

Building Strong Minds Through Dance



ChezaCheza Annual Report 2021





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MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDERS

Many of us hoped that this year would be better than the last one. Hoping the world would go back to 'normal' and that Covid-19 would leave to be a distant memory in our existence. Unfortunately, waves repeatedly came back, and a new variant appeared. The pandemic and its aftermath laid bare many cracks in society and revealed the already existing vulnerability of children, especially those from under-resourced and marginalised communities.

Yet, if uncertainty makes the future unknowable, it also makes creativity all the more vital. At the start of 2021, we opened our centre in Kibera, allowing us to reimagine our programs. Our most important task was to minimise the inequalities in learning accelerated by the pandemic. We created a counselling room to support the emotional well-being of our students—a much needed and underestimated problem affecting the ability to thrive in school.

We also found that our students are becoming curious young adults who need a pathway to the future. We started two new support programs, our GIRLS! program and Transitional Life Skills, creating a pathway to growth and development for children who have been part of ChezaCheza from the start.

It was a year of implementing new ideas, focusing on what we have instead of what we don't—using our creative thinking skills to make new moves and create more impact in the lives of our ChezaCheza children and families. As the cherry on top, Franco got awarded Creative Youth of the Year in Kenya, affirming that creative thinking amid waves of uncertainty is one of the most important skills we can have.

Keep moving.

Always with gratitude,

Cherrelle & Franco
Founders of ChezaCheza



OUR IMPACT

453



Children reached every week in schools and communities

504



SEL dance classes provided in schools and communities

3.5X



More children attending our classes compared to 2020

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

56



Counselling sessions provided in our dance centre

50



Hours of life skills education per child

250



Number of minutes of meditation per child

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

10



Safe learning spaces created in communities and schools

40



Hours of training provided to each ChezaCheza educator

48



Hours of mentorship provided to each junior educator at ChezaCheza

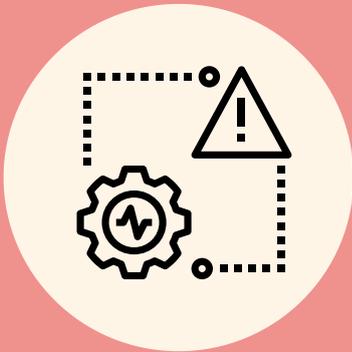
TRAINING & QUALITY



MEET CHEZACHEZA

ChezaCheza is a non-profit organisation that delivers Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) through the transformative power of dance in community-led afterschool programs for at-risk children in Nairobi. We believe that developing social and emotional skills are building blocks for learning that enable children to reach their full potential.

LEARNING THROUGH DANCE



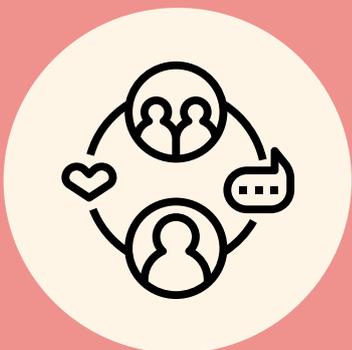
AT-RISK YOUTH FACE OBSTACLES IN ACHIEVING ACADEMIC SUCCESS

In marginalised communities across Nairobi, children living in poverty experience greater risk for abuse, neglect and behavioural and mental problems. They are at-risk of dropping out of school, substance abuse, delinquency and violent behaviour, all of which hinder academic success.



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING CAN OFFER SUPPORT

Research clearly demonstrates the significant role of SEL in promoting the healthy development and academic achievement of children. It also shows that SEL reduces problem behaviours and emotional distress and helps improve kids' academic performance, reduce dropout rates, and build character.*



CREATING A SAFETY NET WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

ChezaCheza creates more safe learning spaces within communities by empowering local role models with access to training and tools to implement Social-Emotional Learning in an afterschool dance program.

CLASSES DESIGNED FOR BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

Our dance curriculum uses a Social-Emotional Learning framework that incorporates meditation, mindfulness, and dance exercises based on well-researched methods and techniques from dance movement therapy. The classes are designed to provide a playful framework to learn and stimulate positive behavioural change.



COMMUNITY DANCE PROGRAM



Training teachers

ChezaCheza is committed to providing quality dance programs in communities and schools. To maintain the quality standards of our teachers, we conducted teacher training at the start of the year. The training included all existing teachers, five new teachers and five volunteers. For 12 weeks, ChezaCheza ran a competency-based training program to develop youth's skills and knowledge to become local leaders in their community and start a weekly ChezaCheza program.

Our knowledge-based training focused on Social-Emotional Learning, positive discipline, engaged learning and more. After the training, new teachers and volunteers shadowed a senior teacher for 12 weeks. These classes focused on developing skills, such as leadership, communication and collaboration.

Opening more dance locations

After the teacher training, we were able to open two new dance locations in Kibera, called Vuma and Karanja. After rigorous vetting, we found two locations that could be transformed into safe learning spaces by our new ChezaCheza teachers.

With the expansion of our program, we now have 5 dance locations in Kibera, reached 286 children per week and provided 290 classes.

SCHOOL PROGRAM

Schools in marginalised communities have a limited budget for extra-curricular activities. The limited access to afterschool programs for these children impedes the development of the whole child. Arts education, in particular, shapes a learner beyond their academic skills and supports a child's confidence, curiosity and creativity.

To strengthen Social-Emotional Learning in schools, we partnered with five schools and delivered weekly ChezaCheza classes as part of extra-curricular activities. Three of our partner schools were located in marginalised communities.

Our partnerships enabled us to reach an additional 167 children every week and we provided 214 classes in total.

"My teachers are always ready to hear my challenges without judging me"



GIRLS PROGRAM

ChezaCheza launched its first girl-focused program in March 2021, targeting 30 girls between 13 and 17 years old. The aim of the GIRLS! program was to provide a safe space and build coping skills by providing access to female experts to reach marginalised girls. The program ran from May to December 2021, with 16 sessions, one group counselling session and a graduation. Each session was hosted by two female role models from Kibera, one volunteer and different female experts. Each expert brings their knowledge and skillset to inspire, motivate and educate the girls in the class. Our experts included a leading Kenyan midwife, a radio host, and a menstrual health expert.



Results

The results from our survey showed that our girls improved their understanding of HIV/AIDS, menstrual hygiene, sexual reproductive health and gender issues. We also found that girls had increased awareness of support agencies for girls and women and turned to our experts for support. They also showed increased self-esteem, self-awareness and leadership skills.

Each girl received a monthly package of sanitary pads during the program, making sure they did not miss school due to their period.

"I got a chance to understand myself more as a girl and realise my full potential. The class gave me a chance to believe in myself and even mentor other girls in school that I am going to"





MEET
DIANA,
OUR
NEW
GIRLS
TEACHER

IMPACT STORY

My name is Diana Agalo, a teacher at ChezaCheza, where I lead the GIRLS! program. I am passionate about girls in the slums because I am like them. I know the challenges they are going through in the slums because I was born and raised in the same environment.

In Kibera, we face many challenges as girls, especially during adolescence. This is when our body changes, and pressure starts piling up in our head from every direction. The boys and men start liking you and wanting parts of your body. This is when you are tempted to join a bad company due to peer pressure. All these challenges added with poverty are even more difficult if you're not equipped enough; you will be one of three things 1. A drug addict, 2. A school drop-out or 3. A teenage mother.

If it was not for the mentorship I received when I was young; I don't know where I would be right now. Programs such as ChezaCheza, with local mentors, saved my life.



VICTOR OKWARO, 15

TRANSITIONAL LIFE SKILLS

This year we started expanding the building blocks within our organisation to create a sustainable pathway for our students. How do we build the skills for a young adult to create a sustainable livelihood? We identified the skill gap in our organisation and created the Transitional Life Skills (TLS) program: A 40-week program for children who have completed two years in ChezaCheza and are ready for the next phase in life.

More challenges seem to arise as children transit from childhood to young adults. Parents are busy working and children are left alone at home. The absence of parents makes children vulnerable to engage in 'bad' activities such as crime, violence or drugs. On the other hand we have the teacher in school who is focused only on attaining high academic grades. Success is measured by academic results and this creates enormous pressure on young adults growing into adolescence.

We created the TLS program for those young adults finding themselves struggling with the transition to adulthood and need more support and skill development to navigate their environment. We targeted primary school students between 13 and 16 years who are in a phase of transition. The program focuses on enhancing self-esteem within the individual and helping the learner explore values geared towards improving one's view of self and others.

We selected 21 students who have attended ChezaCheza for at least two years. At the end of the program we had a completion rate of 81%. Students who graduated from the program showed increased communication skills and improved self-esteem. They gained tangible skills such as public speaking, writing and presenting.

STUDENT & PARENT SATISFACTION

8.2



Is the score that children gave a ChezaCheza class

96%



Would recommend ChezaCheza to a friend

92%



Agreed that ChezaCheza teaches skills they can use in daily life

STUDETNS

8.8



Is the score that children gave their ChezaCheza teacher

92%



Agreed that their teacher helped them to learn new skills

'HAPPY'



Is mentioned most by students to describe their feelings after our class

STUDETNS

95%



Would recommend other parents for their child to attend ChezaCheza

96%



Find ChezaCheza a helpful organisation in the community

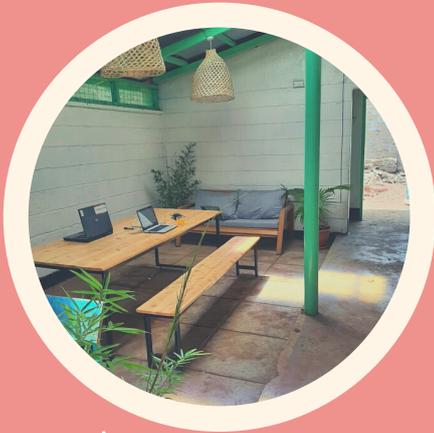
98%



Believe that their child has improved their behaviour

PARENTS

SPECIAL MOMENTS



OPENING OUR DANCE CENTRE

In 2021, ChezaCheza reached a huge milestone when we opened our dance centre. In January, we started renovating an old centre in Kibera and transformed it into our own ChezaCheza dance centre. In May 2021, we opened the centre officially as an office space, training facility and dance centre. We can provide a safe and supportive environment for our community dance program, GIRLS! program and Transitional Life Skills. The centre also hosts our counsellor Joyce, who provides weekly counselling sessions.



CREATIVE YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Co-founder Francis Odhiambo won the Creative Youth of the Year award for the Top 35 under 35 in Kenya. The awards acknowledges exemplary youth across various categories. The awards are part of a youth empowerment program which offers mentorship and engagement of selected youth for one year.



BROADWAY DREAMS

A selection of ChezaCheza kids was part of an exciting Broadway workshop by Broadway Dreams. The children learned musical theatre in a masterclass by Quentin Earl Darrington. Quentin played in multiple Broadway musicals (Cats, MJ: The musical) and is an expert in singing. The masterclass resulted in a concert performance. It was an incredible learning opportunity for our children and a way to showcase the talent in Kenya!

"CHEZACHEZA
SAVED ME
FROM A LOT
OF TROUBLE"



IMPACT STORY

Hi, my name is Stacy Kwamboka, and I joined ChezaCheza because I saw kids there with talent, which is dance. Instead of just staying home, I thought about going there to feel safe. I went back again and again. Being in ChezaCheza saved me from a lot of trouble. I was a bully in school, always bringing trouble with my neighbours at home. I used to argue with my mother a lot, as I felt most of the time I was in trouble. All this changed after joining ChezaCheza. Here I got a chance to do what I love. I love dancing so much. But we always have life skills lessons in class.

I know I am a leader, changemaker and problem solver. I loved the topic of self-awareness and decision making. My teachers at ChezaCheza have been impressed by me. They have promoted me to other classes like transitional life skills, which I did through 2021. Can you believe I was awarded the Most Improved Student of the year! I was surprised, but then again, I worked really hard.

"I have learned that women are not less than men"

OUR DONORS



And a heartfelt thank you to all our donors, organisations, volunteers and experts who supported us in 2021.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT



DONATE

Your donation makes a difference

Visit our website to donate and learn more about our programs and what you would like to support.



www.chezachezadance.org

ACTIVATE

Move with us on social media

Follow us on different social media platforms to support our work and spread the joy of dancing.

chezachezadance 



VOLUNTEER

You can support with your expertise

We are always looking for inspiring individuals to collaborate with. Reach out to us and let's make a difference.



cherrelle@chezachezadance.org



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



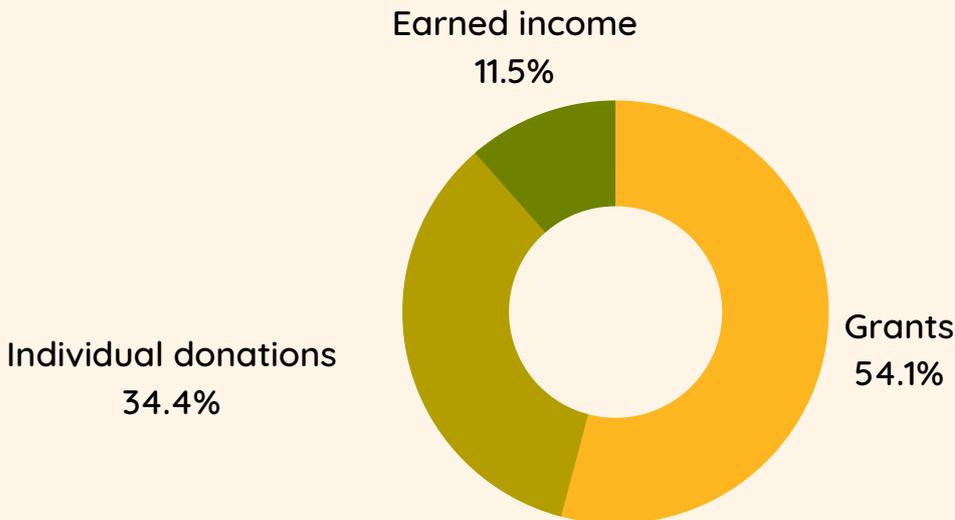
INCOME STATEMENT

Jan-Dec 2021

2021 (KES)

Total Income	3,690,644
• Grants	1,995,647
• Individual donations	1,271,954
• Earned income	423,043
Total Expenses	3,617,937
• Direct program	2,417,133
• Staff	751,675
• Administrative	449,129
Operating surplus	72,707

INCOME



EXPENSES

