



Project Kesho Annual Report 2009



P.O. BOX 677 • BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON • 98009-0677

PHONE: 206.697.6182 • EMAIL: PROJECTKESHO@YAHOO.COM

PROJECT KESHO IS A REGISTERED 501(C)3 NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION.



Introduction:

This annual report has three main objectives: to provide an overview of Project Kesho, highlight much of our work to date, and provide an outline of our plan for the future. This will serve as a report to donors, showing how donations have been spent. Project Kesho is proud of our work to date. Past projects include classroom construction and revitalization, improved sanitation facilities at schools, health clinic support, and support for orphans and those most vulnerable in our target communities. This report lays out our vision for our work for the next year and half. We are very excited about expanding our work to address the underlying roadblocks that limit access and the quality of education.

Background:

Project Kesho is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the tomorrows of East African communities through the education of today's children. We are committed to improving the access and quality of education in East African communities. To accomplish these goals we have been working in Tanzania since the fall of 2006; however program staff and board members have connections going back to 2000. The organization's founders had established strong contacts and bonds within Tanzanian village communities beginning in 2000, and felt impassioned about addressing the growing needs of communities from within. Because of these core beliefs, wherever Project Kesho works, we work alongside local community members. Local stakeholders, such as community leaders, local pastors, school headmasters and teachers, and local and district level government officials, are involved in every step of our projects, from creation to completion. Typically, a community stakeholder identifies a need or proposes a potential project to begin the assessment and planning process of our programming. Follow-through, oversight and long-term sustainability also rest within the communities themselves.



Tanzania Update:

In Tanzania Project Kesho is established in the village of Lundamatwe, which is located about ten miles east of Iringa along the Tanzam Highway. While this village is geographically close to Iringa, the high transportation cost to go between Iringa and the village means that most residents seldom travel to Iringa. The cost of travel one way between the village and Iringa is now \$1.30 and has more than doubled in little over a year. The Iringa region is home to a few different tribal groups, with the majority of people belonging to the Wahehe (Wa-hay-hay) tribe. The primary language spoken is Kiswahili. Most people also speak their tribal language, Kihehe (Key-hay-hay), and some people speak English with varying degrees of proficiency.

The village has two main communities: Lundamatwe (a smaller distinct community within the Lundamatwe village) and the Ulonge community. These communities are located about three miles apart and are spread out over an area of about 100 square miles. Lundamatwe has a population of about 4,000 and Ulonge has a population of about 1,000. On average, most village families live on less than a dollar a day. Both communities in the Lundamatwe village have a primary school. Education in Tanzania consists of one pre-primary year, seven years of primary school (standards 1-7) and six years of secondary school (forms 1-6). Students in primary school are educated in Kiswahili but take an English class as part of their education. Secondary school is conducted in English, and students must demonstrate a degree of proficiency in order to gain acceptance.

Tanzania Project Updates:

Tanzania Primary School Support:

Project Kesho has been actively involved with the two primary schools in the Lundamatwe village since 2006. The Lundamatwe Primary School is the older of the two schools, started in the 1950's. More than 900 students attend on a daily basis from pre-primary through Standard 7, which causes significant overcrowding. The school is located in the geographic center of the village, where the majority of people live. However, at least several hundred students walk more than two miles each way to school every day.

Due to the high number of students living in the Ulonge community, the Ulonge Primary School was recently constructed in 2004 to meet their educational needs. The school began as a community initiative because community members wanted to improve the



educational opportunities of the children living in the area. However, there was only enough money to construct four classrooms at the school. Currently, the school serves about 300 students in Standards 1-6. Students from the Ulonge Primary School who are in Standard 7 (approximately 50 students) must walk two miles, each way, to the Lundamatwe Primary School.

As noted above, when Project Kesho began working with the Ulonge community there were only four completed classrooms at the Ulonge Primary School. To meet the need for additional space, we facilitated the construction of three classrooms and an additional office space. Funds were donated for Standard 7 classroom by the village government and another NGO, World Challenge, so Project Kesho's costs were minimal. We are very excited because this provides seven classrooms—enough space for Primary grades 1-7. Starting

next school year (January 2010) everyone in the Ulonge community will be able to attend school in their own community! The Ulonge Primary School only needs one additional classroom, for a pre-primary class, and then it will be complete. A pre-primary class prepares students for school, just like kindergarten, and it also provides a feeding program for the students. After the new classroom that was constructed last



year at the Lundamatwe Primary School, the school has enough classroom space to meet current demand. During the past year Project Kesho constructed a classroom at the Lundamatwe Primary School. Since the Lundamatwe Primary School is chronically overcrowded, this classroom was constructed to be oversized so that it could accommodate a large number of students, and so it could be used to host village meetings.

There is a community movement in the Kibati community of the Lundamatwe Village to construct a new school. The Kibati community is about three miles from the Lundamatwe Primary School in a remote part of the Lundamatwe Village. Community members recently pooled their resources and now have enough bricks to construct two classrooms. The community is also willing to volunteer their time at the school site. Project Kesho is currently in talks with community leaders and local and District government officials to finalize such details as student body size, teacher requirements, and the availability of government funds for the project. Project Kesho is very excited about the prospect of a new school in Kibati, as it will serve a catchment area that is two to five miles from the closest other school. Not only will it cut down on the distance many students have to travel, but it will further address the overcrowding at the Lundamatwe Primary School. **\$11,550**

Clean Water:

During the early 1990's donor agencies paid for the construction of eighteen boreholes and pumps in the Lundamatwe village. By 2005 all of these pumps had either broken or had been stolen, leaving the entire Lundamatwe village without access to clean water and increasing the distance most villagers had to travel to find water. Before the fall of 2008, the main sources of water in the village were the river that runs through part of the village, several open (and thus, easily contaminated) wells, and seasonal water holes that fill with water during the wet season and gradually dry up during the dry season. None of these sources are safe to drink without first boiling the water, which increases the amount of fuel a family must gather and use.

This past year Project Kesho facilitated the construction of five water projects located in highly populated areas of the Lundamatwe village. All five of these projects are short depth

wells, three of them have pumps, and two are simply bucket drawn wells. All three boreholes with pumps are located near the primary schools, which are the most densely populated areas of the community. One of the other boreholes has been placed near the village dispensary to provide it with a clean and accessible source of water. The other borehole is situated near two roads in a densely populated part of the village, called Lusaula, which is about two miles from the center of the village.



The borehole near the Lundamatwe Primary School. This provides water to both the school and the surrounding community.

Despite the boreholes that Project Kesho facilitated last year, access to clean water is still limited in much of the Lundamatwe village. We spent time this summer scouting out new locations for additional borehole locations and learning from other groups who are also involved in clean water. These activities led to important new information: the improper household storage of water can lead to illness. To address this issue we will be facilitating training sessions about solar disinfectant (SODIS). SODIS is nothing more than putting unclean water in plastic water bottles and then setting the bottles in direct sunlight for 4-6 hours. After that, the water is safe to drink, and the storage bottle is also clean. SODIS has been used worldwide to increase access to clean water. It has proven itself to not only be effective against water-borne illnesses but to be technologically appropriate as well. **\$2275**

Lundamatwe Village Health Clinic:

After several years of construction time and some final assistance from Project Kesho, the Lundamatwe Health Clinic opened for business in the summer of 2007. The clinic is staffed and supplied by the Kilolo District Clinic, which is in turn supplied by the national government. From its opening until the fall of 2008 the clinic was staffed with a doctor, a nurse, and a limited amount of medical supplies. However, for several reasons the clinic was under-utilized. The clinic was not adequately re-supplied on a regular basis, the cost of visiting the clinic, regardless of the treatment needed, costs about \$1, which is more than most people in the village live on in a day. Also, many people, especially those in the more remote parts of the village, did not understand all that the clinic was capable of providing. In the fall of 2008 the doctor of the clinic left to take a position in a different part of Tanzania. He was not replaced right away, and when he was, the new doctor was not paid for several months by the District government. In the winter of 2008 a storm hit the clinic and damaged the building, causing a water leak that in turn damaged the freezer that keeps the vaccines from spoiling.



Despite these obstacles, conditions have

improved at the clinic. A new doctor has been at work since January. The new doctor takes his job quite seriously and is at the clinic most of the day seeing patients. The number of patients per day is the highest it has been in the past two years, and the doctor is using the birthing room on a regular basis. This is great news! Maternal mortality is a considerable problem in Tanzania: Tanzania is sixth worst in the world, with 1500 mothers dying for every 100,000 births (in the US 11 mothers die for every 100,000 births). In addition, the refrigerator that was damaged last fall has been replaced. The District also sends a vehicle once a month that takes the doctor to the remote parts of the Lundamatwe village and to villages beyond Lundamatwe to vaccinate children and treat people.

Project Kesho has worked closely with the clinic since its inception, and we will continue to work closely with clinic staff and local leaders. We have supported the clinic by donating doctor-requested medical supplies on several occasions when supplies were running low. We have also sponsored village meetings to promote the services offered by the dispensary and the importance of health care. During these village meetings, several myths surrounding the clinic were addressed. Villagers had been concerned that there were only a few medicines at the clinic and that the doctor was not present on a regular basis; both of misconceptions were allayed and the villagers left the meetings with a greater understanding of the services

available and the availability of the doctor.

During the next year, our goals in working with the health clinic is to first make sure that community members are aware of the services that are available and encourage them to take advantage of them. This was addressed in the past through community meetings where clinic staff was introduced to the village and community members were able to ask questions. Over the next year we will continue to sponsor more of these meetings so that more information can be presented to community members and so that Project Kesho can develop a greater understanding of the health challenges facing the Lundamatwe village. The second goal is to make sure that the clinic is adequately stocked and able to run efficiently. We will continue working closely with the clinic staff to monitor supply levels and re-supplying necessary medicine. While it would be relatively easy to re-supply the clinic on a regular basis, we are trying to walk a fine line between supporting the needs of the clinic so the needs of the villagers can be addressed without doing too much for fear that the District Government will have a reason not to fulfill its mandate. **\$800**

Orphan Support:

As noted above, the Lundamatwe village straddles the Tanzam Highway. The frequent passage by truck drivers fuels the sex trade at guesthouses along this road. As a result of this, the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate and the number of children orphaned as a result of a parental death in the Lundamatwe village is among the highest in Tanzania. Nationally, 11% of those under the age of



eighteen are orphans, while in the Iringa Region 16% are orphans. Of the students attending both the Lundamatwe and Ulonge primary schools, more than 25% are orphans. This figure does not include orphans who live in the village but who are not attending school.

According to discussions with school officials and Project Kesho's first hand experiences, orphans face a myriad of problems:

- Many orphans are absorbed by their extended families, and as a result there is less money in the family to support the orphans and the other children.
- There is also less money for school uniforms, school supplies, food and medical needs.
- Orphans are vulnerable to becoming malnourished and sick, and many are unable to stay in school.
- Even if they can remain in school, many of the teachers have noted that orphans have a harder time learning and paying attention because of a lack of nutrition, more frequent illness, and the lack of necessary school materials.

Project Kesho has been working to address the needs of orphans in the Lundamatwe village. The goals of this project are to increase educational access and quality for all the orphans in the Lundamatwe village. This project consists of three facets: secondary school sponsorship, a volunteer based home visit program to identify and address orphan needs, and the creation of a sustainable food source farm. Project Kesho has been sponsoring orphans to attend secondary school for two years. Progression from primary school to secondary school is marked by an exam that students in the final year of primary (grade 7) take in September. If a student passes this exam the student is eligible to attend secondary school. There is a big difference, however, between primary school and secondary school; the cost of secondary school is significantly higher. Each year of secondary schools costs about \$100. For almost every family this is a big financial burden, and this is especially true for families that are caring for orphans. The chance that these students would be able to afford secondary school is slim and there are limited economic opportunities available in Tanzanian villages for those who do not attend secondary school.



Orphans sponsored by Project Kesho to attend secondary school.

For the past two school years Project Kesho has sponsored a cohort of students who have passed the secondary school entrance exam, but who are unable to afford the school fees. We are sponsoring 34 students who are in their second year, and twenty students who are in their first year. A new group of kids are being selected for the coming year based on household status. The students who passed their primary school leaving exam, taken in September of 2009, will be eligible to attend secondary school next school year (the start is January 2010).

The goal of home visit program is to empower the Lundamatwe community to identify, monitor, and care for orphans in their communities. The volunteer-based home-visit program is in the initial stages. We are currently recruiting volunteers. When instated, the orphan home visiting program will consist of volunteers who will be responsible for identifying and monitoring orphans in a specific geographic area. Our volunteer staff will grow through self-selection during community gatherings and at the suggestion of key community leadership including church ministers, school officials, and council members. These volunteers will be responsible for identifying and monitoring orphans in a designated geographic area near the volunteer's household. Next, training will be provided in areas such as AIDS education, strategies for working with orphans, needs assessment skills, and data collection. Volunteers will learn how to identify the physical needs (clothing, educational,

health/nutritional) and spiritual/mental needs of the orphans. A Tanzanian-run community-based organization that is addressing orphan needs in the city of Dar es Salaam will conduct the training. After first identifying the orphans in their area, the volunteer network will prioritize identification of basic needs, roadblocks preventing school attendance, and necessary steps to ensure school enrollment for all orphans. Over the next year we anticipate putting together an initial group of volunteers who are particularly interested in addressing this issue.

The sustain food source farm is located near the Lundamatwe Primary School, and is in its initial stage. The goal of this farm is to establish a sustainable and self-replicating way of providing nutritional support to both the orphans and their foster families. Project Kesho constructed a building and fenced off a nearby area to create an animal pen. Our plan is to raise chickens and pigs. Once this project is scaled up we will be able to provide orphans and their foster families with a supplemental source of food. **\$5250**



Project Kesho Intern Jessica on the right, standing next to Staff Associate Deborah with members of a women's co-op that raises pigs to generate income for their children's school fees and health costs.

Little Angels Update:

In Uganda, Project Kesho has partnered with Little Angels, a privately run primary school/orphanage. The school is located near Mityana, Uganda in the village of Kigogwa. Mityana is a medium-sized town about 70 miles west of Kampala, the Ugandan capital. Little Angels was started by a local Ugandan woman, Sarah Kiggundu, to address the needs of children living near her home. The school was started in 2002 with fourteen HIV/AIDS orphans. The children were all living with extended family that could not afford the local school fees. The families could also not afford to meet the basic needs of the orphans, so almost right away these fourteen children moved in with Sarah in the spare bedrooms at her house.



The orphans who board at Little Angels. Some of the school leadership are on the right and Project Kesho Program Manager Elliot and Program Associate Abbas are in the middle of the picture.

The school itself is designed to serve the local Kigogwa community, as the nearest government-run primary school is several miles from the village. The school complex consists of several buildings including Sarah's house, which has three bedrooms, and an addition consisting of an office and one classroom. There are two other classroom buildings, each of which house four small classrooms. Sarah's house and the attached addition are constructed out of brick and mortar with tin roofing sheets. The other two buildings are constructed from a mixture of wood scraps and papyrus leaves. All the classrooms now have tin roofing sheets supplied by Project Kesho.

Currently there are a total of 350 students who attend school on a daily basis. Of the 350 students, 150 are orphans, and 70 of these orphans board at the school. The 80 orphans who do not board at Little Angels live in the local community with extended families or neighbors. Food permitting, all the orphans receive a meal at lunchtime, and the orphans who board receive two meals a day.

Since so many of the students at Little Angels are orphans, only about half of the students are required to pay the modest school fee of \$10 per three-month term. However, most everyone in the village is quite poor (orphan or not) and many of the students who are expected to pay have trouble with the fee. If every student who is supposed to pay (the 200 children who are not orphans) was able to do so, the school would have just enough money to cover teacher salaries. But since the school can not recover all the school fees, most months Little Angels has trouble meeting their monthly teacher budget and most months there is little, if any, money left to improve the physical structure of school buildings, or to adequately feed and house the orphans who board. This has forced Little Angels to survive on a day-to-day basis, rather than being able to plan for the future. When Project Kesho first arrived at Little Angels School leadership addressed the following as their most pressing needs:

- New bathroom facilities
- Health and wellbeing of the Orphans (Inadequate food supply, poor health)
- Lack of adequate beds and bedding for those that board at the school
- Lack of clean water
- Many of the classrooms are not adequately constructed
- Lack of adequate amount of school supplies
- Inability to pay teacher salaries every month

Little Angels Project Updates:

Project Kesho has been working with Little Angels since the fall of 2007. Our work has focused both on meeting the immediate needs of the school while working to address their long-term needs. Past projects have included the following:

Bathroom Construction: When Project Kesho first started working with the staff and students at Little Angels it was apparent that their current bathroom was inadequate. In the fall of 2007 Project Kesho facilitated the construction of a new bathroom. The bathroom is still in use today and is still meeting the needs of Little Angels. **\$2000**

Rainwater Catchment System: There are two types of water available at Little Angels. There is a slow moving stream located nearby and there is also piped water available. Water from the stream has to be boiled, which requires the use of firewood or charcoal that has to be purchased. The water that is piped can be acquired at a fee from the government. Often, when there is not enough money, the orphans who are boarding are forced to either drink the dirty water from the stream or go without. Since this part of Uganda has abundant rainfall the leaders of the school asked for a system that would collect rainwater. This simply involves gutters on all the roofs with the runoff collected in large tanks. This way the water can be used immediately or stored for a later date. We also shared with the school leaders our knowledge of using solar radiation to treat water. This is done by putting unsanitary

water into clear plastic water bottle and then leaving the bottles in direct sunlight for 6-8 hours. This will allow the school to have clean water even in the dry season. **\$600**

Classroom Structural Repair: As noted above, the classrooms are constructed from mainly salvaged goods such as old boards, scraps and tin roofing sheets and papyrus leaves. The classrooms hold up well in the dry season, but during the rainy season the patchwork of tin sheets and papyrus leaves is not enough to keep out rainwater. During the past two years Project Kesho has worked to rehabilitate the classrooms. We have repaired benches and desks, repaired leaky walls, and covered four classrooms, that were covered in papyrus, with tin roofing sheets. **\$500**

Health Needs: Uganda recently instituted a free HIV testing program. Until then testing was quite expensive (about \$15) and Little Angels was only able to get a few of the orphans tested. Since then many have been tested and twelve are currently HIV positive. In the past Project Kesho has facilitated trips to the doctor and purchased medical supplies for the orphans. **\$200**

Supply Purchases: As noted above, there is a chronic food shortage at Little Angels. During the last two years Project Kesho has purchased many supplies for Little Angels. We have purchased food for the orphans to eat on a semi-monthly basis to cover this shortage. The orphans who board at the school sleep crammed into beds, the younger ones sleep five to a bed and the older ones sleep three to a bed. Over the past two years we have purchased five



This shows some of the classrooms at Little Angels and the new rainwater catchment system.

bunk beds, twelve mattresses and twelve blankets to address this need. We also purchased enough bed nets for all the beds to protect the orphans from malaria. We purchased exercise books, pens and pencils to address the school supply shortage. Little Angels has several farm animals: one cow, a goat and 20 or so chickens. The cow is pregnant and provides a little milk, the goat will be sold soon for money, and the chickens provide between 5-8 eggs a day. In the summer of 2009 Project Kesho purchased an additional cow and goat. The cow will produce milk for the orphans and its offspring can be sold to purchase food. Upon reaching maturity the goat can also be sold for double its purchase price. One of the goals of Little Angels' leadership is for the orphanage to have a steady revenue stream from raising animals to support their own food needs. **\$1000**

Little Angels
Strengths and
Current Needs:

Little Angels has a solid base upon which to build. The school leadership is creative, energetic, and refuses to concede defeat. Since the school was started by local people to address their own needs, they have an active stake in seeing it continue. The students



who attend school, and especially the orphans who board, do not suffer from neglect; school leadership is very concerned about their wellbeing. There are, however, several current pressing needs:

- **Health/Education Needs:** As mentioned previously, the orphans at Little Angels are not neglected and the school leadership is very concerned about their wellbeing. However, with limited resources there is only so much they can do for the orphans. There is never enough money to adequately feed, clothe, and meet their health and educational needs. Those that are HIV positive need special care and attention, including expensive medication and frequent trips to the local clinic. The original group of orphans, 14 students, is in their final year of primary school. The cost of attending secondary school is significantly higher than primary school.
- **Infrastructure:** Project Kesho has completed several infrastructure projects in the past (new bathroom facilities, classroom construction and repair), but there is still work to be done. Several of the classrooms are overcrowded and need to be expanded. Also, several of the classrooms lack proper walls and need to be replaced. The space where the orphans board needs to be expanded and more beds and bedding need to be purchased to reduce bed crowding.

Project Kesho is excited to continue our partnership with the school and to address the core issue facing Little Angels: lack of a sustainable income source. The school was never designed to create a surplus, but rather to address community needs of education and orphanhood. By virtue of the people they serve, there is little chance to A steady and reliable source of income will allow school leadership to not only meet day-to-day needs, but plan future projects. They can break out of survival mode and take a more active role in shaping their future.



Funding Report Fall 2009:

Project Kesho is forever grateful to the generous contributions of our many donors who have donated their time, supplies and money. Without your support we would not be able to have the impact that we have had over the last years! Since the fall of 2007 Project Kesho has partnered with a group of donors called Village Assist. This group has sponsored much of our work in Tanzania.

Total Village Assist money raised to date: \$26,070

Village Assist Sponsored Projects (2008-09):

Lundamatwe Classroom:	\$5600
Ulonge Standard 6 Classroom and Office:	\$5250
Ulonge Standard 7 Classroom	\$700
Clinic Support:	\$800
Lundamatwe Borehole #1:	\$725
Lundamatwe Borehole #2:	\$500
Ulonge Borehole:	\$500
Clinic Borehole:	\$250
Lusaula Borehole:	\$300

Total Village Assist money spent to date: \$14,625

Amount Remaining: \$11,445

Other 2008 Tanzania Projects:

Secondary School Sponsorship:	\$3000
Sustainable Farm:	\$2000
Orphan Network:	\$150

Little Angels Projects (2007-09):

Bathroom Construction:	\$2000
Supply Purchases:	\$1000
Rainwater Catchment System:	\$600
Classroom Structural Repair:	\$500
Health Needs:	\$200



Upcoming Projects

Upcoming Tanzania Projects:

Ulonge Primary School Pre-Primary Classroom:	\$6,000
Kibati Primary School Construction:	\$10,000-\$15,000
Continued Village Health Clinic Support:	\$500-\$1,000
Two Boreholes and Pumps:	\$1,000-\$1,400
SODIS Training:	\$300-\$500
Total:	\$17,800-\$23,900

Upcoming Little Angels Projects:

Health/Education:	
Food:	\$200/month
Health	\$100/month
Secondary School:	\$1,000
Infrastructure Repairs:	
Classroom Repair:	\$500
Boarding Area Expansion:	\$1,000
Total:	\$2,500 + \$300/month