

ANNUAL REPORT 2019





*Dear supporters and friends of Make Me Smile,
Dear ladies and gentlemen.*

Today, we are here because we want to make a difference in the lives of thousands of children who live in vulnerable communities. As an organization, we have pledged to implement the Sustainable community projects, which we have at our heart, a commitment to providing children and youth with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities.

We must ensure that our collective actions results in a world where all children have equal access to education, health and other social services and that they remain at the foreground and are effectively involved in our development activities.

In this end year address, I would like to reflect briefly on our achievements. Through your kind support, we managed to realize hundreds of students' attendance, progress and transition to next levels of education, the HIV/Aids viral load suppression rate of our affected beneficiaries improved from 60% to 90%, the number of birth certificates for the children in our care doubled and equally sexual reproductive health service provision and awareness reached thousands. The year also witnessed a strengthened partnership with the government with our health center and youth friendly centers reaching hundreds of adolescents.

The year also reminded us of the mounting evidence that gender-based violence is a global epidemic that disproportionately; affects women and girls, increases girls' vulnerability, threatens their health, and undermines their full enjoyment of their human rights.

So we must work together to ensure that all girls and boys can live lives free from violence, or the threat of violence, in order to reach their full potential. As I conclude, I hope the year 2020 will set a firm foundation for us to follow through on the achievements made in 2019 and that we "will strive to provide children and youth with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities."

The health and wellbeing of our children is one of the most valuable assets we can have.

We reaffirm and redouble our commitment towards our vision where every child receives the support needed to live up to his or her potential. Thank you for your support in making this vision a reality.

Kind regards

Simon Peter

Project manager & Founder Make Me Smile Kenya
President FICE Kenia



MAKE ME SMILE KENYA

Make Me Smile Kenya is an NGO with a holistic approach to sustainable development and was founded in 2008 in Kisumu, Western Kenya.

To guarantee the sustainability of our work, we involve the structures of the government as well as all relevant actors. This enables the beneficiaries to provide for themselves and their children independently and to represent their rights for themselves.

We are involved in Kenya in the realization of seven of the seventeen UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure sustainable development. (<https://sdgs.un.org/>)

These goals are achieved by focusing on three focus areas in Kenya:

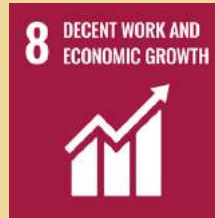
FOCUS AREAS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Make Me Smile International is involved in Kenya in the realization of seven of the seventeen **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** to ensure sustainable development. (<https://sdgs.un.org/>)



Child and youth welfare by strengthening families



Gender equality



Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions



Health

”

We help people to help themselves, for the benefit of the children, because we believe in everybody's potential

“

PRESENTATION OF OUR THREE FOCUS AREAS

Child and youth welfare by strengthening families

In 2008 we founded the Children's home Miwani, where 10 girls orphaned by HIV/AIDS find a loving home. In 2012, our cooperation with USAID began and with it the support of 3,200 children through our Child and Youth Care workers. At the end of 2019, over 22,000 children were regularly visited and cared for by one of our 400 Child and Youth Care workers. The children are either affected by extreme poverty, suffer from a serious chronic disease (especially HIV) or/and have lost one or both parents.

Through the promotion of education, health and psychosocial support services, awareness raising, the protection of children's rights as well as projects for economic strengthening and innovative agriculture, the children are supported holistically and the families are accompanied into independence and self-sufficiency in the long run.

Since 2012, we have been training community members to start and register their own Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) as an economic strengthening initiative. Meanwhile the 128 registered and active groups have acquired more than 1,900 members who gained access to microcredits and the possibility to receive interest on their savings.

Gender Equality

Since 2017, we have been working closely with the Austrian Development Agency to promote gender equality and counter gender-based violence through a wide range of interventions.

24,500 people have been reached so far. The program will continue in this form until September 2020. End of 2019 we were granted the subsequent project which will continue until 2023.

Through training, adolescents, men, women, village elders and police officers are informed about women's rights and integrated into an intervention program. The training of paralegals enables us to accompany victims in the region through the stages of appeal, to support them professionally and thus help them achieve justice.

Health

In order to improve medical care, we have built a health centre in the region, which is now run in cooperation with the government. Since mid 2019, up to 100 people have been counselled and treated on a daily basis.

Since 2017 we have also been focusing on reproductive health, family planning, contraception, safe motherhood and HIV prevention in the program, funded by the Austrian Development Agency. Community Health Workers, teachers and students, Male Champions, Youth Advocates as well as health care professionals for youth friendly centres and hospitals are trained to educate people in their respective communities and induce necessary structural social changes.

In schools, we provide young people with a comprehensive understanding of reproductive health, contraception and HIV prevention at an early age through the training of health teachers and participatory educative theatre plays.

Two youth friendly centres were established by us to provide young people with anonymous and free access to contraceptives and counselling from trained nurses on reproductive health.



CHILD AND YOUTH WELFARE BY STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

MWENDO

Make Me Smile Kenya is implementing the USAID funded MMS MWENDO (Making Well-informed Efforts to Nurture Disadvantaged OVC) project in Kisumu County. The project is aimed to improve the welfare and protection of children infected by HIV/AIDS in Kisumu East, Kisumu West and Muhoroni Sub- Counties of Kisumu County. The program intends to achieve increasing access to health and social services, strengthening the capacity of the households and communities to protect and care for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), including children living with hiv and aids, improving child welfare, protection structures and systems for effective responses.

In 2019, MMSK supported a total of 21.1314 OVC from 9.586 households, whereas the total number of children living with HIV was 11355.

We had a social workforce team of 385 community home visitors, 11 social workers, 11 data assistants, 2 field agent supervisors, 16 field agents, 1 household economic strengthening officer, 1 monitoring and evaluation officer, 1 coordinator and the director.

The project activities directly address the needs of children living with HIV and empower the household's economy in a sustainable way. These interventions include scale up of businesses through the support of business grants, introduction of project-based cash transfer, linkage to government cash transfer and monitoring for households with high HIV viral loads.

This led to a number of impacts, such as empowered caregivers and improved relationships between the caregiver and children living with HIV, improved self-esteem, better nutrition, keeping time for medication appointments, accelerated viral load suppression and an increase in numbers of children enrolled, maintained and transitioned to the next school levels.

SAVINGS AND INTERNAL LENDING COMMUNITIES

Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) is a holistic, savings-led micro-finance approach that provides a safe place for vulnerable households to save and borrow money to increase their income. The goal is to help members manage their existing resources in a better way by teaching them basic financial management skills and to provide savings, simple loans and insurance to community members who do not have access to formal-sector financial services.

Each group consists of 15-25 members, each able to share out approximately Ksh. 250.000 (approx. 2.300€) in a year. The money borrowed is paid back with interest causing the fund to grow.

The project is gender sensitive and inclusive. Both men and women participate and it is additionally open to non-project caregivers. The SILC groups are highly participatory and extremely transparent and therefore are easily replicable and sustainable. For the increase of numbers of SILC groups funding, training and technical back-up are essential.

This year, in the 105 groups, a total of 1,898 caregivers with a ratio of 5% male and 95% female members were active. The savings and loans benefited 5212 orphans and vulnerable children. The project has conveyed budgeting skills referred to as “Child optimized Financial Education” helping the members of the groups to estimate their expenses with the child in mind.

The SILC groups prove to be noticeably attractive because they offer an interest on the members’ savings, providing micro-insurance service and access to loans in varying amounts and in excess of the borrower’s savings. The borrowed loan allowed members to meet their financial needs, invest in income generating activities, meet their social obligation and handle financial emergencies without going to money lenders.



CHILDREN CLUBS



Children Clubs are monthly activities for youths and children. The participants are between three and 24 years old. The objective is to help the young people within the community to identify their talents, improve their cognitive development and promote gender equality and reproductive health.

For the younger participants the activities are designed in a way that the social workers are able to identify if the children are submitted to any kind of violence, abuse or neglect at home. Like this, they have the option to intervene. Adolescents have the opportunity to take part in debates or mentorship programs for example in which they can gather knowledge in a playful way about the responsibilities that await them in life. All activities have a strong emphasis on gender equality and reproductive rights.

The clubs bring inclusion among children in the community, as it is not limited to orphans and vulnerable children alone but open to children from all different backgrounds. In 2019 we were able to hold 11 Children Clubs with a total of 5.613 children and youths, due to the kind support of the Development Aid Club Vienna.

FLOODING EMERGENCY RELIEF

In 2019 we experienced unprecedented massive flooding caused by the rising water levels in Lake Victoria and breaking of the river banks. Several houses and schools were swept away.

Make Me Smile Kenya helped to build up 16 homes of some of the most vulnerable households and rebuild three classrooms from the Nyatege Primary School. The costs were shared with the schools and the families.

In addition to the renovation of the classrooms for a total of 183 pupils, the school received a donation of 800 tree seedlings from Make Me Smile Kenya which were planted in the area. The trees and the new classrooms helped to improve the situation of the school dramatically.





GENDER EQUALITY

MAKE ME SMILE CRAFT CENTRE

The Craft Centre not only is a tailoring facility, where quality items are developed, but also a place where vulnerable adolescent girls and young women get vocational training. Furthermore, they are empowered and enabled to participate in decision-making processes, to find new markets for their products and to gain business and management skills.

We are improving the general situation of the inhabitants in Kolwa East by enhancing the financial situation of adolescent girls and young women through capacity building and employment. One very important benefit from working at the Craft Centre, apart from earning their own money, is the free day care for the tailor's children on site.

Besides multiple small orders and sales, the Craft Centre also got big orders for school uniforms. 220 uniforms were a great financial success and made the women sewing them very proud.

The future seems to stress, but not for our seamstress :-)

In Cooperation with the Austrian Development Agency we are implementing the project “Improvement of the quality of reproductive health care and gender equality in Kolwa East and Miwani” from 2017 to 2020.

Through lower fertility rates, the project will make a valuable contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 3 (“to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages”) and SDG 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”).

The project aims to strengthen the institutional and communal capacities in reproductive health care and gender-based issues in order to enable families in the target region to make informed and self-determined decisions in regard of their family planning options and to improve the community attitude towards gender equality. 24,500 people are being supported through the project.

Male Champions

In 2019, during 95 sessions, the Make Me Smile’s Male Champions reached a total of 2.160 people to sensitize men on the importance of their engagement on sexual- and reproductive health matters and women’s rights.

Evidence indicates that men’s active participation in decisions about family planning and reproductive health ensure better health for families in general. Traditionally, efforts to improve distribution of information, counselling and access to family planning and contraceptives have been focused primarily on women. Besides counselling couples it is becoming evident that offering training and education to men is most effective.



Participatory Educational Theatre

In partnership with a local theater group (Laser Arts Ensemble), in 2019 we have performed in all the 27 schools (both primary and secondary) twice, within Kolwa East and Miwani.

Laser Arts received training in sexual and reproductive health from Make Me Smile Kenya and provided age specific sexual and reproductive health messages in participatory educational theatre performances to a total of 2.909 pupils and students.



Radio Talk Show

A total of 12 radio talk shows were held in 2019. The radio talk show is in tandem with the Global Goals in the information age. Information is power and information about access to reproductive health services passed through the radio was contributing relevantly to the SDGs in question. In addition, through the radio sessions, capacities were being built by breaking barriers to knowledge and access to sexual and reproductive health and rights services. The goal of the project was to reach all populations in the four sub locations and many were reached.

Youth Advocates

Throughout the year 2019, Make Me Smile Youth Advocates conducted a total of 148 sexual- and reproductive health and women's rights sensitization sessions in the communities reaching out to 2.769 young people.

Referrals were subsequently done for sexual- and reproductive health services to either one of the Make Me Smile Kenya Youth Friendly Centres in Chiga or Mayenya.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



HEALTH

YOUTH FRIENDLY CENTRE

Make Me Smile runs two youth Friendly Centres in Chiga and in Mayenya. The two Youth Friendly Centres provide adolescents with access to information and services related to sexual and reproductive health, women’s rights and gender equality topics. They receive counseling and access to contraceptives in a discreet and understanding environment. On average, 350 young people visit the centres per month for various services, but the majority for contraception. In total, 4,257 young people were reached in 2019.

Mobile Youth Friendly Service Delivery:

The centres also organize mobile youth friendly services in hard-to-reach areas of Kolwa East and Miwani wards. This makes the Youth Friendly services accessible to an increasing number of young people , free of charge, without being judged, stigmatized or discriminated against. Youth Friendly Centres are open five days a week from 8am to 5pm. Youth involvement and participation is crucial to the success of the YFCs.

The Staff:

Each YFC is managed by one registered nursing officer and a peer leader. The staff is trained especially for working with youths to build a confidence base. The staff understands the needs of the youth being served and empathize with them. Before the establishment of the Youth Friendly Centres, young people were surveyed to determine their needs. A training and refresher course of seven Youth Friendly Centre staff members was completed.

Youth Advocates:

40 young people between the age of 18-24 were identified from the communities and trained on sexual and reproductive health topics and women’s rights. 30 of whom are engaged to promote reproductive health amongst their peers, always encouraging them to visit the Youth Friendly Centre.



MAKE ME SMILE HEALTH CENTRE

The Make Me Smile Mayenya Health Centre was opened on July 1st, 2019 and officially launched on July 17, 2019 by the county governor of Kisumu and the county department of health team.

With this project, we established a fully equipped model Health Centre, with a modern maternity wing. It is equipped with high-end devices such as an ultrasound, a baby incubator, an electrocardiograph machine, a Nebulization machine, 3-Part Hematology Analyzer and a Semi Automatic Chemistry Analyzer. We employed a total of eleven staff members for a period of six months. To ensure the sustainability of the project, the Make Me Smile Health Centre was handed over to the County Government of Kisumu, while we continue to coordinate and ensure successful running through the Management Committee.

In 2019, the hospital has been able to offer their services to 4.467 patients, of whom 1.152 were children below the age of five.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation go out to our donors and partners who have made the realization of this project possible! Especially the Development Aid Club Vienna and Neuroth with their support of Medical Equipment.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Where would we be without the support of our volunteers?

Thank you to everybody who made 2019 so special and wonderful! ♡



**Elisabeth
Emilia
Gregor
Hanno
Laura
Magdalena
Paulin
Rebecca
Roberta
Rosa
Students
of Danube
International
School Vienna**

*See you next time!
Mpaka tuonane wakati mwingine!*



*Dear supporters and friends of Make Me Smile,
Dear ladies and gentlemen.*

We are more than glad to present you our annual report 2019 and thereby provide you with an insight into our extensive work and our latest projects in Kenya.

To provide you with a better overview, we have further narrowed down our focus areas and matched them with their respective contributions to seven of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Child and youth welfare by strengthening families

Gender Equality

Health

We are sincerely grateful for all your support that has enabled us to make such a valuable contribution to these goals and create a lasting impact for the lives of so many children and their families.

The opening of our health centre on the 1st of July 2019 has marked the biggest highlight of this year and been a long awaited milestone achieved, which has significantly changed the lives for all the people in the community of Kolwa East and beyond.

I feel truly privileged having been able to spend so much time in Kenya and working closely with the Kenyan team over the past decade, be it in the office or all day in the field in our project regions.

Through this I have been able to really appreciate and sincerely feel the impact that we have been able to make in our communities and can therefore guarantee you the efficient use of your donation.

Visiting the projects, talking with the children and our beneficiaries and being able to make a change in their lives that lasts over generations always remains the greatest inspiration and motivation for me, both personally and to maintain my commitment to our often seemingly never ending work.

On behalf of our Board and our hard working teams and volunteers, 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.

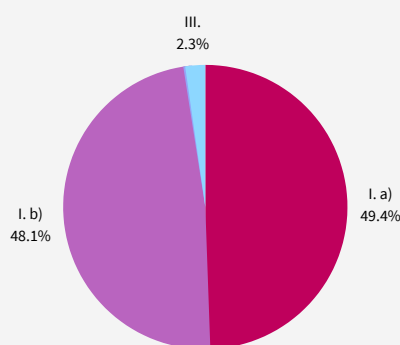
Thank you for your continued and sincerely appreciated support through your donations or voluntary work to enable us continue our work until all our communities are fully empowered and self-sustainable.



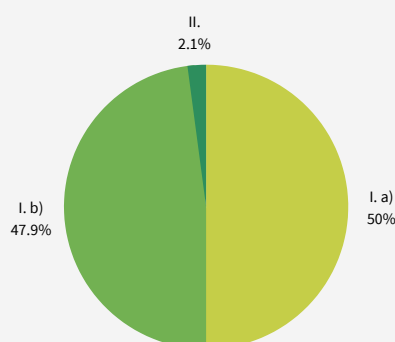


This is how your donations were used in 2019.

Origin of funds	€ EUR	K KES	
I. Donations (including donations in kind)			
a) Grant from Make Me Smile International	349.905,50	39.754.719,46	49.43%
b) Grant from Catholic Relief Services (USAID)	342.800,25	38.664.440,00	48.08%
c) Cash donations	1.521,32	171.589,26	0.21%
II. Other income			
a) Interest earned from the bank	19,77	2.230,00	0.00%
III. Release of reserves			
	16.005,97	1.828.902,66	2.27%
Total	710.252,80	80.421.881,38	100,00%



Allocation of Funds	€ EUR	K KES	
I. Activities for implementation of statutory purpose			
a) Projects funded by Make Me Smile International	353.932,24	40.212.862,15	50.00%
b) Projects funded by Catholic Relief Services (USAID)	341.519,99	38.520.039,85	47.90%
II. Addition to reserves			
	14.800,57	1.688.979,38	2.10%
Total	710.252,80	80.421.881,38	100,00%



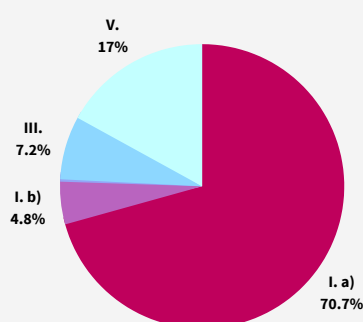
Since 2017, we have taken over the registration of your donation with the tax office for you. For this purpose, please provide us with your full name according to your registration form as well as your date of birth. You do not need to do anything else and your donation will automatically be taken into account in your next tax return through our notification to the tax office.

This is how your donations were used in 2019.

Origin of funds

€ EUR

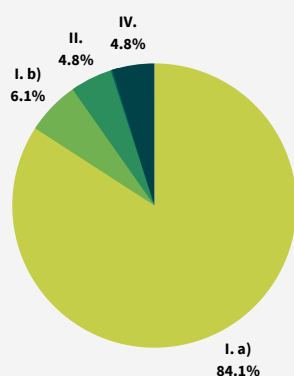
I. Donations (including donations in kind)		
a) Dedicated Donations (for the Projects)	293.907,54	70.68%
b) Not-dedicated Donations	20.126,69	4.84%
II. Membership Fees		
	1.130,00	0.27%
III. Subsidies and grants from the public sector		
	30.000,00	7.21%
IV. Other income		
a) Interest earned from the bank	3,63	0,00%
V. Release of reserves		
	70.688,74	17.00%
Total	415.856,60	100,00%



Allocation of Funds

€ EUR

I. Activities for implementation of statutory purpose		
a) Projects funded in Kenya	349.905,50	84.14%
b) Projects funded in Colombia	25.335,10	6.09%
II. Fundraising		
	19.897,16	4.78%
III. Administrative expenses		
	761,20	0.18%
IV. Addition to reserves		
	19.957,64	4.80%
Total	415.856,60	100,00%



THANK YOU FOR MAKING US SMILE!



And special thanks to our partners:



NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION

Please support us with your donation, every contribution counts!

Austria: Make Me Smile International

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BIC: GIBAATWWXXX

Switzerland: Make Me Smile International

IBAN: CH53 0873 3045 2887 5615 0

BIC: BKTHCH22XXX

Germany: Make Me Smile International e.V.

IBAN: DE06 8306 5408 0004 2374 80

BIC: GENO DEF1 SLR

Luxembourg: Make Me Smile International a.s.b.l.

IBAN: LU21 0030 1953 2093 0000

BIC: BGLLLULL

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