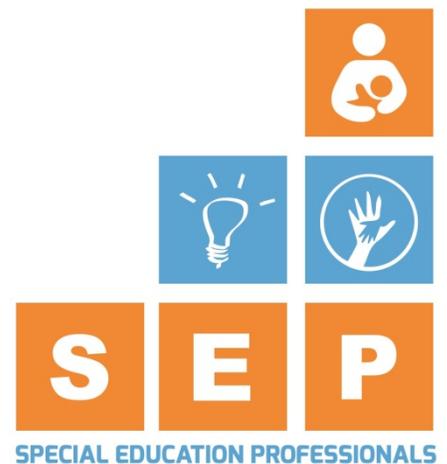


**SPECIAL
EDUCATION
PROFESSIONALS**

ANNUAL REPORT

2015



Foreword

The writing of the annual report is always a fascinating moment as we look back at what happened in the span of one year. 2015 has once more been marked by the ongoing expansion of our activities, our projects and the number of involved persons. However, the quantum leap takes a quite astonishing dimension: SEP almost tripled its activity volume within the last five years.

Beyond its well established activities, such as therapy intervention, consultations, workshops, or the yearly intern training, SEP has engaged in three new initiatives in 2015: the Wezesha training, a fathers' support group, and inclusive education. Wezesha – the Kiswahili word for empowerment – aimed at training mothers and community volunteers to act as peer educators for other families in their neighbourhood. This first workshop was a powerful exchange with a lovely group of committed participants: a real joy to work with. The support group for fathers of children with disabilities is a new platform that gives them a visibility in their role as caregivers. The start was a success with a high turnout. The group is now holding monthly meetings. The fathers are committed to create a change of attitude and to advocate for the rights of their children. Concerning inclusive education, SEP started a process of identifying schools that are open to accept children with disabilities. Unfortunately families often don't see any benefit of education and stigma further isolates the children. A special needs teacher joined our core team whose main task is to promote the right and need for education for children with disabilities. She is now working on the identification of the children's strengths in order to position them for an inclusive education with her support.

There was also business as usual: SEP had its yearly trans-disciplinary training for professionals who signed up as intern members. Therapists and special needs teachers spent two weeks together with the aim to build practical skills and teamwork with professionals from other disciplines.

SEP's core activities were followed once more by various information and communication initiatives. We updated five brochures on different types of disabilities and added one on rickets. Another new brochure goes with a slightly different vocation as it stresses on the rights for children with disabilities. The result of an intense team work, SEP published a developmental milestones wheel that helps identifying the development level of a child and gives advice on how to stimulate it in order to reach the next level. SEP also published the Wezesha manual for the training, a compilation of identification and intervention strategies in all developmental areas.

Last but not least, 2015 was also the year of SEP's rebranding, with the launching of its new logo. It stands for empowerment of families and early intervention. The colours, orange and blue, are complementary. What is more, they are often used for the presentation of play, and play is our main entrance to the child and its family. Orange is the colour of social communication, optimism, enthusiasm, stimulation, and creativity. Blue is associated with professionalism, loyalty, reliability, healing, and understanding. All these characteristics are found in the SEP team: people with different backgrounds working together with a shared target.

Such an exciting environment is also the result of trustful relations, not only between members and staff, but also with all our partners and donors. I seize the opportunity to thank them for their commitment to support SEP's activities and its contribution to a better world for the children with disabilities and their families.

I can say with confidence that our team is in full gear. SEP continues expanding staff wise, in scope of work and budget, and geographically. I am looking forward to work with this dynamic team in 2016.

Karolien Remmerie
Chairperson SEP

SUMMARY OF 2015 AT A GLANCE...

1356 Our workshops on a wide range of special needs topics have seen a total attendance of 1356 parents, caregivers, teachers, students and members.

339 We have helped 339 children with disabilities through regular therapy interventions carried out by our members working at our partner organizations in Kariobangi, Kibera, Mimoso, Mukuru, and Maai Mahiu.

147 We have seen 147 children with disabilities at our 'Early Intervention Consultations'. Each family received advice, support and empowerment from our multi-disciplinary team.

69 We have 69 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.

11 We are working with 11 partner organizations to help us achieve our goals and objectives successfully.

4 We have been assisted by 4 Volunteers from partner organizations: an Occupational Therapist and a Physiotherapist from *COMUNDO*; and an Occupational Therapist and Special Needs Teacher from *Christian Children Communities Movement – eRko*

2 SEP successfully held 2 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 2015, SEP offered 3 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
3. Therapy Plan
4. Classification of CP
5. Handling & Positioning
6. Stretching
7. Passive Techniques
8. Massage
9. Therapy Equipment Design, Fabrication and Adaptation
10. Case Studies
11. Feeding
12. Play
13. Autism
14. Communication
15. Sensory Integration I & II

Dates	Training	No. of Participants
7 February	Chest Therapy	10
7 February	Clinical Reasoning	10
16 - 27 November	Trans-disciplinary Approach	18



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.

Date	Training	No. of Participants
27 March	Training of Trainers	9

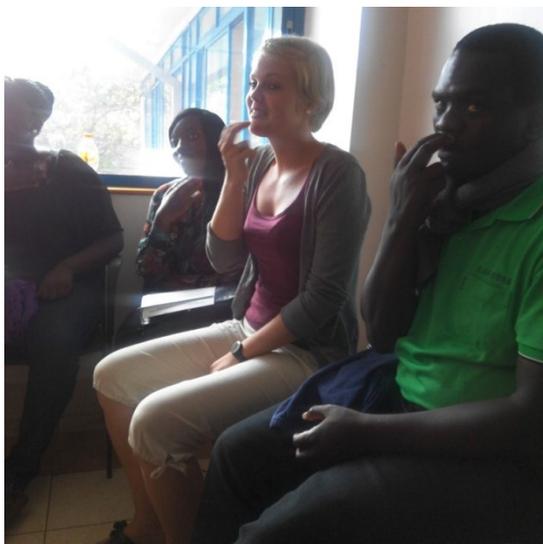
3. TRAINING OF SEP MEMBERS DURING MONTHLY MEETINGS

Goal

To enhance professional development of SEP members, and to create a platform for members and trainees to deliver training.

Topics in the training included:

1. Trunk Stabilization
2. Community Empowerment Approach
3. How to Apply for a Job
4. Diet Intervention
5. Neuro Cognitive Restructuring Techniques
6. Emotion Freedom Technique
7. Sign Language
8. Social Learning Theory
9. Treatment of Hypotonic Child
10. Practical Guidelines on Play
11. Language Stimulation Techniques
12. Positioning in the Classroom
13. Tube Feed



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 Hospital, Muthaiga on the last Saturday of every month.

A total of 245 parents, caregivers, therapists and teachers attended the workshops.

The workshops at the beginning of the year had a record number of participants attending, with *Early Identification and Intervention of Autism* having **82** participants followed by *Sensory Integration* with **65** participants.

Workshop Topics Included:

1. Early Identification & Intervention of Autism
2. Sensory Integration
3. Inclusion
4. Impact of Delayed Development on Learning
5. Toilet Training
6. After School, What Next?
7. Promoting Independence in Children with Special Needs
8. Handwriting
9. Classroom Management
10. Behavior Modification



2. WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS 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 added a new workshop on First Aid as it is crucial to have basic knowledge to take care of any critical situation that may occur. Knowledge of first aid promotes a healthy, secure and a safer environment, and instills confidence. Basic first aid knowledge is also very helpful in dealing with trauma situations.

So far SEP has held 29 workshops in the projects.

DATE	NAME OF WORKSHOP	PROJECT	ATTENDANCE
26 January	First Aid	Songa Mbele	16
29 January	First Aid	Comboni Health	21
12 February	Feeding	Comboni Health	14
4 March	Play	Paulo's Home	18
11 March	Play	Child Doctor	17
18 March	First Aid	Paulo's Home	41
23 March	Play	Songa Mbele	26
25 March	First Aid	Child Doctor	29
26 March	Play	Comboni Health	15
20 May	Activities of Daily Living	Child Doctor	47
10 July	First Aid	Malaika Kids	20
13 July	Passive Movement	Songa Mbele	20
16 July	Passive Movement	Comboni Health	13
29 July	Passive Movement	Child Doctor	18
16 August	Handling and Positioning	Songa Mbele	13
19 August	Parents Forum	Paulo's Home	43
20 August	Handling & Positioning	Comboni Health	12
26 August	Handling & Positioning	Child Doctor	28
23 September	Chest Physiotherapy	Child Doctor	29
24 September	Chest Physiotherapy	Comboni Health	11
29 September	Chest Physiotherapy	Songa Mbele	24
30 September	Chest Physiotherapy	Paulo's Home	20
26 October	Play and Cognitive Stimulation	Songa mbele	24
28 October	Play and Cognitive Stimulation	Paulo's home	23
29 October	Play and Cognitive Stimulation	Comboni Health	14
4 November	Play and Cognitive Stimulation	Child Doctor	20
4 December	Acceptance	Child Doctor	62
10 December	Acceptance	Comboni Health	14
18 December	Parents Forum	Songa Mbele	38
		Total	690



3. 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 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 seven toy making workshops in 2015:

DATE	PROJECT	ATTENDANCE
30 January	Paulo's Home	15
6 February	Songa Mbele	5
27 February	Child Doctor	24
6 March	Comboni Health	8
13 March	Malaika Kids	21
10 April	Mathare	18
20 April	Kikuyu Hospital	7
	Total	98

The participants made a number of toys including: activity boards, tactile books, matching boards, mobiles, shakers, stacking toys, water pipes, posting bees, soft rattles, feeling bag, play dough among others.



4. WEZESHA MOTHER TRAINING

Goal

To train the parents to become peer educators for other parents 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 for lay therapists 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 mothers 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.

DATE	VENUE	ATTENDANCE
2 – 6 Nov	Kikuyu Hospital Guest House	20



5. 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 five external workshops in 2015 on:

DATE	TOPIC	VENUE	ATTENDANCE
March	Sharing Session	Mathare	18
20 March	Counselling workshop	Mathare	18
10 April	Play	Mathare	18
16 April	Positioning and Handling	Nyanduma	15
19 April	Communication and Feeding	Kikuyu Hospital	7
		Total	76

THERAPY INTERVENTION IN SEP PROJECTS

SEP allocated intern therapists to offer therapy intervention in five centres in the course of 2015. The therapists ensured that therapy intervention and training of the parents and caregivers was offered regularly. 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 them to achieve their full potential.



The SEP team consisting of one occupational therapist, one physiotherapist and one special needs teacher (who started in July) 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	126
Child Doctor in Mimosa	Every other Wednesday	54
Songa Mbele na Masomo in Mukuru	Every Monday	59
Paulo's Home in Kibera	Every other Wednesday	70
Malaika Kids - Ubuntu in Maai Mahiu	Every 2 nd Friday of the month	30
Total		339

FATHERS SUPPORT GROUP

Families are valued members of the SEP team hence the organization strives to involve all family members at all levels of intervention. Over the years, SEP has been working with parents but mainly mothers have been involved. The fathers have been absent as a result of societal expectations and denial. In most Kenyan cultures having a disabled child is interpreted as a curse or something related to witchcraft. Families do not like to be associated with disability. Fathers are also in most cases the bread winners of their families and so taking care of the children is left to the mothers alone. The mothers expressed frustrations because they single-handedly take care of the child with disability. The mothers are going through depression, separation and some have been divorced. Some mothers also reported abuse from their husbands accusing them of being responsible for the disability.

In order to get the fathers involved and alleviate these problems, SEP formed a support group for fathers. The support group is aimed at demystifying disability and taking the group through sessions that will lead to acceptance and get them involved in the intervention processes. The group has had three meetings since October 2015 and there has been a positive response. The first meeting was successful as it was well attended by **38** fathers. The second meeting was attended by **19** fathers and the third meeting was attended by **24** fathers.

The goal of the fathers' group meeting is to have the identified fathers become change agents to other fathers through training and workshops.



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 2015, SEP celebrated the 17th birthday of the Early Intervention Consultations. The EIC, which started in 1998, has been held on a monthly basis to date.

In 2015 SEP introduced consultations in Just As We Are in Meru, Agape Land Special School in Kahawa Sukari, Special School in Maai Mahiu, Mothers Group in Suswa, and Precious Gift School in Komarock, in addition to the regular ones at Gertrude’s Hospital. 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.

There has been a steady decrease in the number of children coming for consultations in Gertrude’s, this **may** be due to a number of reasons including: no free bus coming to the hospital anymore; an increase in the number of services for children with special needs in Nairobi; increased consultation fees from 100/= to 300/= amongst other reasons. In 2016 SEP plans on venturing into external consultations only where the need seems to be great.

DATE	VENUE	NUMBER OF CHILDREN
17 January	Gertrude’s Hospital	6
15 February	Just As We Are, Meru	44
21 March	Gertrude’s Hospital	7
18 April	Special School in Maai Mahiu	8
16 May	Gertrude’s Hospital	4
24 June	Agape Special School in Kahawa Sukari	22
18 July	Gertrude’s Hospital	2
15 August	Parents Group in Suswa	35
19 September	Gertrude’s Hospital	4
17 October	Precious Gift School, Komarock	6
21 November	Gertrude’s Hospital	9

Vital Statistics from the Consultations

147 children have so far attended the SEP Early Intervention Consultations

There were **86 boys** and **61 girls** at the consultations

The highest number of children seen on one day was **44** at Just As We Are in Meru



DANCE FOR YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

SEP organized two “Dance for Youth with Special Needs” events, in partnership with **Sarakasi Trust** at the Sarakasi Dome. The event was 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.

The Dance for Youth was featured on “Kenya Kids” (www.kenyakidz.com) a website that runs updates on kids/youth in Kenya ([Link to the article : http://kenyakidz.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1280:children-%20with-special-needs-to-enjoy-a-one-of-a-kind-dance&catid=15:activities-classes&Itemid=232](http://www.kenyakidz.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1280:children-%20with-special-needs-to-enjoy-a-one-of-a-kind-dance&catid=15:activities-classes&Itemid=232)).

	May 2015	September 2015
Number of Youth	20	35
Number of Schools	2	6



PARTNERSHIPS

1. **COMUNDO from Switzerland** – An occupational therapist attached to SEP through COMUNDO has continued her work with SEP throughout 2015. 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, who joined SEP in 2012, continued to work with SEP in 2015. The Vojta therapist worked at the SEP projects as part of the training team and at the early intervention consultations. She also worked on the SEP curriculum, SEP Wezesha training manual and physiotherapy handouts.

Through its interns programme (HOPLAA), COMUNDO provided SEP with an physiotherapist, who also assisted in the SEP projects for 3 months.

SEP participated in the two days COMUNDO Kenya annual meeting, where the following topics were discussed: Organization Development, Sustainability, Capacity Building, Social Justice, and lessons learnt. On the second day there were sessions on Leadership and Team Management

2. **DKA / Christian Children Communities Movement – eRko from Slovakia** – An occupational therapist attached to SEP through eRko since 2013 continued to work in the projects as part of the training team and at the early intervention consultations. She facilitated a number of workshops for parents, caregivers and teachers. She also worked on the occupational therapy part of the curriculum and Wezesha training manual. eRko approved an extension of the contract with the addition of a special needs teacher to work towards inclusion. The special needs teacher joined the team in July 2015. Her overall goal is to improve the quality of education for children with special needs. She has been involved in conducting assessments on the children in the projects, creating individual educational plans, identifying children to benefit from inclusion, and identifying schools for inclusion programmes.

SEP members attended a partner workshop on Accountability and Donor Relations.

3. **Gertrude’s Children’s Hospital in Muthaiga** – The SEP office has been located at Gertrude’s Children’s Hospital for 15 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, monthly workshops and two-monthly consultations at the hospital.
4. **Walking Autism** – SEP held two meetings to help in the planning of a 3 weeks walk by Ms. Abby, a young lady with High Functioning Autism, around Mount Kenya to raise awareness on Autism and Disabilities in general.
5. **Autism Awareness Kenya** – SEP held two meetings with Autism Awareness Kenya and Walking Autism to plan for the awareness walk by Ms. Abby.
6. **Sarakasi Hospital Trust** – SEP partnered with Sarakasi Trust and organized two Dance for Youth with Special Needs. Sarakasi Trust hosted the events at the Sarakasi Dome and organized the music and entertainment.
7. **Community Organization Training for Risk Reduction - COTTR** – SEP facilitated a follow up workshop for mothers in Muranga in partnership with COTTR.

SEP held an early intervention consultation for children in Suswa that was organized in conjunction with COTTR.

COTTR also assisted in the identification of parents of children with disabilities who took part in the Wezesha Training from 2nd to 7th of November.

8. **Kikuyu Low Vision** – SEP facilitated two workshops at Kikuyu Hospital Low Vision Department on Communication and Feeding, and Toy Making, for mothers who have a child with vision problems.

9. **Just As We Are (JAWA)** – SEP held one early intervention consultation for children in Meru organized in conjunction with JAWA.

JAWA also assisted in the identification of parents of children with disabilities who took part in the Wezesha Training from 2nd to 7th of November.

10. **Motivation Africa** – Motivation Africa assisted in the identification of parents of children with disabilities who took part in the Wezesha Training from 2nd to 7th of November.

Motivation Africa invited 2 SEP members to attend a full week training on Wheelchair Training at Kijabe Hospital

11. **Action for Children with Disabilities (ACD)** – SEP joined an umbrella body of 35 organizations working in disability in Kenya.

ACD meetings are held every month and a member of SEP attended 8 meetings in 2015.

NETWORKING

1. **Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC)** – SEP has held several meetings with the Faculty of Rehabilitative Sciences (Departments of OT and PT) at KMTC to discuss partnership with the college to have SEP trainers train the 2nd year occupational and physiotherapy students in trans-disciplinary approach at the college grounds. With this partnership we hope to offer the students extra skills and boost their confidence when working with children with disabilities. The discussions are on-going.

The organization invited SEP to a 1-day CME training on Physiotherapy.

2. **AMREF** – SEP held two meetings with the management at AMREF to discuss possible partnership opportunities on training and therapy intervention.

SEP held an assessment session on children with disabilities sent by AMREF in Kibera and provided reports for the way forward.

3. **Mathare Youth Fund** – SEP facilitated four workshops for teenage mothers with the intent of providing skills and knowledge necessary to become more effective parents and enhance the relationship between them and their children.

4. **Precious Gift School in Komarock** – SEP held one early intervention consultation for children in Komarock organized in conjunction with Precious Gift School.

ADVOCACY

1. Stakeholders in Provision of Special Needs Services & Education Meeting - In conjunction with Acorn Special Tutorials, SEP held a meeting for stakeholders in provision of special needs services and education. Nine organisations were represented in this meeting including: Kenya Institute of Special Education; Kenya Institute of the Blind; Professional Association of Special Educators Kenya; Dyslexia Kenya; Autism Society of Kenya; Cerebral Palsy Society of Kenya; Short Stature Society of Kenya; Kenya Occupational Therapists Association; Beyond Zero; Acorn Special Tutorials and Special Education Professionals.

The meeting was convened for organizations working with persons with disabilities, with the goal of identifying needs and challenges affecting persons with special needs; prioritize the challenges and come up with solutions.



ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. MEMBERSHIPS

SEP has recruited 21 new members to the organization. 4 interns graduated to full members.

Occupational Therapists	12
Physiotherapists	4
Special Needs Teachers	5

Occupational Therapists	2
Physiotherapist	1
Speech Therapist	1

SEP currently has:

26 Full members, 37 Intern members and 6 Associate members, who volunteer their time and expertise for the benefit of children with disabilities in Kenya.

2. ORGANISATION POLICIES

SEP has worked further on organizational development and governance by developing the following policies:

1. Child Protection Policy
2. Community Engagement Policy
3. Volunteer Policy

SEP is currently working on a Mentorship Guideline to mainstream roles and responsibilities of mentors and mentees.

3. SEP BRANDING

SEP developed a new logo, which reflects the empowerment and support of families and professionals, and the early intervention.



AWARENESS

1. NEW BROCHURES AND DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES WHEEL

SEP has worked on a reprint of the existing brochures and added 3 new topics. We now have 8 brochures including: Rickets, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Learning Difficulties, Communication Disorder, Rights for Children with Disabilities, and one on SEP and its activities.

The brochures will help raise awareness on disabilities and will be distributed in schools, centres and at all our activities and events.

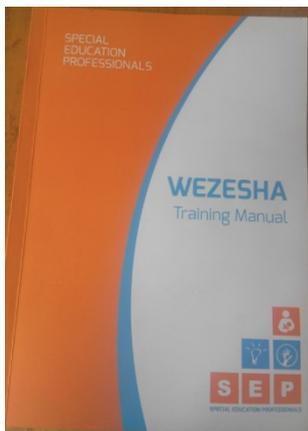
SEP has developed a wheel that outlines the developmental stages from 0—3 years and how to assist if a child hasn't achieved a milestone. The wheel is in Kiswahili and English.



2. DEVELOPING AND PRINTING TRAINING MANUAL FOR TRAINING MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

A team from SEP developed a training manual named “Wezesha” which is intended for parents of children with disabilities and for rehabilitation, health and education of workers at any level.

The manual is aimed at passing on information and improving knowledge and skills of parents, who will share this knowledge with other parents in their community. This will empower them to create awareness about disabilities and the need of intervention, offer support to other parents, ultimately improving the quality of life of children with disabilities.



3. HANDOUTS FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

SEP has developed four more handouts for parents and caregivers on: Chest Therapy; Lifting and Carrying; Positioning; and Therapy Intervention. These handouts will be given out during workshops to the parents and caregivers.

FUNDING

1. PROPOSALS

SEP sent out nine proposals for funding: 1 for hiring of a therapist & special needs teacher to work in the projects; 2 for the Wezesha training; 2 Wish Lists; 1 for the Dance for Youth; 2 on Awareness Materials, and 1 for Training of siblings.

Out of these proposals **seven** have been successful: 1 for the hiring of a therapist & special needs teacher; 1 for the Wezesha training; 1 for the Dance for Youth, the 2 wish lists, 1 on Awareness materials and 1 for Training of siblings.

2. LOCAL DONATIONS

SEP received local donations totalling **kshs 549,150/=** to fund some programmes run by SEP.

The donations were received from:

- a) Java - to fund payment of office rent; salary for the office administrative assistant; workshop hall hire and office equipment.
- b) SEP members were issued with donation cards that they circulated to friends and family. Amounts donated were used to purchase office equipment.
- c) Parents from My School Montessori – towards adapted furniture for the projects.

3. EXTERNAL DONATIONS

SEP received external donations totalling Kshs **2,503,297.50/=**, and **11,982** 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 & training
- b) German Parish – funding towards one dance for youth
- c) Noord-Zuid Zwevegem, Belgium – funding towards adapted equipment and training
- d) Consolidation of donors & well wishers

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

4. INCOME & EXPENDITURE

Extracts from 2015 audited accounts

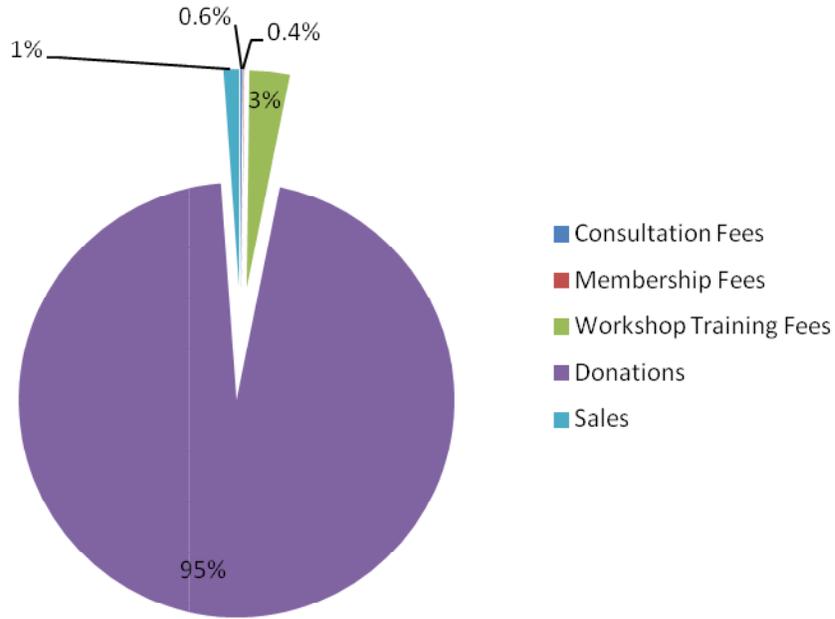
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015		
INCOME	2015	2014
Consultation Fees	8,700.00	17,700.00
Membership Fees	2,500.00	6,000.00
Workshop Training Fees	178,200.00	149,250.00
Training Income	-	132,500.00
Donations	5,680,313.00	3,016,332.00
Sales	68,150.00	80,000.00
Total	5,937,863.00	3,401,782.00

EXPENDITURE	2015	2014
Project Expenses	36,256.00	30,353
Workshop Expenses	583,482.00	285,396.00
Training Expenses	52,000.00	208,068.00
Printing and Stationery	671,454.00	37,336.00
Bank Charges	61,312.00	35,484.00
Salaries & Wages	1,708,094.00	1,259,254.00
Office Expenses	15,534.00	16,255.00
Office Rent	160,080.00	160,080.00
Audit & Professional Fees	40,000.00	43,700.00
Transport & Accommodation	177,162.00	312,190.00
Communication	49,635.00	47,615.00
Team Building	-	50,800.00
Fundraising Fees		65,000.00
Dance for Youth	41,000.00	41,000
Project - Wezesha	475,789.00	-
Website Costs	10,000.00	6,000.00
Exchange loss	5,679.00	-
Total	4,087,476	2,598,531.00

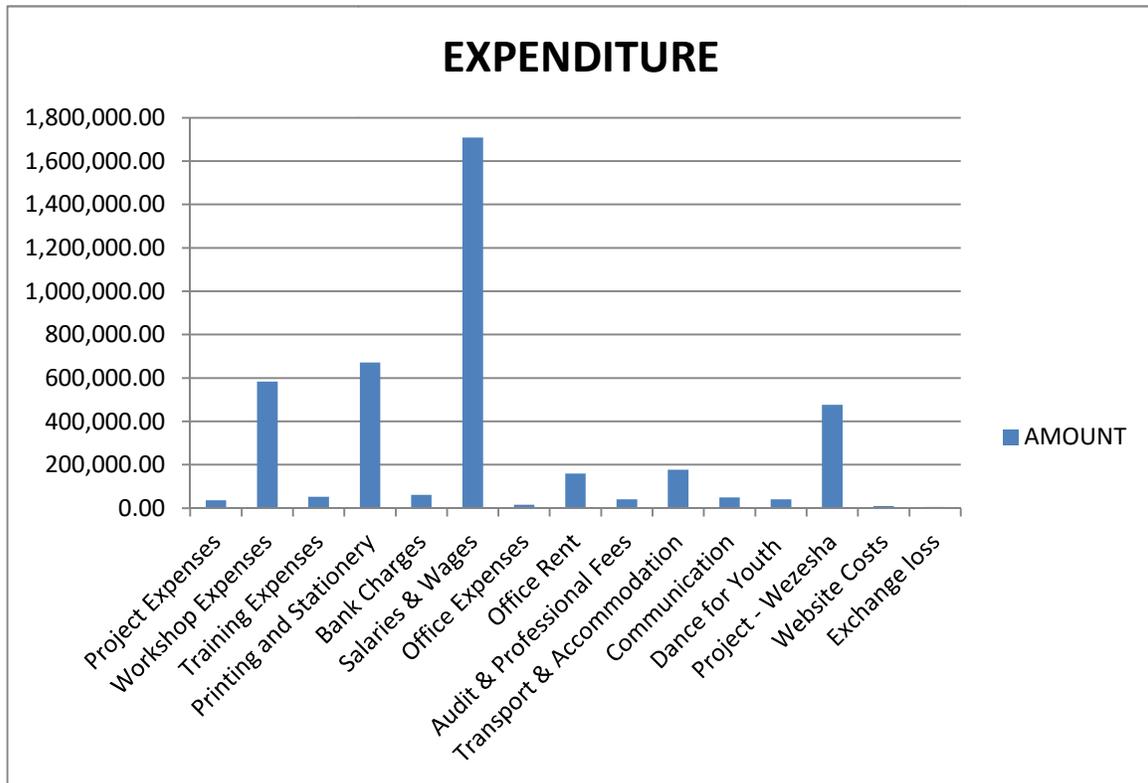
In 2015 our operating surplus was Kshs. 1,850,386/=. This is due to a high donor income. The surplus amount will be used towards planned SEP activities in 2016 and will not benefit any individuals. We also raised more local income through workshops and training fees.

The charts below show a broad breakdown of the net income and expenditure.

Income



Expenditure



SEP ACTION PLAN FOR 2016

1. WEZESHA PARENTS TRAINING

SEP will conduct a follow up Wezesha training for parents of children who have disabilities, and will expand this training to other counties in Kenya.

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 2015. 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 2016.

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 dates and venues for the consultations are as follows:

10 March	-	Nyanduma (<i>Wezesha Follow-ups</i>)
11 March	-	Muranga (<i>Wezesha Follow-ups</i>)
14 April	-	Nakuru (<i>Wezesha Follow-ups</i>)
15 April	-	Kericho (<i>Wezesha Follow-ups</i>)
28 April	-	Kajiado (<i>Wezesha Follow-ups</i>)
12 & 13 May	-	Meru (<i>Wezesha Follow-ups</i>)
21 May	-	Nakuru (<i>Wezesha Follow-ups</i>)
21 May	-	Rare-gem Talent School in Kitengela
18 June	-	Agapeland Special School in Kahawa West
16 July	-	Children's Centre in Kawangware
20 August	-	Mothers group in Kisumu
17 September	-	Migwani Special School in Kitui
15 October	-	Children's Centre in Kawangware
19 November	-	Children's Centre in Kilifi

5. THERAPY INTERVENTION AND TRAINING IN PROJECTS

SEP will continue allocating intern therapists to offer therapy intervention in five centres in the course of 2016. The therapists will ensure that therapy intervention and training of the parents and caregivers is offered regularly.

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 what went well and see where improvements are needed.

6. INCLUSION

SEP will focus more on inclusion within the projects that we work with, as we now have a special needs teacher as part of the training team on a full time basis.

7. AWARENESS CREATION

SEP will develop and publish three children's books on disability conditions namely: Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, and Autism Spectrum Disorder. These books are about children with disabilities, their capacities and wishes. They will be read in the schools with the children and will contribute to learning about children with disabilities, having a positive attitude towards them, and strengthening the inclusion process.

SEP has put in a request for a public relations officer through a 3rd party organization whose job description will be to create more awareness on disability in Kenya, and make SEP more visible.

In partnership with Abby Brooke, and Autism Awareness Kenya, SEP will continue with the project Walking Autism and partner for a second walk to take place around Mt. Kenya to raise awareness on special needs.

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

8. MENTORSHIP GUIDELINES

SEP will finalize on a mentorship guideline and implement it in 2016.

9. 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.

10. WORKSHOPS FOR 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:

How to Teach Different Skills to a Child with Special Needs	-	27 February
Inclusion	-	2 April
LETS GIT IT: Get Involved Together	-	30 April
Classroom Management	-	28 May
Early Identification & Intervention of Autism	-	25 June
Communication	-	30 July
Parenting Skills	-	27 August
Diet Intervention	-	24 September
Behaviour Modification	-	29 October
Sensory Integration	-	26 November

(These workshops may be interchanged)

SEP will also 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 Mimoso, *Comfort the Children* in Maai Mahiu and *Kikuyu Hospital – Low Vision Department*, amongst others. These workshops will be on topics relevant to the different groups.

11. WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS FOR FATHERS

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

12. WORKSHOPS FOR SIBLINGS

SEP will organize a pilot workshop for siblings of children with special needs. The goal of these workshops will be to create a chat room, where children with disabled siblings can meet each other sharing their experience, feelings and thoughts.

13. HANDOUTS FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

SEP will develop more handouts for parents and caregivers on: Cognitive Stimulation; Activities of Daily Living and Potty Training with input from the occupational therapist and special needs teacher.

14. WHEELCHAIR PROJECT

The two SEP members who were trained by Motivation Kenya will ensure that children who qualify will receive wheelchairs adapted to their individual needs.

15. 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.

16. NETWORKING

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

17. FUNDRAISING

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

18. 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:*

**Special Education Professionals
C/o Gertrude's Children's Hospital
P.O. Box 42325 00100 Nairobi
KENYA**

Tel: +254 2(0) 7206000 Ext 322 Mobile: +254 733 267869
E-mail: SEP_professionals@yahoo.com or info@sepkenya.com
Website : www.sepkenya.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/sepkenya
YouTube: www.youtube.com/sepkenya