



# **KITENDEN PRESCHOOL PROJECT**

## **QUARTERLY REPORT**

**PREPARED BY FUTURE WARRIORS PROJECT AUSTRALIA, 30 APRIL 2013**

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## BACKGROUND

Less than 10 years ago, the community of Kitenden, a remote village in West Kilimanjaro, Tanzania (approximately 2-3 hours from Arusha), built a preschool in partnership with a foreign organisation, agreeing to fund the ongoing operations of the preschool.

The Kitenden community funded the operations of the preschool until 2009, when drought led to a loss of livestock and an inability to afford the preschool's running costs. The school closed and became run-down and overrun with weeds. In June 2011, Kitenden community elders spoke to Future Warriors Project (FWP), indicating that reopening the preschool was a priority for the community.

In September 2011, Deborah Wallis-Hinde and her daughter Hannah visited the Kitenden community to undertake an assessment of what was needed to re-open the preschool. They identified that the building structure was in good condition but that cosmetic repairs were needed. The Wallis-Hinde family generously committed to providing \$4,000 to enable the renovation and preparation of the preschool for use.

In November 2011, FWP and the Wallis-Hinde family approached the Rotary Club of Albury Hume, Rotary District 9790, to request support for running the preschool. The Club indicated interest in supporting the preschool, seeking greater detail on the costs involved and how it would be managed. In consultation with the Kitenden community, FWP developed a project plan and budget for its operational requirements. In October 2012 the Rotary Club confirmed its commitment to funding the operational costs of the pre-school for two years. The Rotary Club has been extensively supported by 34 individual Class Sponsorships from Club members, families and other benefactors."

## PROJECT OBJECTIVE AND OUTCOMES

The objective of the Kitenden Preschool project is to promote the early childhood development of Maasai children by re-opening a rundown preschool and supporting its continued running costs. The new Kitenden preschool will enable the following outcomes:

- Provision of early childhood education to up to 40 children each year
- Teaching of national language, Swahili, in readiness for school
- Provision of two healthy meals a day for children attending school
- The employment of 6 local people
- Ongoing support for operational costs

The project will also explore alternative uses of the building, including as a venue to support the health of Maasai women and community education. An international volunteering program is a potential extension of the project, where up to three volunteers at a time will help at the pre-school.

## PROGRESS AGAINST OUTCOMES

### 1. The renovation and repair of Kitenden preschool building and gardens and preparation for use

The Kitenden preschool was ready for use by February 2013. A separate report for this part of the project has been prepared (see Kitenden Preschool Renovation and Preparation Project).

### 2. Provision of early childhood education to up to 40 children each year

#### Enrolment

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The Kitenden Preschool opened on Monday 25 February 2013, with 35 children enrolled. Within a few weeks, a further two children had enrolled.

Following the April holidays, there was a surge in enrolments, bringing the total number of children at the preschool to 54 – 30 girls and 24 boys. It is understood that when families heard that meals were provided they were encouraged to send their children. Many of the children attending are from poor families who struggle to put meals on the table. The Head Teacher accepted the students as she believes the preschool has the capacity to manage with that number.

FWP is pleased that more Maasai children can benefit from the preschool, however we are concerned that the meals budget may be stretched to accommodate the additional children. We will be monitoring this closely over the next month, and determine the best course of action from there.

Number of children	
Male	Female <sup>1</sup>
24	30

<sup>1</sup>We will investigate why there are more girls at preschool than boys. Sianga has a few theories: the first is that Maasai produce more female children than males, which aids their polygamous relationships; another reason may be that families are requiring boys to help with herding livestock.

### Educational Program

The teachers of the preschool were employed three weeks prior to the school commencing and during this time developed an early childhood educational program and policies to support the preschool's operations. The program is a combination of play-based learning and more formal styles of learning to help the children learning the national language and be ready physically, emotionally and mentally for primary school. FWP has appreciated the dedication and organisation that the Head Teacher, Jeniva Munishi, has brought the primary school.

Jeniva provided us with an example of a day's learning routine:

*"Between 8:00-8:30am, all the kids arrive at the school, and we water our small trees and garden.*

*At 8:30 we either read books, do drawing followed by morning tea at 10:00am.*

*After morning tea, we learn how to write and speak Swahili.*

*We eat lunch at 13:30 pm and continue educational playtime outside.*

*Preschool finishes at 3pm."*

Jeniva has commented that many of the children have adjusted well to the preschool program and are making good progress, however some children are finding adjusting to the educational environment more challenging, and may need to repeat a year at preschool.

### **3. Teaching of Kiswahili, the national language to preschool children**

A core part of the educational program is focused on teaching the children the national language, Kiswahili, to aid their transition to primary school. The current program includes teaching spoken Swahili and learning the Swahili words and alphabet each day. This is enhanced by the fact that the Head Teacher is a native Swahili speaker and does not speak Maa, the Maasai language. At the beginning of the term, the assistant teacher Leah would translate Jeniva's Swahili into Maa, but this is happening less and less as the children

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get used to the language. Between 25 February 2013 and 30 April 2013 (8.5 weeks), 106 hours of Kiswahili was taught.

<b>Number of hours of Kiswahili taught</b>	<b>106</b>
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### 4. The provision of two nutritious daily meals to each child

The preschool project is committed to providing two daily nutritious meals to support the early childhood development of the children and as a way of encouraging regular attendance. This is important because some children walk a long way to the preschool and may miss meals at home as a result, and some may miss meals simply due to poverty experienced by their families.

With the cost of maize, the staple cereal in Tanzania, doubling in price in the last year, staying within our budget for meals was a challenge. We are pleased to say that our cooks have successfully met the challenge – substituting maize for alternative nutritious ingredients such as potatoes or rice.

FWP has greatly appreciated their initiative and commitment to the children's diet. In addition to beans, tomatoes, vegetables and rice/potato for lunch, the children have had porridge for morning tea. Fruit is also provided as a treat on special occasions. Through their hard work 3,578 meals have been provided in an 8.5 week period!

With the recent increase in the number of students, the food will need to spread further. FWP will be monitoring this closely over the next month.

<b>Number of meals provided</b>	<b>3,578</b>
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### 5. The employment of up to 6 local people

With the diminishing ability to maintain a livelihood supported by livestock, and low school completion rates, obtaining alternative employment is a significant challenge for Maasai. We are pleased to report that 5 of the 6 preschool roles went to local Maasai people, providing an alternative source of income to their families.

Finding a suitable head teacher among the local population was a challenge, given that less than fifty per cent of the adult population in Kitenden has completed primary school. We were fortunate to come across Ms Jeniva Munishi, who belongs to the Chagga tribe which is also local to the West Kilimanjaro area. Jeniva had completed a Certificate of Early Childhood Education at a well-regarded teacher's college and obtained teaching experience in Dar es Salaam. Both Jeniva and the support staff have been very committed to the preschool and enjoy teaching and supporting the children.

Staff employed at Kitenden Preschool		
Role	Name	Commencement Date
Head Teacher	Miss Jeniva Munishi	4 February 2013
Assistant Teacher	Ms Leah Lekishon	4 February 2013
Security Guard	Mr Nandarai Melau	4 February 2013
Day Security / Gardener	Mr Issaya Lekunoni	4 February 2013
Head Cook	Mr Mburudi Logelie	25 February 2013
Assistant Cook	Ms Ester Lekunoni	25 February 2013

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Future Warriors Project would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support we have received from Kisham Kitasho, who is providing project management support voluntarily.

### OTHER NEWS

- FWP is updating its website, including our content on Kitenden Preschool. Better photos of the preschool will be taken in July, when Sianga Kuyan visits Tanzania. We hope at this time to provide Kisham Kitasho (our local project manager) with a digital camera so photos can be taken more often of the children.
- During our visit in July-August, FWP will explore potential linkages between the health centre and the preschool. We would like to weigh and measure each child, and stage immunisation days, to ensure the children are protected from basic diseases.
- The preschool would appreciate donations of:
  - Crayons and pencils
  - Paper
  - Books
  - Educational resources such as ABC / 123 posters, flash cards.
  - Small non-battery operated toys.

Sianga will have some room in his luggage for these items when he goes in July but a box may be needed to be sent depending on how much there is.

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### MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENT

**Milestones scheduled for achievement since last report and performance against those milestones**

Milestone	Planned End Date*	Achievement	Comment
Community open day	14 January 2013	MET	A community open day was held on the first day of the preschool, 25 February 2013
Enrolment of students	January 2013	MET	35 Students were enrolled on 25 February 2013. Enrolment rose to 54 students following the Easter break.
Commencement of classes	28 January 2013	MET	Classes commenced on 25 February 2013.
Curriculum planning and development	7 January 2013	MET	Curriculum planning and development took place between 4 February and 24 February 2013.
Commencement of Head Teacher	7 February 2013	MET	The Head Teacher commenced work on Monday 4 February 2013.
Engagement of support teacher	7 January 2013	MET	The Assistant Teacher commenced work on Monday 4 February 2013.
Engagement of casual staff	28 January 2013	MET	Casual staff were selected by 31 January 2013 and commenced on either 4 February or 25 February 2013.
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarterly Report provided	30 April 2013	MET	Report provided by 30 April 2013.

\*The Planned End Dates were based on receiving confirmation of project funding prior to the end of October 2012. As this was provided in late November 2012, some dates were postponed by a month.

**Milestones scheduled for achievement over next reporting period and changes in respect to plan**

Milestone	Planned End Date	Revised End Date	Comment
Official Launch / Ceremony with Project Patron (Deborah Wallis-Hinde)	Second half 2013	July 2013	Precise dates to be confirmed
Second quarterly report	31 July 2013	31 July 2013	

**Additional Comments (if any):** Sianga is currently working out an itinerary for the July visit with Deborah Wallis-Hinde.

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### ISSUES

#### Issues for escalation/resolution in this period

Issue No	Issue Name	Impact	Action
01	Difficulty obtaining photographs of children	Could impact sustainability of project	FWP is sourcing the donation of a digital camera so the community can take photos of the children.
02	Proximity of toilets to kitchen	Could impact the health of children and staff	FWP will undertake an assessment of this issue during Sianga Kuyan's visit to Tanzania in July-August 2013.
03	Increase in the cost of maize, the staple cereal in Tanzania	Potential to impact on meals budget	Cooks have sourced alternative ingredients which are cheaper, without compromising on nutrition.
04	Preschool is has overenrolled students	Not sure how the meals budget will cope with more mouths to feed	FWP anticipates that this will be a sensitive issue with the community. It will monitor food supplies closely and if it appears there is an issue with the food, seek an agreement from the community that the youngest children at the preschool do not return following the June holidays.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

ITEM	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE (TSH) <sup>1</sup>	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE (TSH) <sup>2</sup>	Difference (TSH)
STAFF SALARIES <i>Head Teacher, Assistant Teacher, Security Guards:</i> <i>04 February – 30 April 2013</i> <i>Head Cook, Assistant Cook:</i> <i>25 February – 30 April 2013</i>	2,460,000	2,260,000	<b>200,000</b>
CHILDREN'S MEALS <i>04 February – 30 April 2013</i> <i>Minus Easter break holiday</i>	2,250,000	1,500,000	<b>750,000</b>
ADMINISTRATION / TRANSPORT <i>04 February – 30 April 2013</i>	225,000	225,000	<b>0</b>
BUILDING MAINTENANCE <sup>3</sup>	165,000	0	<b>165,000</b>
CONTINGENCY <i>3 months<sup>4</sup> Tsh 135,000</i>	405,000	135,000	<b>270,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,505,000</b>	<b>4,120,000</b>	<b>1,385,000</b>
<b>AUD</b>	<b>3,270</b>	<b>2,435</b>	<b>835</b>
<b>BUDGET PROVIDED</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>BUDGET SURPLUS<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>565</b>

<sup>1</sup> The estimated expenditure is based on the full cost of three months' operations, however the children only attended preschool for one week in February. Why is the cost of operations for the quarter over \$3,000? This is because the cost for running the preschool is not equal each quarter. Quarters that have more school holidays will cost less.

<sup>2</sup> Why was less than a full quarter's budget expended? This is because some staff and the children did not commence class until three weeks into the first month. Some expenses have also been accrued.

<sup>3</sup> The building maintenance budget is designed to accrue and be used only when required.

<sup>4</sup> The contingency budget is designed to allow for bank fees, exchange rate fluctuations and price fluctuations in Tanzania.

<sup>5</sup> We recommend that the budget surplus be kept for contingencies or items that the preschool may need down the track.



### PHOTOS

#### Preschool ready for opening



*With a fresh coat of paint, new windows and door hands and a brand new garden, the preschool was ready to be opened in February!*

#### Teachers and staff engaged



**Preschool staff:** (from below left) Leah Lekishon, Assistant Teacher; Jeniva Munishi, Head Teacher; Ester Lekunoni, Assistant Cook; Mburrudi Logelie, Head Cook; and Nandarai Melau, Security Guard (above right)



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### Classes and play



*Learning Swahili involves drawing and games, as well as learning the alphabet!*



### Meals for children



*We like the Maasai-style cooking which has been adopted by the cooks! Cooking over an open fire ☺. The teachers also use the small kitchen available.*



*The kids eagerly line up to get their porridge for morning tea.*