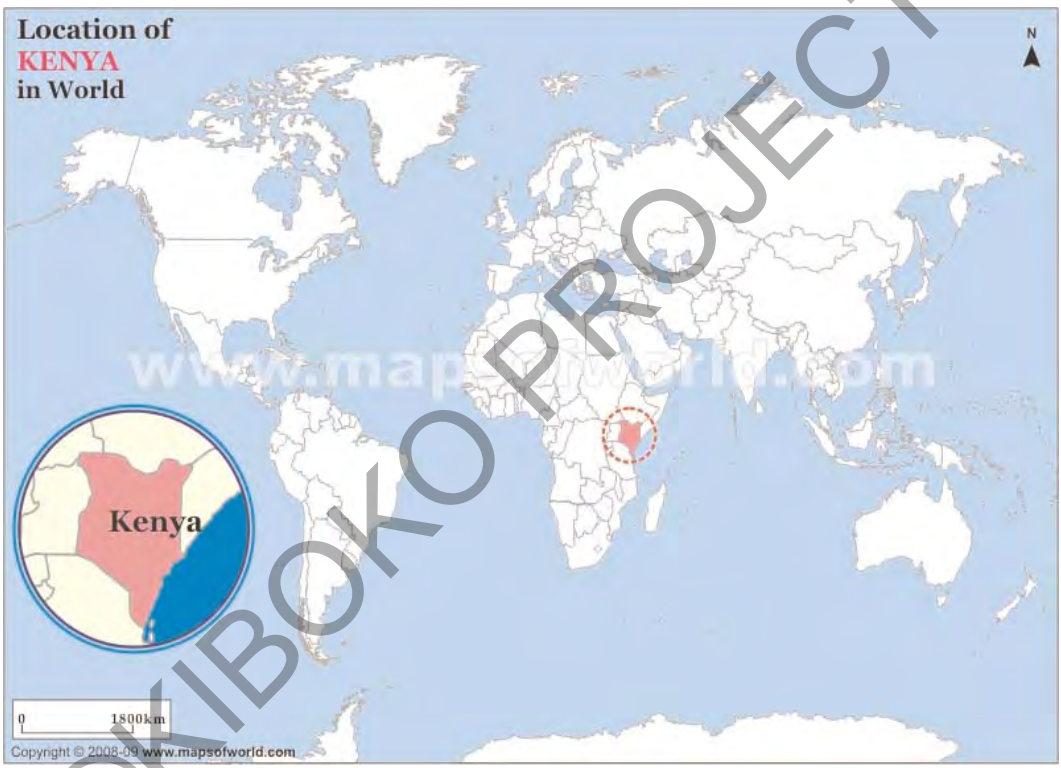


**OASIS OF HOPE
SECONDARY SCHOOL:
OUR COMMUNITY**

**KISUMU, KENYA
2009**

**Kiboko Projects
2009**





Kisumu is a port city in western Kenya, located on the shores of Lake Victoria. It is the third largest city in Kenya, East Africa.

OUR KENYA



Kenya is well known as an agricultural country and peacable one. As you can see above are the most common products by Kenya farmers. You can also see a business man proud of his products so long as he can get money from them to earn his living. The availability of fresh water from Lake Victoria also helps the farmer to irrigate his crops. The crops are exported to other countries and earn government revenue and also this improves the country's economy.



In Kenya there are a variety of birds which live in different parts. In this case this is a very large bird, the hawk, also known as “Otenga” in Luo. In most cases, it makes a very big nest which always seems very dirty because it’s made of all sorts of things from grass to clothes and all the other things. It can also serve as a sight for tourist attraction.



Football tournaments are organized among schools in Kisumu in each academic year. The photo shows the under-fifteen football tournament organized by Kassagan Secondary School (blue uniforms) and Oasis of Hope Secondary School (white uniforms). Such tournaments help boost the youths’ experiences and skills in football. The match was played at Jomo Kenyatta Sports Ground, Kisumu.



This cozy up here is one of the development that has been seen since the new government. This is among the other ten year plan or rather vision according to the leaders. This used to be a slum, however very soon it will be a reasonable estate.

Since the leaders were considerate when it comes to income of the people living slums a room goes at five hundred shillings.



Apart from white collar jobs, Kenyans also practice small-scale farming. They grow kale, which provide vitamins, especially vitamin A, for clear vision and healthy growth. The kales are also exported so as to earn government revenue, hence improves the country's economy, enabling it to develop.



Kenya is known to be rich in African culture. This picture shows the Kisumu Museum signboard which portrays the Luo culture inside the museum.



Lake Victoria is known for production of different types of species of fish. Above are two among the species: mudfish (“kamongo”) and catfish (“mumi”) from left to right. Fisherman sell the fish to local people and some are exported to earn a living.



Since the government has embraced the invention and introduction of wire optic cable that is to link Kenya and other parts of the world, it is believed that this will facilitate communication network of the country.

In this picture, youths who have been employed to dig terraces for the installation of the cables have ventured in a small organization that supports the youth known as “kozi kwa vijana” (jobs for the youth).



Environment matters so much in our survival. We Kenyans take a pool of hand to conserve it. This is because it is a source of life and the way we handle it determines the existence of the future generations. Favourable environment is the one that contributes to the good climate that we Kenyans enjoy. We have taken the action of planting different trees which is both beautiful on the site and beneficial to our lives. Different animal species prefer our environment and hence it contributes to tourist attraction. Many rivers which help the world in the effect of globalization warming emerge in Kenya and this shows the way God has blessed us. What we Kenyans do with our environment this time matters so much to ourselves and to the rest of the world. The government has imposed policies against deforestation and this shows the future of this country.



Following an order from the Ministry of Transport that all passenger service vehicle (PSV) should have a yellow line, speed governor and seat belts to minimize cases of accidents and enhance road safety. Here a vehicle being serviced as per the “Muchuki rules”. The has also created job opportunities to the youths who have ventured into mechanics as shown above.

LAKE VICTORIA



From left is Steve Hezborne, Dancun Asoi, Mark and Erick, during the Ogal Lakeside trip. Dancun is helping Steve in operating the camera during an interview at the Ogal Beach offices. The students learned a lot from the trip organized by Mark and Jill of the Kiboko Club.



These are Oasis of Hope students ready to travel to Ogal Beach of Kisumu. They are going to study and learn much concerning the lives of fisherman and how they manage their work. They are also going to study about the importance of fishing and the environment around the lake region.



Lake Victoria, one of the largest lakes in Africa and second in the world, has created job opportunities to millions of people around it. Apart from fishing and industrial use which are the main uses, some jobless people also partake in different activities in order to earn their living. In the picture above are youths who have ventured in car washing in order to get their daily bread.



This picture includes our form four class leader, Mr. Gongga, who has been with us for the past two years. He teaches biology and agriculture. On the right is our school director, Mr. Haggai Kadiri. He teaches accounting and also is an accountant at the same time.

We recognize him as a father, too. He influences us with necessary skills and knowledge, he advises us on dangers of this world because he cares about our welfare and wants to see us prospering. In the middle is Jill who has initiated students from our school with the students in the USA. The project has, so far, been beneficial to both of us since we get to learn much from each other. Some students who would like to offer journalism already got a chance to practice during the project and the editors group since they made a book.

This is a student from Oasis doing the interview one day when we went for a trip to the lakeside. She learnt a lot. She came to realize how some people are hardworking. This man told us that he has got three boats which generate him income. Since it was not enough to support his family, he used the profit he made to open a shop and a posha mill. He has built a cozy house and he has three kids. The wife manages the shop while he does manage the boats and the posha mill. These three generating money activities are enough to help him with his family survive. Even though he said that he liked the job, there were some drawbacks, like during boom and recess season, this affects the income.



This part of the show can be called boat industry, or firm, since all the boats that are being used within this area are made in this place. The carpenters there transport timber from Uganda and then

they do the project. It is more expensive to transport than just transporting the timber. It also creates employment to the people who do the carpentry and those who sail across the lake. The idea contributes much to the economy of Kenya since it reduces the dependency ratio while generating the revenue to the government through taxation.



Most communities around the lake use the lake water for various purposes apart from just fishing as in this picture. Two donkeys belonging to a fisherman graze waiting to transport water in the jericans to his home. The water will be used for domestic purposes like washing clothes and for other animals. They prefer donkeys since they can walk for long distances even while loaded.

Most of the women at Ogal Beach have to sit aside as they eagerly wait for the men to catch fish and supply to them. This is their main source of income



They sell the fish to their respective customers after which they earn something to meet their family's basic needs. They therefore have to persevere in the hot sun.

Some of them have to carry along their young babies with them since there is no baby sitter back at home, as everyone has gone to school. They strive so much to ensure that all their children who have attained the age of being in school enjoy the right to education.



Lake Victoria is the second largest lake in the world, and Kenya and other countries that border it benefit from it because it is a freshwater lake and offers many activities, such as fishing, boat riding, and also is a tourist attraction. Hence, it earns the country some income. Many fish are found in this lake, such as tilapia, Nile perch, and many others which people use as a source of food.



Most schools in the city take their students for a trip to the lake to study the way and methods used in fishing. Above is Jael, a student from Oasis. He questions a fisherman on how he catches fish from Lake Victoria.

Here is Manya processing fish. She is also a businesswoman who is based on fish marketing. Though this is not her profession, she does the job partly because it is a way of earning and also getting food. She loves marketing her fish by the lakeside because there are many customers there and it's also easier to get fish immediately when the fishermen are back. She also tell us that women are not allowed to carry out fishing because it is tricky since it takes place at night. But this does not deny them the opportunity to do something by the lakeside, they can process fish and also help in transportation.





This is Ian, a boy of 10 years old. He goes to the lake with his father who is a fisherman. He helps his father on his work of processing fish. He says that he is proud of his father's occupation, since they cannot miss something to eat from that. He says that even though he is not at school, he has something to do, therefore

he is not idle like other boys who are learned and do nothing. His ambition is to join school soon and have knowledge on how to manage his properties one day.



These are the fisherman at the Ogal fishing ground of Kisumu. They are at work. They are proud of their occupation because they believe and feel that they cannot miss something by the end of the day. The also say that this work has no specific time for reporting and therefore you can be at work anytime, since most of them are also self-employed.



Kisumu is well known for the production of delicious tilapia (“ngege”). These fishermen are repairing their boats and sorting out their nets. Later in the day, they venture into Lake Victoria to fish. They sell their catch to earn money which they use for their daily needs.

Members of the Kiboko Club from Oasis of Hope having an interview with the fishermen about how the catch was. The fishermen talked about the difficulties they always face during the process of fishing, but they just always do it just to make the ends meet.



Fishing is not an easy task but, to some extent, fishermen try to force their day and risk their lives by going to the deep end of the lake just to have something to push them through the day because they have their family to feed.



Most people living around Lake Victoria engage in several activities involving the lake. Fishing is the main activity, as in this picture. Mr. Oduol (in cap), Onna (white shirt) and Atinga prepare their fishing net to make it ready for fishing later in the day. The nets are made in different sizes to target only mature fish.

One of the greatest features in Africa that we people will live to celebrate is the fresh water lakes in Kenya. Lake Victoria is such a freshwater lake. Our group members went to the lake and came across the boats of the fishermen who had just come from the lake and were packing their boats at the shore. Two fishermen on the boat were not lucky on their night catch, and the whole day they looked sad, waiting for their second trip.





This picture shows a school of fish. The mudfish is the most common fish found in Kenya. Most communities, such as the Luo community, prefer it and take it as a source of food. The Luo community call it “mumi” in their mother tongue. It is a very delicious food when fried. The fish provide us with protein, which is a body builder.



Good catch and that is good money. It was a good day for fishermen who caught the fish “mbuta” and now were waiting to sell the fish to local people for their daily meal. Fishing is not always good, according to the weather.



These are water hyacinths, which are always formed in Lake Victoria or any other water body and their formation always pose a very big problem to the fishermen or people living around because they can't fish from the lake or even fetch water because the hyacinths always make the water unfit for consumption because it's dirty.



There are several species of trees found around the lake region. Here is a tree locally known as "ochunga" which acts as a shade for the fishermen and the fishmongers. It is also used as fuel. The branches of this tree are cut down and left to dry in the open sun so that they could be used to fry, smoke, and cook fish. The wood obtained from the trees along the lake are used by the fishermen to make and repair boats. Other types of trees found along the lake shores are "tago", Mg'ou, and Ober.



Apart from fishing, fishermen on the shores of Lake Victoria do agriculture. They plant kale, tomatoes, and cabbage to supplement their food. They also plant grass to control soil erosion, therefore conserving their environment.

Mr. Odango, a fishmonger, loads his donkeys ready to transport water to his home. He lives just a few kilometers away from the lake, approximately three km. He prefers using the donkeys since they can make around five to seven trips successfully transporting up to around 1,000 liters of water, which is enough for his domestic uses like watering the farms and for other animals.



ISSUES WE FACE



This is how most of the youths in Kenya spend their nights. After completing their primary education, the two boys decided to move to the urban centre in search of either a job or any affordable secondary school, leaving their parents, brothers and sisters back in the rural area.

They rented a one-roomed house after the elder brother had secured a job as a “jua-kali” artisan. He decides to take his younger brother to join a Secondary School of which he takes the full responsibility of paying his fees. His dream is becoming a doctor in the future and through his salaries, he will support his family, educate his siblings and also help the orphans and the poor. He uses a spirit lamp to study but this does not prevent him from reaching his goal.



The above picture is of a lady who dropped out of school as a result of early teenage pregnancy. She comes from a Luhya community in Kenya. Their community believes that if a lady is impregnated out of wedlock, she is considered as an outcast. Jesicah is plaiting the hair of her customer. You can also see her baby looking hungrily. Jesicah being considered an outcast in their community, she is now forced to leave her home for an early marriage also. She is living a poor life standard, as you can see what her customer sits on is a mat made of papyrus reeds. Jesicah, though young but looks like an old woman and all this is as a result of poverty. She decides to do this because that is the only area she can do well in to earn her an income. She can plait from morning to evening but only gets fifty shillings.



Life is all about suffering and perseverance. There are those who care more about where they have taken their night while there are those who mind only about how they can call it a night.

This is one of the men who has taken the daily life to be as easy as such. Food, bathing and water to drink are enough. In the small structure which they call their room is enough for everything that they would like to do.

After the death of his parents, this was only the room that he could inherit, since all were taken by those who call themselves his relatives, leaving him behind with nothing to own. But he has nothing to say about it. For he believes that one day miracle might happen in his life and things will run smoothly.



Poverty. That is what many of us in Africa live in. But nowadays they are used to that life to the extent that they see life to be normal with their little income that they get from daily work. The two houses look totally different in terms of structure that can only be told by the visitors but not the owners just because they are used to them.



This is Jack Onyango. Jack is mentally handicapped and sleeps in such places since he does not have a nice place to spend his night. Jack does not have any source of food or clothing but he depends on the kindness of wellwishers.



Many youths in Kenya do odd jobs like washing cars along the banks of Lake Victoria because maybe they are orphans, which may be due to AIDS. They have to do these jobs so that they can help their younger siblings or because of poverty because they cannot afford to pay tuition fees so they do odd jobs so as to keep their lives going.



The year 2007 will remain in the Kenyan history as it was encountered with a lot of violence and riot due to disputed presidential election result. The post election violence led to massive loss of life, displacement of people and destruction of property in various parts of the country, leaving many jobless. This is the former supermarket which was looted and burnt by the angry mob. This led to economic depreciation in the country, not to forget about the tourism sector which was also hampered due to insecurity.

This is a boat. It is used by the fisherman to sail over water as they harvest fish. It is made of wood but waterproof. This boat can accommodate eight passengers together with their goods. It is the cheapest model used by the fisherman because it is quite durable and cannot rust or be affected by weather conditions.



MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY



Joshua Otieno, who is walking past the tree, likes playing table tennis, listening to music, and watching movies. He is learning at St. John Nursery School and is in middle class. Joshua wants to be an engineer in future. He stays in

Manyatta, Kisumu with his parents. He works hard at school and at the end of each day, he helps his parents serving customers in their hotel. The money they earn from the job helps them to push through their day to day life. Joshua is five years old.



Above is Okello who likes flowers. He plants flowers at his leisure time. Okello likes different varieties of flowers and he is sitting down resting after a long hour job planting flowers in his father's home. He maintains his job after his school and he is in standard eight.



His name is James Kamau, a former class seven student at Kondele Primary School. He is fifteen years of age. James dropped out of school and became a street kid after the post-election violence in Kenya which saw his parents being brutally murdered. He likes reading novels, playing chase and badminton. Besides, he wants to be a doctor and plans to get back to school through a sponsorship to continue with his education. James is a hardworking and an honest person. As per now, he does odd jobs to provide his daily living needs.

These are students at Oasis of Hope Secondary School who are drinking water after having a mouth-watering meal of rice and beans. They look very happy because they are satisfied and happy to be in school.





This is Collins Otieno. Collins is eleven years old. He has been a street boy for almost three years. Collins ran away from home when he was eight years old due to child labour. He escaped the harassment of the parents who were loading him with the heavy work. He says he's not planning to go back home. He feels that the street life is much better than living at home.



From left is Otieno Ayoo, Erick Onyango, Paul Otieno, and Alex Oloo, aged 22,27, 20, and 25, respectively. They all aspire to be long-distance truck drivers. As per now, they wash vehicles so as to get money to help them provide for their daily needs. They all work hard to better their lives. They do this work at the shores of Lake Victoria, Kisumu.



Kenyans also do bicycle repairing to earn a living. Due to unemployment, many youths turn to odd jobs to make a living. They work hard every day to better their lives, through which some of them become prosperous and successful.



Most organizations in Kenya come together to support the government in promoting education sector as in the above photo. Students at Oasis of Hope relieve themselves in a latrine built by the Rotary Club in Kisumu. This NGO has also improved the sanitation of the school by providing water tanks to help the students, hence improving their academic environment.

On my right hand side is Mama Tony carrying her baby. She looks happy today. Mama Tony is a housewife who is married and has two kids. Well, as a housewife, she undergoes different challenges like working tirelessly the whole day. She loves her husband so much and the kids too. She keeps her house clean and tidy. As a woman, she serves the family members by ensuring that all that is needed is ever ready. Her hospitality has made Nancy (the sister who is sitting next to



her(to actually visit her. According to African culture, a woman should be responsible for the household's activities and respect and submit to the husband. That's what Mama Tony does.

This is Silvia Nduta. Nduta is seven years old and she is in class two. She learns at St. Mark's Academy. Nduta admires the beautiful environment which is full of beautiful flowers. She is hardworking and ambitious, too. She actually yearns to be a lawyer in the future. She lives with her parents around Nyalenda area. She admires Professor Wangon Matthai in conserving the environment. She just likes reading and singing.





His name is Steve Hezborne Ondego, a form four student at Oasis of Hope Secondary School, aged 18 years. He accompanied Mark and Jill to Ogal Lakeside and was in charge of the camera and filming during interviews. Steve wants to be a journalist and wishes to work with Mark and Jill of the Kiboko Club. He likes traveling, dancing, swimming, reading novels, playing rugby, and listening to music and watching movies. “I love working with Mark and Jill and wish to be a member of the Kiboko Club and continue working with them, besides doing journalism”, he says.

This photograph is of a girl known as Ida Achieng. She is just twelve years old and is in class seven. She learns at Kasagam Primary School. Ida is hardworking and ambitious. She yearns to be a doctor in the future. She lives around the Kassagam area with her grandmother. After school, she helps the grandma in selling vegetables in the market. Out of that, they manage their daily needs. Besides, she loves reading novels, dancing, watching movies, and making friends.





Denis Onyango
Joel Awuor
Cynthia Achieng
Jesinta Achieng
Eric Ouino
Lavenda Achieng
Berryle Achieng
Victor Ouma
Erick Ochieng
Dan Augo

Silas Chege
Josephine Akinji
Robinson Omondi
Henry Ageyo
Lynet Alwala
Treazer Adhiambo
Nancy Awuor
Pamela Adera
Dan Asol



© KIBOKO PI