of them can't afford to buy the uniforms hence shy away from attending school; they look odd from fellow pupils while not in uniforms.



SEP Girls and boys receiving school uniforms. SEP is determined to supporting girl child through education, hence will continue enrolling more girls into its programmes.

Below is a personal confession of one of SEP girls who is also a beneficiary of SEP Education programme.

“..... My names are Lencer Atieno Otineo, born in May 1996, the third born in a family of five. I am a total orphan, I am not sure when my dad died, but am told I was hardly two years then. My mother died when I was seven years, and in class one. I have since lived my life with my extended relatives, until when I was in class eight (11 years old) when I came back home to live with my Grand mother, who is eighty years old currently .

That is the year I joined SEP (2010) as a football fan. I was not sure which position I would play in the field, so I would just follow the ball in a crowd! One day, during our small sided games, my team mates requested me to be the goal keeper for that session, and every one was amazed at my performance. Since then, my coach, Maurice, encouraged me to continue training in goal keeping, and he continued fielding me in junior games/matches.

Last year 2011, I was picked to join SEP senior girls' team, and was the goal keeper at the constituency level, a tournament that was largely attended. It is here I was linked up by my Director, Festus Juma, with my current school where I am admitted under the school scholarship, and I am the school 1<sup>st</sup> keeper!! It is marvellous, am in school as a result of football talent, nurtured by SEP. Football knows no total orphan, the poor or a girl. It is all about dedication and hard work, while loving the game, football! I challenge fellow girls both within and out of SEP to make good use of their time and talent, for they never know what one could earn out of a natural talent. My ultimate goal after I am through with my education is to become one of the best international goal keepers.....!"



SEP displays its trophies won during last year 2011, at the centre is SEP member receiving school uniforms, given by guest of the day, Vera, and the far end is SEP Director Festus Juma (left in striped T-shirt), reading out the names tagged on the uniforms as Kennedy, second guest of the day, hands them over to the beneficiaries.

### **Way Forward:**

In a meeting held two weeks after the distribution of fertilizers and uniforms, SEP resolved to move away from distributing fertilizers, but train her members on making farm yard/decomposed manure. This will help sustain the programme in the long run, and besides its sustainability, it improves soil fertility. As such, SEP has scheduled for training on decomposed manure in the month of MAY, and the first target group will be trained as Trainers of Trainees. (TOTs). The TOTs will then have the responsibility of replicating the skills among the cluster groups for effective implementation, as well as monitoring of the impact of the new idea. This decision is based on the fact that SEP membership is rapidly increasing, hence choosing on a long term approach of resource allocation is ideal.