

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

Report Period: January 2018 to June 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 January 2018 to July 2018.

This period had four main activities; Reintegration of children back to their families, Livelihood support to the beneficiaries, Follow up home visits for families reintegrated last year and home visit for all the re-integrated children to follow up on their progress and offer the necessary support if needed.

Reintegration

The process of reintegration is handled by St. Clare's with support from Little Angels Network and the criteria we set out and reported in our 2017 report. We identified children who were ready for reintegration and visited the area they come from to trace them back to their families. We talked to the children to gather their personal feelings and opinions about going back to their families and/or communities. For the total orphans, we traced the immediate relatives who were willing to take the child in. When we found the family, we assessed the environment and talked to the family members about the plan of reintegrating their child back home. They took this chance to ask all the questions they had, as we also assessed and looked around to see if the home was a good environment for the child. We then did a need assessment and looked at how we could offer livelihood support to the caregivers so that they are in a position to house and provide for the child.

After a successful tracing and debriefing sessions with the family, we again talked to the child and communicated our plans. This helped to prepare the children psychologically for what was to come. We assured them that they will still be seeing us as we would plan and visit them often. The children understood and with time were willing and ready to return home. Some who had fears were helped through counselling process to overcome their fears and address their concerns.

Livelihood Support

After we covered these grounds and both parties were in agreement, we started preparing for the actual re-integration process. This included looking for schools where the children could go. This is because lack of school fees was one of the push factors leading to children being admitted into children's homes. So we identified schools that were closer to their homes and that also offered the same or better standard of education as they have been getting at the

home. It was agreed that LAN and St. Claire's would assist the parents/caregivers in ensuring that the children are enrolled in school and their school fees and basic needs are provided for. Being that St. Clare's is a Catholic home, they are affiliated with very many Catholic Primary Schools that offer good education and due to the good relationship they have, children that were reintegrated were given a discount in fees and the management have been lenient with the payment plan. The caregivers/parents raised concerns about the fee and how they might not be able to pay as it was the beginning of the year and they had not planned for this new expense. Being that we did not want this to be a hindrance to the reintegration process, we made a decision to pay part of the school fees for the children. The Schedule is attached as appendix 1. Making sure children were not disrupted during their education year due to lack of school fees was a major achievement in this activity. The paying of school fee was carried out by St. Claire's Social Worker as she went to every school, met with the teachers and got to find out the progress of each child.

The support to specific families extended beyond school fees as some of their other needs including repairs of their homes were provided.

Follow-up Home visits for 2017 reintegrated children

As we stated in our 2017 annual report; the main challenge we experienced was the heightened political activity due to the political campaigns. This in return caused some violence especially in Kisumu and its environs due to the political parties' nomination exercise that happened when we were conducting our home visit activity. We were forced to postpone some visits for families who were living in Migori which was very volatile at that point in time.

We made a point of visiting the families in Migori and below are some of the case studies.

Biron Omondi

Ignacius Ouya married his wife Ms. Caroline Anyango in 1996 and were blessed with seven children. Caroline passed away during the birth of the 7th born. Bairon is the fifth born having been born on 15.09.2008, he is currently ten years old.

Being a single father, and not having much support from his family, Ignacius' sister recommended that the child be admitted at St. Clare's the father re-organized himself.

Biron was reintegrated last year. He is doing good in school and has adjusted well living at home with his biological family. He goes to school and has a good performance. He helps out at home and the family is grateful to have him reintegrated and they are even happier that they have their son back home. Biron is also very happy to be re-united back with his family. They say the year has been good and they are very grateful for the reintegration program.



Figure 1: Biron and his father in their house



Figure 2: Biron and his father outside their house

Polycarp Okello

Polycarp was born to the late Raphael Otieno and Beryl. Raphael passed on in 2007 leaving behind four children. After the death of the father, Polycarp and his brother James ended up at St. Clare's Orphanage Home. Polycarp was reintegrated last year and is one of the children who was not visited due to the political unrest in Migori County. Polycarp now lives with his mother after reintegration. Beryl, his mother was not around during the visit.

Polycarp was reintegrated back to his family and has been living with his mother. Their house is in very close proximity with Polycarp's grandparent's house. This means that he gets to enjoy the company of not only his mother but a lot of relatives that live close by.

Polycarp is very hard working and was in the farm pruning when we got there.

He is doing well in school and was position twelve with 348/500 marks in his first term of class 5. He says he is happy to be back home and promises to work hard and help his family out in the future.



Figure 3: Polycarp inside their house



Figure 4: Polycarp with his paternal relatives



Figure 5: Polycarp's home from the outside

Follow-up Home visits for 2018 reintegrated children

The home visits were done during the first 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 and the number of families to be visited. It was a very successful activity as we achieved all we had planned to do.

Below are some case studies from the home visits conducted.

Home Visits

Maxwel

He is a partial orphan. His mother passed away in 2016 and his father is a drunkard and abuses the children when they live together in their house. Maxwel has four siblings. Together with his siblings, Maxwell had been admitted to St. Claire's Orphanage in 2016 shortly after his mother's death. This was to allow the father time and space to go through rehabilitation and hopefully be in a position to take care of his children. In 2017, he was identified for re-integration and was taken back home early this year.

However, we noted that the father had not changed and continued to drink too much alcohol and still showed a tendency to physically and emotionally abuse him. A decision was made to return Maxwel back to St. Claire's where his younger siblings are.

The father George Tunda now lives alone and has a mentally challenged sister. He rarely stays in the house as a few neighbours could attest. He goes to a local brewery and drinks and sells 'changaa' all day.

He rents out his piece of land for people to plant crops and he benefits from getting part of the harvest instead of money.

Recommendation

Enroll Mr. George Tunda into a rehabilitation centre, he could sober up and take care of his children and his estate.

Maxwel and his siblings should continue staying in the home as the interventions with their father are being carried out.



Figure 6: Mr. George Tunda's House



Figure 7: Mr. George Tunda's Backyard



Figure 8: Mr. George Tunda's Unfinished Toilet/Latrine



Figure 9: Mr. George Tunda's piece of land that he has rented out

Raphael Odhiambo

Raphael is a vulnerable child. The mother Quinter Akinyi is alive but mentally challenged he lives with his father Mr. Paul Oyiego Oketch who has since remarried. The current wife is called Vivian Atieno.

Mr. Paul got married to Quinter Akinyi in 2007 and were blessed with their son Raphael. One day they had a major fight and Quinter threw the then two year old son on the ground and ran. She has never returned since.

Raphael became sick and Mr. Paul had to take a leave of absence from work to take care of his ailing son. This resulted into him losing his job and had no option but to move from Nairobi to the village in Luanda. Raphael was still sick and malnourished leading to him being admitted in hospital for a month.

Raphael's father later landed a part time landscaping job at St. Clare's orphanage. He shared his story and the challenges he was facing raising the child as a single father and without a stable income. He requested that the home offers support in terms of care and accommodation for his child. Raphael was eventually admitted into the home for temporary care.

His father Paul got himself together and does part time landscaping jobs for a living. He has also remarried and has a stable family environment to raise his child. His wife has one son and is also expecting another child. She has gladly accepted to take care of Raphael. Together, the couple is building their family home (a semi-permanent structure) in the village. Paul is really grateful for the opportunity St. Clares gave to him as he got an opportunity to build himself up to where he is right now.

Raphael has been re-integrated back to his father and step mother. He looks really happy to be back with his family. He looked clean, healthy and well taken care off. He is also happy to have a brother (step brother) who is his age mate, they enjoy playing together. He schools in Siaya Township Primary, he is in class four and was position five out of seventy eight pupils.

Paul Oyiego is doing well and his son Raphael is in a good state of mind. At this point the family is doing very well and Mr. Paul is currently financially independent.



Figure 10: Mr Paul, Raphael and his Step-brother standing outside their house.



Figure 11:Mr. Paul Oyiego's House and Compound

Stephen Otieno

Anna Oriambo is Stephen's grandmother. Stephen's father was her son and he passed away. Stephen has three siblings and they are total orphans. Stephen was reintegrated and lives with his Aunt Ms. Josephine Anyango who is a teacher in Rabuor in Kisumu County. We visited Anna's home in Siaya and found that she was at home but sick. She tailors and farms for a living.

We went to Rabuor to see Stephen and saw that he was doing well. The house was full of very many children all relatives to Josephine. Stephen looked well taken care of and is a student at Morning Star Academy in Rabuor.

Stephen looks happy and healthy and it seems like he is getting very good care. Josephine was not in the house when we visited as she had gone for a work related seminar. The house is huge and has very many children living there making it conducive for Stephen as he has age mates to play and read with.

Evern Keya

Evern Keya was born to Julius Chavalegi and Josilida Lihavi. His mother ran away four years ago and left behind 4 children, Evern and his siblings. They do not know her whereabouts. His father Julius passed away nine years ago. He was the son to Sabeti Mirau who is now the sole custodian of the children.

Evern was reintegrated back to his grandmother Sabeti. She lives right next to her other children which makes it easy for her in case she needs any assistance from them. Wilson Indiazi one of her sons, passed away in March 2018 and he was the one who took care of the family financially. He has left behind his wife Jane Indiazi who is still mourning her husband's loss as she decides what she will do with her life as she was a housewife when the husband was alive.

Evern Keya is doing well in school and at home during the school holiday. He looks clean, neat and happy to be around his family. The family is in dire need of financial assistance so as to set up an income generating activity.



Figure 12: Evern, Sabeti and Jane sitting in their house



Figure 13: Evern and his grandmother posing for a photo outside their house

Sylvia Kamaya

Sylvia was born to Jacob Ano Avugwe and Jane Jendeka. Her mother Jane passed away in 2009 leaving behind eight children. The father has been faithful in taking care of the children with his little income from farming and his posho mill business. Sylvia was reintegrated back to her father this year and has so far blended well with the family. She looks happy and healthy. She is doing well in school and her father is really grateful for the opportunity Sylvia has had so far.



Figure 14: Sylvia and her father posing for a photo outside their house



Figure 15: Mr. Jacob and Ms. Gladys of St. Clare's at the posh mill shop

Mary Valeria Achieng

*Mary was born out of wedlock to her mother Ms. Jacqueline Akoth who comes from Homabay. When Mary was between 2 and 3 years old, she was found abandoned by a river by villagers who were ploughing around there. They took her to the police station then to a healthcare facility where Sister Gertrude Mware was working in Segwa. Sister Gertrude decided to take Mary home with her as the police did their investigations. The mother later came to look for her child. When she found them, in the process of bonding she brought some poisoned food for her to eat. Mary ate the food unknowingly and was hospitalized for some time. Sr. Gertrude worked with the department of children Services banning Jacqueline from visiting Mary due to her ill intent. Mary was later admitted at St. Clares for care and protection. **Mary is a vulnerable child. Being that her mother was not the best fit for reintegration, we assessed the situation and decided to reintegrate Mary back to the community. Sister Gertrude is part of a community and was willing and ready to take up the responsibility.** She is a proud mother figure to her and is very proud to be the one taking care of her. Though she is almost reaching her retirement age and is a little bit worried about who will continue taking care of Mary.*

Mary is doing well in school. She looks happy, clean and is well mannered. They both look like they enjoy each other's company and Mary is striving to Make Sr. Gertrude proud.



Figure 16: Mary and Sr. Gertrude posing for a photo

Shem Onyango

Shem is a partial orphan. Born to Ms. Joyce Akinyi whose husband and father to Shem passed away in 2011. He left behind four children. Shem is a very bright boy in school and was position one with 391/500 marks last term. He was re-integrated back to his mother and has been in her care although she is an absentee mother. Shem lives with his mother in a small house. The mother is not very present in his life. For example, she was informed we were to visit her and her child and she decided to not be available. This notwithstanding, they live close to relatives which is an advantage for Shem as he gets to enjoy spending time with his cousin and he is well taken care of. His aunt has been more available and willing to look after Shem.



Figure 17: Shem posing for a photo in their house



Figure 18: Shem and his cousin posing for a photo



Figure 19: Outside View of Shem's House



Figure 20: The unfinished toilet

Faith Chemtai

Faith Chemtai is a partial orphan and a vulnerable child. Her mother Regina Chepkoech passed away in 2012. Her father is from the Maasai community and he left Faith to go back to Maasai land without warning or a trace. The reason given was that she (Faith) was too young and he did not know how to take care of her. Faith was left in the care of her grandmother who sadly passed away in August 2017. Being that the grandmother was elderly and couldn't take good care of Faith, she was taken to the Children's home at the age of 6 years as the family tried to get to terms with what had happened.



Figure 21: Faith with Sharon outside their house

Observation and recommendation

Faith was re-integrated back with her uncle Mr. Wesley Kirui and his Wife Sharon Kirui. Mr. Wesley is her late mother's brother and he is a mason. Sharon is a housewife. They have three biological children. Faith is HIV+ and so far the family is making sure that she takes all her medication. Faith was taken to Yaweh Primary School but failed her interview and was to be given a slot if she repeated class 3 which she declined.

We met with the school administration where they raised their concern about her behaviour and health. We explained her health situation and the head teacher suggested that she gets enrolled into a boarding school since she will have better care than she is getting at home in terms of food and the ARV therapy. We have made efforts to resolve this issue through various meetings and dialogues. Meetings have been held with the family as the head teacher agreed to make calls and plan meetings with a few good boarding schools around. The family have no objection. Faith should be enrolled in the 2nd term.

Faith looked healthy and happy to be living with her family and she said she loves the family and she feels like she belongs. The family is very grateful for the reintegration process and are committed to it.

Collins Kipng'eno and Naomi Chelagat

Collins and Naomi are siblings and they live with their maternal grandmother. They were born out of wedlock and their mother ran away when they were very young and cannot be traced. They now live with their maternal grandmother who had gone for a journey on the day we visited. Since she does not have a phone, it was not possible to communicate with her and plan the visit. We made the visit anyway and met the children together with Ms. Rachel Chesimet their grandmother's sister.

They look happy to be reintegrated back to their family and the family is grateful. Collins and Naomi said they are committed to work hard in school and are looking forward to a bright future. Rachel said that they are also happy to have the children back home.





Figure 22: Norah with the children posing for a photo



Figure 23: Collins, Norah and Naomi outside their house

Home Visit Conclusion

The reintegrated children communicated that they were happy to be back with their families although they sometimes have a hard time adjusting being that this is a less structured environment compared to the Institution they have lived in for many years, they are committed to working hard in school to make their family members proud.

Reintegration went as planned. Although there is need of introducing a care package that includes personal items, clothes and shoes for the children along with school fees for the first year as the children and the care givers try to adjust to this new way of living.

Parents and care givers are grateful that they have their children back home and vowed to make sure they will get the best life they can give them. Training the caregivers on income generating activities and giving them some seed money to begin will help them be in a better position to provide for the family.

Key Output

Based on the criteria agreed on in the first implementation year, we were able to identify and reintegrate 12 children back to their families. One is still in the process of reintegration. This number adds up to 13.

Children were able to attend school without any disruptions resulting to school fees as we paid part of the annual fee.

Appendix 1: School fees payment breakdown

ST. CLARE'S CHILDREN'S HOME
P O BOX 7600 – 40100
KISUMU

FEES PAYMENT FOR CHILDREN REINTEGRATION IN 2018

We have paid for all children except Faith Chemtai, the social worker will elaborate more, on how she found her. I still have her money 8,500/= When paid I will send the receipt to your office.

FEES PAID TO VARIOUS PRIMARY SCHOOL

NO.	CHILD NAME	SCHOOL NAME	FEE AMOUNT PAID
1	Cnythia Achieng	St. Magdaline Oasis of Peace	8,000
2	Biron Omondi	St. Magdaline Oasis of Peace	8,000
3	Shem Onyango	St. Magdaline Oasis of Peace	8,000
4	Jane Rose Awiti	St. Magdaline Oasis of Peace	8,000
5	Sylvia Kamaya	St. Magdaline Oasis of Peace	8,000
6	Sharon Atieno	St. Magdaline Oasis of Peace	8,000
7	Evern Keya	St. Magdaline Oasis of Peace	8,000
8	Raphael Odhiambo	Siaya Township Primary	10,000
9	Collins Kipngeno	Kapkesosio Primay School	8,500
10	Mary Vallerian Achieng	St Teresa's Girls Hostel	8,000

11	Naomi Chelangat	Kapkesosio Primary School	(400 Sport shoes)8,600
12	Faith Chemtai		
	Totals		91,500
		Bal c/d	8,500

N/B:

- ❖ To pay for Faith Chemtai when school will be found and her receipt will be send for you immediately.
- ❖ If not direct us to which child we can pay this money. We have many of them that have not yet completed the fees.
- ❖ You will find attached receipts of each child with amount paid.
- ❖ On behalf of St. Clare's Children's Home we are very grateful for the support. May God bless you abundantly!

Yours faithfully
ST. CLARE'S CHILDREN'S HOME
Sr. Lucy Wilbroda
Sr incharge of the home