

# HAKUNA MATATA

Kenya Newsletter January 2014



## Reasons for Care and Teaching 2014 Mission



January 2012, Projects Abroad started operations in Kenya, starting with only two volunteers to nine volunteer the following month, by last year the over 300 volunteers came with Projects Abroad to volunteer. This trend shows tremendous growth. To make sure that we grow together with our partners, i.e schools and care placements like orphanages and day care placements, a management plan was introduced late last year. Seeking to improve the quality of education and care that is offered in these facilities. Volunteers working in the placements will help run and utilize this plan with the help and supervision of the care and teaching coordinator, Sally Shepard. Here is a brief explanation why the care management plan was introduced:

Literacy levels are very low in Kenya

Literacy levels are lower in public schools than private schools. This is due to a number of reasons, including poverty, child labor, family issues (HIV/AIDS) etc. but also a lack of learning, teaching resources, and poor student to teacher ratios in Public schools.

Poverty

Despite the impressive economic growth in the last two years, Kenya is still among the world's 30 poorest countries, ranking 152 out of 177 countries on the 2006 Human Development Index. Inequalities are wide with the top 10% of Kenyans earning 44% of the national income, whilst the bottom 10% earns less than one per cent.

Over 25% of the population live on less than \$1 per day

### **What we hope to do**

1). Provide a channel for education to all children in both formal and informal settings with a focus on increasing the literacy level.

-You can bring new, interesting ideas from your home country. Things you did in school, books you have read, games you played.

2). To help the children with basic life skills and enhance social development and interaction.

-Spend time with the children. Get to know them, encourage them to follow their dreams and ambitions. Teach them about your country, your culture, your family, etc.

3). To promote child participation at all levels of development.

-Run workshops and clubs for all the children to join. Encourage the children to get involved. Help them out if they are struggling or getting behind. Find what they are good at and push these areas as well as the things they find difficult.

4). To promote cultural exchange to the future generation of Kenya

-Teach them about your world!! Think about how much this culture has influenced your life and thoughts, the same will be for the people of Kenya experiencing yours.

5). Promote knowledge of sexually transmitted diseases. Provide basic sex education.

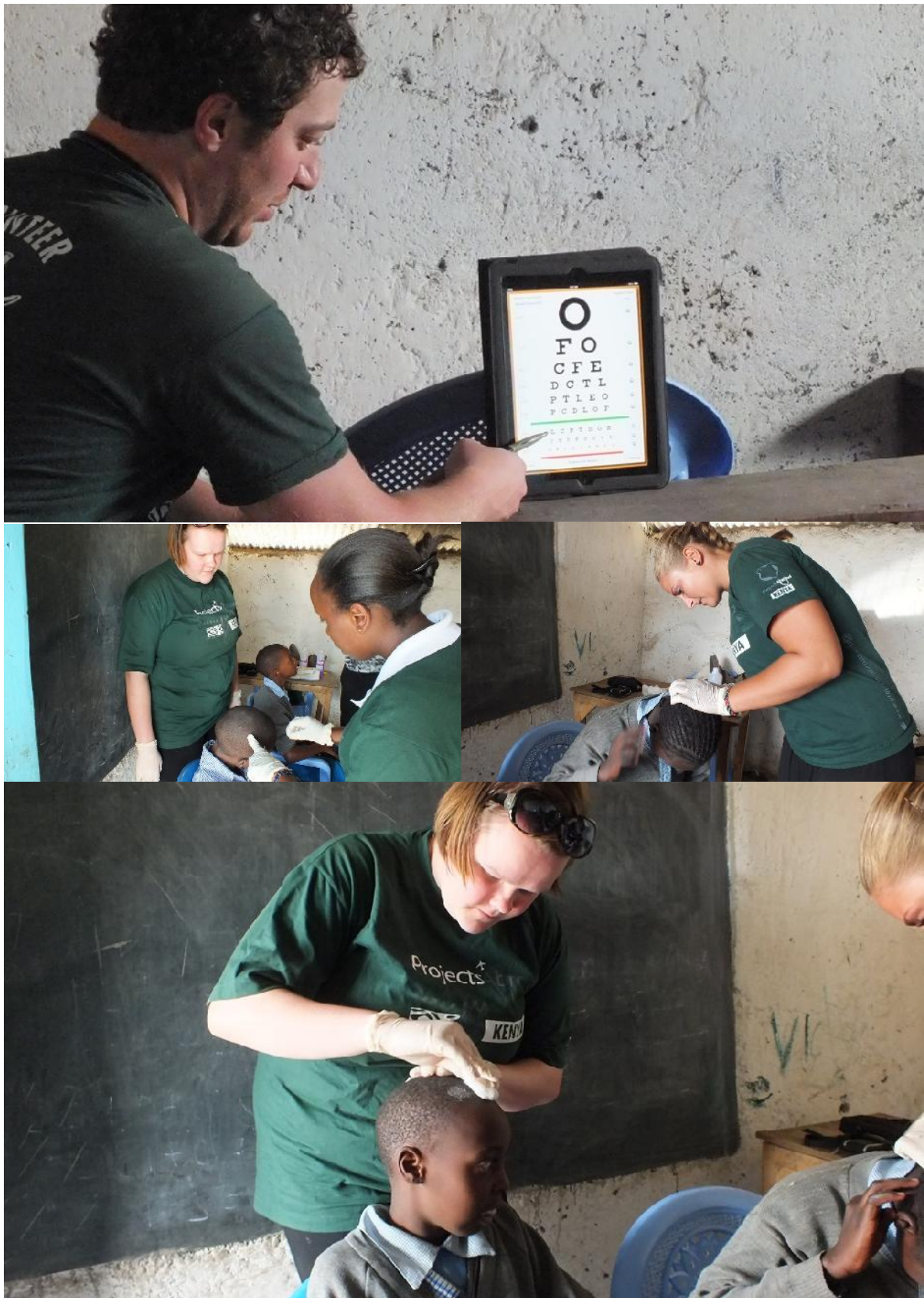
-They have no sexual education in schools or at home. There is a very high abortion level and many unwanted pregnancies. Not to mention the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS.

This is just the beginning of the list!!

Let's get these things started and help to push the development of this AMAZING country forward!!



## Medical Outreach





While on his usual routine at his work place of work Algadhir Clinic, Dr. Michael, a Canadian medical volunteer who has travelled with Projects Abroad noticed a group of ten children all in the same school uniform. With them a lady volunteer who is here to help them get treatment for their eye problem. This led to Dr Michael and the lady seeing the need for an eye check at the whole school which has over 450 children.

A medical outreach was held at Melon Center a school with over 450 pupils, all children are educated for free or required to pay a very small fee of 200 shillings per term. The population of this school is derived from the Ponda Mali slum area with only less than 1% of the population able to pay this fee, living out of well-wishers help and contributions. Dr Michael used his Ipad as an eye chart. All the children who could not read well had their names written down where Michael would later make sure that they receive medical attention once at his placement.

## Making Kenya Green

In the effort of achieving one of the goals (having 10% of Kenya under forest cover) of Vision 2030, the Kenyan government aims at planting trees at schools all over the country. Projects Abroad Kenya conservation manager, Tonny Kipkuria, has been engaging Kenya Forest service in trying to get a partnership which will see volunteers plant trees in schools around Naivasha and Nakuru. As we wait for the partnership to materialize, conservation volunteers have already started working on it through making a tree nursery bed and transplanting the tree to schools around Naivasha.

Occasionally the care; medical; teaching and sports volunteers from Nakuru have helped plant trees in Kigio and Langa-Langa town. To continue with this spirit on March 28<sup>th</sup> 2014, Projects Abroad Kenya volunteers will be planting trees at Crater and Nyamaki schools, as well as Nyamaki clinic.

