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**Creating vocational education for vulnerable youth in
order to reduce poverty**

Shammah Community Based Organization

Kalimani, Kangundo

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About the organisation

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Vision:

To educate, feed, and eradicate poverty , and eliminate drug consumption in Kalimani village, Kangundo location

Objectives:

- HIV/AIDS awareness in Kangundo
- Promoting sexual autonomy
- Groups 'savings and loans'
- Give basic education
- Eradicate poverty and illiteracy
- Equip the children with skills which will enable them to be independent in future
- Provide sustainable feeding programme
- Provide medication
- Empower caregivers to promote quality service

- Offer vocational training

The organisational structure

Shammah is a community based organization and the structure is as follows :-

board members

Director- Florence Mweu

Treasure- Jemmimah Mweu

Secretary –Ana Kiluu

Members -

Mary Wambua

Agatha Mwikali

Emma Mutiso.

Dorcus Nzioki

James Nzioka

Jane Maithya

Joice Kiluu

Beatrice Katsa

All the members are Kenyans Shammah staff

Paid staff

Justina Mutio

Mary Munyao

Volunteers

About 10 volunteers work as teachers and ensure that learning takes place as required by the government and ensuring that they cover the syllabus of all grades accordingly. The volunteers do not have a salary but by the end of month they get a token from the group savings and loan for their daily maintenance.

They help in teaching the learners and ensure that every learner is catered for individually and also as part of Shammah. Due to the group savings and loans they have been able to see their little money growing..

The geographic coverage

Shammah is located in Kangundo , Kalimani village it serves the entire Kalimani village and the neighboring villages (in total a population of 220.000)

The centre is registered under Ministry of gender, children and social development. The registration number is KDO/CD/1/R/S/G 121

The decision-making process within the organisation

The decision making takes place through calling a meeting which consists of parents, teachers, B.O.M and a representative of the community to talk about matters of the organization then after much discussion the board is left to finalize the decision in its capacity. The meetings are held every beginning of the term , however if there is an emerging issue an emergency meeting is called to address the matter. The secretary writes down the minutes of every meeting.

Besides the general meetings , the organisation has an advisory board.

The context of the organisation

Shammah community based organization serves zero to eighteen years children with special needs, orphans and vulnerable children in Kangundo, Kalimani village. The school came as a result of many children not being able to attend school due to poverty. The few nearby schools are for the rich thus leaving out most of the needy children. Most parents could not afford the cost of taking their children to school.

Shammah as a community based organization has a reason to exist because it has been able to touch the lives of many children and households. It is providing education to the least fortunate children who would not have afforded education at any given time due to level of poverty they live in.

The Centre also has a centralized feeding programme whereby it feeds the learners breakfast and lunch where by the learners survive with school food till the other day because at their homes they can barely afford meals . The feeding programme encourages children to attend school without absenteeism because they know there will be something for them to eat when they come to school.

The Centre has also a women- group savings and loan system which has helped many parents to start small business growing to big business.

The Centre is now planning to start a vocational training so as to equip learners with life skills which will enable them to be in future independent by creating job opportunities for themselves and others. This vocational training intends to setup a bakery training center, computer training and tailoring training center. It is looking forward to admit 30 young teenager mothers, 30 young boys and 30 young adolescents from the less privileged families in the Shammah community. This training will equip learners with skills which they will use to earn a living for themselves and reduce the poverty they are living in currently.

The collaboration with the Dutch partner, FAPADAG

The collaboration between Shammah and FAPADAG has been the best ever because since we came to partner we have been able to work together for over 15 years and we have been able to make Shammah Centre a better place than the way FAPADAG found it .

The role of Shammah is to take charge of every activity that goes on in Shammah and ensure that everything is done accordingly the way it is supposed to be done . Florence Mweu keeps FAPADAG updated of the work what is done and the progress of the Centre at large. There is a constructive collaboration with the donor focusing on innovation and development.

Identification of the problem

The founder and the community ,parents ,and local government identified problems of teenage mothers ,unemployment of many youth and drug abuse of many young adults among other questionable characters which resulted in unemployment and causing death to many young people especially who would engage in smuggling people and die via bullet or mob justice and also due to these reasons poverty is the order of the day .

Having constructed a very big conducive learning Centre in 2021 the board of the school and the community believed that it was wise to start a vocational training centre which would offer live skills to the identified group to be able to acquire skills which they would use to create later on job opportunities for themselves and others or search for job opportunities by using the acquired skills. Since knowledge is power the founder and the community believed that once the target group receive the skills they will be able to make their future lives better for themselves and their families.

The problem was defined by the community and the founder, parents , board of management (BOM) and the young adults themselves. Mrs. Hanneke van Bruggen of FAPADAG who is also a stake holder was as well involved, because her organisation is one of the stimulators and financiers of the project developments.

Problem analysis

The identified problem was the poverty level which has crippled the lives of the people living in Kalimani village in Kangundo.

The following factors are the main cause of the poverty:

1. Lack of education; in particular vocational education in Kangundo region
2. Teenage pregnancies whereby they drop out of school due to pregnancies and to take care of their young children and that ends their education life.
3. Drug abuse among the teenagers and the youth once they enter into drugs there education comes to an end they start engaging in dangerous acts like stealing so as to get money to by the drugs because they lack income and some are killed in the process and others waste away.
4. Illiteracy among parents and guardians; they are not educated so they do not see the importance of educating their children . So once the incoming generations are not trained and lack skills to earn a living the poverty level line continues from one generation to others.
5. The structural causes leading the above problems can only be solved through training life skills which will help learners and households to acquire life skills which will see them earn a living for themselves and others. Once the skills are acquired they will earn a living and improve their

livelihoods and the poverty will fade slowly by slowly. That is why Shammah is setting up a training Centre which will address the poverty issues . Inclusive participation

The actors' shared capacities and strenghts.

Among the actors there are computer teachers ,tailoring teachers and bakery trainers . They are willing to help in establishing the vocational training which will enhance life skills which will equip learners with knowledge which they can use to earn a living for themselves. The actors are also part of the community whereby some of their children and relatives are also perishing in the poverty. They are looking forward to train skills which will work for the betterment of Kalimani village and their own lives they are looking forward to volunteer and take the learners through the training but as time goes on the vocational training will be able to employ its staff so as to be able to train different groups without limited time from the volunteers. Through training more people will be able to employ themselves and create job opportunities for others and also make it as a must once they succeed they will have to sponsor one or two to be trained like them as part of giving back to the community and also sustaining the vocational Centre.

The stakeholders fully participated in designing the intervention and fully supported the proposed solution. From September till December 2021 three students of Hogeschool of Amsterdam have done some participatory research among future learners, parents and the community which was to find out suitable vocational training for income generation. They worked with questionnaires, mindmaps and distance conversations. The conclusion of this research was that bakery , computer and tailoring were interesting skills for the young adolescents as well as for the community and volunteers will be available to help establish the skills rooms and to teach.

Market

There is need to train as many tailors as we can because Kangundo has only a few tailors who take advantage of scarcity and overprice their products. Only a few people can afford to pay for their services. The market is ready because there are so many schools and hospitals around that require uniforms and there is no specific place to get uniforms. People go to a far market to get uniforms and also to buy clothes. Once there are several trained tailors in Kangundo then many of them will make the clothes and uniforms for affordable prices.

In the surrounding of Kangundo and Kilimani there is no bakery and people travel now far to get bread, snacks or cakes.

The beneficiaries are:

Computers beneficiaries are 350 children (150 boys and 200 girls) who will benefit in computer training which is part of the subject “learning technology” and obligatory in the new Kenyan primary education curriculum. 30 Teenage mothers who have not been able to complete their education due to early pregnancies , 30 adolescents and 30 vulnerable youths (persons with disabilities) will benefit as well from computer skills.

Bakery will take 30 learners including vulnerable youth , people living with special needs and teenage mothers and finally tailoring will also cater for 30 adolescents , vulnerable youth and 30 others who are not in our target group who would like to train and will be able to pay full fee for the training. The total number of beneficiaries will be 530; the 500 will be from Shammah community households while the 30 will be open for anybody willing to train at full fee. People living with special need will fully benefit from the activities through free training and also will have first priority to be offered job

opportunities in the training Centre. The vocational rooms are designed in a way that it is inclusive where by it will include people living with disability . There is a ramp to make it easy for wheel chairs users to access all the rooms.

Total number of people that benefit: 530 (of which 320 girls and 210 vulnerable youth)

Long term goal

The long term goal is to eradicate poverty in Kalimani village by providing life skills which will enable the learners to acquire skills for earning a living through self-employment or use the skills to seek job opportunities which will support them in improving their livelihoods. By establishing vocational training we will be fighting poverty because the learners will have skills which they didn't have before. They will be able to live a better life.

Short term results: achievements within 1 year

1. The vocational rooms for computer skills, sewing skills and bakery skills are equipped
2. The computer lessons will be taught following the Kenyan Curriculum to **all** primary educational children (200 girls-150 boys)
3. Computer lessons will be taught to all children in the school and diverse vulnerable groups (90 of which at least more than half girls)
4. The curricula for sewing and bakery skills are developed
5. At least 30 young adolescents(14-16) will be trained in bakery skills (more than half girls)
6. At least 30 young persons(14-16) will be trained in sewing skills (more than half girls)

Through self- employment people, who were not able to educate their children due to lack of money, will acquire skills which will enable them to earn a living and to pay fees for their children. Young adolescents who had terminated there education due to different issues and has no skills will acquire skills and they will be able to earn a living for themselves and be independent. The teenage mothers will have something to be proud of because they will acquire skills, which will help them to earn a living and take care of themselves and their children. Youth will also use the skills and earn a living . With all these skills people will be able to improve their livelihoods and will be busy doing beneficial things rather than engaging in dangerous acts which would destroy their lives. Smuggling and teenage pregnancies will reduce and moreover the level of poverty where people have been living in will be reduced.

Activities

Activity 1

What will be carried out, how, how much/ many, when and by whom?

fund raising

shammah B.O.M 1st ksh 30,000 by 1st april 2022

parents ksh 20,000 by 1st april 2022

shammah learners ksh 5,000 by 1st april 2022

teachers ksh 5,000 by 30th march 2022

churches ksh 20,000 by 1st april 2022

friends ksh 20,000 by 30th march

Shammah B.O.M. 2nd ksh 20.000 by 10th of May

Activity 2

What will be carried out, how, how much/ many, when and by whom?

Computer skills room

Buying the computers from the suppliers, by 15th July 2022.

Implementation of the computer training by setting the equipment to the respective places by the end of July 30st by Shammah B.O.M and the volunteers, who are willing to help in setting up the training Centre .

Start the computer training for the children by 1st of August 2022 by the volunteers

Activity 3

What will be carried out, how, how much/ many, when and by whom?

Bakery skills room

Developing the bakery curriculum by an expert volunteer.

Purchasing of bakery equipment by the 15th July by B.O.M

Setting up the baking equipment by 30th July by the B.O.M and the volunteers .

Start operating the bakery by training the target group from 1st August by the volunteers .

Activity 4

What will be carried out, how, how much/ many, when and by whom?

Sewing skills room

Purchasing of sewing machines by 15th July by B.O.M

setting the machines by 30th of July 2022 by the trainer volunteers together with the B.O.M.

start the tailoring training by 1st of August 2022 by the volunteer trainers .

start the tailoring training by

Activity 5

What will be carried out, how, how much/ many, when and by whom?

Overhead, organisation costs

Building a network/connections between the school and places for internships or jobs and looking for connections with official vocational training schools

Shammah B.O.M is responsible for fund raising and running all the activities that take place in the Centre and ensuring that every activity has been well taken care of and will be responsible for the implementing and running of the vocational training

We have calculated 5% overhead costs

Sustainability

The result will be for sure sustained through admitting on top of the vulnerable groups as well people who will be able to pay the full amount for the training. The products of the vocational training will be sold and the money will be used back in the Centre.

When the learners are in training (for 6month to one year) they can save money in the group savings of Shammah so that they by the end of the training with their savings together with a small loan they can buy their own equipment.

The learners who have graduated and started their own business or are employed will be required to sponsor one or two learners as part of giving back to the community. Through the creation of a stable network of customers, employers, teachers and students the vocational centre will be able to run autonomous.

Project planning

Start date

01/05/2022

Project duration in months (max 12)

Total budget in national currency 4423500 Ksh = €34500,-

The total budget is covered by:

Shammah community who are parents, children, teachers, and the B.O.M.

Friends

churches

St.FAPADAG.

St.WILDE GANZEN.

St. SPYN

St.??

Shammah Centre B.O.M parents and the community at large will be in charge of setting up a successful vocational training Centre.

There are many rooms in Shammah which will be used for the vocational training.

There are volunteers who have promised to train the learners and help in setting up the vocational training .

Parents and the community will provide some materials like stoves , charcoal burners .

Shammah Nairobi, Kibera will provide fire briquettes to be used in baking instead of charcoal and will donate some energy saving stoves.

Responsible for project planning and finances is the project leader

Florence Mweu

Name of the authorised signatory of the organisation

Florence Mweu

Name of the second authorised signatory of the organisation

Jemmimmah Mweu Community participation

We declare that all information presented above, including the attached documents are in line with the wishes of the community and has been communicated with them.

Name of community representative

Elijah Nzioki

Name of a community member involved in the project

Justina Mutio