



# SHAMMAH CHILDREN'S CENTRE

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023

20/4/2024



## **Introduction**

Shammah children's Centre is a community based organization which was founded in the year 2007 and started with two vulnerable children along the railway reserve as a day care. Since then it has grown year by year from day care to a full fully operating Centre offering Kenyan system of education of ECDE and primary education and with a fully equipped operating vocational training Centre which is offering computer lessons and tailoring.

## **Results**

Shammah was offering two curriculum system of education ,the old which was being faced out (8.4.4) and the new curriculum (C.B.C) Competency Based Curriculum which has taken over in our country. In the year 2023 we were privileged to have our 2<sup>nd</sup> class of the new curriculum of 9 boys and 10 girls candidates who sat for the for the national examination at grade 6. The candidates performed well according to the standards of the new curriculum and they proceeded to junior high school in various schools which were given the mandate to run junior high schools as the piloting schools. The learners are now continuing with their studies. Not forgetting the little once who graduated from pre primary two to join primary education.

We had also the last group of the old curriculum of 12 girls and 7 boys. This group sat for the for(KCPE) Kenya certificate for primary education which was being faced out. Almost all the candidates performed well in their exams and joined form one in their respective schools which they were selected, only two girls who were pregnant didn't do well but they joined our vocational training where by they enrolled for both computer training and tailoring training. We had out of the 19 candidates 9 of them almost lost slots in the schools they were selected due to lack of school fees however we had to look for ways of enabling those children to join their respective schools. We joined efforts together with their parents and knocked all the offices we thought could be of help. We finally got scholarships and all the children joined secondary schools.

## **Pupils**

In the year 2023 was the worst year economically where by most parents were not able to take their children to school because some could go to do casual jobs with their children so as to earn an extra coin. The school was also affected economically that it had to drop feeding programme which is major part of our objective of feeding the children. Food was too expensive the school could not afford at all means. Due to these issues the school was affected and the school population went down compared to last years the population dropped from 324 of 2022 to 205 population of 2023 this caused for us to look for ways of mitigating feeding programme and we applied for grant to FAPADAG through Mrs. Hanneke van Bruggen and Wilde Ganzen so as to get funds and do a project that can boost our feeding programme.

## **Staff**

Shammah has grown year by year from the founder being the teacher the cook and has been able to stand top in terms of performances among other activities outside classroom activities due to our dedicated volunteers. We had a total of 10 volunteers 7 women and 3 men who work tirelessly to see the learners succeed in their work. The volunteers despite of lacking salaries they ensured that children get quality services. However we had challenge of retaining the best teachers because some of our best teachers were lured by our near by schools where by they take them and over them too much money as salary which we can not afford because for the schools they have donors who pay for the teachers salaries. The volunteers serve the learners from ECDE level to vocational level. Among the staff only two are paid by the school BOM through the collected funds were by they ensure that they are well taken care off and all others are volunteers because they do not earn a salary they only got a token to sustain them .This is because the children we serve are all needy and vulnerable and they are not able to pay the set school fees. It reached a time where by due to high economy even the little amount the learners used to pay have stopped paying. The little remaining amount learners pay as school fees and the sales we get from school projects is what we get as token after the expenditures of the school of which its now becoming next to impossible to achieve our goals.

## **Vocational training**

**Shammah has a fully functioning tailoring and computer Centre.**

### **Computer**

There a total of 56 computers which are being used by both the vocational and the entire school. Our Kenyan educational curriculum changed and technology has been in cooperated in all subjects from the early learning years. With the new curriculum children were able to learn technology at a very tender age. In the year 2023 we were able to train 102 who are 74 women and 28 men who were mixture of school dropouts due to lack of school fees , teenage mothers and youths. The learners completed their training and were able to go out and look for job opportunities and out of 102 who trained with us 70 secured job opportunities in different places. 10 of them opened their own cyber cafes and we are proud because we can see our vocational is working towards eliminating poverty in our society. By giving life skills it has helped in lowering the poverty which leads to all kind of negative activities like drug abuse ,early pregnancies among others which have been happening within the slums.

### **Tailoring:**

We have 14 sewing machines which serves in the tailoring training. We had a privilege of enrolling 38 learners who are 18 men and 20 female. All the learners mastered sewing skills and among them 25 secured job opportunities and they are earning a living while 7 of them started their own businesses and they are doing well and also gave job opportunities to the 6 learners whom they were training with them .

## **Agri- business**

### **Animal keeping:**

Shammah has been practicing animal keeping as part of income generating activity for the school as well as a training Centre for both parents and learners of Shammah and the community as a whole. Over the years we have trained our learners how to do rabbit keeping and poultry and almost all house holds are practicing and earning from the poultry and rabbit keeping. In return they use the money to buy things needed by the family . Due to the animal keeping and the skills we are offering we have also been able to work closely with the ministry of agriculture who visit time to time so as to ensure that we are doing the right thing.

### **Farming :**

Farming being the main source of food in our country we train our learners together with the community to use the little space they have to make kitchen garden and use of gunny sacks and all sorts of containers. They have been able to practice the skills at home and they are happily enjoying fresh vegetables from their small created kitchen garden and they also sell the products and buy what they need like books and other small things which they are able to afford.

### **Solar**

Shammah as one of advocates of taking care of environment. We believe that the challenges of global warming can only be rescued when people stop cutting down the trees. We have been active in making our environment better and promoting use of fire less cookers and fire briquettes which leads to low cutting of tress . we advocate for use of solar products and energy saving stoves which use fire briquettes which burns for a long time leading to low cutting of trees . There has been training of learners, parents and the community on how to use solar products and also making them. The products cost are very cheap compared to the cost of other cooking fuels.

### **Challenges .**

Over the years Shammah has been keen on achieving its goals and objectives like feeding programme, education among others. The year 2023 was one of the worst years economically this affected some of the schools objectives which could not be delivered at all cost. Feeding being one of the schools objective was one of the most affected one because the prices of food stuffs were selling 3 times than the normal prices .Due to skyrocketing of prices we were not able to continue feeding the children we stopped. After stopping to feed them some stopped coming to school because they can only stay in school if they are assured of something to eat as one of encouraging factor .Feeding programme has been of help to children because many of them the food they eat at school survive with it until the following day. Once we stopped feeding the children others left to schools who had feeding

programme. Some parents also due to economic crises decided to be going to do menial jobs together with their children so as to earn an extra coin. That also led to school drop out and there was nothing the government could do to rescue the situation.

There was also issue of poaching of our best teachers due to lack of salaries . we offer a token to the volunteers so as to be able to take care of their bills which is next to nothing, once they get somewhere they are being paid better they just disappear and the next time you here about the teacher is that she or he left to the neighborhood school due to better pay . This also affected the school population because of hoping of teachers which sometimes some lessons were being left without teacher and give the work load to the remaining teachers because children had to complete the syllabus through thin and thick.

### **sickness**

Another big challenge is that as the director of shammah sickness knocked my door and i was diagnosed with liver cancer where by after getting the sad news of the sickness i informed again Mrs Hanneke and she has been currently involved in helping by ensuring that i get better treatment through her support and FAPADAG. Am currently undergoing chemotherapy hoping to get better soon and continue with my work fully.

### **Plans**

#### **Short term plans.**

We looked forward to urgently redeem back our feeding programme by putting up a project which will serve as an income generating activity. We had few suggestions as Shammah board of what we should do to to help us raise funds to rescue the situation and realized that if we introduce baking training together with saloon training this two projects will help us to get some funds which will help us run the school , work on our feeding programme and even improve the livelihood of our volunteers who have been poached year in year out the token we offer compared with the high cost of living is totally inadequate for their survival. Between the two projects we will be able to start with baking training through baking we will be able to to earn extra money and sort out some bills and also the products will be used by both our learners and volunteers . After starting baking and establish it we will be able to start hair dressing there of this two will also offer job opportunities to Shammah community which will lead to eradication of poverty which is also part of our objectives .

#### **Long term plans.**

We are looking forward to buy school own land purposely for farming we believe that if we can have our own land for farming we will be able to permanently do farming and have a permanent feeding programme which will be guaranteed. We will also be able to get money from selling the farm products and use it to run the school activities.

We are therefore pleading with our friends ,friends of our friends and donors to help us fund raise so as to see our long term plans are met so as to ensure that Shammah is

empowered to achieve its plans so as be able to continue with its madate of seeing child of kibera enjoy going to school like any other child globally.we believe that once we empower them this circle of poverty will continue becoming narrow than widening.

### Financial report 2023

Income			expenditure			
month	Fees/ Other incomes	total	feeding	Token for teachers	total	balance
Jan	122,000	<b>122,000</b>	30,000	50,000	<b>80,000</b>	42,000
Feb	97,000	97,000	30,000	40,000	70,000	27,000
Mar	107,000	107,000	30,000	50,000	80,000	27,000
April	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
May	96,000	<b>96,000</b>	40,000	40,000	80,000	12,000
June	102,000	<b>102,000</b>	40,000	40,000	<b>80,000</b>	18,000
Jul	90,000	<b>90,000</b>	40,000	40,000	<b>80,000</b>	6,000
Aug	nil	<b>nil</b>	nil	nil	nil	nil
Sep	58,000	58,000	35,000	40,000	<b>75,000</b>	-17,000
Oct	34,000	<b>34,000</b>	35,000	40,000	<b>75,000</b>	-41,000
Nov	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Dec	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
total	706,000	706,000	280,000	340,000	<b>620,000</b>	<b>86,000</b>

## Pictures



Changing sinkers to floater





Children preaching good morals





children testing sinkers and floaters



Graduation from pre-primary to primary





Learners



Feeding the children