



The **HOPE BEYOND BARS** *Project*

In collaboration with: Paula Foundation (Netherlands)

Ref: TSF/HBB/20240910/2

10th September 2024

**FINAL REPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SELECTED SUPPORT ACTIVITIES
AT SHIMO LA TEWA PRISON IN MOMBASA COUNTY OF KENYA IN SUPPORT OF
CHILDREN OF MOTHERS IN PRISON UNDER THE HOPE BEYOND BARS PROJECT.**

Hope Beyond Bars is a project whose aim is to touch the lives of children of mothers in prisons, imprisoned mothers themselves and juvenile offenders in four (4) women prisons in the coastal region of Kenya. The four prisons are Malindi Women Prison, Shimo La Tewa Women Prison, Kwale Women Prison and Wundanyi Women Prison.

Whereas the project was initiated by Talent Search Foundation in collaboration with the Kenya Prisons Service authorities, the project has so far benefitted hugely from the partnership of Paula Foundation based in Netherlands and represented in this project by Ms. Susanne Christine Van LieShout.

After the successful intervention at the Malindi Women Prison earlier in the year to improve the living conditions of children living with their mothers in prison, the partners shifted their attention to Shimo La Tewa Prison situated in Mombasa County in the Kenyan coastal region with the singular intention of doing whatever was urgent and possible to touch the lives of children living with their mothers in that prison.

In April 2024 in furtherance of the above agenda, Ms. Susanne Christine representing Paula Foundation and Alex Mwanza representing of Hope Beyond Bars/Talent Search Foundation visited the prison to make initial assessment of the urgent and possible needs of the children living with their mothers in the prison.



Ms. Susanne Christine Van LieShout of Paula Foundation and Alex Mwanza of Hope Beyond Bars Project/Talent Search Foundation when they visited Shimo La Tewa Prison in Mombasa County in the coastal region of Kenya on a fact-finding mission to establish the immediate challenges facing children of mothers in prison and the mothers themselves.

The fact-finding mission by Ms. Susanne Christine and Alex Mwanza established that at the time of the visit there were thirteen (13) under four (4) years children living with their mothers in the prison. Among the various needs of children they observed during the visit, they identified and isolated some which they felt were urgent, needed immediate attention and were manageable within the limited resources available. These included:

The children playhouse/daycare centre was in dire need of renovation, the children ate their food seated on a dusty floor, the facility did not have a freezer to preserve milk and other

children food, the children played on the hard floor of the playhouse and shelves to place other food and non-food items for children were worn-out. They recommended that our immediate focus be on these needs. The budget estimate was initially 178,300 Kenya Shillings but later at implementation stage it increased to 180,000 Kenya Shillings.

Once again, just like in the case of Malindi Women Prison, the Netherlands-based Paula Foundation through Ms. Susanne Christine stepped in the gap and offered to pay for these costs for the sake of bettering the living conditions of the children living with their mothers in this prison facility. The beneficiaries, the prison authorities, Hope Beyond Bars project participants, Talent Search Foundation and the community in general remain grateful and highly appreciative of this devotion by Paula Foundation to better the living conditions of children of mothers in prison as well as easing the burden on their mothers.

The following is the quotation that was agreed upon, approved and later implemented;

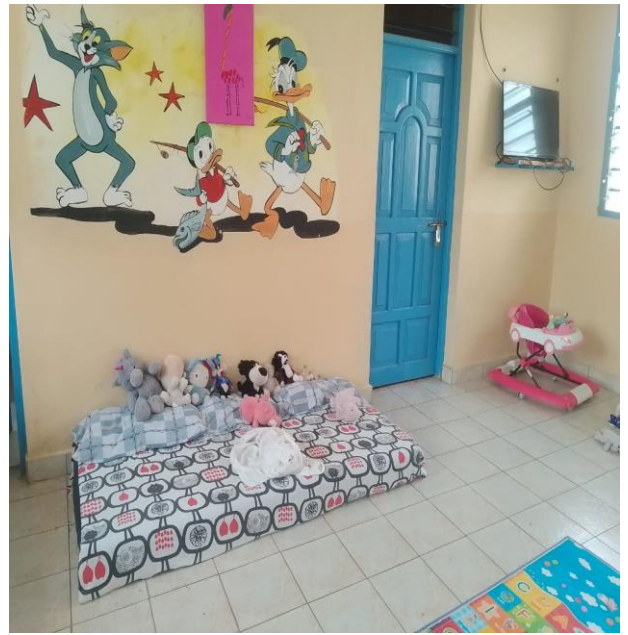
Summary of quotations for Kitchen repairs, Children baby seaters, tables and associated accessories at Shimo La Tewa Women Prison.

#	Particulars	Cost in Kenya Shillings
1.	Paintwork (inside only), Woodwork & repairs, Electrical accessories & repairs and labour (as previously negotiated and communicated)	90,390
2.	1 Medium Freezer (as previously negotiated and communicated, including transportation to Shimo La Tewa)	57,600
	<i>Additional Items:</i>	
3.	13 Hard plastic Baby seaters(baby chairs): 13*700	9,100
4.	Materials for 2 Low height tables for children: 2*4255	8,510
5.	Labour for making the tables and transportation	3,000
6.	Hard Plastic floor Mats/PVC @400 per meter: to cover 9ft*11ft	7,200
7.	Labour for fitting the PVC/mats	2,500
	Total Budget	<u>178,300</u>

****NB: This budget later increased to 180,000 Kenya Shillings.**

The activities shown above were implemented with financial support from **Paula Foundation (Netherlands)** as a result of which the following were accomplished for Shimo La Tewa prison;

- 1) The inside of the playhouse was repainted with children-friendly artistry. Below are some photos of the walls and paintings;



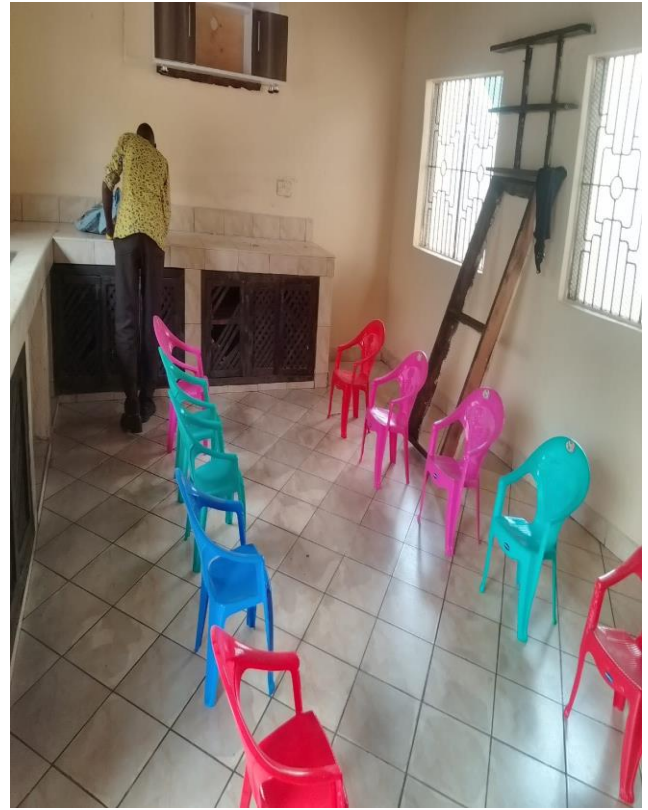
2) One (1) Medium Freezer-169 litres (brand new) was purchased and delivered. Here are some photos of the freezer;



3) Electrical repairs were done.



4) Thirteen (13) Hard plastic Baby seaters (baby chairs) were purchased and delivered for use when dining. Sample photos are as seen below;



5) 2 Low height dining tables for children were ordered, paid for and delivered from a local carpenter. Each of the tables measured 3.5 feet by 2.5 feet, thus the two tables totaled to 7 feet by 2.5 feet sitting capacity for children during meals. This was meant to ensure they don't take their meals on the dusty floor. Images of the tables while undergoing making are as follows;



6) Storage shelves were ordered, made, delivered and installed-by the same carpenter who made the tables.



- 7) Hard but spongy Plastic floor Mats were purchased and delivered to ensure children played in safe, clean, washable and portable spongy mats.



8) Additionally during a separate visit on the 12th May 2024 by officials from Talent Search Foundation and another partner named Timiza Youth Initiative (a Community-Based Organization based in Kilifi, Kenya) several bars of soap were (bar soaps) were donated by the Timiza Youth Initiative. The officials present during this visit we also allowed to hold supervised conversations with the women prisoners and their children and the team encouraged the mothers to remain strong and look forward to a better future.



*Other photos of Alex when he visited the prison on several other occasions to meet and hold discussions with Officers in Charge of Shimo La Tewa prison regarding the Hope Beyond Bars interventions at the prison;



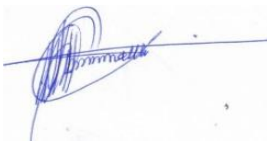
Once again on behalf of Talent Search Foundation, Hope Beyond Bars project participants, Paula Foundation (Netherlands), Kenya Prisons Service authorities, Timiza Youth Initiative (Kilifi) and all other partners and service providers not mentioned herein, I wish to thank all of you for the commitment you have shown towards this project of touching the lives of children of mothers in prison and the mothers themselves. You have injected in the project great sacrifice and devotion and we remain grateful for all that you are doing towards this noble cause.

I wish to apologize profusely for any inconveniences that may have been occasioned by individual challenges temporarily slowing our responses and this delayed submission of final report and closure for support works at the Shimo La Tewa prison. Going forward we purpose and commit to timely reporting devoid of delays. On behalf of all involved I take full responsibility of any inconveniences experienced and ask for your pardon.

Finally let me kindly request that we now turn our focus to the remaining two (2) prisons as per our access permits namely Kwale Women prison and Wundanyi Women prison both of which are also situated in the coastal region of Kenya. Let us purpose to at least visit each of the two prisons and where possible do whatever little we can to touch the lives of children of mothers in prison and the mothers themselves in those prisons. The target is to accomplish these visitations (and any support works deemed urgent and manageable) before the year comes to a close so that we can have a complete end of year report to present to the Kenya Prisons Service to demonstrate our interventions in the four (4) prisons we were given access. I look forward to further communications regarding this assignment.

Thank you and God bless you.

Yours Sincerely,



CHARLES K. M'RINGINE
CEO, Talent Search Foundation



cc: Hope Beyond Bars Team.
