



# REACH<sup>THE</sup> CHILDREN

2012 Annual Report



# 2012



## *Table of Contents*

Reach the Children in Africa .....	3	Micro-Enterprise .....	8
A Holistic Approach .....	4	Orphan Care .....	9
AIDS Prevention .....	5	Water & Agriculture .....	10
Education .....	6	Community Empowerment.....	10
Health .....	7	How We Are Different .....	10

# Reach the Children in Africa

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### Involved In:

Aids Prevention  
Education  
Micro-Enterprise  
Orphan Care  
Water & Agriculture

## Kenya

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### Involved In:

Aids Prevention  
Education  
Micro-Enterprise  
Orphan Care  
Water & Agriculture

*Reach the Children pioneered our holistic Community Development program in two cities in Kenya, Mutituni and Chyulu, with much success.*

## Tanzania

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### Involved In:

Aids Prevention  
Water & Agriculture



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### Involved In:

Aids Prevention  
Education  
Micro-Enterprise  
Orphan Care  
Water & Agriculture

## Cote d'Ivoire

**Involved In:**  
Aids Prevention

## Ethiopia

**Involved In:**  
Aids Prevention

## Liberia

**Involved In:**  
Aids Prevention

## Madagascar

**Involved In:**  
Micro-Enterprise

## Mozambique

**Involved In:**  
Aids Prevention  
Orphan Care

## Namibia

**Involved In:**  
Aids Prevention

## Nigeria

**Involved In:**  
Aids Prevention  
Micro-Enterprise  
Water &  
Agriculture

## Sierra Leone

**Involved In:**  
Aids Prevention

## Somalia

**Involved In:**  
Aids Prevention  
Education

## South Africa

**Involved In:**  
Aids Prevention

## Swaziland

**Involved In:**  
Aids Prevention

## Zambia

**Involved In:**  
Aids Prevention

## ***A Holistic Approach***

Reach the Children believes in a holistic approach and partners with other NGO's to help equip African communities with the Stay Alive™ HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Program, educational support, health resources, micro-enterprise opportunities, orphan care programs, water and agricultural training and equipment.



*"Providing underprivileged children opportunities to become self-reliant by strengthening families and communities."*



## AIDS Prevention

According to USAID, the rate of new HIV infections in South Africa fell 41% since 2001; and in sub-Saharan Africa from 2009 to 2011, the number of children newly infected dropped 24% (USAID Briefing Booklet 2012). Education about HIV/AIDS makes a great difference, but the battle isn't over yet, the numbers still remain too high.



Reach the Children is the sole administrating and implementing organization for the life-saving, HIV/AIDS prevention, education program known as 'Stay Alive'. This program is unique to other AIDS prevention programs in that one of the key elements is parental participation. Students from age 9-14 are taught consequential thinking skills in order to make decisions that will help keep them AIDS free and allow them better opportunities to live a long life with a loving family. Parents step forward to learn more about AIDS themselves in order to discuss these hard subjects with their beloved children. They recognize the overpowering need to change the habits and taboos of the past generations

in order to help their children stay healthy, happy and AIDS free. Some parents attend classes and workshops, volunteer to help with school projects and sponsor Saturday activities and clubs in order to help their children understand more of the AIDS pandemic and how best to avoid its devastating grip.

in 2012, Reach the Children taught the program to 14,496 children, 805 parents, and 514 teachers.

One child wrote, "I will live a long, loving life. I am a person of great worth and deserve to live. My name is Namatouu." When asked if the Stay Alive program made a positive change for the children, the answers were absolute- Yes. Communication between

parents and children increased; children attained life skills, and knowledge about the prevention and transmission of HIV/AIDS; self-discipline increased; pregnancy rates dropped; and the children's respect for themselves and others increased.

Reach the Children also teaches HIV/AIDS education to people over the age of 25, using various methods such as community dialogues, demonstrations, film and drama shows.

'Stay Alive' was originally developed by Susan Roylance and Wendy Sheffield in partnership with United Families International.

To learn more, please go to [www.stayalive.org](http://www.stayalive.org) and [www.rtcprojects.org](http://www.rtcprojects.org)

## Education

According to the United Nations, approximately 31 million school-age children in sub-Saharan Africa do not attend school (United Nations Summit MDG 2; Target 2:A Fact Sheet (2 | 10)). Those who do attend are often distracted by hunger, disease, and poor conditions. This year, Mary Harris of Reach the Children presented to the United Nations the crucial role of families in children's education; and how parents, caregivers and the community can work together for the good of the children.



Harris states, "Although providing free tuition for Primary school is a great 'first step' in many countries, free tuition does not mean free uniforms, free food or free books and materials. Parents and families must provide for these additional costs in order for their children to stay in school. The challenge to families in providing an education for their children is still huge. (pg. 2, MDG 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education).

Lufumbo is a school in the western part of Kenya that has benefited from Reach the Children partnership projects done in Africa. The school has 704 pupils and 18 teachers, and needs additional classrooms, and a library. The idea came

from the school management committee, which is made up of school officials, local leaders and parents. Many family members, volunteers, and paid community members are helping build. Among the parents are skilled workers that can assist and earn income to help pay school dues and uniform costs. The work is being supervised by the community, and monitored by Reach the Children and Joining Hearts and Hands.

In most areas of Africa, girls are less likely to go to school, stay in school and do well academically. Once young girls in school begin their menstruation, many drop out due to lack of access to sanitary towels; the availability of adequate school sanitation

and hygiene facilities; the feelings of shame, neglect, that attend menstruation; and infections of the bladder, kidneys and reproductive organs.

Reach the Children expeditions have assisted mothers and daughters with knowledge, skills, and resources to combat the problem. They've donated sewing machines and taught how to make reusable sanitary towels, and provided resources for helping them understand their own bodies. Many girls expressed their happiness about being able to stay in school and become doctors, nurses, and teachers.

To see more Reach the Children Education projects, go to [www.rtcprojects.org](http://www.rtcprojects.org).

## Health

It is very apparent how overlapping and holistic many of Reach the Children's projects and programs are. Without good health, it is difficult for parents and caregivers to maintain jobs and provide for the children. Without good health, students are distracted from their studies. In order for changes to be made on a continuing basis, health must be a focus.

Old delivery bed and floor



New delivery bed, equipment & floor



In the Island district of Buvuma, conditions at the maternity ward of the Health Center were appalling. The delivery bed was in shambles, the maternity beds old and without blankets, the hazardous floor cracked and coming up in pieces, the ceiling boards rotten from the defecation from bats and sparrows and leaking water from the roof, the bedside tables were cracked and filthy, there was little privacy for examinations provided by a thin curtain, and what equipment was there was old and unreliable.

With donors, volunteers, and some paid help, part of the large room was partitioned off to create an examination room made of brick, cement

and sand. A local driver gave a discount on the bricks as his contribution, while other community members volunteered their time and effort in assisting a single skilled craftsman to replace the ceiling, painting the porch and maternity ward, fixing the leaky roof, measuring window frames for new windows, or assembling the delivery bed. Others volunteered to spend time in the future to help with the cleaning and upkeep of the facility.

A plastic floor tile was laid in the delivery room, and a technical person trained the medical staff on using the cleaner safely and effectively.

New equipment, including a Neo-natal weighing scale,

a drip stand, delivery bed and sanitary delivery sets were brought in. Aprons, gum boots, gloves and other medical supplies such as gauze and bandages, alcohol and antiseptics were also donated. Mama kits, newborn kits, blankets and mosquito nets were delivered.

Broken windows were fixed, walls painted, furniture repaired and painted, curtains put up, and plastic chairs purchased.

The changes have brought extremely positive responses from medical staff and mothers.

To see more Reach the Children Health projects, go to [www.rtcprojects.org](http://www.rtcprojects.org).

## Micro-Enterprise

It is very difficult for a family in poverty to educate their children, and provide nutritious meals, adequate clothing and shelter, and healthcare. Often, families live in a cycle of poverty because they lack the “hand up” that allows them to move from that cycle. Reach the Children partners with local Community Based Organizations (CBO) in an effort to build upon what the Africans are already doing for themselves. One of these organizations is the Shiebu group of Western Kenya.



In an effort to help members of Shiebu to lift themselves from poverty, an innovative micro-enterprise project was developed wherein families are given a cow instead of cash. This can dramatically and sustainably effect many families because the first two calves will be given to help two other families, and so on.

One family, the Obukana family, was given an exotic cow after meeting certain criteria. The exotic breeds produces more milk, and the amount the cow provided gace needed nutrition to the family and extra milk to sell for cash. With the extra money, the family was able to buy five chickens, which laid eggs and hatched chicks to expand to 50 laying hens. The eggs

from the hens again provided nutrition and there were extra to sell for more cash. The cow produces manure, which is used to fertilize the family garden and enhance production. The family had enough vegetables and fruits to add to their diet and some extra to sell for cash.

With the extra cash from the milk, eggs, extra fruit and vegetables, the parents have been able to send the oldest daughter to secondary school, to pay for the school uniform and fees for the younger children, and to buy clothing, shoes, and medicine for the family.

In addition, they had enough to start a commercial fish farm, where they raise tilapia

to sell to restaurants and local markets.

All of this from one cow. Indeed, the benefit is hard to calculate because the cow will have calves and the first two will benefit other families. The calves will become cows and themselves have calves, of which the first two will go to other families in the community, and so on. The benefits are innumerable.

This has also been successfully done with goats and chickens.

To see more Reach the Children Micro-Enterprise projects, go to [www.rtcprojects.org](http://www.rtcprojects.org).



## Orphan Care

There are millions of children in Africa who have lost one parent or both to AIDS or other illnesses. Some children are unable to be cared for by their parents and have been turned out on to the street to fend for themselves. Reach the Children assists in providing these children with a safe and peaceful environment, where they can learn and grow to be productive members of society.



Left Top: Old Kitchen  
Left Bottom: New Kitchen

Above: Old Toilet Stalls

Right Top: New Inside  
Right Bottom: New  
Toilet Stall



YOPDIDA is a facility that houses, educates, and trains those that have disabilities, some of which have been orphaned. The centre lacks enough learning and training space, dormitory facilities suitable for both girls and boys, and adequate sanitation facilities for the 51 students and 10 staff members. In addition, the front gate and the kitchen area needed to be redone, and the unstable beds and flea-infested mattresses needed to be replaced.

Reach the Children and Reach the Children UK, in separate expedition teams, brought volunteers and supplies, such as new sturdy beds and mattresses, sports gear for recreational activities, first aid kits, and paint. Volunteers

Painted all the rooms and doors and windows to make the rooms more attractive to the children and their visitors.

Next, they tackled the kitchen, if it could be called that, as it was missing most of the attributes of a kitchen. They installed shelves, a cupboard and a new wood saving stove, and filled the cupboard with plates, cups and source pans. They added a new door, serving window, and chimney.

The small entrance door in the main gate had been hard for the lame and blind children, and those in wheelchairs to navigate. It was redone, with the entrance doubled in size. In addition, a donation of white canes for the blind help them navigate through the gate, and

wherever else they go.

The bathroom and toilet facilities were appalling. They were without doors or a proper floor. There was a hole next to the entrance of the pit latrine, which caused the floor to weaken.

The bathroom was tiled up to improve sanitation and hygiene. The toilets were not always accessible to those with limb defects, so a modern toilet seat was added to the hole of the pit.

Those at YOPDIDA say it was a dream come true.

To read more Reach the Children projects, please go to [www.rtcprojects.org](http://www.rtcprojects.org).

## Water & Agriculture

There is a critical food shortage in Africa. Millions face the cruelties of hunger and starvation. There is an old Chinese proverb that says, "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." Reach the Children provides education, support, and equipment in assisting African children, families, and communities to "fish", or in this case, sustainably grow food and procure potable water.



One type of gardening Reach the Children teaches is square foot gardening. It works well for most families and in most schools because it requires little space. Through learning how to garden and take care of plants, the children not only increase their life skills but they also enhance the variety and nutrition of their diet. Families can sell any leftover produce for cash. Many families buy chicken with the extra money, to further enhance their diets and provide eggs to sell. With this cash, they can pay school fees, purchase clothing or shoes, or pay for health care.

Eshitari Primary School has 800 children. The children were using rare pit latrines in pathetic condition. There were not enough toilets for

the number of students. The children were unable to wash their hands after using the toilets and spread disease and illness, often resulting in diarrhea and absence from school.

For drinking water, the children walked to a stream and collected unsafe water. It was a problem.

Currently, the children have several harvesting tanks measuring 10,000 liters to give the children clean drinking water on school grounds. There is an adequate number of new toilets and stalls, and pit latrines are 15 feet deep, cemented, and designed to allow disposal of the waste. For every toilet, there is a wash station for children to wash their hands.

How did it happen? LDS Charities contracted with Reach the Children and donated over \$220,000 to construct toilets, build water-harvesting systems, repair springs, dig new borehole wells and provide hand-washing stations to communities in Kenya. Tens of thousands of individuals and their families and communities will be helped by this project. Eshitari Primary School was just one of them.

During digging of the pits, parents came up to do the work in totality and it was quite amazing to see the work completed in a few days. Spring heads were also replaced.

To see more Reach the Children projects, please go to [www.rtcprojects.org](http://www.rtcprojects.org).

## Community Empowerment

As you have read about some of the projects Reach the Children has been involved in this year, you may have noticed how often the community is involved. There's several reasons behind that.

First, location. The problems exist in the community, the solution is in the community. Often, community members recognize the problem and ask for help implementing a plan they already have.



Second, the locals know about their own community better than anyone. They know the environment, the challenges, the things that work and the things that don't. Take for instance the delivery room in the health center. The wall was initially going to be made of hardboard, but Reach the Children was advised against that by locals because the moist climate and the termites would have destroyed the wall quickly. The project took a turn towards brick and a local man gave a discount on the materials so the project was still on budget.

Third, community members want to help improve the life of their citizens, and being involved gives them a sense of ownership. They have a reason for wanting the project to succeed and for buildings to be maintained, et cetera-- they worked on it!

Fourth, working on a project and seeing it succeed empowers them. They, as individuals and as members of larger group, can be the force behind change; they can create solutions and succeed!

Much of the materials we have to purchase is done on a local level so the money stays in their community. Often the businessman that sells us supplies or the man that ferries us in the boat are the ones that come and lend us their time and effort.



## *Building Self-Reliant Communities*

- We give a hand up, not a handout
- We encourage the human desire to succeed
- We help people help themselves
- We don't give fish for today, we teach them to fish for tomorrow
- We work side by side with local people and networks

## *What Makes Reach the Children Unique?*

- **100%** of your donation will directly benefit the children we serve in Africa. Reach the Children has low administrative and fund-raising costs, which are covered by a supporting foundation so all public donations reach the children.
- We're creating a long-term solution – sustainable self-reliance!



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