Vision

It is a pilot project to show how Montessori Teacher Training and Schools can be delivered to the most vulnerable communities such as those in refugee, transit and IDP Camps.

Its aim is to promote:

- self-reliance not dependence,
- community not school,
- self ownership and self determination,
- dignity and self worth

Which all play an important role in overcoming the effects of trauma experienced by the inhabitants of the camps.

It has the added advantage of building for the future and creating transferable skills that will accompany both adults and children wherever their final destination may be.
Project Objectives

- Create a school for children for 520 children within the IDP Camp
- Train 40 teachers with sufficient knowledge to work in other schools
- Train 4 Mentor teachers with the ability to duplicate the project
- Build a shelter for the school with a wider community purpose
- Feed the children and the teachers
- Stimulate enterprise and impart knowledge in respect of the local manufacture of educational puzzles, uniforms, knitwear, furniture and bricks.
Project Objectives

- Engage local community in all aspects of the process
- Seed similar projects in other IDP/Transit Camps
- Provide a model for government and NGO analysis

All building, organising, teaching, sewing, knitting carpentry to be done by the ‘camp’ inhabitants with only a small amount of external expertise.
Historical Background to Violence and Internal Displacement in Kenya
Where did the idea for Corner of Hope come from?

Work in Kenya & Tanzania had been ongoing since 1974

3 National Training Centres in Kenya
5 National Training Centres in Tanzania

A Kenyan Teacher Trainer in Nakuru

who desperately wanted to do something for all the traumatised children that she was seeing on a daily basis in the camps. Children who had lost everything they knew and had witnessed terrible violence and the devastation of their family and family life as they knew it.
Youth Hope Foundation in the USA
   Main donor - inspirational vision - meaningful action

Association Montessori Internationale
   Concept and Management

New Canaan Community (IDP camp)
   Creators and lead participants in the creation and sustainable provision of a school for their children

Supported locally by:

The Catholic Diocese of Nakuru
   Financial and Administrative structure on the ground

Nakuru Teacher Training College
   Training support, guidance and counselling for the teachers
Sustainability?
The Mushroom Farm
Food for the chickens, not enough food for the people
Montessori Education is about:

- building communities in which each individual contributes to the well being of the whole
- respecting every human being and valuing who they are: their potential and their culture
- preparing environments that allow human beings to do things for themselves in the company of others
Montessori Education supports Human Tendencies:

- Independence
- Gregariousness
- Meaningful Work/Activity
- Communication
- Exploration/Orientation
- Creative Imagination

- Education as an ‘aid to life’
- “Help me to do it for myself”
It is about:

- building trust, acting with respect and honesty
- integrity and humility
- helping re-develop the power of decision making in the lives of individuals, their families and their community
- building skills and knowledge through action
- building self motivation through achievement
- staying focussed; being constant
- allowing everything to move at its own pace
- being friendly with mistakes
- communicating clearly at every level
Working with the Community

Building skills - Building trust
The first meeting with the officials in the camp
Meeting the Leaders in the Community
The Education Committee and the 2 Mentor Teachers
The Building Team
The formal signing of the MOU
Regular meetings with the officials and project team to ensure common goals and problem solving.
Experts called in for short periods of time only as skills base grew in the community.
Progress and feedback given through pictures and videos recorded by the teams themselves.
Group discussion with teachers regarding the children and the work
Regular teacher meetings implemented for professional development
Building Community with the Children

Songs, Stories, Dance & Grace and Courtesy
Working with the Community

Building skills - Building trust

The Construction Team
What to eat?
What to wear?
A sense of belonging
Homes
Making the bricks for the first house - the community decided together that the teachers should have the first houses
The first house and its immediate neighbours
The old house
A dry, safe and secure home for the family
Teacher Jane and her husband standing in front of their old house and beside the new one.
The decorated living space. Fabric on the walls and hand crocheted covers for the chairs and a handmade table.
Medical Centre
Working with the Community

Building skills - Building trust

The Teachers
MATERIALS
A simple frame with two pages attached

PRELIMINARY POINTS

PREPARE YOURSELF and what you want to present

SHOW THE CHILD how to hold and turn the medium

DIRECT ACTION
- for the child to be able to do the work
Precision in everything, even though it is all handmade.
The first group of newly trained teachers call themselves the ‘Pioneers’.

16 teachers trained in 2 years
40 teachers trained in 5 years
“I am Samwel Kuria a Director in Corner of Hope. It is with my sincere pleasure that I want to thank you for your great concern to this community in general and me in particular. My vision was past tense before I met you, but now I have a future. Thanks for your tender care you’ve given me an ability to change lives. May the blessings and tranquility flood your life. Thanks”.

Sent from my Nokia Phone - 3rd October 2012
Preparing Environments

A Montessori School in the Community
my name is ben erd muchug!
Writing & Reading in English as well as KiSwahili
A wide range of activities - children now literate and numerate
You have helped us to see that even though our beginning was very bitter something sweet has been produced. At least we can see that there is hope in education and our children will have a bright future at the end of the day".

Margaret Nyamburu, mother of one of the children.
JOYFUL CHILDREN

JOYFUL TEACHERS

SELF RELIANT, DIGNIFIED, ENABLED, EMPOWERED COMMUNITY
Project Objectives

- Create a school for children for 520 children within the IDP Camp. Over 500 children have passed through the school.
- Train 40 teachers with sufficient knowledge to work in other schools. 40 teachers trained or in training at 3-6 and 6-12 levels.
- Train 4 Mentor teachers with the ability to duplicate the project. 2 mentors trained, currently identifying 2 more for new site.
- Build a shelter for the school with a wider community purpose. Beautiful, simple school, skilled labour, central focus of hope in the community.
- Feed the children and the teachers. Children and teachers healthy, teachers salaried.
- Stimulate enterprise and impart knowledge in respect of the local manufacture of educational puzzles, uniforms, knitwear, furniture and bricks. Ongoing - skills taught, cooperative to be established.
Project Objectives

- Engage local community in all aspects of the process
  Community engaged

- Seed similar projects in other IDP/Transit Camps
  Community driven replication just beginning

- Provide a model for government and NGO analysis
  Not yet, too soon, only just starting to replicate

All construction, organising, teaching, sewing, knitting, carpentry to be done by the ‘camp’ inhabitants with only a small amount of external expertise.
Achieved
What happened next?
Elementary/Primary
Corner of Hope teachers and trainee teachers at 3-6 and 6-12 levels
Kisima
Sustainability?

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

GOVERNMENT APPROVAL OF 3-6 & 6-12 CURRICULA
SKILL BASE

• Brick Making/Roof Making/Construction
• Sewing/Tie-dye/Knitting
• Basket weaving
• Bicycle maintenance & repair
• Puzzles for Montessori Schools
EsF amiesf.org
montessori-esf.org

EsF Assembly Thailand
2015 August
A ‘great work’ must be undertaken. An extremely important social talk lies before us: actuating [man’s] human kind’s value, allowing him to attain the maximum development of his energies, truly preparing him to bring about a different form of human society on a higher plane.
Thank you