

Project Name: Little Angels Network Society (LANS) Kinship Project

Report Period: June 2018 to December 2018

Location of the Project: Little Angels Network, 1st Floor, Kamirembe Place, Opposite Baraton, University, along Ring Road Kilimani.

Project Purpose: Increase number of children being raised in a family and community environment

Number and kind of beneficiaries (male and female): 60 Children

Reporter: Project Officer

Introduction

This report gives a summary of the project achievements for the project period July 2018 to December 2018.

The main activities for this quarter included; Training and livelihood support for care givers, home visits, Meeting with the caregivers and children to assess progress of re-integrated children. During the visits, we did documentation of the Kinship project through videography. Follow up home visits for all the re-integrated children to follow up on their progress and offer the necessary support if needed thus get to initiate livelihood support for caregivers of the re-integrated children. Counselling and psycho-social support was offered to specific families during the period. Five families together with children benefited from counselling. A major highlight for this quarter was a dinner to raise awareness on the Kinship Project and also raise funds to supplement what we receive from FFIA.

Initiate livelihood support for caregivers

We set up a meeting with caregivers who are now living with their children to talk about their current mode of making a living and their experience so far with the children back home. This also doubled up as a training and the counsellor was also present to offer psycho-social support and counselling to individual families and children. Most of them said they relied on well wishers, their relatives or small scale farming and had dreams of expanding their business to get more money, so as to be able to support themselves and the children. We noted that the major push factor of children to institutions was poverty. People were not willing to take up responsibilities that came with housing children from deceased family members. They said it was difficult to afford the basic needs for their biological children hence adding others will make their lives unbearable. The caregivers were willing to think of ideas of maintaining a cash flow. Some of the ideas they suggested were:

- Give them capital/seed money to start their own business. This money was to be treated as a loan to encourage them to work hard and pay it back to LAN.
- LAN to give them enough money to start a small micro finance activity commonly known as table banking. They again said that the initial money invested here will be refunded as they grow to independence.
- Network and connect with people who have job opportunities so that they can be employed or have their older children employed. They said that if this happens, then they will be able to rely on a salary to sustain their current lifestyle.

- Get training on income generating activities so that they are more empowered to run their own business and activities that will later reward them financially.

12 families were supported to either improve their living conditions and/or initiate small businesses.



Participants during a session



Participants during break time



Participants during break time

Follow-up Home visits for 2018 reintegrated children

The home visits were done during the third term school holidays and they were carried out by the LANS Project Officer and St. Claire's Social Worker. The visits were intense and quite involving due to the distances to be covered, the time scheduled and the number of families to be visited. It was a very successful activity as we achieved all we had planned to do. We visited children and families in Siaya, Ugenya, Kisumu , Homaba, Migori and Vihiga.

Most of the families visited are struggling and unable to meet their daily needs. Some lack basic necessities like food and clean drinking water. Shelter is a big challenge for most families who live in very deplorable conditions without a decent roof over their heads. For each family visited, we carried some food items and school items for the children. As part of direct support, we helped two families improve their houses to ensure the children were well protected from colds and rain. We partnered with a company called Mac. Aluminium who offered to support us improve the houses at subsidized rated.

Below are some case studies from the home visits conducted.

Raphael Odhiambo

Raphael looked very happy to see us. He has a half-sister who was two months old when we visited and the family is doing well. Raphael performed very well in school this last term. The father is still very happy that he gets to live with his son and that he can trickle down the cultural practices and beliefs to him that he might not have received from an institution.

Stephen Otieno

We visited Ms. Anna Oriambo the grandmother to Stephen Otieno. She looked happy and relaxed. The home looked lively with very many children around. It is common for children to go and stay with their grandparents when they close school. Stephen had travelled to Rabuor to stay with his aunt so we did not get a chance of seeing him but the grandmother said that he is doing really well and enjoys staying home whenever he gets the opportunity to do so. He helps with work around the compound which the grandmother says she is very pleased. He performed well in school and has been promoted to the next class next year.

Home Visit Conclusion

Since our last visit, the children seem to have settled in well in living with their families as opposed to an institution. They are now accustomed to the less structured environment and love every minute at home. They are still very committed in making their family members proud and this was proven by their performance in school in the last two terms.

Parents and care givers are still very grateful that they have their children back home. They are still hopeful that they will be trained on income generating activities and getting some seed money to begin the activity so that they are in a better position to provide for the family.

Documentation of the Kinship Project through Videography

The stories of the beneficiaries are very beautiful and worth telling. With this in mind, we thought it wise to record the stories of the beneficiaries on video and later create a documentary. This is very advantageous since it is information received first hand from the beneficiaries.

We sampled a few families that had life changing stories to start with. We identified a few families who had already been reintegrated and visited their homes to talk with them and document their stories. We talked to the children and the care givers to gather their personal feelings and opinions about going back to their families and/or communities. They took this opportunity to share with us and tell us how their journey has been. After a successful debriefing sessions with the family, we again talked to the child and communicated our plans. This helped to prepare them psychologically.

We were able to document four amazing journeys and experiences of families that have benefited from the Kinship project. We have the raw data safely stored in our database for the future. We will share both the raw and edited versions with FFIA. An extract was done from the long videos to create a short four minute video which we used to create awareness on our social media platforms about the Kinship Project. The video went viral in Kenya and we have received some feedback and positive comments about the project.

Here are some of the faces featured in the documentary



Sister Lucy of St. Clare's orphanage



Ms. Gladys Cherop a social worker at St. Clare's Orphanage





Children having fun playing as we shoot the documentary





Kinship Project Awareness and fundraising Dinner

I FFIA project, Little Angels Network planned a dinner to raise awareness on our Kinship project. The dinner was well attended being that it was the first one ever.

Due to the planning of the same a lot of people got to learn about the project and this has sparked up a conversation on kinship care.

The feedback from the attendees was very positive and were very impressed to learn that Little Angels Network does more than just adoptions in its child protection endeavour.



Participants receiving a warm welcome during registration



A Photo with the Keynote speaker



It was a full house



Enjoying the dinner



Mr. Tony one of the beneficiaries of the Kinship project sharing his story



Ms. Celestine a representative from St. Claire's sharing their story

Key Output

We were able to document stories of a few families through videos. This will help with telling the story of the project first hand.

A few families were able to share and document their journey and experience so far with the kinship project.

A pilot dinner was very successful. We were able to spread the word on the Kinship Project which in return brought back very many positive feedback.