Our Great Work

Éducateurs Sans Frontières
All About Plants
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
  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
- 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

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

- Seed similar projects in other IDP/Transit Camps
  Only just beginning…

All construction, organising, teaching, sewing, knitting carpentry to be done by the ‘camp’ inhabitants with only a small amount of external expertise.
Achieved
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 who had lost everything and had witnessed terrible fear and the devastation of family life as they knew it.
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 Fish Farm
Food for the chickens, not enough food for the people
Montessori Education guides us by:

- 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 and maximise their own potential
Working with the Community

Building skills - Building trust
The first meeting with the officials in the camp
Meeting the Leaders in the Community
The Parents
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.
Construction Team - Independent of Experts
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, Grace and Courtesy
A sense of belonging
Working with the Community

Building skills - Building trust

The Teachers
MATERIALS

- A piece of paper
- Pencils
- Markers

CORRECT:

For the child to be able to...

WRONG:

Preparation for mathematics
Preparation for writing
Preparation for language

PRELIMINARY POINTS

- Prepare your own and what will be needed
- Look at the child, talk with it
- Ask the child to lay and write
- Touch the child on your lap
- Where the materials are kept

SHOW THE CHILD HOW TO HOLD

- Sit back the material
- Instruct the child to enjoy
- The muscular to work properly

INVITE THE CHILD TO KNEEL

...
Precision in everything, even though it is all handmade.
The newly trained teachers call themselves the 'Pioneers' 16 teachers trained in 2 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
The Corner of Hope School
Working with the Community

Building skills - Building trust

The Construction Team
What to wear?
Preparing Environments

School
A wide range of activities - children now literate and numerate
The Children
If you skip these or rush through them go to slide 169 and 170
my name is ben erd muchug!
“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.
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
The Light in their Eyes
What happened next?
Kisima
Montessori Elementary
Corner of Hope

teachers and trainee teachers at 3-6 and 6-12 levels
MATESHA SEMBUCHÉ

4 DAYS AFTER THE START OF HER MONTESSORI COURSE

NOVEMBER 6th 2014
“This is the beautiful thing that a person should learn at the very beginning.

Because, (the way it was put to us), it shows that as a human being we have to respect what we have, because everything (when you look at it from a Montessori perspective) …

…from the ground, from the sky, from the air we breathe, from the plants - is quite beautiful.

If every individual, could learn that, to respect what we have, to respect the environment, to respect nature and keep ourselves happily - to respect one another”
“Because of the materials they are using, because of the philosophy - that each and everything in the world has an importance - people could be taught at an early age that we could have peace in the world because each and everybody

- could respect the environment
- could respect what he or she has as a human being
- we could respect animals
- we could respect the nature

Nobody could cut down the trees;
Nobody could destroy or make wars;

In Montessori what I have come to discover, is that we are talking of the nature as of the environment and there is a reason inside it
“So when you come to talk of Montessori philosophy and the way it is presented using the materials, it is quite interesting you see all the connections:

• from what we have,
• from what God has given us as human beings

So to me it is something that is very interesting for a child or for people to learn - so that they can understand the beautiful thing that we have as our universe or as our world”

MATESHA SEMBUCHÉ
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

Maria Montessori: Education and Peace
Thank you
EsF montessori-esf.org
EsF Assembly Hyderabad
2016 August