



Upendo Nursery School Building Project 2010 – 2013

The completed Upendo Nursery School stands proudly in Sabaki Village in its purple and white official school colours. The school now boasts four bright airy standard-sized classrooms. The compound is fully fenced. The gate is installed. A solid tin roof will ensure no rain indoors for years to come! One of only a few concrete buildings in the village and one of the only ones to be fully finished and painted, it is a source of pride to the community. As well as a source of hope.

Humble Beginnings

The “new” school has actually been around since 2004 – run by a local community “self-help” group. The group approached Elimu in 2010 for assistance in moving their program from its humble mud hut beginnings to a real building better suited to providing effective early childhood education. In fact, the school’s name is now officially Upendo Early Childhood Education Centre, as per the directives of the Ministry of Education.



The mud hut (which is a church building) posed many challenges, including crowding, no separation for different classes, a leaking roof, no toilet facilities and a dirt floor, which exposed the kids to fleas and other insects. The new facility will continue to be run by the community, under an expanded school management committee. The committee includes the head teacher, parent representatives, other representatives from the community and one position for Elimu (to ensure long term involvement and an active monitoring role).



Our Partners Made It Possible

Building began in 2011 and was completed by December 2014. This project was made possible with the help of many generous and dedicated supporters from Canada, the U.S. and England. Elimu's most significant partner in making the school a reality is **Global Child Care Services** of Ottawa, Canada. From the very beginning, Global has undertaken an active fundraising role, involving administrative staff, teachers, parents and children from across their nine programs and head office. Funds were raised in a truly hands-on, localized manner. A great variety of activities were hosted over the three years of



the building project. Activities such as bake sales, car washes, raffle tickets and used book sales brought in amounts like \$25, \$250, \$500 at a time. Since the spring of 2011, over \$23,000 was raised by Global Child Care Services alone.

We Advanced Step by Step (With a Lot of Love)

The original budget was set at \$25,000 in 2010. Over the three years of the project, the original parameters were expanded as funds became available. The original budget catered for three classrooms only. The final construction includes a full perimeter fence and gate and Bougainvillea hedges around the entire compound, four full-sized classrooms and painting in the official school colours.

In addition, Elimu hosted a series of management training seminars to assist in the recruitment and establishment of the new school management committee. They also held a Thanksgiving Day at the school in October, 2013. The goals of the event were to raise awareness, encourage participation and build ownership from the Sabaki Village community. The final expanded project to the end of 2013 cost just under \$35,000. As with all Elimu projects to the end of 2013, all funds raised went direct to project needs. All project management by Elimu in Kenya or Canada was provided on a volunteer basis.



At Elimu we believe that the long term viability of the nursery school is based on the community taking real and effective ownership of the project. Elimu will continue to encourage Upendo in the development and practical application of their school management committee and strategic development plan. Elimu will also continue to monitor the school's growth and development. Regular attendance at their management committee meetings is one of the key ways in which we will achieve this.

To all who made Upendo Early Childhood Education Centre a reality we offer our deepest gratitude. Upendo means "love" in Swahili. This school has truly been built with love.



We will continue to provide updates on the growth and development of Upendo Early Childhood Education Centre via our facebook pages. Stay tuned.

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