

Interim Report II

Adopt a Village – Osenetoi

Submitted To:
SVQF



Reporting Period
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Abbreviations

AAV – Adopt A Village

FTC – Free The Children

MHC – Mobile Health Clinics

SVQF – Sanam Vaziri Quraishi Foundation

Introduction

Free The Children continues to reflect and refine our goals to ensure the people we work with achieve *freedom from*: poverty, thirst, hunger, exploitation, and disease. The pivotal piece of our freedom from campaign is a keen understanding on part of both our partners in the field – our beneficiaries – and our development partners domestically – our supporters, that they have the freedom to *act*.

Having the freedom to act means not just that you have the ability *to do* something—almost everyone *can do* something. More importantly, being free to act means that you have the power to decide how and why you take action. You are in control of the impact you have on your community and your world. You can take actions that help a child earn an education, influence climate change, or bring quality health care to an entire family.

The Sanam Vaziri Quraishi Foundation (SVQF) has been taking action since 2006, empowering thousands of community members in their pursuit of the basic freedoms each and every child and their families are entitled to. This spring we are pleased to report back to SVQF as we begin school-building activities in the community of Osenetoi. Over the next three years, Free The Children through the generous support of SVQF will be constructing and outfitting five new classrooms, a library, teachers' accommodations, and building the capacity of the educators at Osenetoi Primary School. SVQF's impact will go further and also directly influence the health of not only school-going children, but the community as a whole, through both health care and water and sanitation programming. Lastly, as Free The Children continues to explore long-term sustainability strategies in our communities overseas, we are shifting our focus toward new alternative income projects in Kenya that foster greater independence and financial return amongst our beneficiaries.

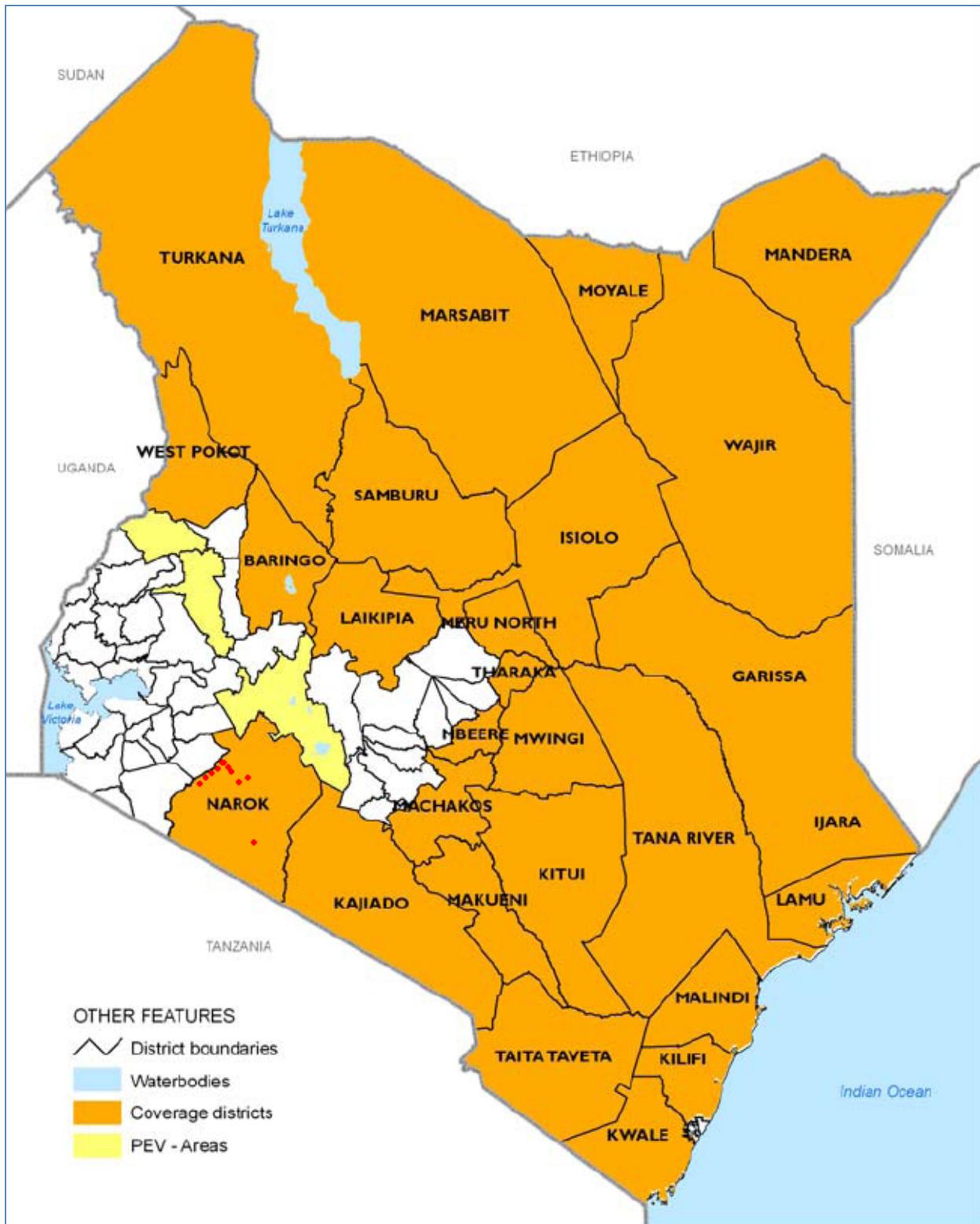


Executive Summary

Title	Adopt A Village
Country	Kenya
Project Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide access to quality primary education• Provide access to clean and safe water for all community members• Provide access to standard health care facilities and medical resources.• Increase empowerment and independence of women• Increase base family income through sustainable and diversified income generating activities
Sectors of Focus	Education, Water and Sanitation, Health, Alternative Income
Operational Area	Osenetoi, Narok South District, Kenya
Project Start Date	December 2010
Funding Partner	Sanam Vaziri Quraishi Foundation
Total Budget	\$250,000
Fund Disbursed To Date	\$75,000 USD
Predicted Number of Beneficiaries	Osenetoi – 2000 (Direct and Indirect)
Free The Children Contact	Seerat Kazmi, Program Manager

Maps

Kenya District Level Map



Communities



Adopt A Village

Education

January marked the beginning of a new school year in Osenetoi. Though registration and enrolment is typically low at the start of an academic year in rural communities, Free The Children is proud to say that registration numbers were consistent with the total number of school-age children that were attending by the end of the last school year. There were 254 students who registered for semester one at Osenetoi Primary. A vast improvement from last year, is the increased number of educators now present at Osenetoi Primary. Whereas there were only five teachers to lead classes for 260 students last academic year, there are now seven teachers who instruct grades one through to seven. By having more teachers on staff, we can ensure that students receive a quality education at the appropriate level for their age. By next year, Free The Children will have enough resources in place to ensure that students who complete grade seven as of December 2011 can complete a full course of primary education through the addition of grade eight. The grade eight teacher will play a vital role in ensuring the students are prepared to write the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education exams, enabling students to apply to secondary school.

Both the students and the teachers at Osenetoi Primary have had a very busy past month, as they have been preparing for end of term one examinations. School closes during the month of April and reopens in May. During this period, Free The Children and a team of community members are actively working on

the new school build site. To date, the team has begun digging the trenches for the foundation to be poured for classroom one.

The head teacher at Osenetoi Primary, Mr. Stanley Nabala, was elected as the Chairman of the Head Teachers' focus group. The selection took place during the first Head Teachers' focus group meeting which was held at Enelera community hall. The meeting was Nabala's first experience participating in such a forum, however, his exceptional leadership qualities, fresh perspective, and the respect his fellow teachers' showed toward him, earned him the position through a competitive election process. His colleagues conveyed that they chose him because he represents one of the core values that they have grown to admire, humility in all endeavours at the same time as speaking with authority.

Over the next month, school-building activities will continue on the school site while the students remain on holidays. Construction activities will remain ongoing, particularly over the summer months.

Education Impact at a Glance

Number of school-aged children: approximately 325

Number of students enrolled and regularly attending: 254

Number of boys enrolled: 131

Number of girls enrolled: 123

Total number of classrooms needed to accommodate the students: 8

Number of pre-existing permanent classrooms: 3

Number of pre-existing semi-permanent classrooms needing to be repaired or rebuilt: 2

Number of new classrooms to be built through SVQF: 5

Number of classrooms currently under construction: 1

Total number of teachers needed to instruct classes: 8

Number of teachers currently employed: 7

Health Care

With the start of a new school year, the students of Osenetoi are also benefitting from the school-based nutrition program. The nutrition program ensures that each student attending primary school receives a hot midday meal for lunch. The meal typically consists of maize, beans, or rice, with an increasing focus on diversifying the students' diets to include more nutrient-rich foods, such as cabbage, collard greens, onions, spinach, carrots and several other vegetables. Supplementing the lunch program with healthier food items is done through the school garden or farm project, which is one component of the overall nutrition program. Each school is assigned a plot of land up to one acre that is used as a demonstration garden. Here, the students learn about agriculture best practices, small-scale irrigation, crop production, nutrition and the benefits of consuming a variety of fruits and vegetables. The students use the lessons they learn in the demonstration garden plots to implement at home in their family's kitchen garden.

Beyond the nutrition program, next steps have taken place to establish a strong presence for the new environment club at Osenetoi Primary School. An environmental patron was identified who will serve as

the main point of contact for the 40 environment club members over the course of the school year. The environmental patron participated in a one-day training workshop in Enelerai to build their capacity to speak knowledgeably about environment issues. The environmental patron's role is first to adequately articulate environment issues to the student population by teaching the environment club members about topics relating to environment and conservation, empowering them to act as ambassadors within the school and secondly to ensure the maintenance of a healthy environment at the school site. The training topics covered during the full-day workshop were:

- Environmental Education
 - o Conservation
 - o Ecosystems
 - o Sustainable development
 - o Climate change
 - Global warming
 - Ozone depletion
 - o Tree-planting
 - Drought-resistant species
 - o Environmental sustainability
 - o Aridity and desertification
 - o Land reclamation
 - o Conducting environmental analysis and impact assessments
- Presentation Skills and Educational Implementation Planning
 - o Effective creation of lesson plans for students
 - o Training students on how to be ambassadors of the environment
 - o Identifying tactics and methods to mainstream environmental education into the entire student body's learning experience, for example:
 - World days related to the environment (presentation fairs)
 - Annual school-based creative communications competitions (poems, essay writing, artwork) on a set topic or theme, for example recycling
 - Integrating environment issues into class work
 - Environmentally friendly micro-projects for income generation – social entrepreneurship
 - Introduction of eco-codes in schools
- Action Planning
 - o Setting a vision for the environment club

Health Care Impact at a Glance

Number of students receiving lunch: 254

Number of students participating in school-based environment programs: 40

Water and Sanitation

Community-based water and sanitation activities have not yet commenced. School-based water and sanitation education has begun amongst the students.

Water and Sanitation Impact at a Glance

No additional noted data to report back on to date from the field office.

Alternative Income

Over the past few months, women from Osenetoi began their formation of several new women's groups. These new groups represent their entry into phase one of the traditional three-phase merry-go-round Free The Children implements in Kenya.

Enemeyan women's group is the first group to be formed in Osenetoi. The group is comprised of 22 members. The mamas meet every Wednesday. Notable accomplishments for Enemeyan include a successful election for their group's executive team, namely the chairlady, treasurer and secretary. Each of the 22 members contributed 3,500 shillings for group registration with the ministry of social services. The members of the group have also begun their first merry-go-round cycle. In the first cycle, each member has agreed to contribute 200 shillings. The activity undertaken by each member using the shared funds, will be at the discretion of the individual withdrawing the merry-go-round's pooled money, but will also be vetted by the rest of the members.

Naredoi women's group is comprised of 24 members and is the second group to be formed in Osenetoi. The members have so far been able to complete registration with the ministry of social services through a joint collection of 1,200 shillings. The mamas from Naredoi women's group have also begun their first merry-go-round. In their first cycle, the women are also investing 200 shillings each and also have the ability to choose their own pilot project at the approval of the other members.

Alternative Income Impact at a Glance

Number of women's groups formed: 2

Number of women actively participating in program: 46

Total funds invested to date by community members: 13,900 KSH

Merry-go-round cycle: 1

Length of cycle 1: approximately 22 to 24 weeks (subject to change based on participation and area of individual investment)

Average cost of new project in cycle 1/mama: 4600 KSH

Traditional areas of investment for cycle 1: housing improvements (tin roofing), clean water storage tanks, kitchen chimney, kitchen utensils, school costs for children (new uniforms), investment in small business on occasion (this is more typical of advanced merry-go-rounds once the relationships within the women's group have solidified and the women can trust each other to continue to contribute to the shared funds.

Conclusion

FTC is grateful to SVQF for their continued partnership. Over the next three years, the impact that SVQF will make amongst the community members of Osenetoi will positively influence the freedoms hundreds of children and their families enjoy. With an immediate focus on delivering quality free primary education to the school-age population of Osenetoi, SVQF and FTC's partnership will also eliminate the obstacles that typically prevent children from accessing education. By supporting the provision of health care, clean water and sanitation and alternative income in Osenetoi, SVQF is helping hundreds of community members break free from the cycle of poverty. Thank you to SVQF for your commitment and passion to improving the lives of children around the world.