

2021

END OF YEAR REPORT

TOP



OUR MISSION

The mission of Macheo is to empower and protect vulnerable children and their communities so that they can lead a bright future.



OUR VISION

Our vision is a society where children live happily in a safe, caring and stimulating environment.



OUR PURPOSE

Our purpose is to release restrained potential in children.

INTRODUCTION



It is with humility and thanksgiving that we reflect on the year that was, (2021), which was a busy year for Macheo. 2021 has seen Macheo make bigger strides towards achieving our set goals and ambitions for the work we do. Through different interventions, we have been able to fight poverty, hunger, inequalities as well as ensure children have access to a good education. Many businesses have been set up for the guardians and parents of the children we serve, many children suffering from malnutrition have received medical and nutritional attention, children can concentrate in school better because they are

not hungry, families have had their livelihoods restored through improvements of their living conditions as well as received financial aid when going through a crisis including teen mothers having their hopes restored. We are grateful to have achieved so many of our objectives, however, there is still so much more to be done.

Kenya is currently facing a worsening drought situation due to the cumulative impacts of two consequent failed rainy seasons. Over a 1.4million people are facing food insecurity, and the number is expected to go up to 2 million by end of the year indicating that malnutrition levels have surpassed the emergency threshold. According to UNICEF, this year, 50% of child protection cases were related to neglect and 10% to child pregnancy, indicating increased vulnerability for children and adolescents due to COVID-19 and drought. Poverty levels are substantially higher, particularly among urban households, as pandemic control measures continue to hinder economic recovery. Constrained access to essential services in the context of COVID-19 continues, with 360,000 children, adolescents, and pregnant or breastfeeding women needing medical care and treatment. One in three workers in Kenya is facing high vulnerability. One in five workers has lost their jobs after the start of the pandemic. After schools reopened in January 2021 after a 10-month closure related to the pandemic, 53 percent of learners demonstrated learning loss, with girls in lower grades more impacted than boys.

At Macheo, we still strongly believe that all children have a right to grow up in healthy and stimulating environments. We have thus dedicated ourselves to fighting for the rights of children as well as offering a haven when needed. We are convinced that we can help the children in our communities achieve fairer lives and have access to more opportunities.

We are grateful for the valuable contributions of our donors, sponsors, partners, and the commitment of our staff in improving the well-being of children in the areas where Macheo serves. We also look forward to continuing to work together to bring hope to the families here in Kenya. This report reviews Macheo's work in the period Jan - Dec 2021 and is meant to update you on the lives you transformed including also how your donation was utilized.



How your support transformed the life of Mwangi and Vanessa



Mwangi* and Vanessa* (not their real names) are parents to 5 children with no stable source of income. Two of them are in secondary school and they struggle to pay school fees payments every term. They could barely afford basic needs in the house like food and paying rent. Their family would skip meals on many occasions, and their two children were on the verge of dropping out of school.

Mwangi has been struggling with medical issues since he was young, he was living with asthma and chest problems, which made it impossible to engage in casual jobs. His wife Vanessa depended on casual jobs in the village. These jobs were unreliable and did not help them to earn a sustainable income.

After a visit from the Macheo area social worker, Mwangi was first supported to purchase medicine for his health needs through the health intervention. His daughter was enrolled in the Payment of school fees intervention where she started school. The 5 children also benefited from the physical living intervention, where they received pallets since they were sleeping on the floor which was cold and unsafe for them. Through economic empowerment, Mwangi and Vanessa started a convenience store near their homestead. This along with the financial education they received has led to a steady income flow in their home. They adopted a savings trend and can now afford at least two meals a day, and healthcare facilities for the entire family.

Mwangi and his family are grateful to Macheo for restoring their hope .

Overall Impact

Stichting TOP Iletani 2021 Budget	
	Jan-Dec Actual no.
Facilitate emergency family support	37
Direct school support for individuals (desk)	Chairs=50, Tables=5, Desks=20
Household Economic Strengthening	58
Health	25
Payment of school fees	17
IPLC	60
MCP	3
Child protection	11
Mother to child	1
Psycho-social support- Individual counselling	16
Psycho-social support- Group counselling	0
Assist Teenage Mothers Intervention	17
Lunch	27134
Porridge	27647
Provide deworming	544

ASSISTING TEEN MOTHERS

Roughly 13,000 young girls drop out of school each year to have children, the National Council for Population and Development reports. Through the COVID-induced lockdowns, however, unintended teen pregnancies had skyrocketed in 2020 and the beginning of 2021. Most of the girls have not yet gone back to school due to challenges at home such as who will take of the baby if they go back to school and what will the children feed on. The bitter reality is that many of these teen mothers are subjected to stigma, rejection, or violence by partners, parents, and peers.



Macheo through your support has been able to reach **17** teen mothers and taken them through counseling and mediation between them and their parents. Macheo also assists them in offsetting medical bills and setting up a business for those who can do. Macheo also works closely with their parents or guardians to ensure the girls go back to school or get technical skills that will be beneficial to them in the future.

HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING



The economy is expected to continue to recover after an ease in Covid-19 containment by the government. Kenya continues to face challenges in the form of financial constraints, high debt, a high debt-to-gross domestic product ratio of 70%, weak institutional capacity, and a high unemployment rate. With the pandemic, these issues have affected the vulnerable members of society, especially women and children. In the third quarter and fourth quarter of this year, the economy grew with a GDP of 9.9 percent. In the fourth quarter of the year, there are challenges in the rural area due to the unpredictable weather season.

This has affected the small farmers. Due to this, the food prices have increased which is directly affecting the vulnerable members of the community. Through your support, we exited **58** vulnerable families after empowering them to start their businesses. These businesses give dignity to the families to be able to take care of themselves and others who depend on them.

HEALTH



Since Kenya attained independence in the early 1960s, health care has remained a privilege of the few who can afford private hospitals or treatment abroad. For the majority who are left to depend on the public hospitals, their experience has not always been smooth. As a country, Kenya has also had to struggle with persistent diseases such as Malaria, TB, HIV/AIDS, and measles, other problems such as corruption in the health sector, inadequate allocation of resources, and ineffective policies making it almost impossible to enjoy quality health care.

Frequent strikes by workers in the health sector, expensive prescriptions, the unattained ratio of health practitioners to population, and unequal distribution of health facilities across the country have been the norm. Your support has assisted vulnerable families to get different medical support from chronic illnesses to simple cases. **25** of them have been exited.

FACILITATE MALNOURISHMENT INTERVENTION

In Kenya, more than a quarter of children under the age of five, or two million children, have stunted growth. Stunting is the most frequent form of under-nutrition among young children. If not addressed, it has devastating long-term effects, including diminished mental and physical development. In addition, 11 percent of children are underweight, with four percent wasted. Wasting and severe wasting are linked to increased and preventable deaths among young children. Your support has enabled **3** children to recover from Malnutrition.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT INTERVENTION

Our psychosocial intervention seeks to positively influence human development by addressing the negative impact of social factors on the client's thoughts and behaviors. This intervention also seeks to help clients deal with their psychological issues that affect their thoughts and behaviors.

During this period, **16** clients went through counseling .The different areas that the clients were supported in are shown in the table below.

Itetani Area Sep-Dec N=15	
KPIs	No. of clients
Client is psycho-educated on effects of drugs	0
The client has acquired life skills	4
Client understands sexuality	1
The client relates well with adults and community	1
The client has recovered from trauma	3
Client has increased self-esteem	5
Client is able to process grief in a healthy way	2

Going by the recent referrals, we anticipate an increase in the number of clients requiring psychosocial support in the coming year. Adequate staff capacity will be required to ensure that we meet the need for psychological support

CHILD PROTECTION

Child safety is vital for a child's development. Macheo Children's Organisation has remained committed to the safety of children in our areas of operation to enable the children to thrive and secure a bright future. Macheo Child protection intervention children rescues children from abusive environments. Seminars on child protection are also conducted to prevent abuse of children.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been an increased number of children in need of protection. Most of the children we rescued had been neglected by their primary caregivers. During this time, many children engaged themselves in quarry work while girls got into early marriages and sex for favors. We rescued **11** children in Itetani area

- Neglect = 28%
- Sexual abuse = 24%
- Emotional abuse= 28%
- Child labor = 18%
- Physical abuse = 2%

Through Community sensitization, a total of 143 participants were reached through different forums including parents, pupils, and stakeholders, the aim is to create awareness and empower them on child rights and abuses.

Challenges

There is a cultural way of solving the abuse issues which involves the abuser, parents/guardian, village elders, and area administration, its benefits the parent who normally get cash or goats from the abuser hence left child suffering.

It also encourages the vice to continue due to the friendly punishments the perpetrators get.

Way forward

Community sensitization continues to break the practices and attitudes which are encourage abuses and denies children justice.

EMERGENCY FAMILY SUPPORT

Many of the families we serve, go for several days without a meal. We find their children crying uncontrollably due to hunger. These parents sometimes feel hopeless because they have no means to provide. Imagine how it must feel to sleep outside in the cold with your child being very sick and not going to the hospital because you cannot afford transport to the hospital or the hospital fee. These are the people we encounter in the areas we work. When we encounter such situations, we first offer relief for the family.

The first stage on the Maslow hierarchy of needs is Physiological needs i.e. food, water air, shelter, sleep clothing, etc. It is very difficult for people to move to the next stage of life until their basic needs are met.

Due to your generous donation, we were able to cater to the immediate needs of **37** very vulnerable families. It has helped them settle as we work together to find a long-term solutions through other interventions.

PROVIDING DEWORMERS

Apart from improving the immunity of children from chronic illnesses caused by worms, study shows deworming school going children improves their attendance by 25% and also improves their concentration in school. Macheo through your support was able to deworm **544** children in Itetani Area.

IMPROVED PHYSICAL LIVING CONDITION



Healthy homes promote good physical and mental health. Good health is also brought about by living in homes that are safe and free from physical hazards. In contrast, inadequate housing contributes to health problems such as chronic diseases and injuries and that can have harmful effects on childhood development.

At Macheo, we believe that every child has a right to safe, dignified, and accommodative shelter. Shelter at the household level should be stable, adequate, dry, and safe. Through our improved physical living condition intervention, we support vulnerable families with simple, safe, affordable, and dignified housing solutions that incorporate the use of locally available resources.

This intervention focuses on the most vulnerable families with an average family size of 6-8 children with an emphasis on children whose age category falls in the first 1000 days i.e. 0-2 years. This is because children within that age bracket are at a higher risk to fall ill and to spread illnesses easily due to poor physical living conditions and sanitary practice.

We supported vulnerable families with **60** mattresses in Itetani area.



FEEDING PROGRAM

The feeding program continued well in Itetani school. Where the children benefitted from lunch and porridge.

The objective of the intervention is to ensure the most vulnerable children access school and are retained in school until completion of primary school education

Activities

We started the term well as planned.

We held cooks meeting on 23rd december 2021 where cooks were reminded about the Macheo core values, empowered about saving money, and parenting skills that will be of benefit to their families and communities.

Cooks from Itetani were provided with working attires.

Parent Contributions

The schools have continued to encourage parents to support the program by making their contributions which has helped them to own the program in schools

Families identified as most vulnerable do not contribute anything. Macheo caters to their children's needs while vulnerable children raise a minimum of 240ks (4ksh per day) the pupils also receive porridge in the morning.

Achievements

We held cooks meetings that were successful. The cooks were trained on life skills and saving skills and how they can be able to improve their livelihoods.

They agreed to continue saving with Macheo because it enables them to educate their children and improve their standard of living.

The Cooks are very grateful for the opportunity that has allowed them to serve young children along with the joy of seeing the children complete school and improve their health holistically.

We also employed some of the most vulnerable children's parents which led to consistent financial flow in their families.



DESKS

At Macheo, we identify needy schools that need desks and we provide them with the desks. We believe that quality learning requires a safe, friendly environment, with appropriate facilities and infrastructure. We are helping to keep children in school by increasing attendance and improving the learning experience. Desks also improve learners' participation in-class activities. We were able to make and distribute **50** chairs, **5** tables and **20** desks

Financials

Stichting Thika Outreach (TOP) 2021 Financial report					
	Total Budget 2021	Total Actuals Jan-Dec	Total Budget 2021	Total Actuals Jan-Dec	
	Kes		Euro		
Incomes					
Stichting Top donation 2021	1.502.845	1.062.552	€ 11.868	€ 8.391	
Donation Parents Contribution	100.000	115.080	€ 790	€ 909	
Donation Carried forward from 2020	213.599	213.599	€ 1.687	€ 1.687	
Total Income(Jan-Dec 2021)	1.816.444	1.391.231	€ 14.344	€ 10.987	
Expenses					
Facilitate emergency family support	76.396	70.300	€ 603	€ 565	
Direct school support for individuals (desk)	97.672	96.159	€ 771	€ 759	
Household Economic Strengthening	445.903	617.412	€ 3.521	€ 4.876	
Psycho-social support- Individual counselling	98.824	73.702	€ 780	€ 582	
Psycho-social support- Group counselling	87.207	-	€ 689	€ -	
Assist Teenage Mothers Intervention	133.244	230.910	€ 1.052	€ 1.823	
Lunch	680.400	700.750	€ 5.373	€ 5.534	
Porridge	189.000	153.432	€ 1.493	€ 1.212	
Provide deworming	7.800	7.614	€ 62	€ 60	
Total Expenses(Jan-Dec)	1.816.447	1.950.279	€ 14.345	€ 15.401	
Balance	(3)	(559.047)	€ (0)	€ (4.415)	

Financial explanation

We received Eur 8.391 in this period. We have a deficit at the end of the year as we had not received the total proposal amount and a balance of Eur. 3.477 was still expected.

More beneficiaries were assisted in the Household Economic Strengthening hence the overspend in that intervention.

Appreciation

As we are wrapping up 2021, we would like to take this opportunity to convey our heartfelt gratitude for your commitment and overwhelming support throughout 2021 in ensuring that the children in Kenya have a fairer chance to achieve a better future. Your support and donations have truly transformed the lives of many children and their families. We continue to look forward to working together to fight for the rights of the children