MOVING MOUNTAINS KENYA

CHANGING LIVES



MONTHLY REPORT – OCTOBER 2026



INTRODUCTION

October was an encouraging month, with progress in children's welfare, education, feeding, sport and personal development. We also identified urgent infrastructure needs at Kathita ECD Centre and explored new partnership opportunities to strengthen our programmes.

A key highlight was Moyra's visit from Scotland na Kenya Pamoja, which provided an opportunity to review the Rescue Centre kitchen improvements and feeding programme. Her visit was followed by a needs assessment at Kathita ECD Centre with representatives from the Rotary Clubs of Embu and Aberdeen. This resulted in support for urgent plumbing and water-access improvements, which have now been completed.

Internally, a staff meeting helped prepare for the two-month school holiday period, clarify responsibilities and strengthen accountability. We also celebrated Aoko's return to school following assistance with outstanding fees and Blackcats Football Academy's progress in competitive football.

Our focus remains on ensuring that donor resources address genuine needs, deliver practical benefits and are managed responsibly, with clear follow-up on both expenditure and outcomes.

2. Rescue Centre: Feeding Programme and Partnerships

We welcomed Moyra, a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Aberdeen and founder of Scotland na Kenya Pamoja, to the Rescue Centre. She reviewed the improvements made following her previous support, including the smokeless stove donated last year and the subsequent kitchen expansion.

Moyra provided a further KES 40,000 contribution towards an additional smokeless jiko, which has since been purchased. The new jiko will assist with cooking vegetables and boiling eggs, supporting the efficiency of the feeding programme.

She also donated food supplies sufficient to support the programme for almost a week. Ruth, the feeding programme coordinator, managed the donation. This contribution provided immediate support to the kitchen and reduced the need to purchase food for the period covered by the donation.

Discussions also explored possible collaboration between the Rotary Clubs of Aberdeen and Embu and Moving Mountains Kenya. The Aberdeen club is interested in supporting a local project, creating an opportunity to develop a proposal based on clearly established community needs, achievable outcomes and appropriate financial oversight.



3. Kathita ECD Centre: Health, Safety and Infrastructure

3.1 Sanitation and water access

The centre has been relying on purchased water and required improvements to its plumbing, handwashing facilities and kitchen water supply. A recent diarrhoea outbreak affected some children, with some missing school, although the cause was not confirmed.

Moyra contributed KES 130,000 towards the urgent plumbing and water-access works. The contribution was received, and the plumbing work has now been completed. This is an important step towards improving hygiene, supporting the cleaning of utensils and strengthening sanitation at the centre.

Further improvements, including tiling the toilets and kitchen, would make the surfaces easier to clean and maintain. These will be considered alongside other infrastructure priorities and available funding.

3.2 Security and fencing

The assessment highlighted the lack of a secure fence and gate around the school compound. Staff reported that unauthorised individuals sometimes enter the premises and disrupt learning. This presents a safeguarding concern and has contributed to damage to playground equipment, including swings. Older children sometimes enter the compound and use the equipment, contributing to wear and breakages.

We therefore consider securing the compound a priority before investing in playground repairs. This approach will help protect the children, control access and reduce the risk of repeat expenditure.

3.3 Electricity and future learning opportunities

Teachers also raised the need for electricity. Other ECD centres with electricity have been provided with television sets for educational activities, but Kathita cannot currently benefit from a similar opportunity.

Jack, who is assisting Moyra with the assessment, was asked to obtain quotations for the fence and gate, toilet and kitchen tiling, and electricity installation.

Next steps: With the urgent plumbing work completed, we will review the outstanding quotations and prioritise the remaining improvements according to urgency, cost and available resources. We will also continue discussions with the Rotary clubs about potential support for Kathita's longer-term development, including the possibility of an additional classroom.



4. Holiday Programme and Arts Activities

With children preparing for almost two months away from school, staff have been organising a holiday programme combining feeding, sport, personal development and creative activities.
We engaged Timothy, a local artist operating near the Rescue Centre, to facilitate structured arts sessions three days per week. The programme will begin with 30 children on 1 November 2026. Starting with a manageable group will allow us to assess participation, monitor progress and identify children who may benefit from more focused artistic development.

Item	Quantity and rate	Cost (KES)
White paint	1 litre	1,030
Black paint	1 litre	1,030
Red paint	1 litre	1,030
Yellow paint	1 litre	1,030
Blue paint	1 litre	1,030
Green paint	1 litre	1,030
Artist brush sets	3 sets	1,800
Paints and brushes subtotal		**7,980**

Programme costs and monitoring

Timothy's facilitation fee is KES 1,000 per session. At three sessions per week, this amounts to KES 3,000 per week, in addition to the initial materials and equipment budget.
The materials budget has been approved, and lessons are scheduled to commence on 1 November. Facilitation costs will be monitored according to sessions delivered. We will maintain records of purchases, attendance and activities to ensure that the resources are used appropriately and that the programme provides meaningful opportunities for creativity, confidence-building and skills development.

5. Staff Coordination and Programme Highlights

We held a staff meeting during October to prepare for the holiday programme, review progress and clarify responsibilities. Each staff member was assigned specific duties, together with a designated second-in-command to support continuity when necessary.

We emphasised individual accountability, timely reporting of challenges and the importance of taking responsibility for assigned work. Matters requiring additional support or management decisions are expected to be raised promptly. This approach is intended to improve coordination, reduce duplication and maintain consistent services throughout the holiday period.
The meeting also provided an opportunity to reflect on key developments across our programmes.

5.1 Education: Aoko's return to school
Oti was particularly encouraged by Aoko's return to school after MMK intervened to clear his outstanding school fees. Aoko had been out of school since May 2026 and was at risk of dropping out altogether.

Resolving the arrears enabled him to return to school and continue his education. This case demonstrates how identifying a specific barrier and following up appropriately can make a meaningful difference in a child's life.

Going forward, we will strengthen communication with schools, teachers and families to identify children at risk of dropping out earlier. Assistance will be guided by the urgency of each case, available resources and clear follow-up arrangements.





5.2 Blackcats Football Academy: Progress in youth development

Sammy shared encouraging news about Blackcats Football Academy's performance in the Chapa Dimba Na Safaricom tournament. For the first time, the boys' team reached the regional finals. Although the team did not progress to the national stage, the achievement represents important progress and provides valuable experience for future competitions.

The girls' team also participated but was eliminated at the sub-county stage. We remain committed to supporting the girls to improve their skills, confidence and competitiveness.

Another significant milestone was the achievement of 3K FC, which became the first team from Embu to play in the Kenyan Premier League. Javan Njue, popularly known as Westo, a product of Blackcats Football Academy, scored the team's first goal.

Sammy has coached Westo since he was seven years old. Westo also represented Blackcats at the national Under-13 Copa Coca-Cola tournament.

His progress illustrates the value of sustained coaching, mentorship and investment in young people. Beyond competition, the football programme provides opportunities for children to develop discipline, confidence, teamwork and practical life skills.







5.3 Feeding programme: Maintaining quality and care

Susan expressed happiness that the children continued to enjoy their meals despite adjustments to the feeding programme menu. Their continued enthusiasm for coming to the Rescue Centre reinforced the importance of the programme as a source of both nutrition and a welcoming, supportive environment. As we manage food supplies and expenditure, we will continue to pay attention to meal quality and the children's experience while ensuring that resources are used efficiently.

Janet also expressed hope that more vulnerable children would receive assistance, particularly with education, and welcomed the participation of the Blackcats girls in Chapa Dimba Na Safaricom.
These staff reflections reinforce three priorities: following up on individual children's needs, sustaining investment in youth development and maintaining service quality while managing resources responsibly.







6. Vocational Training: Siakago Polytechnic

During October, we met Fletcher of Vision for Kids, who supports four young people through vocational training. Fletcher visited Embu with members of his board, and we showed them the Rescue Centre car wash before visiting Siakago Polytechnic.

The visit provided an opportunity to inspect the institution's classrooms and training facilities. It also highlighted accessibility concerns for students travelling from Kiambururu. Their representatives felt the journey to Siakago Polytechnic would be too long and suggested that those students consider a local polytechnic. The four students supported through Vision for Kids could proceed with arrangements to attend Siakago Polytechnic, subject to confirmation.

The visit also revealed significant infrastructure needs at the institution. Fletcher indicated that he would be happy to facilitate improvements, creating a possible opportunity to benefit not only the four students but also other young people
seeking practical training.

There may be potential to explore further support from partners and funding groups, including Granahant. However, any proposal would need to be based on a clear assessment of the required renovations, a realistic budget and defined outcomes.

Next steps: Confirm the students' training arrangements, establish the scope and cost of the proposed improvements, and identify priorities before making any funding commitments.



Conclusion

October has delivered tangible progress while identifying areas requiring further attention. Moyra's contributions have enabled us to complete the urgent plumbing works at Kathita ECD Centre and purchase an additional smokeless jiko for the Rescue Centre feeding programme. These are practical improvements that respond directly to the needs identified during our assessments.
The approved holiday arts programme will begin on 1 November, providing 30 children with opportunities to develop their creativity and artistic skills. Aoko's return to school and Blackcats' football achievements also demonstrate the value of consistent investment in education, mentorship and youth development.

As Chairman, I recognise that our responsibility extends beyond delivering activities. We must ensure that donor resources are used carefully, completed work is documented, expenditure is monitored and future investments are guided by clear priorities and available funding.
We will continue building on October's progress while strengthening accountability, following up on individual needs and developing responsible partnerships that create lasting benefits for the children and communities we serve.



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