

# Mtoto wa Kenya Relief Mission

A Proposal for Development of a Children's Home

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## **Project Vision**

Protect the abandoned and helpless children (HIV/AIDS infected and affected children, street children, orphan and poor children) in a safe environment and provide overall support to become useful and fruitful citizens of the nation.

## **Project Mission**

To discover the possible ways and means to promote programmes on Education, Health Care, Food & Shelter, Recreation, Social Security and Moral Support for the poor and abandoned children to lead a healthy, happy and successful life.

## **Project Objectives**

1. To establish Children's Home with all basic needs for the Orphans and Vulnerable Children.
2. To provide uniform, books, notebooks, school bag, school fees, exam, fees and other timely need for the education needs of the children who are staying in the children's home.
3. To organize educational tour (zoological park, historical places, planetarium etc) for the children to get knowledge in the concerned subjects.

**Amount of Funding Requested: USD 500,000.00**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Mtoto wa Kenya Relief Mission is a Non-Governmental Organization registered in Kenya under the NGO-Coordinating Act.

MKRM was originally conceptualized on the village plan where children would be cared for by house 'parents' in smaller units yet each a part of greater whole which shared the same vision. This is the key to a successful village and the meaning of community where children feel safe and secure. Since its inception, the means to meet the Organization's goals has been to provide substitute parents to these children, to guide them with love and consistency and to provide them with the education necessary to lead productive and satisfying lives.

Therefore with our village we envision a place where children are free to play, where opportunities for learning and growth abound. These opportunities will arise when children are given freedom to explore and create and who have energy to do so because their basic needs are taken care of.

We envision a high school and technical institute with a standard of excellence. It is known that high expectations, safe environment and caring teachers are fundamental to the learning experience. We will seek partnerships with technology/communication innovators in Kenya.

We envision a village where residents and visitors are healthy. We will establish an up to date infirmary under a primary care model and establish partnerships in health care to establish a successful health promotion plan. These will benefit residents and the greater community through counseling and outreach.

We envision a village that people will want to come and explore because of its innovative use of human resources and technology. We will be local leaders in environmentally sustainable practices. We will partner with alternative energy source innovators and explore agricultural/husbandry models that are both cultural and locally appropriate. These will include solar energy, water conservation/reuse schemes, recycling/composting, indigenous/appropriate crop cultivation and irrigation methods.

MKRM's Village has a mission to raise children through pursuit of excellence in academic and practical skills and by modeling integrity in conduct and Christian moral values.

### **1. Background**

Kenya is a sub Saharan country boarded by the Indian Ocean on the east, Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan on the north, Uganda on the west and Tanzania to the south. With a surface area of 580.4 thousand square km, the population in 2006 was estimated at 36.6 million with an annual growth rate of 2.6% (World Bank).

Kenyan children, as with children anywhere, are the country's greatest resource and represent hope for a better future. Yet 20% of Kenyan children are orphans (UNESCO).

Children learn through modelling behaviour, by observing and through instruction. An estimated 50% of the population of Kibera (Nairobi's largest slum and the biggest in Africa) and the surrounding slums are younger than 15 years of age. They often survive with limited adult support and receive few social services, therefore the creation of learning opportunities present unique challenges. Charitable institutions play an important role in rehabilitating and giving love to these forgotten children. Profound poverty, competition for scarce resources, disease, conflict, addictions and lack of

educational opportunities put these children at extreme risk for illiteracy, illness, hopelessness, abuse and the extinction of the resource that is Kenya's children.

According to World Bank statistics, Kenya has an infant mortality rate of 79 per 1,000 live births. 17% of those babies that do live and are under 5 are malnourished. 121 per 1000 will die before their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. An estimated 20% of all children are orphans. Life expectancy is 53 years. 20% of the population lies below the international poverty line of US \$1.25 per day.

In Nairobi slums for example, only 37 percent of people living in the slums complete primary school as compared to 95 percent nationally (World Food Programme, UN 2005). The World Bank (2005) reports a 61.1% rate of primary education nationally. Regardless, the children of Nairobi slums are far less likely to finish primary school than others in the country. Unless basic needs are met, there is no hope for regular school attendance.

## **Problem Statement**

Few opportunities exist for the children of Kenya especially in the slums that allow them to learn and grow to their potential. Although the Kenyan government has announced free education for all children at primary school level, the children are still expected to pay tuition fees, buy their own uniforms (without a uniform they cannot attend school), provide their own food and in some cases there are not enough school desks and resources so children have class sizes of 100. Many children are still struggling to receive primary education and many are unable to progress to high school level. This lack of opportunity results in a perpetuation of the poverty cycle, allowing them to neither contribute to their full capacity to the community nor being able to take advantage of all that their society and the world has to offer.

MKRM is committed to providing an environment that caters to the unique needs of the abandoned and orphaned children of Kenya, especially the slums of Nairobi. So far the institution has relied solely on the generous support of the founder family and her close friends through direct out-of-pocket donations. Given the increasing burden and the glaring need for more to be done, the need to look elsewhere for funding can no longer be ignored.

## **2. Project Description**

### **Project purpose**

The main focus of the project is to give accommodation for the orphans and the children of HIV / AIDS affected and infected parents. It is a known fact that once a person is found with the problem of HIV / AIDS, his or her relatives and family members avoid them to involve in any family affairs. At the same time they are separated from the family itself and feel lonely in the family atmosphere.

In this situation the family members of the HIV/AIDS affected have the desire to save their children from the dreaded disease and keep them away from the family environment. The relatives of the orphan children afraid and avoid them to stay with their children. They feel that it is a curse for the families to keep the orphan children in their home

### **Duration of the Project**

The project is continuous in nature. Once we start the activities, it will continue till the society finds a remedy for the children of HIV/AIDS affected parents. To run the

Children's Home we have prepared the project and budget for one year for kind consideration.

### **Outcome of the Project**

1. The Children Home for the Orphans and the Semi Orphans of the HIV/AIDS affected parents and other vulnerable children will offer a shelter in their abandoned situation.
2. The Children will get all benefits like food, shelter, education, health care while they stay in the children home.
3. Under the guidance of the Relief Mission, the children will be able learn discipline and personality development.
4. The Children Home serves as a shelter for the children of the AIDS affected persons even though their parents died and their relatives neglect them.
5. The Children Home supports the children in all possible ways to make them become useful and good citizens of the society.

### **Sustainability:**

The long term success of this project will depend on the ability of its overseers and volunteers to put in place methods through partnerships, policies and technological development to create more self sustainability for MKRM. The investment put into the development of this project will result in reducing the running costs of caring for such a large group of children. Income generating projects will help reduce the reliance on donations and bring greater stability to running MKRM.

### **Communication and Evaluation:**

There are two important elements to the communication plan.

First, all those involved with MKRM, the children themselves and the intended local community must both contribute to and be aware of the process, the intended results and the final outcome. This will be accomplished via local media, print information, the website and availability of monthly meeting minutes.

Second, sponsoring organisations and individuals will be informed of progress through newsletters, our website and a full report at 6 months from commencement and/or upon completion of each phase. For evaluation of progress on the project, the project committee will review the progress on a monthly basis and will make available minutes of meetings where appropriate. Reports with details on the progress of each phase will also be made by the project committee on a regular basis.

### **Resources Required**

#### **Budget:**

The estimated cost for the project, which involves the purchase and development of land is USD 500,000 or Ksh40million.

#### **Personnel:**

The Projects Team Leader and Chief Executive at MKRM will oversee the day to day running of each phase on the ground level. The Project Committee will meet regularly to oversee the development. This committee will be directly accountable to the Board of Trustees.

A property consultant will be required to source available land and negotiate with the owner.

Legal representation will also be required for the preparation and exchange of the land.



## **Fundraising**

MKRM will be required to fund-raise the entire budget for the project and the purchasing of the land. MKRM will be looking to partners, individuals and groups from within Kenya and overseas.

All donations will be collected in a specific bank account in Kenya for the building project and held until require.