



ANNUAL REPORT

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ASSOCIATION AND WORK



Make Me Smile International is a non-profit association, which was founded in Austria in 2008. Since 2020 Make Me Smile International also operates in Switzerland and in Germany.

In cooperation with local partner organizations we are active in Colombia, Kenya und Lebanon.

Our expertise and focus cover the areas of child and youth welfare by strengthening families, health, gender equality, environmental protection, refugee support programs and the promotion of development awareness.

Make Me Smile International helps to realize eight of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals defined by the United Nations.



FOREWORD FROM

MAXIMILIAN ULLRICH
FOUNDER AND CEO

&

ROGER WINANDY
PROJECTMANAGER AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Dear friends of Make Me Smile,

,

The year 2021 has been full of new challenges as well as new exciting chapters for us. The second year of the pandemic has still been demanding for all of us, but it also forced us to be more creative and find new ways of keeping the community together. In Kenia, the new water point, the finishing of the community centre and the opening of our canteen building have just been some of the success on how we managed to bring the people back together.

In Europe, we founded a new association in Luxembourg to grow the Make Me Smile International family. We have organised numerous events over the year, which mostly we had to conduct virtually, allowing people from all around the world to take part, while ensuring everybody's good health. It was a blessing that we gained so many new supporters from different continents and that our work has been recognized, proved through the numerous donations we received.

We also want to take this moment to especially thank our teams of volunteers in Europe who have done an incredible job this year by supporting us.

Without all Your support, be it a helping hand or the spare change you donated, none of this would have been possible.

For this we would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude, as we hope you continue supporting our cause and our various projects that keep growing and expanding their impact.

Thank You for making us smile!



ORGANIZATION AND WORK



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 closely cooperate with the local government as well as all relevant actors and strengthen existing structures. 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:



Child and youth care by strengthening families

We are not only helping the most vulnerable children with direct interventions, ranging from education to health, psycho-social support, and the protection of children's rights. Furthermore, we are sustainably strengthening families through innovative agriculture and economic strengthening programs



Gender Equality

Prevention of sexual gender-based violence and the advocacy and promotion of women's rights and empowerment opportunities have become our key focus areas. Furthermore, we are promoting and implementing Gender Equality through vocational training and provision of job opportunities for adolescent girls and young women.



Health

We have built and are running a model Health Centre focusing on maternal-child health in cooperation with the government. Through capacity building, we strengthen existing structures, to improve the access to quality and affordable health care in Kisumu County and induce necessary structural social changes. In two Youth Friendly Centres, we provide young people with constant access to contraceptives and reproductive health services.

FOREWORD FROM

SIMON PETER OTIENO
CO FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN OF MMS-KENIA



DEAR MEMBERS, SUPPORTERS, PARTNERS AND FRIENDS OF MAKE ME SMILE,

As we end the year 2021, allow me to join the rest of the MMS Family in celebrating the strides that have brought hope to our communities.

Confronted with the enormity of the Covid-19 pandemic, we did not retreat - we faced the challenge head-on, in a multifaceted approach. Today, we are proud to say that thanks to your support, our communities have access to health and social services, including areas such as education, gender equality and reproductive health.

But our work is far from done until all the children realize their full potential.

In the year 2022, we reaffirm and redouble our commitment towards bringing back as many smiles as possible.

Thank you again - we are excited to continue working with all of you together for this important cause.

CHILD AND YOUTHCARE THROUGH STRENGTHENING FAMILIES



Vertical Gardens

One of Make Me Smile Kenya's objectives is to strengthen the capacity of households and communities, especially in protecting and caring for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). In many families, the food supply at the household level is insufficient to assure food security which is leading to malnutrition. Through our vertical gardens, we support families who have children living with HIV by helping them to meet their nutritional needs, which are higher because of their medical condition. The gardens are designed in a way that they withstand the rainy season and need little water in the dry season. The plants were chosen to meet exactly the nutritional needs of the children and to regrow quickly.



The project that was first implemented in 2020 could continue in 2021 through a grant by the Development Aid-Club Vienna and private donors. In only nine months' time, 109 families, including 523 OVCs could be reached and supported through sensitizations about nutrition and gardening and vertical gardens were established in their households. MMS supported caregivers with different varieties of local vegetables, which led to increased production for the families having enough to eat and sell the surplus as a source of income.



Through monitoring follow-up visits, a general impression of the condition of the gardens was gained and the impact on the beneficiaries was observed. The results were astonishing:

- The implemented vertical gardens were well managed providing food supply for the families
- Families spent less money on food and were able to develop a habit of saving through joining the saving groups.
- All of the previously malnourished children, whom additionally were treated with a high nutrient flour-based supplement, were in much better health conditions.
- Some of the families already expanded their projects to a second vertical garden by themselves.



“Before the project, I could only have one meal per day but now due to the project output, I can have at least two meals a day which is a plus to my livelihood”

(Mary, one of the beneficiaries of the vertical gardens)





Mayenya Community Centre

In the Mayenya community, located in Kolwa East location, Kisumu county, we have observed a growing need for child and youth care services. Therefore, the Mayenya Community Centre was born, creating space and providing holistic care for children and their families. It encompasses a Youth Friendly Centre, a Health Centre, a Safe Park for children, a Craft Centre, a Canteen and a new Community Water Station. Previously, community members had no access to clean water for utility and most of them fetched rainwater from the sand harvesting quarries, hand-dug wells, or from galleys located along the banks of River Mayenya, a seasonal river in the community. In all these cases the water sources were highly contaminated with animal waste and were neither treated nor purified, thus causing a threat to the population's health. Therefore, the new community water station was constructed, enabling access to sufficient and clean water. The water is used for the day to day utilities as well as the families small scale kitchen gardens and livestock. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the water point is also essential for providing a handwashing point to reduce the spread of the virus.

The pumps of the system are solar-powered and an ultra-violet (UV) filter system ensures drinking water quality. The water is pumped up through a solar-powered mechanism and stored in two 10,000-liter tanks. The solar-powered pumps are more economical due to the lower operation and maintenance costs with a reduced environmental impact.

The water point serves approximately 167 households directly. Families come to the waterpoint on average six times daily to fetch water in 20-liter barrels. The total daily water consumption of a family, which is also used for livestock and watering of kitchen gardens, equals to the average consumption of one European citizen per day. Apart from that, every day at least 10 community members do their laundry at the water point using approximately 100 litres of water.

The community members are thankful to Make Me Smile Kenya for providing the access to fresh water and urge them to open even more water points for the community.

The other areas of the centre also completed in 2021 include the renovation of the canteen next to the safe park, in which food is served to hundreds of children and the staff of all projects every day. Furthermore, 55 trees were planted in the open areas of the Youth Friendly Centre and the Health Centre in April 2021 to provide shade and fruits in the future as they grow.



USAID 4TheChild OVC Programm

Led by Moi University College of Health Sciences, the USAID 4TheChild program aims to reach over 152,000 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in households affected by HIV and AIDS in various counties of Kenya. The overall goal is to improve the well-being of the children, support them to be resilient, and help them thrive within their homes and communities by ensuring they can gain access to quality county-led social services including health, nutrition, education, legal protection, and psychosocial support.

The implementation of the program in Kisumu County through MMS as a local partner organisation started in March 2021 and is planned to continue for the next 5 years. Make Me Smile takes direct care of a total of 34.752 orphans and vulnerable children in Kisumu East, Kisumu Central and Muhoroni sub –counties of Kisumu East County, Kenya. The children live with local families, which ensures that they grow up in a family environment and maintain a connection with their roots. Over 600 trained Community Home Visitors provide individual support to the children and their families, tailored to their needs.

The overall goal of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) programming is to build the resiliency of families and children affected by HIV and AIDS so that they can meet their health, economic, education, and social development needs. The Community Home Visitors ensure that the children have a roof over their heads and grow up in a violence-free environment with enough food and access to health care. The aim is to provide sustainable support for families to be able to provide for their children’s needs independently in the long term. The project offers all members of the household a chance to improve their economic, social and health situation as well as access to education. The program prioritizes children who have lost a parent to HIV and AIDS, who are otherwise directly affected by the disease, or who live in areas of high HIV prevalence and may be vulnerable to the disease or its socio-economic effects.” This includes children who are living with HIV, biological children of HIV positive mothers, pregnant and breastfeeding adolescents, survivors of sexual violence and at-risk children, adolescents living in a high HIV prevalence area (i.e., adolescent girls, children of key populations, children living outside of family care, and those out of school)

34.752 Orphans and vulnerable children supported

600 active Community Home Visitors





Strategies

Make Me Smile uses the USAID Case Management strategy, taking the vulnerable children and their families through a seven step cycle which entails: identification, enrollment, assessment/reassessment, case plan development and updating, service provision or referrals, monitoring, case closure.

Specific interventions implemented are divided into four domains: health, stability, safety and schooling. Health interventions include: diagnosis and treatment of HIV infection, continuity of treatment and viral suppression, reduction of risk of HIV infection and improvement of development in young children, particularly HIV exposed and infected infants. The stability domain implies increasing the caregiver's ability to meet important family needs, for example through kitchen gardens and business starter kits. In safety the focus lies on reducing the risk of psychological injury due to exposure to violence ensuring that all children and adolescents in the households are under the care of a stable adult caregiver and that they all have legal proof of identity. Furthermore the schooling aspect involves providing school uniforms and payment of school fees. Children with disabilities are linked to specialised schools and receive respective support.



GENDER EQUALITY



Craft Centre

With the aim of supporting adolescent girls and young women, in 2017 our Craft Centre was established in our Youth Friendly Centre in Mayenya. In this Craft Centre, vocational training and apprenticeship programmes in tailoring and dressmaking are offered. Through fair wages, the right of codetermination at the workplace and the support of their families, young women are empowered to design and produce high-quality products which are sold on local markets as well as internationally through the online shop. In the first half of 2021, 26 adolescent girls and young women, aged between 16 and 25 years enrolled in the centre. For six months they were offered training in tailoring and dressmaking in which they were taken through comprehensive theory and practical lessons by the project coordinator and former students, who are now qualified for teaching. Through written and practical on-site examinations, their understanding and content retention was assessed.

On July 30th, 2021, the craft centre conducted its first graduation ceremony and issued certificates to the students who passed the exams. During the ceremony, some of the products such as the self-made graduation gowns were showcased to the guests.





All the graduates, of whom four were young mothers, received sewing machines and tailoring materials as a start-up Package from Make Me Smile. With the knowledge acquired during the training and additional entrepreneurship supervision, they were empowered to enter the labour market and gradually improve their livelihoods. Currently, two of the 2021 graduates are working at our craft centre, most of the others either work in the tailoring industry or have built up their own tailoring businesses at home.

In September 2021, 45 new adolescent girls and young women were enrolled for the second course of the year. They have been undergoing training till May 2022 while preparing for their NITA (National Industrial Training Authority) examinations, an official exam accredited by the government. The graduation of the 2nd class will be celebrated by the end of May 2022.

In the last year, a number of challenges were experienced, among others the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, which made the students training strenuous due to temporary closures of the centre. Apart from that, several living spaces of the students were affected by the floods. For these reasons 15 of the 71 students in total unfortunately had to drop out of class. We hope to be able to receive them in our training again soon and to bring further support to them and their families.





ADA Program

The second phase of the, through the Austrian Development Agency co funded, programme to improve the quality of reproductive health care and gender equality in Kolwa East and Miwani, started in September 2020 and will be implemented by Make Me Smile Kenia for three years.

The programme has three main goals:

- Health workers, police, teachers, opinion leaders and civil society institutions have improved knowledge and capacity to respond to reproductive health services and sexual and gender-based violence.
- Counselling, care and knowledge of the population on reproductive health services and sexual and gender-based violence is increased.
- Political attention to improving reproductive health services and sexual and gender-based violence through citizen participation is increased.

74.576 people were informed about reproductive health

5.791 people successfully accessed SRHR services

35.000 monthly listeners of the radio show

The first year of project implementation began in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic. Make Me Smile Kenya did not only experience the direct impact of the pandemic itself, but also the damage it caused to the economy, health services and implemented programmes.

Government responses to the pandemic led to a 'new normal' in terms of maintaining social distance, wearing face masks and limiting the number of people attending activities or events. Still, new innovative methods such as mobile youth friendly outreaches to remote areas and the continuous ensurement of safe and reliable delivery of SRHR information and services to target populations helped limit the impact of the pandemic in these key priority areas.

Furthermore the introduction of youth clubs in the Centres contributed to more SRHR information and services being provided and accessed by youth.

Training of village elders ensured that all sexual gender based violence cases received by them were referred to the paralegals for effective and efficient case management.

 Austrian
Development
Agency



DREAMS

In 2021 Make Me Smile resumed implementing the DREAMS programme in cooperation with USAID, this time in the role of the Technical lead Partner for DREAMS in the USAID4TheChild Consortium. DREAMS stands for Determined, Resilient, Educated, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe women. The program targets adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) aged 9-24 years who are vulnerable and at risk of getting infected by HIV.

The target groups of the DREAMS Programme include:

- Orphans
- Children living with parents who are HIV positive or chronically ill
- Survivors of sexual exploitation, gender-based violence or abusive marriages
- Girls in risk of dropping out of school
- Girls who are engaged in the worst forms of child labour
- AGYW living with disabilities
- AGYW in resource-limited settings living in the streets

Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) represent a highly vulnerable group with respect to new HIV infections and teenage pregnancies. A number of studies in sub-Saharan Africa have reported young women, as compared to older women face extraordinary challenges from socio-cultural status they occupy in the patriarchal society, they are less aware of their HIV status, have interrupted treatment in regards to HIV, reduced uptake of early infant diagnosis and increased Mother to Child Transmission (MTCT) of HIV.

To address the above, Make Me Smile Kenya executes the DREAMS programs` full package of services in order to increase access and demand for HIV prevention services among Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Kisumu County Kenya.

In 2021, Make Me Smile continued to serve 16,085 adolescent girls and young women in eight wards across three sub-counties of Kisumu. At the end of the year, 95% of the girls were reached with age appropriate primary and secondary services based on their needs and graduated out of the project.

16.085

Girls and young women were supported and accompanied





Strategies

DREAMS intervention packages include:

- HIV screening, testing, and counselling
- school and community-based HIV and violence prevention programmes
- education support including subsidies, materials, tutoring, and early warning drop out systems
- financial literacy and comprehensive economic strengthening
- post-violence care for survivors of gender-based violence
- pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)
- condom promotion and provision for AGYW and their partners
- improved access to youth friendly sexual and reproductive health care and a full range of contraceptive methods
- parenting/caregiver programs
- community mobilization and norms change programmes

With the aim to ...

- Empower girls and young women
- Mobilize communities
- Strengthen families
- Decrease risk in sex partners



HEALTH CARE

MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTHCARE



Mayenya Health Centre

In 2019, we launched the Make Me Smile Angola Health Centre in Mayenya community, Kisumu County, to be able to address the need for affordable and quality healthcare and sustainably improve the health of community members. Mayenya community has a catchment population of approximately 5200 people in the direct vicinity of the Health Centre, who up to this point had either no access to health care at all or had to walk to distant places to access often expensive public health care services. This caused serious health implications for the community, especially for pregnant and nursing women as well as for patients living with HIV/Aids or other chronic diseases. Currently, the Health Centre runs in cooperation with the county government of Kisumu and serves 100 patients daily, providing free and quality health care.

Unfortunately the Health Centre could not operate continuously and had to remain closed for a couple of months due to government medical staff strikes. Eitherway by the end of the year 2021, 9660 patients had been offered outpatient services for the treatment of minor ailments.

Furthermore, the Health Centre received a generous donation of medical drugs and equipment from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, which directly met the urgent need of medical drugs and equipment at the facility.

There were only 2 deliveries since the maternity wing was understaffed due to governmental budgetary cuts caused by the Covid 19 crisis. The proceeds of the Make Me Smile Christmas Festival were designated to finance new staff to launch and start operate the maternity wing in 2022.



2 first child deliveries in december

9660 outpatient services offered

100 patients treated daily

ASSOCIATION AND WORK



Make Me Smile International Emergency aid in Libanon



On August 4, 2020, a devastating explosion occurred in Beirut of a large quantity of ammonium nitrate stored in the port of the city of Beirut. More than 200 people were killed and more than 6,000 injured. More than 300,000 people lost their homes and property damage of 15 billion USD was caused.

A revolution had already begun in the country in October 2019, bringing with it a severe economic crisis. The situation was further aggravated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

All these factors, had a severe impact on the lives of the entire population and especially children. Also particularly affected was the large number of refugees living there.

Himaya is a Lebanese NGO specialized in child protection to prevent violence against children and provide abused children with the necessary support at the psychosocial and legal levels.

Following the explosion in Beirut and the increasing economic hardship, FICE International and Make Me Smile International mobilized resources and raised funds to distribute food and education packages to the most vulnerable children and their families.

Through Himaya's expertise, the most vulnerable of all children and their families were selected to be supported. The focus was on emergency relief and ensuring child protection in the emergency situation. Major support was already provided in 2020, and in 2021:

- 23 selected families (5 Syrian and 18 Lebanese) were supported by providing food packages for 3 months.
- 130 education packages were distributed to children already screened to reduce the risk of dropping out of school.

Support provided over 2020/2021:

- support was provided to 180 affected families and their children through case management services.
- 100 food packages were provided to 100 families (more than 400 people), focusing on milk and other food items for children over 6 months of age.
- educational packages were given to 100 families so that their children can continue their education.





Make Me Smile International a new implementing partner in South Africa



In December 2021, Make Me Smile International enters into a cooperation with the new implementing partner Africa Aweee in South Africa. The purpose of the non-profit company is to provide humanitarian aid and development cooperation in South Africa. The support is primarily targeted at children, youth and women in vulnerable communities. The main objective is to provide access to education and create long-term self-help approaches. Assistance includes early childhood education, the promotion of child and youth welfare, gender equality, vocational training, economic development projects for disadvantaged target groups, and support for individuals and families in need.

Beginning in 2022, the following projects will be implemented:

1. Funding for a new outdoor playground for the Gospel Outreach Educare daycare center in the township of Imizamo Yethu.
2. Financial support for the ECD-program "Little Explorers" of Ikhaya in Imizamo Yethu, a mother-child program for young children from 6 months to 3 years. Implementation of 12 month long workshops on nutrition, first aid basics, and early childhood development. In addition, little Explorers provides a space to meet other parents and share experiences and ideas.
3. Funding and implementation of the "Bloom" project. With the theme "from seed to table," the project provides the community with opportunities for gardening, cooking, and physical activity. Volunteers also provide workshops on nutrition and a culinary tour in the township.
4. Education and vocational training (IT and craft centre) for children and youth to create productive employment and access to decent paid work through skills training in digitalization and entrepreneurship.
5. Funding of three horticulture projects with "Sprightly Seed" in elementary school in townships in and around Cape Town to sustainably support healthy nutrition for children in need.

Funding for the projects is set for 2022. In quarterly reports, Make Me Smile International will be informed about the implementation of the projects. In addition to financial support, the focus will also be on sharing information about the projects and implementation experience.



FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES IN EUROPE

Global Run 2021

In 2021 we organized the first version of the Make Me Smile Global Run. The goal was to gather money to finish the construction of our Mayenya Community Centre. People all over the world were invited to run wherever they wanted that weekend and afterward donate as much as they felt like per Kilometre. More than one hundred people were running in Austria, Belgium, Germany, Kenya, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Romania, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, and the USA. Through the run, we were able to gather over 3.000 Euros. Thank you to all the people who made this possible.



Gender Equality Hike 2021

From the 27th of August until the 5th of September 2021, we held the first edition of the Make Me Smile Gender Equality Hike. People all around the world went hiking for a healthier future without violence for the women in our project region.

Through the hike, we were able to collect over **1.000 Euros** for our projects, but more importantly, we made a statement with our hike and raised awareness for this cause.

Along the route in Vienna, a lot of people asked about our hiking needle (which you got in the starter package), and we could tell them all about our projects in Kisumu.

We hopefully gained one or another new supporter through that.



FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES IN EUROPE

MMS Christmas Festival

In December 2021, the Make Me Smile Festival celebrated an amazing comeback. Throughout the month, musicians from all around the world played online streamed concerts for our cause.

A total of 14 concerts were streamed from 3 different continents. We could not have been more grateful and want to express our sincere gratitude to all the musicians and the team who made this possible.

Together with our Christmas fundraising we managed to raise over 4.700 Euros with the concerts. This money went right into financing the salaries of our hard-working nurses and relaunching the maternity wing of our Health Centre.

Thank you for your support that brings us one step closer towards our goal: Providing free of charge, high quality health care to everybody.



THANK YOU FOR MAKING US SMILE!



Special thanks to our partners:



MAKE ME SMILE INTERNATIONAL

DONATION ACCOUNTS

Austria: Make Me Smile International
IBAN: AT53 2011 1829 6886 8700
BIC: GIBATWWXXX

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.
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