



**EVALUATION OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
PROGRAMME**  
(Conducted in August 2010)

**FINAL REPORT**

**Evaluation Facilitated by:**

**PARS**

**Pan-African  
Research Services Ltd**

P. O. BOX 66765 – 00800 NAIROBI KENYA.

Tel: +254 20 8331130/1 or 0722339725

Email: [info@pars.co.ke](mailto:info@pars.co.ke). Website: [www.pars.co.ke](http://www.pars.co.ke)

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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The purpose of this evaluation exercise was to determine the impact of the Children and Youth Programme in empowering street working children and youth as Undugu Society prepares to develop 2011 to 2015 strategic plan.

The consultants are satisfied with the level of participation and vital inputs of various categories of USK's stake holding community. We therefore wish to thank the management of USK for the opportunity to carry out this evaluation and for the invaluable logistical support towards implementation of the evaluation. In particular, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Undugu Society's Board of Directors, Management under the leadership of the Executive Director for providing the roadmap and logistical coordination and for the Evaluation. We further wish to thank the Assistant Director and Head of Programmes, the Manager responsible for the Children and Youth Programme, the Programme Teams and the entire staff for their commitment and support of the exercise.

We sincerely thank the respondents, particularly the street working children and youth, children at Kitengela Temporary Place of Safety and key informants, who so generously shared invaluable information, experiences, insights and their views on the programme. It was clear that the stakeholders and community leaders were keen to participate in the exercise. They indeed showed their leadership and team spirit by participating in this exercise despite other duties and responsibilities they had to attend to. Collaborators and donor partners were equally cooperative and responsive to our queries. For all those who helped in one way or the other, thank you all for the cooperation and patience.

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## DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

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Actors	Those responsible for the enforcement of particular policies/laws with regards to the programme/project intervention in this case child rights. They include police, government officials/departments engaged in children and youth activities, child rights activists
Associations	Formal, organized groupings of street children and youth who voluntarily enter into an agreement to accomplish a purpose. In this case, the transformed former gangs (organizations/existing groups) of street and working children and youth
Association leaders	These are change agents identified from these existing groups of street working children and youth and selected through a participatory process
Chuoms	Residences used by children and youth on the streets
Disengaged	An association/individual whose interaction with USK has stopped and thus becomes independent, no longer relying on USK for linkages, growth or empowerment
Integrated	Child/youth linked back into the society after leaving street life in order that he/she becomes an active member of the community
NCCS	National Council for Children Services. Established through the Children's Act, 2001 and responsible for providing guidelines and direction on all children matters
Partners/donors	These are governmental and non-governmental development organisations (NGO's, CBO's and FBO's), whose work is similar to USK's as well as donors who provide USK with financial resources.
Re-integrated	Reunited with family
Referrals	Child focused institutions where needy street children and youth are referred to for institutional based rehabilitation

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## BACKGROUND

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Undugu Society of Kenya (USK) is a Non- Governmental Organization that works towards the empowerment of children living and working on the streets, vulnerable youths and marginalized rural and urban communities. It is the pioneer in the work of street children and youth rehabilitation in Sub-Saharan Africa.

USK's **Mission** is *“to facilitate socio-economic empowerment of street children, vulnerable youth and marginalized poor urban and rural communities, through capacity building, access to education and training, lobbying and advocacy, and the creation of linkages aimed at reducing poverty for the attainment of decent livelihoods.”*

Undugu's core business is rehabilitation and reintegration of street children and youth back into society. It achieves this by applying two approaches; Preventive and Curative. The curative approach addresses the plight of street children and youth already on the streets, while the preventive approach plays a bigger role in stemming the inflow of children into the street by working with poor communities.

### **The Children and Youth Programme**

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The Children and Youth Programme implements all interventions that address the plight of street children and youth already on the streets, and its core function is rehabilitation and reintegration/integration of street working children and youth into families/communities. It involves working more with children and youths on the streets through transformation of the existing groupings known as "Gangs," into self regulating associations for street working children and youth for positive change.

The goal of the programme is to improve the quality of livelihood for street working children and youth at risk. The broad objective is to facilitate peer to peer rehabilitation and integration of street working and other vulnerable children and youth into society, capacity building, lobbying and advocacy on street children and youth issues, through self-regulating associations for street working children and youth.

Though street working children and youth have remained the primary focus of the organization throughout the years, the rehabilitation strategies/approaches have undergone a number of

phases. In the 1970's to 1995, the organization used a **Needs Based Approach** where USK provided food, shelter, clothing, counselling, medical care and protection to children and youth through an institutionalized rehabilitation approach.

With the recognition of poverty as a human right violation in the nineties, USK started embracing the **Rights Based Approach** in its work with children and youth. During this era (1995 – 2005), the organization maintained the institutionalized rehabilitation, but with more emphasis on Family Reintegration and Family Centred Rehabilitation. Services to children such as health care, protection, education and training were seen as rights and not needs. It's in this era that USK got involved in policy influencing activities, and was active in lobbying for Enactment of the Children's Act and introduction of Free Primary Education for all children in Kenya.

Towards the end of 2005, Undugu carried out a major evaluation which culminated into the development of a third strategic plan 2006 - 2010 that enhanced the Rights Based approach to rehabilitation with emphasis on Capacity Building and Empowerment of the street working children and youth. This approach emphasizes active participation of children and youth in issues affecting them.

The Undugu Children and Youth Programme engaged a new gear in its rehabilitation approach from February 2006, and adopted a new approach to street children and youth rehabilitation. The new approach has been using a more inclusive and participatory process in rehabilitation, builds the capacity of children and youth on the streets to make informed choices about issues affecting them and contributes to the efforts towards elimination of the street culture (Streetism) in Kenya.

This initiative was initially implemented as a pilot project in Nairobi between 2006 and 2007, under the project title of ***“Transforming streetism in Kenya: A project of rehabilitation through self- regulating Associations of Street, working Children and Youth”***, after which it was evaluated. In 2008, the project entered its expansion phase that involved replicating it in Kisumu town, as well as reaching out to the peri-urban areas of Nairobi.

This year (2010) constitutes USK's final year of implementing its strategic plan, which brought in the need to conduct an evaluation of its core activities as the organization prepares to develop its next strategic plan.

It's against this background that Undugu commissioned Pan-African Research Services (PARS) to carry out an evaluation survey of the Children and Youth Programme in order to collect information that will guide USK's direction in intervening in the lives of street working children and youth. The evaluation was conducted in August 2010. This document details the findings of the evaluation.

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## **OBJECTIVES**

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The main objective of the evaluation was to determine the impact of the Children and Youth Programme's overall strategy in empowering street working children and youth. Specifically, the evaluation sought to:

- I. Assess to what extent the programme had achieved its objectives in relation to:
  - The goal, broad objective and specific objectives of the programme
  - The sustainability of those outcomes and impacts
  - Unplanned outcomes and impacts
  - Operating within the strategic principles guiding USK's work
  - Responding to emerging changes in the operating environment (identified gaps, constraints and opportunities)
  
- II. Assess the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the Programme in relation to:
  - Planning, budgeting, monitoring systems and tools and their application, use of generated information, analysis and related action
  - The implementation structure, systems and practices
  - The program strategies
  - Cost effectiveness and judicious use of resources (financial, human, machines and equipment, buildings and other assets)
  - The capacity of the existing staff to implement planned activities
  - Interrelationships and synergy between the various units/programmes
  - Networking and alliances/coalitions building.
  
- III. Assess the effectiveness, efficiency of the association's model/approach in relation to:
  - Participation of children and youth in the programme implementation
  - Peer to peer education, rehabilitation and transformation

- The role of associations in withdrawing young children from the streets
- No. of children withdrawn through the associations in each zone over time
- The utilization of the TOT and the results of it
- The realization of the rights of the children and youth
- Mainstreaming of gender concerns with focus on impact on the lives of girls
- Rehabilitating and integration of youth into society
- The role of Kitengela Centre for Care, Protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of children and the patterns over the last five years
- Drop out rate of children in Kitengela and Family Centred rehabilitation and the reasons for the same
- Lobbying and advocacy
- Enhancing recognition of street children and youth into society and by other development actors
- Lapsing and Disintegration of associations and reasons for the same
- Disengagement strategy of the USK and sustainability of results

IV. Assess the overall impact of the programme on the target groups, in relation to: -

- Withdrawing children from the streets and their self reliance
- The Capacity of the children and youth in the association to carry out peer to peer rehabilitation and the results of it
- Children and youth accessing development opportunities (education, training, income generation/employment, devolved funds and opportunities)
- Reintegration and integration of children and youth back to families/society
- Reducing the incidence of drugs and substance abuse for children and youth on the streets
- The quality of life for the children and youth, and their families
- The public image of street children and youth, within community neighbourhoods
- Transforming the Street Culture (Streetism)
- Fulfilment of rights of street and working children as a result of advocacy campaigns

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## **METHODOLOGY**

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A combination of desk, quantitative and qualitative research methodologies were employed in the evaluation of the programme.

## **DESK RESEARCH**

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This involved collecting secondary information from various sources including:

- ◆ Strategic Plan 2006 – 2010
- ◆ Reports from evaluation survey conducted in 2005
- ◆ Children and Youth Programme Annual reports ( 2006-2009)
- ◆ Other studies conducted on livelihoods of street children in Kenya
- ◆ Information on associations involving street working children and youth
- ◆ A list of basic data of all children who have passed through Kitengela Place of Safety from 2006 to 2010) including those who stayed for only a short time and those that are currently being rehabilitated at the centre
- ◆ Performance indicators tracking tables, etc.

## **QUALITATIVE PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH**

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Qualitative participatory research was used to explore and understand children and youth's beliefs, experiences, attitudes, behavior and interactions. Respondents were invited to give their views about the programme.

In-depth Interviews (IDI's) and Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs) were conducted with the children and youth, USK management and staff, parents/guardians, actors, community leaders and association leaders.

### *(i) In-depth interviews*

A total of 20 in-depth interviews were conducted with the stakeholders as follows:

Sample	Region	No. of IDIs
Association Leaders	Nairobi peri-urban towns	2
	Kisumu	1
Parent/Guardians of beneficiaries	Nairobi peri-urban towns	3
	Kisumu	1
Community Heads/ Government officials/Child Right Activists	Nairobi peri-urban towns	3
	Kisumu	1
Reintegrated youths	Nairobi	3
USK Management & Programme staff	Nairobi peri-urban towns	3
	Kisumu	1
Kitengela Centre Officials	Nairobi peri-urban towns	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>

*(ii) Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)*

Focus group discussions were conducted with children and youths of various ages, gender and programme design levels in Nairobi and Kisumu. This aided in gauging their perception on Children and Youth Programme principles, behavior change, attitude towards life/HIV/AIDS/drugs/sexuality, awareness of child rights, current skills and capacity needs, peer to peer education, changes in living standards, etc.

A total of 8 focus groups were conducted:

Regions	Programme Design Levels	No. of FGDs
Nairobi and peri-urban towns	Level 1- Formation	1
	Level 2 – Capacity building	1
	Level 3 – Empowering	1
	Level 4 – Disengagement (Individuals)	1
	TOT and Associations’ leaders	1
Kisumu	Level 1- Formation	1
	Level 2 – Capacity building	1
	Level 3 – Empowering	1
<b>Total No. of FGDs</b>		<b>8</b>

**QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH**

Face to face interviews were conducted with different stakeholders. The survey covered various components of the associations at different transformation levels including an analysis of the different components, such as leadership development, TOT, skills training and enterprise support. The sample size for the children and youths constituted 10% of randomly selected associations in each zone as follows.

Region	No of Associations	No. of Associations to be Sampled (10%)	Total No. of Members Sampled per Association
Kasarani	66	6	38
Makadara	67	7	49
Langata	46	5	33
Westlands	51	5	41
Kisumu	43	4	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>197</b>

In addition to the above, a semi structured questionnaire was sent to donors and two filled-in questionnaires were received back.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The association approach has been successful in reaching a high number of street working children and youths compared to the previous institutional approach. However the set targets were not met. As at June 2010, the programme had reached a total of 5,887 against a target of 10,000. The number of associations formed was also below the target at 273 associations against the total target of 400 by the end of 2010.

The evaluation shows that the association model is bringing in high numbers of working street children and youth into the programme but there is need to focus on the quality of implementation and especially the quality of those who undergo the transformation through this approach. For instance none of the associations has so far been disengaged from the programme. There are however individual members who have been disengaged. There may be need to revise the model to give more weight to disengagement of individuals within the associations.

The model structure is working but to become more efficient, there is need to use more disengaged association members (who have been successfully transformed) as **mentors** to those still in associations. It will be important to vet the mentors to ensure they can be good role models to members of associations

The gaps identified include:

- Lack of disengagement with the associations. Even those that have reached that level do not want to be disengaged. There is need to ensure that disengagement process is gradual so that members of associations feel secure
- The peer to peer approach is working and was rated high by association members however the TOT approach was not rated high. This may have resulted from two issues: the way the question was put across and lack of understanding of the role of TOT by members of street associations. However, the sentiments expressed during the validation workshop were that the Peer approach is working because of the use of TOTs. Thus, there is need to get the associations to understand the role of TOT as they seem to think that TOT should be interacting more with the street associations which is currently not in the design of the programme

- The current level of staffing of 6 in the programme may not be very effective especially if the programme is to expand to cover more geographical areas. At the beginning of the programme, they seemed quite overwhelmed with the work and not able to give the quality necessary to ensure proper transformation of street working children and youth. Therefore there may be need for capacity building of the current staff and if the programme is to expand there will be need to increase the programme staff. At present the ratio is 1 programme officer to every 1,177 children and youth, which is high in respect to effective and efficient implementation of the model.
- The number of girls reached by the model is low compared to boys and also compared to the previous institutional based rehabilitation model. More girls are likely to be in the street at night than during the day because some are sex workers. Therefore the programme needs to reach to girls at night.

The key competencies/strengths of the programme staff is that they all have more than 10 years experience working with street children and youth are able to recruit and form associations given that they have a close relationship with street children and youth. They have also gone through the necessary training to enable them implement the model. This phase (2006-2010) was a learning phase and now the staff is able to properly implement the model as seen from the 273 associations they have been able to form and the 5,887 street working children and youth.

The majority of USK staff involved in the programme met the desired qualifications necessarily for implementing the programme although a few who needed to up grade and were already involved in the necessary programs at local universities. It was also however noted that USK has had to update the skills of the staff to fit into the model through training and exposure to similar models in West Africa and South America.

To ensure sustainability the association model should be well documented and the structure well explained. The documentation should be in both soft and hard copies. Proper documentation will not only ensure a standardised way of implementation by different programme staff but will also make it easy for the project to be replicated in other geographical regions.

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## DETAILED REPORT

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### 1. Children and Youth Programme design

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In an effort to improve on its rehabilitation work and reach more children and youth, in 2006, USK embarked on a pilot project in Nairobi of working street children and youth through self regulating street children associations. The overall goal of the programme was to contribute to improved quality of livelihood for street children and youth.

The programme was implemented under USK's strategic plan for 2006-2010 with the theme "*Capacity Building as a Strategy for Empowerment*". The programme involves working with children and youth on the streets through transformation of the existing street groupings (*known as gangs*), into associations for working street children and youth for positive change.<sup>1</sup> The rights based approach focuses more on child participation and empowerment as opposed to charity which creates dependency.

The concept of the programme builds on the existing social structures of street children and youth by existing groups through their *Chuoms* (residences on the streets) and their leaders. A participatory approach is then used to transform the children and youth gangs into self-sustainable and productive associations. Rural town associations are also formed and used to prevent children coming to the urban towns by facilitating linkages of children with their communities. Committees are formed by representatives from the various wards/locations at the divisional, district and provincial levels. The associations play the role of:

- Formulating norms of good conduct among themselves and influencing their peers to adopt them. These norms and principles are aimed at transforming the way they look/appear, the activities they engage in, the way they relate to each other and to the public, environmental management, avoidance of crime, conflict resolutions, etc
- Identifying and solving problems on street and working children and youth issues using Participatory Action Research Approaches (P.A.R)
- Identifying new entrants into the streets, caring for them and linking them with actors for rehabilitation/reintegration/education and training opportunities

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<sup>1</sup> Concept Note-Transforming Streetism in Kenya-A project of rehabilitation through self regulating associations of street working children and youth. Undugu Society

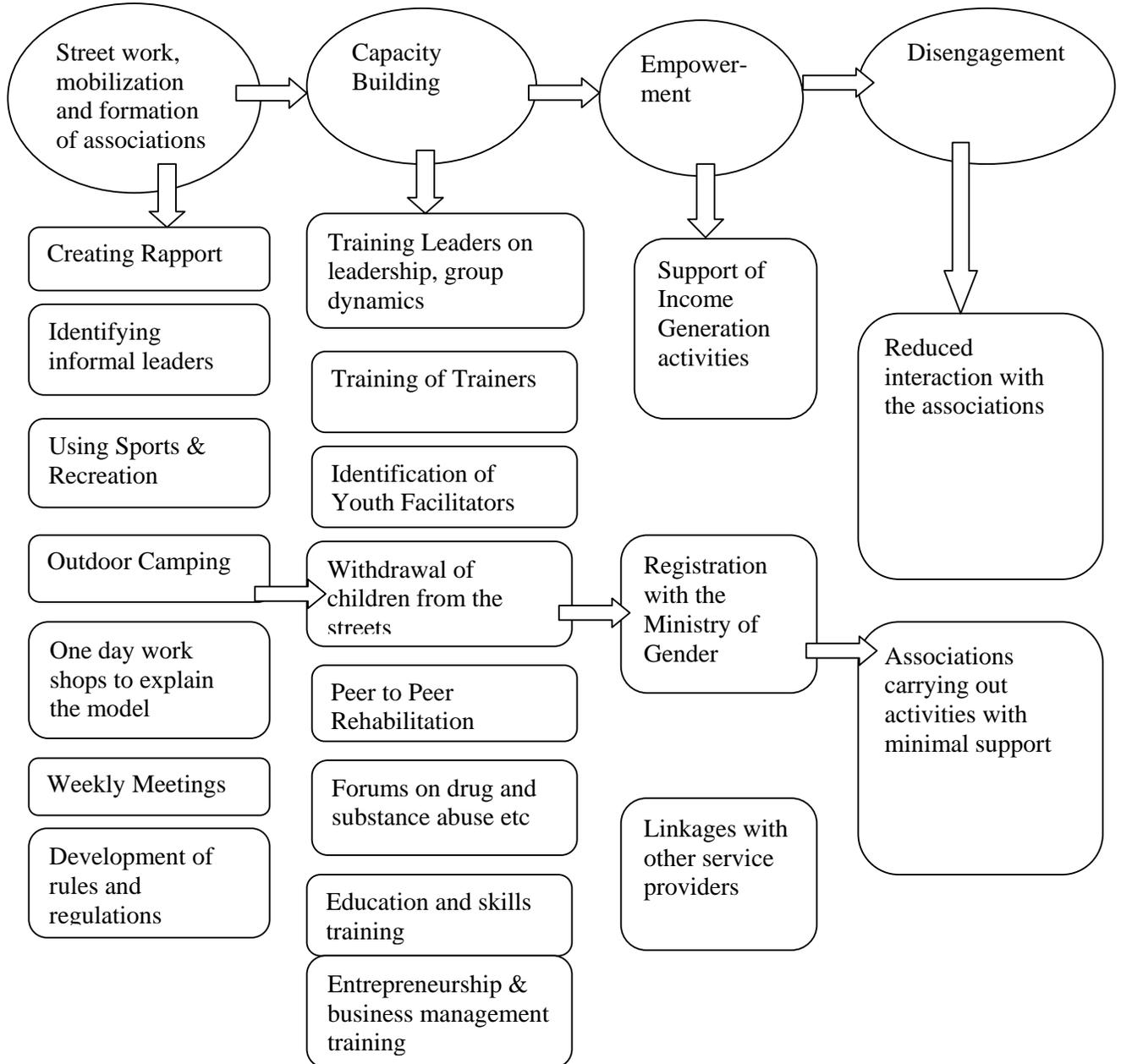
- A channel of encouraging communication for effective sharing of experiences and disseminating information and issues affecting their development
- Organising regular forums for street and working children and youth on leadership and group dynamics, good citizenship, role modelling, etc
- Creating awareness on the associations to other children and youth
- Developing solidarity among street working children and youth and creating forums for pushing of agendas that affect them e.g. accessing their rights and influencing policy makers at all levels

The associations are therefore expected to become avenues for advocating and promoting peer to peer rehabilitation and behaviour change among street children and youth and transforming streetism culture. The associations are also instrumental in facilitating reintegration of the children back to their families/communities and identifying issues that require lobbying, advocacy and policy influence from their points of view. The transformation process entails a lot of training on leadership, peer-to-peer rehabilitation, training of trainers, capacity building and group dynamics. This process builds the capacity of the leaders in the associations to influence change among street children and youth. The associations also help the children and youth deal with drug and substance abuse, criminal tendencies and improve their self image. The children and youth get skills and training through the associations as well as business opportunities. Undugu Society of Kenya has the roles of:

- Facilitating the formation of these associations
- Capacity building of the associations through guidance, training and exposure
- Linking the associations to other service providers, both within USK and outside
- Documentation and dissemination of information
- Co-ordination and facilitation of activities
- Monitoring and evaluation of project activities
- Lobbying and advocacy on issues relating to street working children and youth at national and international levels

In its advocacy efforts Undugu influences policies and best practices in providing the street children and youth the opportunity for education, health and security services while working in the streets and more specifically influence policy review and enforcement of the Criminal Amendment Act, CAP 139 of 2003, to make it criminal to sell glue to children and to sniff glue.

**The Association Model**



The programme intervention focuses on street working children and youth at risk and is implemented in Nairobi and Kisumu cities as focal areas and with linkages in the surrounding small urban and rural towns. At the time of inception it was anticipated that Undugu would reach over 10,000 children and youth in 5 years through the association model.

## **2. Extent to which the programme has achieved its objectives**

### **2.1 The goal, broad objectives and specific objectives of the programme**

The broad objective of the programme is to facilitate peer-to-peer rehabilitation and integration of street working and other vulnerable children and youth into society through self regulating associations for street working children and youth, capacity building, lobbying and advocacy on children's issues.

The specific objectives of the programme at the time of initiation were:

- To facilitate the formation of 400 (of 10-20 members each), self-regulating associations of street working children and youth at risk and build their capacities to effectively carry out curative and preventive rehabilitation, lobbying and advocacy through peer to peer education by 2010
- To facilitate rehabilitation and integration of 10,000 children and youth into society through the associations, the Undugu Centre and other referral centres each year (40% girls and 60% boys)
- To influence policies on drug and substance abuse and on rights of services to children i.e. health, security, education and employment

As part of formation, children and youth are encourage to stop the habit of glue sniffing. The majority of the children on the streets sniff glue which makes them high and it is a hindering factor to transformation and rehabilitation

The implementation of the new USK strategic plan saw a reduction in institutionalized rehabilitation and the piloting of a new approach of working with the street children through their own social structures on the streets (commonly known as street gangs). Undugu therefore closed down its two reception centres in Nairobi and reintegrated all the 58 children while referring 6 others to other institutions. This shift left the Kitengela Centre as the only centre where USK would continue providing a temporary place of safety for street children who opted to leave the streets before they are reintegrated with their families. The maximum period of stay was reduced to three months under the new approach with efforts concentrating on rehabilitation, home visits and eventual reintegration. The new approach also meant the

increased presence of Undugu on the streets through daily street work. The work on the street involves the staff working with children and youth at risk; assisting them to organise their social structures to become self regulating associations that are instrumental in facilitating peer to peer rehabilitation; and reintegration/integration of children back to families and society.

To run the programme, USK uses two teams - the association team that works in the street and the Kitengela team which is at the centre. The role of the association team is to identify existing social groupings of street children and youth, commonly referred to as “bases” or “chuoms” and institute a transformation mechanism with each one of these groups. That involves developing an association code of conduct that will govern how the members will interact with each other, and how they interact with members of the public. The process of capacity building involves provoking the association members to identify their own problems and generate solutions to them. Furthermore, association members are empowered to remove children from the street and refer them to Kitengela Centre.

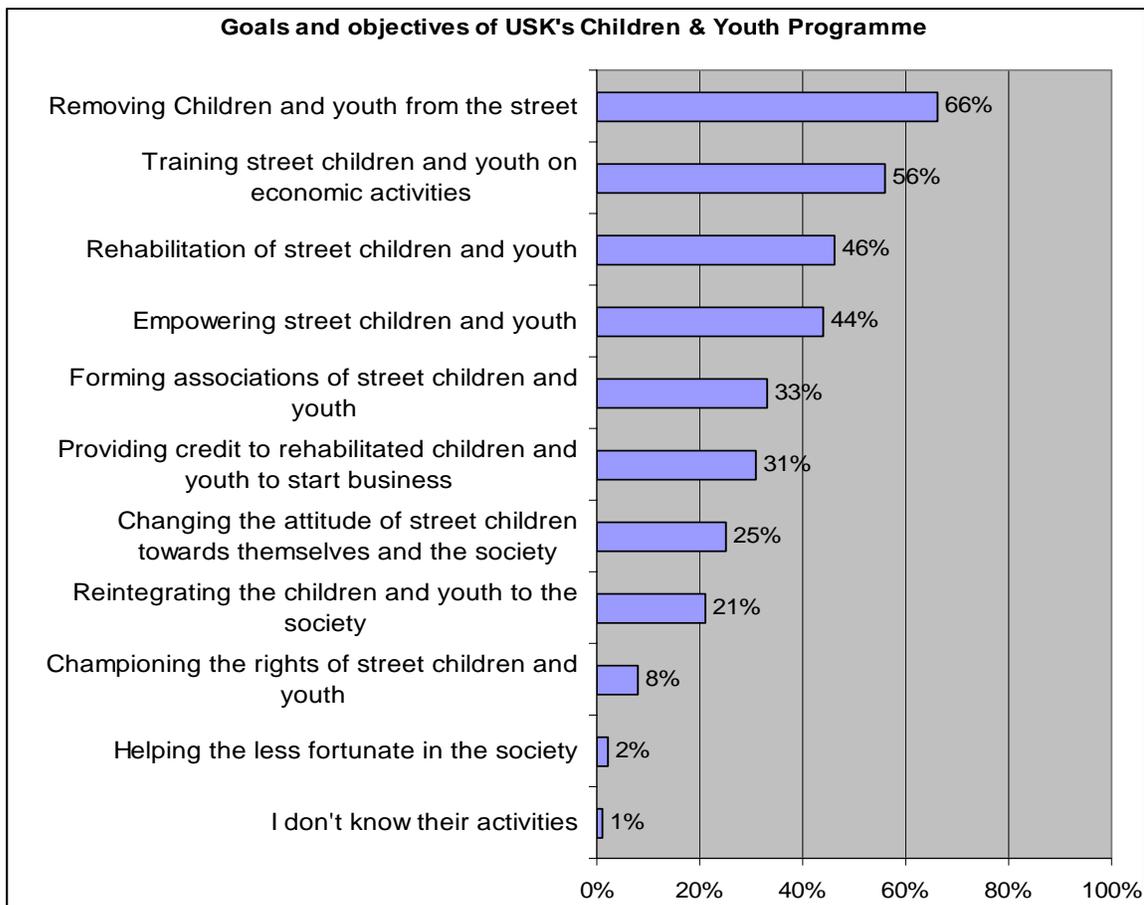
The data available from Kitengela Temporary Place Safety shows that a total of 610 children were removed from the street through the association in the years 2006 to 2010 as tabulated below.

YEAR	ASSOCIATIONS		TOTAL
	BOYS	GIRLS	
2006	108	0	<b>108</b>
2007	117	30	<b>147</b>
2008	110	20	<b>130</b>
2009	124	4	<b>128</b>
2010	88	9	<b>97</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>610</b>

The Kitengela team works with the children that have been removed from the streets and require temporary care, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration. Thus Kitengela is a temporary place of safety, care and rehabilitation before the children are reintegrated with their families. The goal is that children should be reintegrated within 3 months from the time they join Kitengela centre.

The programme also empowers the association leaders to identify new children in the streets and reunite the children directly into their families before they are initiated into the street culture. In this case the children do not go through Kitengela centre but are reunited to the families directly.

To get to know whether the street working children and youth that have been recruited into the programme are aware of the programme, they were asked to state what they think are the goals and objectives of the programme. Their responses are as follows:



As far as the street working children and youth are concerned the goals of the programme is to remove children and youth from the street and to train then on economic activities This suggests that most street children and youth who have joined the associations are aware of the primary goal and the objectives of the Children and Youth Programme.

In qualitative research, all respondent groups believe that the objective of USK is to remove children from the streets. Association members and leaders particularly felt that this was the major work that would end up in the rescuing of children, training them and ensuring that their future was secured. In addition, they also said that rehabilitations from drugs and substance abuse and re-integration into society was also a major objective.

The majority of the respondents knew of USK's objectives through the program officers who frequented the streets. Actors (referral centres, police, city council and community leaders) interviewed were especially impressed with the efforts of USK. One of them said:

*“Undugu is a team that is really devoted to these kids, we have the same vision, we cannot eradicate all these children from the streets but I can say they are really working hard to make sure they remove these kids from the streets”.*

In terms of specific performance, the programme has to a large extent met most of its goals and objectives, however their set outcomes in the strategic plan (2006-2010) were very optimistic given that there was a learning and experimental period.

One of the objectives of the programme was to form 400 street associations within 5 years. In the first year of the programme (2006), 18 associations were formed in various parts of Nairobi reaching 689 children and youth at risk (*Children and Youth Annual Report-2006*). As at June 2010, a total of 273 associations had been formed, thus achieving 68% of the target associations. However, it is expected that the number will rise to 329 by the end of the 2010. If this is achieved the programme will have achieved 82% of the number of associations planned.

#### **Number of Associations formed February 2006 to June 2010**

Zone	February 2006 - June 2010			
	Total Associations	Boys	Girls	Total members
Makadara	67	1089	192	1281
Kisumu	43	1160	147	1307
Kasarani	66	1011	270	1281
Westlands	51	984	154	1138
Langata	46	835	45	880
Totals	273	5079	808	5887

The programme had planned to recruit a total of 10,000 street working children and youth by the year 2010. From the above analysis, the programme was able to reach about 59% of the targeted number of street working children and youth by June 2010.

#### **Number of Associations formed by Level**

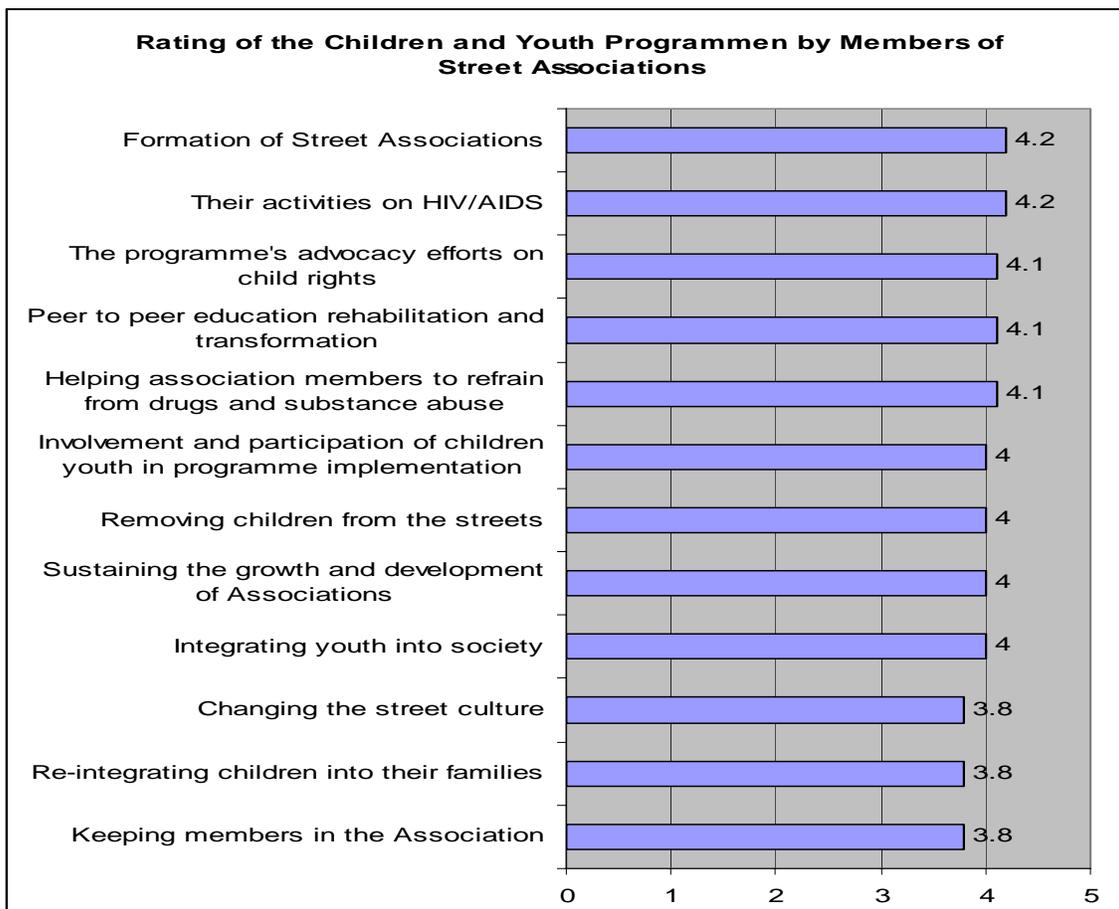
<b>Zone</b>	<b>Formative</b>	<b>Capacity Building</b>	<b>Empowerment</b>	<b>Disintegrated</b>	<b>Identification</b>	<b>Inactive</b>
Langata	3	30	4	7	-	2
Makadara	16	45	7	17	-	-
Kasarani	7	24	5	20	10	-
Kisumu	3	20	1	13	-	-
Westlands	1	48	2	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>

There has been a challenge of some association disintegrating. For instance, 57 associations out of the 273 formed have disintegrated and the challenge of the project officers is to bring the individual members of the association together and make members work as a team. Two associations in Langata are inactive, which means that association leadership could be the problem and this issue needs to be addressed.

To assess whether the programme had achieved its objectives, children and youth in the association were asked to rate the implementation of various initiatives by USK. Overall, the association members rated the programme quite highly. Formation of street association and activities on HIV/AIDS scored highly at 4.2 out of the 5 points, respectively. Also rated high were the advocacy efforts on children's rights, peer to peer education, rehabilitation and transformation and helping association members to refrain from drug and substance abuse.

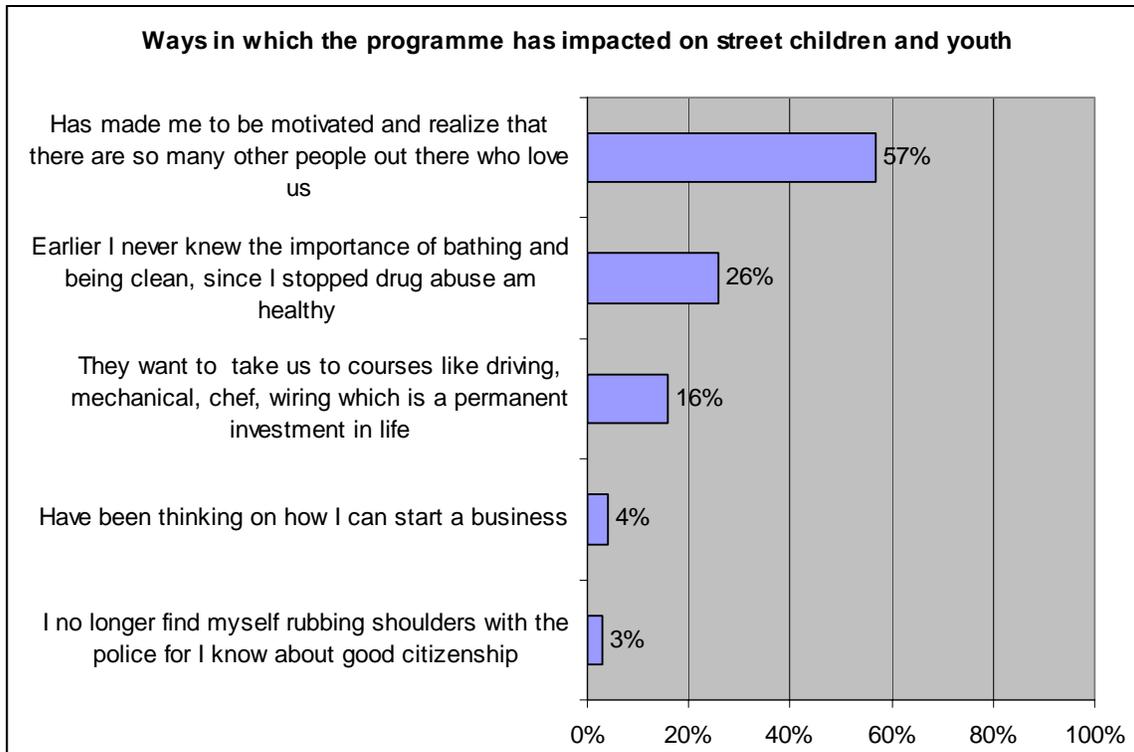
In qualitative survey, association members and leaders said that the program was popular for through it, they had acquired social status. The mere mention of being members of an USK association prevented harassment from city council and other government officials. Certificates from USK programs, education as well as skill training also made the program popular on the

streets. Kitengela staff members believe that the program is popular as proven by children voluntarily coming into the centre. In Kisumu, popularity was evidenced by the image of the soccer team that is resplendent in their USK branded uniforms visible during the matches. There were however a few association members, leaders as well as staff and actors who said that the program was not popular for it curtailed street life freedom that included drug use and availability of quick income from both legitimate and illegitimate activities.



Although the programme is rated high in all elements, it needs to work at keeping members within the association, re-integrating children into their families and changing the street culture which scored 3.8 out of the possible 5 points.

The main objective of the programme is to transform the street culture (streetism) and make the children and youth living in the streets responsible citizens. According to the association members, this goal has to a great deal been achieved with the association models as the following chart shows:



Slightly over half (57%) of the association members interviewed claimed the programme had motivated them by realising that there are so many people out there who love them and want them to succeed and become responsible citizens. About a quarter (26%), said that the programme has helped them realise the importance of bathing, being clean and to stop the use of drugs.

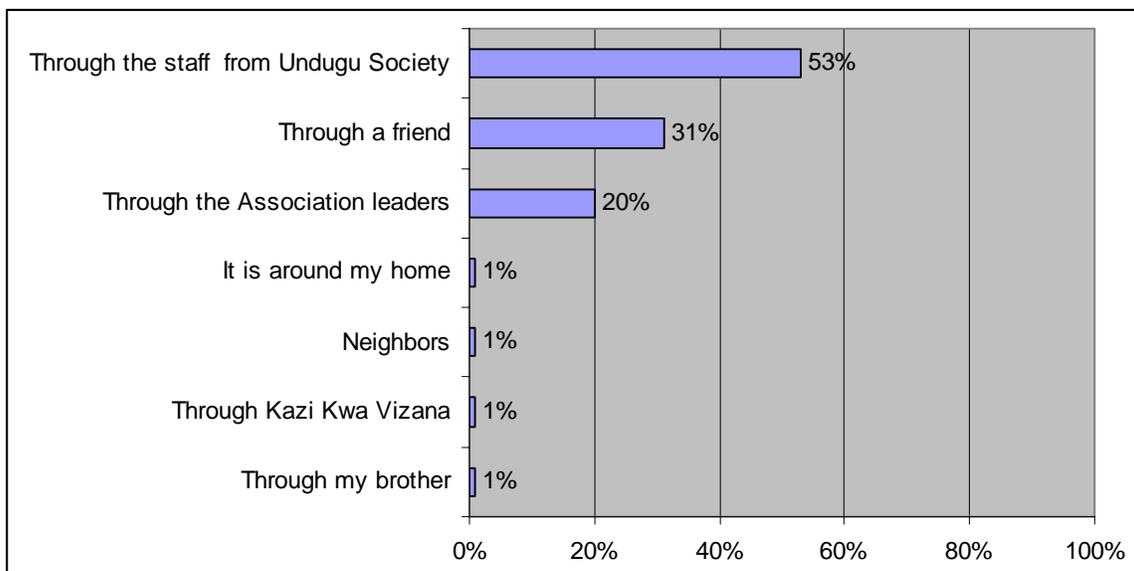
All this points out to empowerment of children and youth through self awareness and motivation to do the things that would bring about transformation for the betterment of their lives.

## 2.2. The sustainability of outcomes and impacts

The transformed and working youth are perceived to be the role model of the members of the association and other street working children and youth. This has started to have positive influence on the lives of street working children and youth. Given that USK employs peer to peer approach, the outcomes are becoming sustainable.

USK staff members have played the role of creating rapport with street children and youth to influence them to join the associations. However, the association members and especially the leaders are empowered to influence other children and youths into the associations as can be seen in the following chart.

### Ways in which association members got to know about the programme



The fact that the street working children and youth are the ones creating awareness of the programme and mobilizing their peers points to the fact that the programme is sustainable.

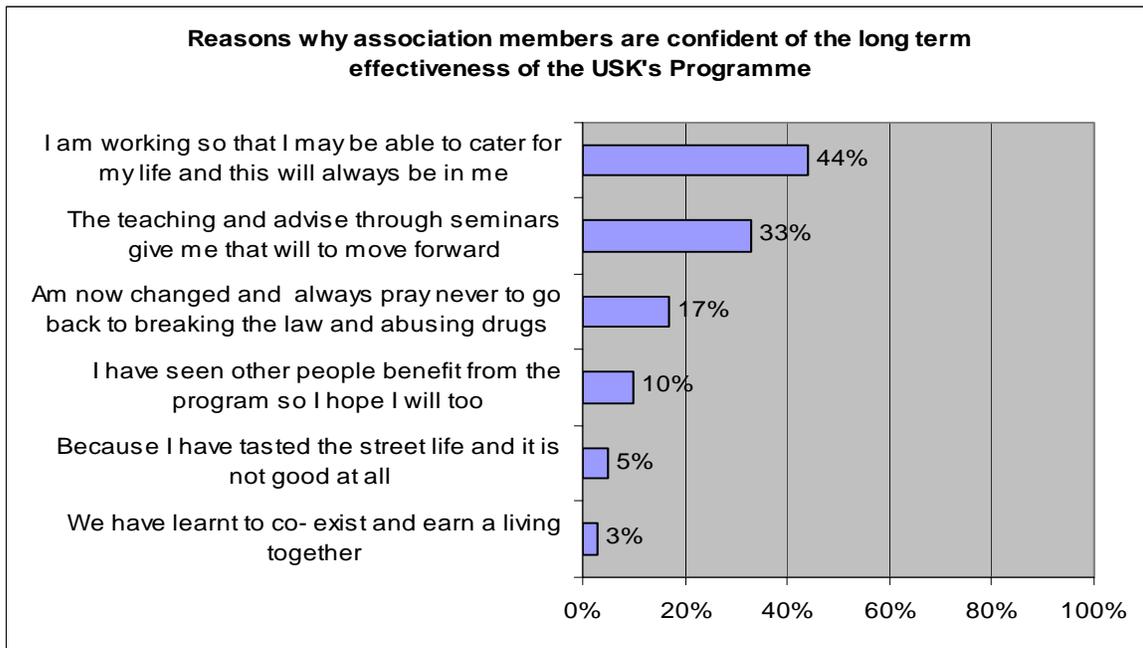
Children and youth have already experienced the positive effects of the programme and are upbeat about its positive long term effects in their lives. Asked in what ways the programme has impacted on their lives, nearly half (44%) said that *“they will never go hungry because they have or are planning to start their own businesses”*. They also have a positive attitude toward legitimate work which they see as enabling them to cater for their lives.

A third of the association members interviewed said they have made a step in life and wouldn't wish to go back to old street life. They now feel empowered in that they can buy their own clothes and some have even rented houses. They claimed that the teaching and advice through seminars gave them the will to move forward.

About a fifth of the association members interviewed are happy that they are no longer breaking the law or abusing drugs. To quote one of the street boys:

*“When I used to sniff glue, I would stagger a lot and had very bad health but am now okay and can't think of going back to it. I think it's a waste of money to buy drugs”*

The fact that street children and youth have seen their peers benefiting from the programme is a motivation for them. About 10% of those interviewed have seen other people benefit from the programme and so hope they too will benefit by joining the associations.



The associations formed have made several achievements including choosing their leaders, making their rules and regulations while others have written their constitutions and are making contributions for the eventual registration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development. A number of the transformed associations are able to keep their records, solve

group problems, organize and hold their group meetings while others have gone further and sought meeting places and now meet in church and social halls or in school compounds. By 2009, the programme also carried out the capacity building initiatives with over 1500 members of the associations formed in previous years. These capacity building initiatives included peer to peer education, interactive sports activities and focus group discussions on issues such as HIV/AIDS, drugs and substance abuse and life skills.

Football matches played among associations including those old associations further peer to peer rehabilitation by creating linkages between the new and old associations. The matches also provide a forum for bonding among association members, creating a team spirit.

Association leaders benefited from 9 leadership workshops which targeted 30 associations, 3 members from each association. A total of 250 leaders benefited (38 girls, 212 boys). Associations targeted were both from Nairobi and Kisumu and included those formed within the year as well as those carried forward from the previous years. The workshops covered various topics including:

- Leadership
- Group dynamics
- HIV/AIDS
- Drugs and substance abuse
- Human Rights including child rights
- Peer to Peer education
- Reproductive health and sexuality
- Life skills

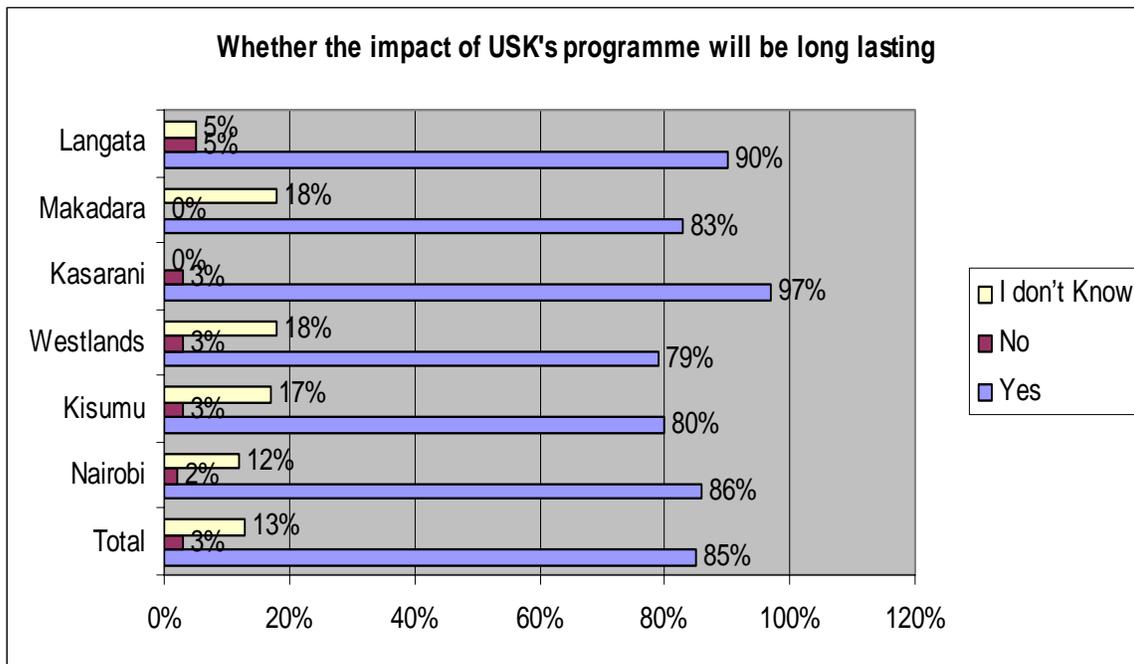
Since 2006, a total of 106 one day workshops were held for the new associations to introduce the association model. The workshops facilitated the selection of leaders as well as encouraged peer to peer education. A total of 1780 children and youth participated in the workshops.

The training undertaken was noted to have helped establish effective leadership in the association and thus enhancing their level of organization. This in turn has influenced the development of the associations moving them through the different levels of formation, capacity

building, and empowerment. The associations were also able to lobby with institutions such as churches to provide them with meeting places.

Asked whether they think the impact of the programme in their lives will be long lasting i.e. they are **not** likely to go back to where you were before their joined the association, an overwhelming majority answered in the affirmative.

Association members in Kasarani and Langata areas were the most positive about the sustainability of what they had achieved through the project but also the other zones were quite positive.



In qualitative research there were varying perceptions but all were in agreement that the programme was sustainable. Association members and leaders felt that peer influence would ensure sustainability because the rehabilitated members could help others. One of them said of the program:

*“It is long lasting because the young children born in the streets will be able to access education. Those who run away from home can also be rescued. In our association we*

*are able to save some money through contribution. We take some of our savings to the bank; in future we can help our members start businesses”.*

They said that sustainability depended on individual characteristics and therefore differed from one person to the other:

*“Its long-term but you have to be serious, like Karanja we were with him in 2008. Some people have gone far in their lives. Some people in the groups have been disengaged because there is a stage at which Undugu leaves a group to be on its own if they feel you are ready. Where there is will there’s way. What they teach us is good and if you pay attention you can benefit and help others form an organization. People from Undugu even visited us yesterday, it’s good we spread this information to help others”.*

However, there were those who viewed sustainability in respect to individuals who had been trained and integrated remaining off the streets as per one of the respondents:

*“Yes it helps people to move from one level to another, moves someone from a level of hardship to a level where you can sustain oneself”.*

Similarly, Kitengela staff looked at sustainability in respect to individuals being self reliant while parents of the children at the centre looked at it from the point of attitude change which they said varied according to the children.

### **2.3 Unplanned outcomes and impacts**

There were several unplanned outcomes during the implementation of the programme with the main one being the encounter with deaf children and youth working in the street. To enable the deaf children and youth to be catered in the programme, USK had to introduce the Deaf Child Project which involved introducing the sign language as one of main languages of communication within USK and training the programme staff on the sign language.

Harassment of street working children and youth by police and city council was another unplanned outcome that has had impact on the implementation of the programmes. When USK launched the programme, it engaged the stakeholders including the police, Nairobi City Council, the relevant government ministries and all the stakeholders. Despite this engagement, the police have played a major role in the disintegration of street associations by harassing association members as they hold their weekly meetings. This has affected the formation of associations in both Nairobi and Kisumu. However the problem had severe effects in Kisumu

when most of the associations were affected due to sustained efforts by police to get rid off street children and youth in Kisumu.

Members of the association are sometimes arrested by police and USK has to work towards getting them out of prison cells, which means that time and efforts are diverted from rehabilitating the associations to securing release of the members from police cells.

The encounter of street children and youth with the police has sometimes turned tragic. The associations have reported that their members have been shot dead by policemen in the street. USK's effort to bring the culprit policemen to justice has been unsuccessful due to lack of cooperation at the police station and fear of the children and youth to come forward and testify as this can be used against them. All this has led to a situation where some members of the association feel disappointed that USK is not able to protect them against the police.

To prevent arrest and to assure the association members of continued support for the transformation process, USK has had to print membership cards and those street working children and youth with cards are expected not to be harassed by police and city council.

Apart from the police, the city council security personnel are notorious for arresting children and youth. They consider the children and youth as 'litter' that make the streets dirty. To protect the association members, USK continues to engage the city council.

There are also instances when some associations have lapsed but do not completely disintegrate. The problem of lapsing occurs when some individual members; who had moved through the transformation process and had stopped alcoholism and glue sniffing; go back to their old habits. The majority of the children on the streets sniff glue. This is a hindering factor to transformation or rehabilitation. It is also one of the factors that cause relapse and dropout from the Kitengela Pace of safety. It is one of the main challenges faced in the implementation of the programme.

#### **2.4 Operating within the strategic principles guiding USK's work**

In the Strategic Plan (2006-2010), USK's Mission was to contribute to the socio- economic empowerment of street children, vulnerable youth and marginalized poor urban and rural communities through lobbying, advocacy, capacity building, access to education and training and creation of linkages aimed at reducing poverty for the attainment of decent livelihoods. The core values of USK included:

- Solidarity with poor and marginalized communities
- Integrity, honesty, accountability and transparency
- Courage of conviction
- Commitment to serve for the interest of the children and the youth
- Team work , commitment and professionalism
- Active and meaningful participation of the children and the youth and target communities.
- Fairness, justice and equity in our society

The strategic plan of USK was founded on core principles which reflect the common values of all stakeholders and the entire environment of USK. It is upon these principles that USK's Programmes and institutional development Strategies, interventions designs and implementation approaches were based. These principles included de-linking from direct service delivery, empowerment/participatory approach, de-linking financial services from philanthropic environment, network and collaboration, mainstreaming of HIV/Aids, mainstreaming of gender, promotion of best practices, sustainability, integration of USK's programmes, mainstreaming lobbying and advocacy and capacity building for community based organizations (CBOs).

The findings from the qualitative research indicate that the strategic plan was supposed to move USK from an organization that performs a direct service to an organization the deals in capacity building. To effectively prepare to carry its new mandate USK needs to prepare itself to go into lobbying and advocacy work which according to the USK's strategic plan is one of the mainstream areas. The lobbying and advocacy is an area that needs to be strengthened through staff training and capacity building in:

- Legal and statutory knowledge
- Public speaking
- Negotiation skills
- Understanding of policies and how to influence politics

The findings from the evaluation indicate that USK has deliberately put efforts to operate within the strategic principles guiding its work in the implementation of the Children and Youth

Programme. It has succeeded in moving from direct service delivery to empowerment /capacity building of street working children and youth through the association model/approach.

## **2.5. Responding to emerging changes in the operating environment (identified gaps, constraints and opportunities)**

By the end of the first year (2006), there were several identified challenges and lessons learnt that informed the implementation during the following years. The challenges identified were:

- ❖ The negative effect drug and substance abuse had on the program as it impaired the children and youth's judgement making it difficult to have effective discussions/ counselling
- ❖ The fact that the street children and youth were used to handouts made them lose interest quickly in anyone without handouts
- ❖ The invisibility of the girl child on the streets during the day made it difficult to reach the girl child using the association model.
- ❖ The regular swoops of street children and youth by police and local authority was one of the reasons for the disintegration of already formed associations
- ❖ The large number of members in some associations (more than 25) which made them take longer to split the associations into smaller manageable groups
- ❖ Lack of a convenient meeting place for the associations mainly hampered by the attitude of landlords towards street children
- ❖ The reintegration of children back to HIV/AIDS infected/affected families find it difficult for them to retain the children who are already re-integrated
- ❖ Project staff overwhelmed by association numbers which led identification of some members as youth facilitators to share some of the program responsibilities using the Self Help Group Approach of USK
- ❖ Deaf children requiring care and protection in the Kitengela centre which necessitated the recruitment of expertise in sign language.
- ❖ Presence of children on the streets following the 2008 post election violence, who were admitted in Kitengela and eventually reintegrated.

One of the lessons learnt was that there was need to empower families affected by HIV/AIDS to enable them sustain the reintegrated children and youth. The economic interests of the street working children and youth was also identified as a priority in relation to empowerment through skills training and thus the need to empower some of the street children and youth with business skills and capital as the project moved into the second year. There was also the need to enhance the involvement of other actors in the implementation of the model in order to reach more children and youth with ease.

The same challenges experienced during the first year were experienced during the second year. Advocacy on drug abuse had started and continued in the next year. More efforts were put in improving collaboration with police and city council workers to reduce their effect on disintegration of associations. Efforts to reach a larger number of girls in the streets through night street work were hampered by heightened insecurity attributed to the activities of an outlawed sect (*Mungiki*). Research was carried out on the prevalence of glue sniffing among street working children and youth at risk and was followed by a validation workshop which drew participants from civil society in children sector, NACADA and the Government Chemists. Glue was found to contain volatile organic solvents (Methylbenzene, Benzene and other petroleum products).

Association work was identified as a process that kept evolving and therefore the need for continuous documentation throughout the process for future learning. An example was the documentation of the various levels through which an association transforms i.e. from formation, capacity building, empowerment, disengagement and the time required to move the association from one level to another and the development of indicators for an empowered association (*Annual Report,2008*).

The programme during 2008 embarked on the de-linking of children who were in the streets as a result of the post election violence from the programme and managed to de-link 20 children.

**De-linked children affected by post election violence from the programme**

<b>No</b>	<b>Regions Where Children Were De-linked</b>	<b>No of girls de-linked</b>	<b>No of boys de-linked</b>
1	Nairobi	-	-
2	Central	-	-
3	Coast	-	-
4	Eastern	4	-
5	Nyanza	5	3
6	Rift Valley	-	-
7	Western	6	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>

As a result of the need for empowerment of families to enable them sustain the integrated children, in 2009, 14 parents from Nairobi, all women were trained on business entrepreneurship. This was to aid in sustainable development, reduction of poverty and the creation of more opportunities for the parents. It was envisaged that this activity would lead to improvement of the psycho-social status, economic empowerment and improve the access to formal and informal opportunities with parents taking the lead role. This activity was carried out as a pilot in Nairobi with the intention of later replicating it in other places.

Whereas the programme had made tremendous efforts to achieve set objectives for the period 2009, there were several challenges identified:

- HIV/AIDS continued to affect many children who became orphaned when their parents died leading to child headed families. As a result, the programme intended to work more with HIV and AIDS related organisations
- The movement of children and youth from one association to another either geographically or regionally, affected the level of cohesion among the association members. The solution identified was to increase collaboration with the youth facilitators in the program to be a link between USK and the youth
- Networks created between Undugu and the police did not remain strong and there was lack of consistency due to police transfers. This sometimes led to frequent harassment of association members by law enforcement agencies. USK has resolved to step up its approach of engaging the local administration and the police in identification of associations so as to involve them from the beginning
- There was failure and reluctance on repayment of funds given out as loans. A strategy was being developed to streamline this.
- The high prices of food which had shot up during the prolonged drought though there was high expectation after heavy rains of a bumper harvest

There are unexpected outcomes of the program such as when staff at Kitengela received deaf and dumb children and had to quickly respond by getting people trained in sign language. In addition, at the centre, there are times when the number of children increased unexpectedly beyond the planned capacity due to police and city council operations to rid the city of street families, and following the post election violence. Leadership from the streets is also exhibited in the centre and if harnessed assists in running of the centre. When not, it could lead to incitement and mass drop outs.

### **3. The relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the programme**

#### **3.1 Planning, budgeting, monitoring systems and tools and their application, use of generated information, analysis and related action**

Planning and budgeting is done yearly, however there is continuous monitoring and evaluation with each association meeting once a week. Number of associations formed, minutes of meeting, and progress from one transformation level to another are tracked continuously and reported. Activities and outcome reports are generated and discussed with the Programme Technical Committee (PTC), management and donors.

Through the use of a financial management system, EXACT 2003, regular reports are generated to track financial progress and financial and organizational reports submitted to the donor as required. In addition, project and organizational audit is carried out every year and sent to all donors partners and regulators by end of March each year during the implementation period

Donors who are responsible for funding the project carry out project visits to Kenya to monitor progress of the implementation. They also follow up on the project implementation through regular activity reports and updates submitted to them periodically. Association members are also be involved in the monitoring the progress of the implementation of programme.

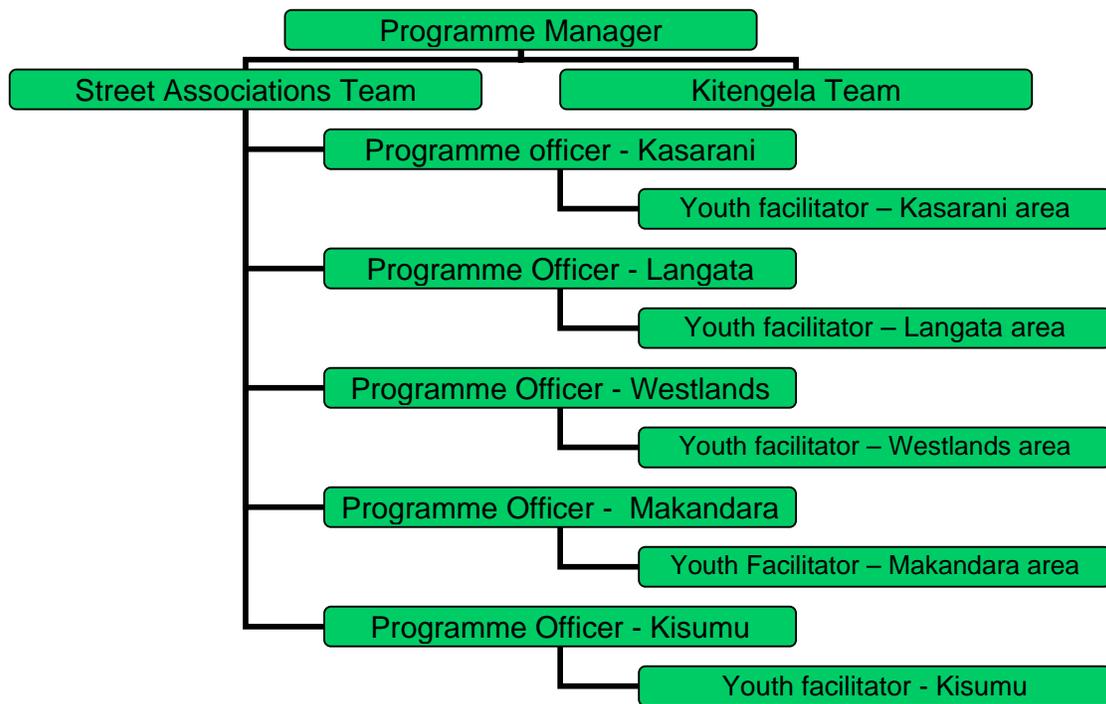
The staff in the field play a role in monitoring the progress of the associations on regular basis (at least once in a week for each association) through a progress monitoring sheet. Weekly meetings are organized to discuss the activities and the way forward and monthly meetings are held at unit and departmental levels. Regular monthly, quarterly and annual narrative and financial reports are produced. USK also evaluates the performance of the programme every six months. A mid term evaluation conducted after two years. For this programme, mid-term evaluations were carried out in 2008 and 2009.

There is however need to insist on a harmonised programme tracking format by programme staff that should be available end of each month. The data from different zones should be captured in a uniform way to allow for comparison.

### 3.2 The implementation structure, systems and processes

The implementation structure, system and processes seem to be working in terms of bringing in a high number of street children and youth into the programme. However solidification of the associations into active team has been a challenge and there are 2 lapsed and 57 disintegrated associations.

The ultimate responsibility of proper implementation of the programmes rests on the Executive Director of USK with the support of the Assistant Director and Head of the Programmes. However the basic implementation structure of the children and youth programme as far as human capital is concerned is as follows:



The association leaders supplement the Kitengela team by removing new children from the streets and taking them to Kitengela where they are rehabilitated and then reintegrated to their families.

The implementation structure is relevant and effective although it can be more efficient if the youth facilitator level is strengthened and formalised to give it the capacity it needs to successfully play its rightful role. There is need to ensure that each association leader selected

is committed to the goals and objectives of the programme and therefore becomes a role model to the other street working children and youth.

The systems of recruitment to the street associations seem to attract more boys than girls. This has resulted in an imbalance in number whereby 86% of the association members are boys with the remaining 14% are girls. This is a change from the earlier institutional approach which used to attract a significantly large number of girls. There may be need to identify female specific strategies such as recruiting a number of female leaders at night and then target those areas where street girls are prevalent. It would be necessary to acknowledge the fact the generally there are still fewer girls on the streets than boys, even for those engaged in CSEX.

The processes of implementation have been successful although they need to be perfected. For instance, the design where all members in one group move from one level of transformation to another has not worked properly and currently no group has been disengaged from the programme. However there are some individuals within the groups that have been disengaged. In one group, you may find members who are in different levels, some in formation level, and others in capacity building while others are ready for disengagement. It may be important to develop specific measures targeting level mobility of individual members of the association. What of the empowerment level, is there anything that needs to be done?

### **3.3 Cost effectiveness and judicious use of resources (financial, human, machines and equipment, buildings and other assets)**

Over the period of review (2006 to 2010), the **budgeted** expenditure was higher than the **budgeted** income by Kshs 15,073,676. This was due to the ambitious projection in 2006 for rehabilitation and integration, education and training support, staff capacity building and repairs and maintenance that were actually not achieved. The budget was however revised to reflect the income and by the end of the year, the actual income versus the expenditure was nearly at par. From 2007 to date, the budgeted expenditure and income have been achieved, indicating that USK has been performing within the budget.

In the last 5 years, the highest budget has been allocated to capacity building and research followed by rehabilitation and reintegration and mobilization of street children in that order. This is in line with the strategic plan where more emphasis has been given to capacity building.

A review of Financial Audit Reports for the years 2006 to 2009, indicate that in the auditors' opinion the fund accountability statements was good. One of them said:

*“the report presents fairly, all in material respects, program revenue and cost incurred for the period (Deloitte & Touche),”*

There is judicious use of human resources because in the street associations team, there are only 5 programme officers each responsible for a zone and an overall project manager. This somewhat lean staff was overwhelmed at the beginning of the programme because of the high volume of work involving the identification and forming of association and capacity building. However with the involvement of Youth Facilitators in spearheading the association's activities, the amount of work seems to be manageable. Therefore there is need for capacity building of more youth facilitators to ensure that they are able to effectively play their role in the programme.

Kitengela Temporary Place of Safety has 3 staff and this number is enough given the fact that their work is to rehabilitate and reintegrate children with their families. This means that they need to visit far distance homes and arrange the reintegration.

### **3.4 The capacity of the existing staff to implement planned activities**

To effectively implement the planned activities, the programme staff members had to go through capacity building and exposure. Prior to the start of the programme three of them visited Senegal, West Africa to learn from a similar programme and come up with ways of implementing similar but Kenya specific programme. Some staff members also visited South America to get first-hand knowledge of the model and look at ways in which it could be adopted and adapted locally.

With an aim of building the staff capacity and exposure during the 2008 period, the programme carried out an exchange programme. While the programme received staff members from Casa Alianza, a street children organization from Guatemala, two USK children and youth programme staff also participated in a month long exchange programme in Guatemala and Mexico. The exchange programme brought in new experiences which the USK children and youth programme intended to borrow from. Other USK staff members visited the *Umthombo* Street Children in South Africa for the same purpose of learning and sharing. Staff from

*Umthombo* had earlier visited USK. The trips were sponsored by Railway Children and Hope HIV. One staff member of the USK children and youth programme attended a one week workshop in Mozambique in January 2008 sponsored by Street Child Africa on 'Appreciative Inquiry' for street children programs. These programmes provided useful insights concerning streetism although general observations led to the development of Kenyan-specific model.

Despite the high level of preparedness, planned activities proved to be a challenge to the programme staff in both scope and practice. The numerical growth of the associations was overwhelming to the staff and some complained of being overworked. It was difficult for the team to cope with the planned activities of recruiting street children and youth into associations, formation and capacity building. It had been assumed that through Training of Trainers and capacity building in leadership, the association leaders would be able to step in fairly quickly to supplement the staff efforts and help in the implementation of the activities. This did not happen as fast as expected. The programme staff had to do all the planned implementation activities until the time when the association leaders could be empowered to take some of the tasks.

### **3.5 Interrelationships and synergy between the various units/programmes**

There are inter-association and program synergistic relationships that impact on the program. Since USK's rehabilitative work rotates around two major objectives-preventive and curative to achieve the preventive objective, USK uses the rural and town associations to prevent children influx into the streets. The role of these rural associations is to facilitate linking up of children with their communities. Clear linkages are formed for associations in urban settings and those of rural settings in order to provide synergies to each others work in terms of getting children off the streets, facilitating referrals and reintegration, preventing more children from getting to the streets (*Rapid Assessment Report*).

The street association team is closely interrelated with other units at Undugu such as the Undugu Basic Education Program (UBEP) and Community Empowerment program though the self help approach. Thus this the children and youth program benefits from other USK's units providing crucial inter-organisational synergy.

Strong inter-unit synergies exist between the Community Empowerment Programme which help in training on self-help group support model and Undugu Basic Education Program (UBEP), which sees to it that street working children and youth go through basic education.

### **3.6 Networking and alliances/coalitions building**

For the children and youth programme to work effectively, the children and youth program of USK has created networks and alliances both locally and internationally. The local alliances are with the various government ministries and departments including Internal Security, Youth and Sports, Children's Department, Probation Department, among others. Actors involved in the implementation of the association model in 2008 were the police, area chiefs, area councillors, organizations in the children sector, National Council for Children Services, the probation office, ministry of youth affairs and human rights commission.

Kitengela centre is used as a Temporary Place of Safety and children/youth are supposed to stay there for a maximum of 3 months within which they are reintegrated with their families. Those that need continued care and education are taken to Children homes. Therefore the programme works with children homes such as Rescue Dada Centre, Kwetu Home of Peace, Mary Immaculate and Don Bosco among others.

In 2006, through a partnership with Streets and Slums Initiative Project (SSIP), the GOK and Maisha, 300 street youth were targeted in the process of acquiring their identity cards (*Children and Youth Annual Report, 2006*).

During the pilot phase (2006-2007), 23 institutions had been identified for referrals with 12 children (10 boys and 2 girls) being referred to these institutions (*Evaluation of the Pilot Phase of the Street Association's Model, 2007*). Currently, the Children and youth programme has partnered with 23 organizations as referral centres and has referred a total number of 83 children, 50 boys and 33 girls USK also networks with at least 55 children and youth organisations.

In December, 2008, a major campaign on glue sniffing was carried out where USK and NACADA played the lead role supported by other stakeholders such as Sapta, Rescue Dada and Amref Street Children program. During the same period a unique and innovative workshop facilitated by the street, working children and youth association members drew participants from the city council, the National Council for Children Services (NCCS), the police and civil societies. One result of this networking was the commitment made by NCCS to consider suggested association requests and include them in their National Plan of Actions (*Annual Report, 2008*).

Representatives from donors and partners, such as Taksvarkki, Railway Children, Hope HIV and K.N.H made visits to the programme as a way of monitoring and evaluation of the project implementation.

In 2009, two associations from Nairobi benefited from an exposure visit to *Jitegemee*, a Micro Finance Institution (MFI) in Machakos. The MFI facilitated visits of members to successful recipients who had borrowed with them and were managing small and micro enterprises. This visit was meant to expose USK program association members them to different businesses that exist within different areas and the business strategies employed including the importance of saving and working as a group. The whole exposure visit aimed at enhancing their entrepreneurial skills.

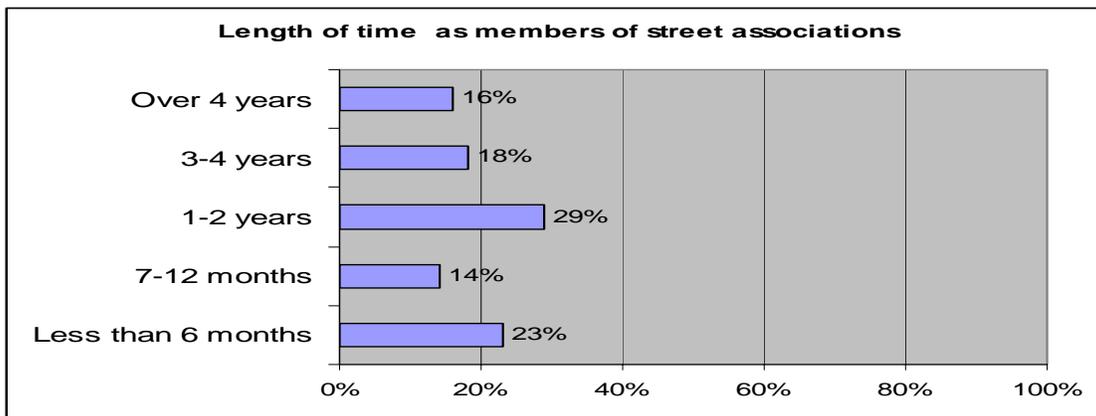
The stakeholder's forum held in Kisumu (late 2008) was officially opened by the deputy mayor who informed USK that the council was ready to work with USK in the implementation of the model in the area.

Therefore, to properly implement the street association model, USK has had to involve many stakeholders and this may have contributed to the apparent success of the implementation of the model in the strategic period 2006 - 2010.

#### **4. Effectiveness, efficiency of the association’s model/approach**

The association model has been effective in reaching a higher number of street children and youth than the previous institution based model/approach. In addition it has empowered association members because they are involved in running their affairs such as selecting their leaders (chairman, secretary and treasurer), coming up with solutions to the challenges they face as well as deciding on income generating activities that they want to pursue.

Although the programme was launched about 5 years ago, quite a number of the street children and youth who joined it have remained as members without dropping out or being disengaged. The chart below shows that 63% had been members of the association for more than 1 year. This suggests that most of those who joined the associations have stay on.



#### **4.1 Participation of children and youth in the programme implementation**

The association model was developed based on the belief that children and youth are actors in their own development and are thus capable of analyzing events and making choices on the necessary actions that can help alleviate their problems. The association was an inclusive and participatory approach where children could be empowered to make choices about themselves, air their views, channel their energies more positively and contribute to the elimination of the street children phenomena in Kenya.

During the rapid assessment of street children and youth in 2006, it was proposed that street children and youth participate actively in the design and implementation of the programmes designed to address the challenges faced by this target group. The rationale for their active involvement was due to the fact that these children understood their challenges better and were inclined to propose and implement lasting solutions. Their participation would also give them a sense of ownership and ensure sustainability (*Rapid Assessment Report, 2006*).

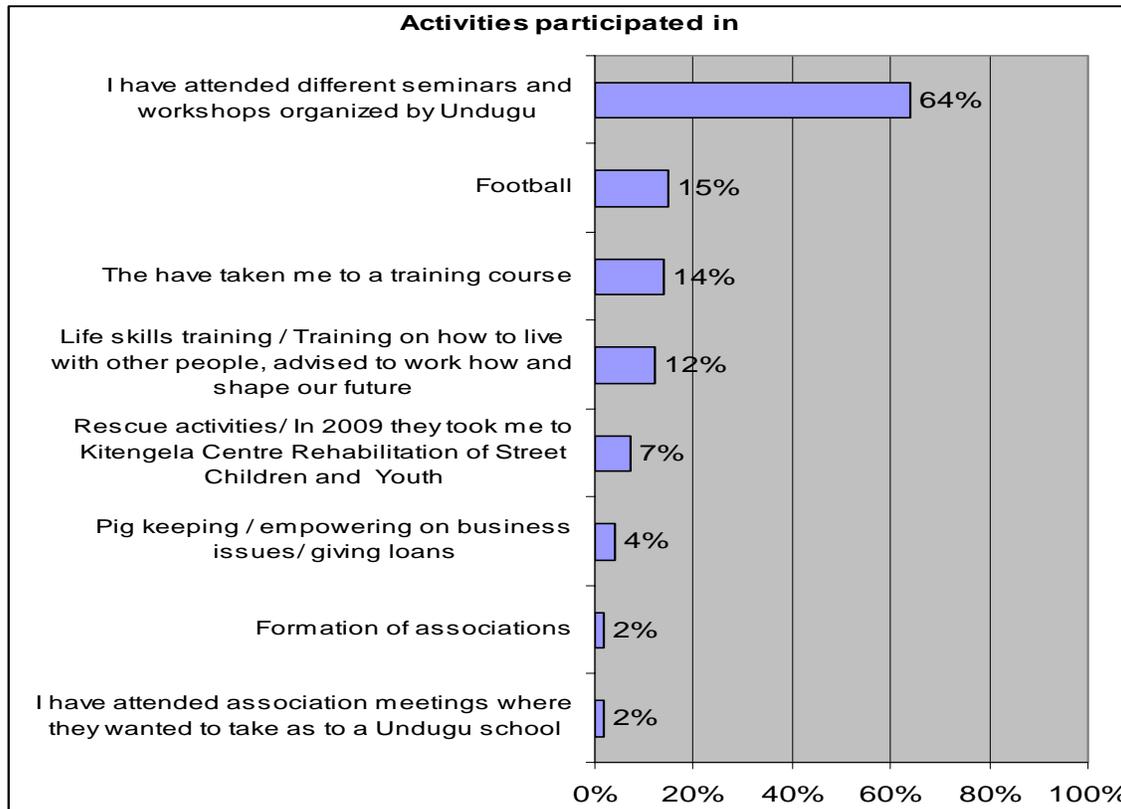
USK has actively involved the street children and youth through the associations. The association model was developed with the participation of the children by collecting their views. Two residential workshops were also held with the leaders of the **gangs** from various **chuoms** who used the forums to contribute their ideas on the design model. Some of the important issues that emerged from these interactions were that:

- Being a member of the association was going to be voluntary
- An association would be made up of between 10-25 persons since some **chuoms** had very few children while others were overpopulated

Street working children and youth in the associations now appreciate the workings of a well organised association as having the possibilities of unleashing both individual and group potentials. Cases of group fights, anti social behaviour and activities, the infiltration of criminal elements, drug and substance abuse have minimized. All members of the association work as a team in coming up with income generating activities they would like to engage themselves in providing a high level of participation of children and youth in the programme implementation.

Once recruited, children and youth go for a seminar that starts the process of formation. They are encouraged to stop glue sniffing and to take control of their lives. They are taken through basic training on self esteem, motivation and the need to be good citizens. Those that are addicted to drug and substance abuse are taken to an expert for counselling and rehabilitation.

During the quantitative survey, the children and youths were asked whether they had participated in the programme activities or any activities supported by USK, 62% said they had participated in the following activities.



Of those who had participated in the activities, the majority (64%) said they had attended different seminars and workshops organized by USK. Other activities that the children and youth had participated in include football, training courses, life skills training and rescue activities for new street children and youth. The children and youth did not consider weekly association meeting as an activity that is supported by USK. This suggests that they now own the meetings and consider them as their own and not USK's, which shows that they are now empowered.

#### **4.2 The role of associations in withdrawing young children from the streets**

In the programme design, it is the role of the associations to remove young children from the streets. However the numbers of the children being removed from the street and taken to Kitengela Temporary Place of Safety has reduced substantially. There are times when the children in Kitengela awaiting to be reintegrated disappear at night through the instigation of the older street children and youth.

Therefore the role of the association in removing young children from the street has not been very effective and there is need to come up with the strategy to ensure that this works.

There are few occasions when the children are removed from the street and reintegrated directly with their families without having to go through the Kitengela Place of Safety. This number is again small and there is need to empower the associations to play an active role in withdrawing young children from the streets.

To ensure effectiveness of Kitengela Temporary Place of Safety, it is proposed that an in-depth research analysis of the centre is undertaken and strategy developed to make its goals more successful.

#### **4.3 Children withdrawn through the associations in each zone over time**

Over the period of the evaluation, Kitengela has admitted a total of 778 street working children and youth of these 347 (45%) have been reintegrated with their families while 61 (8%) have been referred to other institutions. A significant number have dropped out of the centre as can be seen in the table below.

##### **Number of Children who went through Kitengela (2006-2010)**

Year	Admitted	Reintegrated	Referred	Dropped out	Readmissions	Current Population	Unaccounted for
2006	146	70	8	58	0	0	10
2007	163	56	12	57	0	0	38
2008	169	96	25	48	0	0	0
2009	175	72	2	63	30	38	0
2010	125	53	14	33	0	25	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>48</b>

Efforts to get information on the number of street working children and youth children and youth from different zones has not been successful because the new zones only started in 2009. However the information available show that 601 street working children and youth were brought to Kitengela through the associations.

### How the children/youth came in to Kitengela

YEAR	ASSOCIATIONS	SELF	REFERRED	BROUGHT FORWARD
2006	108 BOYS	NIL	NIL	38 (16 BOYS + 22BOYS)
2007	117BOYS/30 GIRLS	13 BOYS	3 BOYS	NIL
2008	110 BOYS/20 GIRLS	30 BOYS	9 GIRLS	NIL
2009	124 BOYS/4 GIRLS	10 BOYS	25 BOYS + 6 GIRLS	Deaf child 4 girls /2 boys
2010	88 BOYS/9 GIRLS	12 BOYS	8 BOYS/8GIRLS	NIL

The majority came from the associations although some brought themselves while others were referred.

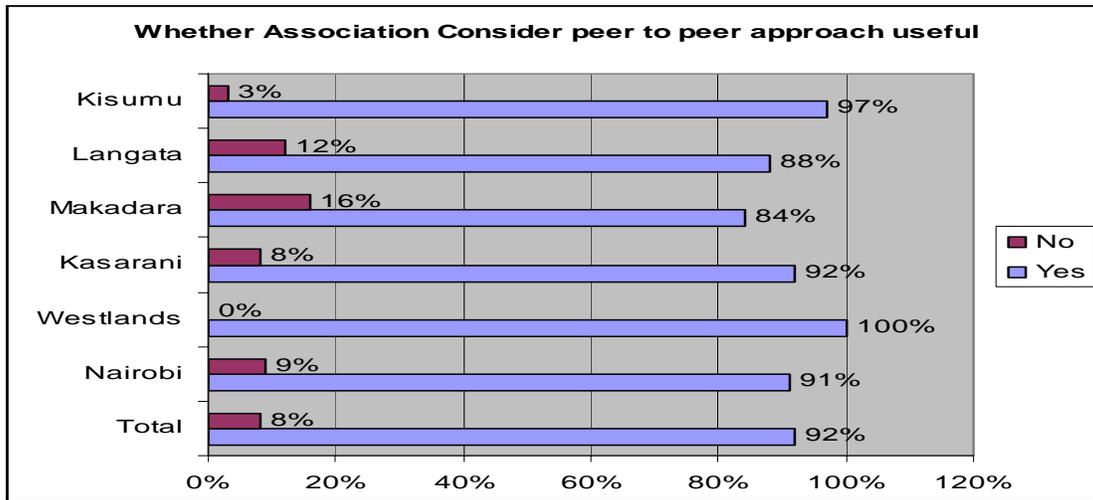
The information available on 2009/2010 admissions to Kitengela indicates that a significant number of street working children and youth who admitted to Kitengela came from Kasarani.

### Analysis of Number of children/youth admitted at Kitengela by zones

zone	2009	2010
Makadara	29 boys	15 boys
Lang`ata	25 boys	21 boys
Westlands	30 boys	29 boys/3 girls
Kasarani	40 boys/4 girls	23 boys/6 girls

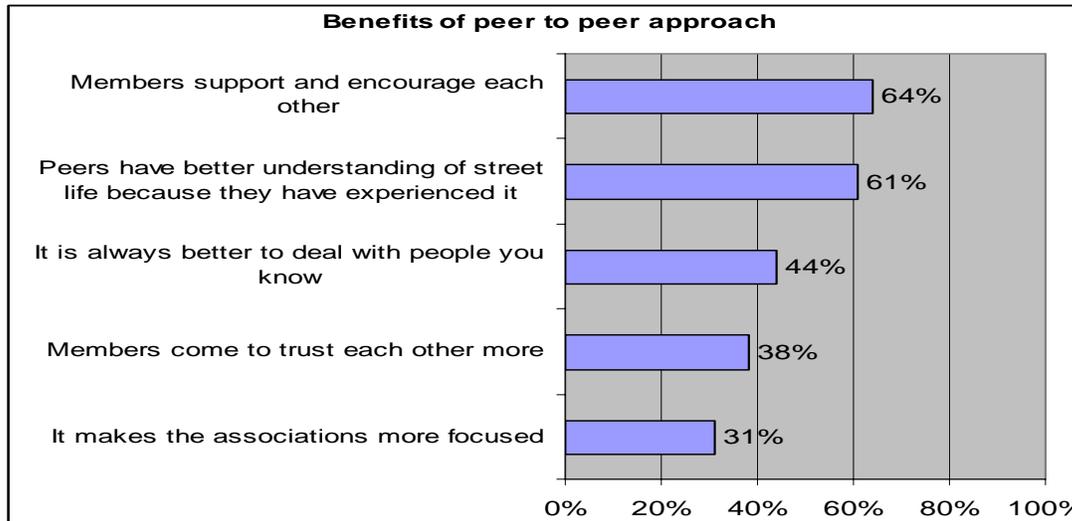
#### 4.4 The capacity and utilization of peer to peer and TOT in rehabilitation and transformation

Peer to peer approach was considered useful by an overwhelming majority of street association members. Overall 92% of the members interviewed considered the peer to peer approach useful. Westlands area had the highest proportion of those who considered the peer to peer education, rehabilitation and transformation approach useful at 100%, while Makadara had a relative low number of those considering the approach useful at 84%.



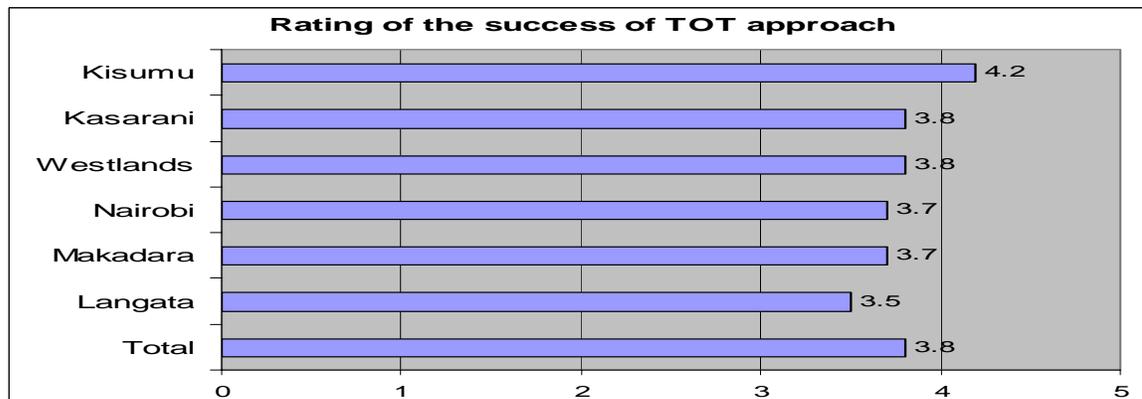
Overall the peer to peer education, rehabilitation and transformation is effective and efficient in that the members have role models they have seen transform from street children and youth to responsible and respected citizens.

The TOT approach has been used in the programme whereby the association leaders are trained in order to train leaders of others association. However, the TOT approach was not perceived as successful. This may be attributed to misunderstanding the question as asked and/or lack of understanding of the role of TOT in the project design. As USK puts it *“the success of peer to peer approach is heavily grounded on the role of TOTs and the fact that peer to peer approach is seen to be successful means that TOTs are working”*. Thus there is need to create awareness of the role of TOTs in the programme design.



The main benefits of peer to peer approach include members support and encourage each other and peers have better understanding of street life because they have experienced it.

The chart below show that TOT is rated highest in Kisumu at 4.2 out of 5 points. Langata associations rated the success of TOT at 3.5 which was the lowest compared to other regions. There is therefore need to look for ways that would make the TOT approach be understood and better used for the benefit of the programme.



In qualitative research the benefits of membership in the association were reported as advice and mentorship:

*“You see like me I could be doing something bad but if a mother from our association advices me to do something different I understand”*

Associations were also reported to be a source of financial support in difficult circumstances such as when one's child fell sick as reported by one female member

*“We decided to start a merry go round for our association everybody, we also contributes Kshs 50 which goes to our account, which we use to help a member if they have a problem like a child getting sick”.*

In addition, peer education related to drugs, HIV and general life skills such as safety, cleanliness and avoiding criminal activities were considered important benefits of association membership by members.

According to the program's annual report of 2006, through the associations and following the capacity building activities, a number of changes were noted as follows:

1. All associations were able to elect leaders who in turn facilitated the formulation of action plans and the weekly meetings to discuss issues affecting association members. Leaders in turn met once every month to discuss association progress and to support weak associations.
2. All associations were able to set their own rules and regulations that would govern them, their relationship with each other and with the public. The rules set also discouraged glue sniffing, criminal tendencies and encouraged the involvement of their members in gainful activities. It was noted that two associations (Tulaga and Dandora) at the time had effected their rules and had in particular organized their income generating activity-waste collection and sale with each member being assigned responsibility
3. Members in three associations(Kenyatta Market, Dandora and Tulaga) had started to mobilise savings on a weekly basis
4. One association (Mukuru Brotherhood-Dandora) had managed to register itself with the Ministry of Social Services as a self-help group

In 2007, 30 leaders from different associations were trained as TOT and peer to peer educators and were used to promote peer to peer rehabilitation. A number of training workshops were also held for the leaders, vocational skills training, entrepreneurship training and promotion of income generating activities were also part of the activities undertaken. The leaders trained as TOTs learnt how to plan and conduct workshops and 18 of those who were trained were given

time to practice by training their own colleagues under supervision of program staff. In total 3 workshops were held and a total of 100 youths participated. A total of 105 leaders were involved in conducting peer to peer education on the streets through their respective chuoms /bases.

In 2009, 18 participants (4 girls and 14 boys) underwent the TOT training in Nairobi during the first trainings while the second trainings targeted a population of 60 participants and 59 participated. Three boys and one girl represented Kisumu, while Nairobi was represented by 40 boys and 15 girls. The trainings were noted to have built TOTs' confidence as well as helped them utilize their skills while enhancing peer to peer education. The topics during this training focused on facilitation skills, planning, organizing and running a workshop, setting workshop objectives, selection of workshop topics and preparation, team work, communication skills, tools and resources to be used during the workshop, climate setting and energizers and when to use them. They were also taught on how to identify locally available resources and put them into good use.

One of the successes of the programme's capacity building of former street children has been the identification of youth to become youth facilitators. The youth go through a series of capacity building workshops and are also attached to USK staff. Their responsibilities include identifying new bases, mobilising street children and youth for formation of associations. During this period 5 TOTs (4 in Nairobi and 1 in Kisumu) were brought on board towards the end of the year as youth facilitators to facilitate increased outreach, identify the new bases, facilitate group formation and organize workshops to discuss the association's model.

This shows that quite some effort has been made to develop TOT, however the association members (street working children and youth) need a proper understanding of the role of TOT and their importance in the model/approach.

#### **4.5 Rights of the children and youth**

In qualitative research all the respondents were aware of various rights that children and youth are entitled to ranging from basic ones such as food, clothing and shelter to health, protection/security, education as well as family life. To secure these rights, actors felt that they needed to engage parents and guardians as well as report those who neglect children to

children officers who would enforce the law. Association members were particularly concerned about the children on the streets and violation of their rights and were concerned, committed and active in their removal to the Kitengela centre.

Majority of the street children are males. Despite the low proportion of girls on the streets, it was noted that their departure from their homes was more definitive due to the patriarchal system of the society which denied females access to resources, opportunities and facilities vital for finding livelihood. This phenomenon leaves the females very exposed and unless successfully rehabilitated and re-integrated into the educational systems (formal and/or informal) would reduce their chances of finding meaningful livelihood.

Girls on the streets are exposed to unwanted pregnancies through rape and other street related relationships. They are often taken advantage of by their street male counterparts, the public, the police and city council workers. Boys often face harassment from the police and city council *askaris* as well as physical abuse from their male counterparts and are also victims of sexual harassment. They often face arrests, persecution, beatings and verbal abuse.

Gender disparity was identified during the pilot phase of the street association's model. (*Evaluation on the Pilot Phase of the Street Association's Model, 2007*). The gaps identified were attributed to:

- The nature of work boys engage in such as car washing, cart pulling, loading and off loading of goods from vehicles among others, kept the girls off.

Girls have varying interests and engage in different activities like begging, peddling drugs, prostitution and laundry work which are seen as soft options.

- Girls are generally fewer on the streets and unwilling to mix with the boys for fear of harassment and violence.
- The perception that girls are not serious, "*after all they'll get married*"

Specific problems of females in the streets were cited as sexual in nature as they were vulnerable to rape, unplanned pregnancies, venereal infections such as HIV, early marriages as well as physical violence. It was reported that some of the girls were "owned" by men and thus were involved in forced labor and prostitution. Association members and leaders said that the

perpetrators were street boys, city council askaris, police as well as members of the community in general. One of the female association members said:

*“in the street life is hard. There are no jobs so you are forced to sell your body. Life is hard you get a man he lies to you after having you they leave you there, you can get infected with diseases or get pregnant”.*

A specific challenge quoted by female members and leaders in associations was lack of facilities to ensure hygiene particularly related to bathing and washing clothes. This was especially important during menstrual and post partum periods. In addition, they also cited the absence of sex education regarding menstruation, sex, pregnancy and prevention of sexually transmitted infections.

The program has made an impact on the lives of street girls. Association leaders noted that the girls were now able to articulate their issues in the meetings and get support of the other members. One girl put it this way

*“Yes the program has helped since we formed the associations. We use to stay in the forest at the Globe Cinema Round-about, a man could come pick you, and if you talk you are beaten. These days there are rules if a man disturbs you, you report to Wamarato he is our leader, the person is arrested, and we are free, even if you are small”.*

It was also noted that specific problems pertaining to pregnancy and disease were addressed by the some of the referral centres such as Rescue Dada Centre that have partnerships with hospitals and homes.

#### **4.6 Rehabilitating and integration of youth into society**

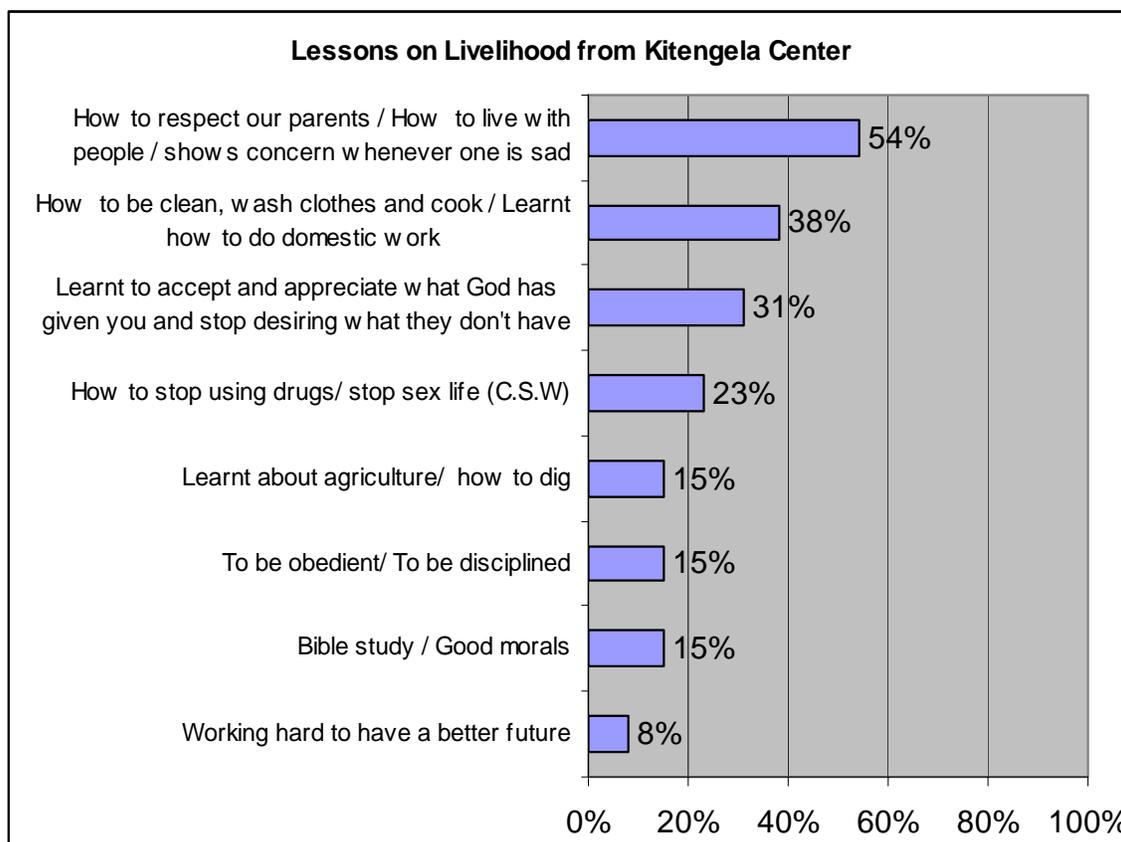
Interviews with disengaged youth revealed that they had been taught a number of life skills before being integrated into the society. Most of the lessons were about respect for oneself and for others, how to stop the use of drugs and sex life and some livelihood activities such as agriculture. As reported by Kitengela staff, re-integration of children into families was a major challenge at the centre due to broken or dysfunctional nature of the homes the children came from. According to them, success depended on the education and skills that the children had acquired. In addition, parents of children at the centre reported that most of the children had

run away from home in an attempt to evade the discipline from their homes and thus success of re-integration depended on their change of attitude.

Characteristics that were important to ensure successful integration and re-integration reported by actors, association members and leaders include - transformed lives of the children or youth in respect to discipline, rehabilitation in respect to drug and substance abuse and general honesty in whatever activities they were involved in. The role of the community in accepting the reformed youth was a crucial factor reported in their successful integration into society. Members and leaders reported that parents and the community were still suspicious of them despite the fact that they had changed. Actors and staff concurred and said that when children and youth were taken back to their homes, they were met with surprise and caution at times due to the circumstances of their flight. Though accepted, they were usually held with skepticism and were begged for time to observe them. In this regard, actors recommended that parents and the community should be involved in the programme so that their perception changes and thus are able to accept the youth and children without much suspicion.

Kitengela staff felt that increased resources and emphasis on the quality and not quantity of children served would increase the likelihood of successful integration. This would mean that there is need to review the time limit regarding the stay at the centre so that it is determined by the transformation observed in the individual child and responsive to the child's best interest.

According to the staff, the approach at the Kitengela centre is consultative and participatory whereby decisions are made when children have been heard and their opinions considered. This approach is reported to work except in rare situations such as one that due to incitement by a leader, 18 children walked out and threatened to destroy the centre necessitating the intervention by security forces.



#### 4.7 The role of Kitengela Centre for Care, Protection, rehabilitation and reintegration

According to the records at the centre, in 2006, 85% of the 146 children who passed through Kitengela were male. Of these 48% were re-integrated into families while 40% dropped out. The peak periods of influx of children into the centre were March, June, May and January (39, 16, 15 and 15 respectively). In the following year 2007, 163 children were admitted into the centre. 82% were male of which 34% were re-integrated and 35% dropped. The re-integrated children consisted of 35% of the girls and 24% of the total admitted into the centre. A total of 12 children were referred to other stakeholders. In addition, 12 boys and 8 girls were sponsored into secondary schools and 9 and 6 respectively into skills training.

In 2008, 169 children were admitted of which 83% were male. Of the 62% re-integrated, 61% consisted of males admitted while 69% were female. Drop outs were 28% which were 28 and

31% male and female respectively. Furthermore in 2009, the centre admitted 175 children; 41% who were integrated and 36% dropped out. Of the admission, 17% had been at the centre before and thus were re-admissions. Twelve boys and 8 girls were sponsored into secondary schools and 9 and 6 respectively into skills training.

Within the first six months of 2010, 108 children had been admitted, 53% integrated and 33% dropped out. By June, the centre had 25 children (22 boys and 3 girls) and by the interview in September 28 children ( 26 boys and 2 girls).

In 2007, the associations through their leaders were able to directly reintegrate 18 children and youth back to their families mostly within Nairobi and its surrounding. In the Kitengela Centre children were involved in various activities aimed at transforming their outlook on life and the society they live in. These activities included counselling, guidance, sporting activities and learning to live and share with others, cleaning and cooking with the help of staff members. The children and youth programme has so far carried out the integration of 349 children. Out of these 110 are girls/females while 240 are boys/males. Out of these children at least a significant number (124) are in school. At least 14 of the children and youth are in training while 7 are awaiting placements in training. The training skills undertaken include auto mechanics, salon/ hairdressing, knitting, electronics, driving, dressmaking/tailoring, training to become a barber, carpentry, panel beating/welding. Six youth are currently engaged in some economic activity either employed or carrying out their business. At least 3 females got married and are now settled.

	<b>Total number of children and youth</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Females</b>
Nairobi	144	101	43
Outskirts of Nairobi	50	40	10
Central	35	21	14
Eastern	31	20	11
Rift Valley	17	14	3
Nyanza	36	20	16
Western	36	22	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>111</b>

At the centre, drop outs were reported to be about 20-30% due to desire to have freedom in the streets, drug and substance use, quick income as well as peer pressure from the streets. One of them said that though he appreciated the shelter and food, he missed sniffing glue and thus

he went back to streets. Reasons for staying in the centre were reported as meeting children's basic needs, realistic expectations of their future in the program as well as engagement in activities- such as schooling-that kept them busy. Of the 70% who stayed, the staff at the centre reported that another 50% eventually went back to the streets with only 20-30% being re-integrated into their families. The challenges at the centre were reported as low staff/children ratio, timely receipt of resources and difficulties in re-integrating children into families that were at times dysfunctional. The children at the centre said that the 3 month period of stay was too short and in order to increase chances of re-integration, longer periods that would enable acquisition of skills training would be preferable.

Regarding suggestions to improve the centre, children said that the specific reasons that brought them to the streets should be considered in determination of stay. For instance, orphans would be considered and housed separately as per the following reasoning:

*"If I were asked I would build 2 centres such that one is for the orphans, after you do the home visit and see that the parents are not able to support them then you put them in the centre for the orphans and then those that want to go home they can go. The first centre is for those who are to be rehabilitated and then the teachers would sit down with them and if they want to go back home they go".*

Actors were categorical that children were not really the problem but parents, guardians and society at large and thus the program should engage, educate and empower them accordingly.

#### **4.8 Withdrawing children and youth from the streets and their self reliance**

In 2006, the programme was able to reach 671 children through the associations with 525 being actively involved through the association in the change process. This was double the number that USK had been reaching on an annual basis using the previous strategies. According to the children and youth IPPT report covering the 2006-2007 piloting phase, the unit reached in the first year 671 (67%) children and youth out of the targeted 1000 for rehabilitation and transformation, while 177 (8.8%) were reached out of a target of 2000 in 2007. Accumulatively for the 2 years the programme worked with 848 children. Before the association's model, the programme used to reach 300 children yearly (210 boys and 90 girls).

The 2 years (2006-7) saw the reintegration of 230 (19%) children 194 (84%) boys and 36 (16%) girls out of the targeted 1,200. The process was slow due to the time taken for successful reintegration.

In 2007, 123 children and youth were rescued from the streets and went through rehabilitation through the Kitengela Centre with 52 being reintegrated back to their families while 8 were referred to other agencies.

It is necessary to investigate the movement of the children from the streets, into and out of Kitengela and into their homes concerning the outcome of the re-integration process in respect to sustainable and permanent removal from the streets.

#### **4.9 Lobby and advocacy**

Since drug abuse has been identified as a major contributor to continued streetism and a hindrance to rehabilitation efforts, the involvement of other actors is paramount to address this issue. The government has enacted various legislation with reference to drug and substance abuse especially for the prevention of availability of these drugs to children. This has been done through the Penal Code, The Children's Act (2001) and The Narcotic Drugs and Substances Control Act. NACADA (The National Agency for Campaign against Drug Abuse Authority) is a government intervention specifically set up to deal with drug and substance abuse in Kenya.

According to the annual report (2006) Children and youth in the associations had demonstrated their feelings of empowerment by dealing with some of their issues on their own ; they had on two separate occasions demonstrated against glue vendors while a separate group demonstrated to demand for a waiver of charges at Kenyatta Hospital, the mortuary and at the Langata cemetery when one of their colleague died. Children and youth were also supported to participate in local and national forums. They participated in the International day against drugs, substance abuse and trafficking with the theme " **Do drugs control Kenyan lives?**" 100 association leaders participated in the procession and coined their own theme "**Glue is killing our children, stop it!**" The programme also supported the children and youth associations to produce three issues of the Tumaini Magazine which provided an outlet for airing their views on their lives to the rest of Kenyans and improved their self esteem and the public perception.

The program has also carried out advocacy efforts on glue sniffing and has been able to carry out an analysis on the laws that affect glue sniffing in Kenya (Section 242A of the Penal Code which prohibits sale of glue and section 16 of the Children's Act). A fact finding mission on the implementation of these laws was carried out through visits to police stations and interviews with police officers. The findings pointed out the low awareness on the provisions of the laws. In addition, there were no known arrests of suppliers of glue in the stations and police officers downplayed the effects of glue on the children. Following these revelations, recommendations were made to carry out research in a bid to establishing the extent of the problem and to analyze the chemical composition of glue to enable its proper classification as either a narcotic or a psychotropic. By the end of 2007, two samples from Kisumu and Western regions had been gathered.

A stakeholder's forum to share the design was held in March 2007 whose theme was *"Building Partnerships to transform streetism- innovative approaches based on the right of children and youth to participation"*. The forum was attended by 43 participants from the children and other government departments. The key resolutions made during this forum were:

- ❖ That there was need for a concerted effort towards influencing positive public attitude toward street children. Participants resolved to enhance networking and collaboration amongst themselves and across the sector as well as with the private sector
- ❖ That there was urgent need for sustained public education on the issue of street children and youth through public communication and mass media. The education would present success stories and efforts by children and organisations to address the problem
- ❖ That USK urgently provides an initiative which would culminate into an all inclusive task force to provide useful avenue for dialogue and through which issues affecting the sector could be discussed and addressed.

Through the NCS and Children's department, key stakeholders from the police, Nairobi City Council, Nairobi Central Business District Association and the Provincial Commissioner Nairobi, held meetings to discuss the associations model and made a commitment to support it( *Annual Report, 2007*).

Following the research conducted in 2008 on the prevalence of glue sniffing among street children and youth and the validation workshop, the climax of these activities was the glue

sniffing campaign held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008 in Nairobi in collaboration with NACADA. The theme of the campaign was **“Glue Sniffing is harmful to all of us...lets fight”**

One of the achievements of the children and youth forum held in 2008 and facilitated by the street, working children and youth association members was their recognition by NCS( National Council for Children Services) and their commitment thereof to bring their issues on board and include them in their national plans( *Annual Report, 2008*).

The digital story telling project is an innovative approach developed in 2008 whose objective is to create a forum whereby the children and youth can bring out their issues. The children and youth tell their own stories to the world using photographs and internet. This approach was developed as part of the program’s advocacy efforts. A forum for children and youth held the same year with the theme *“From the streets to the microphone”* aimed at sharing their transformation with the public as well as seek for ways of working together with the government to avoid exclusion from development opportunities and to be given a voice.

With regard to lobbying and advocacy activities in 2009, Undugu participated actively with other stakeholders in the constitutional review process, to see that the document incorporated the issues of children and women during the period under review. The programme also participated in the preparation of a report to the UN General Assembly on children’s rights. Two of the milestones achieved by USK were the development and implementation of a Child Protection Policy for Undugu and the implementation of the Deaf Child Project whose main focus is the social inclusion of the deaf children and youth on the streets and slums of Nairobi. USK was also involved in two researches one on sexuality and reproductive health among youth and the other on street children in Kenya and Tanzania. Results from the two studies will be instrumental in giving direction to the children and youth programme on practical interventions towards street working children and youth. The programme also intended to hold a national stakeholders workshop to seek ways of dealing better with the issue of drug and substance abuse. The issue of the sale of glue was raised by children participants in a stake holder’s forum (late 2008) by known agents.

Given that lobbying and advocacy is a key component in the new strategic plan, there is need for USK to develop more capacity in this area if they are to succeed to moving the organization in the new strategic direction.

#### 4.10 Lapsing and Disintegration of associations and reasons for the same

The first two years (2006 & 2007) saw the disintegration of 11(23%) of the 48 associations formed. The reasons cited for the disintegrations were leadership problems, lack of interest among members, drug and substance abuse (*Evaluation on the Pilot Phase of the Street Associations Model, 2007*). Other reasons for disintegration of associations were due to the regular swoops of street children and youth by police and local authority. The associations were unable to hold their meetings due to intimidation by the police and local authority and thus their eventual disintegration (*Children and Youth Annual Report, 2006 & 2007*).

#### Disintegrated Associations, 2007

	Association	Members		
		Male	Female	Totals
1	Bus Station B	30	0	30
2	Santiago	15	9	24
3	Ramogi	24	0	24
4	Swiss Base	12	0	12
5	Mlango Kubwa A	40	10	50
6	Mlango Kubwa B	18	10	28
7	Mlango Kubwa C	25	10	35
8	Zion	11	8	19
9	City Centre Coast Bus	19	9	28
10	Kamkaranges Group	25	9	34
11	Young Zion	24	10	34
	Totals	243	75	318

Source: Annual Report, 2007

The drop out rate of members in associations as well as disintegration of associations was reported to be due bad leadership particularly financial mismanagement of members funds. Association regulations were also perceived to curtail the freedom of the members in respect to discipline regarding attendance of meetings, use of drugs as well as criminal activities and contributed to drop outs. Members reported that where the leadership managed their funds well and maintained good communication with the membership then they earned their trust. In addition, groups that had realistic expectations and common activities that engaged members increased chance of the association to remain intact.

The disengagement of association has not been successful so far. However there are individual members within the associations that have been disengaged. Even the association that rears pigs in Dandora does not feel ready to be disengaged.

For effectiveness of the disengagement there is need to change the strategy and give more weight to individual disengagement even as the association strategy of disengagement is being perfected. Moreover measures should be developed to check the level at which the individuals are within the group and those that are at the same level can then be disengaged together while those not ready can be relocated to another association.

Considering disengagement from the program, association members and leaders felt that despite training and jobs, most members still considered the street as home. In this regard, they regularly visited the streets particularly when jobs were unavailable or did not adequately cater for their needs. Those at Kitengela concurred and said that though trained, with jobs and off the streets, they still were nostalgic of street life.

## **5. The overall impact of the programme on the target groups**

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Actors felt that the problem of streetism was major and was primarily due to poverty, orphans and single-parent families as well as disintegrated and dysfunctional families. Many who ran away from home claimed family situations deteriorated at the death of a parent (mostly mother and subsequent remarriage of the father). Once on the streets, life there led to drug and substance abuse, criminal activities, prostitution and life of not just individuals but whole families on the streets. According to the actors the solutions for these challenges in respect to the work of USK provides opportunity of entry points into homes where parents and guardians of the children are as well as schools which they attend. Those at Kitengela noted that the problem of streetism was mainly as a result of dysfunctional families and poverty and resulted in beatings, molestations arrests and even some being shot. Solutions, they said would come from resolving these fundamental community problems. Association members and leaders also cited a specific problem of acquisition of identity cards due to their not having the required documents such as birth certificates. They reported that USK and other referral centres were facilitative in this function.

A parent of children at Kitengela centre reported that

*“Undugu have dedicated with all their heart to help not for their own benefit but for all the people with problems. Compared to some organizations, Undugu is real especially*

*in my life I have never seen what they have done. But with Undugu even paying of my child's school fees; it is real".*

In respect to reducing the number of street children, respondents differed in opinion. Kitengela staff thought that in terms of numbers, it was not significant but in regard to the few who were transformed, it was adequate evidence to the success of the program. One of the actors, a youth officer from Kamukunji concurred and said;

*"In fact removing just one person from the street and re-integrating the person with their family then that is a success and for Undugu Society it is not just one, they are several".*

In their opinion, success should not be measured by withdrawal from the streets but transformation. Parents of the Kitengela children observed that there was continued migration into the streets and thus as old ones leave, new ones enter. Members and leaders of association rated the success of the program at 30-40% and reported that success was determined by training opportunities which were unfortunately inadequate.

To ensure success of the program, actors felt that it was important to look at it more broadly and not only from the children's perspective. They recommended that USK deal with the parents' poverty, empower families, curb rural-urban migration and thus engage the community as a whole.

### 5.1 Children and youth accessing development opportunities (education, training, income generation/employment, devolved funds and opportunities)

Opportunity for education and skills training was considered by association members, leaders and youth at the centre as a major motivation for membership in associations and admission into the Kitengela centre. One girl said:

*“I have learnt to cook; I can now make chapatis, cut vegetables and even clean around. Of late when I sing a song, I cannot forget, it is forever in my head. I would now love to know how to plait hair”*

Actors reported that training was a major accomplishment of USK while association members and leaders felt that the opportunities were not adequate and thus expectations in terms of the numbers trained were unmet in this area. A crucial factor of training program cited by members was that when at school, they were unable to participate in income generating activities that provided for their food. This contributed to truancy and drop outs and compromised the success of the school and skills training program.

The year 2006, saw the enrolment of 6 children in secondary schools all of them females. In 2007, 5 children were enrolled in secondary school (3 males and 2 females). In 2008, the number of children who were enrolled in secondary education was 3 (males), however, 1 dropped out completely while one dropped out but finished later and one completed. In 2009, the number of children who had completed secondary education was 5 (2 males and 3 females). There are at least 19 children enrolled in secondary school this year (2010).

The program also managed to take 33 children to school and 23 joined different training setups for skills training. The program also continued to sponsor 110 children already in schools and 9 in skills training from the previous years (see table below)

#### Summary of Trades engaged in by Youth (2006)

No.	Trade	Male	Female	Totals
1	Hair dressing	3	0	3
2	Driving	1	0	1
3	Mechanics	2	0	2
4	Carpentry/Joinery	4	0	4
5	Arch welding/Fitting	3	0	3
6	Knitting	0	1	1
7	Embroidery	0	1	1
8	Tailoring	1	0	1
9	Barber	6	0	6
10	Computer Application	1	0	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>

Through capacity building trainings, by the end of 2007, some associations had been able to register with the Ministry of gender, sports, culture and social services, open bank accounts and make some savings. Some of the associations had also started small businesses through provision of grants. The number of children engaged in ethical productive work during pilot phase (2006-2007) was 424 (71%) out of the targeted 600 with most being engaged in waste management and car washing businesses.

The association model had also built the capacity of 118 leaders out of a target of 450 on leadership, participatory action research (PAR) and Training of Trainers (TOT). In addition, in 2007, 35 youth were attached in skills training from the associations (9 girls and 26 boys). In the same year, small grants of Ksh 3,000 (in kind) were disbursed to eight associations' members each to start small hawking businesses. Two associations registered with the Ministry of Social Services and opened bank accounts. Three associations were also taken through business entrepreneurship training (level 1) while 2 involved in garbage management received grants to purchase working equipment. The groups are currently making an average of Ksh 300 per day.

In 2008, 129 children and youth benefited from education and training with 62 children in formal education (56 in primary and 6 in secondary) and 94 youth in skills training.

**Summary of Trades engaged in by Youth (2008)**

No.	Trade	Male	Female	Total
1	Hairdressing	0	21	21
2	Driving	19	0	19
3	Haircutting/Barber	9	0	9
4	Motor Vehicle Mechanics	26	0	26
5	Electrical Wiring	6	0	6
6	Panel Beating	3	0	3
7	Electronics	1	0	1
8	Welding	1	0	1
9	Computer	1	0	1
10	Bicycle Repair	2	0	2
11	Knitting	0	1	1
12	Dressmaking	0	4	4
	Total	68	26	94

*Source: Annual Report, 2008*

Through the digital story telling project initiated in 2008, 4 boys from the association were trained and two ended up being trainers of the same.

In 2009, 129 association's members were identified through their associations for small enterprise support. They were then trained on business management and entrepreneurship. 24 of these association members were drawn from Kisumu (20 boys, 4 girls) while 105 were drawn from Nairobi (17 girls, 88 boys). Out of the 129 trained, 20 were given individual loans of 3000 Ksh out of which 6 had started the repayment process. Three associations were also given loan as groups ranging between Ksh 10,000 and 20,000 Ksh. The groups were involved in different income generating activities-pig rearing, selling water and garbage collection and selling fish and cereals. The remaining association members were reported to be in the process of preparing business plans after which they would be provided with capital/loans to enable them start their businesses (*Annual Report, 2009*).

The employment of 25 association members (19 boys and 6 girls) in 2009 by the Nairobi city council under the 'Kazi Kwa Vijana Initiative' was a notable achievement for the associations.

Through associations, 112 youths benefited from skills training- 31 (5 girls, 26 boys) from Kisumu and 81 (10 girls 71 boys) from Nairobi.

#### **Summary of Trades engaged in by Youth (2008)**

No .	Trade	Male	Female	Total
1	Driving	18	1	19
2	Mechanic	32	0	32
3	Hair Salon	0	2	2
4	Window Tinting & Motor Design	3	0	3
5	Carpentry	9	0	9
6	Panel Beating	7	0	7
7	Hair cut	3	0	3
8	Mobile Repair	6	2	8
9	Electrical Wiring	6	0	6
10	Bicycle repair	1	0	1
11	Dress making	1	4	5
12	Tailoring	2	0	2
13	Plumbing	4	0	4
14	Metal Sheets work	5	0	5
15	Knitting	0	3	3
16	Saloon and beauty	0	3	3
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>112</b>

Under the family centred rehabilitation, there were 16 youth pursuing skills training as follows:

No.	Trade	Male	Female	Total
1	Hairdressing	0	3	3
2	Driving	3	0	3
3	Haircut	1	0	1
4	Motor Vehicle mechanics	2	1	3
5	Panel Beating	1	0	1
6	Electronics	1	0	1
7	Dressmaking	0	3	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>

A total of 182 benefited from formal education and training during the period of 2009, 156 were in primary school while 26 were in secondary school. In primary school 11 of the children completed their primary education with 8 of them attaining above 300 marks and were to join public government schools in 2010. Five completed their secondary sat for their secondary education.

## **5.2 Reintegration and integration of children and youth back to families/society**

As reported by Kitengela staff re-integration of children into families was a major challenge at the centre due to broken or dysfunctional nature of the homes the children came from. According to them, success depended on the education and skills that the children had acquired. In addition, parents of children at the centre reported that most of the children had ran away from home in an attempt to evade the discipline from their homes and thus success of re-integration depended on their change of attitude.

Kitengela staff felt that increased resources and emphasis on the quality and not quantity of children served would increase the likelihood of successful integration. This would mean that there would not be a fixed time limit regarding the stay at the centre but the length of stay would be determined by the transformation observed in the children. What is however not clear is the permanence of rehabilitation by confirmatory evidence that these children did not move back to the streets.

### 5.3 Reducing the incidence of drugs and substance abuse for children and youth on the streets

One of the most serious problems facing Kenya's street children has been identified as substance abuse. The types of drugs abused include glue, bhang (dom), miraa, heroine, cocaine and mandrax. Other anti-depressants known to the children are 'tap tap', red devil and D5, cozepam, cosmos, atain, Roche 5, valium.

Glue was found to be the most commonly abused drug for various reasons identified by the street children as shown in the table below:

Reason for sniffing glue	Frequency	Percentage
To get high/to get a fuzz	121	40.2
To keep cold away	98	32.6
Gives confidence	64	21.3
Because it is easy and cheap to access	64	21.3
To belong	59	19.6
Keep hunger away	60	19.9
To be alert	41	13.6
To stay awake	38	12.6
To be able to eat scavenged food	31	10.3
To numb pain	30	10.0
It gives energy/power	27	9.0

**Source: USK, Glue Sniffing Report**

Glue sniffing has been identified as a major hindrance to the successful rehabilitation of street children. The dependency of the street child is difficult to break due to the reasons cited in the table above and thus the child resists rehabilitation as it will be difficult for them to access the substance. It is also difficult to engage a child who is 'high' on glue due to their lack of concentration. The negative perception of the public towards the street children is also a handicap to the rehabilitation efforts. It was therefore identified that for successful rehabilitation to take place there must be psychosocial support by trained and skilled professionals and overall offers a holistic approach.

The problem of drugs such as bhang, sniffing glue, jet fluid (biere) and “Ndovu” was considered serious by all respondents and the impact of the program was reported to be variable. They reported that the approach of USK had provided adequate knowledge on the hazards of drug and substance abuse and the dialogue approach in the associations and the Kitengela centre was acceptable. Though it was general knowledge that these substances had delirious effect on one’s health this knowledge did not apparently translate into permanent practice. All of the respondents reported that though USK was trying in this respect, their success was limited, for children and youth reduced or stopped temporarily but restarted the habit due to various reasons such as peer pressure translating to cyclic recurrence.

Some of the problems faced by the associations included the lack of a convenient meeting place as securing an office within the central business district was hampered by the attitudinal problems of landlords on street children (*Children and Youth Annual Report, 2006*).

It is important to note that in 2009, through the transformation of associations and their capacity building, some associations were able to seek and obtain meeting places and were thus meeting in church halls, social halls and school compounds. This suggests an increased understanding of the transformation efforts of the street children and youth.

#### **5.4 The quality of life for the children and youth, and their families**

By the end of 2007, association members reported that their working and living conditions had improved. They attributed this to the fact that they were now able to solve their own disputes, infighting had reduced, unnecessary competitions had reduced and thus were able to bargain for work done. Some members had registered and opened saving bank accounts (*Evaluation on the Pilot Phase of The Street Association’s Model, 2007*). Other members had been able to access health/medical services, national identity cards and were also able to access sporting activities. Relationships among members were also reported to have improved as members were controlled by the rules they had formulated through active participation.

The change in the quality of life of children however was however not as clear. Association members reported that this depended on many factors such as successful re-integration into families. Kitengela staff said that children who had gone through the centre were more responsible and self reliant.

### 5.5 Transforming the Street Culture (Streetism)

The life on the streets is a culture that is unacceptable by the community and a major goal of the program was to transform this culture.

By the end of 2007, association members admitted they had witnessed transformation of their street culture especially in terms of personal hygiene, reduced cases of theft and in the use of illegal drugs (*Evaluation on the Pilot Phase of The Street Association's Model, 2007*). Generally, the following observations could be made as evidence of transformation of the street culture among the street children and youth:

- ❖ Improved personal hygiene/general cleanliness
- ❖ Reduced use of illegal drugs and substances
- ❖ Reduced cases of stealing
- ❖ Members engaging in acceptable income generating activities
- ❖ Members identifying new entrants into the streets and immediately rescuing them before they get acquainted with street life

In 2009, about 60% of the youth who formerly slept and lived on the streets had relocated from street living and had hired small rooms within the communities in the informal settlements and only used the streets to make their living.

The fact that children were rescued from the streets and taken to Kitengela centre was evidence that the street culture was transformative as cited by association members. Kitengela staff thought that there was a change in attitude which was evidence of transformation as seen in children who were clean and had reduced criminal activities such as muggings and bag snatching. Parents of the children qualified that this change was limited to those who had acquired education and skills training. However to one street girl association leader the program

*“has changed me because if you are at where I have come from and where I am now you'll see the difference, am a very different person I don't behave like a street girl because people in the streets are usually rude coz they know you nothing can be done*

*to them if you beat one of them the others join in and fight you so you change your behaviour and start living and relating like other people without verbal abuse”.*

Many members now were engaged in legitimate business such as laundry, car wash construction, toilet maintenance, water vending, cigarette and miraa selling, touting, plastic, scrap metal and garbage collection. This was in comparison to previous activities such as begging, prostitution, muggings and bag snatching. One association of ladies had moved from the streets, rented a house in the slums and from there some had moved on to live on their own and some were even married and retained membership.

Actors felt that the program played a role in transforming street culture particularly where members had acquired skills and jobs. Without these, they felt the change was temporary for people had to get their basic needs in whatever way possible. A youth officer from the Ministry of Youth and Sports said

*“Like the Dallas boys, they have done very well. we have worked with them even when you give them money for the work they have done, we see that they are utilizing the money wisely. In fact some of them will tell you to pay them because they want to go to Gikomba to buy some clothes so that they can sell them. We have some whose businesses are doing very well, we have some at the Jua kali and they are making very nice things. In fact our ministry through the youth development fund we asked them to make a proposal so that we can make them sheds and the CEO of the fund was going to talk to the city council, the minister and the town clerk so that we are given or they demolish some of the buildings like they did in the Muthurwa market so that we build specifically for the youths so that they can be able to do their trade”.*

Other than change in terms of basic needs, a change in attitude was quoted as a major benefit by one 14 year old girl at Kitengela who originally came from Kisii who said

*“I did not have good relations with my friends, I would not stay with them and not fight but of late, I seem to listen, the teacher would even tell me something and I would listen”.*

A 15 year old young man who had come from Kakamega observed that

*“since I came here I have learnt a lot before when a teacher told me something I use to pretend have not heard or when a parent talked to me I use to answer back so I realized I life wasn’t good but now I can see I’ll benefit.”*

And a young man from Kiambu said that

*“Since I first came here, if anyone would talk to me rudely I would beat them up, even if it was a teacher. I would walk away slowly and I would also throw my hands at the teachers many times but later on I have come to see that I have changed and when I am told to do something I do without making noise”.*

#### **Upholding rights of street and working children as a result of advocacy campaigns**

Advocacy campaigns have to continue and be mainstreamed into the programme if the rights of street and working children are to be realised. At present they continue harassment by police and City Council security personnel.

USK need to ensure that the Children rights as per in the New Constitution take care of the street and working children and youth and that the capacity building and empowerment is part and parcel of the government policies.

Street children should enjoy the basic rights such as right to education, health, food and shelter and this means stepping up the advocacy and lobbying for the enforcement of these rights.

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## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS AND WAY FORWARD

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- Although the expected number of associations and members were not met, model that USK is using in this program works as evidenced by the number of associations and members recruited. The peer to peer approach is popular and effective however the TOT approach does not seem clear. In this regard, the objectives of approaches should be clear in order for the program to fully benefit.
- The progression through the various levels seems slow in reference to the associations with none having been disengaged and the majority of them still in the capacity building level. Emphasis on quality other than quantity in respect to association progression would be a preferred method of determining the outcome of transformation. It is thus recommended that the programme reduce recruitment of new associations and concentrate on progression of existing ones.
- The model assumes that progression through the levels is an association rather than individual characteristic. In reality, this has not been observed for there are members who have been disengaged within associations in lower levels. It is thus recommended that disengagement be looked at as an individual rather than a group characteristic. Noting that members progress through the levels at varying paces, the program might consider formation of groups with membership of people at similar levers to allow unencumbered progression of individuals and motivate members to move at their own pace.
- Despite their higher comparative vulnerability, compared to boys, the numbers and proportion of girls in the association model is less than in the institutional model. It may be possible the activities of street girls are mostly nocturnal and therefore inaccessible to the program that is during daylight hours. In this regard, strategies specifically targeting girls should be investigated and tested.
- It is evident that education and skills training is a major motivation in street children and youth joining associations in the program resulting in high expectations which have not been adequately met. In this regard, the USK should consider reorganisation of resources so as to increase training opportunities.

- Training is compromised by need to satisfy the basic needs of street children and youth in resulting truancy. It would thus been necessary to investigate ways of supporting trainees during the length of the training to increase the likelihood of successful completion.
- Kitengela centre is effective as a temporary place of safety. There are documents to support case studies for each child that include the reports on home visits, follow up visits and the current situation of each child. However there have been some cases where children are removed from the street, taken to Kitengela, re-integrated with their family and then go back to the streets and again to Kitengela in a cyclic movement. In view of this cyclic movement of children between streets, families and the centre, it is recommended that a comprehensive study is conducted to investigate this phenomenon by tracing movement of individual children and reason for the cyclic movement. The survey will help determine the best way(s) to ensure success in the rehabilitation and integration process.
- The proposed comprehensive survey should also establish the best ways to ensure sustainability of re-integration by looking at reasons for entry into street life and the best ways to improve the chances of successful re-integration.
- There are examples of successful removal of children and youth from the streets to their communities which serve as evidence of their transformation. The reception of the communities however is apparently guarded which may compromise the integration process. It would thus be important to investigate individual circumstances that led to escape into the streets and engage the various stakeholders in the community in order to enhance successful integration.
- Although there is common overall objection of reducing streetism, it is likely that some actors (government departments, NGOs) may have strategies that may be working at cross purposes with that USK. Engaging other players would thus not only increase the likelihood of USK's program success but also provide synergism for the benefit of street children.
- It was noted that loan repayments are not forthcoming despite the impression that the organisations which received the monies had income. Despite noting that the funds are grants, giving money out to associations without repayment is counter to financial discipline that is a crucial component to economic transformation. It is recommended

that USK outsource this component of the program to a micro finance institution for attempts to manage it and play the role of debt collector may compromise the relationship of confidence between USK and the street children/youth.

- The program staff to children ratio is too high for effective and efficient implementation in respect to emotional involvement and likely burnout of the staff. In this regard, a psychosocial support program would enable the staff to cope and enhance efficiency. In addition, strengthening and capacity building of youth facilitators would relieve some of the responsibilities from the program staff.
- The fact that this model is unique to streetism in Kenya, it is important to document it in terms of good practices as well as challenges and lessons learnt. This is thus recommended at the earliest opportunity to ensure that the issues are captured in timely manner.

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## 7. COMMENTS FROM THE VALIDATION WORKSHOP

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- Disengaged youth should be involved in the programme work as they are good mentors to street working children and youth.
- To get more girls to join the association, youths girls should be used in recruitment as they know their chuoms. Girls are likely to convince other girls to join the associations.
- USK should come up with rescue centre for girls.
- In disengagement level, focus should shift more toward individuals as opposed to an association as a whole. The reason why there has been no association disengaged is because of focusing on the group as opposed to individuals within the group.
- Association fail to pay loan because of the fear of unknown but they need training on financial discipline and the need to pay loans so that other street working children and youth can also benefit.
- Not all transformed street working children and youth can become good business people, there are some that will need to be employed in different trades e.g. mechanics, tailoring, etc because they cannot make good business people.
- At formation stage, girls should be placed alone (without boys) to ensure that they are at ease. After the transformation, they can be put together with boys.
- There is need to build youth friendly recreation centres, so that youth can maximize their potential.
- USK should have effective follow up with other stakeholders to ensure they all work in harmony.
- The ratio of programme to staff is currently too high. It should be 1 programme staff to every 400 street children and youth.
- There is need to increase the programme staff.
- There should be better utilization of TOT to ensure they effectively work for the success of the programme.
- USK should consider networking with other organizations in capacity building and especially training the programme staff and leaders
- USK should enhance the family therapy approach in the reintegration of children and youth into the families to ensure the success of reintegration

- The empowerment level should be composed of different stages and these needs to be analysed. Empowerment level should not be put as a block but several stages that street working children and youth should follow.
- USK biggest role in the next strategic plan is empowerment because there are currently 67 associations in capacity building that will be moving to empowerment. Therefore more resources should be allocated to empowerment level.
- USK should take training to the streets to ensure the model works better.
- Finally, in Kitengela, the staff talked of involvement of family therapy to enhance reintegration and family integration to avoid high drop out from FCR.