

RAFIKI

wa maendeleo trust

2017 Annual Report



R.T.R.C.
RARIEDA TRAINING & RESOURCE CENTRE





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DEAR FRIENDS

Fifteen years ago we embarked on a journey in response to the painful isolation, discrimination and neglect that orphaned children were experiencing in our then remote area in western Kenya. Determined to give children a chance to grow up healthy, educated, empowered and instrumental in the growth and development of their families and communities, we set out to strengthen the Kenyan kinship system of placing orphaned and vulnerable children informally with extended family or community members. The HIV AIDS pandemic, increasing socio-economic pressures and weakening family structures put this kinship care under threat leaving many children neglected, isolated and at risk of maltreatment. At the same time, community and government structures to assure care and protection of orphaned and vulnerable children and youth were almost non-existing. This led us to adopt a holistic and coordinated community approach to care for orphaned and vulnerable children and youth.

As each year passes, our community families and support structures get stronger.

We affirm more than ever that positive support, healthy families and communities provide a nurturing and caring environment and are the ideal place in which to raise children and youth.

Your gifts of hope continue to change the lives of individuals and our communities at large.

On behalf of our communities, we remain forever grateful to our supporters who believe in the relevance of our approach towards orphan care and community development.

Blessings

Michele Ostertag

Michele Ostertag

Founder & Executive Director

RAFIKI wa Maendeleo Trust

“Friends of Progress”

Our Vision

is to see people believing in themselves and working together to build a vibrant and progressive community.

Our Mission

is to empower communities and build their capacities to create positive change for children and youth within their community.

Our Values *guide our mission*

We promote sustainable environmental and socio-economic development to enhance future wellbeing.

We encourage creativity and innovation for continuous adaptation, learning and growth.

We believe participatory approaches ensure communities own their development.

We advocate for human rights to promote dignity, diversity and respect.

We encourage accountability and transparency to assure integrity and credibility.



EDUCATION

A photograph of two young children in a rural setting. The child on the left is wearing a pink sleeveless top and looking down. The child on the right is wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt and looking to the side. In the background, there are several large metal cooking pots on a wooden surface, and a yellow plastic container is visible on the right.

IN KENYA **1.7 MILLION** CHILDREN ARE
NOT IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Despite the fact that primary education is free and compulsory.



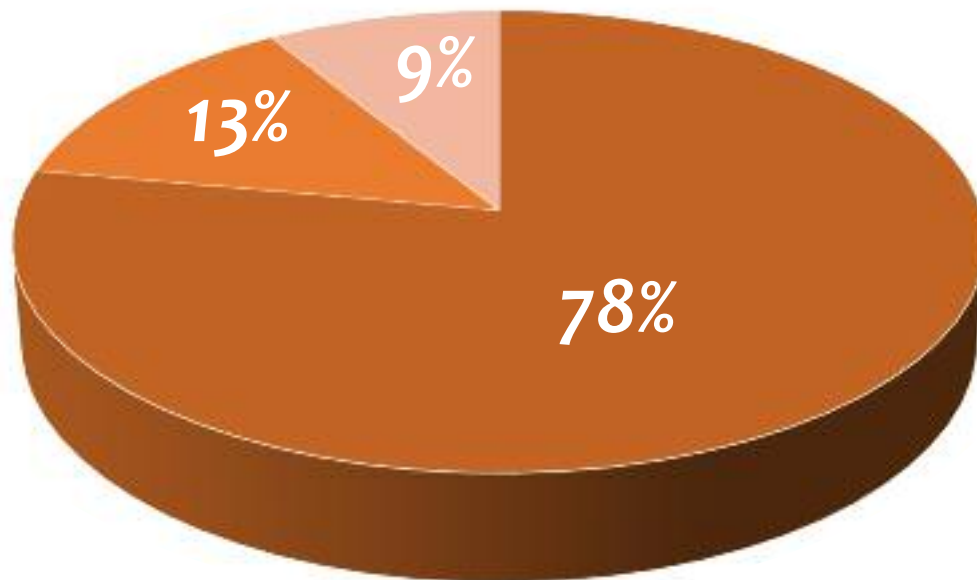
We are committed to having our children and youth enrolled in school and completing a training that can lead to a sustainable livelihood.

By close of 2017, Rafiki's education programs spanned across 30 public primary and secondary schools reaching 5,415 children and youth.

Our programs focused on ways to ensure kids are enrolled, retained and completing their education through developing student and teacher participation and leadership in extra-curricular programs, water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, and reproductive health education.

'Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.'
- Nelson Mandela

Rafiki Scholarship Program



- 211 Adolescent youth enrolled in secondary school education
- 36 Adolescent youth enrolled in technical vocational training
- 24 Adolescent youth enrolled in tertiary education

The Rafiki Scholarship Program is supported by individual well-wishers, United Francis Foundation, Segal Family Foundation, HAM Rafiki and Solferino.



271 adolescent youth otherwise at risk of dropping out of school due to poverty were enrolled in Rafiki's 2017 scholarship program enabling them to access secondary school, technical vocational training and tertiary education.

The scholarship program includes a mentorship and school holiday leadership and life skills program to build resilience and psychosocial support. This program has contributed to our youth performing in the upper percentile of their classes.



RARIEDA TRAINING & RESOURCE CENTRE

THE VISION OF RTRC

A leading regional centre of excellence in technical vocational training, community development, and evidence based training.

THE MISSION OF RTRC

To improve and enrich the lives of the youth and the community by providing holistic and quality technical vocational training and community development.

THE VALUES OF RTRC

Excellence: We strive for quality in service delivery and learning outcomes.

Innovation: We nurture talents to enhance innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit.

Respect: We recognize and advocate for the uniqueness and dignity of every individual.

Integrity: We demonstrate high standards of ethical conduct that includes honesty, accountability, transparency and trust.

Collaboration: We are committed to teamwork and positive partnerships.

THE MOTTO OF RTRC

Skilled to Serve



Our rural youth need numerous programs to enhance their empowerment and a diversified educational approach with emphasis on relevant technical skills, rural entrepreneurship, income-generation and other business skills.





As our children step into adolescence, our opportunity is to resolve issues affecting youth, enhancing their skills and capabilities to change situations such as poverty and overcome hardships.

Empowerment, education, and employment are crucial to livelihoods actualization into adulthood.

With our work focusing on youth in rural Kenya, we have to grapple with the effects of rural-urban migration as young people migrate in search of better opportunities. The migration to urban areas implies that business people and community leaders, who are supposed to develop our communities into vibrant rural economies, will be lost.

We continually ask ourselves what we can do to make living in rural Kenya interesting for youth so that they become drivers and responsible change-makers in community development and in catalyzing local economic growth.



In 2017, RTRC offered certification programs in 8 different technical skills, all complimented with co- curricular subjects in work readiness, entrepreneurship, information communication technology and life-skills. Students completed their training with 100% pass rate in NITA Grade III exams and 76% in Grades II and I exams.



To facilitate their transition to both self and formal employment, we carried out a county wide mapping of Small to Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) with support from Porticus to establish a pool of collaborative partners meeting minimum set criteria for engagement in our RTRC student work experience program. This was further enhanced with a partnership with CAP Youth Empowerment Institute on a Basic Employability Skills Training (BEST) Model supporting attachment placements for RTRC technical training students.

Our SME collaborative partners will continue to meet at RTRC twice annually to discuss skills related challenges and ways RTRC can ensure its skills training remains relevant to labour market demands.

HEALTH



COMMUNITY HEALTH VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE
PSYCHOSOCIAL COUNSELLING,
HIV, MALARIA AND OTHER HEALTH TREATMENTS
and/or educational support and connect families with other services.



Having established and operationalized a Community Health Strategy (CHS) between 2012-2016 of home visitation programmes in which Community Health Volunteers (CHV) visit families to support them in caring for themselves and their children, throughout 2017 we continued to appreciate remarkable improvements in health indicators. During these home visits, CHVs provide psychosocial counselling, HIV, malaria and other health treatments and/or educational support and connect families with other services.

The survival of parents and their children via life-saving treatments, sexual and reproductive health services and respite care has played a significant role in our community's decline of new orphaned children.





In 2017 we led WASH programs in 24 primary, secondary and technical schools.

With Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) remaining one of our biggest health challenges and water-borne illness being the number one cause of premature mortality, our ambitious plan to provide clean drinking water for our communities of 40,000+ remains our key focus.

2017 Programs included construction of toilets and installation of hand wishing units and rainwater catchment.

In collaboration with Rotary International, Walking for Water and H2O Energies, we made significant strides in rehabilitating two community water systems with ultimate aim to provide treated water from Lake Victoria to our Rarieda communities. Together, both water systems include water storage capacity of nearly 2,000 cubic liters.

Phase 1 of both systems should be fully operationalized before close of 2018 and will be providing CLEAN WATER to a total population of more than 40,000 PEOPLE.



ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING

**MOST ORPHANS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA LIVE IN
POORER HOUSEHOLDS THAN NON-ORPHANS,**

and their care tends to fall on poorer homes headed by the elderly or by women.



Throughout 2017 we continued our efforts to educate, train and empower families who are caring for orphaned children so that they are able to break out of the poverty cycle and provide a healthier life for children in their care.

Our objective is for children, youth, and their families to meet their basic needs and beyond through responsible use of locally available resources and by accessing financial resources.

Simple and affordable initiatives offer the most impact and opportunity for families to cut back on expenses, develop strategies to increase savings, improve income on their productive assets and strengthen resilience to respond, recover and adapt to life's shocks and stressors.





Across the world, one person in five still lives without access to electricity in their home.



Solar installations for 85 families during 2017 offered them the opportunity to reduce monthly expenses and increase income enough to provide one additional meal for their family each day; not to mention the health improvements of not inhaling the paraffin smoke and improved school performance with children being able to read at night.



Mentorship and Training

Mentorship and training enabled youth, women and families to care for and grow their productive assets and carry out income-generating activities including goat keeping, beekeeping, agriculture; while at the same time, improve Village Savings & Loan (VSL) group dynamics and financial literacy.

Program outcomes demonstrate that an increasing number of women are now able to challenge structural barriers to financial autonomy and control at the household level.

Impact assessments also note that increased psychosocial support for women translates into a significant difference in the well-being of children under their care.



The influence of friendships that women gain through their Village Savings & Loan groups and the strengthened social networks are demonstrating far reaching benefits beyond financial inclusion, livelihood and poverty reduction.

32% OF KENYAN FEMALES & 18% OF MALES PRIOR TO THE AGE OF 18 EXPERIENCE SEXUAL VIOLENCE

and 66% of females and 73% of males experiencing physical violence (UNICEF).



ADVOCACY

CHILDREN AND YOUTH HAVE A RIGHT TO BE SAFE AND PROTECTED FROM ABUSE, NEGLECT AND HARM; A RIGHT TO HEALTH, NUTRITION AND SHELTER; A RIGHT TO EDUCATION; AND RIGHTS TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS WHICH AFFECT THEM.

Such rights are only as useful as the actions they lead to, and so for children to have any rights, adults need to take on the necessary responsibilities to bring those rights into practical and meaningful fruition.

Our 2017 work on children's rights has included efforts to improve the safety and welfare of children and young people and to address issues of Gender Based Violence and enhanced psychosocial support with increased child participation in decisions affecting their lives.



Program work included: mentoring 367 families in collaboration with International Child Support (ICS) on skillful parenting.

The program recognizes that a life in poverty demands the utmost from people and that parents often feel powerless and communicate poorly with one another. The program focuses on understanding and improving family relations, roles and responsibilities of a skilled parent, self-care and self-esteem, and communication skills. Early outcomes of the program include male parents accepting their roles and responsibilities leading to improved family relations along with safer home environment for adolescent girls.



Rafiki worked hand-in-hand with the government to plan and organize Rarieda's 17th Day of the African Child on the theme, "Leave No Child Behind for Africa's Development".

Our community training program for ten community leaders on children's psychosocial-emotional needs focused on ways that the community can increase their engagement, protection, roles and responsibilities as community parents.

Rafiki served as the interim co-ordinating organization in Siaya County to provide services on behalf of Catholic Relief Services to 20,000 orphaned children for a new program called MWENDO — Making Well-Informed Efforts to Nurture Disadvantaged Orphaned and Vulnerable Children.



FEED THE HUNGRY

66 million primary school-age children attend classes hungry across the developing world, with 23 million in Africa alone (WHO).

In February 2017, the Kenyan Government declared a national drought emergency, just two months before our nation was affected by unprecedented flooding. Rarieda sub-County where Rafiki works had been seriously affected by the impact of prolonged drought with total crop failure in 2015 and 2016 which translated into families going to bed without food, and worse, irregular class attendance by children at school.

In partnership with Chalice Canada, we introduced a school feeding program in two primary schools to support over 300 children. School attendance immediately jumped back to 100% with improved class performance, and reduced school drop-out rates.

Under the Africa Home Grown School Feeding Program, we are broadening the scope of the school feeding program to include supporting parents and community, with farm inputs and training, to locally produce food for the school feeding program, thereby meeting triple objectives in education, nutrition and economic empowerment.



HOPE

“Despite all odds, my siblings and I will be able to complete our education and to stay together as a family. Rafiki has been a genuine friend, especially during some of the toughest and darkest hours of our lives.”

Peline is the eldest in a family of four, with both father and mother having passed away. It is not uncommon for children to be separated when parents pass on primarily due to the financial burden foster families face when caring for orphaned children. Peline's family is but one of the many families that Rafiki has been able to support through its holistic and coordinated community approach for the care of orphaned and vulnerable children.

When Peline's parents were ill, one of Rafiki's Community Health Volunteers provided hospice care so that the children wouldn't need to drop out of school. Rafiki and two of our partners, Solferino and HAM Rafiki, stepped in to cover school fees along with a number of medical expenses. Other community members pitched in to fill other gaps, including food as and when shortfalls arose.

Today Peline has finished her tertiary education and is now employed at Rafiki. Having a job near home is enabling her to care for her younger siblings as they finish their schooling. Peline is also an inspiring mentor and role model for her siblings and other children and youth facing challenges.

‘Smooth seas do not make skillful sailors’ - African Proverb

OUR 2017 TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS

Adam L.
Alessandra C.
Alexandria B.
Ashley C.
Barbara N.
Bernadette W.
Betsey T.
Bilal R.
Borislav K.
Brian B.
Charon T.
Christelle G
Emma G
Elea M.

Fabien N.
Felipe L.
Fr. Michael M.
Gabriela R.
HAM Rafiki Vorstand
Ismail K.
Jasmine S.
Jeremy A.
Jessie W.
Jouhara C.
Julien S.
Karl K.
Kathy L.
Ladan A.

Lucy M.
Madeleine B.
Madeline M.
Marc W.
Maryann N.
Mateo C.
Matthey-Jonais Y.
Mercy High School Girls
Naz W.
Ndiaye M.
Noam L.
Omar E.
Parveen L.
Pierre K.

Rafiki wa Maendeleo Trustees
Ramsey S.
Renee O.
Sandy K.
Sandra I.
Serena M.
St Margaret's
College Girls
Sue T.
Susan W.
Thomas B.
Tish N.
Willy O.



*'The best way to find yourself
is to lose yourself in the service of others'*
- Gandhi

OUR PARTNERS

Hoffnung auf Morgen Rafiki

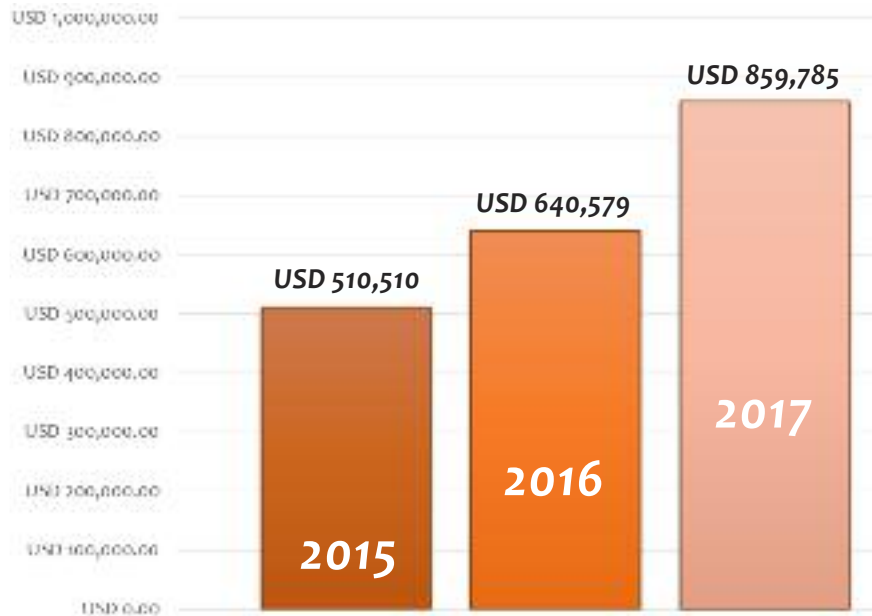


United St. Francis Foundation



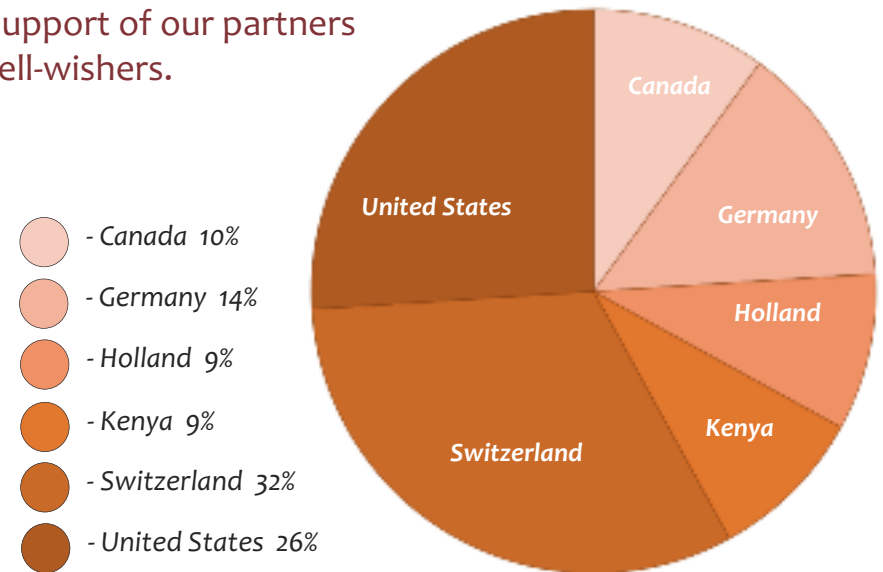
2017 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Income by Year



We are able to make a difference in the lives of our children, youth, women, elderly and community thanks to the generosity and support of our partners and individual well-wishers.

Income by Country



*'If you think you are too small to make a difference,
you haven't spent a night with a mosquito'*
- African proverb