

# Kengele Children's Network (KCN) May 2010 Report

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*Kengele Children rehearsing on acrobatic moves to be performed on July 31<sup>st</sup> during the launch of the study centre*

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

## **Introduction:**

May thses the start of the second term of school. Most of the children appeared determined to do their best and meet the objectives they set during the Kengele academic review undertaken in April. This second term allows children to step up to the mark in order to achieve good results and to progress to the next level.

Some of the social challenges the children face during this period is the lack of school fees which is required , a stressful time for families who find it difficult to save the required amount in light of their poor income.

The Kengele Program emphasizes the importance of academic results and excellence -- hard work and scholastic excellence is the bridge between the haves and have-nots. On our continued theme of this phase of the Kengele project "Education; my freedom", the children have been preparing to the celebration of the Kengele Day to be held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July during which the first of the 5 study centers will be opened.

The activities in this month have been: Forming the Kengele Day's program committee, rehearsal on the different performances; Dance, Theatre, Arts and football.

Other Activities have continued to be the photography classes, Mandarin tutorials, hobby craft and the magazine clubs.

## **Activities Report--- 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May:**

### Reviewing the Academic objectives and forming Kengele Day committee

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of May which is also a labor day in Kenya, most of the children were at home waiting to resume school on the following Monday. All the Children met in their respective villages with their facilitators, to review the objectives they had set on their education and evaluated their progress.

The facilitators focused on the following areas:

- Achievements and aspirations
- Possible challenges affecting results
- Practical way forwards to overcome these challenges and meet the objectives

Most of the children (average of 12 out of 20) recalled the objectives they set during the start of this Phase 3. Others recorded achievement in their short term goals on particular subjects, time keeping and improvement in relation to interaction with their teachers and how they handled past papers exams. Children in lower classes were not able to review their aims, goals and achievements as they were very young.

The challenges reported by the children were varying from one individual to another. However from a general perspective, the children sited the following major challenges affecting their set objectives:

- Unfair competition with their colleagues in school where by the students don't want to support each other in their areas of weakness fearing to be defeated
- High number of children in a class affecting the teacher student ratio- relationship
- Lack of enough revision materials, reference and text books
- Lack of enough support and study space by the family



The children made suggestions as to how to overcome these challenges:

- Forming study clubs with like-minded colleagues even if not from the same schools. For example the secondary school going students in Kengele to assist their peers in Upper primary in their respective villages
- Maximize the interaction with the teacher during free time e.g. after the subject or during the breaks
- Children in Kengele, though in different schools, to share text books, past paper exams, school notes, etc with each other
- Students to maximize their time in school for example finishing home work in school where possible, planning their time and utilizing the available study spaces.

The children selected Dancing, Acrobatic, Drama and Foot ball as the activities for the Kengele Day. Most of the children rallied behind these activities and planned to start preparations in the following weeks.

From each village 2 children were nominated to sit in the Kengele Day committee and three facilitators to assist as required.



*Some of the Children in Grogon A village*

### **Activity Report--- 15<sup>th</sup>**

The Children went to the respective venues of the different selected activities as follows:

- Foot Ball: Grogon A; Redeemed Church Venue
- Dance and Drama: Gitathuru; Kao la Tumaini Church Venue
- Acrobatic: Ngomongo Open grounds

Each team has an average of 20 children participating. Those not directly participating are in other activities such as Mandarin, photography, journalism and ARTOTO.

The children work up a rehearsal schedule.

Though there was a slight confusion among some children on the venues they were supposed to be, most of the children had fun in joining the different clubs, and very eager to perform in the Kengele Day program.

The facilitators made records of the participants in each category and identified different needs in the different clubs to help them manage the rehearsals. Some of the specific needs mentioned in the different clubs were:

- A foot ball,
- Rehearsing venues
- drums for the dancing
- simple rubber shoes for the dancers and acrobats.

All the teams agreed to commence their rehearsals on the following week and to go through up to the main date.

## Activity Report--- 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>

### Rehearsals:

- Dancing team:

Under the instructions of Jack Okoth the Grogon B facilitator who also has skill in traditional dance, he initiated the Dance rehearsal at the Gitathuru venue with 22 children turning up from the different KCN villages.



- Football:

With the help of Facilitators Abdi and Charles, the children have formed a foot ball team and they hope to play a brief match on the streets in Korogocho during the Kengele Day to champion for the rights of the children.

The football rehearsals will continue through to the 31<sup>st</sup> July.



- Acrobatics:

Some of the Children in KCN have past experiences in acrobatics. Though a very intense exercise that need caution, and great care, those participating in acrobatics have shown great talent in the art. These children hope to perfect with time and show case during the Kengele Day.

Facilitator Ibrahim, has led other facilitators in ensuring the children’s safety during the rehearsals.



Other Concurrent Activities have been:

- The Artoto (Art and Craft)

The children have continued to do the arts on Sundays under the guardianship of facilitator Alex. Some of them have also gone for the Hobby craft tutorial and learnt card making and bead work. We hope to purchase necessary materials for the children to start making cards that can be commercialized for the sustainability of the project.

- Photography:

A number of Children have been consistent in their passion to photograph different social and economic issues affecting the community.

With the team and those who may show interest in motion pictures, the anticipated Film Club is to be established in consultation with Joan in the next level of promoting information sharing, education and communication by and for the youth.



- Mandarin

During the month of May, the Mandarin tutor Mr. Chen could not make it to teach the children due to the disruption of activities at the Nairobi University as a result of students rife caused by misunderstandings after the student councils elections.

However the children participating in the Mandarin class, continued to meet and up date themselves on the past lessons.

**Conclusion:**

It has been a rather interesting month and a busy one among the facilitators and the children in general. It is encouraging to realize that the children have owned up the process, and that Kengele has now formed part of their lives. The level of creativity among the youth is on an upscale level and actually has continued to advise and inform the process.

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