



ASSISTANCE TO KIBERA PRIDE CHILDREN'S HOME IN KENYA

CASE STUDY

Kenya Red Cross

Photo description: Artwork by child at Kibera Pride Children's Home
Photo credit: IFRC

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Background

The Kenya Red Cross works to facilitate communities to respond to humanitarian emergencies to alleviate human suffering and work with partners to implement innovative community-driven programmes that transform lives and enhance community resilience.

[Kibera Pride](#) is a non-profit, registered NGO with a mandate to provide foster/home care for children in vulnerable situations in Kibera, one of the world's largest informal settlements and located inside Nairobi. Its services are open to all children in need, including child survivors of sexual violence, abandoned children with disabilities, orphans, and children in need of care and protection. The home provides basic needs for the children, ranging from education, food, shelter, clothing, and other special needs for children with disabilities.

A majority of the children in the home are referred by the local area administration in Kibra, the police, and the directorate of children's services.

Who was Supported and How

In 2022, a section of the Kibera Pride facility caught fire, leaving over 50 children, aged 2-17 years, and the home caregivers without shelter and other basic amenities, such as food and bedding .

In response, the Kenya Red Cross Society offered their support by helping put out the fire, conducting a needs assessment, and sharing the findings with relevant stakeholders in Nairobi County. KRCS also distributed food and non-food items to the home and helped in fundraising through the KRCS Nairobi Branch's annual golf tournament. Successes

The partnership between Kibera Pride and Kenya Red Cross has led to a number of successes.

- Findings from the needs assessment conducted played a significant role in bringing other stakeholders on board to support.
- Through Kenya Red Cross Nairobi Branch's annual Golf Tournament, funds were raised to support the several key needs identified in the assessment.
- Over a hundred children have been supported through the partnership with non-food items, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, and educational supplies.
- The portion of the building that caught fire has been restored.

Challenges and Difficulties

The project has surfaced several challenges that require attention to allow Kibera Pride to flourish.

- Some problems after the fire are difficult to resolve. Such as accessing children's identity and other essential documents.
- Psychosocial support for the children survivors of violence; as much as KRCS has been supporting in conducting MHPSS sessions at the facility, the children survivors require more specialized psychological support.
- The assessment process further highlighted Kibera Pride's funding model that relies on well-wishers who provide financial support ad hoc, which is not sustainable especially as children grow and education costs increase.

Lessons Learned

1. The ability of National Societies to contribute to child protection can be varied and go beyond direct delivery. In this project contributions included needs assessment, provisions of materials, training, fundraising, and advocacy.
2. Additional ways that the Red Cross can assist children's homes can include providing secure, fire resistant packaging for children's essential documents.
3. Support for children living with disabilities, such as Autism and physical impairments, requires greater attention and resourcing that needs to be specifically built into planning and budgeting.

"To change the world for children, we need to break the cycle of poverty."

- Irene Kasandi, Co-Founder and Director of Kibera Pride