

October 9, 2008

Status Report

MCF YATTA EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER

Project name:	Mully Children's Family Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC)
Grant Amount	CAD \$10,715.51
Amount Disbursed	CAD \$10,000.00
Remaining	CAD \$ 715.51

Having a child at an early age has been a turning point for all the young girls rescued by MCF Yatta whose transition to motherhood was either through rape, prostitution or undue inducement. These child mothers remark consistently that pregnancy period and related guidance where applicable and eventual birth had saved them or could have saved them from a destructive, even fatal, set of circumstances (suicide, early marriage, subsequent pregnancies or HIV/AIDS infection from promiscuous sexual tendencies etc) and **made them want to live for someone else's sake – their baby** after successful rescue and psychosocial support at MCF. The rescue of these child mothers for rehabilitation and training therefore automatically poses a second but necessary challenge of **ensuring their babies receive very special and immediate attention in their absence as they attend training programs.**

The need for ECE centre which is fully furnished is a key and emerging component of MCF programs. Proper care for the babies and children (who accompany their rescued mothers as well as for those born at MCF of rescued pregnant children) at an early age can do much to create an enabling environment that ensures protection and support for more broad-based issues such as babies' and children's health, nutrition, psycho-social and mental development. The unit's main objective is to be used to nurture the babies and children for their physical and mental development and to prepare them for schooling with right attitudes and habits. The facility needs to be child friendly in internal design and set up. When completed, the support staff employed to care for babies' in the facility when their mothers are absent attending school or training programs, will effectively oversee and ensure the following;

- That each child's physical needs– including feeding, changing of clothing, bathing, personal hygiene, toileting, daily monitoring for signs of illness or injury are well met.
- Ensure that children are well supervised and that they are protected from harm and from injury when their mothers are attending school or training programs

- Make sure that children (including babies) spend most of their waking hours in stimulation or activities, and that they have plenty of exercise, things to play with, to listen to and to look at during their mothers absence
- Protect and defend children from, bullying, intimidation, threats, physical assault of any kind, and any other form of abuse by other children or anyone else during their mothers absence

The support staff have also be trained and encouraged to strive to know each child's personality, likes, dislikes, and special needs, and use this knowledge to help children grow and develop to improve their abilities to monitor, assist, and encourage children as they grow and develop.

Challenges: -

The violence that erupted due to the Kenyan election in December 2007 resulted in the internal displacement of over 500,000 people. Eldoret is the home town of Mully Children's Family Homes and has the largest IDP camp in Kenya with approximately 20,000 people, 11,000 of those being children. MCF reached out to help the victims of the post election violence that ended up in this IDP camp by serving a daily hot lunch to 3,500 school aged children, providing education, counseling and medical care to the victims finding refuge in the Eldoret IDP camp. Many orphaned children and pregnant teens where identified to be taken in to the Yatta facility for long term care. We are thankful that we could reach out to these children and pregnant teenage girls, however our plans to build and furnish the ECE center where delayed as the needs of this emergency situation took precedence. We are grateful for the funding of the ECE furniture as there is even a greater need for this facility at our Yatta home.

Status: -

A temporary (iron sheet) building has been completed and the materials for the furniture were purchased in good time. We are in the process of completing the construction of the same. The next step is the painting of the furniture after which it will be set in the already completed Early Child Hood Education Centre. Furniture construction has been completed. An ECE syllabus was purchased from the Ministry of education and a curriculum for the same developed to facilitate a proper school learning environment. Text books for the same have been ordered from the Ministry of Education and they have promised to deliver the same in the month of October. Additionally, painting of child friendly art was carried out by the MCF art club in Ndalani thus ensuring a positive learning environment for the children

Knowledge Gained through this project: -

Being able to access ECE materials and syllabus added our knowledge to what we have already been practicing.

Expenditure of Grant Funds

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT (cad)
1	Purchase of wood/furniture	4,850.00
2	Purchase of paint	1,500.00
3	Education syllabus and book orders with government Ministry of Education	1,200.00
4	Children play area	2105.00
5	Transport charges	345.00
	TOTAL AMOUNT	10,000.00

Please note that the \$715.51 that has not yet been dispersed will be used to purchase books and stationary.