Report: Period 1 January – 31 July 2013

EWOI PROGRAMME

FOR

THE OLD

AND

MULTIPLE HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

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The Ewoi programme attends to the poor and vulnerable old people and the multiple handicapped children through the outlined activities below:

About the multiple handicapped children (MHC),
this is where by we do daycare activities in the office. This we do to the children who cannot do anything for themselves e.g. eating, dressing, toileting, playing and communication is also difficult hence depend on other people for everything in their lives.

The daycare center is there to give a relieve to the parents of MHC and give time to do other activities for their living, it is also improve the health condition of the MHC since most of these children are neglected and do not get attention and good care.
This is done twice in a week Monday and Thursday from 9.00 am until 4.00 pm.

We have 10 children and every staff/caretaker is getting two children to take care according to the programme. The children are fed, cleaned, massaged, played with and get full attention from the caretakers. The children like it so much.

Most of the children are collected from their homes as early as 7.30 in the morning and at the end of the day they are taken back home. So the parents have to prepare them well and hand over to the caretakers and also in the evening they are supposed to be at home.

The staffs are doing this work with their big hearts; they like it and are committed. They take care of the children as if they are of their own, we thank god for this. We also have meetings with the parents of the MHC every month this is to encourage them and give hope, to share experience and teach on care of the MHC.

We also have some challenges here and there and these are:
some parents are not co-operating since they leave the whole responsibility of their children to the Ewoi programme.
They don't prepare the children early or even cleaning them and sometimes they are not at home and leave the children alone in the compound.
The parents also are not willing to bring the children to the office and they tell us if we do not pick them from their homes then we leave the children, this has already happened to 3 children who are now no longer in the programme.
Some of them don't come for meetings this is wasting time for them and also they see the whole activity as not of a benefit to the rest of the family members.

Another big challenge is competition from other programmes/NGO, which are also doing something for the disabled people. They support them with special aids and support the families with food or money. so this makes it difficult for the daycare activity since parents like to get double assistance or they prefer the other side.

About the old,
we had stopped for a while doing so much for them since we saw that they were getting money from the other programmes and they had improved.

We were keeping an eye from far.

But this was not the case because after visiting them for some time we realized that the old ones were suffering again, since the money from Oxfam was no longer there.
The relatives neglected them and they were too dirty.
So we had to assist them since we realized that they still depend on the programme.
They miss assistance and attention from the staff and the programme as a whole.
We went on organizing soap days every two months.
All clients were invited. They got some food or a drink on the spot and some dry food to take home. They got a piece of soap to keep hygiene.

The home visitation is still a very important component in the programme. This is done by the home visitors who visit the old people and in case of a problem, they report to the office for an action to be taken.
Though at the moment the staff are involved in the daycare activities for the MHC and so the old ones don't get attention like before hence get a visit only once a month. The old ones don't understand and they complain so much, we hope with time they will cope with it.

Visitors Annette and Patrice,
In July two ladies from the Netherlands Annette and Patrice visited the programme, mainly for the MHC activities.
They were hardworking and liked the children very much. This was very useful since the staff gained skills on the care of the MHC.
They taught the staff on how to care for these children, how to feed them, how to do exercises and how to play with them. They gave some possibilities for the benefit of the children.

We organized workshops for the staff and the parents of the MHC, which also encouraged the parents since the two ladies talked to each of the parent on how to care for her own child.

The staff appreciated the visit of the two ladies and wish that this could be happening twice a year because they need such skills/training and support because this was all new for everybody.
But the two weeks were very much tiresome because the programme was continuous and everybody was working hard to make sure it was successful.
It was also too much for me because at that time, my daughter daisy had a problem with her left hip joint and needed to be taken to Kijabe for an operation.
So it was big challenges to manage the work at the same time do something for my daughter. I knew it was all my responsibility, having the visitors around and taking care of the child, but at the end of it all my husband had to take the responsibility of taking the girl to Kijabe and I remained behind for the programme and the other young child (8 months old).

But still my heart could not bear it since as a mother you need to be there for the problem of your own child. All in all I had to be strong and everything went on well.

We thank the two visitors for coming and giving us skills and for all that they did for the benefit of the multiple handicapped children.
May God bless them for leaving their families and offering their time for the vulnerable multiple handicapped children in Turkana.

By Agnes Mana.