



UPENDO METHODIST CBO

P.O. Box 898 - 80108 Kilifi

Introduction

Upendo Methodist CBO is a community based organization that was founded by Upendo Methodist Women's Group (a group of women from the Kilifi Methodist Church) and runs two projects namely: Upendo Orphans Support Project and Upendo Modern School. The orphans' project is a charity that provides holistic support to orphans and vulnerable children in Kilifi through advancing access to quality education, healthcare, feeding, vocational skills development, house improvement, psychosocial support and outreach activities. The school is a commercial entity and was started to support the orphans' project.

Upendo Methodist CBO works in Kilifi, one of the poorest counties in Kenya, which has one of the highest rates of illiteracy and unemployment. Orphans are particularly vulnerable in this environment. The Upendo Methodist Women Group knows the local population well and work closely with the orphans' guardians, thus providing a real strength to the project.

The organization currently supports 60 children due to the extraordinary determination of these women. Although the project was founded by women from the Kilifi Methodist Church, the project supports children of all beliefs: it is essentially humanitarian in its work.

Our Programmes

Upendo is a day care center that provides holistic support to orphans and destitute children in Kilifi Township with food, education and school enrichment, healthcare,

psychosocial support, house improvement, vocational skills training among other forms of support.

1. Feeding Programme

The children are provided with a balanced diet, three meals in a day at the center from Monday to Saturday across the year. The organization also holds a Christmas Party every year and distributes Christmas break food to all the guardians and children.

2. Education Programme

Upendo meets all the education costs of the children. It provides them with school fees, uniform, stationery and other educational expenses. Upendo also runs a literacy/reading programme which involves book clubs aimed at inculcating a reading culture that will enhance the children's learning skills in school, creating awareness of the importance and power of books, making the library a fun and leisure place as well as encouraging peer interactions through competition and excellent communication skills.

3. Healthcare Programme

The children's health is maintained through the provision of a regular balanced diet and other basic needs as well as a loving environment. Upendo meets all the medical costs of all the children under sponsorship through Kenya's National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF).

4. Psychosocial Support Programme

This programme aims at meeting the physical, emotional, social and mental wellbeing of the children. The programme has helped the children deal with adolescence, trauma, grief and anxiety related to parental illness or death. These are explored using quizzes, debates, theatre and poetry. Activities under this programme include

the following: weekly guidance and counseling, life skills, recreation, family fun days, and guardians/caregivers' support (through seminars).

5. House Improvement Programme

No child should go without shelter, clothing and access to safe water, basic hygiene and guardianship. Through the provision of clothing, bedding, mosquito nets and house improvement, we are empowering the guardians who are the caregivers to our beneficiaries.

We construct decent semi-permanent houses for the families under our care depending on the level of need. The project has so far constructed 11 houses and several families are still on our waiting list.

6. Vocational Skills Training Programme

This programme gives the children vocational skills. The children are taught three courses under this programme: tailoring, hairdressing and bead work. Under the tailoring course, they are trained how to make their own clothes including their school uniforms.

The bead work course involves making beadwork products/jewelry such as bracelets, purses, earrings, necklaces, Maasai sandals, etc. The children under the hairdressing course learn about washing and blow drying (conditioning and shampooing), plaiting (plaiting and braiding and preparing dummy dolly), relaxing (long and short hair) and twisting with rastas. It is amazing how quickly most of them have learnt these skills.

7. Outreach Programme

Upendo runs an outreach programme for other needy families in the township, providing clothes and other items when available, and keeping an eye on other destitute children who can be taken care of by Upendo when sponsorship is available.

Management

The organization is managed by a Board of Management which comprises of professionals in diverse fields from the Kilifi community. The Board of Management provides overall responsibility for the management and financial status of the organization through provision of direction, support and oversight to the management staff and reporting to donors. Specifically, this involves: quarterly meetings to review activities and finances of the project, formulation and revision of policies and procedures as required, planning of new activities, review of individual children's progress and status in the project, monitoring of staff performance and appointment of new staff.

Project Budget

SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION COSTS			
Item	No of children	Total Cost per child/per year (US\$)	Total Cost
Tuition	20	475	9,500
Learning materials	20	60	1,200
Feeding	20	220	4,400
			15,100
SPECIAL SCHOOL EDUCATION COSTS			
Item	No of children	Total Cost per child/per year (US\$)	Total Cost
Tuition	2	150	300
Learning materials	2	30	60
Feeding	2	220	440
			800
Total Education and Feeding Costs per year			15,900

