

Progressive Report on Manyatta School, 2020

S.A.G.E

First term in 2020 started well and we had a number of activities lined up for the term, it usually a challenge with registrations as we get to hear all sorts of stories from December vacation and some of them are not very pleasant. Last year's performance was good with as many girls outshining boys having them score over 84% of the top positions across schools, the school activities were going on well and as planned up until COVID19 was declared a national tragedy and all schools were shut down until further notice.

In the wake of Covid19 we are forced to restructure the approach on distribution and contact, we are expected to keep social distance and wash hands every now and again or sanitize as often as possible in order to avert the pandemic.

Ministry of Education and ministry of health have both had a change of guard at the helm and that has equally changed the operations at the grassroots level with all the schools expected to adhere to the point.

The new regulations may be tight but we have a resolve to assist the girl child in achieving their goal in life regardless. Learning to cope with the new normal is not easy however we are determined and so far, we have been able to facilitate distribution of pads and panties to the girls.

Manyatta Primary school is one of our highlights this year as they have proven beyond doubt that they are resilient irrespective of the new challenges faced due to covid19. With a population of over 250 girls in attendance they have managed to give each a chance to be in class and all have been provided with masks and water points are all over for washing hands. Prior to opening of schools, we had to device new methods of meeting the girls and offering services as we had to also take to account the fact that there was a lot of free time and the girls were likely to engage in bad behaviours.

We continue to engage with relevant authorities as we get to offer our services to the girls, its imperatively clear that the will is there but the resources are limited, however with the little we have we are able to offer help to the most at risk.

We had a few girls who got pregnant during the long stay out of school but we have since traced them up and they are back in school leaving their young ones with caretakers.

There was a good chance that some of the girls were afraid and scared of coming clean on the matters that affected them during COVID-19 but we endeavoured to provide the most needed support by providing sanitary towels, psychosocial support, counselling and psychological support.

Topics

We were not able to run through our yearly topics as COVID-19 hit and we had to custom make most of our topics to include the fight against COVID-19, I must report that we managed to transition smoothly to provision of COVID-19 friendly messages with our topics, challenge being that the crowds could not gather for more than 30mins making it difficult with social distance regulations to manage more girls.

Activities within the term.

We had football games for the girls and Manyatta was one of the schools that were actively involved in the tournament making it possible for us to serve them regularly as the tournament was organized for every month.

There was also blood donation drive and we actively participated by offering our services to the girls and a big number from Manyatta Primary School was present.

We had a bicycle ride in Kisumu organized by the county and Manyatta primary school girls were involved.

This was all made possible by the fact that they were bold enough to attend all these meetings comfortably because they did not have to worry about their hygiene sanitation since this was taken care off by our support of Sanitary Pads and Under wears.

Achievements & Challenges

It's been a real challenge coping with huge crowd during this period of the pandemic. And in all this we have been able to keep the girls safe and out of harms way with the support of pads and panties