



AFRICA EXCHANGE

NEWS LETTER

Mark Okello's Report to Winfree Church, October 2024

Africa Exchange is a non-profit organization creating partnerships with marginalized rural communities in Kenya to provide integrated early childhood development services that protect vulnerable children and their fragile environments. www.africaexchange.org



- **Change for Children Coordinator**
- **Lochoresekon ICDC**
- **Baragoi ICDC**
- **WASH as new component**
- **Excited about moving to the Northern part of Kenya**
- **Graduates**

Through your support and prayers, Africa Exchange has fulfilling partnerships across 17 communities, 13 integrated child development centers and 4 Church operated nursery school enhancement programs. As a result, we have experienced tremendous achievement and shared challenges as highlighted below:

Change for Children Coordinator

Onboarding of a new Change for Children Coordinator, Simon Lokurchana, marks an exciting time for the Africa Exchange family as we welcome a fresh perspective and new ideas to enhance our programs and services offered to ICDC children. Simon plays a crucial role in ensuring that children are provided with the



support and resources to grow and thrive holistically while embracing the opportunity for collaboration and learning from each other. Simon comes with a wealth of experience from his previous job as ECD Coordinator with Turkana County Government, Kenya. His knowledge and background of working with children, teachers, marginalized communities and Government will lead to a positive change for Africa Exchange.

Lochoresekon ICDC - Providing modern and well-equipped schools for ECD children in Arid and Semi-Arid

Lands (ASAL) is crucial in ensuring access to education and opportunities for young children in marginalized and underprivileged communities. This is the 12th ICDC to be established, giving children the opportunity to receive quality education, fortified porridge and school supplies, enhancing retention for up to 117 learners.

Baragoi ICDC – Is the 13th ICDC, established in a banditry-prone area. Baragoi is in Samburu County, Kenya a marginalized place marred with tribal clashes and banditry between two warring communities. Baragoi ICDC (enrollment of 79 children) provides a unique opportunity for unity between the Turkana and Samburu communities.





for children) and continuous WASH education to teachers, committees and the parents. By doing so we can prevent the spread of water borne diseases, promote good hygiene practices and create a conducive learning environment. A healthy child is a happy child!

Excited - We are thrilled to begin new projects in Kalacha in the northern part of Kenya in partnership with the most marginalized and underprivileged Gabra community, residing around the Chalbi desert. Reaching out in new landscapes, cultures, and environments excites us in new ways. We are eager to work, learn and contribute to making a positive impact in the region through the establishment of three ICDC units in three villages namely; Ola Rangi, Ola Boji and Olom. This opportunity presents us with the privilege of sharing God's love in new places and contexts where communities are under-resourced.



Scholars! - We witnessed the graduation of Africa Exchange scholars who have completed their university education successfully. On September 19th, we celebrated the graduation of Elias Kakimon who graduated with Bachelor of Education from University of Embu. Elias was just a herd's boy from one of the marginalized communities in Baringo, (Ilchamus Community). Now as a university graduate, he's excited about going back to his community to serve as a way of giving back. In addition, we are looking forward to celebrating the academic achievement of two more girls from Pokot region; Stellah Cheptiyos who will be graduating on December 13th with a bachelor of Science in Education and Agricultural extension from Kisii University and Sheila Cheruto who is graduating with a Diploma in Media and Mass Communication at Elgon View College. All of them have vowed to go and give back to their respective communities.

Bringing education to this area offers children a pathway out of poverty towards a brighter future. Children we serve and their communities are empowered with the tools and knowledge necessary to make positive choices and contribute to their own development, breaking decades-long cycles of unrest and conflict.

WASH COMPLIANCE – WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) compliance in ECD, especially in ASAL regions is crucial in ensuring the health and safety of young children. This year we rolled out WASH priorities in order to make all our ICDCs “WASH compliant.” To achieve this, we made sure each center had clean and safe water for drinking and cleaning, hand washing stations, water filters, standard sanitation facilities, oral hygiene (toothpaste and toothbrushes



Thank you Winfree for supporting me in these many important endeavors and enabling me to be a part of God's blessing to so many!

Mark Okello

