



RUBEN CENTRE

Impact Report

A PRESENT, COMPASSIONATE AND LIBERATING PARTNER



2023

This report aims at informing all our stakeholders on Ruben Centre's achievements for the year 2023.

Overview

Message from The Director

2023 marked a watershed moment in the life of Ruben Centre. The confusion surrounding the position of the Director at the end of 2022 led to dissatisfaction among the staff, who took to the streets to express their concerns about the governance, leadership, and management of the Centre. The critical situation was evident in the poor financial accountability, leading to donor departures and subsequently impacting staff morale.

I returned on February 1st with the hope of addressing the situation and bringing hope and stability to donors, staff, and the Mukuru community. The magnitude of the issue was immediately apparent, but so too was the desire within the staff to join hands with me and revitalize the Centre, which had been launched with optimism at the beginning of the Strategic plan (2021-2025). My first action was to reprint fifty copies of the discarded document. On the very first day, I announced to my new leadership team the return of the school from the wilderness of government partnership and arranged for the payment of January salaries, all thanks to Partners for Equity.

With these decisions, life at Ruben Centre began to return, and this report clearly testifies to all that was to re-emerge. The absence of impactful governance in 2021-2022 needed to be addressed. I was delighted to add impactful financial security by getting the Centre registered as a Christian Brothers Ruben Centre Trust with five potentially great trustees to offer oversight. This was truly a new beginning for the Centre, and 2023 will be remembered for this development. With it came the expansion of the Administration Team, featuring two new positions of Organization and Program Managers.

The school, the largest project, began the year in chaos largely created by the government's decision to impose over 500 junior secondary students who were supposed to move on to their purpose-built Junior Secondary School. Class sizes swelled to over 100 students, many long-term teachers had been given Government jobs and departed, creating staff shortages and a great loss of school culture. I am grateful for the partnership we have with Ghetto Classics, Edmund Rice Foundation Australia (ERFA), and Brighton Jones Foundation (USA) for their crucial financial support. The undeniable fact is that over 3500 students, including over one hundred with Special Needs, benefited from quality education.

Within the health project, free, safe, and dignified birthing services produced over nine hundred babies without even ONE neonatal fatality. I am grateful to Miseen Cara, Ubuntu Through Health, ERFA, and all other funders of the project for their support. The Human Development and Skills Training Program (HDSTP) achieved greatness as well, with the numbers of youth being trained and their efforts at self-sustainability through sales. The hairdressing and beauty course ended with 29 out of 29 graduates all moving on and gaining some employment.

In conclusion, the year ended with a great Christmas celebration for all staff, where the true spirit of the Centre was evident. At that occasion, I sincerely thanked everyone for their enormous support and noted that every one of the staff has played their part, as have our donors and friends. 2024 began with little money and ended in a similar financial state, but what matters is that great friends and donors of Ruben stepped up and got us there, and I am so grateful to them. Well done, team, and on that wind-up day, I reminded them of a throwaway phrase I first encountered on my old school changing room wall: "A Champion Team will always beat a Team of Champions."

Br. Frank O'Shea
Director



Vision

A Present, Compassionate & Liberating partner.

Mission

To liberate the vulnerable and marginalized persons in Mukuru Community through quality education, health and socio-economic services and advocacy

Values

- Presence
- Compassion
- Liberation

Education

Ruben Primary School is the second largest Nairobi government school and at the of 2023 the enrollment stood at a staggering 3517 students. Out of this number, 492 candidates sat their final primary school examination in October 2023. This is the largest candidature, yet, at Ruben Primary School and also the final KCPE exams as the education system in Kenya embraces a new education curriculum.



In the 2023 KCPE results that were released on December of 2023, Ruben Primary School realized an astounding +3.37 increase in the mean mark, to 248.55. Considerable acknowledgement must be given to the alumni remedial tuition that was provided through the Ruben Centre RISE program which offered robust learning opportunities for the lowest performing 100 grade eight students. Ruben Centre administration also facilitated two capacity building sessions to strengthen bonds with the school after relationships had been detrimental in recent times. These meetings also fed into the Ruben Centre mid term review and the teaching staff contributions was a critical input into the new planning.



Ruben Primary School was well represented during the national music festival held in Nyeri. Our talented students brought back trophies for the orchestra and choir after being crowned the best nationwide. The school counsellors have equally helped the pupils struggling with truancy, drug abuse, neglect, and those with emotional and behavioral difficulties.



Recognized abilities- Disability Unit.

Students who have shown improvements in intellectual capacity, from the Kurt Fearnley Special Needs Education Unit got to transition to the regular curriculum offered at Ruben Primary School. In 2023, one student from the unit sat her grade 6 examination (KPSEA), and throughout the year 10 students have been engaged in various out of class activities, including representing Nairobi County at the disability sports events.

IT/ Library department

The digital learning sector has provided more IT resources to students of Ruben Primary School, and this has advantaged students from the Kurt Fearnley Special Needs unit and those in prep 1 & 2 to access the Digital Learning Area for educational content. This is to ensure the future generation is equipped in digital literacy.

A server that will easily avail the new curriculum to the students was installed in late 2023. The use of kindles to access a myriad of books continues to be a necessity to address the burgeoning number of children in every class.

Daycare Centre

Our daycare continues to accommodate up to 80 children a day. This can be attributed to the top notch services delivered at the facility and the ample child friendly space. The daycare has been serving children from the ages of 9 months to 3 years and has been of benefit especially to teenage moms attending any of the skills training courses which promote employment opportunities.

You can see in the wee hours of the morning moms dropping off their young children as they pursue their work in the local industrial area.



Health

In the year 2023, Ruben Health Centre served an 27,055 clients and provided a total of 134,842 services. The facility generated income and has plans to expand its services to include medical transport, laboratory, and biomedical waste management. During this period, the Ruben Health Centre Maternity safely delivered over 1,000 babies without any maternal or neonatal deaths. However, changes in the national health insurance fund resulted in reduced revenue from the Kenyan government, affecting the facility's maternity services the most due to the withdrawal of the Linda Mama initiative. Despite this, maternity services at the clinic remain free for all.

Physio/ Occupational Therapy

Our therapy departments had a busy year, offering 3,784 sessions to 1,051 clients. Cases of rickets due to delayed milestones and cerebral palsy is still common among children attending the clinics. The department also conducted 6 support group therapy sessions for all parents who have their children attending sessions at the clinic.

Launch of new equipment

Courtesy of Rotary Clubs of Essendon (Au) and Utawala (Ke), Ruben Health Centre was furnished with a new waste management incinerator and dental chair. Gould Family Foundation and Margo Salmon also donated towards a new maternity delivery couch.

Awards and recognition

Our health facility was announced as the second runners-up for the prestigious title of Best Faith-Based Organization (FBO) Health Facility. This year, we proudly secured the third position, standing shoulder to shoulder with renowned health institutions such as Mater Misericordiae Hospital and Kasarani FBO Health Centre.



Ruben Health Centre has been committed to laboratory accreditation and achieved ISO certification by the Kenya Accreditation Service in 2023. This achievement has enhanced the quality of its services and increased the potential revenue generated.

The Ruben Health Centre has been accepted by the government as "Ruben Health Centre CBO," which will extend its range of services to provide a variety of Level 3 clinical health services. To maintain quality services, Ruben Centre is dedicated to developing its staff's capacity. All healthcare providers attended ten medical education training sessions to receive updates on healthcare policies. Additionally, eleven maternity staff members underwent medical training and mentorship on basic obstetric care. The Centre also provided obstetric scan services to 1,389 expectant mothers.

Ruben Centre has conducted various community sensitization activities, nutritional training programs, HIV/AIDS active case finding community outreaches, and return to dental services. These activities are aimed at promoting health education and awareness in the community.

Ruben Centre has established new partnerships, including Rescue by Flare, which uses the Centre's ambulance for emergency evacuations within Nairobi, generating income for the health facility. Additionally, the Rotary Club of Essendon has upgraded the Centre's waste management area to include an industrial incinerator, which will be used for environmental waste management marketing and to generate income.



Advocacy & Networking

Ruben Centre's Advocacy Efforts through Ruben FM and Advocacy Department

Ruben Centre is committed to advocating for real-time issues that affect the people of Mukuru.

The organization utilizes Ruben FM and their advocacy department to instill social change.

Ruben FM, in particular, has been a beacon of credible information for over seven years, reaching a wide audience. The radio station hosted its 6th Ruben FM tournament this year, bringing together over 20,000 football enthusiasts.

In 2023, Ruben FM and some of the presenters received recognition in various categories, nationally solidifying the community radio station's impact. The station actively voices issues related to sexual and gender-based violence, mental health, and governance, reaching over 350,000 listeners. In 2023 alone, 2,190 shows were broadcasted through both transmitter frequency and an online link.

The Advocacy department has been heavily involved in the compilation of a conflict analysis report, in partnership with German Cooperation (GIZ). The report was released in 2023 and is available on Ruben Centre's website. In partnership with Habitat for Humanity, the Advocacy department also held a launch campaign for the fair and justified rebuild of Mukuru informal settlement. Previously, the slum upgrading has rendered many members of Mukuru homeless hence the campaign.

Another major accomplishment of the department was supporting 12 community leaders to undertake a mediation training led by The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Kenya (CIARB). The mediator(s), a neutral third party, supports the parties in negotiating a resolution without offering advice or solutions but rather facilitates the process. Mukuru Salama Youth Hub, a project focusing on youth mental health, was also vocal in



Social Economic Empowerment



Social service is arguably the epicenter of Ruben Centre. Impartial with their service to the people of Mukuru, the department has been able to have 600 vulnerable children enrolled at Ruben Primary School with their levies covered by Ruben Centre. Similarly, 300 vulnerable children from Ruben Primary School have been provided with uniforms and necessary stationary to give them dignity and learning tools.

A group of dedicated adults have been demonstrating their commitment to lifelong learning through their participation in an adult education program which began in 2018. Under the stewardship of Catherine Njuki and Magdalene Njenga, the initiative is already making a positive impact, having benefited 40 adults so far, with some even completing their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE). Social department conducted 30 campaigns creating awareness on emerging issues through Ruben FM. Together with Ruben Centre's onsite counsellors, over 500 persons have received free counselling services.



3 women groups were trained on identified income generating activities (IGA) skills and facilitated them with business start-up kits. Key among the groups is that of parents with malnourished children.

Vulnerable women have not been left behind this year. Work for Cash is a rotational casual employment scheme through which Ruben Centre offers placements, within the organization, to women who are sole breadwinners in their families. This year we have offered 64 women so far casual job opportunities

Human Development & Skills Training Program (HDSTP)

The HDSTP is Ruben Centre's multifaceted program that both empowers in both education and livelihood sustainability, production of goods as a sustainability measure and impacts knowledge and skills training that ensures market ready professionals.

In 2023, the HDSTP struck and retained partnerships with several organizations with aligned visions. Siafu Home is a start up in Kenya that is keen on weaving products for export. Our HDSTP teamed with Siafu Home to provide internship opportunities for weaving students, with a high chance of employment after.

Production of woven products for Ashnil hotel groups has continued throughout 2023, ensuring income generation for the department. Sunworld Safaris, another hotel group also worked with our HDSTP by purchasing embroidered wraps and shawls. The County Government of Nairobi also engaged us in several trade fairs where we were called to display products made in Ruben Centre.

In 2023, Ruben Centre was honored to display its products at the Nairobi International Trade fair. The event lasted six days and it proved to be a reliable source of networking as well as revenue generation through the products that were sold.



It was a momentous end of year at our vocational training center as ninety-five students marked the culmination of their educational journey. Of these students, more than 60% of them were already employed before graduating. Three of the graduates were girls living with disability. Ruben Centre intervened by starting up a salon and buying a sewing machine for the girls, so that all graduates are liberated through the knowledge gained at our HDSTP.

in May 2023, Ruben Centre came in first place for the GIZ accelerator program on urban farming. Our circular garden that has plants, poultry and fish all in one setup won first place, globally, out of 400+ submissions. In December 2023, Ruben Centre and GIZ representatives flew to Berlin for an in depth presentation to other presenters and stakeholders. The program, already being piloted in Mukuru informal settlement will move onto implementation in refugee camps in Kakuma come 2024.



The Ruben Centre urban farm has also conducted trainings in Mukuru for various youth and women groups. The trainings have a bias on ensuring availability of nutritious meals for malnourished children. For surplus produce, the groups can sell and generate income as sustainability and livelihoods empowerment measure.

Organization Capacity

Ruben Centre officially received its certificate of incorporation, solidifying its status as a trust. This is on the backdrop of a newly appointed Board of Trustees who will be majorly involved in oversight of the organization moving forward.

The organization has bolstered its management with the addition of a Programs Manager and Operations Manager. The position of Monitoring and Evaluation was also reconstituted into the organogram. Ruben Centre's loyalist volunteer Bev Watkinson rejoined the management briefly near the end of 2023 to help strengthen capacity at the top management. Bev came in clutch as Ruben Centre was half way with its current Strategic Plan and due for a mid-term review. The review is thus far complete and already being implemented through a business and marketing plan.

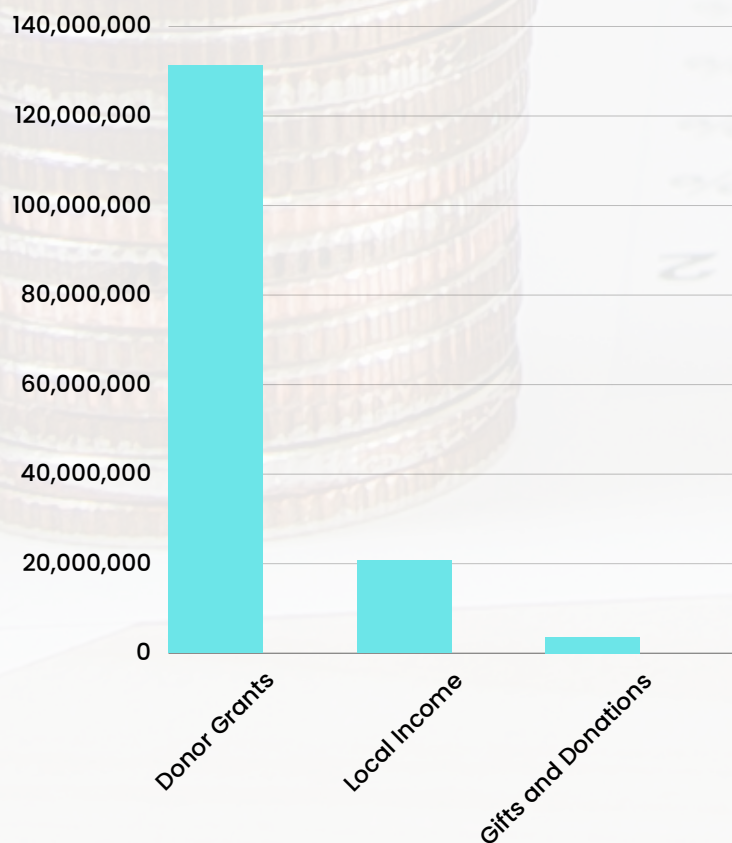
We were delighted to host ERFA CEO, staff and chairperson to the board during an official visit to the organization in November. Earlier in September though we had the privilege of hosting former UN Secretary General Ban-Ki moon as he was accompanied by other dignitaries.



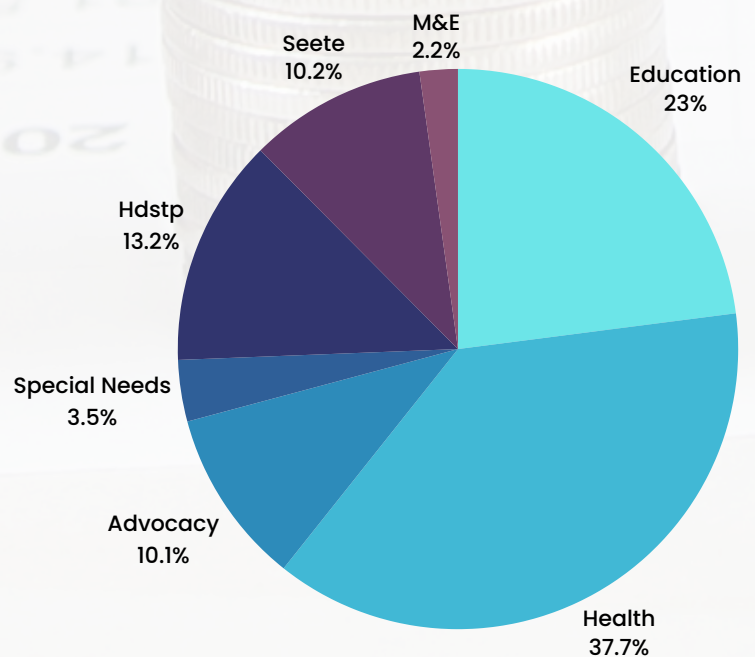


Financial Analysis Jan -Dec 2023

Ordinary Income/Expense	Amount (Ksh.)
Income	
DONOR GRANTS	131,286,847
LOCAL& INTERNAL REVENUE	20,658,404
Gifts and Donations	3,584,960
Total Income	155,530,211
Expense	
Direct Project Costs	52,929,225
Admin Overheads Costs	27,699,622
Personnel Costs	56,393,592
Total Expense	137,022,440.62



Program Cost Analysis Jan -Dec 2023



Asante sana.

#ilenairobi
Danielle Tozai
2022

Because of you, we are making
Mukuru a better place.



 Website
www.rubencentre.org

 FaceBook
<https://www.facebook.com/RubenCentre>

 Instagram
<https://www.instagram.com/ruben.centre>

 Twitter
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