



New Beginnings

Annual report 2017



Personal Statement, Maximilian Ullrich

Dear members, supporters and those who are interested!

It is my great pleasure to present you our Annual Report of 2017/2018 and I hope to thereby provide you with an extensive insight into our work in Kenya..

2017 was a moving year and the developments and new projects speak for themselves. In this sense, we decided to call the report "New Beginnings".

I would like to introduce the four focus areas of our work, which are our interpretation of a holistic approach to sustainable development cooperation:

- 1.) Child and Youth Care
- 2.) Health
- 3.) Gender Equality
- 4.) Economic Empowerment

We are especially proud of the contributions made by our new three-year Programme focusing on Health and Gender Equality, which is co-financed by the Austrian Development Agency.

This extensive programme has the objective to create awareness and education about reproductive health, family planning, prevention of violence against women and to open access to these services. Within three years we are planning to reach 24.500 people in our Project region.

Our Health Centre will focus on the treatment of women and children. With a fully equipped Maternity Unit we will essentially contribute to the prevention of mother-child HIV transmission and the reduction of the maternal- and child mortality rate. We are still looking for medical equipment and would be very grateful for any support. Either by donations of the needed Equipment or by spreading the news!

From the bottom of my heart I want to thank and congratulate our Kenyan Team, which has grown immensely over the years and is implementing all our project with an incredible passion. Due to their commitment and hard work, we were awarded as the best implementing partner organization in Western Kenya by USAID/World Vision and from April 2018 onwards we will be entrusted with the support of 12.000 Orphans and vulnerable children. If I look back at our beginnings, when we opened the doors of the "Children House Miwani" to support 10 girls, only nine years ago, I realise how much is possible.

The idea of where we will be in another nine years is exciting and I look confidently into a future full of healthy, strengthened and happy children and people in Kisumu and beyond.

In order to achieve this, we depend on your donation and support, without which all this would never have been possible.



Respectfully, I ask you to support our work and make it possible to put smiles on more children's and people's faces, which last for generations.

I personally vouch for the efficient use of your donation and guarantee that we will do our best to achieve a sustainable and long-lasting effect.

To ensure that your donation remains tax-deductible, we undergo an annual audit by an Austrian auditor, who carries out an independent audit of all project expenses.

To let our dreams grow even further, we need your help. It is possible to get involved voluntarily and to support us, either in fundraising activities in Austria or as part of our international volunteer program on site in Kenya.. We thank all helping hands, which have helped us enormously and we honour and appreciate every little help we get.

Thank you for making us Smile!

Together, we can make dreams come true!

Maximilian Ullrich

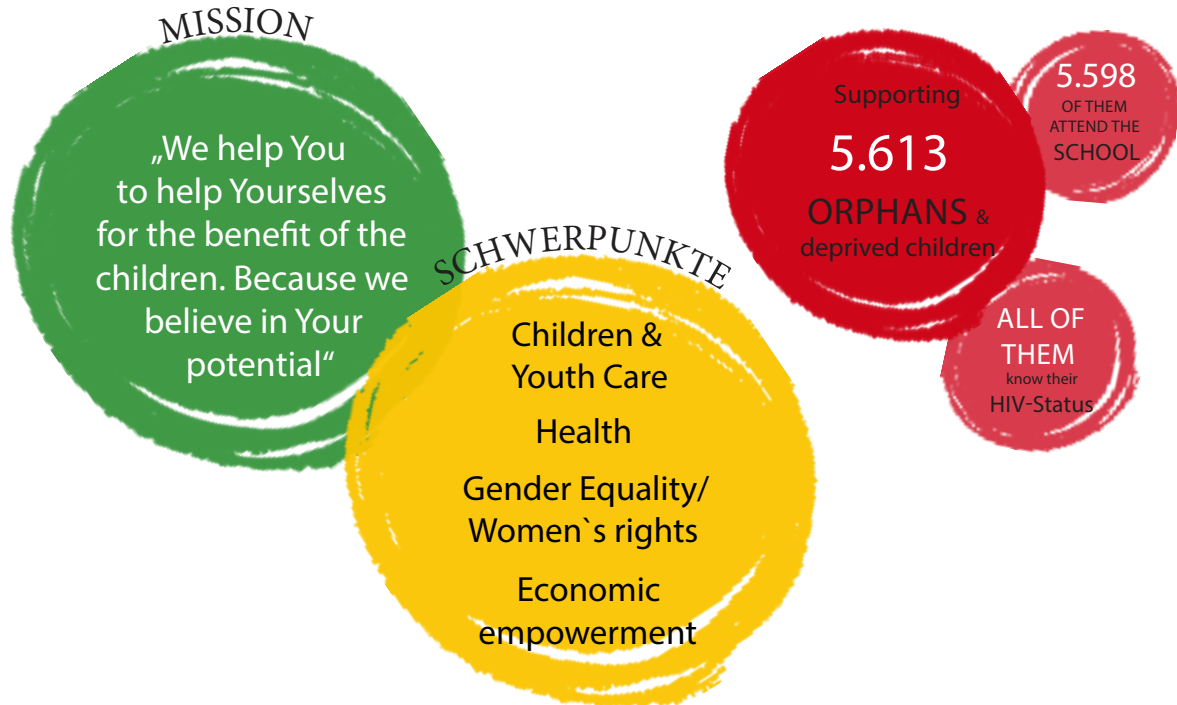
Founder & Chairman Make Me Smile Kenya

Founder, Chairman & Managing director Make Me Smile International

WHAT WE DO

Make Me Smile Kenya is an NGO with a holistic approach towards Sustainable Development Cooperation!

Primarily, we support vulnerable children, adolescent girls and young women! To create a lasting impact, we build on existing structures like the government- and community strategy and seek to sustainably empower the support network of our target group. By involving relevant stakeholders and providing a holistic range of services, we are working towards a better future, especially for children, women and their entire communities in western Kenya.



Our four focus areas:

Child & Youth Care

We continuously ensure the children’s wellbeing and positive development, which is measured through various indicators including education, health care, child protection, psychosocial support, safe shelter, food & nutrition and economic strengthening of their families.

This allows us to provide personalized interventions and the necessary support based on our findings. Our goal is to create empowered and self-sufficient households that can meet the needs of their children, even beyond their childhood (university etc.).

Health

A healthy society increases the chances of a better future! We are currently building a health center with a maternity ward focusing on maternal birth assistance, family planning and HIV prevention. To provide medical care to rural areas and make it more accessible, we conduct medical outreach programs and free medical camps. Through our Reproductive Health Program and within our **Youth Friendly Centres**, we convey objective information about Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and provide contraceptives anonymously and free of charge!

Gender Equality/Women’s rights

Through awareness raising programs, we promote gender equality and stand up against sexual gender-based violence (=SGBV). To achieve a long term social and behavioral change, we also include men, religious leaders, youths and children in the discussion. Besides raising awareness, we **created access to SRHR information and contraceptives for more than 24.500 people!**

To reduce violence against women, we established **five SGBV Help Desks** in health facilities. Our team of trained Nurses and Paralegals takes care of the victims and helps them receive justice!

Economic empowerment

600 members of our established village savings and loaning associations gained access to microcredits and receive interests on their savings.

Vulnerable families receive assistance in creating an additional income, for instance by receiving seedlings, livestock and training in entrepreneurship skills and financial literacy.

Our future Crafts Centre is going to provide a stable working environment and vocational training opportunities for young women.



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & GENDER EQUALITY

In September 2017, we have launched a project, that is going to bring great change and enhance equal opportunities, especially for women.

Our goal is to build consciousness about tabooed topics of reproductive health and contraceptives, as well as prevent violence against women. 24,500 Kenyans shall receive access to contraceptives. Contact points for victims of domestic violence have already been established. Women are being encouraged to make self-determined choices regarding their bodies and their future.

However, in order to achieve this, it's not sufficient to only talk to women. Everyone needs to be included in this process, so that a sustainable improvement can be reached:

Reasons not to use protection:

- ✦ The partner does not allow contraception
- ✦ Religion
- ✦ Fear of side effects
- ✦ Lack of accessibility
- ✦ Cost of contraceptives
- ✦ Desire to have children, mostly after a boy

More than one in three women do not use contraception at all

62% of men don't allow their partner to use contraception

55% of all pregnancies are unplanned

61% say they cannot fulfill the needs of a child

29% do not protect themselves against HIV with new partners

Birthrate of 4.4 children per woman

73% of young people do not know that sexual abuse is illegal

68% of young people are not sexually educated

Source: Make Me Smile Basic study, 2016



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Project duration:
September 2017- September 2020

The project is financed by the cooperation of the Austrian Development Agency, The County of Lower Austria and G & H Roberts Community Trust.

Target groups:

80 Rain Workers and 14 Rain Worker Supervisors will be visiting households, offer advice and provide them with knowledge about reproductive health and rights of women. Moreover, they are conducting continuous round table talks, advising conversations with key persons in the community and Health Centres and organize sport events. They are assisting people during the utilisation of reproductive health services and improve their accessibility. The majority of our Rain Workers are employed in the health system, which creates a natural disseminator effect. By educating and motivating people financially, we help them to easier access contraceptives. Through the involvement of our health staff and especially with the help of our Youth Centre, we create space for free accessibility to contraceptives. Normally, these should be available in public health centres, yet in reality this is not true. In many cases contraception can't be carried out without interruptions, since there aren't enough contraceptives or they are forgotten to be renewed.

Men:

60 male champions (trained men with knowledge about sexual education) reach the conscience of other men easier, which means they can spread the message of gender equality and acceptance to contraception among them. Within this team, we find five representatives of religious communities, who are also spreading this knowledge in their churches.

Women:

16 Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) staff, are present on a daily basis in five health centres. Women can report violence anonymously and undergo regular health checks. The staff supports them all along and cooperates with executive authorities and the key personal of the communities. Half of the staff operates within the communities and spreads information about SGBV, as well as visits women regularly, to observe the development of the situation.

Youngsters:

54 of our Peer Educators are students, who have been trained and helped by rain workers to convey information to other students. **27 Teachers** from 27 local schools within our project region, have equally participated in these trainings and are now monthly organizing so called "School Health Clubs".

A theatre group wants to convey this message in a participative way and writes short plays in which topics of sexuality and contraception are addressed. The audience can participate in their creation freely.

10 Youth Friendly Centre staff (5 nurses, 2 volunteers, 3 MMS employees) convey "knowledge" to teenagers and young adults: employees of four Health Centres and two Youth Friendly Centres in the region are training them. These centres offer teenagers continuous supervision and serve as safe meeting points.

Furthermore, youngsters can also, when desired, get information about sexuality and contraception and access contraceptives anonymously and free of charge. The community won't be informed about their requests.

40 Youth Advocates, who are still teenagers themselves spread "knowledge" in the communities and to other teenagers and promote Youth Friendly Centres amongst them.

Additionally, **36 Radio shows** convey entertaining "knowledge". The shows are produced in the local language "Luo".



YOUTH FRIENDLY CENTRE

Contraceptives are seen as a taboo – even if there is a wish to use contraception, Youngsters often see themselves stigmatized by society, and therefore cast away the idea of using them.

An open ear and anonymous access to contraceptives

We provide information about sexuality and contraceptives for young people and adolescents. We answer all of their questions, so that they can make up their own mind about family planning and birth control.

Furthermore, teenagers are provided with contraceptives, anonymously and free of charge. We have opened our first “Youth Friendly Centre” in Chiga, which offers different activities for youngsters five days a week, similar to a Youth Centre. A trained employee takes care of all the teenager’s questions in a loving manner, occupies them with interactive and educative games, information materials and much more. A permanently employed nurse is at service to the teenagers, to support them with advice regarding reproductive health and to prescribe contraceptives – free of charge and anonymously – if needed. This way young adults can take their own life choices and receive genuine information about tabooed topics.

At the opening we welcomed over 300 people from the community – a positive sign regarding the acceptance of our work. On the first day of the opening ceremony, 30 young women already visited the centre, from which 20 made immediate use of methods of contraception.



The second “Youth Friendly Centre” is already being planned and should be completed by 2018 as a part of the Make Me Smile Health Centre in Kawese. Kawese is our largest project area in Kisumu with the highest population and the biggest medical shortage, wherefore the Health Centre and the Youth Friendly Centre are urgently needed.



AIDSFREE (JUA-Project)

Stop mother-to-child transmission of HIV

The aim of the AIDSFREE project is to prevent HIV infections of newborns. The project targets both pregnant and breast feeding adolescent girls. It is intended to enhance access to health and social services. We inform, look after and accompany young mothers and young pregnant women over a long period of time, so that their children are born healthy and can grow up in a child-friendly environment.

Promoting knowledge about HIV and prenatal care

There are promising medical opportunities to drastically reduce the transmission of HIV between mother and child: with an instructed intake of HIV medication during pregnancy in combination with other strategies, the risk of transmission can be reduced to less than 2%. However, knowledge about and access to these medical options are not yet sufficiently spread in Kenya.

Preventing new infections of newborns!

The AIDSFREE project is addressing HIV-endangered young women and their children during and after pregnancy, through pursuing the following goals:

- ✦ Reducing disease transmissions through prenatal care, HIV testing and preventive measures
- ✦ Improving the health of infants and preventing new infections
- ✦ Supporting women in health, psychosocial and general issues
- ✦ Sensitizing the society, relatives and the living environment of the women

Working with & in the community

The program reaches its beneficiaries through household visits in their respective communities, in our case in Kolwa East, Miwani and Kajulu. An AIDSFREE team consists of three people - One mentor and two Household Facilitators (one male and one female). Each team is looking after 5-8 young women. Mentors are the actual persons of reference for the women. They support and accompany them during their pregnancy, sensitize relatives, inform about medical possibilities and explain medications or, for example, the entries in the mother-child-passport.

Household Facilitators support the mentors in their work but are particularly active in the respective community and seek to build mutual trust and exchange between the community, the relatives and the project.

By now, we have trained twelve teams that are working with a total of 98 young women; In addition, four supervisors plan and coordinate the teams' tasks.

Background

Almost every fifth person in the County of Kisumu is infected with HIV (Kenya Aids Response Progress Report, 2016). An open discourse about HIV is still not possible in Kenya. Many lack knowledge about transmission, control and options of medical treatment. This also applies to expectant mothers. Furthermore, the anxiety of an HIV test and medical treatment is big, as they fear that they and their child will be excluded or stigmatized by society in the event of a positive test result.



HOLISTIC SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS

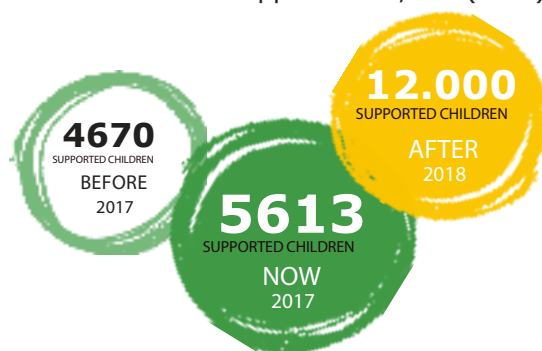
With this project we support vulnerable children and adolescents while pursuing the goal of improving their living conditions in a sustainable way. This year, we managed to increase the number of supported children (Orphans and Vulnerable Children (=OVC)) from 4670 to 5613. Our family is growing and so does our responsibility. The beneficiaries, aged between 0-18 years, are (half-) orphans living with highly vulnerable caregivers or in child-headed households

From July to August 2017 MMS-Kenya was selected as an umbrella organization for a USAID financed project that is active in the counties of Kisumu and Siaya. In cooperation with 9 other organizations, 422 Community Home Visitors and 41 Lead Community Home Visitors we supported 21,108 (half-) orphans and vulnerable children.

That's how we support our children

The children are integrated in local families. This process ensures that they grow up in a familiar environment and keep up the connection to their roots. 146 trained Community Home Visitors (=CHV) support the children and their families according to their individual needs. Support is offered in multiple fields to enhance the well-being of these children: health and nutrition, formal and vocational education, child protection and legal support, psychosocial support and care, safe shelters and economic strengthening.

The CHVs make sure that those children are living in a non-violent environment, have a roof over their heads, sufficient nutrition and access to health services.



The aim is to support families in a sustainable way, so that they are enabled to take care of their children's needs autonomously on a long-term period. The project gives all members of the household the chance to improve their economic-, social- and health situation and to enhance their access to education.

We ensure that
our children
grow up in an environment
which nurtures their chance
for a better future
& supports them
to fulfil their dreams.



✦ Economic strengthening of families

Through this intervention, we support families and children to start activities that can help them to raise money for their household use. We distributed 348 goats, 1200 poultry and 89 sheep, so that families can create a source of additional income. 289 households, mainly child-headed, were unable to support themselves, let alone their children in an adequate manner. To ensure the children's welfare, these households received monthly emergency cash transfers. Furthermore, we set up Village Savings and Loaning Associations on a regular base, whereby families get access to microcredits and a motivation to save money. In 2017, 600 people were active in 21 Village Savings and Loanings Associations. We monitor the families to ensure they are able to take care of their needs.



✦ Education

It is our aim to support families up to a point in time at which they are able to pay for their children's school fees by themselves. Out of the 5.613 children, that we take care of, 5.598 are currently going to school. We support 664 children with scholarships as they would not be able to attend school otherwise. In order to promote the families' responsibility and their self-participation we only pay for 80% of the fees needed for secondary school. We accompany the families to ensure that the children attend school regularly and are able to transition to upper levels. Moreover, 77 adolescents received vocational trainings e.g. to become electricians, mechanics, tailors or hairdressers and became self-reliant.



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✦ Psychosocial care and Support

We ensure that the children have a safe place that gives them the possibility to talk, play and prosper. They receive psychosocial support by our Community Household Visitors which we trained specifically in this field of work. Our Safe-Parks and Children Clubs also offer these children the possibility to interact and play with each other in a safe environment, offering the chance to develop themselves.

✦ Health and Nutrition

All OVCs are now aware of their HIV status! Our caregivers impart their knowledge in workshops and private conversations to educate our children about HIV and malnutrition. Children with signs of deficiency obtain nutritional supplements. In case of malnourishment by one-sided nutrition the families receive seeds and workshops to set up a vegetable garden.

✦ Our commitment against violence & negligence

Regelmäßig sind wir mit Fällen von Kindesmissbrauch konfrontiert. Paralegals wurden speziell dafür ausgebildet, Kindesmissbrauch entgegenzuwirken und für die betroffenen Kinder da zu sein. Alle unsere Teammitglieder wurden über unsere Kinderschutz-Richtlinien aufgeklärt und haben sich verpflichtet, unsere Kinder vor Risiko, Missbrauch, Vernachlässigung, Diskriminierung oder Ausbeutung zu schützen.



- ✕ Economic strengthening of families
- ✕ Education
- ✕ Psychological care & support
- ✕ Health & Nutrition

BIG NEWS

2018

11.256 children

will get support

Award for

"best implementation
partner in
western Kenya"

We are implementing this project since 2012 and our family won't stop growing! We need to support even more children so that they may prosper and receive the chance to a brighter future. Our partner USAID awarded us with the title of "best implementation partner in western Kenya". Due to our good work, we were selected to take care of more than 11.000 children over a period of 5 years, starting in 2018!



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THIS SAFE PARK WAS
ESTABLISHED THROUGH
THE SUPPORT
OF
THE UNITED NATIONS
WOMEN'S GUILD OF VIENNA



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PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN & TEENAGERS

In our Safe Park and Children Clubs, children and adolescents of all age groups can leave their everyday worries behind.

Safe Park and Children Clubs

Our Safe Park in Kolwa East is open five days a week to all children and provides, besides the playground attractions, a steady offer of animation- and education-activities. To reach children from rural areas as well, we organized 18 Children Clubs in the form of a mobile extension of our safe park, which enabled us to put a smile on 6475 children's faces within the last year.

Each time there is a great variety of many different activities, so that everyone can find their favorite occupation. Our activities range from football tournaments, over reading circles, a variety of play equipment and rope pulling, up to various creative activities.

Not only does this mean endless fun for the children but also an opportunity for an interactive cooperation between each other. This way, they can make new friends, exchange experiences and develop socially.

The children receive a freshly cooked lunch, which allows them to stay as long as possible and simultaneously relieves the parents.

Learning by playing

Children Clubs serve as a place where children and teenagers can openly talk about their feelings and emotions, as well as their wishes and problems. In the debate-clubs one can talk about relevant and possibly sensitive topics. This way they can learn and enlarge their knowledge about topics like HIV/ AIDS, reproductive health, gender equality and much more in a safe and playful environment.

Noticing behavioral problems

Most of the participating children are part of our project for integral support of children and adolescents in which we support 5613 (half-) orphans and children in need. We also utilize the Children Clubs as a screening method to observe the children's interactions with each other to identify those with behavioral problems. We then sit down with these children to conduct a casual conversation in order to understand their situation and to induce an intensified care by our social workers with the goal to prevent or, respectively, resolve possible cases of abuse, neglect and other traumatizing conditions.

SHELTER RENOVATION

We withstand the rain!

In the periods between March and May, people in Kenya live through the toughest time of the year – the rainy season. Each year during this season many houses within our project region get completely destroyed. Oftentimes the walls consist of clay and the roofs out of hay. These materials often cannot withstand the severe weather. However, many families lack the necessary resources to rebuild their homes once the rainy season is over or, alternatively, prevent them from getting destroyed in the first place.

In order to protect their hard-earned possessions and ensure that highly vulnerable families live in houses that are safe, secure and dry, we help them to rebuild their homes. Imagine, the price for one house is “only” 250€! (~290 US\$) We equip their new houses with a persistent corrugated iron roof, which can withstand even the strongest rainfalls and protect the family and the walls underneath.



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Together we are stronger!

During the rebuilding process we want to cooperate with all people involved: We provide the materials needed for building the roof and the door, plus a “fundi”, a skilled worker. The families are asked to take care of organizing the wood and helping workers in addition to themselves. Furthermore, this is a project in which many of our volunteers like to lend a hand.

Last year, we were able to support 12 families in reconstructing their homes!

That way the affected families have a strong and weatherproof roof above their heads and can unconcernedly enjoy being together, even during the rainy season!

VILLAGE SAVINGS ASSOCIATIONS

Similar to a bank, village saving clubs give people the opportunity to save money or borrow money in certain emergencies.

Often the money for small, but important purchases such as the purchase of seeds, school uniforms or school fees is not available. The barriers of national banks for obtaining a loan are high. Many are classified as non-creditworthy. Needy families sometimes cannot afford to pay their children's school fees, or in many cases, due to limited resources, crop yields have become significantly smaller.

To tackle this problem, we have initiated this project and seeing great success! Our Village Savings Associations already have 600 members!

One association consists of 30 members. In the last year, 600 members in total have engaged actively in 21 registered Village Savings Associations. The members meet every two weeks and can pay up to 2 € into a community pot. However, they can choose the amount of their deposit, even if they cannot afford anything at one meeting.

If the members of the savings clubs thus spontaneously need money, they can take out a loan at a fixed interest rate of 10%. The loan must then be repaid within one month, including interest. At the end of the year, the entire savings and the interest income will be distributed to the members in proportion to the total amount paid. This gives members an incentive to save and also provides access to capital to cover unexpected expenses or a possibility into self-employment.

Fifteen members of the savings clubs started their own small businesses: small vegetable shops, kiosks, second-hand clothing stores and many others. Many members used the money for upcoming school fees of children or put the money in the construction of houses after the rain season.





DREAMS PROJECT

DREAMS aims to ensure that adolescent girls and young women have an opportunity to live Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe lives. The objective of DREAMS is to prevent new HIV infections among vulnerable young girls and women aged between 10 and 24 by 40%.

I am a DREAMS girl. I have often spoken and written this sentence proudly, during the last year.

Christine Achieng Okongo

After two years our DREAMS Pilot Project comes to an end. We managed to support 6,205 vulnerable girls and young women to increase their chances of a brighter future. We hope that in the Follow-up Project even more young women will get the support and help they need.

Problems faced

In Kisumu, more than 50% of young girls and women, aged 10-24, live in economically deprived rural outskirts. With an average of 19,9%, Kisumu County shows a high HIV-prevalence (Kenya Aids Response Progress Report, 2016). On average, 21% of all new infections occur among young girls and women aged 15-24 years.

Some of the issues, which lead to a high HIV rate, include early sexual intercourse, the lack of knowledge about contraception, missing financial resources, poverty, lack of education, lack of qualification and stereotypes amongst women. Besides, reproductive health is still an underserved subject. Little knowledge about HIV, contraception and women's rights lead to false assumptions, which make women very vulnerable to exploitation.



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DREAMS girls



DREAMS-Solutions

DREAMS offers solutions to these problems. We wanted to make a change by enabling the girls to receive chances for economic strengthening, access to education and protection against sexual transmitted diseases.

In the words of Molly, one of our Dreams-girls:

“Dreams has come up with a strategy, to uplift and strengthen girls.”

In schools and their communities, the girls received, age-appropriate education on HIV-prevention. We also provided tests for screening HIV and other sexual transmitted diseases as well as drugs for their treatment. The mentors raised awareness among the girls and young women about contraception and opened access to those. In addition, the girls and young women received assistance in improving their education and economic situation.

- ★ Solarlampen
- ★ Education
- ★ Youth Empowerment of Girls & Young Women
- ★ Medical care
- ★ Economic empowerment



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Adolescent Girls and Young Women Empowerment

Our girls were never left alone. They had mentors, who they could relate to, who looked after them and who provided psychosocial support. Debating opportunities were given to the girls to talk about politics, fashion, relationships, menstruations, diseases in open discussions.

Mercy, learned to say no to men and to be more confident about herself:

“I have learnt to say a big NO to boys and men whenever they approach me, and now I am not shy anymore and much more confident, as I got taught so many things about my health and my rights.”

Education

Back to School Program

Due to teenage pregnancies, school dropouts are a challenge. Thanks to the program, we managed to enroll 58 girls back to school, who have not attended school for years. Additionally, the program also sponsored 379 girls in secondary and tertiary schools. The girls received dignity packages, including sanitary towels, which enabled them to attend school consistently, and to reduce their absence during menstruation.

Solar Lamps

Furthermore, 511 Girls from vulnerable households have been provided with solar lamps. Without light, they would not have the possibility to do their homework properly. The solar lamps can also generate a little income, as they can also serve as a phone charger. For a small fee neighbors can charge their phones.

Medical care

Many girls are ill but cannot afford medical hospitalization. We registered 106 vulnerable girls and their household members to the National Hospital Insurance Fund to provide them with the possibility to receive adequate medical treatment.

Economic Strengthening

We equipped girls with jobs, careers and business start-up kits, like sewing machines and ovens. We focused on each girl individually, listened to them and tried to figure out their talents, skills and wishes. Career talks with professionals and stakeholders were organized to offer help in their decision process regarding their future. 286 DREAM-Girls received vocational trainings as Tailors, Electricians, Mechanics and Hairdressers. 95 Girls graduated computer-courses.

Make them Smile

But the most important thing was to spread hope and positivity.

Christine, shares her thoughts:

I'm thankful to DREAMs for its services. This helped many girls in our community to know their status. Now they have hope and know that there is always light at the end of the tunnel. Our optimism has been encouraged through the health talks, about the fact that being HIV-positive is not the end of the world and that we are looking continuously into a brighter future.

It was essential to help the most vulnerable young girls to fulfill their dreams, to show them that there is always a way out and that they are not alone. When these women work together, they can move mountains and change the society, they are living in. Knowing that they are not alone and are able to help and support each other, is a major step into a brighter future. DREAMS-Project reached 6,205 different girls aged 10 to 24 years. We empowered them in a first step. Now we hope that they will continue working together, to change the perception of the societies they are living in.



Brenda, DREAMS Koordinatorin

In 2015, I joined the Make Me Smile DREAMS program and it has completely changed me and my life. I developed from a housewife to a business lady. (...) I'm now a stress-free DREAMS GIRL. I learned how to manage my business and my savings in financial capacity workshops. (...) I am now a busy woman who can put something on the table and change the living standards for both of my children and my husband.



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RESCUE CENTRE REFUGE FOR CHILDREN

A place of refuge for children, who can no longer live at home and a study centre for local smallholder farmers – Goals, that unite volunteers from all around the world as well as the Kajulu community.

Kajulu - an idyllic place in the outback

The New-Land project has existed for a while now. Since the beginnings, Peter, a farmer from Miwani, has settled there and jointly operates organic farming together with Samy, who is from the region. The two of them look after everything. For a long time, we had the wish of a project, that offers refuge to children and youngsters, who do not feel safe in their homes anymore. As we ourselves are taking every opportunity to visit this beautiful piece of land, we thought, that this environment could be helpful to children, to reduce symptoms of trauma and slowly re-integrate them back into society. The Rescue- Centre aims to look after children and young adults in their difficult times, rather than becoming a permanent home. After a stay of approximately six months, the children and teenagers are re-integrated, if possible, in their own, otherwise, in local families.

Additionally, the project will provide a schooling centre for regional smallholder farmers and other people.

The farmers shall be conveyed the main principles of permaculture and ecological cultivation, in order to be able to provide better for their families. Furthermore, the schooling centre shall also offer other craft and vocational trainings, as well as courses about ecologically sustainable building techniques. In addition, it also helps children and young adults to build a connection to the village communities. We are hoping for an exchange, from which both sides can profit.



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Voluntary engagement & ecological construction

Students from Sweden and France, are jointly involved in this project since 2015, and visited again in 2017 to take further action. These Students from different Study-backgrounds helped us planning the centre and two of them are even writing their Masters-thesis on our project. The rescue centre will be built of "raw-bricks", which are made out of existent soil and clay, that gets compressed and dried in the shadow. Not only are these bricks environment friendly, since there is no need for burning wood, but also durable and saves money.

During their mission in Kajulu, the students have experimented with these bricks, constructed a plan with Peter for future permaculture, and supported him during the cultivation of his land. Since the community education centre shall be launched at first, the students started by preparing the site for its base.



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Marin, Gaele, Isa, Antione, Clemens, Nicolas, Alberto, Mathilde, Charles, Eavette, Lauren & Phibi

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VOLUNTEERS AT MAKE ME SMILE KENYA

Many thanks to all the volunteers who made 2017 so wonderful. Your endless efforts are improving many of our projects and motivate us day by day!

Christiane, Sara & Silke - 2 months

The three young women from Austria worked in the DREAMS project, where they talked to young women about sexuality and contraception. They accompanied our social workers on home visits and joined us in our agricultural and construction projects.



Jeanri - 2 months

The nutritionist from South Africa educated 31 of our social workers in the fields of nutrition and child health. She conducted workshops, explaining how malnutrition can be identified and what measures are helping.



Janine - 1 month

Janine worked in our DEAMS-project, helped organizing activities in the Safe Park and she helped building houses, which were destroyed. Furthermore, she assisted Jeanri in conducting workshops on malnutrition.



Rafael - 3 months

During his voluntary time, Rafael mostly took care of children and organized various leisure and sports activities with them in the Safe Park and the Children's Clubs, where he was also a referee at one of our football tournaments.



Maxi - 6 months

Maxi showed great initiative and was a huge help. He identified households that had no light and organized donations for a total of 75 solar lamps, so children can do their homework in the evening. He will especially be remembered as a referee at one of our football tournaments.



Roberta - 3 months

Roberta worked on various gender equality and reproductive health projects. In addition, she assisted girls in finding a job. During her stay, she also assisted young mothers with scholarships and gave them both academic and emotional support. She helped setting up a small bakery by buying an oven and helped creating a business plan.



Elisabeth - 3 months

At home visits, Elisabeth recognized the great benefits of animals. Together with friends, she organized funding for 65 goats and sheep and distributed them to households in need. The families use the animals as a source for food and income. In addition, Elisabeth was actively involved in the reconstruction of houses.



Carla - 1 month

Carla created a good mood and was involved in agricultural projects, house reconstruction and the DREAMS project.



Niklas - 3 months

Niklas especially supported the DREAMS project, helped in organizing school enrollment and checked if the girls got the help they needed. Sport is his passion – which the Safe Park children noticed. On regular household visits, he worked with a family, whose father is living with a physical disability, and supported them in every way possible.



Roman - 1,5 months

Roman helped building houses, supported our social workers and was a big help at our New Land. His friendly and helpful way of being will be remembered.

Pamela Akinyi Otuge

Pamela herself comes from Kenya. She organized toys and school items for the children in the Safe Park and in the Children's Clubs.



Madeleine - 1 month

Madeleine stood out with her cheerful way. She supported DREAMS girls on their journey and identified the needs of children during household visits with our social workers. She was also involved in the reconstruction of houses and in agriculture.

Lisa und Marco - 2 months

Both have worked together on various projects (Children's Clubs, Safe Park and farming). We particularly valued their own initiative to raise money from friends and family to finance help for kids with chronic diseases and for their families. Their commitment to help three families build their homes again, will stay remembered by the community for a long time.



Corina - 2,5 months

Corina was actively involved in a school where she organized an action day. In addition to educational games and a sports program, she taught subjects including problems adolescents face in puberty or contraception. This happened with the support of our team.



Sarah-Anna - 1 month

The kickboxer met regularly with a group of DREAMS girls. She taught the young women about their rights as a woman and trained them in self-defense.

Maria - 1,5 months

Maria is specialized in working with disabled people and was especially involved in the OVC program. A final report showed us which children need additional, specific help.

We thank you very much for the great support and hope that you also benefited from this experience. Together we can achieve a lot!

Do you want to get involved in our project? We always look forward to new volunteers and try to integrate your skills into the planning of your mission right from the beginning.

HEALTH CENTRE

Our Community Health Centre in Angola is nearing completion. For the equipment, we are still looking for (material) donations. The Kenyan Ministry of Health is backing the project and will pay for running costs.

Initial situation: long distances and insufficient supply

The HIV rate in the region is 3.4 times higher than in the rest of Kenya. 19.9% (National AIDs Control Council, 2015) of the population are infected. A woman gives birth to an average of 4.4 children. People in the region have inadequate access to health care because the nearest health centre is far away and poorly equipped. A fee for treatments, which legally should not exist, often makes treatment unaffordable and thus not possible. The recent free medical camp organized by MMS-Kenya, which was attended by over 1500 patients is also an indication that health service provision is a challenge in this community.



Accessible medical care for everybody

The health centre will ensure the medical care of thousands of people. Due to the high number of births, we focus on reproductive health and obstetrics in addition to general medicine. Our goal is to provide women with a safe birth, including quality care and aftercare. By this, we hope to counter the currently high maternal and infant mortality rates. In addition, women should be objectively informed about their rights. We want to create a knowledge base on sexuality and contraception that enables women to make self-determined decisions. Furthermore, we will provide contraceptives free of charge and there will also be a contact point for those affected by Sexual and Gender Based Violence. Trained nurses provide advice and refer to the appropriate authorities to take legal, medical and psychological measures.

The health centre has a treatment room, a laboratory, a pharmacy, a delivery room, inpatient rooms, a septic water filtration system and several large water tanks to ensure that there is enough water during the dry season. A medical herb garden is laid out in the courtyard, which allows us to offer patients immune system-strengthening and other medicinal plants in addition to their treatment. Next to the conventional personal (doctors, nurses, pharmacists), a specially trained nurse and a "Youth Friendly Centre" will find a space next to the hospital where adolescents can get anonymously informed about sexuality and adolescent issues, as well as get granted access to contraception.

Cooperation makes it possible

The residents of the municipality of Angola gave us the land for free so that we could build the health centre. The Graz based organization "Mojo Fullscale Studio" supported us in planning. Furthermore, students of the TU Graz actively participated in the first stages of construction.

The Kenyan Ministry of Health has been involved in our project right from the start. We agreed by contract that the Ministry of Health will cover all personnel and other ongoing costs upon completion.

We are looking for working medical equipment

Whether they are old or new is not essential - the main thing is that they work. Do you have a doctor's office or do you know people in your circle of friends, who can provide medical equipment? Then please write us (office@makemesmile-int.org) or call us (+43 676 45 83 717). Of course, we will take care of the transport!



CRAFT CENTRE

We established a craft centre for women, creating a steady income for the employees and supporting young women through vocational trainings to become tailors.

Good for the women - good for the community

With this project we give women the chance of an education and a fair-paid job. A stable source of income gives women security. Decisions are taken together; this strengthens the sense of community. The women regularly discuss the future of the crafts centre. After all running costs are deducted, it must also be decided what happens to the profit, which is invested in projects in the community of the employees. The women themselves decide which projects they

want to support in the different fields of health, gender equality, education or others. In addition to wages and participation rights, women also benefit from projects that could be implemented with their help. We hope to develop an even better understanding of the problems of the village community.

The Swiss master tailor, Cindy, has been active in the field of development cooperation since many years.

Her engagement is funded by the Swiss organization Comundo, enabling her to be our first permanent European employee in Kenya. She is a trained tailor and supports the development and the management of the craft centre with her business know-how.

She will be working with us for the next three years and will be training a local project manager, who will then continue running the craft centre independently.



Project duration:
January 2018 – December 2020





Those who work hard may also celebrate

To honour the successes of our children and our team, we organised a big end of year celebration in December 2017. Weeks before, hundreds of children and young people from three of our largest project regions took part in our talent competition and were regularly coached by experts. The winners in the disciplines of dance, singing, acting, football (girls and boys of different ages), public speaking and debating were able to present their talents in front of many interested spectators and measure their strength at our football tournament.

Sport connects

A total of 56 teams from our project region met on this day. In the final of the boys under 15 years, the team from Kajulu could prevail against the players from Miwani. For the girls, Kajulu won again against the players from Okago. In the age-unlimited league, the Kadiju team beat Masawa.

But in the end, everyone felt like a winner - sport offers a way to resolve conflicts without violence!

Debates & speeches

In a debate on the topic "Kenyan politics has done more harm than good" the young people discussed and were evaluated by a panel of judges. During speeches, the young people were able to express their thoughts freely - from HIV and education to violence against women, both emotional and physical, to technology and women's sports, everything was included.



Theatre & Dance

Five youth groups presented their plays to the audience. Topics were drug abuse, family planning, the role of a mother and irresponsible fathers.

Of course, there was also music - 20 dance groups presented their choreographies and visualized the beats!



FIRST FICE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE KENYA

FICE Kenya, whose founder and president is our project leader Simon Otieno, hosted the first international conference and the first "Federal Council" of the worldwide FICE network (International Federation for Educational Assistance) on Kenyan soil in March 2017.

Experts from Serbia, Zambia, Argentina, South Africa, Australia, the Netherlands, Israel, Bulgaria, Bangladesh, Scotland, Kenya, Australia, the Netherlands, Israel, Bulgaria and Scotland met on the topic "Child and Youth Care in the Global South - International Perspective".

Together, we worked on solutions to improve alternative care of children and young people in need. In addition, new collaborations have been established to support experts in their work with children at risk and children with disabilities and in external accommodation across continents.



Dear members, supporters and interested parties!

I would like to thank you and our partner organizations for your support in achieving our goals. It is a special honour for me to present our upcoming projects to you in the following.

We feel deeply committed to giving every child the opportunity to reach their full potential. Therefore, Make Me Smile Kenya 2018 will focus on the economic strengthening of households. In the communities we want to expand our support for households, organize in village savings associations, run sustainable farming and initiate entrepreneurial endeavors.

This is also in line with our mission statement "We help you to help yourself for the benefit of the children - because we believe in your potential!"

We believe that good health is a central component of human well-being. Healthy populations live longer, are more productive and save more, so health has a significant impact on the economy. Our innovative drive to provide medical and social services in one place will take a big step forward this coming year. Our health centre will have a maternity ward and will be accessible to young people. We will open the health centre at the end of next year. I hope for your support in providing medical equipment.

Furthermore, we recognize how important a solid basic education is for the economic progress and development of children. With your support we will continue to support children & teenagers and especially girls who have had to drop out of school due to pregnancy. We look forward to continuing our good cooperation in order to provide school leavers in particular with better access to educational opportunities. I am also very pleased to introduce you to our arts and crafts workshop, which we will establish with our new partner organisation Comundo. With this we are well on the way to support girls and young women in their training as tailors and businesswomen so that they can stand on their own two feet.



I am looking forward to many more opportunities to advance our goals together in 2018. I am looking forward to your comments and suggestions on how we can realize the vision of Make Me Smile Kenya together.

Thank you very much for your support!



Simon Peter

Project Manager & Co-Founder Make Me Smile Kenya
President FICE Kenya

Transparency is important to us

This is how we used your donation in 2017

Make Me Smile Kenya

(Implementing organization in project region)



Origin of funds



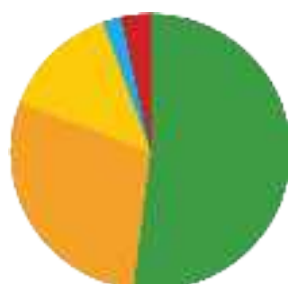
	€	K	%
I. Donations (including donations in kind)			
a) Grant from Make Me Smile International	255.861,57	30.184.728,65	52.12 %
b) Grant from Aphia Plus (USAID)	145.866,37	16.774.632,00	28.96 %
c) Grant from Catholic Relief Services (USAID)	68.490,88	7.876.451,00	13.60 %
d) Cash Donations	10.106,27	1.162.221,00	2.01 %
I. Other income			
Interest earned from the bank	360,27	41.431,30	0.07 %
III. Release of reserves	16.309,39	1.875.579,90	3.24 %
Sum	496.994,75	57.915.043,85	100.00 %

Allocation of funds

	€	K	%
I. Activities for implementation of statutory purpose			
a) Projects funded by Make Me Smile International	196.730,26	23.208.837,69	40.07 %
b) Projects funded by Aphia Plus (USAID)	144.771,39	16.648.709,50	28.75 %
c) Projects funded by Catholic Relief Services (USAID)	61.305,46	7.050.128,00	12.17 %
II. Addition to reserves	94.187,63	11.007.368,66	19.01 %
Sum	496.994,75	57.915.043,85	100.00 %

*Euro amounts for Ksh income and expenses calculated with average annual rate of 1 EUR/115.51 Kshs

Origin of funds



- Grant from Make Me Smile International: 52,12 %
- Grant from Aphia Plus (USAID): 28,96 %
- Grant from Catholic Relief Services (USAID): 13,60 %
- Cash Donations: 2,01 %
- Interest earned from the bank: 0,07 %
- Release of reserves: 3,24 %

Allocation of funds



- Projects funded by Make Me Smile International: 40,07 %
- Projects funded by Aphia Plus (USAID): 28,75 %
- Projects funded by Catholic Relief Services (USAID): 12,17 %
- Addition to reserves: 19,01 %

Become a godparent of a project!

Support our beneficiaries and take over a project sponsorship. Choose one of the described projects and support it directly through our website (www.makemesmile-kenya.org/Projekte). You can also send us an email (office@makemesmile-int.org) or send an SMS (+43 681 812 942 54) with the name of the project. We are happy to provide you further information and look forward to your message.

100% of your donation arrives!

All donations to Make Me Smile Kenya are used a 100 percent for the projects. Expenses for administration are covered through specific donations and membership fees to Make Me Smile International.

Your donation is tax deductible!

Since 2017 we take care of your tax-deduction. Please let us know your full name according to the registration form as well as your date of birth. There's nothing more to do for you, as we take care of the whole process.

Transparency is important to us

This is how we used your donation in 2017

Make Me Smile International (Fundraising Organization Austria)



Origin of funds



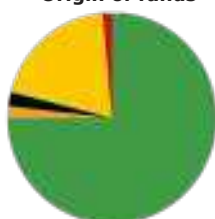
I. Donations revenue		
a) Donations for the projects	201.981,47	74,99 %
b) Sponsorships	4.936,36	1,83 %
c) Donations dedicated for administration & fundraising	5.618,40	2,09 %
II. Membership fees	415,00	0,15 %
III. Public subsidies	52.500,00	19,49 %
IV. Other revenue		
Interest revenue	1,55	0,00 %
V. Release of reserves	3.880,31	1,44 %
Total	269.333,09	100,00 %

Use of funds

I. Activities for statutory purposes		
a) Use of donations for projects in Kenya	255.861,47	95,00 %
b) Use of donations for refugee projects in Austria	2.612,50	0,97 %
II. Fundraising	2.746,83	1,02 %
III. Administration expenditure	3.247,89	1,21 %
IV. Allocation to Reserves	4.864,40	1,81 %
Total	269.333,09	100,00 %

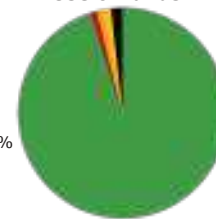
- Donations for the projects: 74,99 %
- Sponsorships: 1,83 %
- Donations dedicated for administration & fundraising: 2,09 %
- Membership fees: 0,15 %
- Public subsidies: 19,49 %
- Interest revenue: 0,00 %
- Release of reserves: 1,44 %

Origin of funds



- Spendenverwendung für die Projekte in Kenia: 95,00 %
- Use of donations for refugee projects in Austria: 0,97 %
- Fundraising: 1,02 %
- Administration expenditure: 1,21 %
- Allocation to Reserves: 1,81 %

Use of funds



Membership registration



Payee: Make Me Smile International
Rauthausstraße 6
2490 Ebenfurth, Austria
ZVR-Nummer: 729094416

I authorize Make Me Smile International to collect payments from my account via SEPA direct debit. At the same time, I instruct my bank to authorize SEPA direct debits drawn from Make Me Smile International. I can claim reimbursement of the amount due within eight weeks of the debit date. On this occasion, the conditions agreed with my bank are valid.

Amount: 5 € 25 € 60 € _____

Frequency: monthly quarterly annually once

My data:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

IBAN: _____

BIC: _____

If you want us to deduct your donation, we ask you for the following data:

Address: _____

Date of birth: _____

Yes, I would also like to sign up for the Newsletter!

E-mailAddress: _____

Location, Date: _____

Signature: _____

Thank you very much for your support

Please send the registration form by mail (Hornigweg 5, 1190 Vienna).



Make Me Smile Kenya

Address: Kisumu-Kakamegaroad 38
Tom Mboya Estate, Post Box 3033

Mail: office@makemesmile-kenya.org
Phone: +254 (0) 727 867 339
Website: www.makemesmile-kenya.org
Facebook: Make Me Smile Kenya
Instagram: MakeMeSmile_Kenya

Donation account – direct donation to projects in Kenya

IBAN: AT26 2011 1829 6886 8701
BIC/SWIFT-Code: GIBAATWWXXX

Make Me Smile International

Address: Rathausstraße 6, 2490 Ebenfurth, Österreich
Postal address: Hornigweg 5, 1190 Wien
ZVR-Number: 729094416
BMF registration number: SO 2349
Phone: office@makemesmile-int.org
Telefon: +43 (0) 676 898 776 307

Donation account – Donation for administration & political development education

IBAN: AT53 2011 1829 6886 8700
BIC/SWIFT-Code: GIBAATWWXXX

Become a part of our story

Give following the principle „help for self-help“

- + Perspectives**
- + Chances**
- + Smiles**

