

MORNING STAR CHILDREN CENTRE & PRIMARY SCHOOL

POVERTY CASE OVERVIEW

Morning Star is located in the slums of Ziwa la Ng'ombe Settlement Scheme in the North-Coast. The slums are characterized by families of low income earners. Most children experience difficulty because their parents are poor. Some cases are further compounded by the fact that most of the families are single-parent with mothers doing the upbringing.



The economic situations aren't the best. On many occasions the mothers will take the kids every morning with them to their friends' houses where they will help them do the chores. As payment, they then give them food. In the worst of the situations, a number of young mothers resort to prostitution and commercial sex work whereupon they end up with STDs, unwanted pregnancies and other terminal diseases besides low esteem.



Most families live on less than a dollar a day. This makes children to be

malnourished and as such lack concentration in class work. Due to lack of employment, many people resort to menial jobs which in return cannot sustain family needs like food, shelter, education and medication. The situation is so severe that some parents are unable to afford school uniform for their school-going children. Because we are a centre that understands, we let pupils come as they are; in their civilian wears- who know, along the way a well-wisher may feel touched.



Most families inhabit pathetic structures for houses. This has led to families having difficulties and migratory patterns during rainy seasons. In such seasons, because the structures are made of mud walls with makuti(palm leave) roofs many get washed away by heavy rains and render families homeless thus making them susceptible to communicable diseases. This in turn affects school attendance thereby poor performance by pupils from such families.



The school management has on many occasions had to assist by introducing a tentative school feeding program which has shown quite some improvement in children health and attendance. Infact some parents also sneak in during occasional lunch hours for a meal! This scenario tells it all; that things aren't right and something has to be done and done very fast!



As a school we always strive to make today better than yesterday. It is in this spirit that we always pray that one day a Good Samaritan will come our way and our pupils will live to realize their dreams. This is because due to poor prevailing factors, many children end up having their dreams shuttered as a result of unfriendly factors compounded by financial incapacitation.

They say Rome wasn't built in a day! We look forward patterning with well-wishers and any other like-minded organizations / establishments to help uplift the living standards of the slum dwellers, specifically families bordering our school who also double as our pupils' parents. The government has on many occasions promised to do a thing or two but it has forever remained a promise! We envisage being a centre of excellence in matters education in our neighbourhood thereby nurturing future generation. May good Lord see us through as we navigate in these turbulent and murky waters....Amen.

God bless Morning Star.

Eric Oginga Kusule
Director