

LITTLE ANGELS NETWORK SOCIETY (LANS)

LANS KINSHIP PROJECT

PROJECT PERIOD: JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2019

LANS Community Programmes

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Executive Summary

Research has shown that institutionalized children often are victims of abuse; delayed physical & emotional development; lack basic needs and are not exposed to the best education hence jeopardizing their ability to be self-independent adults. The unpublished National Standards for best practices in Charitable Children Institutions (CCIs) (June 2010) states that CCIs are a temporary measure for vulnerable and abandoned children (children who have been harmed or are at a risk of harm) – Kenyan Department of Children Services believes that children best grow and develop within families and communities set up.

Some of the challenges that the government and the civil societies have been facing while striving to achieve their commitment to reintegrate children to their families and communities include : lack of cohesive working relationships within government departments that work under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development; Lack of financing to launch the National Standards for best practices in Charitable Institutions ; Lack of information on how to handle a lost child, ignorance on information to collect by police officers & members of the public ; untrained and unmotivated DCOs who are unwilling to do background research on the child's family.

Having worked with CCIs in three districts, the government and the communities in alternative care, Little Angels Network Society has gained massive experience in child care and protection. Among the major discoveries are that 60% of the children in the CCIs cannot be adopted because they have parents or relatives ; children are taken to homes because their parents lack school fees to take them to school and believe that institutionalizing them will increase their chances of getting an education ; communities do not have the knowledge and exposure of the negative effects of institutions on children ; the government does not have the capacity and the necessary regulations to implement and enforce the alternative care methods; communities and the public at large do not feel a responsibility towards an orphan and thus treat these cases without much concern and adversely affects their future as adults .

Fortunately continuation of the LANS Kinship Project has the ability to bring about positive change in the lives of these children, in the community and in the government through lobbying for legal reforms based on the best practices on the field. For alternative care to work, all the stakeholders will have to work together to ensure that an increased number of children are raised in family and community set up.

The Kinship project proposes:

Objective 1: Prevention of separation of 50 children from their families

Family strengthening efforts will be employed to empower families to take care of their children and prevent the separation of children from their families. We will create a gate keeping panel for each community comprising of the Sub-county Children Officer, Local leader, community women leaders, a social worker and a representative of Little Angels Network. The community panel will also educate the community on the importance of children remaining in their families. The panel will also nominate and appoint community mentor families who will step in to support families at risk of being separated e.g. young pregnant girls who may abandon their children. The panel will be responsible for assessing the case of every child and finding the best solution for the child before they are separated from their family. The panel will also help in family tracing of children in institutions from the community and work towards re-integration.

Counselling will also be offered for young expectant mothers, single parents and families facing psycho-social difficulties that could result to separation.

50 families will benefit from economic support which will include capital for small businesses, training on how to manage small business, they will also be organized into small groups for table banking where they can save and also borrow money when they need it.

Objective 2: Reintegration of at least 50 children in one year

Repatriate & reintegrate 50 children with their families; the family unit is the most secure environment for a child to grow up in and develop. We will partner with children homes that we work with to identify children that need to be re-integrated. This will be done as soon as the children are admitted into the homes to ensure that they spend the least time in the homes. Older children that have been in the home for a long time will also be re-integrated back to their families.

Repatriation will involve preparing the parents to accommodate the child in their home and preparing the child to go back home. We will also prepare the staff and caregiver in the institutions where the children are living, to understand the importance and need of the children to grow up in families. Family conferencing will be used.

Under the objective we will take the necessary steps to re-integrate 50 children back to their families and communities.

Project Justification

The draft UN guidelines for the appropriate use and conditions of alternative care for children (2007) state that: *“The family being the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth, wellbeing and protection of children, efforts should primarily be directed to enabling the child to remain in or return to the care of his/ her parents, or when appropriate, other close family members. Ensuring that families have access to necessary forms of support in their care-giving role is the responsibility of the state”*. Where parental care is not possible, care by the extended family and others with a kinship bond with the child should be pursued as a priority.

Kinship care is a form of alternative care that is family based, within the child's extended family or with close friends of the family known to the childⁱ. Kinship care is likely to become even more prevalent in the future, as the HIV pandemic continues to grow, resulting in ever-increasing numbers of orphans. Approximately 15.2 million children under 18 have lost one or both parents to AIDS, and millions more have been made vulnerableⁱⁱ. In 2002, it was estimated that 60 per cent of the children orphaned by AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Latin America were being cared for by members of their extended familyⁱⁱⁱ. Orphan's numbers in Kenya have increased steadily over the last 10 years, from 1.4 million in 1998 to 2.4million in 2007. A greater proportion of the increase is due to the death of parents from HIV / AIDS.

Most Kinship carers are grandparents. For example in Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe 60% of the orphans and vulnerable children are in grandparent headed households^{iv}. It is estimated that 1.9 million children in Kenya are being raised solely by grandparents^v who need a lot of physical and financial support to fully meet the basic needs of these children but however often go without this support as these family situations are undocumented. Recently studies have shown that most of the orphans and vulnerable children who end up being institutionalized were previously living under Kinship care and left these homes in the case of street children because of lack of basic needs. This form of care remains largely unregulated with most families organizing alternative care for their children without contact with external agencies.

While kinship care is the most common form of out of home care, it is also the care option least systematically recorded, monitored or supported. Given that most carers in developing countries are likely to be struggling with poverty, the lack of support is alarming. However, it is projected that if this system were to collapse many more children than are already in CCIs would no doubt be placed there. It is with this background that the LANS Kinship Care project proposes this project with the overall objective of increasing the number of children being raised in family and community set up.

Project Activities

PROJECT SITE: NAIROBI AND ITS ENVIRONS

PROJECT PURPOSE: PROMOTE FAMILY STRENGTHENING IN COMIUNITIES

Activities	Outcome	Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumption
Objective 1: Prevention of separation of children from their families				
1.1 Create a gate keeping panel	Members of the community successfully form a gate keeping panel	Number of Panels created Number of groups or communities represented	List of Panel names List of members of each panel	Members of the community are ready and willing to participate Members are empowered enough to be active in the panel
1.2 Train family members through Parenting Seminars	Families will go through 6 successful seminars in a year	Number of families trained Number of families represented	Registration list of participants Seminar reports and photos	Families will attend the parenting seminars Members are willing to participate
1.3 Link families to social welfare options and psychosocial support	Members enroll to available social welfare options	Number of enrolled family members Number of social welfare options	Application forms List of approved applications with membership cards to the particular social welfare options	Members are open to enrolment to social welfare options

1.4 Empower members economically through; table banking, seed capital and capacity building	Members of the community will be in a position to support themselves economically	Number of active table banking groups formed Number of members trained Number of businesses set up	Minutes of meetings held by groups Registration list of participants Reports on businesses set up and photos	Members are willing to be economically empowered and free
1.5 Identify a mentor family in the community that can be a 'go to' in case of an emergency	Every village will have a mentor family	Number of mentor families identified Number of villages represented	List of mentor families	Families will be willing to stand in place of their community members
Objective 2: Re-integration and re-unification of at least 50 children back to their families of communities				
2.1 Network and train involved stakeholders and partners	Stakeholders will be trained on how to address the situations on the ground concerning children Networks will be formed to enable stakeholders know who to call at every step of a child's case	Number of partners and stakeholders trained Number of networks formed	List of participants Reports of trainings held and photos	Stakeholders are available and willing to be trained
2.2 Conduct family tracing for children ready	Families will be traced	Number of families traced	Information of the traced families	Community members will be willing to assist with information and leads

for re-integration			Filled family tracing forms	Families will be accessible
2.3 Offer psychosocial support to mothers and fathers who may be at risk of separation with their children	Mothers and fathers will go through counseling and therapy	Number of mothers and fathers in therapy and counseling	Registration forms Counselor's report	Mothers and fathers are willing to go through counseling and therapy
2.4 Conduct Home visits and follow ups for reintegrated and reunited children	Re-integrated and reunited children in families will be visited	Families visited	Home visit and follow up reports Photos	Families would have been re-united and re-integrated They will appreciate the process of re-integration and re-unification
2.5 Give support to families who are in need after re-integration	Have a sendoff package that children will be able to go with back home Support the education of the children for the first year after re-integration	Families benefited from the sendoff package Number of children able to attend school uninterrupted	Shopping lists and receipts School fees schedules and receipts	There will be families who are not in a position to support the re-integrated child immediately and will need time and support until they get on their feet

Sustainability

The project has put in place structures that will ensure sustainability after the end of the project period. Human and structural capacity building at all levels was emphasized therefore ensuring that the project beneficiaries are equipped to continue with the work that was

started. Training of community leaders, police, social workers, staff in CCIs, parents, guardians and care givers and equipping of the CCIs with data management systems will enable them improve their work and replicate their skills ensuring sustainability. Institutional structures will be ensured that will create ownership, transparency, accountability and hence sustainability of the reintegration process in CCIs as well as multi – stakeholder committees.

The project will instigate public- private partnerships that will be responsible for raising funds for project thus maintaining its relevance. The project runs for the next three years in which the project team intends to continue with local and international fundraising. The project will put in place measures that will encourage self-funding from the community to sustain the formed support groups after the end of the project period. The project aims to achieve a cohesive working relationship with the government departments for the continuation and replication of the project activities in other areas. It also aims to influence government policy through best practice on the importance of alternative care for adoption and practice for other regions.

Children who have been reintegrated will also be supported with educational scholarship & reading materials to ease the burden of education on the care givers and ensure that they do not end up on the streets again.

Use volunteer mentor families and gate-keeping panels that can continue with the work beyond the project

Increasing the awareness of the public, police and local authorities on ways to handle and care for Vulnerable Children will increase the responsibility levels in the communities and enhance child protection.

The project activities will be run by a highly qualified and professional project team with the coordinating office in Nairobi. The project will be headed by a Chief Executive Officer of LANS, giving 50% of her time to this particular project. She will be assisted by the programme manager who will give 100% of his time to the project. The programme manager will give the overall direction and management of the project. He will travel to project site monthly to review progress as well as receive monthly reports from the project officers who will be based in the project region and will give 100% of their time to the project. The project officers will also be expected to submit a daily tracking list of planned activities together with the monthly report to the programme manager.

The project officers will be working hand in hand with a field officer and a team of community volunteers. The field officers will also give 100% of their time to this project. The project funds will be released to project team on a monthly basis and will work closely with the organization's accountant to present financial reports as well as expenditure receipts to account for funds spent. \

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring tools to measure success will be based on objectives set against progress reports on the various stated activities as presented on Logical Framework Matrix.

The Project will endeavor to monitor periodically the project activities to ensure that the project goals are being met. Having 3 project areas, any activity found to be irrelevant in one project area will be adjusted to suit the needs of the next project region. The project team will meet quarterly to evaluate the activities in participation of the relevant stakeholders with the aim of achieving the project purpose.

The project team will be expected to submit activity reports of every activity as well as financial reports to clarify expenditure. At the end of the project period, the project will engage an external auditor and evaluator to give an open and transparent review of the project. The recruitment of the consultants and project staff will involve an open and comprehensive bidding process for equal opportunity of all qualified candidates. The procurement of the project resources shall be open and competitive and will be allocated to the bidder with the best interest of all parties involved.

ⁱ Government of Brasil 2004

ⁱⁱ UNICEF , UNAIDS, WHO (2007)

ⁱⁱⁱ USAID ,UNICEF , UNAIDS (2002)

^{iv} Helpage International & International HIV /AIDS Alliance, 2005

^v Unicef Alternative Care Technical Report