

2022

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

As we ring in a new year, Macheo is thrilled to share updates on our impact in Kenyan communities thanks to the generosity of stichting TOP and your supporters. Our mission is to empower and protect vulnerable children and their families. We've been working hard to address the needs of these communities in areas such as nutrition, health, education, and income generation. However, the road to progress has its challenges.

Drought in Kenya is worsening, leaving millions in dire straits, including those in the communities we serve. According to Unicef, the number of children facing acute malnutrition is still projected to reach 884,464, with 222,720 needing treatment for severe malnutrition. This directly results from food insecurity, high prices, and water scarcity. Moreover, teen pregnancy rates remain high, with close to 20% of girls aged 15 to 19 either pregnant or already teen mothers.

This is why we are strengthening our strategy to have an even greater impact on children and families. With on average just 275 euros per family, we can make a significant difference in the lives of these vulnerable children, ensuring they have a safe home, access to food, and opportunities for education and skill-building. We are incredibly grateful for your continued support of our mission to help vulnerable families in Kenya. Your contributions, no matter how big or small, make a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

As we look ahead to 2023, we want to remind you that the needs of these families remain great, and we need your continued support to ensure that we can continue to provide vital assistance to those who need it most. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. In this report, we take a moment to update you on the progress made from January to December 2022. We hope that this report informs you of our efforts and the difference you have made in the lives of those we serve.



How your support transformed Alice's life

Alice, the fifth child in a family of six, is 16 years old. Her great-grandmother and her mostly ailing mother live with her. Alice became pregnant in 8th grade. When she was eight months pregnant, a Macheo social worker identified her and referred her to the teen mum intervention.

She began counseling sessions under the mental health intervention due to emotional stress during pregnancy. A week before her Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exam, Alice began to notice early signs of labor.

The head teacher decided it would be ideal if Alice took her exam at a school close to a hospital so that delivery services could be provided. Alice was transferred to a school in Kang'undo which was achieved by the headmaster after working with the teen mother intervention to choose a location that would be more convenient in case of labor.

Fortunately, she had her son soon after finishing her exams. A balanced diet and good parenting techniques were imparted to Alice. She signed up for a hairdressing course and is eager to learn in order to better the future of her family. Her mother also received nutrition assistance and is making a full recovery. The support from Macheo has made them all more appreciative of one another and more optimistic about the future.



Number of children and/or caregivers reached with your donation

Intervention	Actual # of clients
Rescue from abuse & neglect	5
Prevention of abuse & neglect	-
Facilitate emergency family support	15
Individual school support - provision of uniforms	10
Individual school support - provision of desks	-
Provide deworming	478
Psycho-social support- Individual counselling	12
Psycho-social support- Group counselling	25
Family Economic Empowerment	22
Assist Teenage Mothers	5
Lunch	137
Porridge	139

In the next few pages we will explain a bit more about the interventions.

Prevention and Rescue of Children from Abuse and Neglect

The safety and well-being of children is crucial for their overall health and development. Unfortunately, many children continue to face abuse, neglect, and other forms of exploitation. The government of Kenya, in conjunction with organizations like Macheo Children's Organization, is dedicated to safeguarding children and ensuring their protection. The 2010 Constitution of Kenya and the Children's Act 2022 provide legal protection to children from various forms of abuse, exploitation, and violence. Macheo is committed to working with local stakeholders to prevent and respond to child protection issues. This report provides a summary of Macheo's activities from January to December 2022.

Macheo's social workers identified children who were in need of care and protection. Some children were rescued and placed with safe relatives or their parents were educated on child protection information and were able to provide better care for their children. Other children were rescued into safe environments, such as Macheo Children's Home or other institutions through the Department of Children Services. Macheo intervened on different types of abuse, including:

Macheo rescued **5** children from different forms of abuse in Itetani area

Family Economic Empowerment

We are grateful, looking back on a year when we helped over 1,000 families start their businesses. This year, we have assisted 1,177 families in producing a business plan, conducting market research in their area, and becoming entrepreneurs. Although this went with ups and downs due to the economic climate, we are happy to present good results overall.

The amount spent per client approximates the budget. This has been tough, as inflation has hit Kenya rather hard (around 10% in November 2022). To have realistic expectations for the future, we have increased our unit cost for 2023.

In 22% of cases, we were unsuccessful in keeping the business afloat. This is around the expected level, but we are always looking for ways to get this down. In 2023, we will focus on providing the most vulnerable families with health insurance so that unforeseen health expenses will not drain their business. In recent months, the team has focused on capacity building in bookkeeping. We have revised our KPIs and designed a semi-structured interview for our sessions with clients so that we are sure to get all the information. !

Through your support we reached **22** clients. Their lives are transformed because of you.

Uniforms

The uniform intervention has a strong positive impact on the lives of the children as it leads to enrollment, reduces absenteeism, and high self-esteem in the children and hence helps them make the most out of their studies for a better future.

Your donation has benefited **10** vulnerable children to access school, as children are not allowed to access school without uniforms in Kenya. Children with tattered or tiny uniforms that didn't fit also benefitted from the uniform intervention.

Thank you for putting a smile on these children's lives.

Assisting teenage mothers

The ongoing drought in the country, compounded by three years of insufficient rain, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and economic challenges such as limited purchasing power and rising food prices, have severely impacted vulnerable teen mothers. Poverty and limited access to resources have created hardship for teen moms. In response to these challenges, Macheo implemented a program to break the cycle of poverty by providing targeted support to teenage mothers.



From January to December 2022, our efforts reached **5** teenage mothers in Itetani to address the immediate needs of these young mothers, we included a range of relief measures, such as counseling, medical support, and mediation services, to help them navigate family dynamics. We also

Emergency family support

Cash transfers have emerged as a beacon of hope for families in crisis, delivering a lifeline to those who need it most. With evidence to show their effectiveness in developing nations, emergency family support in the form of cash transfers is a ray of sunshine amidst the storm.

The ongoing struggles posed by the pandemic, conflict, and natural disasters are a harsh reality for communities worldwide, but particularly for those living in Kenya. For families who rely on meager wages from casual jobs, the struggle to make ends meet is a daily battle. The surging prices of goods and services, with food inflation reaching an all-time high of 13.8% in 2022, have put immense pressure on these vulnerable households.



This is where your support makes a world of difference. Your generosity has allowed **15** families to make the best decisions for their household and meet their immediate needs with dignity and control. Without your help, children may have gone hungry and families may have been forced to endure the

Mental health support

The importance of mental health cannot be overstated. It plays a crucial role in the overall well-being of children and adults, and enables them to cope with various challenges. Sadly, many vulnerable children and guardians in the Macheo area of operation have been negatively impacted by factors such as family violence, lack of access to basic needs and services, and the aftermath of Covid-19. Despite these difficulties, Macheo counselors have remained dedicated to providing mental health support through individual and group counseling. This report provides an overview of Macheo's mental health support activities from Jan to Dec 2022

12 clients were reached in individual counselling. Upon exit, the clients had achieved or surpassed the objectives set for them. Verification of the exited clients showed that they had successfully achieved their individual goals, according to an independent rating. The counselors faced some challenges, such as limited access to children during school hours, which resulted in a longer intervention period for some clients. In group counseling we reached 25 clients.

School feeding

The School Feeding Program is a crucial tool in promoting children's potential both individually and for their communities. It encourages higher school attendance, reduces dropout rates and provides an incentive for families to send their children to school. The food provided in schools improves students' energy levels and helps them concentrate in class and perform better in their studies. Macheo, through its feeding program, has been at the forefront of helping Kenyan children reach their full potential. The program was successful at Itetani Primary School during the term.



Activities

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the term was short, running from July 11, 2022 to November 25, 2022. Throughout the term, the Macheo team carried out various activities related to food preparation and distribution to schools. Proper food preparation hygiene procedures were followed in all schools. The cooks at Itetani Primary School were highly responsible and ensured everything was in order. Cooks meetings were held to plan for the next term and discuss topics such as the child-parent relationship, stress, anger and conflict management. Challenges faced during the term were discussed and solutions were found to prevent them from happening in the future.

Parents' contribution and number of children fed

Schools and the community have assisted Macheo in retaining students by forming a partnership with parents to own the program. The most vulnerable children were identified by social workers. The partnership with parents has promoted ownership of the program in their schools and they contribute sh240 per term (4ksh per day). During this term, 32 of the most vulnerable children and a total of 105 vulnerable children were fed after they were identified by social workers and teachers. 139 children received porridge for breakfast.

Achievement

The program had a positive impact on students throughout the year. Cooks' and teachers' performance improved and as a result, children were able to stay in school. It is pleasing to report that two cooks were able to enroll their children in a diploma course in automotive engineering at a technical institute through the Macheo savings scheme. During two national exams for grades 6 and 8 due to changes in Kenya's education system, the number of children served lunch increased. A total of 55 children were served lunch and porridge for two days at 17 schools. The cooks are grateful for the opportunity to work in the feeding program and serve the children and the community at large.

Financial information

It has been tough time for the families in the Itetani Area and its environs, we experienced a high rise in prices of consumable products due to severe drought and war in Ukraine, most families have not recovered from post covid effects, this has led to more families needing support as the cost of living has really gone up and this has led to a higher unit cost in many interventions as the prices of commodities are really very high. Through your donation we have really elevated the lives of this vulnerable families. There were also needs identified in the area that were not in the initial budget as shown below.

Amount received for Itetani	€ 8,638	1,075,343
Parents contribution		142,080
Total received		1,217,423

Stichting TOP Itetani Project Jan-December 2022			
Intervention	Actual # of clients	Actual unit cost	Total Actual cost
Rescue from abuse & neglect	5	11,086	55,431
Prevention of abuse & neglect	-	56	-
Facilitate emergency family support	15	2,211	33,167
Individual school support - provision of uniforms	10	816	8,158
Individual school support - provision of desks	-	1,650	-
Provide deworming	478	12	5,736
Psycho-social support- Individual counselling	12	5,069	60,829
Psycho-social support- Group counselling	25	599	14,981
Family Economic Empowerment	22	11,736	258,194
Assist Teenage Mothers	5	14,400	72,001
Lunch	137	4,472	612,248
Porridge	139	688	95,624
Total expenditures			1,216,370

This report covers only the expenditures for Itetani school.

Other amounts received by TOP in 2022 are:

1. Project Itetani-Borehole € 542 (KShs 67,476)
2. Project Kwa mutu € 5,400 (KShs 672,272)
3. Payment of school fees € 11,491 (KShs 1,430,540)

Word of thanks

We are very grateful for all the people we have been able to help in 2022 due to the generosity and commitment of the board members of stichting TOP and of all supporters of stichting TOP.

Thank you, asante sana!

