



Komo Learning Centres

Annual Report 2011

Komo Learning Centres

Supporting community initiatives of excellence in Uganda

The Komo Learning Centres (KLC) was established in 2008 to provide community-based educational opportunities for vulnerable & disadvantaged children in the Mpoma community of Uganda. Since then, it has moved steadily towards identifying and refining a model for sustainable community development for rural communities in Africa.

- This progress has been achieved through our implementing partner, **Mpoma Community HIV/AIDS Initiative**. Mpoma was the dream of HIV-positive mothers and fathers who wished a healthy and happy future for their children against difficult odds. In just a few years and with relatively little donor funding, Mpoma is approaching financial self-sufficiency for its programs in education, food security, health, livelihoods, and orphan care. While the passion that sustains Mpoma's community members is unique to this group of people, the model they employ may be applicable and valuable for other marginalized communities in Uganda and elsewhere.
- Our other featured partner is the **Komo Center for Understanding Autism**, which provides care to autistic children and education to the general population about what has been, heretofore, a stigmatized and misunderstood condition.

In the following pages you will read much more about KLC's work and its partners. We are excited about what has been accomplished and ambitious about what can be achieved in the next few years.

The Mpoma Community HIV/Aids Initiative

The Mpoma Community HIV/AIDS Initiative (Mpoma) was founded in 1999 by a group of people infected and affected by HIV/ AIDS. What began as a small group of sick caretakers concerned about their children's futures has blossomed into a dynamic, motivated, healthier, and, most especially, hopeful community of positive living. Mpoma now offers programs across a number of strategic areas: **education, food security, health, livelihoods, and capacity-building.**

The Origin of Partnership

- With roots in the Mpoma community, Noerine Kaleeba, the founder The AIDS Support Organization (TASO) wanted to support the efforts of these caretakers to organize themselves for a better future. KLC came into existence in 2008 after several Friends of Noerine Kaleeba (FONK) were inspired to create a formal organization to support Noerine's vision.

The Purpose of Partnership

- KLC strives to empower members of the Mpoma community to improve their own well-being through education and healthcare initiatives. During 2011, KLC and Mpoma worked together on a relatively remarkable array of projects. The multi-sector approach will eventually help Mpoma's flagship project- the Johnson Nkosi Memorial Primary School- achieve 100% financial self-sufficiency. Additionally, community households are increasingly benefitting from outreach programs that will assist them to be financially secure, healthier, and more unified as a community to address challenges.

Education



Education



Primary Education

- The Nkosi School has approximately 300 students, including 90 boarding students who are typically orphans or extremely vulnerable children. KLC has partnered with Mpoma to pay salaries, purchase foodstuffs, refurbish & build additional infrastructure.

Vocational Education

- KLC will be partnering with Mpoma to create programming to address school dropouts and others in need of practical training.

Sponsorships

- Students are provided with tuition fees, school materials & uniforms, transport to and from their schools, and room & board when applicable.

Education

2011 Achievements



Project	2011 Goal	Progress
Sponsorship	Increase number of sponsorships from 11	There were a total of 45 students sponsored at the end of 2011 across primary, secondary, & university including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 primary students • 38 secondary students • 5 university students
Vocational	Begin planning vocational skills support program	KLC has engaged some excellent thought partners to plan support for non-secondary and university youth. These include: Building Tomorrow, Educate!, and other reputable NGOs in Uganda.

Education

2012 Goals



Project	Goal	Description
Sponsorship	Increase total number of sponsored students	KLC will support vocational students in addition to primary, secondary, & university scholars.
Vocational	Devise strategic plan for vocational programming for area youth	The Vocational Task Force will develop concrete objectives for vocational support, including career counseling, internships, mentoring, & eventually gainful employment.

Food Security



Food Security



Community Farmers

- The vast majority of Mpoma households engage in subsistence farming. While there are master cultivators present in the community, many farmers are discouraged by uncertain weather, fluctuating market prices, & lack of inputs. With targeted support from KLC, improved income & nutrition can be derived from their fields.

Nkosi School

- Food costs account for approximately 1/3 of the operating expenses at Nkosi School. If the school could grow its own food, there would be less dependence on donors & more control over the nutritious content of the menu. Further, if a surplus can be grown, other operating costs like staff salaries might be paid from the sale of produce.

Food Security

2011 Achievements



Project	2011 Goal	Progress
Community Farmers	Begin training program for local households	Approximately 70 farmers were trained by master farmers from France & Uganda.
Nkosi School	Achieve 100% food security for students & staff from internal production	Production was delayed for various reasons but 30% of need has been met to date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borehole was dug and pump connected to grid. Now irrigating 2.5 acres at Phase 1 for cultivation of nutritious vegetables & fruits. • There are now operational chicken & goat projects that provide protein for the students & staff.

Food Security

2012 Goals



Project	Goal	Description
Community Farmers	Establish 4 training centers led by master farmers	Sites will be established to serve as demonstration farms at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nkosi School • A 5-acre plot to be acquired by Nkosi School • Two plots owned by community farmers
Nkosi School	Achieve 80% food security for students & staff from internal production	As measured by reduction in foodstuff expenses, this will move the school closer to independence from price fluctuations & scarcity.
Nkosi School	Begin commercialization phase to generate revenue for school	With the purchase of a 2 nd 5-acre plot, our farm staff can begin producing crops for sale to reduce dependence on donors for funding.

Health



Health



Community Health

- Mpoma was founded by sick caretakers who hoped their children could lead healthy lives. Much has been accomplished on this count, but there still exist pervasive ills in the community including malaria, HIV/AIDS, water-borne diseases, & malnutrition. KLC & other supporters are helping Mpoma target the worst threats to the health of the community.

Nkosi School

- Healthy children = successful scholars. Beginning with a nutritious menu at school, access to a professional nurse & trained teachers, & health curriculum teaching children how to take care of their own health, Nkosi students can concentrate on passing exams & just being kids.

Health

2011 Achievements



Project	2011 Goal	Progress
Community Health	Create malaria prevention program	In partnership with Soft Power Health, Mpoma staff were trained to conduct malaria prevention workshops & sell bed nets.
Community Health + Nkosi School	Open dispensary	Newly-hired Nurse Helen operates a dispensary at the school and leads outreach to community households.
Community Health + Nkosi School	Conduct healthcare needs assessment	Approximately 250 households were surveyed to develop a baseline understanding of the major healthcare challenges in the community: malaria prevention, clean water & sanitation, & family planning.

Health

2012 Goals



Project	Goal	Description
Community Health + Nkosi School	Develop community healthcare strategy	Based on the needs assessment, a long-term plan of activities will be created to address primary health needs of the students at Nkosi and the greater community.
Community Health	Plan construction of Level-2 Clinic	Land will be purchased for a clinic adjacent to the Nkosi School, which will serve the community.
Community Health	Increase scope of health outreach	Volunteer Community Health Workers (CHWs) & Mpoma staff will be trained to educate, diagnose, and refer serious cases among Mpoma community households.

Livelihoods



Livelihoods



Savings Scheme

- Mpoma community members came together to create an informal microfinance bank for themselves. With seed funding from KLC & other supporters, they are able to make loans to one another for starting or expanding small businesses.

Nkosi School

- In addition to the agriculture commercialization pursuit, Nkosi will need other revenue streams to achieve 100% financial self-sufficiency.



Livelihoods

2011 Achievements

Project	2011 Goal	Progress
Savings Scheme	Increase capacity of the Scheme	The revolving fund was increased by \$2,000, which doubled the pool from which loans can be given. Members also received training on business management.

2012 Goals

Project	Goal	Description
Nkosi School	Develop strategic plan for income generation activities.	Potential revenue streams such as vehicle hire, food processing, & sale of agricultural surplus will be analyzed for their viability.

Capacity Building



Capacity Building



Administration

- An organization will not grow unless it has systems in place to provide a proper framework. Mpoma is steadily refining its back-office activities to run more cheaply & efficiently.

Infrastructure

- The infrastructure of the Nkosi School is tremendously beneficial in attracting paying students and providing an environment suited to learning.

Team

- Building on the passion & strength of Mpoma's founders, the next generation of leaders is being trained, while bringing new skills & new ideas to the community.

Capacity Building

2011 Achievements



Project	2011 Goal	Progress
Administration	Improve systems	Staff were trained in accounting, project management, & other administrative subjects.
Infrastructure	Complete construction projects	During 2011, a dining hall, teachers' housing, computer lab, library, & playground were built at Nkosi School. The borehole was dug and pump installed at the agriculture project. Several classrooms were also renovated.
Infrastructure	Purchase equipment	The borehole is operational, powered by a water pump. An industrial truck was procured to move equipment & people.
Team	Hire new staff	Between Mpoma & Nkosi, a nurse, agriculture managers & consultants, & Global Health Corps Fellows were brought on board.

Capacity Building

2012 Goals

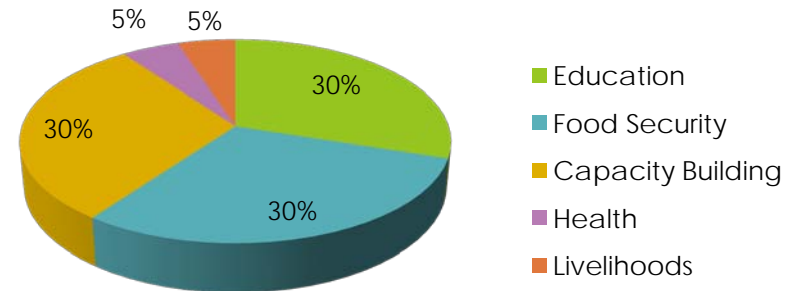


Project	Goal	Description
Administration	Assess the Mpoma organization structure & identify needed staff & systems	Continue to refine internal systems of accounting & project management.
Infrastructure	Complete new construction projects	The kitchen, clinic, & additional teachers' housing will be built.
Team	Hire new staff	Four full-time workers will be hired for the agriculture team. The partnership with Global Health Corps will be renewed.

KLC Financials



Program Costs



There was some growth in donor funding in 2011. There was tremendous growth in the expenses incurred due to the many infrastructure projects completed. KLC remains with healthy reserves.

*100% of all donations received were spent on operations in Uganda.

KLC Partners

	<p>The Segal Family Foundation invests in efficient, charitable solutions that improve life in sub-Saharan Africa. They were KLC's first major supporter. www.segalfamilyfoundation.com</p>
	<p>Global Health Corps aims to mobilize a global community of emerging leaders to build the movement for health equity. GHC has sent a team of two fellows to help develop our Mpoma Community Initiative. www.ghcorps.org</p>
	<p>The Healthy World Foundation seeks to advance the development of interventions that help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world live healthier lives. They are KLC's partner in our health initiative with Mpoma community. www.healthyworldfoundation.org</p>
	<p>Soft Power Health operates a clinic, a malaria prevention program, and a family planning educational outreach program in Uganda. They assist KLC by training our community and health workers to better implement their outreach programs. www.softpowerhealth.org</p>
	<p>Educate's mission is to educate and empower the next generation of socially responsible leaders in Africa. Educate! is helping us develop a plan for our vocational skills initiative. www.experienceeducate.org</p>
	<p>VEDCO is a non-governmental organization in Uganda established to improve the quality of life of small and medium farmers. VEDCO collaborates with our Mpoma community in various agriculture-related projects. www.vedcouganda.org</p>
	<p>Taso is a Uganda based organization whose mission is to prevent HIV infection, restore hope, and improve the quality of life of communities affected by HIV infection and disease. They help our Mpoma community train the community health workers. www.tasouganda.org</p>

Komo Center for Understanding Autism



Origin

- Komo Autism was founded in 2006 by Elizabeth Kaleeba, mother of an autistic son. While there is increasing awareness of autism in the developed world, there are very few support services for families affected by autism in Uganda or elsewhere in Sub-Saharan Africa. The centre was started to provide education, care and support for children and families affected by ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder). It is the first provision of this kind in Uganda.

Mission

- The mission of the Komo Centre is to include students with special needs into an inclusive mainstream school environment. In this way they can learn from their pre-school peers, by interacting with them and copying how they play and learn. It also gives mainstream students an opportunity to learn about the nature of children with autism; the difficulties they face; and to positively interact and value people with autism and severe learning difficulties.

Komo Center for Understanding Autism



Activities

- Education for autistic children in the 'mainstreaming mode' wherein they learn alongside non-autistic children, including vocational training to prepare them for productive adulthood
- Raise awareness of autism in Uganda, including teacher workshops & sports galas
- Assistance to families for proper care of autistic children, including home visits throughout the year

