

Interim Report IV
Adopt a Village – Osenetoi
Submitted To:
SVQF

Reporting Period: September 2011



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INTRODUCTION

The summer months in communities in Kenya were ushered in by celebrations of school pride and academic achievement in July, but also by some unsettled trepidation among communities as more and more families felt the impact of the widespread East African drought. Free The Children has been monitoring this situation for a number of months as crops started to fail and food insecurity was becoming a reality. In response to this, Free The Children quickly mobilized alongside the community to bring emergency food aid and long-term food solutions to families, especially youth, pregnant women, mothers and their babies. While the 16 communities Free The Children is active in have shown increased resilience to the drought as compared to Northern regions of Kenya, there is a pressing need to bolster the support already provided by way of health care and nutrition to ensure that families can continue to stay strong should the drought persist.

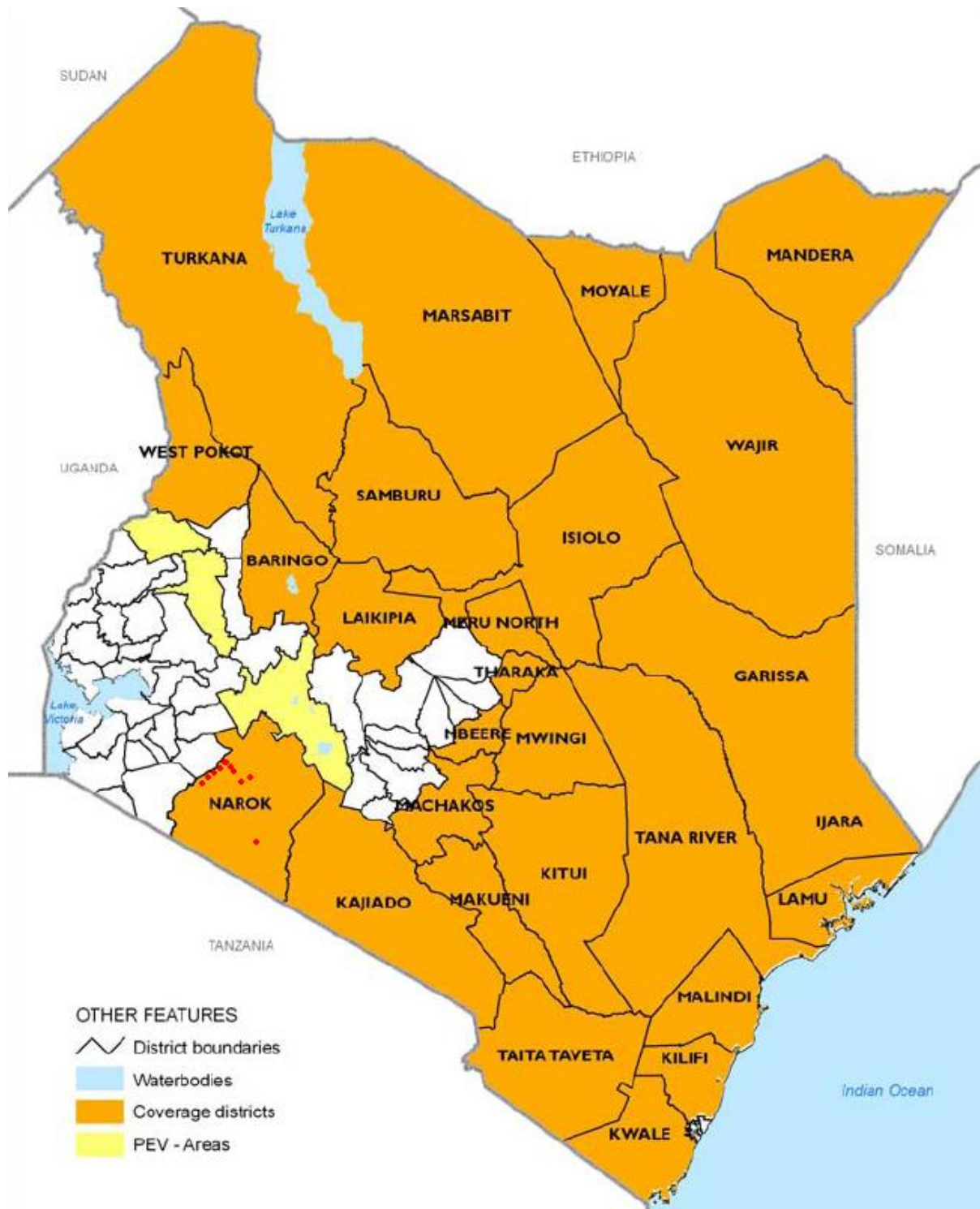
Free The Children's response to the drought is well-aligned with the Adopt a Village model and fits into existing programming strategies. Because of this, the organization moved forward with all planned development activities in Osenetoi over the summer. These activities saw strong signs of growth despite the circumstances of the drought. Free The Children is so pleased to report back on the growth that was seen in Osenetoi and the impact made on the lives of thousands of community members. Thanks in large part to SVQF's support, the Adopt a Village program continues to move forward and reach out to thousands of people every day, offering them the opportunity to play a critical role in their community's development and sustainable growth.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

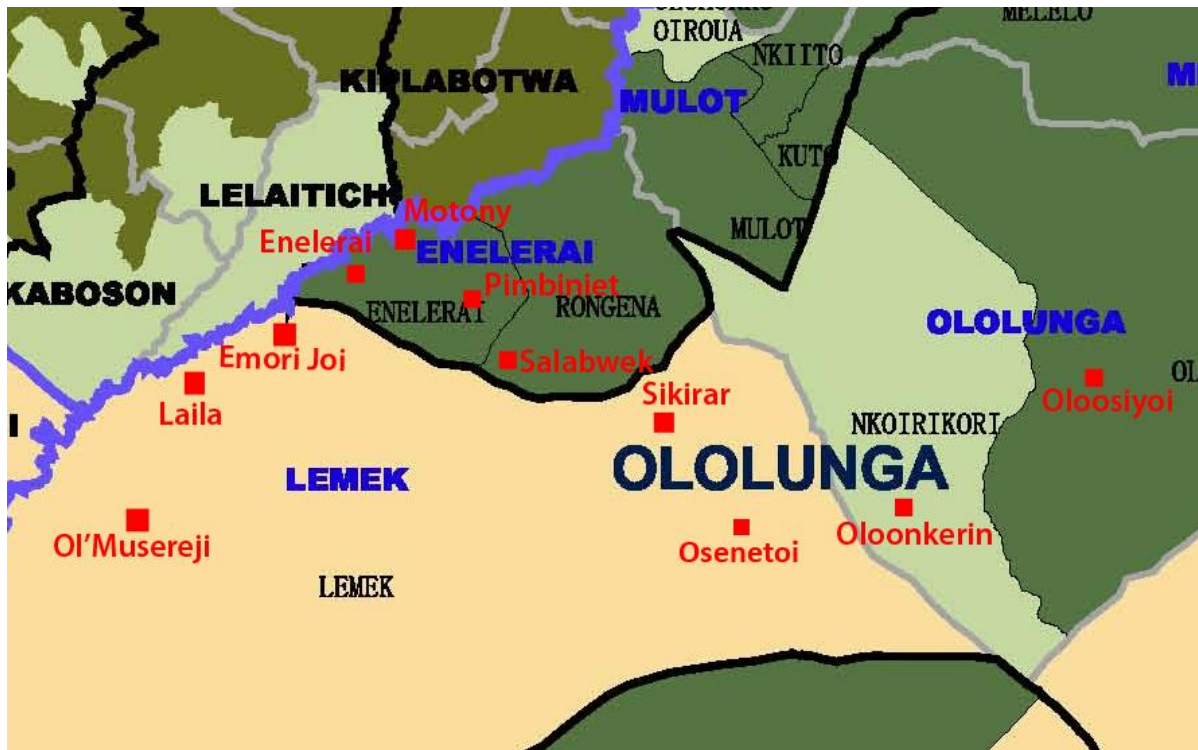
Program	Adopt a Village
Country	Kenya
Program Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide access to quality primary education • Provide access to clean and safe water for all community members • Provide access to standard health care facilities and medical resources. • Increase empowerment and 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
Program Start Date	December 2010
Funding Partner	Sanam Vaziri Quraishi Foundation (SVQF)
Total Budget	\$250,000
Funds Disbursed to Date	\$75,000
Predicted Number of Beneficiaries	2,000 (Direct and Indirect)
Free The Children Contact	Alexandra Martin, Program Manager

MAPS

Kenya District Level Map



Communities



ADOPT A VILLAGE - OSENETOI

EDUCATION

Impacts at a Glance

Number of school-aged children	325
Number of students enrolled and regularly attending	268
Number of boys enrolled	110
Number of girls enrolled	158
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	2
Number of teachers currently employed	10
Number of female teachers	3
Number of male teachers	7
Teachers participating in School Pride programme	10
Total teacher training sessions held	1
Number of external stakeholder meetings	4

Last spring and summer, a number important events took place that will set Osenetoi Primary up for success in this new school year. The head teacher of Osenetoi Primary was elected as the Chairman of the Head Teachers' focus group and participated in the Head Teachers' focus group forum. This forum launched the beginning of a series of capacity building workshops with the School Management Committee members. Representatives from two government agencies facilitated the second round of discussions. The perspective from local governments is a critical component to ensure that school agendas are coordinated with other schools in the region. This lays the groundwork for comprehensive and uniform standards to be set across regions as well. Local governments also are able to share best practices and lessons learned across communities.

The topics covered in the most recent meeting included: roles and responsibilities of the school management committees, garnering participation from all levels of the community on various development projects, identifying and developing leaders within the community, improving school performance and conflict management.

While a continued focus on capacity building is critical to moving education developments forward, Free The Children is also focused on taking the time to celebrate all of the accomplishments made at Osenetoi Primary. Because of this, the School Pride programme held their prize giving day on July 28th to celebrate the end of the school year and reflect back on students' shared successes. The day was facilitated by Stanley Nabaala of Osenetoi who commended schools on their exemplary performance. Young people, educators, committee members and families alike take great pride in the day. Over a thousand students attended which is a huge testament to this shared pride.

As the beginning of the school year starts up again, Free The Children and the community of Osenetoi look forward to building the capacity of the school system to usher in a new cohort of youth, ready to make an investment in their education and their families well-being.



Classroom 1 and 2 at the ring beam level as of September 2011; both classrooms will be completed by the end of November 2011 in time for the January 2012 school year.

WATER AND SANITATION

The drought across East Africa has had widespread impacts. The area in which Free The Children operates was deemed to be a high stress zone. To combat the consequences of drought, including crop failure, food shortage and malnutrition, Free The Children took swift action to provide the communities we work with both long-term and short-term solutions. In a time of drought, young children and pregnant and breastfeeding women are the most vulnerable. Our team in Kenya has identified 6,000 students in Free The Children schools who are in need of nutritional supplements, as well as over 3,500 pregnant women, new mothers and children under the age of five who are most at risk.

Free The Children's emergency food aid includes:

- Daily fortified nutritional meals, comprised of soya, maize, minerals and vitamins. School-aged children will receive these meals at school, while pregnant women, mamas and younger children will be supported through the Baraka Health Centre.
- A health care team at Baraka that will monitor and support mothers and their children to ensure they are receiving sufficient vitamins, calories and immunizations to remain healthy.
- Nutritional counselling.

This aid will continue for a period of ten to 12 months, ending when new crops are ready to harvest or when the need is no longer pressing. Fortunately, boreholes drilled by Free The Children in a number of our active communities over the past two years are providing most community members with access to clean drinking water, keeping immune systems strong and reducing incidences of disease. Plans to bring a reliable source of clean water to Osenetoi are imperative to the community members' long-term livelihood and health security. The construction of borehole wells is critical to providing improved access to clean and healthy water which improves the immune systems of families, especially young

children. Free The Children is proud of its water and sanitation programming for this reason and has increased the scale of its education programs as a preventative approach should the drought persist over the next planting season.

Over the summer, water and sanitation education programming was run through Free The Children’s mobile clinics. The mamas of Osenetoi were active participants in this programming. These women participated in sessions that focused on food safety, food preparation and choosing healthy and clean water sources.

The community of Osenetoi looks forward to a wide range of new water and sanitation programs to meet their health needs in the near future including latrine construction, placement of new hand-washing stations, and community-based education.

HEALTH CARE

Impacts at a Glance

Number of students receiving lunch	254
Number of students participating in school based environment programs	40
Number of children participating in de-worming program	140
Number of mobile health clinics conducted	4
Total number of students training health education over the summer	20
Number of people benefitting from school gardens	244

Health care continues to be top of mind for program staff on the ground in Kenya, as well as amongst community members in Osenetoi, especially given the circumstances of the drought.

Programming in the schools is a primary area of focus. Over the course of the summer, a health patrons training was held in all Free The Children schools. Over the two day training session, health patrons from each school were given tangible tools and resources to expand and enhance primary school health activities. In total, 20 health patrons attended, with two representatives from Osenetoi respectively. The teaching methods utilized to convey information was participatory in nature and included role-play, facilitated brainstorming sessions, and case studies.

The topics covered were child and adolescent centered and included: adolescent sexual health, sexually transmitted infections, proper nutrition, mental health, drug and substance abuse, effective communication techniques for dealing with difficult issues, and basic first aid training. At the culmination of the training, teachers had their action plans established and are now prepared to start the year with the tools they need to talk about health issues with their students.

On a community level, Free The Children continues to bring the convenience of mobile health clinics to families across Osenetoi. Four mobile clinics visited over the past quarter including general clinics and one immunization clinic. This programming is critical as some individuals are not able to access the Baraka Health Centre’s services. As the school year begins again, Free The Children is poised to roll out its in-school health care programming once again.

ALTERNATIVE INCOME

Impacts at a Glance

Number of Alternative Income beneficiaries	210 (Direct and Indirect)
Number of women's groups formed	2 (groups range in size from 15-30 women)
Number of training sessions/month	2
Number of women actively participating in program	46
Total funds invested to date by community members	13,900 KSH
Number of groups in program Phase 1	2
Length of merry-go-round cycle	Approximately 22 to 24 weeks (subject to change based on number of women participating because all women need to withdraw funds from the merry-go-round before entering subsequent cycles.)
Traditional areas of investment for Phase 1	Housing improvements, clean water storage tanks, kitchen chimney, kitchen utensils, school costs for children, investment in small business (on occasion)
Increase in average yearly income (since program inception)	0.2 USD to 0.5 USD

Free The Children is thrilled to provide update on the progress of the Enemeyan women's group. After completing the first merry-go-round, where each member contributed 100 shillings, the women invested their shared income in small businesses. Some of the members have established small shops as part of their new investment strategy as well. The second and third rounds have since taken place. During the second merry-go-round, each of the 24 members contributed 250 shillings, thereby enabling them to split a pot of 6,000 shillings and invest this into promotional activities associated with their businesses. The third merry-go-round is currently taking place and each member is responsible for contributing 300 shillings so that they can grow their business on a small but steady scale.

Namaiyana women's group has also finished their first and second merry-go-round cycle and is now in their third cycle. Each woman is currently contributing 150 shillings into the merry-go-round in an effort for each member to purchase a goat. To date, fourteen members have purchased goats, while twelve other women in this group have yet to reach their turn in the cycle.

SUSTAINABILITY

All elements of Free The Children's Adopt a Village model are designed to be community owned and maintained, and self-sustained, ideally within five years after project implementation is completed. All programs are structured in partnership with community members and local governments. The purpose of these partnerships is to ensure the sustainability of the programs. By actively engaging all relevant stakeholders, Free The Children ensures that the ownership and responsibility of our projects remain with the community. This active engagement is integral to the sustainability of the programs, as the success of all initiatives becomes a shared responsibility between the community and Free The Children.

Sustainability is based on four key tenets that are incorporated in all programming:

- Capacity building
- Local engagement
- Cost sharing partnerships
- Environmental and cultural preservation

Whether it is in education, water and sanitation, health or alternative income projects, these tenets are applied to each Adopt a Village pillar. Free The Children is pleased to highlight the sustainability strategies used in its alternative income and health care programming components in this report.

Alternative Income Programming

Merry-Go-Round Phase Breakdown

Free The Children's merry-go-round program is a tried and tested method of providing women with an alternative source of income so they may better support their families and send their children to school. A phased approach ensures that women are introduced to new skills and concepts gradually and in a way that best supports the growth of their personal business plan and the development of their group.

Phase 1

Women are mobilized into formal groups that help them establish their participation, ownership, and recognition of their access and control over resources. They then initiate small projects within each group. The focus of the small projects are decided and implemented solely by the group members and often include the purchase of goats, tin sheets for their homes, or water containers to harvest rain.

Phase 2

After a successful completion of the program's first stage, the groups move to more advanced group formation trainings such as: writing group, learning leadership processes and conflict resolution strategies, minute-taking, as well as human & children's rights issues.

Phase 3

Once the training is completed and put into practice by the group, Free The Children provides financial literacy trainings. Small loans are given to expand or establish small businesses and provide additional household income. Small loans provide women with the opportunity to be empowered by allowing them to increase their influence over some of the household economic decisions.

Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA)

Free The Children introduced a new alternative income strategy to its programming in Kenya in 2011 to provide additional opportunities for families to earn a sustainable income. The Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) is an association that provides simple savings and loans in a community that does not have access to formal financial services.

The VSLA is a complementary program to Free The Children's traditional merry-go-round or rotating savings and credit association (ROSCA) that have been implemented to date. The advantages of the new VSLAs, which will be happening in tandem with the merry-go-rounds, is that it places an emphasis on building savings and financial security. The VSLAs are a type of accumulated savings and credit

associations (ASCA) which rather than having funds rotate through a “pot” where members of the merry-go-round withdraw funds when it is their “turn”, in the VSLA, the purpose is to build capital and provide the members with a secure way of withdrawing funds or apply for small loans when the need arises.

Whereas the merry-go-rounds bring women together for frequent meetings with an alternative income mobilizer to take them through phase 1 (group formation and basic literacy) to phase 2 (the microenterprise development curriculum along with pilot projects) and then into stage 3 (investment into their small business venture) and represents a semi-formal or informal financial service, VSLAs will use the programmatic infrastructure of the merry-go-rounds and there will be value-added by through a passbook system, providing more structure and financial accountability to the members.

Members are taken through 10 modules during the implementation of VSLA. The 9 Modules are:

- Groups, leadership and elections
- Development of policies and rules for social fund, share-purchase/savings and credit activities
- Development of association constitution
- Record keeping and how to manage a share purchase/savings meetings
- First share-purchase/savings meetings
- First share loan disbursement meeting
- First loan repayment meeting
- Daily slot savings
- Share out/action audit and graduation
- Sustainability

Other topics will be covered throughout trainings as well. These topics include:

- Purpose of the VSLA loan
- Factors to consider when deciding the amount of loan
- Leadership and members roles
- Farm and firm management
- Marketing and marketing skills
- Value addition initiatives
- Enterprise selection
- Farm budgeting/firm budgeting
- Credit/loan management skills
- Team work
- Time management as a resource
- Selection of common interest business/farm enterprises
- Enterprise skills

In VSLAs, similar to having a bank account, women can tangibly demonstrate their understanding of financial record-keeping and household budgeting by accumulating savings in an account. Women are then able to withdraw the funds they’ve set aside, encouraging and promoting long-term and short-term financial planning as well as providing a type of micro-“insurance” program.

Schedule

ACTIVITY NUMBER	ACTIVITY/STAGES
Stage 1	Identification of groups to carry out the project
Stage 2	Training on the 10 Modules
Stage 3	Resource mobilization
Stage 4	Monitoring

The introduction of the VSLA is an important step towards the development of a strong economic foundation for communities in Kenya. Through this association, families will not only have access to a secure savings method, but will have the opportunity to build strong bonds across familial and cultural lines, have a positive impact on community relations and feel an increased sense of self-worth.

Health Care Programming

Capacity building

Within the health care programming, Free The Children works diligently to build local capacity within various initiatives. For example, as part of preventive health workshops, Free The Children nurses provide basic training to local women who can then conduct basic workshops with their peers. In addition, through demonstrational community gardens, students at Free The Children schools and local farmers learn agricultural best practices that can be used to improve the yield of the crops and the long term maintenance of the soil.

Local engagement

By engaging all community members, Free The Children ensures the conservation and growth of all projects. Adults are engaged in various capacities in health programming. For example, community members actively participate in the creation of the community gardens. Children are also heavily involved in programming through the student health clubs. With the support of staff, club members are responsible for the maintenance of the community gardens, tree plantation and carrying out health campaigns to educate their peers.

Cost sharing partnerships

Through cost sharing partnerships, Free The Children allows communities to become accountable and take true ownership of the programs. This accountability also extends to local governments. One example of these partnerships are health centres in India. While Free The Children provides the communities with the infrastructure for the centre, the local government ensures the centre has the necessary supplies and professional staff required to provide communities with both curative and preventive health services.

Environmental and cultural preservation

Through tree planting programs as well as community gardens, Free The Children works to preserve the environment while minimizing carbon foot prints. In Kenya, a local partner provides biodegradable milk cartons which have been used to plant tens of thousands of trees to date. Furthermore, in many of the communities, cultural and environmental preservation go hand in hand. For example, in India Free The Children works to preserve the traditional herbal medicine which requires encouraging environmentally friendly agricultural practices and the protection of local flora.

CONCLUSION

Free The Children sincerely thanks SVQF for the ongoing support you have provided and the genuine interest and investment in the growth of Osenetoi and in the wellbeing of the families there. While climate challenges continue to impact families in the Narok South District, Free The Children is confident in the health and livelihood strategies it has put in place to enable people to build up their immune systems, boost their crop yields and continue to access education sustainably. Free The Children's commitment to providing long-term sustainability strategies are especially important aspects of our programming and we are proud to showcase how it fits into each pillar.

In particular, the people of Osenetoi have made incredible strides to move forward with their alternative income, education, and health care programming and are looking forward to the future months where water and sanitation activities will become a greater focus as well.

If you would like to learn more about the East African drought, the impact it is having on Free The Children communities in Kenya and how Free The Children is responding, please visit our [East African Drought information portal](#).