

## **MWAMKO FOUNDATION**

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The above named organisation was formed some four years ago by a group of young people all residents of Kahawa Soweto slum. It was formed by members of another previous youth group by the name Soweto Youth In Action (SOYIA) whose majority of members became dormant in performing the group activities. Mwamko was formed by the remaining active members of that former group. Today the organisation is made up of **12** members both male and female with their main activities being based in Soweto and Kamae slums of Kahawa area.

### MAIN ACTIVITIES

1. Children's Educational Program
2. Children' Mentorship Program
3. Drugs and Alcohol abuse Rehabilitation Program
4. Briquette Manufacturing

#### Briquette Manufacturing

##### History of the project

The project was initiated by those active members of the former group, SOYIA after they were taken through a vigorous training exercise of the same under the support of URBAN HARVEST/ICRAF. After the training, the same organisation supported them to acquire the necessary equipments to start the project.

##### Progress Report

So far the project is ongoing being run by members of Mwamko who organised themselves in units each specialised with a specific task. They include collection of raw materials, production and sales. The organisation is also actively involved in training other groups and individuals from different places in briquette production at a fee. There is a small space and a few equipments used in all these activities.

##### Benefits

This activity has brought several benefits to different groups of people and individuals. Some of the benefits includes:-

- Environmental care since most of the raw materials used in production have previously been thrown away as waste and so causing pollution.
- The economic standards on members involved have improved
- The local community consuming the product has also benefitted a lot since all parties involved especially the consumers have proved that briquettes are much more economical and environmental friendly fuel as compared to other types like charcoal, firewood, paraffin, electricity, gas e.t.c.
- There have been positive reports coming in from those groups and individuals who have been trained through Mwamko.

##### Challenges

Despite all the benefits, difficulties have also come along way. To mention a few of them includes:-

1. There is still not enough space and equipments to do both production and training. There is only a very small space which was offered by one member which is used for both.
2. Marketing is still being done in the old ways through word of mouth. The organisation has not been able to modernise it due to some difficulties like lack of access to print and audio media, lack of proper product packaging and branding to be sold in big supermarkets, and also these members lack modern marketing skills.
3. There is a problem of transport in both raw materials and the finished product.

#### Future plans

1. To make it grow into a big industry which will offer more employment opportunities to people from this area? This will be possible if situations on space and equipments are improved.
2. To develop much on the marketing capacity through proper advertising, proper product packaging and branding. There also need to publicise much on the benefits of using the product since there is still a big number of people who are not aware of it.

#### Children's Educational Program

This is a program which involves learning both in pre-primary and primary schools. Currently the centre is based at Kamae slums. There are **50** children from needy backgrounds attending classes on daily basis and over **100** on the waiting list.

#### Benefits

1. Children from poor backgrounds who lack the capacity to enrol in formal schools can access education.
2. Parents to these children are able to go out to work since the burden of having to stay with their children has been taken away from them.

#### PROJECT VISSION

Create a much aware society on environmental care and economic friendly way of living.

#### PROJECT MISSION

Take on board every member of the community to embrace this kind of fuel for their day to day household activities.

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