

Aleimar

Insieme ai bambini del mondo

FAMILY HOMES IN NGINDA KENYA



TITLE

Family homes in Nginda

APPLICANT ORGANIZATION:

Nginda Community Based Child Welfare NGO

LOCAL PROJECT MANAGER

Sister Felicita Muthoni Nyaga

PROJECT COORDINATOR:

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BENEFICIARIES

88 orphans or abandoned children

TOTAL AMOUNT

32.560 €

REQUIRED AMOUNT

3.700 €

TIME OF REALIZATION

12 months

1. SUMMARY

The project will be implemented in Nginda, on the Kenyan coast, and aims to guarantee the many orphans in the area a suitable environment for their growth, ensuring medical care and schooling.

To this end, we intend to support The Nginda Community Based Child Welfare group which, coordinated by the parish priest and Sister Felicita and made up of representatives of the various small Christian communities in the area, accompanies and educates the local community and families in welcoming and providing help to the many children left to themselves. In order to guarantee the latter a safe place to live and grow, the project includes an educational and training course for families and for many women of the villages who, despite living in precarious economic conditions, have become available to take care of abandoned children. This training aims to provide guidance and useful advice for the proper care of orphans and to feed families and the local community with a strong sense of motherhood and parental responsibility. Educational

moments and educational games are aimed at children in order to help them to express their emotions, socialize and integrate into society.

To develop in the inhabitants a greater interest in the growing number of children without a reference point, the project also provides for the organization of awareness-raising events and social meeting times in which the community is called to collaborate and find possible solutions together.

Since those who take care of the weakest also live in precarious economic conditions and considering the limited financial resources of the Parson, it is expected to start a small farm with them and to allocate the future proceeds to support medical care and school fees for children whom they take care of. The project has an annual duration and a total cost of 32,560 €.

2. INTRODUCTION

Geographic area and population

Kenya is a State of East Africa. Its economy, after a period of prosperity (also due to the colonization of England), fell into a deep crisis, which worsened during the last years of the Moi dictatorship. Today, Kenya has a growth that fluctuates between 5 and 6% per year, but there is a strong unequal distribution of income. The well-being of a few (2%), in fact, is paid for with the misery of many (about 50% of the population lives below the poverty level).



Currently, the economy is especially based on agricultural exports and tourism. Here are some data compared with Italy (in brackets):

- Extention: 582,650 (301,000) sq. Km
- Population: 40.512.682 (61) million
- Average age: 19 (44) years
- Urban population: 25.2% (68%)

- Life expectancy at birth: 64 (82) years
- Fertility index: 3.76 (1.4) children born / woman
- Level of literacy: 87% (99%)
- School life expectancy: 6.3 (10.1) years
- Drinking water availability: 2.3% (100%)
- Average income per capita: 1,811 (24,200) U \$ / year
- Human development index: 2,444% (25th) place

The industrial crops for export of the British colonial period came to replace the old subsistence crops, depleting the too exploited soil. Corn, sorghum, millet and potato crops are not enough for domestic needs; the country tries to avoid the risks of monoculture by exploiting the various environments of its land.

The plantations provide coffee, tea and pyrethrum on the high plains (a plant used for insecticides and pesticides of which Kenya is the largest exporter in the world with a production of about 8,000 tons a year). On the coast, oil and coconut palm plantations are widespread. The breeding of sheep and goats is also very popular.

The project is carried out in Nginda, a region located in the coastal province of Kenya with a total area of 1,605 km², a population of 403,000 inhabitants in 2006 and a density of 288 inhab./km². Lokossa is the capital of the region and together with six other municipalities (Bopa, Athiémé, Houéyogbé, Comé, Grand-Popo9) is part of the Department of Mono. The latter is populated by many ethnic groups, such as adja, fon, xwla, mina, sahoue, kotafon, ayizo, etc.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE NGINDA COMMUNITY BASED CHILD WELFARE

The Nginda Community Based Child Welfare was formed from Nginda parson in collaboration with many small Christian communities that took care of the situation, they decided to form groups, "small churches", headed by a specific leader, in order to draw up an action plan and help for the many needy orphans. Each group has the task to carry out a study of the general framework in the area of expertise, so as to know the current situation of the children in much greater detail. The members of the Nginda Community Based Child Welfare then meet on the last Thursday of the month at the leader's home. Each meeting is carried out in a different location so that all members can understand the socio-political and economic situation in a global way.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM

With an economy based on subsistence agriculture, the many families of the municipality of Nginda live in conditions of extreme poverty, and, due to inadequate medical care, the mortality rate due to childbirth is high and, consequently, the number of orphans or of children abandoned at birth is high. The latter, without a reference point, are left to themselves, without medical care

and an adequate daily meal; forced to spend entire days on the street, these helpless children also become victims of prostitution or other forms of slavery.

This dramatic condition is confirmed by the alarming picture that emerged following the visits and studies carried out by each group of the Nginda Community Based Child Welfare: overall there are about 550 orphans or children who are exploited and abused; of these 150 are found in tragic conditions and need urgent help.

These children are not only denied the right to have a family, food and a home, but due to the high costs required by the Ministry of Education they are not adequately educated and are often forced to leave school early.

In order to counter this dramatic situation the new parson, the representatives of several small communities belonging to the Catholic parish of Nginda and many women of the villages have made themselves available to welcome and help the orphans in their daily needs.

Currently 88 children are followed, but since those who put themselves on the line to support the weakest also live in a precarious economic condition and faced with the meager financial resources of the parish, which must always appeal to their faithful benefactors, it is essential to seek new tools and external aid to cover school and medical expenses, as well as to ensure proper nutrition for the orphans.

5. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The general objective is to contribute to the improvement of the context of human, emotional, social growth of orphans or abandoned children in the villages of the municipality of Nginda.

The specific objectives are:

1. To guarantee daily meals, medical care and schooling for the orphans in Nginda;
2. Integrating the orphans into society;
3. To educate the inhabitants and the families of the villages of Nginda to properly take care of needy children;
4. To raise awareness in the local community

6. BENEFICIARIES

Direct beneficiaries: 88 orphans or abandoned children;

Indirect beneficiaries: the Nginda community.

7. METHODS

The Nginda Community Based Child Welfare, under the direct coordination of the parish priest, manages the entire project, supporting the inhabitants and the families of the villages who have shown interest and willingness to provide assistance and care to the orphans. In addition to the distribution of food and clothing, some women offer hospitality to completely rejected and alone

children, in order to guarantee them a home in which to grow. Although the latter are often moved by a strong sense of motherhood and are particularly sensitive to the needs of the weakest and especially of children, there is a lack of preparation and knowledge on how to guarantee and manage a correct care for the little ones who often have experienced particularly delicate situations.

In this regard, the project proposes an educational and supporting path for women and inhabitants to take care of children and young people in need. In order to monitor the conditions of the children and to have a vision on the real activation of the community, visits are scheduled by the heads of the community and directly by the parish priest.

In order to guarantee medical care and education without weighing on the already precarious economic conditions of the inhabitants, a small farm is planned to be used in order to allocate the proceeds to cover the medical and school expenses of the children. Training and encouraging children to use creativity and spirit of initiative from an early age is essential for the future of the community: thanks to the education and care received, young people will be able to devise small local development projects and, contributing to the improvement of their society, they will be less driven to abandon the village in search of greater fortune in the city.

Expected results:

1. Children properly received and with a high level of school education achieved;
2. Greater awareness and social integration of the children followed;
3. Adopted families and formed inhabitants on taking care of children and able to continue the assistance activities even at the end of the project;
4. Local community increasingly aware of the situation and sensitized to the problem;

Planned activities:

- 1.1-3.1 Organization of an educational and training course aimed at improving the care taken by families and inhabitants;
- 1.2 Purchase of arable land and start-up of a small farm whose proceeds will allow the coverage of the training expenses for the children;
- 1.3 Distribution of food, medicines and clothing to orphans or abandoned children;
- 1.4 Payment of school fees;
- 2.1 Organization of educational games and activation of a growth path aimed at helping children express themselves, socialize and recognize their potential and resources;
- 3.2 Constant monitoring of the situation and taking charge of children;
- 4.1 Organization of meetings to raise awareness and bring the community closer to the problems that emerged in the various villages, in order to identify hypothetical solutions together.

8. BUDGET

Costs for the support of a child for one year:

A.	<u>SCHOOL COSTS</u>	<u>EURO</u>
A1	Uniform: shoes, socks, sweater 60	60
A2	School materials: books, notebooks, pens, pencils, rucksack etc ... 80	80
A3	Laboratory activities 40	40
A4	School trips 25	25
A5	Monthly exams 85	85
B.	FOOD AND MEDICAL TREATMENTS 80	80
	TOTAL (per child)	370

Total for a child = 370 euros

Grand total for 88 children = 32.560 euros

9. SUSTAINABILITY

Economic sustainability: Thanks to the farm that will be built, the community can become partially economically independent since the proceeds will be used to support school fees, the medical care of the children and the training of the local community.

Institutional sustainability: in addition to the parish and neighboring Christian communities, the project foresees the involvement of municipal institutions, essential authorities for the feasibility and sustainability of the intervention.

Social sustainability: the project assumes the direct participation of the local community which, feeling responsible for the existing problems, is activated in order to find hypothetical solutions, infusing a strong sense of integration and social cohesion. After a first support and flanking carried out by the leaders of each group, the inhabitants will therefore be able to continue the assistance and hosting activities in full autonomy, passing on useful advice to neighboring villages that present the same problem.

10. EVALUATION

The local leaders of each group of the Nginda Community Based Child Welfare will carry out periodic supervision visits, in order to monitor the situation of the children and promote their adequate care. The parson will coordinate the planned activities in full compliance with the

expected results and the forecasted deadlines, drafting periodic reports on the progress of the program and, based on the documentation obtained from the single leaders and the information given by the inhabitants, will prepare a final evaluation report of the intervention.