



MATHARE COMMUNITY OUTREACH (MCO)

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BACKGROUND



Bishop Daniel Ogutu, - Founding Director

Mathare Community Outreach (MCO) is a community-based development, non-sectarian, inter denominational Christian, child-focused program initiated by Outreach Community Center (OCC), a church-based institution in the Mathare slums. It was founded in 1994 by Bishop Daniel Ogutu with the mandate to respond to the suffering of children in the Mathare Valley slums. These children were living in abject poverty and with no hope of getting education.

The program began with simply providing a cup of porridge per day as they are taught the Word of God. In recognizing the need for education for these little ones who were only going for Bible classes, an informal school was begun in Mathare B which became known as MCO A Primary School.

The humble initiative has since grown and the MCO project now runs three elementary schools and one high school besides other social response programs.

OUR VISION

A responsible community empowered for the Glory of God.

OUR MISSION

To reach out to communities in poor circumstances, provide spiritual, educational, and physical support to the associated children; thus, helping them become responsible and empowered adults for the glory of God.

CORE VALUES

- Compassion
- Integrity
- Persistence
- Excellence
- Dignity

The project is located in the expansive Mathare Valley in Nairobi City including the Kariobangi slums and Maseno area in Kisumu County with most of its activities focused on the Mathare slums. Touted as the oldest slum in Nairobi with an estimated population of 500,000 dwellers who live in four by six shanties made of old iron sheets, rusted tin, or mud. The area is prone to frequent fires due to the nature of the structures. The slum has a history of crime, drug and substance abuse, prostitution, child abuse, and molestation. This is fueled by the poverty level in the slum that currently stands at \$1 per day per household.

The high population has led to congestion and reduced public amenities; hence, poor waste disposal, drainage, roads, schools, and health facilities.

The organization is managed by a seven-member board of directors who sit at policy level. The executive director is charged with the responsibility of day-to-day running of the organization supported by key management staff. Ninety-five staff members in all comprise the total workforce.



The table below show how you may be able to help us implement our activities: Table 1: Support to a child in Primary (Elementary) school

PROGRAMS

MCO runs programs to achieve its intended goals.

- i. Education (sponsorship/scholarship)
- ii. Care & protection to vulnerable children (Children Center in Kariobangi Nairobi)
- iii. Spiritual Growth (Discipleship program, Vocational Bible School, Camps etc.)
- iv. Feeding Program (Lunch program in schools)
- v. Economic empowerment (Savings for Life)

EDUCATION

The following schools were opened to provide disadvantaged children access to formal education. The typical student population in the MCO schools is 1500 every year.

*In addition to school facilities, scholarships are granted to support high school graduates who have attained a minimum grade of D+ to pursue various courses offered at mid-level colleges. Available to them are two to three-year certificate and diploma courses such as teaching, accountancy, social work, nursing, electrical & electronics, and motor vehicle mechanics, among others.

SUPPORT US

You can partner with us through your financial support in ensuring a child's holistic development in these four major areas:

- Economically, which includes education and skills development.
- Socio-emotionally, which includes training in life skills and promotion of emotional health through counseling.
- Physically, which includes feeding, clothing, healthcare provision, as well as emergency treatment.
- Spiritually, which includes instructing children in the Word of God and discipleship training for believers.

NEED/ACTIVITY	USD PER MONTH	YEAR COST
Education	15	180
Catering	10	120
Health care	3	36
Uniforms	4	48
Spiritual	5	60
Personal Hygiene	2	24
Social	2	24
Skills	2	24
Administration	2	24
TOTALS	45	540

NEED/ACTIVITY	USD PER MONTH	YEAR COST
Education (Per term)	68	816
Health care	3	36
Spiritual	5	60
Personal Hygiene	2	24
Social	2	24
Skills	2	24
Administration	2	24
TOTALS	84	1,008

Table 3: Support to a student College (University or Midlevel College) and others for 2 years

NEED/ACTIVITY	USD PER MONTH	YEAR COST
Support fee		1,500
Discipleship programme 7months		312.50
TOTALS		2,125

Table 4: Support to a child in a Children's center

NEED/ACTIVITY	USD PER MONTH	YEAR COST
Education	15	180
Catering	10	120
Health care	3	36
Clothing / Uniform once	4	48
Spiritual	5	60
Personal Hygiene	2	24
Social	2	24
Skills	2	24
Administration	2	24
Reintegration	3	36
TOTALS	45	540



ACHIEVEMENTS

Spiritual: many lives has been transformed in the slums of Mathare and the surrounding. A good number of the youth now serves the Lord. There is general behavior change resulting in reduced criminal incidences.

Employment: The project has created employment to the people of the nation of Kenya. Locals and former beneficiaries of the project have been employed in the organization.

Economic Empowerment: Over 80 groups have been set up in the community and empowered to save and lend each other. This has allowed them to self-sustain and meet other family expenses like paying school fees.

Education: The organisation has supported and given access to education of close to 17000 children since inception. Today it has produced different professional teachers, engineers, lawyers, accountants through this program. They are able now to support their families.

CHALLENGES

Structure: The current buildings are in dilapidated states needing urgent renovations and new buildings. Most affected are classrooms; this has affected the student's enrolments in the school. The institution need nearly US \$ 50,000 to renovate and build also new classrooms and staff.

Staff Turnover: Trained P1 or graduate teachers are getting absorbed by the government resulting to a compromised standard of education due to lack of consistency. There is also the issue of insufficient and unreliable salary payments which disenchant staff causing them to leave for greener pastures.

Insecurity: Our major area of work in Mathare is not safe. Theft and mugging are very commonplace. Negative environmental influences. The prevalence of social ills such as pornography, prostitution, child labor, etc. are a negative influence on the children.

Community Expectation: The community expects

more support than what we are able to offer which is compounded by a dependency syndrome.

Ethnicity: The slum is divided according to ethnic fronts and achieving spiritual growth and development has been a struggle. Most of the residents align themselves according to churches led by their tribesmen instead of God's word.

Slum Migration: Some caregivers/parents continue to move from one slum to another for different reasons affecting children who are sponsored. Some transfer after accumulating large school fee balances which can strain relationships with the sponsors.

Sponsorship: The organization supporting about 1500 children lacks enough sponsors. Only about 500 are under sponsorship. A minimum of 1200 sponsored children is needed

Feeding Program: This has remain very core to the community. The organizations lacks enough financial support to sustain this particular program. Most children come to school because of the feeding.

NETWORK & COLLABORATION

MCO does not work in isolation. It has entered into partnership with various organizations to support its programs including the Government of Kenya through relevant ministries.

OUR PARTNERS

- Compassion International Kenya
- Tumaini Africa
- Bright Hope World
- Grace Church Minnesota
- Chertsy Street Baptist Church, UK
- St Peters' Church, Bexhill
- Peter Hills, UK
- Missions Of Hope International
- Childcare International
- Bright Hope International
- Inverted Arts
- Ministry of Education