

# Wema Centre



Watoto wema Maisha mema

# Background

The Wema Centre is a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) founded in 1993 in response to the plight of young Street girls. The first project was a home for street girls based in Likoni in a three-bedroom house which was relocated to Bamburi in 1997. The Centre currently runs various street children and vulnerable orphans' rehabilitation projects in Mombasa and Thika. The Wema Centre projects focus mainly on **education** and skills training.

The Wema rehabilitation projects include Rescue / Drop in Centres, Bamburi Children's Home, The Safina Halfway House, Early Childhood Development and Vocational training and Recreation Programs.



# Vision

Our Vision is to have street Children and vulnerable orphans transformed into fulfilled and responsible persons.

# Mission

We are called to serve and transform street children and vulnerable orphans into fulfilled and responsible persons. We do this by providing rescue and relocation, education and skills training, social integration and other necessary support such as food, clothing, shelter, health and medical care, parental guidance, counseling and recreation.

# Vocational Training



The Vocational training program equips the youth with basic literacy and livelihood skills ranging from tailoring and dressmaking, cookery, to computer skills. The program helps the youth who find themselves unable to join the mainstream education system due to age or other family difficulties and enables them to explore opportunities for employment or setting up their own small businesses.



## Wema Outreach Project (Rescue/Drop in Centres)

Since 1994, Wema has conducted weekly visits to the streets of Mombasa and the slums to identify children in need of support. During such visits, we give food and clothes, counseling services and attend to the sick. We also conduct open forums where street children discuss issues of concern. The Wema Drop in Centre for street children is part of this Outreach work that helps us to reach the children we serve. It is a facility located in town (Mombasa and Thika) where children are encouraged to visit at their pleasure to “hang out” and access various essential services.



Our intervention includes rescue and relocation to children's homes for care and protection, family re-unifications, school admissions and sponsorship. We also provide food and clothes, counseling, showers and medical care and social re-integration. We have two Rescue/Drop in Centres in Mombasa (Ganjoni) and Thika town each serving at least 70 children daily with 40 beds for temporary accommodation.

We also conduct community outreach activities in the Mwembelegeza area that surrounds Wema Centre Bamburi.



The Outreach Project aims to promote positive attitude and behavior change among the street children through counseling, relevant sensitization workshops, recreation, sports and music etc. It is very useful for data collection and information, public involvement, on the ground experience and contact with street children. Many children have been transformed into fulfilled and responsible children, dropping glue sniffing and other negative behavioral challenges.

## Thika Rescue/ Drop in Centre



The Thika Centre also serves the community of Kiandutu Slums, providing services such as feeding and schooling for the poor and most vulnerable children. A number of the Thika boys and girls have joined the Scouting movement which has proved to be a powerful means of developing team-work and self esteem.

Girls rescued through the Thika project are transferred to Wema Centre Bamburi which specialises in the care and protection of vulnerable girls.

The Bamburi Home provides them with a safe family environment as well as access to education.



## Safina Halfway House

The Half way House is one of the most important projects at Wema Centre. The aim of the House is to provide gradual and planned exit for children attaining the age of 18 years or upon completion of formal studies.

The Halfway house accommodation coupled with work attachments or apprenticeships is deemed necessary for graduating children as it facilitates regular counseling and education as they prepare for life outside the Centre.



The main objective of the House is to provide a free, safe yet controlled environment for the young ladies as they relate more closely with the outside world in the final social integration process. In addition the half-way house gives more intensive personal counseling and support based on individual girls' personal needs.

The Matron and other senior staff also offer assistance in employment and career guidance, mentoring as well as continued encouragement and family support for the graduates. Support and capacity building is also provided in areas such as life skills, personal financial planning and budgeting.

Centre

## Health Care

We cater for the medical needs of our children and youth through treatment of minor ailments at our First Aid facilities or at local government and approved private hospitals.

The department also conducts annual medical camps with the help of both local and international doctors that benefiting its benefit both the children and needy members of the community particularly women.



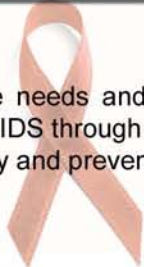
## Guidance and Counselling



The Wema guidance and counseling program undertakes one on one and group counseling sessions, training workshops for peer educators, knowledge sharing in talk shows, retreats and holiday camps. Our main objective is to help the children and youth enhance their self-esteem, acquire the desired life skills and knowledge on how to cope and resolve emotional problems, drug addiction and peer pressure

## HIV Prevention

Wema Centre responds to the needs and challenges of street children and vulnerable orphans impacted by HIV and AIDS through direct support and by strengthening community structures to reduce vulnerability and prevent the spread of the virus.



## Education



Wema Centre offers opportunities for formal and non-formal education both in-house and at public schools and training institutions. We have assisted hundreds of children through school at primary, secondary school and tertiary levels of education.

The care and attention that the children receive gives them the stability that they need to make progress and for social integration with their peers at school.

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Anti-social behavior lessens and continuous participation in education increases as they stay in a controlled environment. Other factors that have a positive impact on the children's education include guidance and counseling, parental love, protection and discipline and recreation.

## Early Childhood Development (ECD)

The ECD program has three levels and caters for the very young through pre-primary levels of education. The program also assists the older children who have had no previous education, to join public schools or the mainstream education system.

The ECD program incorporates age appropriate guidance on HIV/AIDS prevention which is linked to the weekly group discussions.



## Bamburi Children's Home



The Bamburi Children's Home is located on the Bamburi - Utange Road. The home provides shelter for 110 former street girls with the help of housemothers and child minders. At the home, we build relationships and a family by maintaining a friendly homely environment and activities that support friendship and personal growth. These include sports, music and other recreation activities.

## The Feeding Program

We provide three meals in a day for all our children. We consider that a good diet is everything to a growing child and so we grow some of the vegetables and produce milk at our Zero grazing dairy project in order to support our food budget and ensure good nutrition for every child.



## Recreation (Music, Acrobatics and Traditional Dance)



Recreation activities are an integral part of our rehabilitation program. We ensure that all our children and youth access relevant age appropriate information on HIV/AIDS through music, special sporting events, video shows, theatre performances, VCT camps, and workshops for training and discussions.

All the Wema children are involved in the recreation activities which include music, acrobatics, traditional dance, soccer and volleyball. This department does not only provide physical and social therapy but it also identifies and develops creativity and character. We have a thriving music school teaching choral, keyboard guitar and drums.

These activities are often competitive at local and national level, which boosts the morale of the children, develops positive attitudes and self esteem and plays a major role in helping children achieve better grades at school.

## Policy and Advocacy

We conduct research on relevant issues and participate in local and international forums that address issues affecting street children and vulnerable orphans. We use our website, newsletters and other available media to give the children a voice and to advocate for their rights highlighting issues that tend to cause children distress.

# How You Can Help

Each child needs parental care as well as food, clothes, medicine and education. It costs about **\$95** per month to cover these basic needs for each child. You may want to support a child fully or contribute towards a child's up keep by giving a regular amount.

## Wema Circle of Friends

You are invited to join the Wema Circle of Friends. Please log in to [www.wemacentre.org](http://www.wemacentre.org) and download the Wema Circle of friends form to Sign up. As a friend of Wema you can support by making a commitment to donate on regular basis to our accounts as follows:

### ■ MPesa

Once you have joined the Wema Circle of Friends, you can donate any amount by paying to our Mpesa account number **0722 383 068**

### ■ Bank Details

You may also send cash donations to our Bank account: Name: The Wema Centre Trust Bank: CFC Stanbic Bank Nkrumah Road Mombasa Branch P.O. Box 84418-80100 Mombasa Account Number: 010/00/315346/01

## Wema Volunteers

To volunteer a service, please call 0722773363 or simply download a volunteer application form from our website: [www.wemacentre.org](http://www.wemacentre.org)

## Material donations

To send donations in kind such as clothes, books, toys and food stuff, send via post or delivery to any of the following addresses:

The Wema Centre Trust  
P.O. Box 88820-80100 Mombasa Kenya  
Waura House Cement Road Mkomani  
Tel: 0254-41-473843 Fax: 0254-41-473854 Mobile: 0721383166  
Email: [info@wemacentre.org](mailto:info@wemacentre.org) or [wema@africaonline.co.ke](mailto:wema@africaonline.co.ke)  
Website: [www.wemacentre.org](http://www.wemacentre.org)

Wema Centre Trust  
Bamburi Utange Road  
Tel: 020 2041379



Wema Centre Trust  
Outreach project Thika  
Opposite Thika High School  
Tel: 020 2138308