

## The Akili Trust

### Library Quarterly Report

NAME OF LIBRARY	REPORT NO.	DATE	PERIOD COVERED
Dabaso Community Library	56	01.11.2020	August, September and October

#### **Introduction:**

Dear readers,

Greetings from us again!

We welcome you to read our report again. In the last quarter, we followed the proposed directives on public safety. At our libraries, we contributed immensely to the shrinking figures of Covid-19 infections. The rate of new infections in the region dropped in August and September.

As we ponder through the vital moments of the quarter, our personal responsibility remains as the key to succeed in this fight.

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Below, kindly peruse through the news and achievements in the prevalence of the viral onslaught.

#### **Mandatory Temperature check:**

In compliance with the ministry of health orders, we managed to acquire two temperature guns in the quarter period. Anyone accessing the library premises had the temperate checked at the entrance. This was to enhance our readers' safety.

Each gun was effectively used in our two libraries - Dabaso and Watamu.

Today, we are happy to report that in the first quarter of embracing the technology, our body checks were all within the threshold.

#### **August and September Akili teaching program:**

In the first two months of this quarter, schools had not resumed in our region. Up until then, just a few students from prestigious backgrounds enjoyed online learning from the balconies of well-manicured lawns. The vulnerable students in poorly resourced areas languished in their wait.

For the bursary students, we organized a tuition class for the two months.

Because we have more students in Dabaso than Watamu Library, two teachers administered the training in Dabaso and one in Watamu.

Our bursary students had a great opportunity to have a physical teaching experience. At the lapse of the coaching period, they were delighted because all was not lost in spite of the holiday chunks spent at home.

Further, all the three trainers were former Akili bursary students attached in various universities in the country. They were happy to help their colleagues. Indeed, it was an experimental practice of what they anticipate over the coming days.

At Dabaso, we thank our Akili supporters for enabling us to organize this module. It was very helpful.

### **School resumption:**

Since March 2020, learning institutions have remained closed following the outbreak of Coronavirus in the country.

Since then, the education maestros have cancelled several reopening dates.

Notably, the recent few months indicated a decline in the rate of fresh cases. This move mandated the education ministry to reopen schools albeit in a phased manner. This approach meant there would be no congestion in schools to forbid a second wave.

The teachers were the first to report to their various workstations in late September. Their job was to reorganize the schools to readmit students.

On October 12, the first group of students arrived in school. They comprised of the form four in secondary school, the class eight and grade four both in primary school.

After the partial resumption, the government would take stock and provide another date for the mass of students in limbo.

### **The girl talk and Covid-19 workshops:**

We organized two library workshops for our bursary students.

We put an effort towards ending teenage pregnancies among the girls. Statistics were showing that young girls could be at a great risk of sexual abuse during the Covid-19 spell. Poor living standards were listed as some of the factors leading the menace.

In some traditions today, it is still considered a taboo for girls to engage their parents on matters reproductive health.

This lesson is bestowed to the formal teacher in the formal school.

In our analysis, we realized this 'silent behavior' is futile.

Aside from this, sanitary protection for the girls is not easily accessible at home. Some schools provide these measures; so many girls are unlucky to stay away from their learning centers now.

There is a Community Based Organization (CBO) called *Tujengane* in Dabaso. At Dabaso library, we partnered with this CBO to talk to the girls on sexual health and also provide them with free reusable sanitary towels. The donation touched all the bursary girls in Dabaso, Kakuyuni and Watamu. Other vulnerable girls from the community also benefitted. And the towels can be reused for up to three years.

The girls were also trained on their effective use.

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Lawrence, our bursary alumni also graced the occasion. He led an awareness talk about Covid-19. He taught the crowd about the onset of the disease, signs and all the preventive measures to avoid contracting the disease.

His concepts improved the people's understanding of the disease. There was a renewed sense of mitigating the disease after the conference.

#### **The new computers:**

Through our Akili supporters, we managed to purchase a few more computers for our libraries. The computers will help us plan for IT classes.

In addition, the bursary still will have an adequate pool of resources to access online learning.

### **THE LIBRARY REPORT READERS**

Item	August	September	October	Comment(s)
<b>Total number of adult readers from the wider community</b>	260	312	130	In August and September, schools and colleges were still shut. We recorded high numbers because students from various institutions came to the library to do self-studies. In October, the phased reopening of schools had taken place. So a few adult readers were recalled.

Item	August	September	October	Comment(s)
<b>Monthly summed attendance for bursary students</b>	442	420	390	<p><b>For Dabaso and Watamu libraries:</b></p> <p>The two libraries have 17 current bursary students. For the three months of the quarter, the summation of attendance in the two libraries was as shown in the monthly figures. The tuition class was on during the period and there was a nearly 100% attendance every day.</p>
<b>New registered adult readers from the wider community</b>	3	2	3	A few more users registered than the previous quarter. The economy was partially opened and people became free to move albeit with caution.
<b>Current School population</b>	1200	1200	1200	The primary school was only opened for class 8 and grade 4 students. The school population remains as the last quarter.
<b>Watamu library monitoring visits</b>	8	8	4	We managed to make 20 trips to Watamu library during the quarter. In August and September, the visits were more because the tuition was on.

Item	August	September	October	Comment(s)
<b>Collection to support Watamu development</b>				In the library space in Watamu, there are some revision guides and assorted story books for the bursary students. The other students can access the collection after the phased reopening of schools.
<b>Total registered teaching staff</b>	0	0	0	The teachers did not make new registrations. They only reported on 12 <sup>th</sup> October and they have been running up and down to manage the students through extra work and to observe the set guidelines on staying safe. They come to the library on brief cameos to read the newspapers and also make notes for the students.
<b>Average number of school student readers per day</b>	50	75	104	In August and September, some pupils living in the neighborhood could come accompanied by their parents/guardians to study. In October, some students were in the school following the partial reopening hence adding the numbers in the month.

Item	August	September	October	Comment(s)
Average number of readers from community / staff / teachers per day	27	29	20	On daily basis, we provided library services to the indicated number of people. These figures exclude the bursary students and the pupils from the primary schools the libraries are located.

## VISITS

Item	Comment(s)
Class visits	These visits remain prohibited as way of controlling the spread of Coronavirus.
Other schools (teachers and students)	Schools have only opened partially. The government is examining how this will affect the next phase of school return. These visits can only resume when the situation is favorable enough.
Community meetings	This is an area much scrutinized by the government. As the guidelines are still being observed, we could not allow a meeting to take place.
Library committee meetings	In August, we had a committee meeting via zoom. We have resolved to embrace this technology as we try to limit movement and mingling as a means to stay safe.
Bursary students	In August and September, we were able to organize tuition for the bursary students in Dabaso and Watamu libraries.
Other meetings	We had two meetings in the quarter. We organized one with <i>Tujengane</i> to donate sanitary towels for the vulnerable girls. We also had an awareness meeting on Covid-19.
Staff visits to other libraries	Cornelius and Erickson met during the quarter to buy and program the new computers thanks to our Akili supporters.
Other visits / visitors	Two <i>Tujengane</i> officials visited the library to initiate the meeting with the bursary students.

## BOOKS

Item	Comment(s)
<b>Books for school</b>	As usual, the students who were around during the quarter period accessed these books from the libraries. Due to the tuition we organized during the quarter, the tutors were able to assist them to make notes from these books.
<b>Books for personal study</b>	During breaks, the bursary students and other visiting students accessed the revision guides in the libraries.
<b>Books for reading for pleasure</b>	The pupils present at the moment borrowed these books. They like reading them mostly at free intervals.
<b>Newspapers</b>	All the teachers are now back, so they accessed the dailies more frequently. The pupils in year eight also perused through the sports pages of the newspapers.
<b>Books and papers requested by readers</b>	African storybooks, junior fiction and the newspapers.
<b>Promoting a reading culture</b>	During the quarter, we organized the students to go through study sessions. Because we had to observe all the protocols to stay safe, we carried some materials to designated places outside our libraries so that our users could access them in well ventilated areas.
<b>Interaction with readers</b>	In the quarter, we were able to interact with the bursary students as they came to do their studies. We also interacted with other adults who came to do their studies too.
<b>Suggestions for future purchase</b>	African books

Item	Comment(s)
<b>What are the computers used for?</b>	For training students, school staff and the wider community.
<b>Which IT packages are used?</b>	The normal IT basic packages are used. They are; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to computer</li> <li>• Use of word</li> <li>• Use of excel</li> <li>• Use of access and others</li> </ul>
<b>How many school students are undertaking IT training?</b>	In the coming quarter, we hope to make a partial resumption of the computer classes. This time, we have had to observe stringent measures in order to keep safe.
<b>How many community members are undertaking IT training?</b>	There are five members but we are recruiting more. Our perpetuation has been hindered by the ongoing disease. But we will do whatever possible to recruit more members like we had before the Covid-19 period.
<b>What are the main IT issues?</b>	During the quarter, our major issue was not having the computer classes on a smooth sail because of the above hindrance.
<b>Who else makes use of the IT e.g. Teachers?</b>	Outsiders asked to use the computers during the quarter.
<b>Other devices used</b>	Phones and other accessories.
<b>Connectivity e.g. WIFI</b>	During the quarter, we connected the WIFI router to connect to the internet.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS QUARTER

1. Successful tuition for the bursary students
2. Sanitary protection for vulnerable girls
3. Phased reopening of learning institutions

## PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER

1. To manage reader activities with the few students present in school
2. To explore the possibility of resuming the tuition for the bursary students

## SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

1. More African story books





- Date: 01.11.2020**

