

# APRIL-JUNE 2009 QUARTERLY REPORT : NKUNGA

We are glad to report that the quarter has been very successful. We give honour to God for the success.

Nkunga community is currently faced with great famine caused by persistent drought prevailing in the area, which has gone without enough rains for two seasons. Farmers have already exhausted their food reserves. The situation has caused children to absent themselves from school.

## SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### **Sports day**

The pupils participated in school sports competitions, attaining position 2 in netball at the zonal level and 4 in football at the divisional level.

Sport continues to be a major activity to motivate the children and enable them to identify their talents.



Children participate in netball

### **Music/drama competition**

A group of 25 pupils participated in a music/drama festival. It was thrilling for them to be engaged and compete,

displaying their God given talents. The pupils met other students from the neighbouring schools and were able to appreciate one another as God requires them to as they performed.

### **Children's club**

During the quarter the pupils from grade 4-6 have been organized to form an educative club using a book called PAMOJA TUNAWEZA - 'Together we can'. They are able to discuss and tackle some issues that affect their lives. With assistance from the CDP worker and the teachers, each group leader gathers his/her members during free time for discussion. By doing so leadership skills are promoted amongst themselves. Some of the topics learnt during the lesson included:

- Self esteem and personal discipline
- Discovering oneself
- Relationships in life
- Goal setting in life



One of the peer group leaders instructs his members

## Home visits

During the quarter 35 homes were visited, during which the CDP staff prayed with the families and encouraged them. During a visit to Stephen and Catherine's home, the staff found their grade 8 daughter, Lucy Kanja, at home having dropped out of school due to early pregnancy. Lucy's parents have four other children. They are casual labourers. They live in temporary shelter and their farm is very small. Lucy was threatened by her parents to move away from home. After many visits, the staff convinced her parents to forgive her. Lucy was encouraged to attend anti-natal clinic to ensure she gets a healthy baby.



Some of the hungry children and their mother found at home during a home visit

## Water shortage

As a result of the rain failure over the last two seasons, the community is going through serious water scarcity. Lake Nkunga, which has been a source of water for the community, is slowly drying up. Parents and children take much longer time queuing for water. Herds of cattle, flocks of goats, sheep and camels from the neighbouring

communities are crowding the lake for a drink. The school tank has a little water for the children to drink which may last only for a while.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

### Health

For many years, Nkunga parents have been in denial about HIV/AIDS. Many have died and more are stigmatized from the disease. After successive friendly and professional educative lessons, more parents have disclosed their status. The affected parents have received foodstuff and psycho-social support from the programme.

During the quarter 30 children were unwell, receiving medical attention from the health clinic. Many had malaria and stomach upset. The main reason for the sickness was weather change. It has been very cold in the morning, very sunny and too dusty later in the day. The pupils are encouraged to maintain high standards of cleanliness to manage this. They have also continued being encouraged to be responsible and to care for one another and they are embracing these virtues positively.



Pupils attend to an injured mate in school

## Water Purification

Biblical principles on cleanliness were shared at a parents meeting to promote water purification. Parents were taught how to treat water from Lake Nkunga and make it safe for drinking.

Water purification sachets of 4gm PUR; powder chemical was distributed to all the parents to enable them practice water purification in their homes. This will ultimately help reduce water-borne diseases which are common in Nkunga. The CDP and Health programme will continue to work closely in improving both the pupils and community health.



A trainer demonstrates how to treat filthy water



Pure clean and treated water is served to the participants

## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The bible studies for this quarter were from the book entitled, "Who is this man Jesus?" Children learnt about the Baptism of Jesus at the River Jordan just before he began His Ministry. The memory verse was Mathew 3:17, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." This shows God's love and acceptance of Jesus and His submission to His Father.

Children continue to practice the lessons learnt from the bible lessons.

## Meetings

90 parents attended a very successful and educative parents meeting. The following topics were discussed:

**Children's school performance.** Parents play a major role in ensuring their children have performed well in school. As a result many parents are now keener to follow up on their children's progress.

**Discipline.** Parents were reminded that discipline is one of the values they should continue to instil in their children.

**Work team.** In preparation for the Highfield Work team visit, parents, local leaders and church leaders met to prepare for the visit.

300 parents from the location attended a chief's baraza (meeting). Among the topics discussed were;

- The impact of Government policies on the Nkunga community
- 'Youth at work' (kazi kwa vijana) under the ministry of roads which intends to hire the local youth to

repair the roads. Young people are eagerly looking forward for this opportunity.

- Improvement of education mean scores for the primary and secondary schools in the location
- Eradication of drug abuse and illicit alcohol brewing in the area which has caused a lot of suffering to families, orphaned children and caused many deaths as a result of HIV/AIDS. In one voice, parents agreed to hand over any person who is brews or sells local brew.
- Famine in the community. Leaders promised to appeal for food from the government
- The UK work team in August. Leaders promised to attend the leaders training.



### IGAs Training

- 30 members of cluster groups gathered for training on entrepreneurship skills. They were equipped with skills on identifying opportunities for income generation. They were taught how to make necklaces and belts using beads.



Trainees make necklaces

### CDP students in high school

The secondary school/Vocational students are doing very well in the various schools that they are in. Their school principals have given encouraging reports on their discipline and performance. Franklin Muthomi, a student in Kithoka polytechnic and training to be a driver, is doing very well. Joyce, at one time desperate girl who had earlier dropped out of school because of school fees, recited a poem on AIDS, "The ogre in our community" in a synod gathering. She encouraged abstinence from early sex and faithfulness among the couples.



Franklin receives driving instruction

## Talent show

During the month, pupils displayed their God given talents in a social day meeting. Some sang individuals or in groups or in classes. They were dressed in different costumes. This kind of event is greatly encouraged in the CDP programme because it builds pupils' confidence. The intellectually weak students feel encouraged to display their talents too.



**Doris displays her talent**

## Challenges

- The hunger situation in Nkunga community is very desperate. Many people are going without meals. Others have started moving away in search for food
- Children are going without food, hence reducing their concentration span in class.
- Many families are selling their domestic animals at very low price because of lack of pasture.
- One of the toggenburg donated by FH died due to injury in the stomach. This has saddened many of the group members, but they are grateful that they were able to improve some of their goat breed.

## Prayer request

- Pray for a solution to the current food shortage. Pray that God would grant the people of Nkunga hope.
- Pray for rains and other sources of water.
- Thank God for children who have participated in various activities over the quarter.
- Pray for all the preparations for the work team visit.
- Pray that the community and the team members will be blessed and develop mutual relationship during the visit.

**Compiled By Violet Ruria (Education and Child Development Manager)**