



RAILWAY CHILDREN AFRICA ANNUAL REPORT

January to December 2022

RAILWAY
children
Fighting for street children

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In this year, we have reached 2156 (1314 males and 842 female) children and youth living and working on the street with services such as reintegration with protective families with retention rate at 86%, medical care, education, income generation, vocational training, temporary shelter, and psychosocial supports.

Overall female beneficiaries supported in 2022 made up for 39% slightly higher compared to last year. While male beneficiaries made up of 61%. Comparatively a higher number of female beneficiaries served at family level by 51% served compared to 49% male. On the other hand, on the streets, majority of beneficiaries served were male.

Our programme continued to make positive impact to thousands of children and youth living and working on the street in Mwanza, Dodoma, and Dar es Salaam cities. While we were impacted by funding shortage, we have been able to sustain our core programme work in the short term as we seek new donors for future growth.

We have been issued a new certificate of registration under the terms and conditions of the Non-Governmental Organizations Act, 2002 with registration no. I-NGO/R1/00941. Further, we finalized and signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG).

In a significant step change for Railway Children Africa (RCA), we have been appointed by the government of Tanzania to join several government taskforces or committee such as National Taskforce for Alternative Family Based Care, National Committee for Street Connected Children and Taskforce for Social Welfare Workforce that drives and influence the importance of family in a child growth and children living and working on the streets (CLWS) connected agenda respectively in the country. That ringing endorsement of our work is a powerful vindication of more than a decade of tireless engagement of our staff with the government, and we pay tribute to them for this hard-earned breakthrough.

We regularly involve CLWS in our work, so that we can better understand their needs and priorities. We are developing our charter for children with children so that they can influence how we work, who we collaborate with and how we mobilise and engage the public to help us ensure no child is left behind.

RCA in collaboration with other stakeholders launched a national alliance to strengthen families and alternative family-based care with the aim of advancing the rights of vulnerable children including children living and working on the street.

Also, we've joined African Technical Working Group on Children Without Parental Care for the African Union to elevate the voices of children living and working on the street in Tanzania.

We advanced and launched our new five-year strategy, which set out the ambitious goals we want to achieve between 2022 and 2027. Our new strategy model focuses on four key action areas for change in order to protect the most vulnerable children before, during and after they are alone and at risk on the streets. We have also developed a strategy to guide us in ongoing fundraising initiatives.

The set up of the Child Support Desk has strengthened our early intervention work by enabling us to identify, engage and reintegrate children quickly. So far, we have set up one 1 child support desk at Nyegezi Bus Terminal in Mwanza and we are in plans to support the infrastructure of another desk in Dar es Salaam at Magufuli Bus Terminal. Contextual safeguarding approach embedded at bus terminals continues to enable RCA to engage directly with key stakeholders around bus terminal such as Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA), Police Traffic Department, food vendors, cobblers, transport owners and drivers in building their capacity to provide protection to children.

RCA is looking to the future with renewed enthusiasm, determined to keep sustainable impact in the life of the CYLWS. The new strategy will deliver continued success in the years ahead.



ABOUT RAILWAY CHILDREN AFRICA

Railway Children Africa (RCA) is an International NGO registered in Tanzania. As an organization, our primary aim is to enable and create positive sustainable change in the lives of children and youth living alone and at risk on the streets.

Our strategy focuses on four key action areas for change in order to protect the most vulnerable children before, during and after they are alone and at risk on the streets.

1. Protecting vulnerable children and supporting their families: RCA will keep children safe and enable them to stay in a nurturing family environment where they can attend school and thrive. We will build safety nets and develop programmes and services of the highest standards to protect vulnerable children who are at risk of running away or becoming lost to the streets.
2. Strengthening community responses: RCA will work in partnership with communities and the transport industry, helping them to create environments that are hostile to abuse and where people are equipped to play their part in protecting all vulnerable children.
3. Strengthening child protection systems and policies: RCA will work closely with policy makers, public servants and civil society to find and implement ways to strengthen and better resource child protection systems so that no child is left behind.
4. Strengthening the evidence base: RCA will evidence effective and sustainable safeguarding solutions for street connected children, demonstrating how we transform childhoods and the true impact of these interventions on their lives and their families. Building outstanding evidenced services will enable us to establish programme models and practice that can be replicated.



OUR VISION

We believe in a world where no child ever has to live on the streets.



OUR MISSION

Create and enable sustainable change for children living alone and at risk on the street.

RCA 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS

This year we achieved a significant milestone as we started direct project implementation work in Dar es Salaam city and established a Child Support Desk in one of the busiest bus stations in Mwanza. This move means that we can contact children at the earliest possible moment as they drop to the streets through the buses. We also established a Child Support Committee that comprises of key stakeholders in and around the bus stand. The CSD committee has supported in responding to increasingly cases of abuse in and around the bus stand in Mwanza.

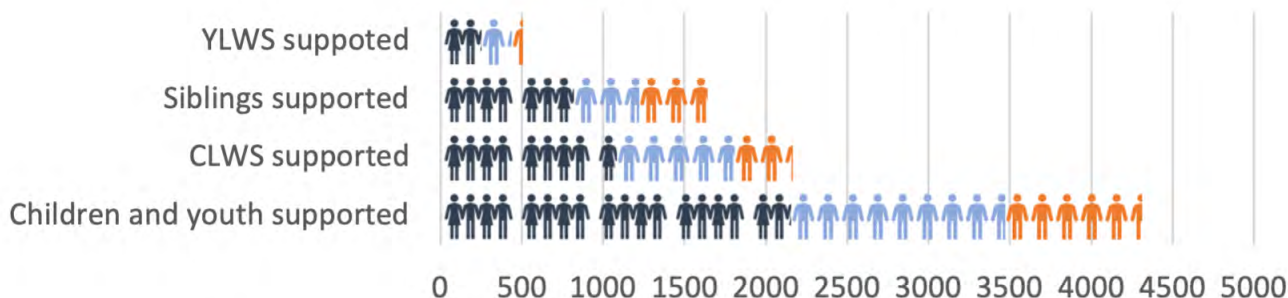
RCA continued to support children and youth living and working on the streets in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Dodoma. In total RCA worked with 2,156 young people across the three cities. In addition, we supported 592 caregivers.

Overall female beneficiaries supported in 2022 made up for 39% slightly higher compared to last year. While male beneficiaries made up of 61%. Comparatively a higher number of female beneficiaries served at family level by 51% served compared to 49% male.

On the other hand, on the streets, majority of beneficiaries served were male.

The 2,156 children and young people were supported across the street, youth, and family intervention with direct support services in family reintegration, medical support, school support, income generating activities and psychosocial support.

Beneficiaries supported by Gender



	Children and youth supported	CLWS supported	Siblings supported	YLWS supported
## Total	2156	1083	820	253
♂ Male	1314	727	403	184
♀ Female	842	356	417	69

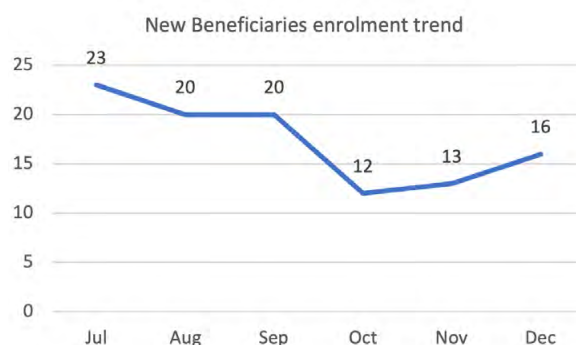
PROJECT HIGHLIGHT STREET OUTREACH INTERVENTION

At the outreach level, RCA worked closely with Local Government Authorities (LGA), police, social welfare department and community champions in identifying and rescuing children on the streets.

Further we enhanced our street outreach intervention by establishing a child support desk (CSD) in one of the busiest bus stands in Mwanza. The CSD is open 5 days a week and is manned by RCA staff together with Government social welfare officer. In the time that it started operation, 147 children were supported through the CSD between July to December 2022.

Most of the new beneficiaries supported through the Child Support Desk in the first six months of its operation were between the age of 7-14 years.

Through our street outreach work 315 children were provided with medical support this was done through escorted referral to health facilities to facilitate waivers, and for some of the beneficiaries were provided with medical insurance cards that beneficiaries. 203 children (121 M, 82 F) were provided with a safe place to stay through Fit Persons and transitional residential centres. 170 children and young people were provided with legal aid support at the police station and in court.



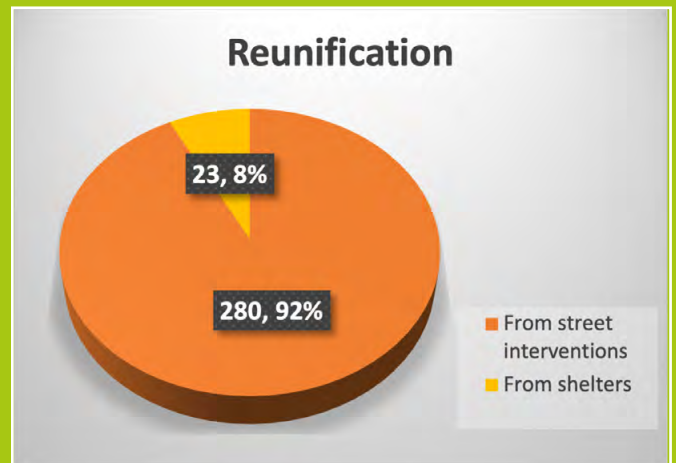
Age range	Male	Female	Total	%
> 8 years	2		2	2%
7-14 years	63	14	77	74%
15-17 years	16	4	20	19%
18-25 years	3	2	5	5%

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT FAMILY REINTEGRATION WORK

Because of our work, 303 children have been reintegrated with their families, and 337 have re-enrolled back to school.

Of the children reunified 280 children were contacted on the streets while 23 children were reunified from residential centres. At the end of this reporting period, RCA conducted an evaluation to establish the retention rate, and the results showed that 80% of the children reintegrated were still at home. Within the family reintegration work, RCA worked with 592 caregivers in providing educational therapeutic support for the intensive cases, and health insurance cards to support them access to medical services while 42 caregivers were socio-economically empowered through business skills training and small grants.

Working closely with Local Government Authorities (LGAs) and Social Welfare department enhanced family tracing and actual family reunification and follow-up.

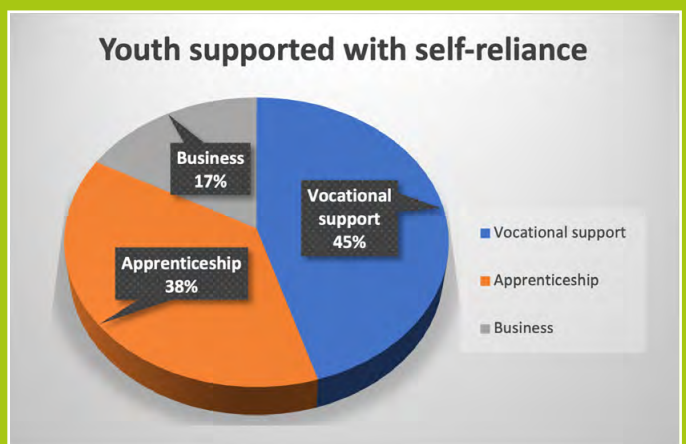


PROJECT HIGHLIGHT YOUTH ASSOCIATION MODEL

Through our Youth Association Model, we facilitated formation of 4 groups comprising of street connected youth, 3 for males and 1 for female have been formed with total number of 94 members (73 Male, 21 Female).

Three groups are in empowerment stage and one group is in formation group.

53 (36 male,17 females) supported with self-reliance activities including apprenticeship, vocational training, and business for them to become self-independent.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT ACT PARENTING PROGRAMME

We have also conducted prevention work in source communities where our programme data show that a high number of children are coming from to the streets, we have responded by implementing and evidence-based approach-ACT parenting programme in transferring skills and knowledge in parenting skills.

Using ACT parenting programme, RCA facilitated 8 ACT parenting groups comprising of 217 parents (199 F, 18 M). Alongside the parenting skills sessions, parents were introduced to Village Savings and Loan approach to enhance savings among the caregivers and ultimately improve their economic status.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT YOUNG PROFESSIONAL EXIT PROGRAMME

Under the Young Professionals (YPs) exit programme aims at transitioning 27 care leavers from Kurasini National Children's home and facilitating their journey to self-reliance and integration within their respective communities.

RCA successfully transitioned 10 Young Persons. RCA conducted indoor training for YPs on business (financial literacy, sales, and marketing skills), life skills, and sexual and reproductive health education for all 16 YPs.

7 YPs were provided with start-up grants to start their own business. Additionally, 2 YPs who expressed interest in reconnecting with their families, were reunified after successfully tracing their families. The project has also continued to support 11 young persons that are in school/college and vocational training centres by paying their monthly stipend and other costs paid to the colleges, schools, or vocational centres.

PLACING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN LIVING AND WORKING ON THE STREET ON THE GOVERNMENT AGENDA

In 2022, we facilitated a group of 5 Members of the Parliament from the parliament Social Welfare and Development Committee, to visit our project work in Mwanza.

The officials had the opportunity to meet with the implementing staff and visit the beneficiaries. Through this, we were able to call for the allocation of an adequate budget to provide quality care and services to street-connected children; reinforcement of the education circular allowing children that dropped out of school to be accepted back to school; review of enrolment criteria for government cash transfer program - TASAF to allow the inclusion of families for street-connected children; increase in complementary basic education (COBET) centres in the country so that more children and young persons can have access to education.

We facilitated a meeting between the new Minister of Community Development Gender Women and Special Groups and children living and working on the street. This meeting took place in Dar es Salaam and was also attended by other high-level government officials including Regional Commissioner and District Commissioners. A highlight of this was a formation of a special task force to work with the government to address the issue of children living on the street whose membership includes RCA.

In this year we have also officiated our partnership with key ministries responsible for promoting the welfare of vulnerable people. We have finalized and signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the President's Office of Regional Administration and Local Government, and we are in the process of finalizing one with the Ministry of Community Development Gender Women and Special Groups. These documents legally stipulate how RCA and the aforementioned ministries will work together to advance the rights of children living and working on the street.

INCLUDING STREET CONNECTED CHILDREN IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA

RCA collaborated with Consortium for Street Children and Amani Centre to submit a report about the rights of children living and working on the street in Tanzania to the UN Human Rights Council and subsequently during Tanzania third review under the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) delivered a statement to the Human Rights Council with recommendations to the government of Tanzania for changes required to ensure street children are treated with dignity and respect.

Through continued relationship building and networking, we have joined African Technical Working Group on Children Without Parental Care for the African Union to elevate the voices of children living and working on the street in the Africa child rights agenda.

BUILDING COLLECTIVE VOICES

In this year we further continued to collaborate and develop meaningful partnerships with like-minded organizations in advancing the rights of vulnerable children including children living and working on the street.

A highlight for this was the launch of a national alliance to strengthen families and alternative family-based care with UNICEF, Save the Children, Pamoja Leo and two individuals from University of Dar es Salaam and Open University. This alliance has been formed to bring together the expertise and experience of like-minded organizations and individuals determined to improve the situations and future outcomes for all children.

2022 also marked the end of grant from UBS foundation that has supported our reintegrating work, deepened our fit person and ACT parenting work as well as supported the reintegration of children from long term institution. Though the grant has ended, we have remained in touch with UBS to nurture the relationship which can lead to more funding. Through experience- gained from implementing this project, we were linked to Eriks Foundation, a Swedish donor and managed to secure funding to support the one district council in Dar es Salaam to reunify children from unregistered children's homes.

Additional funding from Mercy Corps was received to continue implementing a project that aims to prevent vulnerable youth from communities to join or fall into violent extremist groups as a result of their vulnerability through soft approaches. Through this, we have supported street and community youth to learn communication and conflict resolution skills which they have used in conducting consensus-building forums with community members and facilitating police-community forums. This project has also strengthened our relationship with the police force in Mwanza to increase protection for children living and working on the street.

We have also participated in the review and improvement of national reintegration guidelines and fit persons training manual bringing in our experience of implementing family reintegration and fit persons work. Through national training, a package has been developed and will be used to capacitate social welfare officers.

We together with our implementing partners celebrated the international day for street children calling for recognition of frontline staff who work tirelessly to care for the children on the street. We organized a child-friendly workshop providing children with the opportunity to reflect on the skills and influence of trusted adults in their lives. The day was also used to raise awareness of the rights of children living and working on the street.

Through established CYLWS platforms, we have supported 40 children and 20 youth living and working on the street to explore their own understanding of their rights, develop a clear understanding of rights with a focus on participation and build on the knowledge and skills they already must become confident, informed and effective in taking part in the decision that affects their lives.

SAFEGUARDING

In this reporting year, RCA worked to support 49 (15 females and 34 males) Safeguarding cases from its own project and its partner KISEDET.

Out of the 49 reported cases; 24 were sexual abuse cases, 14 were physical abuse, 5 were death cases, 2 were serious accidents, 2 were possible human trafficking, and 2 were extreme emotional abuse and neglect. Steps taken included reporting the cases to the authorities, making referrals to the hospital for check- up and treatments, provision of psychosocial support which included therapeutic sessions and reunification and follows up of cases on the legal side to ensure justice is achieved.

By the end of the year of this reporting period out of the 49 cases reported; 19 were at home reunified with their families, 11 were at Residential shelters, 1 was placed under fit person care, 1 was placed in a sober house, 5 were deceased, 3 were being supported under the Youth association model, 7 were being supported while on the streets (shelter and reunification was not their option) and 2 went missing while on the streets. There is ongoing work with all open safeguarding cases to ensure protection, safety, and welfare of the children.

As a result of follow-up support provided to Safeguarding cases, RCA achieved justice for a 15-year-old who was sexually abused by a man who invited him to his home promising to give him a job, the incident was reported to RCA on 14/07/2021. The Judgment was pronounced on 27/07/2022 and the perpetrator was convicted and sentenced to Life imprisonment and ordered the compensation of payment of Tsh 2mil. The case study is attached to this report for more details.

Out of the 49 reported cases, two (2) cases were reported to the Charity Commission. The cases were reported because; in the first case, a child RCA was working with had harmed other children in the home. Additionally, the child had concerns about abuse at the shelter he was staying which were complex and concerning. The second case required reporting to the commission because a child RCA had helped reintegrate home with his family had then gone on to harm his own siblings. Both cases were also reported to local authorities including the police and Social Welfare Officers.

RCA staff received tailor-made training on Responding to Children with Sexually Harmful Behaviour, and assessment forms and case management processes were reviewed to strengthen and ensure the process is robust.

RCA reviewed its Safeguarding Policy, which was approved by the RCA Board of Directors in October 2022. Since then, both staff members in Mwanza and Dar Es Salaam have been trained on the revised Safeguarding Policy, and implementation has been ongoing.

RCA PARTNERSHIPS

RCA continued to build and strengthen partnerships with different stakeholders and implementing partners to ensure a more coherent way of implementing the project activities.

RCA's current funding situation forced the organization to end its contractual partnership with CST (May 2022), WoteSawa (February 2022), and VOH (June 2022). Before project closeout, RCA conducted a project closeout visit to discuss and agree with each plan case management process after project closure, especially for remaining beneficiaries. In June 2023 the organization extended its contractual agreement with Kisedet in Dodoma to support the implementation of CYLWS intervention in Dodoma DC.

The organization also reviewed its partnership policy which was later approved by the RCA board in November 2022. Among other changes, the review focused on contextualizing the policy to apply only in Tanzania, updating new organization registration detail, and revising the purpose of the policy section to reflect RCA work. Additionally, added a section about partner review activity and its importance in partnership and added a project clause out procedures section.

KISEDET

RCA signed a one-year agreement with Kisedet to continue the implementation of CLWS interventions in Dodoma CC in June 2022.

The main project focus for this year is on three thematic areas, supporting the implementation of street work for CLWS, Family Work, and Preventive Programs (ACT parenting programs and community sensitizations). Implementation started in mid-July due to a delayed PA signing process and funding disbursement, this significantly impacted project performance for the first quarter, however, it later picked out significantly in Q2 and Q3.

Kisedet is currently on track with most of the annual deliverables, with only a few areas that require more effort between now and May 2023 including the provision of business support to families of reunified children, placement of rescued children to fit families, and provision of scholastic support to reunified children and their siblings.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

RCA developed and launched a fundraising strategy seeking to increase the income generated internally and externally through the RCA team for the sustainability of its programs.

The strategy is built on four key pillars: Securing large, multi-year institutional funding, Increasing Trusts, and Foundations income in the country and via the UK, growing philanthropic income in-country from major donors, and developing a corporate pipeline to yield official partnerships and multi-year agreements. With the fundraising strategy in place, RCA is anticipating increasing income raised internally to £1,740,000/ by the end of this strategic period. To ensure there is proper coordination in the process, the organization assigned a focal person for internal fundraising activities amongst its staff.

With our in-country fundraising strategy, RCA developed and submitted about 8 funding applications worth more than \$1,000,000 to different institutional

donors. Internally, the organization also submitted 4 applications to corporates (NMB, SONGAS, Vodacom, and ABSA Bank). RCA successfully secured \$483,774 towards RCA's work in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza as per the below table.

Additionally, the NMB application was successful, and it is geared towards establishing a long-term relationship with NMB, support will see about 500 beneficiaries (Caregivers and Youth) receive financial literacy training and support to establish self-help VSLA groups. The organization will continue researching internal corporates and potential.

Secured Grants- 2023

Funding Source	Project Name	Value	Grant Start Period	Grant End Date
Agency Fund	Demonstrating Impact: Empowering Street-Connected Youth to Access Livelihood Opportunities through Youth Associations	\$250,000	December 2023	May 2024
Addax and Oryx Foundation	Girls Youth Associations: An empowering income-generating project for 30 street-connected girls and young women in Dar es Salaam	\$20,000	February 2023	January 2024
AF Jocknick Foundation	From the street to the classroom in Dar es Salaam	€137,025	1st December 2022	December 31st, 2025
Abbott Fund Tanzania	Young Professional Exit Program-Transitioning of Kurasini National Children's Home Care leavers	\$40,000	August 2022	February 2023
ABSA Bank	Youth Association Work	\$3,600	February 2022	–
Eriks Development Foundation	Providing children and young people from Maunga orphanage center with the opportunity to grow up in safe families and communities.	€23,800	June 1st, 2022	May 31st, 2023

RAILWAY CHILD AFRICA GOVERNANCE

Board Meetings: Board meetings were held regularly as planned throughout the year from January to December 2022. The following are the meetings held during the year 2022:

- i. March 2022
- ii. June 2022
- iii. September 2022
- iv. December 2022
(Postponed to 26th January 2023)

Below are the names of Board Members frequently attending the meeting:

1. Lulu Lulu Ng'wanakilala Board Chair
2. Judy Lister, Board Member
3. Terina Keene, Board Member/ RC CEO
4. Ben Prasadam-Halls, Group Director
5. Michael Holden, Board Member
6. Charles Mgoya, Board member
7. John Kalage, Board Secretary
8. Sunday Kapesi, Board Member

Organizational risks:

During the year 2022, RCA were able to track all the organization's risks (Operational, Legal & Regulatory risks) throughout the year. Some of the risks monitored are staff retention, safeguarding, compliance with NGO regulations, etc.

Our Financials:

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
	TShs '000	TShs '000
INCOME		
Grant Release	2,765,126	3,995,274
Other Income	32,737	44,300
Amortization for the Year	3,050	-
TOTAL INCOME	2,800,913	4,039,574
EXPENDITURE		
Project expenses	(1,403,780)	(1,982,467)
Implementing Partners expenses	(303,850)	(844,181)
Administrative and travel expenses	(178,768)	(235,827)
Other operating expenses	(930,515)	(977,099)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	(2,816,913)	(4,039,574)
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	(16,000)	-

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
	TShs '000	TShs '000
ASSETS		
Current Assets	238,634	337,775
Non Current Assets	35,050	-
TOTAL ASSETS	273,684	337,775
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Current liabilities	241,684	337,775
Non current liabilities	-	-
Assets Revaluation Reserves	32,000	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	273,684	337,775

SUCCESS STORY: JUSTICE FOR JACK

Jack, 15 years old was enrolled on the project on the 15th of July 2021, he was referred to the RCA project in Mwanza by a local Government leader, after being sexually abused by a man who had promised him a job.

Jack first arrived in Mwanza in March of 2021 with the aim of finding a job to support his family back in the village. He started working as a houseboy, however after three months his employer relocated to Dar es Salaam, and after paying his dues, he asked Jack to go back to the village. A man that was living on the same street where Jack was working as a house boy, approached Jack with a promise to find him a job after coming back from the village.

On the 14th of July Jack was back in Mwanza and the perpetrator picked him up from the bus station, he invited him to his place for accommodation that night and promised to assist him to find a job. Jack was invited to take a shower and later have dinner, and it was time to go to bed the perpetrator asked him to remove his clothes, Jack refused, and the perpetrator threatened him with a Machete, it was at this point that Jack was sexually abused.

Jack was able to escape with the pretence of going to the toilet, he sought help from a shopkeeper who acted quickly, and was able to mobilize a few people, and manage to apprehend the perpetrator as he tried to flee. The perpetrator was taken to the Village Executive Officer (VEO) and later to the police station and placed in custody.

On 15th July the Village Executive Officer (VEO) referred Jack to the RCA office for further support. The RCA legal Officer coordinated the process and ensured Jack was provided with medical support, and the case was reported to the Social Welfare Officer. Jack was placed in a temporary shelter where he continued to receive Psychosocial support and other basic needs.

In the meantime, the case was filed in court for legal processes, Jack was able to give his testimony which was collaborated by witnesses including the Shop keeper, the VEO and other people from the community. As the court process was underway Jack was reunited with his family on September 10th, 2021.

He was supported by Scholastic Materials and re-enrolled back to school. The RCA legal Officer continued to make a close follow-up with the State Attorney on case's progress this took almost one year and on 27th June 2022 the Judgment was pronounced, and the perpetrator was convicted and sentenced to Life imprisonment and order for payment of compensation for the victim of Tanzanian Shillings 2 million for trauma and the pain as per the perpetrator act.

The court process had its challenges, generally, in sexual offences, the best evidence in court is the doctor's opinion testifying in court based on the medical examination and PF3 form filled. Once the form is tendered as evidence it overrides any other evidence as it contains an expert opinion. With Jack's case the Doctor filled the PF3 form stating there was no evidence of sexual abuse suggesting that there was no case to be entertained at Court and the perpetrator be acquitted. This was even though there were witnesses to the boy's state and when the boy was brought to the RCA office, the state he was in, the body odour, it was clear that he had been sexually abused. The RCA legal officer made several attempts to get the doctor to refill the form but was unsuccessful. RCA Legal Officer together with State Attorney discussed the overwhelming victim's Testimony which was collaborated with by witnesses and concluded to withdraw the PF3 form as evidence and convinced the court to convict the accused/perpetrator based on the victim and witnesses' testimony since it is also the principals under the law.

Jack is progressing well at home. He was happy about the outcome of the case.



Railway Children Africa (Country Office)

Plot No 25, 1st Floor, Alpha House,
New Bagamoyo Road, PO Box 105763
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
T: +255 736 113 114

Railway Children Africa (Programme Office)

Plot No 59, Block D, Isamilo Street
PO Box 138, Mwanza, Tanzania
T: +255 28 254 2489

E: RCA@railwaychildren.org.tz
W: www.railwaychildren.org.uk

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NGO Compliance No. 1566

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