

NKUNGA QUARTERLY REPORT DEC-06

The final quarter of the year was a busy one for both the parents and children. Rosemary took over the role of field staff at Nkunga having previously been a teacher at the school. We offer our thanks and appreciation to Doris for getting this work underway.

The grade eight children worked very hard for their end of the year exam. Better results were achieved this time round because of the continuous remedial teaching. Parents shared and encouraged children to work harder in meetings held over three months.

Home visit

50 families were visited by Rosemary together with the volunteer. During the visit, issues about children school performances, hygiene, water preservation, latrines and compost pit usage were discussed. The visited families highly appreciated the assistance accorded to them by FHI through Highfield church.



Parents/stakeholders meeting

Parents have met several times to address their children's progress in school. The stakeholders have continued to encourage the parents to support the FHI programme. The stakeholders have made

projection for the coming year 2007 especially on the project for the expected team visit in September.

Just before the grade eight examinations, parents converged in the nearby Catholic Church to pray for their children and wish them well during the end of year primary exam.

Anti-AIDS clubs

Nkunga community has lost many of its people through AIDS related sicknesses. Both the parents and children have been sensitized on HIV/AIDS. The anti-AIDS club has been started in Nkunga School and children are encouraged to discuss sexuality issues with the CDP staff and teachers. This will improve their awareness and reduce the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS in Nkunga community.

Cluster meeting

The clusters have been trained on various issues affecting their lives, including training on prevention of malaria. Treated Mosquito nets were distributed to all the school children and they were also trained on how to use them. During this quarter, there was recurrent malaria outbreak because of the downpour.

Water tanks distribution



The sacred lake being the only source of water for Nkunga community, FHI found it necessary to provide

100-litre tanks to all the beneficiary families. These tanks have been useful for water storage and hygiene improvement. Training on water hygiene was held as the tank distribution was done. The topics shared on included:

- Water purification methods
- Roof water Harvesting
- Water borne diseases prevention and treatment

School feeding program

The school children continued to benefit from a hot lunch meal served at school. This lengthened their school hours and also school concentration.



Goat rearing

To improve the local goats, a Toggenburg billy-goat bought by FHI was delivered to Nkunga community. The community has organized how to take care of it and how to ensure they all benefit. The offspring from breeding with local stock will have better meat quality and will provide more milk, which will positively impact the health and nutrition of the children.



Bible study

Bible study lessons are taught by CDP field assistants and the volunteer on weekly basis. Some of the lessons taught included;

- Love for our neighbours
- God appoints humble people to leadership - lessons from studies of Joseph
- Growing in hard conditions.

Adult classes

This is comprised of cluster members above the age of 20 years. They meet three times per week. They are learning arithmetic, English and Kiswahili (the national language). The adult learners and the pupils are also engaged in tree planting in the school compound and at their homes. This activity will improve Nkunga's environment and also create a sense of responsibility.

Kanondone prayer group

This group of about 90, with small groups of 5, has continued to meet every Friday at 4.00 p.m. Apart from holding prayers, they are saving with Jamii bora, a local microfinance body in Meru, to access small loans and help boost their income from micro-finance projects, such as growing Napier grass and raising chickens.

Children's camp

Realizing the importance of interacting with others, Nkunga children teamed with Marere and township children for one week camp from 4th - 8th December 2006. It was a great moment for sharing experiences and exchange ideas with their peers.

The following topics were discussed;

- Christian maturity
- Healthy social relationships
- HIV/AIDS
- Sports
- Christian commitment
- Self esteem
- Sexual development
- Career goals

Health club

Nkunga being a very rocky place, the field staff has initiated the collecting of the stones by children to make pathways between their classes. This has reduced the injuries from the playground. Both parents and children have also learnt to use the local resources.

Medical check-ups

The medical check-up was organized for the 112 beneficiary families and their children. This was possible through the help of medical personnel from Meru general hospital. Those who needed further attention were referred to Meru Hospital. Those with malaria, common cold and other ailments were treated. It was very successful.

Christmas party



Excited children enjoy a meal during CDP Christmas party

This was the last event as we closed the year. Children were taught the meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus as our redeemer and saviour from Luke chapters 1 and 2.

The occasion was accompanied with Christmas songs, bible verses, drama, blowing of balloons, decorating the Christmas tree. The stakeholders, teachers, volunteers and CDP staff prayed and thanked God for Highfield Church support and assistance throughout the year.

Challenges through the quarter.

- Heavy downpour where homes and farms were flooded
- Low food production as a result of floods
- Malaria outbreak

Prayer request for next quarter

- Good school performance
- The community to get more wisdom and knowledge to continue solving their community problems.
- Smooth interchurch relations
- Pray for the community to open up and support the increasing number of orphans
- Thank God for the adequate rains and promising harvest.