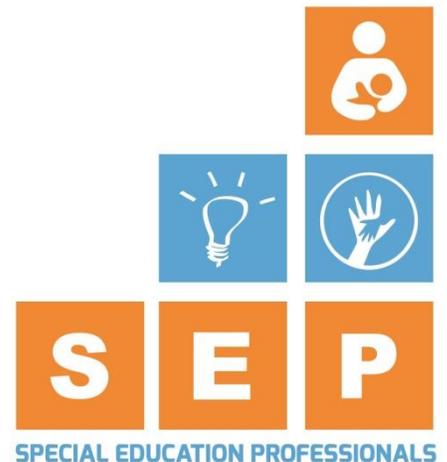


**SPECIAL  
EDUCATION  
PROFESSIONALS**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2017**



*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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## FOREWORD FROM DIRECTOR

SEP has continued to work at its best. The year 2017 was filled with activities to help families and teachers create opportunities for their children with disabilities to grow and learn in an inclusive environment. The year 2017 was also a challenging year to work around the tense political climate with two elections periods.

Workshops for parents in the six project organizations ran every other month with nutrition as a new topic on request of the parents. The sibling workshops took place during the school holidays with almost 240 siblings participating. The workshops ended with an awareness event in the respective communities. Two projects have since come to an end and two new projects are selected to start in 2018.

2017 brought a new project that fitted perfectly in our inclusion programme. Mwiki primary school with a special unit within a school with over 3000 students was our working place during one year. Workshops for peers on inclusion with students from the special class ended in a splendid show on inclusion that was performed for four different audiences. Teacher training went hand in hand to improve inclusion levels; giving the teachers concrete skills to work with pupils with special needs in their class rooms.

The awareness events took a different route this year with students with disabilities, peers, siblings, parents and teachers walking through the streets singing and holding messages to sensitize the public.

Six schools participated in the teacher training on inclusion; a series of twelve topics taught by our special needs teachers and occupational therapists. A number of children from the projects have since been enrolled in those schools.

SEP facilitated the training of trainers for seven members who are now gaining experience in training, and the transdisciplinary training for twenty new intern members. The physiotherapy group is up and running with two weekly practical sessions to share knowledge and skills.

The Wezesha project is successful: the 66 peer educators have already reached out to 354 parents in their communities. Parents receive basic intervention and become part of support groups where they share their experiences, success stories and challenges. The monthly consultations have since relocated to these communities to help the peer educators with advice for the children they identify.

SEP discontinued the once monthly workshops for the general public at Gertrude's Children's hospital and is in the process to rebrand the training.

The dance for youth changed the timing to the morning hours to make it possible for schools to attend. We have since seen an increase in the number of youth participating in this social event with 106 adolescents at the last edition for 2017.

SEP had its first book launch in April with the "This is Me" books, and is currently undertaking the approval procedure from the Kenyan Institute for Curriculum Development.

SEP was able to recruit one more physiotherapist and one part time occupational therapist which made a total of nine staff as we also bid farewell to the COMUNDO physiotherapist who was with SEP during five years.

SEP is a strong multidisciplinary team! Our staff and members give their best to create a better inclusive world for children with disabilities, their families, and their teachers. SEP shares best practices with and builds capacity in the professionals and institutions that cater for these children.

There is beauty in diversity and that is what we embrace at SEP. Thanks to all staff, members, donors and friends of SEP for another successful year.

Karolien Remmerie  
**Director SEP**

## SUMMARY AT A GLANCE...

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**1873** Our workshops on a wide range of special needs topics have seen a total attendance of 1873 parents, caregivers, teachers, therapists and siblings.

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**290** We have helped 290 children with disabilities through regular therapy interventions carried out by our members working at our partner organizations in Kariobangi, Githurai, Mimosa, Maai Mahiu and Mukuru.

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**191** We have seen 191 children with disabilities at our 'Early Intervention Consultations'. Each family received advice, support and empowerment from our multidisciplinary team.

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**61** We have 61 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.

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**14** We are working with 14 partner organizations to help us achieve our goals and objectives.

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**10** We had 10 members of staff: 3 Occupational Therapists, 3 Physiotherapists, 1 Communication Advisor; 1 Special Needs Teacher; 1 intern from overseas and 1 Administrative Assistant.

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**3** SEP successfully held 3 "Dance for Youth with Special Needs" events in partnership with Sarakasi Trust.

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**1** Team! SEP remained 1 united, diverse, multidisciplinary and international team determined to help children with disabilities.

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# INTRODUCTION TO SEP

Special Education Professionals (SEP) is an organization of therapists and special needs teachers who work in a multidisciplinary team, applying a transdisciplinary approach. SEP focuses on the family, with parents becoming key partners for the intervention for their child. SEP operates in Nairobi and selected rural areas. SEP is a non-profitable body. It was founded in 1990 and registered as a society in Kenya in 2001.

SEP is unique, as its members work with education and healthcare professionals from all over the world, learning from other views and approaches, while striving for a common goal.

SEP's core competencies are:

- transdisciplinary approach practiced by a multidisciplinary team to provide a holistic service
- high quality performance and initiative to improve the lives of children with disabilities and their families
- empowerment of communities
- tailoring and delivering high-level training to diverse audiences
- deep commitment to work across organizational boundaries
- emphasis on teamwork and encouragement of cooperation, collaboration and partnership
- existing trust and shared values among staff and volunteers
- dynamism and flexibility to adjust to changing environments

SEP's programmes and activities are run in collaboration with various actors. Such stakeholders include amongst others beneficiaries, non-governmental organizations (NGO's), faith based organizations (FBO's), community based organizations (CBO's), peer institutions, the Government of Kenya, as well as various development partners.

SEP is driven by the aspiration of a holistic approach in improving the life of children with disabilities and their families. The main thrust of SEP's work in this regard concerns ongoing capacity building of families, caregivers, community health volunteers (CHV) and professionals, using a transdisciplinary approach.

## ***Vision Statement***

*An inclusive society where children with disabilities are actively participating in their families and communities, providing them equal opportunities to reach their fullest potential and living a quality life.*

## ***Mission Statement***

*SEP promotes early intervention and inclusion through transdisciplinary approach and skills development. Using the diverse expertise, SEP provides sustainable intervention that supports children with disabilities, empowers their families, caregivers, and professionals, in collaboration with other stakeholders.*

## ***Values statement***

*Integrity: We value truthfulness, fairness, honesty and transparency in our internal and external relationships and communications.*

*Excellence: We pursue professionalism and timeliness and seek credibility in all we do. We are committed to the highest professional standards.*

*Collaboration: We value the combined wisdom that emerges when individuals work together as a team.*

*Equity: We believe everyone deserves a dignified life, and fair access to social justice, health services, schools and opportunities.*

*Innovation: We embrace and support innovation that holds the promises of enhancing organizational learning.*



# TRAINING OF PROFESSIONALS: THERAPISTS & SPECIAL NEEDS TEACHERS

## 1. TRANSDISCIPLINARY TRAINING

### Goal

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

To achieve professionalism amongst SEP members, SEP organizes transdisciplinary 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 2017, SEP offered 7 trainings for therapists and special needs teachers who were intern members of SEP.

In 2017 First Steps Intervention School Karen hosted the 2 week transdisciplinary training at no cost. 20 new interns attended this particular training. The interns who participated in the 2 week transdisciplinary approach will continue receiving more practical training in the SEP projects under supervision of the SEP training team.

### Topics in Transdisciplinary 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	Attendance
11.2.17	Developmental Milestones	7
22.2.17	Cognitive Stimulation	8
10.3.17	Chest Therapy	4
8.6.17	Management of Feet	9
14.6.17	Massage	9
28.6.17	Massage II	11
20.11.17 - 1.12.17	Transdisciplinary training	20



## 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	Attendance
24.11.17-25.11.17	Training of trainers	7 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	Attendance
20.1.17	Defining the key concepts - multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary	21 professionals
18.2.17	Emotional intelligence	21 professionals
17.3.17	Intercultural relations	18 professionals
20.5.17	Security	13 professionals
16.6.17	How to use Braidy Doll (a therapeutic toy)	11 professionals
16.6.17	What is a good (PowerPoint) presentation	11 professionals
14.7.17	Functional independence measure for children above 14 years	12 professionals
18.8.17	Vestibular system	13 professionals
15.9.17	Limbs development and anomalies	24 professionals
15.9.17	Exercise and movement	24 professionals
13.10.17	Energy work	16 professionals
17.11.17	Tips for text processing with Microsoft Word	17 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	Attendance
11.1.17	Organizational repeal, proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation (PNF)	5
25.1.17	PNF sprinter	4
8.2.17	Case study	7
22.2.17	PNF skater and pain management	5

15.3.17	Case study	5
29.3.17	Pain management II	3
10.5.17	Functional training – hemi paresis	6
24.5.17	Case studies	7
7.6.17	Case study	4
28.6.17	Muscular dystrophy	7
12.7.17	Clinical reasoning	6
3.8.17	Case studies	7
29.8.17	Knee assessment and management	3
27.9.17	Hip assessment and management	6
8.11.17	Pelvic assessment and management	5



Practical session during a physiotherapists training session

## 5. EXTERNAL WORKSHOPS

### Goal

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

SEP was requested to facilitate 1 workshop for physiotherapists from Karen Hospital.

OTHER WORKSHOP VENUES 2017			
Date	Title	Venue	Attendance
11.3.17	Kinesio taping	Karen hospital	12 physiotherapists

# WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS, CAREGIVERS, THERAPISTS, SIBLINGS & TEACHERS

## 1. WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

### 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.

In 2017, SEP reduced the number of workshops from once a month to once every two months in the SEP projects, and also introduced some new topics (nutrition and chest therapy) that had been requested by the parents. SEP also introduced a feedback workshop where the parents and caregivers give feedback information on the workshops that had been conducted throughout the year.

SEP held 27 workshops for parents and caregivers.

WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS			
Date	Title	Venue	Attendance
23.1.17	First aid workshop	Songa Mbele + Imarika	16 parents & caregivers
25.1.17	First aid workshop	Child Doctor	42 parents & caregivers
26.1.17	First aid workshop	Kariobangi	20 parents & caregivers
3.2.17	First aid workshop	Ubuntu	11 parents & caregivers
16.3.17	- Inclusion, advantages and disadvantages - Disability: causes and types - Behaviour modification	Parents from various schools gathered at Paulo's Home	22 parents
20.3.17	Communication	Songa Mbele + Imarika	27 parents & caregivers
22.3.17	Communication	Child Doctor	25 parents & caregivers
23.3.17	Communication	Kariobangi	33 parents & caregivers
24.3.17	Communication	Ubuntu	13 parents & caregivers
19.4.17	Communication	Low Vision Kikuyu Hospital	10 parents
20.4.17	Handling and positioning	Low Vision Kikuyu Hospital	10 parents
27.4.17	Acceptance	Kariobangi	12 parents & caregivers
8.5.17	Acceptance	Songa Mbele + Imarika	17 parents & caregivers
10.5.17	Acceptance	Child Doctor	24 parents & caregivers
26.5.17	Acceptance	Ubuntu	18 parents & caregivers
16.6.17	Nutrition	Ubuntu	16 parents & caregivers
19.6.17	Nutrition	Songa Mbele + Imarika	17 parents & caregivers
21.6.17	Nutrition	Child Doctor	28 parents & caregivers
22.6.17	Nutrition	Kariobangi	28 parents & caregivers
20.9.17	Chest therapy	Child Doctor	23 parents & caregivers
21.9.17	Chest therapy	Kariobangi	24 parents & caregivers
18.9.17	Chest therapy	Mukuru	27 parents & caregivers
29.9.17	Chest therapy	Ubuntu	11 parents & caregivers
13.11.17	Handling and positioning	Mukuru	21 parents & caregivers
15.11.17	Handling and positioning	Child Doctor	20 parents & caregivers
13.12.17	Disability forum	Child Doctor	53 parents & caregivers
14.12.17	Feedback workshop	Kariobangi	26 parents & caregivers

## 2. WORKSHOPS FOR SIBLINGS

### Goal

To provide siblings with an opportunity to discuss common joys and concerns in a relaxed recreational setting; and to provide information on various disabilities, how to cope with them, and how to create awareness among their peers.

SEP continued to offer workshops/play days during the school holidays in partnership with Sarakasi Trust for siblings of children with disabilities. The workshops offered a secure place where they had the opportunity to express themselves, talk about their feelings, their worries and their fears. In 2017 the workshops were also organized in terms of age groups as their understandings are at different levels and the workshop approach is different according to age groups.

SIBLINGS WORKSHOPS					
Date	Project	Under 10 years	11-14 years	Over 15 years	TOTAL
April	Mwiki	3	18	3	24
April	Songa Mbele	9	7	7	23
	Child Doctor	40	20	15	75
	Kariobangi	13	9	7	29
November	Mwiki	3	25	7	35
December	Songa Mbele	15	9	3	27
	Child Doctor	14	15	9	38
	Kariobangi	15	11	9	35
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>112</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>286</b>



### 3. TEACHER TRAINING ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

#### 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 has continued with its journey towards inclusion. SEP believes that all children have a right to learn irrespective of their disability. The way this can be realised is by providing all the support and services a child with disability needs. SEP employs multidisciplinary approach to enable a child with disability reach their fullest potential. SEP collaborated with different schools in various locations and provided trainings/workshops to build the capacities of the teachers. We believe that if the teachers in the mainstream are accorded the right skills and interventions, it will be possible to include a child with disability in the mainstream. The teachers were trained in improving their skills in assessments, designing individual educational plans and adapting teaching strategies to the needs of the child.

A series consisting of 12 topics were designed for the teacher training.

WORKSHOPS FOR TEACHERS			
Date	Topic	School	Number
21.1. 17	Learning difficulties	Pentecostal Evangelistic Fellowship Africa School(PEFA)	17
23.1. 17	Building foundations for reading, spelling and math	PEFA	17
27.1. 17	Handwriting	Mukuru Primary	36
2.2. 17	Building foundations for reading, spelling and math	KAG Primary	22
23.2. 17	Handwriting	PEFA	20
3.3. 17	Handwriting	Ridgeville Academy	17
8.3.17	Exercising in the classroom	KAG Primary	16
16.3.17	- Inclusion, advantages and disadvantages - Disability: causes and types - Behaviour modification	Teachers from various schools gathered at Paulo's Home	24
18.3.17	Classroom management	PEFA	14
20.3.17	Behaviour modification	PEFA	14
21.3.17	Inclusion talks	Mwiki Primary	20
1.4.17	Peer mediated strategies	PEFA	17
1.4.17	Content differentiation	PEFA	18
6.4.17	Guidance and counselling	PEFA	18
7.4. 17	Disability: autism and Down syndrome	Little Prince	15
7.4.17	Learning difficulties	Little Prince	15
7.4.17	Building foundations for reading, spelling and math	Little Prince	15
31.5.17	Disability	Mwiki Primary	15
27.6.17	Learning difficulties	Mwiki Primary	10
28.6.17	Building foundations for reading, spelling and math	Mwiki Primary	12
12.7.17	Disadvantages and advantages of inclusion	Mwiki Primary	14
3.10.17	How to teach different learners in the same class, handwriting and content differentiation	Mwiki Primary	18
4.10.17	Classroom management, behaviour modification and peer mediated strategies	Mwiki Primary	17
11.11.17	Learning styles	Mwiki Primary	15

SEP also organised 1 team building event for the teachers at Mwiki Primary School.

4.4. 17	Team building	Mwiki Primary	5
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Teachers training practical session

#### 4. TOY MAKING WORKSHOPS

##### Goal

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

**At SEP we believe that play is an essential part of every child's life and is vital for the enjoyment of childhood as well as 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 5 toy making workshops in 2017:

DATE	PROJECT	ATTENDANCE
7.2.17	Mwiki	4 teachers
9.2.17	Kariobangi	24 parents & caregivers
10.2.17	Songa Mbele + Imarika	13 parents & caregivers
16.2.17	Child Doctor	13 parents & caregivers
18.4.17	Low vision Kikuyu parents	10 parents

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



Toy making session at Amref/Child Doctor Kenya

## 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.

Since 2016 SEP has worked in collaboration with other organizations including Catholic Diocese of Ngong, Catholic Diocese of Nakuru, Catholic Diocese of Machakos and COTTR under its programme, Wezesha, to build the capacity of teachers, community volunteers and parents of children with disabilities. The training focused on implementation of basic therapy interventions, peer education and awareness creation to improve the quality of life of children with disabilities in underserved communities in the mentioned dioceses. The training in 2017 focused on reinforcing basic therapy intervention skills and peer education skills that were introduced in 2015 and 2016. It also promoted a comprehensive approach to reduce the vulnerability and improve life conditions of children with disabilities. In addition the project focused on empowering families of children with disabilities to become active partners in efforts to increase access to intervention and social inclusion.

WEZESHA TRAINING			
Date	Title	Venue	Number
15. - 18.5.17	Wezesha I group	Kikuyu	20
5. - 9.6.17	Wezesha II group - Makeni	Kikuyu	12
12. - 16.6.17	Wezesha II group - Narok	Kikuyu	14
4. - 6.7.17	Wezesha I - Nyanduma	Nyanduma	20
25. - 29.9.17	Wezesha II - Nakuru	Kikuyu	14



Group discussion by peer educators from Machakos

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

From the follow up visits we noted that the peer educators have been able to reach a good number of parents as follows:

PROJECT	INITIAL TRAINED PEER EDUCATORS	NO OF PARENTS REACHED
Wezesha II	45 Trained peer educators	250 parents
Wezesha I	21 Trained peer educators	104 parents
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66 Peer educators</b>	<b>354 parents</b>



Practical demonstration by SEP trainer during Keringet visit

## 6. WORKSHOPS AT GERTRUDE'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

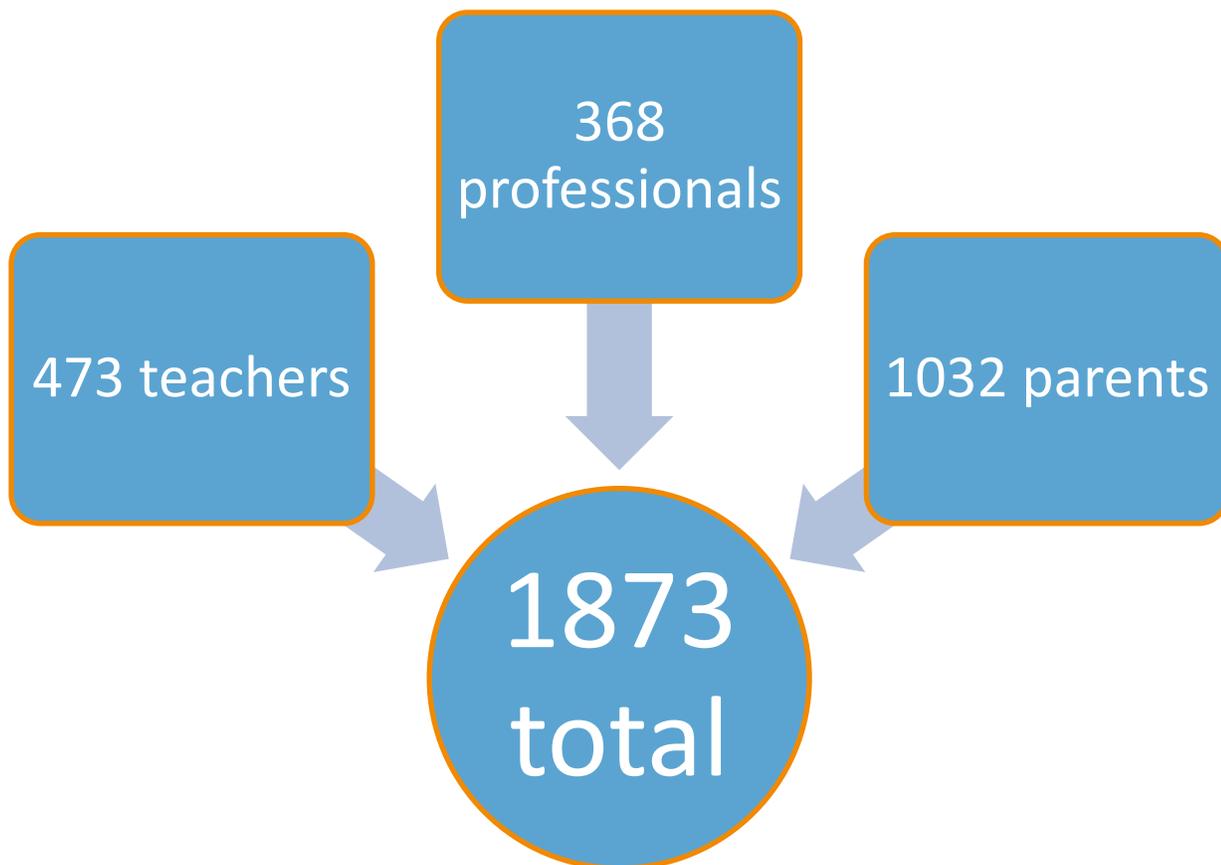
### Goal

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.

In 2017 SEP only held 2 workshops as we were in the process of rebranding and reorganising our training.

WORKSHOPS AT GERTRUDE'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL		
Date	Title	Number
28.1.17	Early identification and intervention of autism	32
25.2.17	Handwriting	28

### SUMMARY OF TRAINING AND WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE



# THERAPY & EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTION IN SEP PROJECTS

SEP strives to ensure that children living with a disability from low income areas receive quality therapy services. Apart from therapy, SEP is determined to see children living with a disability to be included in the main stream school, as education is one of the fundamental basic human rights.

SEP allocated intern therapists and special needs teachers to offer therapy and educational intervention in six centres in the course of 2017. The therapists and special needs teachers, who had also attended the two weeks transdisciplinary training, ensured that therapy and educational intervention and training of the parents and caregivers were 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 and educational 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.

SEP intersected rehabilitation services together with education to better the direction of life of children with disabilities particularly those from low socioeconomic families.

In 2017 SEP partnered with Terre Solidali and The Theatre Company of Kenya for “The Mwiki School project”, also known as “Sanaa Ponyevu”. The main goal of the project was to better the inclusion of children with disabilities in the regular mainstream. A professional team from SEP and The Theatre Company of Kenya worked closely with the Mwiki Primary School teachers and the pupils both in the mainstream and special unit and conducted the following activities: assessment of children with disabilities and preparing of Individual Education Plans (I.E.P); training of the teachers on inclusion; interactive workshops for children from the mainstream; adaptations in the classroom; community disability awareness and theatrical rehearsals and performance by children from the mainstream and special needs class together.



Students from Mwiki Primary attending assembly



Assessment sessions at Mwiki Primary School



Performance by Mwiki Primary students on inclusion

The projects and schools that were engaged in this reporting period include:

CENTRE	DAYS	ATTENDANCE CHILDREN
Comboni Health Programme in Kariobangi	Every Thursday	110
Amref Child Doctor in Mimosa	Every Wednesday	74
Songa Mbele na Masomo in Mukuru	Every Monday	52
Mwiki Primary School in Githurai	Every Tuesday and Wednesday	28
Imarika Initiative in Mukuru	Every Tuesday	21
Ubuntu Kids in Maai Mahiu	Once a month	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>290</b>



Therapy session at Comboni Health Programme



Splint fabrication for a child

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
12.6.17	Project evaluation	Comboni Health Programme in Kariobangi
27.6.17	Project evaluation	Songa Mbele in Mukuru
27.6.17	Project evaluation	Imarika Initiative in Mukuru
28.6.17	Project evaluation	Amref Child Doctor

# DISABILITY & INCLUSION AWARENESS DAYS

SEP in partnership with the projects and Sarakasi Trust organized Disability and Inclusion Awareness days. The events were aimed at: fighting stigma by creating awareness on disability; sensitizing the community on various disabilities and available interventions; enabling parents by providing a forum for them to seek clarification on the condition of their child; and promoting inclusion. In 2017 SEP also held walks within the community in order to reach more people.

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
26.2.17	Talk in Catholic church on disability	Kariobangi
12.7.17	Talk to class 1 parents	Mwiki Primary
6.10.17	Walk in Githurai	Githurai
4.12.17	Walk in Mukuru	Mukuru



Students from Mwiki Primary at Disability Walk in Githurai

## EARLY INTERVENTION CONSULTATIONS

Since 1998, SEP 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 16<sup>th</sup> 2017, SEP celebrated the 19<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Early Intervention Consultations. The EIC, which started in 1998, has been held on a monthly basis to date.

SEP continued to offer external consultations 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. In 2017 we saw many older children attending the consultations, as prior to this the families were not able to access this services, because of either lack of information hence families are not aware of the early red flags and therefore wait for too long before seeking help, and also there is stigma hence families tend to hide their children for too long.

Date	VENUE	NUMBER OF FAMILIES
27.1.17	Githurai	28
17.2.17	Narok	10
18.3.17	Kitengela	19
21.4.17	Kajiado	9
26.5.17	Narok	23
23.6.17	Makueni	20
21.7.17	Narok	16
16.9.17	Narok	23
17.10.17	Githurai	21
9.11.17	Kuresoi	9
10.11.17	Menengai	13
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>191</b>

## DANCE FOR YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

SEP organized 3 Dance for Youth with Special Needs, in partnership with **Sarakasi Trust**. The dance was held at the Sarakasi Dome on 24<sup>th</sup> January; 19<sup>th</sup> May and 22<sup>nd</sup> September from 10:30am – 1pm.

*The Dance for Youth is a special event for teenagers and adolescents with disabilities to get together and have some fun! Youth from different schools and centres get an opportunity to meet and socialise with each other. It is a friendly afternoon of music, dance, fun and entertainment.*

In 2017 SEP changed the timing of the event from afternoon to morning hours to allow more schools to attend.

Like usual the event created a room, where youth with disabilities get to relax, have fun and dance in a safe environment supported by their loved ones, caregivers and therapists. Youth with disabilities require opportunities to enjoy recreational and leisure activities with others their age.

### Attendance to the dance 2017:

School	January 29 <sup>th</sup>	May 27 <sup>th</sup>	September 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Gibson	8	8	8
Raregem	8	14	
Acorn	5		
Songa Mbele		5	10
KAIH		14	10
KCCL		20	19
Kestrel manor		13	37
Little Rock		10	
Ubuntu		5	
Mirema School			17
Jofresha			4
Parent with son			1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>106</b>

The number of youth attending steadily increased in 2017; this could possibly be due to the change in timing from afternoon to morning, allowing more schools to attend. The dates for the events were sent out early in the year allowing more schools to add it to their calendar of events. Lastly the increase could also be appointed to the nature of the event hence its popularity.

Overall the Dance for Youth with Special Needs has been very successful when it comes to social inclusion, one of SEP's major pillars of belief.

## PARTNERSHIPS

1. **COMUNDO from Switzerland** – An occupational therapist, Ms Jutta Wermelt, attached to SEP through COMUNDO has continued her work with SEP throughout 2017. 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. Ms Wermelt was very instrumental in the elaboration of the SEP strategic plan 2018–2022.

The physiotherapist/Vojta therapist Ms Constanze Motzka's contract came to an end in June 2017. She had joined SEP in 2012. Before her departure the Vojta therapist continued training the physiotherapists in SEP, and working 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. She also coordinated the sibling's workshops that took place in April.

The communication and public relations specialist, Mr Christian Schubarth, who joined SEP in April 2016 under the project "Capacity Building of Staff in regards to Public Relations", continued to work under his assignment ensuring SEP is a known stakeholder in the area of disability; a communication strategy is in place and SEP publishes educational materials.

The physiotherapist Mr Isaac Makori, formerly involved with SEP through another partner, worked with a COMUNDO national co-worker contract since May 2017. He was part of the capacity building and intervention team.

Mr Manuel Gautschi, BA. in political science and MA. in African Studies, joined SEP for a three months internship focusing on organizational development and communication.

SEP participated in a two days COMUNDO Kenya partner organisations meeting that focused on intercultural relations.

2. **DKA / Christian Children Communities Movement – eRko from Slovakia** – Mr Kelvin Kahianyu, occupational therapist, continued to work in the projects, as part of the training team and at the early intervention consultations. He also facilitated a number of workshops for parents, caregivers and teachers, and was involved in organizing disability and inclusion awareness days.

The special needs teacher Mrs 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 and inclusion awareness days.

3. **Misereor from Germany** – Mrs Irene Owino, occupational therapist, Mr Isaac Makori, (Jan – April) and Mr John Areba (May – December), both physiotherapists, were hired to coordinate and facilitate the Wezesha II trainings and follow-up visits.
4. **Terre Solidali from Italy** - Ms Mary Musyoki, occupational therapist, was hired to coordinate the theatre therapy and special education project for a better inclusion of children with disabilities in Mwiki Primary School.
5. **Hope for Children** – Ms Mary Musyoki, occupational therapist, and Mr Mark Wanyama were hired on consultancy basis to coordinate and facilitate the Wezesha I trainings.
6. **DOK Germany** – DOK Germany sponsored costs towards training of siblings in 2017.
7. **Gertrude’s Children’s Hospital in Muthaiga** – The SEP office has been located at Gertrude’s Children’s Hospital for 17 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.
8. **Sarakasi Hospital Trust** – SEP partnered with Sarakasi Trust and organized 3 Dance for Youth with Disabilities. 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 and inclusion awareness days by performing plays, linked to the theme of the events.

Sarakasi Trust also invited SEP for a “Peoples to Peoples” workshop that trained 6 SEP therapists. The workshop aimed at creating awareness on disability and promoting inclusion through arts and culture.

9. **Community Organization Training for Risk Reduction (COTTR)** – SEP partnered with COTTR for identifying peer educators from Nyanduma and Muranga to attend the Wezesha I group training.

COTTR invited SEP to offer a 3 day training for parents with children with disabilities in Nyanduma.

10. **PCEA Kikuyu Hospital** – SEP facilitated three workshops at PCEA Kikuyu Hospital, Low Vision Department on communication, handling and positioning, and toy making, for mothers who have a child with vision problems.

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

11. **Kaizora Kenya** – SEP participated in the yearly Autism Awareness Fun day organized by Kaizora Kenya. SEP members gave professional talks during the fun day and had a stand with brochures and display of various educational toys and materials for sale.

12. **Acorn Special Tutorials** – SEP participated in the World Down’s Syndrome Day Celebrations organised by Acorn Special Tutorials. SEP members gave professional talks during celebration and had a stand with brochures and display of various educational toys and materials for sale.

13. **In My Shoes special needs fair** – SEP participated “In My Shoes” special needs fair that was organised by the parents of a child with disability in conjunction with Mavuno Church. SEP had a stand with brochures and also displayed various educational toys and materials for sale.

14. **Walking Autism** – SEP attended 3 meetings with all stakeholders involved in Walking Autism to discuss the next walk by Abby Brooke planned to take place in 2018. She plans on walking from Nanyuki to Mombasa to help raise awareness on Autism. SEP will partner in this walk by offering professional talks/workshops at various stop stations along her walk.

## NETWORKING

1. **Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC)** – SEP gave out a talk to the 3<sup>rd</sup> year occupational and physiotherapy students to inform them about SEP and membership opportunities. From the talks a number of students applied for membership and participated in the 2 weeks transdisciplinary training.
2. **Metropolitan Sanctuary in Nyeri** – SEP members attended a meeting at Metropolitan Sanctuary to discuss the training of therapists and fathers for the Appropriate Paper Based Technology (APBT) project, as well as other partnership opportunities.
3. **Buruburu Baptist Church School** – SEP held a number of meetings with the board of Buruburu Baptist Church School to discuss establishing the APBT project at the school compound as well as taking up the school as part of SEP projects.

# ADVOCACY

SEP organized and participated in various advocacy events including:

## 1. Book Launch

SEP had a book launch for the 3 “This is me” books on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at Pride Inn Conference centre in Westlands. A total of 25 attended the book launch including representatives from KISE, COMUNDO, CBM, Story Moja, Sarakasi, PEFA and parents. The Kenya Broadcast Corporation’s (KBC) programme “AbleD Differently” aired the book launch.

## 2. Action for Children with Disabilities (ACD) meetings

SEP attended 5 meetings at ACD. ACD is a diverse coalition of civil society, NGO and government institutions, working in disability in Kenya.

## 3. Speech and Language Therapy conference

SEP attended the 6th East African International Conference on Communication Disability that took place on 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at Kenyatta University. One SEP member gave a talk at the conference on “Communication difficulties and problem behaviour in children with autism spectrum disorders in sub Saharan Africa”.

# ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## 1. MEMBERSHIPS

SEP has recruited 17 new members to the organization. 5 interns graduated to full members.

Special Needs Teachers	8
Occupational Therapists	7
Physiotherapists	2

Occupational Therapists	3
Physiotherapists	2

*SEP members list is in annex 1.*

## 2. STRATEGIC PLAN

SEP held Strategic Planning days in Naro moru on 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2017. This was to create the groundwork for the SEP strategic plan 2018 – 2022. 16 professionals from SEP participated in the planning. The topics discussed included: review of goals and objectives 2012–2017; who is SEP; SWOT analysis; Stakeholder analysis; PEST; Vision & Mission.

The SEP board members followed up the process by discussing the objectives.

SEP also had another strategic planning day on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 to further discuss the objectives and the logframe. This was attended by 12 professionals.

SEP strategic plan 2018–2022 will be launched in 2018.

### 3. STAFF

SEP employed three more employees in 2017:



**Mary Musyoki**  
**Occupational Therapist**  
**Jan. 2017**



**John Areba**  
**Physiotherapist**  
**May 2017**



**Manuel Gautschi**  
**Intern (COMUNDO)**  
**Oct.—Dec. 2017**

SEP bid farewell to **Constanze Motzka** who was with SEP from July 2012 to June 2017. Conny, a physiotherapist/Vojta therapist under COMUNDO, was able to develop capacities in paediatric physiotherapy.



# FUNDING

## 1. PROPOSALS

SEP sent out 6 proposals for funding: 4 for training; 1 for dance for youth; and 1 for a van.

Out of these proposals **4** have been successful: 3 for training; and 1 for the dance for youth.

## 2. LOCAL DONATIONS

SEP received local donations totalling Kshs **613,420/=** to fund some programmes run by SEP.

The donations were received from:

- a) 3 local fundraising events
- b) Parents from My School Montessori
- c) Cooperative bank of Kenya
- d) Consolidation of donors and well wishers

## 3. EXTERNAL DONATIONS

SEP received external donations totalling Kshs **10,869,015/=**, 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) Terre Solidali – to fund salaries, training and equipment at Mwiki Primary School
- d) Hope for children – to fund training
- e) COMUNDO – to fund salaries and training
- f) Noord-Zuid Zwevegem, Belgium – funding towards adapted equipment and training
- g) Consolidation of donors and well wishers

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

#### 4. INCOME & EXPENDITURE

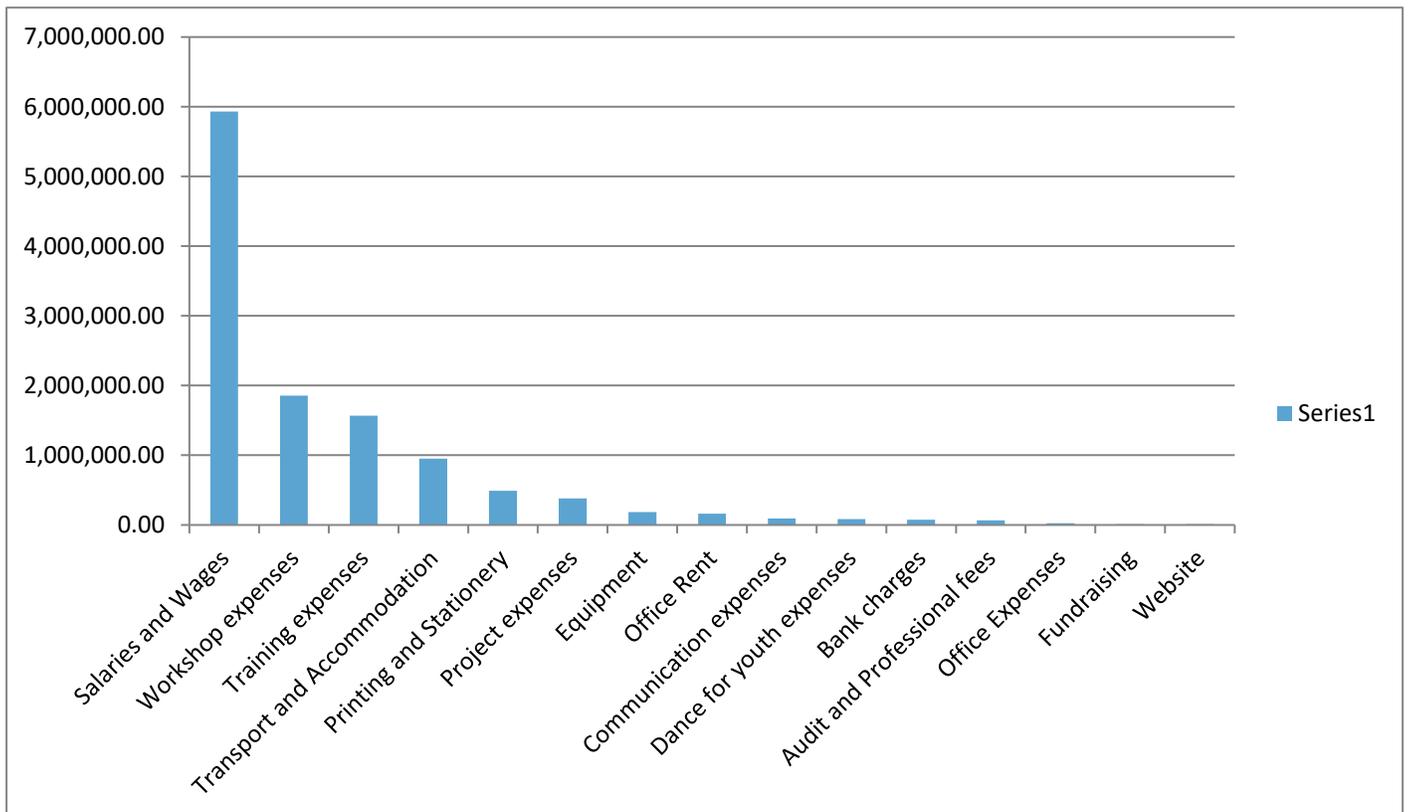
##### Extracts from 2017 audited accounts

##### INCOME

Membership fee	10,500.00
Workshop income	125,900.00
Donations	11,482,435.00
Sales	81,620.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,700,455.00</b>

##### EXPENSES

Project expenses	380,809.00
Workshop expenses	1,855,083.00
Training expenses	1,566,894.00
Printing and stationery	488,914.00
Bank charges	73,408.00
Salaries and wages	5,933,026.00
Office expenses	25,032.00
Office rent	160,080.00
Audit and professional fees	65,000.00
Transport and accommodation	953,850.00
Dance for youth expenses	85,500.00
Communication expenses	93,650.00
Equipment	183,054.00
Fundraising	10,000.00
Website	10,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,884,300</b>



# SEP ACTION PLAN FOR 2018

## 1. WEZESHA TRAINING

SEP will conduct a follow up Wezesha training for the parents and community workers who attended in 2015, 2016 and 2017. SEP will continue to visit the participant peer educators in their communities to monitor, evaluation and assist them.

## 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 transdisciplinary training in November 2017. 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 transdisciplinary training for new members who will be recruited in 2018.

## 4. SIBLINGS WORKSHOPS

SEP will continue organizing workshops for siblings of children with disabilities. The siblings workshops will again be categorised according to their ages. The workshops will be followed by performances in the respective communities to showcase and sensitize the community and peers on disability and inclusion.

## 5. PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS

SEP will organise workshops for professionals that will be aimed at improving the living conditions for children with disabilities and their social environment.

The topics will include:

- Teaching & learning strategies in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- An open platform for siblings of children with disabilities
- Fussy eaters
- Diet intervention
- Handwriting

## 6. WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

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, *St. Josephs* in Kahawa Sukari , *Buruburu Baptist*

Church School, and Kikuyu Hospital – Low Vision Department, amongst others. These workshops will be on topics relevant to the different groups and will include:

- Toy making
- First aid
- Communication
- Acceptance
- Nutrition
- Chest therapy among others

## 7. EARLY INTERVENTION OUTREACH CONSULTATIONS

SEP will continue to offer early intervention consultations by visiting schools and centres in different counties.

**The venues for the consultations are as follows:**

February	-	Narok
May	-	Makueni
June	-	Menengai
July	-	Matonyok
August	-	Nairegi Enkare
September	-	Machakos
October	-	Makueni 1
November	-	Makueni 2

## 8. WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS FOR FATHERS

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

## 9. THERAPY INTERVENTION AND TRAINING IN PROJECTS

SEP will continue allocating intern therapists to offer therapy intervention in 5 centres and schools in the course of 2018. The therapists will ensure that therapy intervention and training of the parents and caregivers is offered regularly. Three new projects will be added in 2018, the projects will include:

PROJECT	PROJECT DAYS
Songa Mbele in Mukuru	Every Monday
St Joseph Kahawa Sukari	Every Tuesday
Buruburu Baptist Church School	Every Wednesday
Comboni Health in Kariobangi	Every Thursday
John Paull II home in Lokichar	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.

## **10. 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.

## **11. TRAINING MANUALS**

SEP will continue working on a teacher training and physiotherapy training manual. The training manuals will formalise our training programmes. They will ensure consistency in presentation of content.

## **12. MAKING ADAPTATIONS USING APPROPRIATE PAPER BASED TECHNOLOGY**

Appropriate Paper Based Technology (APBT) allows the construction of furniture and equipment made out of cardboard. As the material is very flexible and easily malleable, APBT is particularly suitable for adapted furniture for children with disabilities. E. g. chairs and standing frames can be constructed at the precise dimensions that give the child an ideal position. Raw materials are affordable and the construction process is simple.

As a part of its therapy intervention and capacity building activities, SEP provides adapted furniture for children with disabilities from families living in poverty. In the past SEP worked with different carpenters who made the furniture out of timber, but faced challenges: the chairs were expensive as the price of the wood went up, and unreliable carpenters. In 2018, SEP's goal is to open its own workshop in order to obtain a higher quality of the produced furniture and equipment and to guarantee a cost efficient production.

Therapists and fathers will undergo an initial training on how to make furniture and equipment with this method; renovations of the workshop will be made and then production of furniture and equipment will commence.

## **13. AWARENESS CREATION**

SEP will organise more disability and inclusion awareness days aimed at sensitizing the community on various disabilities, available interventions and inclusion; and enabling parents by providing a forum for them to seek clarification on the condition of their child. In 2018 our approach for awareness will be different. We will work with the siblings of children with disabilities who will have attended the sibling's trainings. The siblings will then come up with a performance that they will present in different project areas to showcase and sensitize the community and peers on disability and inclusion.

SEP will print two more brochures on spina bifida and hydrocephalus.

SEP will review and reprint the SEP brochures on various topics including: autism; communication disorders; learning difficulties; Down syndrome; rickets; and children's rights.

## **14. STRATEGIC PLANNING**

SEP will launch the new strategic plan 2018–2022. The strategic plan will guide SEP's programmes and operations over the five years period 2018–2022. It provides a framework and a guide for SEP's work in improving the life of children with disabilities. SEP advocates for a holistic approach and for effective therapy and educational intervention through a transdisciplinary approach.

SEP will also develop two more strategies in 2017; the communication and fundraising strategies.

## **15. 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.

## **16. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

SEP members and staff will attend various courses for professional development on various topics including psycho-social support for the staff, music therapy workshop, people to people workshop amongst others.

## **17. 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 disabilities to socialize in a safe environment. The events will continue to take place in the morning hours as this was a success in 2017.

## **18. NETWORKING**

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

## **19. FUNDRAISING**

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

## **20. 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.**

## ANNEX 1

<b>List of full members 2017</b>	
<b>NAME</b>	<b>PROFESSION</b>
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
Kelvin Chege	Occupational Therapist
Perpetua Omondi	Occupational Therapist
Basilisa Otolim	Occupational Therapist
Nyongesa Elisabeth	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
Gregory Kipngetich	Special Needs Teacher
John Githinji	Special Needs Teacher
Nancy Munyi	Special Needs Teacher
Elizabeth Macharia	Special Needs Teacher
Veena Arora	Special Needs Teacher
Tom Mutiso	Physiotherapist
Conny Motzka	Physiotherapist
John Areba	Physiotherapist
Isaac Makori	Physiotherapist
Mark Wanyama	Physiotherapist
Hannington Muhanji	Physiotherapist
Lunar Odawa	Counselling Psychologist
Jaini Shah	Speech & Language Therapist

<b>List of intern members 2017</b>	
Victorine Opiyo	Occupational Therapist
Nyanchama Deoffnie	Occupational Therapist
Nancy Wamala	Occupational Therapist
Cecilia Njeri Kamau	Occupational Therapist
Kenneth Peter Mwangi	Occupational Therapist
Celine Achieng	Occupational Therapist
Milka Shitandi	Occupational Therapist
Rebecca Musilvi	Occupational Therapist
Roy Ochieng	Occupational Therapist
Geoffrey Mugendi	Occupational Therapist
Sarah Etale	Occupational Therapist
Carol Chumba	Occupational Therapist
Regina Wambui	Physiotherapist
Conceptor Bala	Physiotherapist
Shirlyn Mwachi	Physiotherapist
Aaron Moguche	Physiotherapist
Elizabeth Kingoi	Physiotherapist
Cecilia Kamene	Special Needs Teacher
Leah Atim Busolo	Special Needs Teacher
Brenda Winsome	Special Needs Teacher
Daniel Muraya	Special Needs Teacher
Jennifer Ondiek	Special Needs Teacher
Annoellah Muhonja	Special Needs Teacher
Lucy Mweruka	Special Needs Teacher
Christine Luhombo	Special Needs Teacher
Samson Ngugi	Special Needs Teacher
Druscillah Kemuma	Special Needs Teacher