

Kengele Children's Network (KCN) April 2010 Report



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Submitted to
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A Partnership between Be Kids and Child Peace and the Children of Korogocho

Introduction:

The Month of April has been a busy month for the Kengele project since most of the children were on holiday. During the month the children had an opportunity to undertake an academic review, guided by the Child Peace facilitators.

Other activities included community meetings to pave the way for the study centres in 4 villages, printing out and distribution of the Kengele magazine, Mandarin classes, crafts training, team building exercises as well as the village caucuses.

It has been a rather interesting month – with the extra time with the children it is clear that they are extremely committed to improving their future and that this Kengele Children’s Network is undoubtedly impacting on them in a big way.

First week -28th March-4th of April 2010

Planning and organizing for the village meetings with an aim to mobilize the community in providing a space for study centres in Highridge/Gitathuru and Ngunyumu/Ngomongo.

Following meetings with all the facilitators, it was resolved that the facilitators in the villages where there was still no space for a study centre (Highridge /Gitathuru and Ngomongo/ Ngunyumu, would make concerted efforts to bring on board village leaders, parents of KCN children, youth representatives, some representatives of faith-based organisations and Community Based Organisations, during their respective weekend lobbying meetings. To strategize and plan the facilitators held two meetings on Monday 29th and Wednesday 31st 2010.

The child facilitators in charge of the said villages namely Carol Muthoni and Abdi Mohammed, for Gitathuru/ High ridge and Godrick Barasa and Judith Ochieng of Ngomongo/ Ngunyumu, mobilized and made all the necessary arrangements for the meetings. At the same time the other child facilitators met the different stakeholders in the targeted venues, just to update and let the children and to be part of the realisation of their own study centres.

Grogon A/ Grogon B caucuses also managed to attend and support the Highridge/Gitathuru meeting while Korogocho A /Korogocho B and Nyayo/Kisumu Ndogo caucuses attended in solidarity to support their peers and Ngunyumu/Ngomongo meeting.

The following are the minutes of the lobby meetings held on 3rd April 2010:

MINUTES TAKEN DURING NGOMONGO/NGUNYUMU STAKEHOLDERS MEETING HELD ON 3RD APRIL 2010 AT 3:00 P.M IN NGUNYUMU CENTRE PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL

Those present:

	NAME		REPRESENTATION
1	Brian	Ombaka	Youth representative
2	Jack	Odhiambo	Youth representative
3	Ochieng	Olala	Parent
4	Maxwell	Ochar	Opinion Leader
5	Florence	Nyaburi	Opinion Leader
6	Ken	Otieno	Hutang youth group

7	Grace	Kavuli	Parent
8	Florence	Atieno	Secretary at the local area chief's office.
9	Fredrick	Oduor	Parent
10	Nereah	Chan	Opinion Leader
11	Beryl	Achieng	Wonderful Brothers group
12	Ernst	Odhiambo	Wonderful Brothers group
13	Kennedy	Omondi	Wonderful Brothers group
14	Eunice	Awino	Parent
15	Emily	Namukuru	Parent
16	James	Omondi	Parent
17	Emily	Wekasa	Parent

AGENDA

1. PRELIMINARIES
2. INTRODUCTION OF KENGELE CHILDREN'S NETWORK
3. STUDY CENTRE SPACE

- MIN01/01/2010 Preliminaries

The meeting started with introduction of all the participants present.

- MIN 02/01/2010 Introduction of KCN

The participants got an opportunity to learn about KCN from Dorothy Omondi.

After the presentation, the participants wanted to know:

- I. How Child Peace partnered with Be Kids
- II. What KCN had achieved since its inception
- III. What the activities of KCN are

The question on the nature of the Child Peace /Be Kids partnership was adequately answered by Alex Mugesha to the satisfaction of the participants, some of whom some already had knowledge of this relationship. The KCN children present mentioned the activities they undertake and facilitators also mentioned some of the achievements so far. The activities mentioned by the children included:

- ❖ Children mobilization and organisation of their caucuses in every village
- ❖ Mentorship
- ❖ Fieldtrips
- ❖ Shepherds Junior Scholarships
- ❖ Art and other clubs for children to express themselves
- ❖ Kengele children magazine
- ❖ Celebration of the Day of the African Child

- MIN03/01/2010 Study Centre Space

The Ngunyumu facilitator Judy Ochieng helped to facilitate the discussion on the need for a space to put up a study centre for the children in the Ngomongo/Ngunyumu.

Majority of those present supported the idea and they unanimously agreed to help find a space for installation of the container.

There were also many suggestions concerning the best place for the placement of the container namely;

- Kamukunji grounds in Ngomongo.
 - Use of the already existing structures like schools, churches, uninhabited houses and other premises but it was said that this would lead to privatisation of the study centre by people with selfish interest.
 - Be installed at a central place so that it is easily accessible by all the children.
- MIN 04/01/2010 Way Forward:

It was later agreed upon by all the participants that Maxwell, Nereah, Florence, Barasa and Judith among others would form part of a committee to spearhead the process of finding a suitable space to place the container.

The committee would also share about the deliberation of this meeting with the area chief and a report was expected to be delivered by either Tuesday 6th, or Wednesday 7th of April 2010. The next meeting was slated for 17th April 2010 in Ngomongo village at the same venue.

- MIN05/01/2010 Adjournment

Vote of thanks was given by Judith Ochieng .There being no any other business, the meeting was adjourned and was closed after taking refreshments.

Highridge/Gitathuru Meeting

Agenda:

1. Study Centres

Min 1/4/2010

The High Ridge/Gitathuru meeting was poorly attended with the majority being children and only 3 parents and a representative from a faith based organization.

However the pastor and the parents present seemed receptive to the idea and committed to support the children in this course by following up with subsequent meetings as well as contacting key decision makers in that village.



Nyayo/Kisumu Ndogo caucuses: starting to prepare the ground in readiness for the first study centre.

The Kisumu Ndogo/Nyayo caucus went to the site where the study centre is to be placed and made efforts to level the ground. The children collected stones to place on the ground. And collectively did their best.

However, the ground needs to be well levelled and some more materials bought to make it stable enough for a container to be placed on it. The KCN children in Kisumu Ndogo and Nyayo participated in bringing construction blocks to the site. This was done with the help of the facilitators and the chairman of the Korogocho Poverty Eradication and Development Group.

The turnout was overwhelming including children from the homes nearby. The site was rather muddy and so more work will need to be done before the cargo container is installed.



Second week -5th April-11th April 2010

Reviewing of the weekend meetings and strategizing of the next affirmative action in two weeks.

Reports of the last weekend lobby meetings in Ngomongo/Ngunyumu and Highridge/Gitathuru were reviewed and plans made to arrange for follow up meetings on 17th April 2010. The facilitators were charged with the responsibility of following up the resolutions passed on the last meetings and also to invite the participants to the next meeting in two weeks time.

Academic review days: 7th, 8th and 9th April 2010.

The main aim of the sessions was to help the children share with each other about the challenges and achievements they experience in school. The meetings started at 2:00 p.m. every day with a specific topic in each day.

The KCN participants were those in class six and above, or those aged between thirteen and seventeen years of age.

- **DAY ONE -7TH APRIL 2010**

Around seventy participants turned up. The facilitator started with an introduction of the three days program. The Children also came up with norms to guide them through out the three days program.

During a recap the participants were able to remember various topics that they learnt during the previous academic review in December 2009.They recalled the lessons they learnt on different temperaments, which they said had helped them relate with their colleagues in school easily.

The main topic of the day was “SIMPLE STEPS TO EXCEL ACADEMICALLY”. The Children were advised on how to set their long and short term goals as far as academics and careers are concerned.

An observation made according to this topic was that the children did not know how to strictly follow through the directions that are necessary towards achieving their set goals. Therefore there is a need to consistently guide the children on how to remain focussed on their goals. Facilitators Alex and Judy took a lead role in this process.



- **DAY TWO-8TH APRIL 2010**

After the previous day's day recap, a simple practical exercise was given to Children with an image of a container, small stones, big stones and soil was drawn to enable the kids to arrange all of them, applying the concept of long and short term goals priority.

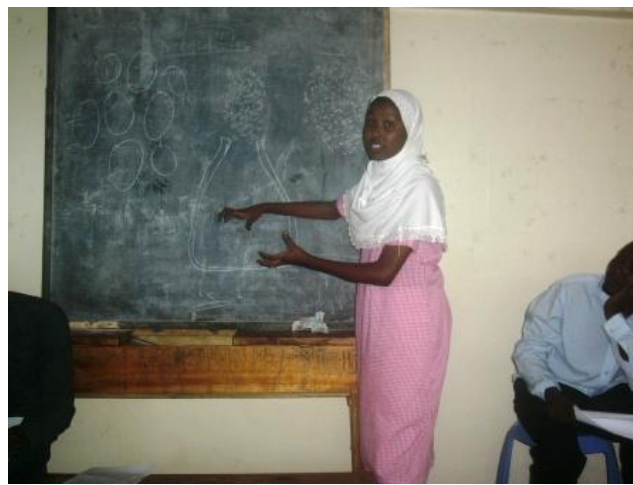
The participants were divided into three groups and the task was to have each group find out how to put all the different types of stones and soil in the container. The results were as varied as the number of groups with each group explaining why one item was to go first or last in the container.

After the exercise, they watched a movie based on the life of the celebrated African-American Neuro-surgeon Benjamin Carson .The movie is also based on the records of an inspirational book-*Gifted Hands by Ben Carson*.

This had lots of insight and profound lessons that the children could very easily identify with. The children also gave their views after the captivating movie, and drawing important lessons as well as necessary soft skills to enable them achieve their academic desires.



Children in the groups during the academic review



Ferdosa explaining to the rest what her group discussed

- **DAY THREE-9TH APRIL 2010**

On this day the participants were guided on doing a recap on the lessons learnt from the movie shown the previous day.

From the comments of the participants, it was evident that the movie had great positive impact on the young ones. This were able to relate what they had learnt on the first day with what they watched in the movie and especially in relationship to the juggling of short and long term goals and the prioritizing of these goals.



Children watching the video from a computer

10th April 2010 children visit Hobby Crafts creations and have a class on bracelet making.

The children who attended the Hobby Craft classes were:

1.	Almas	Hassan
2.	Consolata	Wayua
3.	Fardosa	Ali
4.	Regina	Wanjiru
5.	Harun	Thuo
6.	Samuel	Wachira
7.	Najib	Sirengo
8.	Joel	Aponari



KCN showing off the bracelets they made at Hobby craft



The children had a class on bracelet making. Each one of the children managed to make two bracelets with the help of the instructors Joanita Coelho and Faith Kamau.

The Hobby Craft Creations Instructor Joanita Coehlo suggested that for the project to be economically viable, she would prefer to train few children instead, who will in turn train the rest on what they have learnt.

She said she would charge us a nominal charge of 200 Kenya shillings instead of 750 Kenya shillings they charge adults for the fee.



The other additional costs would vary depending on the materials used as follows:

- Bookmarks;
- Decoupage;
- Mosaic
- Card making
- Scrapbooking
- Fabric painting:
- Jewellery making:

The new developments were to be communicated to the rest of the facilitating team during the following Monday meeting.

Nyayo/Kisumu Ndogo study centre management committee meeting on the roles and duties of KPEDG, Be Kids and KCN/Child Peace

MINUTES ON THE MEETING HELD AT KOROGOCHO POVERTY ERADICATION AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE BETWEEN CHILD PEACE, KCN AND KPDEG AT 10:50 AM ON 10TH APRIL 2010.

Those present:

1.	Mr. John Okello –	Village elder
2.	Phillip Mango-	KPEDG Chairman
3.	Peter Mwash-	Child Peace representative
4.	Dorothy Akinyi-	Child Peace representative
5.	Alex Mugesha-	Child Peace representative
6.	Mama Millicent-	Opinion
7.	Susan Sophie-	Opinion leader
8.	Mama Belinda-	Parent
9.	Barnice Wakonyo-	KCN
10.	Belinda Auma-	KCN
11.	Mama Dennis-	Parent
12.	Joyce Wacera-	KCN



The meeting started with a word from Mama Sophie followed by a brief introduction of those present.

Peter went on to give a brief introduction concerning the major reason for setting up a study centre (library) in the villages mentioning the challenges that children listed as a hindrance to them from performing well in their academics.

Now that the site was available the following agendas were raised to ensure sustainability of the library. The idea of putting up a library was of great relief to parents, children and the village elders who saw it as an opportunity to improve the lives of children and the community at large.

AGENDA

1. Management Committee
2. Responsibilities
3. Leveling the ground

AGENDA 1: Management Committee

There was need to set up a management committee to see to it that the study centre achieves its purpose. According to the Memorandum Of understanding signed between Be Kids and KPEDG, the management comprised the representation of:

1. KPEDG
2. Be Kids
3. Child Peace

Each of the three above mentioned was to elect, appoint or propose their representatives in the management committee. Child Peace also raised the need to involve parents in the management committee. The following persons were appointed to sit in the management committee.

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 1) KCN: | 1. Salvia Wairimu (KCN from Nyayo) | |
| | 2. Dennis Okoth (KCN from Kisumu Ndogo) | |
| 2) Child Peace: | 1. Alex Mugesha (facilitator Nyayo) | |
| | 2. Dorothy Akinyi (Facilitator Kisumu Ndogo) | |
| 3) Parents : | 1.Pamela Oluoch (Mama Belinda Auma Kisumu Ndogo) | |
| | 2. Mrs Odinga (Mama Gabriel Odinga Nyayo) | |
| 4) KPEDG: | 1. Mr.John Okello (Secretary of the group) | |
| | 2. Mr. Philip Mango (KPEDG Chairman) | |

Ex official members: Peter Mwashu Litonde and Joan Peters

AGENDA 2: RESPONSIBILITIES:

The following issues were raised, namely:

- i. Management of books/librarian
- ii. Cleanliness of the library
- iii. Rules and regulations
- iv. Conflict resolution
- v. Security
- vi. Operating hours
- vii. Sustainability
- viii. Identification cards

The responsibilities were divided between three (3) management sub-committees. Hence the following final list of shared responsibilities as follows:

- a) KPEDG : - 1.Security
2. Public relations
3. Follow up
4. Conflict resolutions.
- b) Child Peace and KCN Parents:- 1.Discipline
2. Identification
3. Librarian
4. Management of books
5. Mentorship
- c) Be Kids/ KCN: - 1.Operating Hours.
2. Cleanliness.
- d) KPEDG/Be Kids/Child Peace and the parents: - 1. Sustainability

NB: The KCN Children were also meant to be representatives of Be Kids in the operation of the study centre

AGENDA 3: LEVELING THE GROUND

This responsibility for levelling the ground was delegated to Child Peace and KCN parents. Child Peace asked the parent representatives to hold a meeting and come up with a way forward on how to go about it .Thereafter Child Peace is to set a date for the proposed proper ground levelling.

As there was no any other business the meeting ended at 12:30 p.m.

Teambuilding activities at a central venue and KCN Children choosing different clubs e.g. magazine, Artoto, theatre, sports, photography, and mandarin

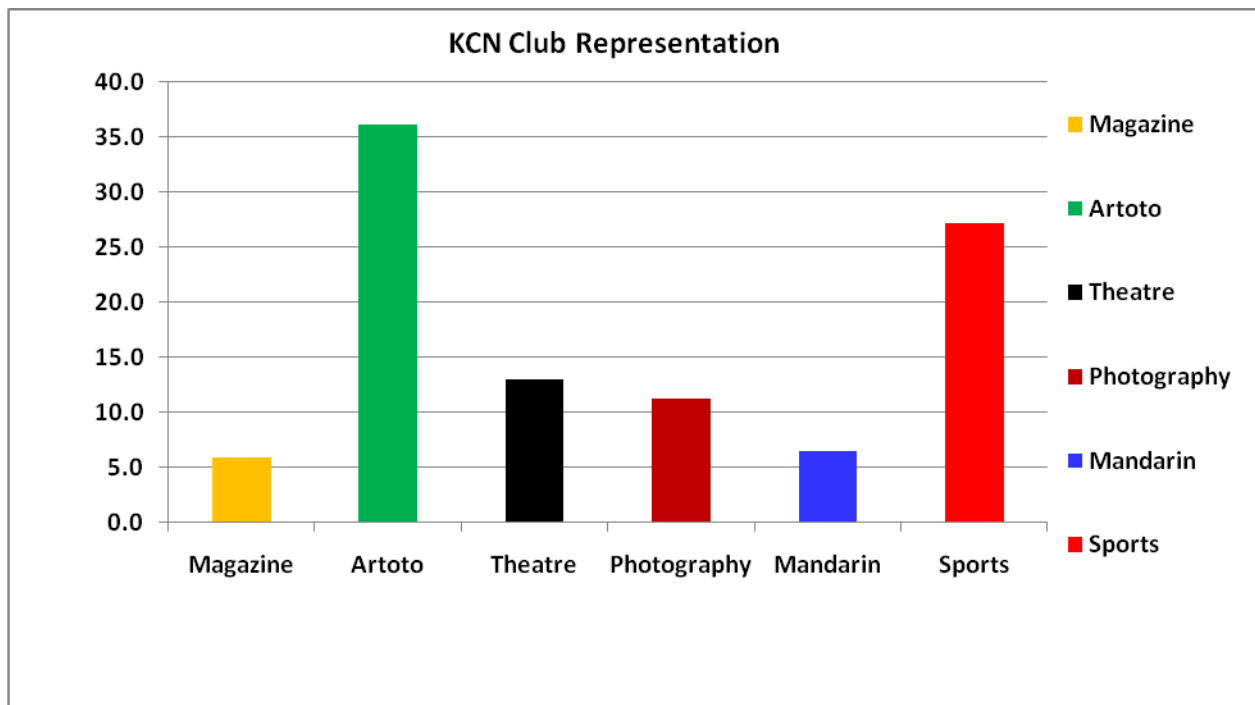
The children assembled together on the 10th of April for team building exercises one of the fundamentals of KCN. Dennis Alphayo facilitator KB, led the rest of the facilitators in doing teambuilding activities with the children. After one hour and a half of team building, the children gathered in their respective villages. The facilitators helped the children to identify a clubs in which they would actively participate.



IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT SOME CHILDREN CHOSE TO BE IN TWO CLUBS. HOWEVER THEY WERE DISCOURAGED TO BE IN MORE THAN TWO CLUBS.

In addition, the older boys and girls form a group where they would discuss age-specific issues. It is expected the older KCN members will take active roles in leadership of the KCN at both the village levels and secretariat level.

The following is a graphical presentation on the percentage of Children in each club:



Third week- 12th April -18th April 2010

- ✓ Reporting on the new developments at Hobby Craft Creation (HCC). The meeting decided that a budget be prepared in order to access the feasibility of the HCC classes. It was also resolved during that meeting that older KCN children should be given opportunity to learn the skills at HCC. Only one facilitator per class would be allowed to accompany the children and learn.
- ✓ Strategizing on the weekend's affirmative action meetings in both Highridge/Gitathuru and Ngunyumu/Ngomongo. The following are minutes of the meeting held on the 17th April at the Ngunyumu Centre Primary School

**MINUTES NGUNYUMU STUDY CCENTRE STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING HELD ON 17TH APRIL 2010 AT
NGUNYUMU CENTRE SCHOOL FROM 3:00 P.M.**

Those Present

	Name	Representative of
1	Fredrick Odhiambo	Political leader
2	Jack Ochik	Parent representative
3	Fredrick Odour	Parent representative
4	Mercy Atieno	Wonderful Brothers
5	Careen Atieno	Parent representative
6	Kennedy Otieno	Hutang Youth Group
7	Beryl Achieng	Wonderful Brothers
8	Kennedy Omondi	Wonderful Brothers
9	Judith Ochieng	Child Peace
10	Dorothy Akinyi	Child peace

Absent with apology:

	Name	Representative of
1	Nereah Chan	Opinion leader
2	Mr. Maxwell	Opinion Leader
3	Mr. Olala	Parent
4	Madam Florence(Min Raila)	Opinion Leader
5	Eunice Awino	Parent

PRELIMINARIES

The meeting started at 3:30 p.m. and was immediately called to order by the acting chairperson, Judith Ochieng (Ngunyumu facilitator)

AGENDA:

1. Confirmation of the previous minutes
2. Report from the elected committee about the identification of space
3. Way forward
4. Visiting the site

AGENDA 1.CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES.

The previous minutes were confirmed to be a true recording of what had been discussed during the last meeting.

AGENDA 2. REPORT ON IDENTIFICATION OF SPACE.

Mr. Jack Odhiambo, one the committee members reported that the assistant chief was happy about the installation of the study centre.

He also reported that the assistant chief suggested and proposed an alternative space which was in a central and secure location at Ngunyumu Nursery school.

However, another member also suggested that it is also important to inform the Ngunyumu Land Owners Cooperative about the space since that was private land.

AGENDA 3.WAYFORWARD

Considering the land identified was privately owned, a meeting is to be arranged between Land Owners Cooperative Committee, the stakeholders committee and Child Peace to look in to possibilities of having the space used for setting up a library. The meeting would help the cooperative know more about the study centre.

AGENDA 4.VISITING THE SITE

After the discussion, everyone went to view the proposed site and it was concluded that the space would need fencing and levelling.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

- ✓ Other villages held meetings with the Children in the respective villages as a feed back on the progress so far with the study centres.

NB: The Gitathuru High Ridge meeting was postponed to the 1st week of May

Fourth Week -19th April -25th April 2010

- Meetings done at village levels where children with the help of the facilitators started planning for the July activity- KCN Day/Day of the African Child
- Home visits done in K.A and K.B to children that have missed the last weeks of children meetings.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH :

- Being a school holiday month, many of the older KCN children were available for Monday meetings where they participated with the facilitators in reporting, planning for the weekend activities among other things.
- Being a holiday where children go for a one month break from school, many children were available for the village meetings while a few travelled upcountry for the holiday.
- The planned trip to Kenyatta University was postponed because the medical students-whom the children aspiring to be doctors wanted to visit-were having exams and then went for a short holiday on April. It is now scheduled for the month of May.
- Mandarin and art classes continued on every weekend of the month of April.
- The Kengele Magazine 3rd edition was printed and the process of supplying started
- Photography practice

JBP 14 May 2010