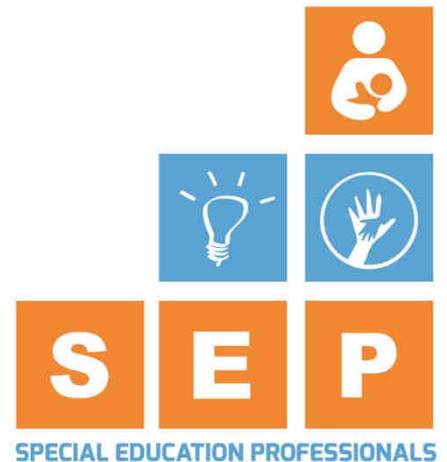


**SPECIAL
EDUCATION
PROFESSIONALS**

ANNUAL REPORT

2016



FOREWORD FROM DIRECTOR

SEP can look back at an amazing year. The organisation has doubled in personnel and activities. A welcome factor is that for the first time SEP has employed a local special needs teacher and physiotherapist which is in line with the professions in SEP.

It is very exciting to have inclusive education as part of our programmes. It is a challenge to change attitude. As much as inclusion is in the Kenya constitution, it is still far from implementation. Teachers are not prepared to have children with disabilities in their class room. It is very encouraging to see that some schools are open to inclusion and committing to training to enable them to accommodate those students who need an adapted teaching strategy. Our special needs teacher in charge of this programme has gone an extra mile to convince teachers, and to offer support to make the inclusion programme possible.

SEP has expanded the Wezesha programme with another 45 participants from three different dioceses and counties trained as peer educators. Visits to the field are eye openers to see the reality of families living in rural areas often with far distances to bridge to reach services. It is a learning experience with a number of challenges but the spirit of the team in charge is high, always looking for solutions and accommodating the needs of the children.

The SEP projects are on-going with the intern members learning about the trans-disciplinary approach, and how to work with parents as partners and the child as equal member in the intervention. It is encouraging to see young professionals grow in their skills and confidence.

SEP has added more pillars to the intervention: there is the father support group and the sibling workshops. Fathers are empowered to take responsibilities and be part of the intervention. Siblings receive information and get the chance to express their feelings about having a sibling with a disability, through play, art, music, and drama. It has been a positive happening with family members more involved and improved lives of the children we work with.

SEP has been active with the help of the communication advisor working on the series of books "This is Me". These books tell the stories of three young children who have a disability and how they love to be part of inclusive education. Our staff member is working around the clock to have them ready for printing by the beginning of next year.

SEP has started a new project called "Therapeutic Toys", with three toys for kindergarten and lower primary level. They help stimulate fine motor, daily life, and cognitive skills. SEP is currently identifying a market for these toys.

SEP is as always a dynamic organisation with new talents that are nurtured. A warm thanks to all people involved in creating a better world for children with disabilities and their families.

Karolien Remmerie
Director SEP

FOREWORD FROM CHAIRPERSON

The year that has just ended was a busy one for SEP. I saw a significant step forward in disability awareness and inclusion with major achievements made in inclusive education in our partner schools. This was made possible by cooperation among the members, interns and our partners.

As SEP grows, our vision is becoming clearer with time and service delivery is improving. We are looking forward to a bigger picture that will impact the society in a more positive way. As the chairman, I am looking into a society that is more inclusive and accommodative to persons with disabilities. We are making this possible by providing early intervention services at the community level.

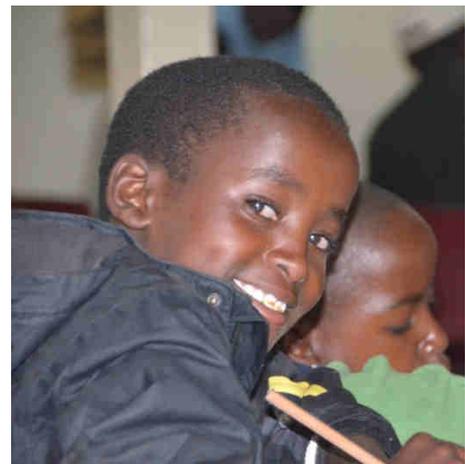
The Wezesha programme that we are running attests to our commitment to reach out to the community. By changing community perceptions and attitudes, we hope that we will be building linkages for growth for “ALL” irrespective of their ability status.

I am greatly indebted to all the SEP members, interns and partners who are working hard to make this possible. I do hope that in this election year, we will remain focused on our fundamental goal.

Dr. Onala John Ouma
Chairman SEP

SUMMARY AT A GLANCE...

2479	Our workshops on a wide range of special needs topics have seen a total attendance of 2479 parents, caregivers, teachers, therapists, and students.
272	We have helped 272 children with disabilities through regular therapy interventions carried out by our members working at our partner organizations in Kariobangi, Mimosa, and Mukuru.
393	We have seen 393 children with disabilities at our 'Early Intervention Consultations'. Each family received advice, support and empowerment from our multi-disciplinary team.
63	We have 63 SEP members, including Occupational Therapists, Special Needs Teachers, Physiotherapists, Speech and Language Therapists, and Psychologists: mainly volunteers who dedicate their time and expertise to the Kenyan community.
10	We are working with 10 partner organizations to help us achieve our goals and objectives successfully.
8	We had 8 members of staff: an Occupational Therapist, a Physiotherapist and a Communication Advisor supported by <i>COMUNDO</i> ; an Occupational Therapist and Special Needs Teacher supported by <i>Christian Children Communities Movement – eRko</i> ; an Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist supported by <i>Misereor</i> ; and an Administrative Assistant.
3	SEP successfully held 3 "Dance for Youth with Special Needs" events in partnership with Sarakasi Trust.
1	Team! SEP remained 1 united, diverse, multi-disciplinary and international team determined to help children with disabilities.



INTRODUCTION TO SEP

Special Education Professionals (SEP) is a registered society whose members volunteer their time and expertise. SEP is a multi-disciplinary team of special education professionals working within the framework of education, rehabilitation and healthcare in Kenya. The group recruits its members from the following professionals: Speech and Language Therapists (SLT), Occupational Therapists (OT), Physiotherapists (PT), Psychologists, Special Needs Teachers (SNT), among others.

Our vision is a Kenya and a world where every child, regardless of special needs, has the chance to reach their fullest potential in life. We will strive to be a centre of excellence that ensures that every child with special needs has access to the support it needs.

Our mission statement is: ***To promote trans-disciplinary approach and skills development amongst all professionals working with children with special needs. This will ensure that together we provide high quality and sustainable interventions that support the child and empower their parents and caregivers.***

Our main objective is to enhance and improve special education services in Kenya by producing better trained professionals with a trans-disciplinary approach.

Our values include:

1. Giving dignity to the child with special needs and empowering them and their families.
2. Working as a team whose members consult, cooperate and support one another.
3. Being a learning organisation that trains, mentors, networks, and shares skills to make us all stronger professionals.
4. Giving our time and expertise to help those less fortunate.

SEP was registered as a society on 19th January 2001 under registration number 19624.



TRAINING OF PROFESSIONALS: THERAPISTS & SPECIAL NEEDS TEACHERS

1. TRANS-DISCIPLINARY TRAINING

Goal

To have all members confident in practicing trans-disciplinary therapy intervention, in line with the SEP mission.

To achieve professionalism amongst SEP members, SEP organizes trans-disciplinary trainings that help in developing and strengthening the knowledge, skills, and abilities across different professional skills. SEP creates opportunities to access resources that are a requisite when working with children with disabilities.

During the year 2016, SEP offered 5 trainings for therapists and special needs teachers who were intern members of SEP. The interns who participated in the 2 week trans-disciplinary approach will continue receiving more practical training in the SEP projects under supervision of the SEP training team.

Topics in Trans-disciplinary Approach:

1. Assessments
2. Functional goal setting & therapy plan
3. Classification of CP
4. Handling & positioning
5. Stretching
6. Passive techniques
7. Massage
8. Therapy equipment design, fabrication and adaptation
9. Case studies
10. Feeding
11. Play
12. Autism
13. Communication
14. Behavior modification
15. Sensory integration

INTERN TRAINING		
Date	Title	Number
14 th May	Developmental milestones and how to train them in a functional way	4 professionals
11 th June	Developmental milestones and how to train them in a functional way and training on feet	6 professionals
13 th August	Assessment, clinical reasoning and Vojta training	8 professionals
10 th September	Pain management	3 professionals
14 - 25 th November	Trans-disciplinary training	15 professionals



Practical session during intern training in trans-disciplinary approach

2. TRAINING OF TRAINERS

Goal

To provide participants with the opportunity to acquire and practice skills in facilitating training programmes and to enhance their abilities to design session plans.

During the training of trainers, SEP members are taught how to deliver courses and workshops. The training is facilitated by an experienced instructor who covers everything from course design, to better interpersonal skills.

By conducting training of trainers every year, we can continue to build up a team of professional trainers, hence our training initiatives can be completed efficiently.

TRAINING OF TRAINERS		
Date	Title	Number
9 th March and 7 th May	Training of trainers	9 professionals

3. TRAINING OF SEP MEMBERS DURING MONTHLY MEETINGS

Goal

To enhance professional development of SEP members; and to create a platform for members and trainees to facilitate trainings.

TRAINING DURING MONTHLY MEETINGS		
Date	Title	Number
16 th January	Work burn-out	16 professionals
20 th February	Psychosocial support	28 professionals
18 th March	Quantum physics in early intervention	13 professionals
20 th May	Meta bio-psycho-educational intervention	19 professionals
17 th June	What exactly is Autism Spectrum	17 professionals
22 nd July	Metaphysical approach in education intervention	15 professionals
20 th August	How to do chest therapy	20 professionals
20 th August	Overview of the underlying causes of handwriting difficulties and possible intervention to improve handwriting	20 professionals
19 th November	How does ideology and culture influence education provision	15 professionals
19 th November	Relationship between core stability, functional movement and performance	15 professionals

4. TRAINING OF SEP PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Goal

To enhance professional development of SEP physiotherapists, ensuring they continue to be competent in their profession.

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS TRAINING		
Date	Title	Number
3 rd August	Treatment of Pretusmachialis damage	5
17 th August	Functional treatment of hemiparesis part 1	4
31 st August	Functional training – gait	4
14 th September	Functional treatment of the shoulder	4
28 th September	Functional training of trunk using PNF	3
30 th November	Introduction to PNF	6

WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS, CAREGIVERS, THERAPISTS & TEACHERS

1. WORKSHOPS AT GERTRUDE'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Goal

To build knowledge in parents, caregivers, therapists and teachers by providing information on specific topics and therapy interventions related to the different needs. It is important for parents and professionals working with children who have disabilities to develop and strengthen their skills and abilities.

The workshops were held at Gertrude's Children's Hospital, Muthaiga on the last Saturday of the month.

A total of 298 parents, caregivers, therapists and teachers attended the workshops.

WORKSHOPS AT GERTRUDE'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL		
Date	Title	Venue
27 th February	How to teach different skills to a child with disabilities	27 participants
2 nd April	Inclusive Education	37 participants
30 th April	Lets GIT it: Get Involved Together	67 participants
28 th May	Classroom Management	21 participants
30 th June	Communication	21 participants
27 th August	Parenting skills	14 participants
24 th September	Diet Intervention	64 participants
5 th November	Behavior Modification	14 participants
26 th November	Sensory Integration	33 participants



2. WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS, CAREGIVERS AND SIBLINGS IN THE SEP PROJECTS

Goal

To provide knowledge, understanding and skills in parents and caregivers on the management of their children as parents and caregivers play a big role in their development. The different topics cover the different aspects in the development of a child. The workshops empower the parents and caregivers by acquiring knowledge and skills to practice and implement in their homes.

SEP decided to help the sibling children from the projects as well, by organizing workshops / play days during the school holidays in partnership with Sarakasi Trust. The workshops offered a secure place where they had the opportunity to express themselves, talk about their feelings, their worries and their fears.

Having a child with disability in the family affects every family member, including the siblings. Very often these siblings have to take huge responsibilities and take care of the child with disability, despite their own age. This leads to different reactions e.g. feeling neglected, embarrassed, sad, stressed etc. Knowing there are other children experiencing the same, can help to deal better with their own situation.

So far SEP has held 42 workshops in the projects.

WORKSHOPS IN PROJECTS			
Date	Title	Venue	Number
27 th January	Feeding; Developmental Milestones & Cognitive Development	Child Doctor	21 parents
27 th January	Feeding; Developmental Milestones & Cognitive Development	Child Doctor	21 parents
1 st February	Feeding; Developmental Milestones & Cognitive Development	Songa Mbele	8 parents
25 th February	Feeding; Developmental Milestones & Cognitive Development	Comboni health	26 parents
23 rd March	Acceptance	Paulos Home	39 parents
4 th April	Communication	Songa Mbele	24 parents
6 th April	Communication	Child Doctor	19 parents
7 th April	Communication	Comboni Health	11 parents
8 th April	Communication	Ubuntu in Maai Mahiu	23 parents
25 th April	Siblings workshop	Songa Mbele	13 siblings
27 th April	Siblings workshop	Child Doctor	40 siblings
28 th April	Siblings workshop	Comboni Health	24 siblings
18 th May	ADLS workshop	Child Doctor	13 parents
23 rd May	ADLS workshop	Songa Mbele	11 parents
26 th May	ADLS workshop	Comboni Health	16 parents
27 th June	First Aid	Songa Mbele	24 parents
29 th June	First Aid	Child Doctor	38 parents
30 th June	First aid	Comboni Health	17 parents
15 th July	First aid	Ubuntu in Maai Mahiu	14 parents
19 th July	Handling & Positioning	Comboni Health	16 parents
20 th July	Handling & Positioning	Child Doctor	14 parents
25 th July	Handling & Positioning	Songa Mbele	14 parents
15 th August	Chest therapy	Songa Mbele	15 parents
16 th August	Chest therapy	Comboni Health	16 parents
22 nd August	Siblings workshop	Songa Mbele	40 siblings
24 th August	Siblings workshop	Comboni Health	21 siblings
25 th august	Siblings workshop	Child Doctor	72 siblings
31 st August	Chest therapy	Child Doctor	9 parents
9 th September	Chest therapy	Ubuntu in Maai Mahiu	9 parents
10 th September	Acceptance for fathers	Songa Mbele	12 fathers
19 th September	Play	Songa Mbele	16 parents
20 th September	Play	Comboni Health	13 parents
21 st September	Play	Child Doctor	18 parents
17 th October	Acceptance	Songa Mbele	17 parents
18 th October	Acceptance	Child Doctor	22 parents
27 th October	Acceptance	Ubuntu school	24 parents
21 st November	Cognitive Stimulation	Songa Mbele	18 parents
28 th November	Siblings workshop	Songa Mbele	35 siblings
30 th November	Siblings workshop	Child Doctor	61 siblings
1 st December	Cognitive Stimulation	Comboni Health	23 parents
13 th December	Feeding workshop	Comboni Health	23 parents



3. TEACHER TRAINING

Goal

To support realistic inclusion, by offering teacher training workshops in regular schools, ensuring teachers have gained necessary skills and capacities to include children with disabilities in their classroom.

SEP visited schools in the project sites to seek partnership opportunities and started cooperation with 7 schools, to train the teachers and caregivers enabling them to improve skills in assessment, designing individual educational plans and adapting teaching strategies to the needs of the child. A series consisting of 9 topics were designed for the teacher training.

9 topics were facilitated to schools including:

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS

TEACHER TRAINING			
Date	Title	Venue	Number
26 th May	Inclusion talks	Everglades Kindergarten	4
31 st May	Inclusion talks	KAG Mathare Child Development Centre	20
31 st May	Inclusion talks	SDA Primary	26
2 nd June	Inclusion talks	St. Bhakita Primary	24
3 rd June	Causes, Types and Identification of different types of disabilities	Everglades Kindergarten	4
6 th June	Inclusion talks	Mukuru Primary	32
7 th June	Causes, Types and Identification of different types of disabilities	St. Bhakita Primary	24
9 th June	Causes, Types and Identification of different types of disabilities	KAG Mathare Child Development Centre	20
5 th July	Causes and Types of Disability	Mukuru Primary	36
8 th July	Learning Difficulties	KAG Mathare Child Development Centre	22
11 th July	Learning Difficulties	St. Bhakita Primary	24
12 th July	Learning Difficulties	Mukuru Primary	36
14 th July	Foundations for Spelling, Reading and Mathematics	Mukuru Primary	36
18 th July	What is Inclusion, Advantages and Disadvantages.	Ridgeville Academy	20
18 th July	What is Inclusion, Advantages and Disadvantages.	Pentecostal Evangelistic Fellowship Africa (PEFA) School	17
21 st July	Classroom Management	Mukuru Primary	36
26 th July	Content Differentiation	Mukuru Primary	36
28 th July	Peer Mediated Strategies	Mukuru Primary	36
2 nd August	Exercising In the Classroom.	Mukuru Primary	28
4 th August	Peer Mediated Strategies	Mukuru Primary	32
5 th August	Disability, Types and Causes	Pentecostal Evangelistic Fellowship Africa (PEFA) School	17
15 th August	Disability, Types and Causes	Ridgeville Academy	14
17 th August	Learning Difficulties	Ridgeville Academy	14



4. TOY MAKING WORKSHOPS

Goal

To make the parents and caregivers discover that interesting toys can be made with disposable and local available inexpensive materials, and learn how to use them to stimulate their child.

Play is so important in child development that it's been recognized by the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights as a right of every child. Play is an essential part of every child's life and is vital for the social, emotional, intellectual and physical development. Through play, children discover the world around them and achieve a variety of skills. Children with disabilities need to have suitable stimulating toys to play with, in order to develop their cognitive, motor, communication, social and emotional skills.

SEP has held 6 toy making workshops in 2016:

DATE	PROJECT	ATTENDANCE
19 th February	Comboni Health	6
26 th February	Songa Mbele	24
4 th March	Child Doctor	24
22 nd April	Ubuntu in Maai Mahiu	18
28 th May	Songa Mbele	5
5 th June	Songa Mbele	3

The participants made a number of toys including: activity boards, tactile books, matching boards, mobiles, shakers, stacking toys, play dough, water pipe, feeling number and sound cards, lacing cards, picture books, and pegboard activity, among others.



5. WEZESHA TRAINING

Goal

To train the participants to become peer educators for other families in their communities with whom they share similar social backgrounds and life experiences. The trained peer educators are expected to identify other families in their community and transfer skills to them.

This training was organised for parents of children with disabilities and community workers as the training is also useful for rehabilitation, health and education workers at any level.

The training was aimed at sharing information and improving skills of parents, who will pass on skills learnt to other parents in their community. Furthermore, this will enable them to start their own support group, which will be monitored and sustained through regular visits by SEP. The existence of these support groups will create opportunities to access funds for families with children with disabilities that are provided by the government.

All participants were issued with a Wezesha training manual, Developmental milestones wheel and brochures on different conditions including: Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Learning Difficulties, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Communication Disorder, Rickets and Rights for Children with Disabilities.

WEZESHA TRAINING			
Date	Title	Venue	Number
19 th – 24 th June	Wezesha for Machakos group	Kikuyu hospital	15 parents & community workers
25 th – 29 th July	Wezesha for Narok group	Kikuyu hospital	15 parents & community workers
10 th – 14 th October	Wezesha for Nakuru group	Kikuyu hospital	15 parents & community workers



Follow up visits to 2015 and 2016 Wezesha groups were conducted to evaluate whether the selected peer educators were transferring the skills they learned at the training to other mothers who have children with special needs in their areas, and also to know the challenges they are facing and areas where SEP could offer any further training support.



WEZESHA VISITS			
Date	Title	Venue	Number
10 th March	Wezesha evaluation visit	Nyanduma	15 parents & lay therapists
11 th March	Wezesha evaluation visit	Muranga	12 parents & lay therapists
14 th April	Wezesha evaluation visit	Nakuru	14 parents
15 th April	Wezesha evaluation visit	Kericho – Kipkelion	90 parents
28 th April	Wezesha evaluation visit	Kajiado	19 parents
12 – 13 th May	Wezesha evaluation visit	Meru	21 parents
18 th August	Wezesha evaluation visit	Machakos	11 parents & community workers
19 th August	Wezesha evaluation visit	Machakos	11 parents & community workers
16 th September	Wezesha evaluation visit	Narok	12 parents & community workers
15 th December	Wezesha evaluation visit	Nakuru	16 parents & community workers

From the evaluation visits it was clear that a number of the peer educators have potential to grow and reach many other parents and communities. They are willing to learn more and to train more. They however definitely need further training and support as it is important that they better understand the conditions of the children in order to transfer appropriate skills.

6. EXTERNAL WORKSHOPS

Goal

To provide knowledge, understanding and skills for parents and caregivers who are not part of the SEP projects.

SEP receives requests by other organizations to facilitate workshops for their parents or staff, to help improve their skills and abilities.

SEP held 10 external workshops in 2016 on:

OTHER WORKSHOP VENUES			
Date	Title	Venue	Number
5 th April	Awareness Training Course in Amref training	AMREF	25 professionals
13 th April	Working with kids of different abilities in the same class	Heshima	11 professionals
16 th April	Sensory integration	Convenant school Rongai	18 parents
20 th April	Cognitive stimulation	Kikuyu hospital	6 parents
20 th April	Cerebral palsy	Kikuyu hospital	6 parents
21 st April	Communication	Kikuyu hospital	6 parents
21 st April	Toy making	Kikuyu hospital	6 parents
1-4 th June	Teacher training and Toy making	Kisii school for the M.H.	11 teachers
23 rd August	Handling and Positioning	Garden of Siloam	16 parents
6 th September	Feeding	Garden of Siloam	16 parents



SUMMARY OF TRAINING & WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE

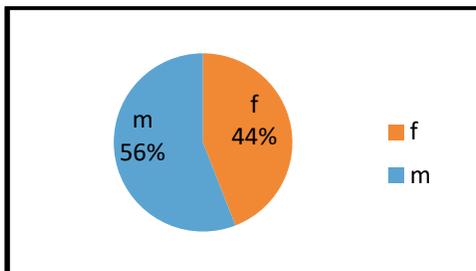


THERAPY INTERVENTION IN SEP PROJECTS

SEP allocated intern therapists and special needs teachers to offer therapy intervention in three centres in the course of 2016. The therapists and special needs teachers, who had also attended the 2 weeks trans-disciplinary training, ensured that therapy intervention and training of the parents and caregivers was offered on a regular basis. The parents and caregivers developed a better understanding of the condition of their children and were more actively involved in the therapy intervention. This contributed to many positive results, better management of the condition, preventing deformities and creating more functional movement, enabling the children to achieve their full potential.

The SEP team consisting of one occupational therapist, one physiotherapist and one special needs teacher continued to offer therapy support, training and supervision for intern members in the following centres:

CENTRE	DAYS	ATTENDANCE CHILDREN
Comboni Health Programme in Kariobangi	Every Tuesday & Thursday	157
Child Doctor in Mimosa	Every other Wednesday	59
Songa Mbele na Masomo in Mukuru	Every Monday	56
Total		272



SEP conducted evaluation visits to see if the objectives set for the projects had been achieved and to set up new action plans.

DATE	TITLE	PROJECT
20 th January	Project Evaluation	Child Doctor in Mimosa
5 th February	Project Evaluation	Comboni Health in Kariobangi
8 th February	Project Evaluation	Songa Mbele in Mukuru
10 th February	Project evaluation	Paulos Home in Kibera
12 th February	Project evaluation	Ubuntu in Maai Mahiu
3 rd November	Project evaluation	Child Doctor in Mimosa
3 rd November	Project evaluation	Songa Mbele in Mukuru
9 th November	Project evaluation	Comboni Health in Kariobangi
11 th November	Project evaluation	Ubuntu in Maai Mahiu

FATHERS SUPPORT GROUP

In October 2015 SEP mobilised fathers of children with disabilities to form a support group to encourage fathers to understand the conditions of their children and get involved in the interventions. The program aims to support fathers who have a child with a disability and increases their self-confidence, self-esteem and

parenting skills. It also reduces their family's isolation, promotes the important role fathers play in their family, and provides an opportunity for fathers and children to share experiences and build stronger relationships.

In 2016 the group had a series of workshops including acceptance, causes of disabilities and toy making organised by SEP under eRko project. Some of the fathers have shown improved commitment and participation in therapy, workshops and fathers meetings.



SEP celebrated the international Day of Persons with Disabilities, on 3rd December 2016, by organising a fun day for the fathers and their children. The event was attended by 23 fathers together with their children and targeted fathers whose children attend therapy in the SEP partner organisations. The goal of the event was to create awareness among the fathers on the importance of the support group in order to encourage more fathers to join the group, to be able to engage fathers in the interventions and to have an opportunity to connect with their children.



The group currently has 21 registered members and has the following as its objectives:

- To create awareness to all fathers especially those with children who have disabilities to take responsibility and be involved in the lives of their children.
- To promote acceptance of children with disabilities in their families and eventually communities.
- To demystify myths surrounding disability and enlighten the families on the causes of disabilities and available interventions.
- To encourage family fun time hence understand their children better.
- Sensitize communities on the rights of children with disability.
- Creating a platform where fathers can share their experiences and offer each other psychosocial support.
- Advocating for improved access to healthcare and rehabilitation services, inclusive education, vocational training and employment of persons with disabilities.

DISABILITY & INCLUSION AWARENESS DAYS

SEP in partnership with the projects and Sarakasi Trust organized Disability and Inclusion Awareness Days for children with disabilities. The events were aimed at: fighting stigma by creating awareness on disability; sensitizing the community on various disabilities and available interventions; and enabling parents by providing a forum for them to seek clarification on the condition of their child.

DATE	TITLE	PROJECT
1 st July	Disability awareness day	Songa Mbele
18 th November	Disability awareness day	Child Doctor
3 rd December	Disability awareness day – fathers fun day	Songa Mbele
3 rd December	Disability awareness day	Ubuntu in Maai Mahiu



WHEELCHAIR PROJECT

SEP in partnership with AIC Kijabe Hospital, donated 7 wheelchairs to children in the projects we work with. This was a follow-up from the full week training on Wheelchair Training held in 2015. SEP made monitoring visits to ensure the wheelchairs were well maintained.



EARLY INTERVENTION CONSULTATIONS

Since 1998, Special Education Professionals organizes “Early Intervention Consultations” (EIC).

Early intervention services are designed to quell anxiety by providing resources and solutions to help new parents and their babies. SEP advocates supporting families in early intervention, therefore during the consultations, parents or caregivers receive information that helps them to better understand the condition of their child, and to obtain advice on how to deal with the challenges at home. On March 16th 2016, SEP celebrated the 18th birthday of the Early Intervention Consultations. The EIC, which started in 1998, has been held on a monthly basis to date.

In 2016 SEP stopped the consultations at Gertrude’s and focused only on external consultations. This was mainly to reach out to the target population of people from lower economic groups, since they have minimal or no access to existing professional services. In many rural areas, families live in abject poverty, and resources are normally geared towards basic needs. The professional services available in rural areas are also scarce and families are forced to walk many kilometres before accessing them. Due to these reasons, SEP decided to reach out to those families through external consultations.

EARLY INTERVENTION CONSULTATIONS		
DATE	VENUE	NUMBER
21 st May	Rare Gem School in Kitengela	22 Children
18 th June	Agapeland Special School	45 children
16 th July	Humanitarian centre in Kawangware	22 children
5 th August	KAG Primary School	39 children
12 th August	Nyamira County	199 children
17 th September	Migwani Special School in Kitui	29 children
15 th October	Humanitarian centre in Kawangware	13 children
6 th December	Nyanduma	24 children
Total		393 children



DANCE FOR YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

SEP organized three “Dance for Youth with Special Needs” events, in partnership with **Sarakasi Trust** at the Sarakasi Dome. These events were organized to create an avenue where youth with special needs can relax, have fun and dance in a safe environment supported by their loved ones, caregivers and therapists. Youth with special needs require opportunities to enjoy recreational and leisure activities with others their age.

In 2016, Sarakasi team introduced an MC to run the event which has been of much success, as the event gets more structured and much more fun for the youth.

	January 29 th	May 27 th	September 30 th
Number of Youth	39	30	25
Number of Schools	7	5	4

A few schools mentioned that getting transport to the venue was a challenge and we will try finding ways of solving this challenge in 2017.



WALKING AUTISM

SEP partnered with Abigail Brooke, a young lady with high functioning autism for a 2nd awareness walk, from 1st to 28th September 2016. This walk was from Nanyuki and back to Nanyuki, going round Mt. Kenya, with three camels and two guides with the aim of raising awareness about autism and possibilities of support and intervention for people with autism and children with disabilities in general.

Abigail passed through the following major towns: Meru, Embu, Nyeri and Nanyuki where SEP professionals gave awareness talks in partnership with the local EARCS and Ministry of Health.

SEP also collaborated for: planning and management; resource mobilisation and fundraising; mobilisation, communication, and public relations and media service.



PARTNERSHIPS

1. **COMUNDO from Switzerland** – An occupational therapist, Ms. Jutta Wermelt, attached to SEP through COMUNDO has continued her work with SEP throughout 2016. The occupational therapist was able to take up various supervisory tasks in planning, execution and evaluation of SEP activities as well as trainings for SEP members.

The physiotherapist/Vojta therapist, Ms. Constanze Motzka, who joined SEP in 2012, continued to work with SEP in 2016. The Vojta therapist trained the physiotherapists in SEP, and worked on training materials in the area of physiotherapy. She worked at the SEP projects as part of the training team and at the early intervention consultations, facilitated in the Wezesha training and coordinated the sibling's workshops.

A communication & public relations specialist, Mr. Christian Schubarth, was hired in April 2016 under the project "Capacity Building of Staff in regards to Public Relations." His assignment covers ensuring SEP is a known stakeholder in the area of disability; a communication strategy is in place and SEP publishes educational materials.

Due to the partnership between COMUNDO and Association for Development Cooperation (AGEH), SEP attended 3 day training on Safety and Security Management organised by AGEH.

SEP participated in a two days COMUNDO Kenya partner organisations meeting that focused on exploring concepts, development, sustainability, justice, self-determination and integrating enterprise development and ICT with your work.

2. **DKA / Christian Children Communities Movement – eRko from Slovakia** – An occupational therapist, Ms. Irene Owino, attached to SEP through eRko since 2013 continued to work in the projects till March 2016, as part of the training team and at the early intervention consultations. She was replaced by Mr. Kelvin Kahianyu, occupational therapist, to continue the work. He facilitated a number of workshops for parents, caregivers and teachers.

The special needs teacher, Ms. Emmi Gielen continued her work on inclusion. She was involved in conducting assessments, creating individual educational plans, identifying children to benefit from

inclusion, identifying schools for inclusion programmes, teacher training and organising disability awareness days.

3. **Misereor from Germany** – Misereor a donor organisation from Germany approved a proposal to support SEP in 2016. Ms. Irene Owino, occupational therapist, and Mr. Isaac Makori, a physiotherapist, were hired to coordinate and facilitate the Wezesha trainings and follow-up visits.
4. **Gertrude’s Children’s Hospital in Muthaiga** – The SEP office has been located at Gertrude’s Children’s Hospital for 16 years now. SEP has continued to benefit from being based in a children’s hospital. The management has offered the office and all amenities at very subsidized rates. SEP holds its meetings and monthly workshops at the hospital.
5. **Walking Autism** – SEP held several planning meetings, resource mobilization and gave awareness talks for the awareness walk by Ms. Abigail Brooke, a young lady with high functioning autism, around Mount Kenya to raise awareness on autism and disabilities in general. This was done in partnership with **Autism Awareness Kenya**.
6. **Sarakasi Hospital Trust** – SEP partnered with Sarakasi Trust and organized 3 Dance for Youth with Special Needs. Sarakasi Trust hosted the events at the Sarakasi Dome and organized the music and entertainment.

The Sarakasi team also participated in the siblings workshops and disability awareness days by performing plays, linked to the theme of the events.

7. **Community Organization Training for Risk Reduction - COTTR** – SEP held an intervention consultation for children with special needs from Nyanduma in partnership with COTTR.
8. **PCEA Kikuyu Hospital** – SEP facilitated four workshops at PCEA Kikuyu Hospital, Low Vision Department on cognitive stimulation, cerebral palsy, communication and toy making, for mothers who have a child with vision problems.

PCEA Kikuyu, Guest House also hosted all the Wezesha trainings.

9. **AIC KIJABE HOSPITAL** – SEP partnered with AIC Kijabe for the wheelchair project where seven wheelchairs were issued to children in the SEP projects.
10. **Action for Children with Disabilities (ACD)** – SEP joined an umbrella body of 35 organizations working in the field of disability in Kenya, concentrating on health, inclusive education and social inclusion.

ACD meetings are held every month and SEP attended 5 meetings in 2016. SEP was also involved in developing the ACD brochure.

11. **Deutsche Ordensobernkonzferenz** – Deutsche Ordensobernkonzferenz partnered with SEP by providing funds for the This-is-me books. These books are about young children with disabilities, about their strengths and expectations. The books are made for children in mainstream schools to help them understand disability, importance of inclusive education and social inclusion..
12. **Kaizora Kenya** – SEP participated in the yearly Autism Awareness Fun day organised by Kaizora Kenya. SEP members gave professional talks during the fun day and had a stand with brochures and display of various educational toys made using locally available materials.

NETWORKING

1. **Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB)** – SEP held 3 meetings with officials from KCCB to request for a reference letter for the Wezesha training. KCCB fully supported and recommended the concept note submitted to them.
2. **County Offices** – SEP sent request letters and held several meetings with different county office personnel from Nairobi county, Narok county, Machakos county to request for authorization to carry out the programmes in the various counties.
3. **State Department of Basic Education, Ministry of Education, Kenya** – SEP held a meeting with Mr. Fred Haga, Senior Assistant Director of Education to discuss possible cooperation opportunities. SEP also sent out a concept note for training of EARC personnel to the Ministry. Finally a representative from the Ministry attended an inclusion and disability awareness day organised by SEP.
4. **Kenya Medical Training College (KMTCC)** – SEP gave out a talk to the 3rd year occupational and physiotherapy students to inform them about SEP and membership opportunities.

ADVOCACY

SEP participated in various advocacy events including:

- ACD meetings
- Inclusive Education Conference at KISE
- Leonard Chesire conference on inclusive education in South C
- ECDE Policy review in Naivasha



ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. MEMBERSHIPS

SEP has recruited 15 new members to the organization. 5 interns graduated to full members.

Occupational Therapists	7
Physiotherapists	5
Special Needs Teachers	3

Occupational Therapists	3
Special Needs Teachers	2

SEP members list is in annex 1.

2. OFFICE BEARERS

In 2016 SEP introduced the position of Director to the office bearers. The director shall: preside over board governance by overseeing board meetings in a manner that supports and guides the organization's missions defined by the board; preside over financial performance and viability by developing resources sufficient to ensure financial health of the organisation; preside over organizational mission and strategy; and oversee and implement organization operations.

During the Annual General Meeting, Mrs. Karolien Remmerie was appointed as the new SEP director and Dr John Onala was appointed as the Chairperson of the organisation.



3. STAFF

SEP employed four more employees in 2016



Emmi Gielen Wanyanga
Special Needs Teacher
Inclusive Education



Kelvin Kahianyu
Occupational
Therapist



Isaac Makori
Physiotherapist



Christian Schubarth
Communications
Advisor

4. ORGANISATION POLICIES

SEP developed and put in use a Mentorship Guideline to mainstream roles and responsibilities of mentors and mentees.

FUNDING

1. PROPOSALS

SEP sent out 7 proposals for funding: 2 for the Wezesha training; 1 on inclusive education; 1 for supporting Walking Autism project; 1 for training of EARC personnel; 1Wish List; and 1 for the Dance for Youth.

Out of these proposals **6** have been successful: 2 for the Wezesha training; 1 on inclusive education; 1 for supporting Walking Autism project; 1Wish List; and 1 for the Dance for Youth.

2. LOCAL DONATIONS

SEP received local donations totalling Kshs **266,000/=** to fund some programmes run by SEP.

The donations were received from:

- a) Local theatre performance fundraiser
- b) German parish in Nairobi – towards three dance for youth
- c) Parents from My School Montessori – towards adapted furniture project
- d) Mpesa donations towards Walking Autism
- e) Consolidation of donors & well wishers

3. EXTERNAL DONATIONS

SEP received external donations totalling Kshs **5,500,010/=**, and **16,424** euro to fund several programmes run by SEP.

The donations were received from:

- a) Christian Children Communities Movement, eRko in Slovakia – to fund payment of salaries and training
- b) Misereor – to fund payment of salaries and training
- c) Noord-Zuid Zwevegem, Belgium – funding towards adapted equipment and training
- d) Event Verein Pfunds – to fund Walking Autism
- e) Deutsche Ordensobernkonferenz funding towards making and printing of “This is me” books
- f) Crowd funding towards Walking Autism
- g) Consolidation of donors & well wishers

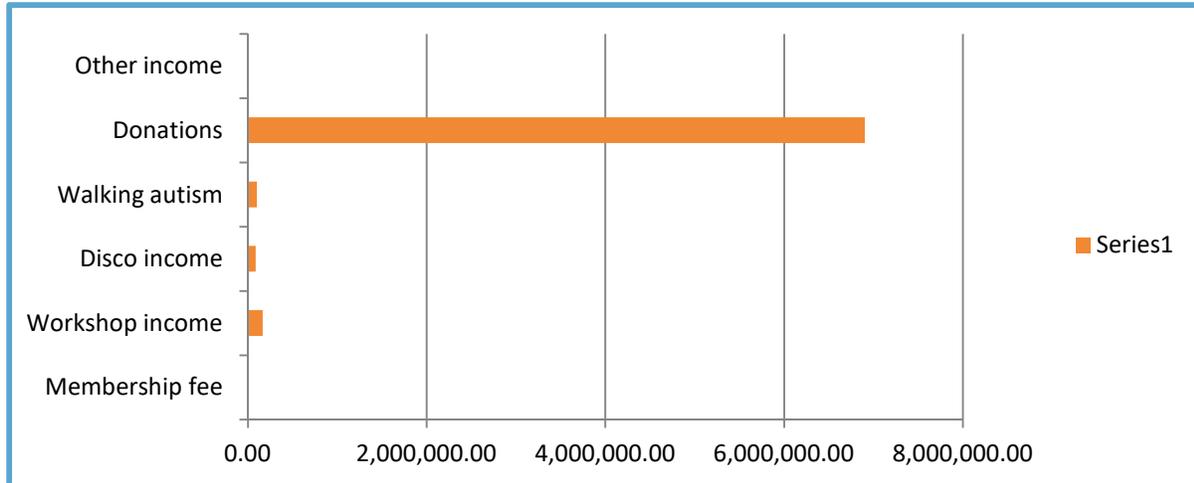
SEP also received indirect funding from COMUNDO (Switzerland) that provides professional staff.

4. INCOME & EXPENDITURE

Extracts from 2016 audited accounts

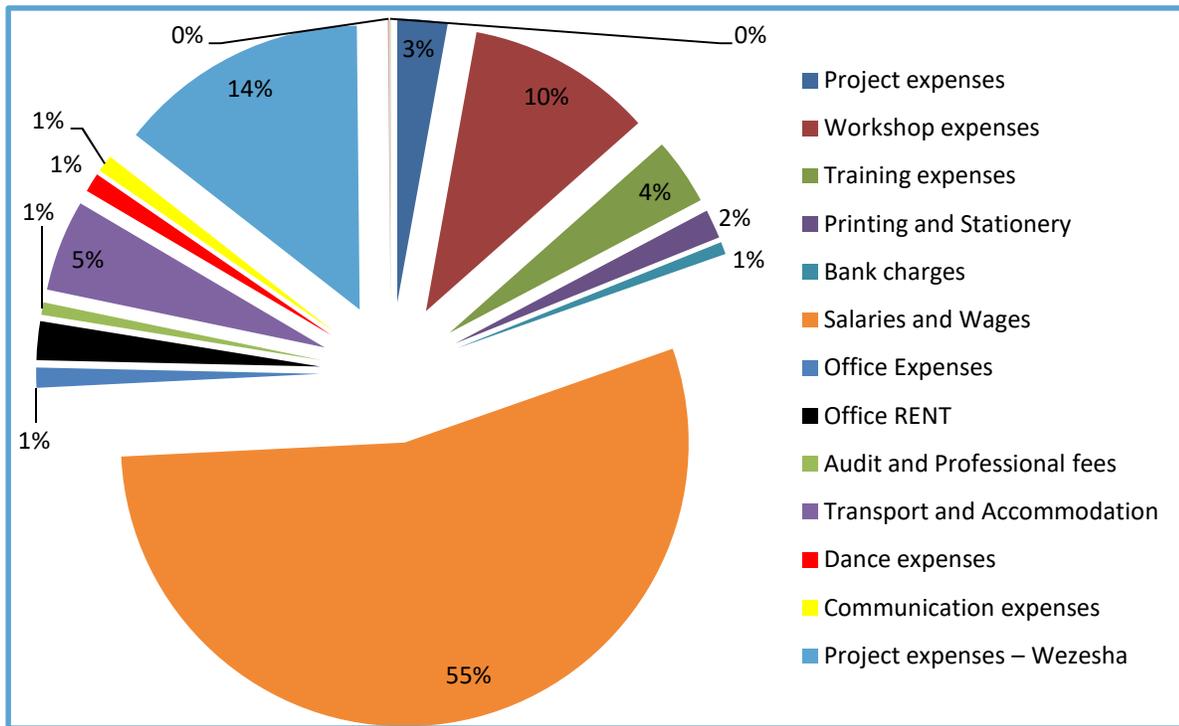
INCOME

Membership fee	4,500.00
Workshop income	164,850.00
Disco income	88,500.00
Walking autism	100,000.00
Donations	6,901,510.00
Other income	2,300.00



EXPENSES

Project expenses	223,494.00
Workshop expenses	831,838.00
Training expenses	298,835.00
Printing and Stationery	129,818.00
Bank charges	55,198.00
Salaries and Wages	4,283,607.00
Office Expenses	88,814.00
Office RENT	173,420.00
Audit and Professional fees	55,000.00
Transport and Accommodation	408,845.00
Dance expenses	85,500.00
Communication expenses	76,445.00
Project expenses - Wezesha	1,121,410.00
Website costs	6,000.00
Exchange loss	6,106.00



SEP ACTION PLAN FOR 2017

1. WEZESHA TRAINING

SEP will conduct a follow up Wezesha training for the parents and community workers who attended in 2015 and 2016.

2. TRAINING OF TRAINERS

SEP will train members on a training of trainers' course, to provide participants with the opportunity to acquire and practice skills in facilitating training and to enhance their abilities to design session plans. The goal is that the participants will in the future be part of the SEP training team.

3. INTERN TRAINING

SEP will offer practical training to all the intern members who have undergone the trans-disciplinary training in November 2016. The interns will be further trained in the projects by the training team consisting of an occupational therapist, a physiotherapist and a special needs teacher.

SEP will organize a two week trans- disciplinary training for new members who will be recruited in 2017.

4. EARLY INTERVENTION OUTREACH CONSULTATIONS

SEP will expand the early intervention consultations by visiting schools and centres in different counties. This will enable us reach our target group of low income families who may not have access to services.

The venues for the consultations are as follows:

January	-	Mwiki School in Nairobi county
February	-	Narok county
March	-	Rare gem School Kitengela in Kajiado county
April	-	Kajiado county
May	-	Nairegi enkare in Narok county
June	-	Makueni county
July	-	Karirikania in Nakuru county
August	-	no consultation due to elections
September	-	Menengai in Nakuru county
October	-	Narok county
November	-	Nairegi enkare in Narok county

5. THERAPY INTERVENTION AND TRAINING IN PROJECTS

SEP will continue allocating intern therapists to offer therapy intervention in 7 centres and schools in the course of 2017. The therapists will ensure that therapy intervention and training of the parents and caregivers is offered regularly. Three new projects will be added in 2017, the projects will include:

PROJECT	PROJECT DAYS
Songa Mbele in Mukuru	Every Monday
Imarika in Mukuru	Every Tuesday
Mwiki primary in Mwiki	Every Tuesday and Wednesday
Child doctor in Mimosa	Every Wednesday
Comboni Health in Kariobangi	Every Thursday
Ubuntu in Maai Mahiu	Once a month
John Paull II home in Lodwar	Twice a year

The SEP team consisting of one occupational therapist, one physiotherapist and one special needs teacher will also continue to offer therapy support, training and supervision for intern members and training for the parents and caregivers in those centres.

SEP will hold evaluation meetings at the centres to review the programmes and evaluate impact.

6. THERAPEUTIC TOYS FOR SALE

SEP has produced three therapeutic toys: a matching mat, a gecko with closures, and a tortoise for sale. The toys mainly stimulate fine motor, sensory and cognitive skills. The proceeds from the toy sales will go towards supporting children with special needs from low income families in Kenya.

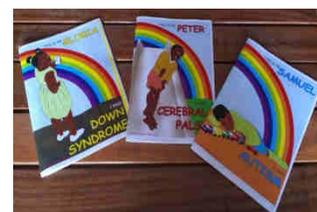


7. INCLUSION

SEP will continue with the inclusion programme, by offering more workshops and support for teachers in selected regular schools and follow-up of children exited from SEP projects to regular schools.

8. AWARENESS CREATION

SEP will publish and launch three children's books titled "*This is me*" on disability conditions namely: Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, and Autism Spectrum Disorder. These books are about children with disabilities, their capacities and expectations. SEP's goal is to get these books approved by the Kenyan Institute of Curriculum Development (Ministry of Education) in order to see them distributed in schools. They shall contribute to learning about children with disabilities, having a positive attitude towards them, and strengthening the inclusion process.



SEP will organise more disability and inclusion awareness days aimed at sensitizing the community on various disabilities and available interventions; and enabling parents by providing a forum for them to seek clarification on the condition of their child.

SEP will re-design the layout of the handouts on therapy intervention; how to stimulate cognitive development; developing communication through play & everyday activities; oral-motor and swallow exercises; feeding strategies; helping children with severe communication challenges; chest therapy; lifting & carrying; and positioning. The handouts will be more streamlined, with a professional look and will be easy to understand.

SEP will develop two more brochures on spina bifida and hydrocephalous.

SEP will continue distributing brochures and handouts on various disabilities and intervention methods.

9. SEP POLICIES

SEP will reinforce all the existing policies by presenting them during the monthly meetings to SEP members.

10. STRATEGIC PLANNING

A SEP committee will be formed to work on a new strategic plan 2018 – 2022.

11. MONITORING & EVALUATION

SEP will develop a re-assessment form and parent's evaluation form to be used for measuring qualitative information during monitoring and evaluation.

12. MONTHLY MEETINGS

SEP will hold the Annual General Meeting, Board Meetings and Monthly Meetings where activities are evaluated and planned. Lectures and case studies will be scheduled during the monthly meetings to work on professional development.

13. WORKSHOPS FOP THERAPISTS, PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

SEP will continue hosting workshops for therapists, parents and caregivers at Gertrude's Children's Hospital as the demand for these workshops is high.

The topics and dates are:

Early Identification & Intervention of Autism	-	28 January
Handwriting	-	25 February
Stammering	-	29 July
Nanny Training (autism focus)	-	26 August
Vision Problems in Learning	-	20 September
Hearing Impairment	-	28 October
Hyperactivity and how to deal with that/tantrums	-	25 November

(These workshops may be interchanged)

SEP will continue to hold workshops for different homes, centres and schools. These include: *Comboni Health Programme* in Kariobangi, *Songa Mbele na Masomo* in Mukuru, *Child Doctor* in Mimosa, *Comfort the Children* in Maai Mahiu, *Imarika* in Mukuru, *Mwiki Primary School* and *Kikuyu Hospital – Low Vision Department*, amongst others. These workshops will be on topics relevant to the different groups.

14. WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS FOR FATHERS

SEP will continue organizing workshops and meetings for fathers of children with disabilities.

15. WORKSHOPS FOR SIBLINGS

SEP will continue organizing workshops for siblings of children with special needs. This will be follow-up workshops with the aim to form support groups for the older siblings and create a play presentation for the younger group for their parents.

16. DANCE FOR YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

In partnership with *Sarakasi Trust*, SEP will organize three “Dance Events for Youth with Special Needs”. The dance party is a special event for the teenagers and young adults with special needs to socialize in a safe environment. In 2017 the events will take place in the morning hours to allow more schools to participate.

17. NETWORKING

SEP will actively be involved in networking with key organizations working in the field of special needs.

18. FUNDRAISING

SEP will continue its fundraising activities by making different presentations to different organizations, writing proposals and also by organizing different activities and functions.

19. TEAM BUILDING

SEP will organize a team building event for all the members who volunteer their time towards our activities. The team building will help go a long way to improve professional relations, understanding and cooperation, thereby ensuring better productivity.

SEP will continue striving for a better world for children with disabilities and their families.

*If you would like to have more information on SEP and its activities,
or if you would like to make a contribution to support SEP, please contact:*

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/sepkenya

YouTube: www.youtube.com/sepkenya

ANNEX 1

List of full members 2016	
NAME	PROFESSION
Karolien Remmerie	Occupational Therapist
Irene Owino	Occupational Therapist
Esther Muriuki	Occupational Therapist
Jutta Wermelt	Occupational Therapist
Kelvin Kaihanyu	Occupational Therapist
Mary Musyoki	Occupational Therapist
George Onoka	Occupational Therapist
Victor Juma	Occupational Therapist
Martin Muriuki	Occupational Therapist
Jane Wanja	Occupational Therapist
Hellen Ngei	Occupational Therapist
Dr. John Onala	Special Needs Consultant
Emmi Gielen	Special Needs Teacher
Dennis Omari	Special Needs Teacher
Lilian Agesa	Special Needs Teacher
Kavita Vaid	Special Needs Teacher
Eva Nyoike	Special Needs Consultant
Esther Wambui	Special Needs Teacher
Mwaura Waruguru	Special Needs Teacher
Gregory Kipngetich	Special Needs Teacher
John Githinji	Special Needs Teacher
Nancy Munyi	Special Needs Teacher
Elizabeth Macharia	Special Needs Teacher
Tom Mutiso	Physiotherapist
Conny Motzka	Physiotherapist
John Areba	Physiotherapist
Petronilla Bwasu	Physiotherapist
Lunar Odawa	Counseling Psychologist
Jaini Shah	Speech Therapist

List of intern members 2016	
Basilisa Otolim	Occupational Therapist
Sharon Cheronon	Occupational Therapist
Wilkister Nyangoge	Occupational Therapist
Judith Nanjala	Occupational Therapist
Kelvin Chege	Occupational Therapist
Judy Mwangi	Occupational Therapist
Prenick Mbayasi	Occupational Therapist
Nyongesa Elisabeth	Occupational Therapist
Minnie Waiyaki	Occupational Therapist
Ruth Kihui	Occupational Therapist
Victorine Opiyo	Occupational Therapist
Agnes Muringi	Occupational Therapist
Nyanchama Deoffnie	Occupational Therapist
Alice Wanjiku	Occupational Therapist
Nancy Wamala	Occupational Therapist
Cecilia Njeri Kamau	Occupational Therapist
Kenneth Peter Mwangi	Occupational Therapist
Isaac Makori	Physiotherapist
Mark Wanyama	Physiotherapist
Regina Wambui	Physiotherapist
Shirlyn Mwachi	Physiotherapist
Hanningtone Muhanji	Physiotherapist
Zadock Mutai	Physiotherapist
Conceptor Bala	Physiotherapist
Evans Kimindiri	Physiotherapist
Cecilia Kamene	Special Needs Teacher
Albert Ogollah	Special Needs Teacher
Millicent Makena	Special Needs Teacher
James Muthomi	Special Needs Teacher
Isabella Mapesa	Special Needs Teacher
Ruth Gichinga	Special Needs Teacher
Ecrah Wambui	Special Needs Teacher
Alice Mikuzi	Special Needs Teacher
Leah Atim Busolo	Special Needs Teacher