

SHERP



Samburu Handicap Education and Rehabilitation Programme

Building On a Sustainable Foundation



Above left, our contractor Jorum and one of his assistants



Preparation for the construction of the Safaricom Cottage

Construction has finally finished on two more of our cottages! As our long term supporters will know, SHERP is currently attempting to undertake major efforts towards self sustainability. We are slowly realizing this dream and this quarter witnessed the construction of the cottage unit pictured above. The income generated from these cottages will go a long way towards providing the children with a steady source of funds needed to pay for food, school fees, and other basic needs. Currently, we expect to have the ability to construct one cottage using approximately 17,000 US dollars. This money would pay for one structure with two self contained rooms. Again, we would like to thank **SHERP NL, Wilde Ganzen, Rotary Club ter Aar** and all of their supporters for their donations and support. Plans are also in the works for these three supporters to give additional funds in order to construct one cottage unit with three self contained living quarters. If this plan commences we will have the a ability to finance

food for the month for all of the children currently staying at our institution!

Construction has also begun on the **Safaricom house!** This large cottage will contain two separate units. Each unit will have two bedrooms, a sitting room, indoor toilet and shower, and a patio. It has been our great fortune to have booked this house already for employees of AMREF International who will be moving into their new premises later this year. Special thanks to **Michael Karanja and Frinconsult Ltd Engineering, Environment and Project Management Consultants** for helping to facilitate the process with the Safaricom Foundation! Thank you !

Total Monthly Gross of Cottage Project:

*164,500 KSH**

**Assuming that cottages are at one hundred percent capacity*

Samburu Handicap Education and Rehabilitation Programme

A Reminder of Who We Are

SHERP is an organization devoted to giving children with disability the chance for a happy and healthy life. We support 154 children on-site with disability who cannot be supported by their families, and in total nearly 400 children with disability across the Samburu county.



From left to right, Abdi and Robert, both are in class 5

We were founded in 2001 by Grace Seneiya, at the time a young Samburu teacher unable to live with the Samburu tradition that children with disability were, at best, looked after as a guilty secret, at worst, killed as being a curse on the family.

From humble beginnings where visually impaired students would share Grace's home and food, SHERP has grown into an organization that has given countless children a chance they would otherwise never have received. Many of our first children are now adults and are employed and fully integrated into the community.

Our quarterly newsletters seek to inform and educate our donors and friends about the work taking place at SHERP. We are attempting to document our successes, struggles and our need for your continued support and help, without which the remarkable success of the children here would not be possible. Please enjoy reading this newsletter, forward it to friends and colleagues and don't hesitate to get in touch with us!

September 2012

FOOD SECURITY

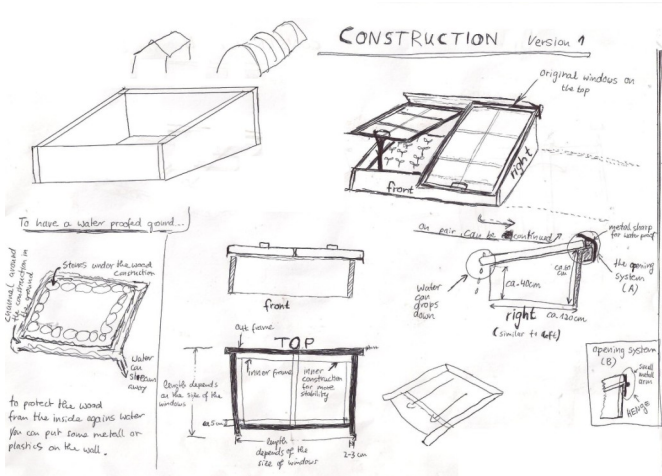
Update on Beans, Moringa, Rabbits, and Our Food Situation

We harvested several dozen kilograms of beans from our shamba (garden) during our latest harvest! With the aid of good rainfall (and, we like to think, of good management) our beans turned out to be large, healthy, and absolutely delicious. The children enjoyed eating them with ugali and sukuma wiki. We have plans in place to plant more for next year!



Our delicious beans!

Moringa Update



Schematics drawn by Gabriel

Tentative plans are in place to construct a small green house in which to store, grow, and monitor future crops that prove to be too delicate to grow in our wild climate. Materials for this green house may need to be constructed out of some of the locally available bits and pieces but we are fully confident that, if we do decide to build it, it will turn out to be amazing! The plans for the greenhouse and general help and support was given by Gabriel, a traveler from Germany who was simply passing through Maralal! Thank you Gabriel!

Rabbit Update

Due to heavy rains and cold weather, we have lost more than 90% of the moringa that we planted. The few seedlings that remain are receiving our full attention but we are not sure if they will survive into maturity.

Sadly, our rabbit project is not yet successful. We have lost a large number of our teenage rabbits before we were able to eat them. This loss is possibly due to cold and definitely due to inexperience. Hopefully, we will be learning from our mistakes and will have better news to report soon!



A few of our surviving rabbits

DONATIONS and SUPPORT

The Dark Knight, Nairobi, n' Girls Leading Our World



Left to Right, Sharon, Ldodoma, Lorrau, Raston, Batman, Lpasila, Siteya, Lucas, and Mark

Movie night took a turn for the awesome when eight of our kids travelled to Nairobi in order to experience the Dark Knight Rises in late July. It was the first time that many of them had ever been to a major city and the first time for all of them to sit in a movie theater. While in the city, they enjoyed pizza, ice cream, hamburgers, and other types of treats that are unavailable to them in Maralal. The chaperones for the trip included **Kathleen Heerschap**, **Manaseh Lempei**, **Aaron Foster**, and **Martin Cooks**. Special thanks to **Mark**, **Carolyn**, **Maurice**, **Mark Jr.**

Cooks, and **Elyshia Menkin** for donating funds necessary for making this trip possible!

Deshi basara!
Deshi basara!

Camp GLOW



Left to right, Manjelina, Malanoi, Narakai, Jackline, and Jamaka

Five of our girls, Manjelina, Jackline, Jamaka, Malanoi, and Narakai, attended this year's Camp GLOW in Kisumu, Kenya's third largest city. Camp GLOW, a week long camp centered on empowering and teaching girls and young women important life skills, is an annual camp that is facilitated by Peace Corps Volunteers and funded by PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief). Peace Corps Volunteer **Kathleen Heerschap** and SHERP's own **Manaseh Lempei** helped to facilitate getting the girls to the camp. The five girls that attended were chosen due to their leadership potential and willingness to

learn about new topics. During the camp, the girls were taught on the health risks associated with unprotected sex, leadership skills, and trained on empowerment exercises. We know that they learned a lot and we hope to send another group of girls to camp next year!

September 2012

DONATIONS and SUPPORT

St. Mary's Primary School Cleanup Help, Nutella, and Clothing



Children of St. Mary's, along with SHERP children pose after a hard morning of chores

This past July, the wonderful students of **St. Mary's Primary School for Girls** came by SHERP in order to help with some of the daily chores. Over fifty girls participated in this two hour long endeavor and worked alongside some of SHERP's own children. We hope that such a helpful display of community support will continue among our fellow Kenyans. Special thanks to **Nicolette** for helping to organize and supervise the work!



Catholic Church and Catholic Action

The Catholic Church of Maralal donated 300 jars of delicious Nutella hazelnut spread for the children. The children enjoy taking it on slices of bread while enjoying a cup of tea in the morning before school or mixed into their uji with a little sugar. Such a delicious treat is truly a rarity and the children have truly appreciated the 'chocolate.'

We thank them for their support and we hope they will continue to help us into the future.

The good women from Catholic Action donated two huge sacks of clothes to our children in September! The clothes, mostly for our young girls, will be cherished and we thank Catholic Action for their generosity and thoughtfulness.



Top left, women from Catholic Action along with Likaayo
Bottom left, Grace accepting the donation of Nutella from Evans

DONATIONS and SUPPORT

Visitors, Vacations, Love, and Support

Long time friend and stalwart supporter of SHERP, **Dr. Bonnie Gillis**, came to visit the children this past September! Bonnie, who visited along with her sister **Leslie**, has been a constant presence with Grace and SHERP since 2006 and directly touched the lives of many of the children here. Many of our older children, including Manjelina, Raleti, Maring, and Faustine, have been fortunate enough to have received help and support from Bonnie throughout her years of service to SHERP. We thank you Bonnie for yet again coming to see our children and for believing in SHERP's vision of love, education, and support for children with disabilities.



From left to right, Leslie, Manjelina, Faustine, and Bonnie

Donations from our Friends from Germany!

Asha, a good hearted traveler from Germany, came to visit SHERP for a couple of days and helped to put on a concert. Asha and **Fred Rantile Lobei**, a special needs instructor at the local primary school, put on a musical performance that will not soon be forgotten. Asha was the vocalist and Fred beautifully provided both vocals and music with the keyboard for a wonderful afternoon of song and dance. The two sang a mixture of German and Kiswahili songs for the children and a few other guest of SHERP. It was truly a special occasion for the children and we hope that Asha and Fred are able to team up once again to perform for the children! Thank you and we hope to see you again!



Asha and Fred jammin' up on stage



Asha, Sylvie, and the kids showing off dance skills

Thank you to **Mr and Mrs. Stoczek**, **Mr. and Mrs. Roscher**, **Uta Fiedler**, and **Andrea Schmidt** for their donation of money to the kids here at SHERP! Already the money has been put to good use for purposes of furniture modification, purchasing nappies for our small children, and for other small comfort items for the children! Thank you for providing comfort and a sense of wellbeing to the children of SHERP.

Lastly, more toys and clothes have arrived for our children thanks to the friends and colleagues of **Susi Halbauer** of Berlin, Germany! All of the donated items will go to the special children in Sylvie and Kristin's classroom. Thank you for your support!

September 2012

DEPARTURES

Grace's Children Fund



David Killebrew admiring a dress on Agnes Masister

We are sad to report that our two and a half year relationship with **Grace's Children Fund** (GCF) ended this quarter. David Killebrew, Yoon Chang, and all of the other members of GCF are owed much praise in their efforts to strengthen our program over the lifetime of our relationship. Through these efforts, almost 2.8 million Kenyan shillings (approximately 33,000 US dollars) were raised and invested into our children. Many necessary items, such as foodstuff, school fees, and staff salaries were procured with these funds. Although we had our differences in approach and opinion on taking care of the children here, we are proud to say that the heart of GCF was in the right place and they tried their best to improve the lives of our children. We will not soon forget the lessons learned by working with GCF and we pray that they continue to lead blessed and generous lives. Thank you GCF!

Selke Siering

Our wonderful volunteer from Germany, **Selke Siering**, returned back home after giving much help and knowledge to the matrons working with the children. In her weeks here, she was able to teach three of our staff members the basics of physical therapy in order to help children more quickly recover from surgery and to aid in developing their tiny muscles. Thank you Selke and we hope that you come back to volunteer and visit once again!



Selke working with Lapanu

MEDICAL REPORT

Surgeries and Updates



At left, two before and one after photograph of the child suffering from both hydrocephalus and spina bifida, Esther. The amount of money needed for these two operations is far beyond the reach of even well to do inhabitants of Maralal town. More than 600,000 KSH was needed for medical treatment only without the costs of transportation or accommodation.

Esther is now doing fine. There is still some residual swelling of the head but we hope that in time this will decrease. Sadly, the chances that this child suffered permanent brain damage is high and we expect the child to require medical attention for the rest of her life.

SHERP helped facilitate eighteen surgeries for children living in Samburu County this month. Two infants suffered from hydrocephalus (fluid on the brain) with one of them also suffering from *spina bifida* (a birth defect in which in the spinal column and backbone do not close leaving a visible gap in the lower back). We were fortunate enough to have had the chance to help the mothers of these children visit hospitals capable of implanting shunts and performing other surgical procedures. One small child was found to have had a hole in her heart and we were able to provide her mother with the necessary funds for transportation, miscellaneous costs, doctors' and examination fees. Three

cleft surgeries were performed, one in Baragoi and two in Maralal, along with one extensive surgery on a child's arm. All of this was also done alongside our routine medical treatments provided here at SHERP.

We also witnessed a small emergency due to the closing of an orphanage in Nakuru. *The Ian Castleman Orphanage* was being closed due to a host of serious reasons and the Ministry of Children, Gender, and Social Development needed to place some of the children in new homes. Ten children were picked to come to SHERP. Sadly, SHERP is unable to accommodate all of the children that would ideally be placed in our home and eight of the ten children proved to be too many. One child in particular was severely ill and mal-

nourished when she was brought to us and we simply did not have the medical instruments, knowledge, or medicines in order to make this child healthy. We were then forced to return these children to the failed orphanage from which they came.

Sadly, this case highlights yet again the need for SHERP to grow and become self sustainable in order to serve many more children.



One of the ten children that was dropped off, severely malnourished and sick

September 2012

OUTREACH

Spreading our message on disability throughout Samburu County

September marked the beginning of a major push of outreach efforts in Samburu County. Our mission is to spread information regarding disability, causes, identifiers, prevention, and support, throughout the county in an effort to help improve the community's attitude towards persons with disabilities.

During the quarter, we had the chance to do a one day, two part seminar on disability in the Kisima area (near Maralal town). During the day, we taught a group of more than thirty women about disability in general. We also exposed the dangers of FGM (female genital mutilation) and the effects such a practice has on a woman's health and the relation that the practice has on instances of children being born with cerebral palsy. We were able to serve the women tea and biscuits in order to partly thank them for taking the time out of their day to come and listen to our seminar.

At night, we hosted a much larger gathering of almost a thousand people living in the most rural areas. Again, we taught on disability and ended the night with a small movie.



Top, a group photo of the women that we trained during the day
Bottom, some of the children that came out at night to hear about disability

OTHER NEWS...

News and Other Small things that have been going on Around SHERP

Here at SHERP we are seriously going to be pushing to better and more routinely utilize our website. We would like to have weekly or biweekly updates posted there in order for our friends, supporters, and well-wishers to better keep in touch with all that we have done and plan on doing. Be sure to visit us at sherp-kenya.org to view photographs and to read updates from Grace. Ideally, we would also like to have a place for people to directly communicate with some of the children via message board or something like that. Please note that, currently, there is a Paypal insert on our site. We are currently in the process of setting ourselves up with an American bank account in order to utilize this in order to raise funds directly from well-wishers from across the world. Please keep an eye out for any of these changes!



All eleven of our staff members were able to take a small vacation while school was out! The women who works so hard to make the lives of the children just a bit easier fully deserved their short vacation and most of them spent it resting at their respective homes.



Grace had the chance to meet with the legendary **Scott Fifer** from the GO Campaign in Nairobi this past July. They discussed a possible partnership between SHERP and the GO Campaign for yet another cottage!

Also, these past few months have truly highlighted the usefulness of SHERP owning our own vehicle (thanks again to SHERP NL and Wilde Ganzen!). August was considered to have been the 'month of movement' this quarter due to the fact that we were able to use our vehicle to transport children back to schools outside of Maralal, home for the holidays, stocks of food, and months of medication. It seems as if our growth will also naturally mean that SHERP will become more mobile and we look forward to this more dynamic state.



Get Involved

How You Can Help

Learn a Little **Kiswahili**

English:

“I love you very much”

Kiswahili:

“Nakupenda sana”

SHERP always welcomes any support, friendship, and resources given to us. We offer a variety of ways for people to get involved.

SHERP offers a volunteer program for students, professionals, groups, or organizations interested in donating their time, skills and knowledge to help us with our medical, business, health, and/or educational needs.

Two of our SHERP team members, SHERP NL in the Netherlands and the GO Campaign in the United States, offer ways to donate to SHERP. It is also possible to donate directly to SHERP through our website :

SHERP NL.....www.sherp.nl

GO Campaign.....www.gocampaign.org

SHERP MRL.....www.sherp-kenya.org

Join us on Facebook at **S.H.E.R.P.** or Twitter at **GraceSHERP**

Otherwise, organizations or individuals wishing to give gifts in kind, offer financial support, make donations, or offer other types of assistance should make contact with us directly:

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Website: www.sherp-kenya.org

Supporters During the Quarter

- SHERP NL
- Jeanette Ciccarelli (Australia)
- Dr. Bonnie Gillis (Canada)
- District Commissioner Samburu
- Lindsay Park (Canada)
- Maralal DEB
- National Council for Persons with Disability
- Pippo Zacharia (Italy)

Thank You!

