

NKUNGA QUARTERLY REPORT July - September 2006

We do praise God who enabled us go through the third quarter of this year. We appreciate our partners in UK who have continued to walk with us in this journey of bringing transformation in Nkunga.

In this third quarter, the following achievements were realized:

TRAININGS

Several trainings were done during the quarter which included:

AGRICULTURE TRAINING

All the clusters were trained on food security and drought resistant crops farming. This was aimed at enhancing their diet and maximising their land resource.

A follow up of previous training on goat rearing was done. The community participated in constructing a goat pen at one of the homes in the community. This was to equip them with practical skills on how to construct a goat's pen.

FHI is in the final process of availing a Togenberg male goat to improve the goat breed in Nkunga. This breed is useful since it produces quality milk and meat.



The community participating in the construction of a goat pen.

HIV/AIDS WORKSHOP

All the couples in Nkunga were trained on HIV/AIDS. This included awareness creation on issues related to HIV/AIDS. During the training, couples were encouraged to go for voluntary counselling and testing. This was aimed at reducing stigmatization. The couples were also taught on the importance of communication in marriage.

Another HIV/Aids training was held which addressed the youth. The churches were very receptive to the training and this will be a first step to reduce stigmatization.

Clusters were also trained on other topics which included basic nutrition and hygiene.

MEETINGS

Stakeholders have continued to meet during this quarter. This has enabled FHI to plan together with them and also assist in implementation of programme activities at the village level.

PRAYER GROUP MEETING

The prayer group which was earlier on established in Nkunga is progressing very well. The prayer group members have been divided into groups of five and have started a small saving scheme. This will enable them to access small loans to improve their economic status. Further training is still planned to equip the group with more knowledge and skills of running small scale businesses.

PRAYER DAY

FHI together with leaders, churches and families in the community organized a successful prayer day in Nkunga community. The prayer day included all the members of the churches within the community. They prayed for the children, the families, the country leadership and for Highfield church,

HEALTH CHECK-UPS

A medical check up which targeted the 112 families in Nkunga community was done in this last quarter. Sick parents/guardians together with

their children were treated. This activity was made possible with the help of medical personnel from the government hospital, parents, guardians and children from Nkunga community. The children identified with special medical needs were further referred to Meru District Hospital for further treatment.

TUITION FOR GRADES SIX TO EIGHT

Children from grade 6-8 were given extra tuition in August to prepare them for final examinations. FHI paid 40% of the tuition money while the guardians paid 60% of the money. This tuition was also meant to help children who are slow learners in their normal school time improve in their performance.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

Children in grade 7 and 8 had two days guidance and counselling teachings organized by FHI. This was meant to assist children cope with adolescent challenges. It also helped the FHI staff and teachers identify some challenges facing children in Nkunga community and come up with solutions to these problems.

BIBLE LESSONS

These lessons are conducted once per week. All the children in upper primary attend these classes. During

these lessons, children learn the Word of God. Other issues like hygiene are also tackled during these meetings.

HOME VISITATIONS

67 homes were visited during this quarter. This gave the staff and volunteers a good opportunity to share the Word of God with the children and guardians and also do a follow up on the implementation of the hygiene trainings.

FEEDING PROGRAM

FHI has continued to support Nkunga primary school to sustain the feeding program for the sake of children who would have else gone without food or drop out of school.

This feeding program has enabled them improve in their academic performance and also increased school retention.



Children enjoying a meal at the Nkunga primary school

CHALLENGES DURING THE QUARTER

- Lack of water led to the dying of one of the beds of tree seedlings established in the community earlier on. (Later plantings have been successfully transplanted)
- So many families are going without food because of low harvest due to little rains.
- HIV/AIDS continues to kill the community members.

PRAYER ITEMS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

- Pray for grade eight students as they prepare for their final primary examinations starting on 20th October.
- Pray for enough rains this season.
- Pray for all the families in Nkunga community.
- Pray that the community will be more receptive to discuss issues related to HIV and AIDS.
- Pray for a permanent solution to the water problem.



Children fetching water after school,