

ANNUAL REPORT



M-KIDS

ASSOCIATION

2023

M-KIDS ASSOCIATION

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M-Kids Association is a registered charitable organisation/institution with the Registrar of Association, 11495, with the National Social Inclusion Foundation, NCSRF/2017/0389, and with the Mauritius Revenue Authority.

The figures represented in this annual report are retrieved from the 2023 audited accounts.

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Word from the Founder & Director General

I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your keen interest in the endeavours of the M-Kids Association. When reflecting on M-Kids' achievements in 2023, it is evident that our organisation has steadfastly pursued its commitment to ensuring the welfare of children across Mauritius and Rodrigues.

Since our inception, the core mission of our organisation has consistently revolved around fostering the strength and resilience of children, particularly those who are in vulnerable situations from an early age. Food security remains a priority for our association (we are committed to our longstanding tradition of the Share-A-Meal scheme), but in order to keep up with the fast-paced world, our association must provide our children with the necessary tools and skills. So, in 2023, we have introduced new projects and activities to build up our young beneficiaries.

As such, we have launched the IT SmartLab project, which focuses on teaching coding and programming to children who have limited or no access to computers and Internet, a sad reality in a modern Mauritius.

Adding to our offerings in 2023, our Superkids project enables children to unwind and learn about themselves and the world through fun and interactive retreats.

Moreover, in our continuous pursuit of improving our organisation's sustainability and promoting environmental consciousness among our beneficiaries, we are slowly adopting eco-friendly measures to lead by example and inspire a younger, more environmentally conscious generation.

Throughout this journey, we have formed several meaningful connections and are truly grateful for the chance to work alongside fresh collaborators.

We want to express our immense gratitude to our sponsors, partners, staff members, volunteers, and well-wishers, who have stood by us tirelessly and deserve our deepest thanks and special recognition.

When you flip through the Annual Report 2023, you will be struck by the remarkable impact we have accomplished, thanks to your unwavering support for M-Kids.

Imaam Arshad Joomun



Word from the President

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the remarkable achievements and unwavering dedication demonstrated by M-Kids and its various stakeholders. Together, we have embraced our mission of “No Child Left Behind” with fervour and compassion, striving to make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

Our journey has been one of growth and impact, driven by the collective efforts of our board members, directors, staff, volunteers, donors, sponsors, and partners. Your commitment has been the driving force behind our success, enabling us to expand our reach, enhance our various programmes, and foster positive change in communities across Mauritius and Rodrigues.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you for your tireless contributions and steadfast support. Your generosity and passion inspire us to continue pushing boundaries and pursuing excellence in all that we do.

As we embark on the next chapter of our journey, guided by our Strategic Plan for 2023-2025, I am confident that together, we will achieve even greater milestones and impact countless more lives.

During the upcoming year, our commitment extends beyond enhancing the lives of children across Mauritius and Rodrigues. We eagerly anticipate addressing the needs of vulnerable women and their children who have nowhere else to turn through our forthcoming project, Haven of Hope—a temporary refuge for them.



Additionally, we remain steadfast in our dedication to ensuring that our younger beneficiaries receive a quality education necessary for them to become independent and successful.

M-Kids continues to forge ahead with innovation and expansion, aspiring to empower individuals to become not only successful but also exemplary citizens.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and continued partnership. I look forward to the incredible achievements that lie ahead as we continue to write the story of hope and transformation together.

With gratitude and optimism,

Mr Muhammad Wasim Meethoo

About M-KIDS

M-Kids is a registered national NGO dedicated to alleviating the suffering of vulnerable children and empowering them through multi-stakeholder programmes and activities, without discrimination, to create a bright future where every child can prosper.

MISSION

M-Kids' mission is to "improve the well-being of children and empower the most vulnerable among them through impactful, sustainable multi-stakeholder programmes and activities". In the pursuit of this mission, M-Kids intervenes in four key areas:

- ✓ Child Poverty Alleviation
- ✓ Remedial Education & Life Skills Empowerment.
- ✓ Psycho-Social Support & Therapy.
- ✓ Youth & the Environment

VISION

M-Kids envisions a society where "No child is left behind" is a reality. M-Kids aspires to a society where:

- ✓ All children have equal access to basic needs of modern living;
- ✓ All children feel safe and supported at all times;
- ✓ And the most vulnerable children are afforded protection and opportunities through affirmative policies and actions.

According to NSIF, Vulnerable Children refer to individuals under the age of 18 who are living below or in absolute poverty, have a disability or a severe disease, are abused, neglected, abandoned, orphans, street children, teenage parents, children with incarcerated parents, in conflict with the law, out-of-school and illiterate, or suffering from substance abuse.

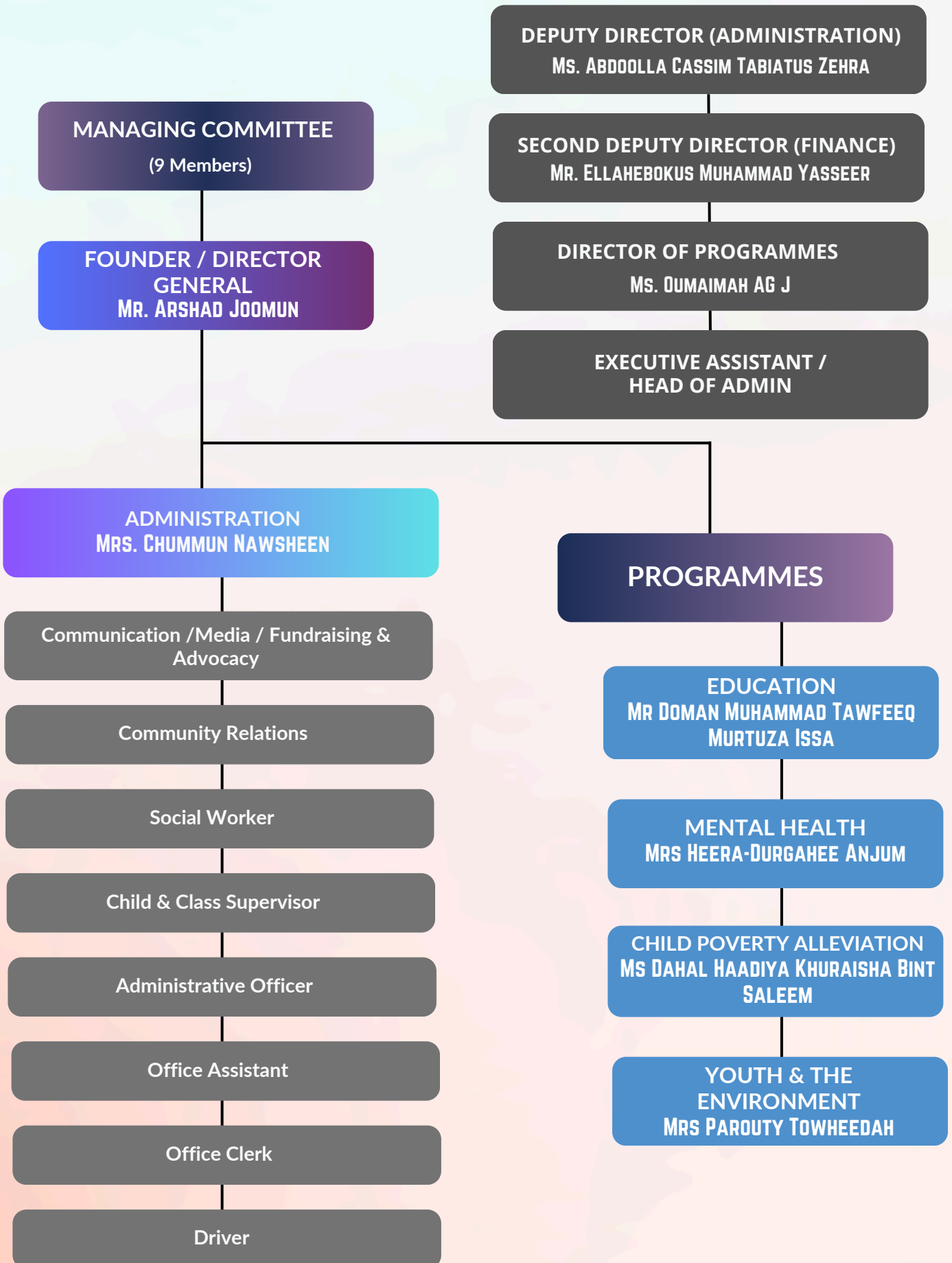


CORE VALUE

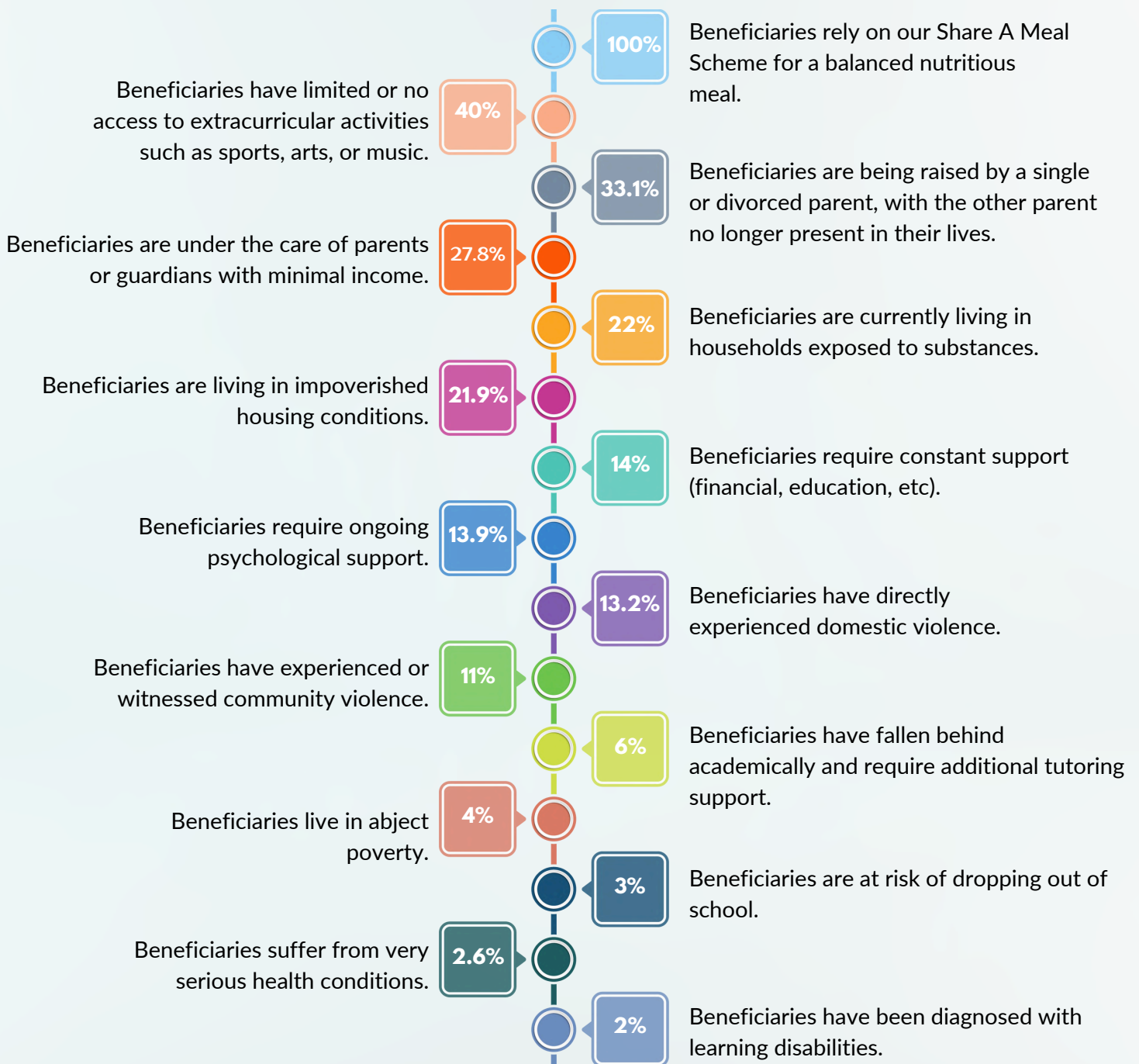
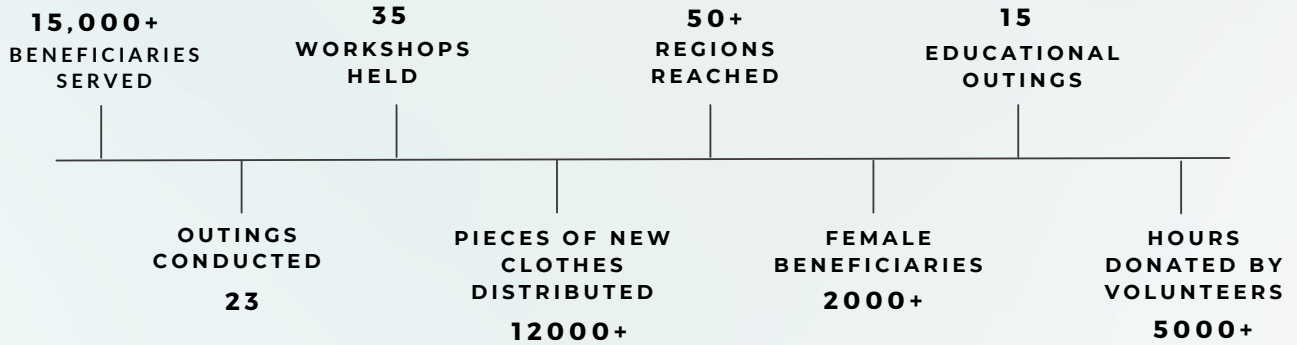
- Our faith is our driving force for social change, development, and shared prosperity.
- We take responsibility for our actions and are answerable to our stakeholders for our policies and decisions.
- We disclose our performance clearly and accurately to our board members and regulatory agencies for review and appraisal.
- We treat all our beneficiaries equally with fairness and equity and do not discriminate on the basis of race and ethnicity.
- Effective collaboration is key to our success. We work with several partners and collaborators locally and internationally to enhance the impact and efficacy of our programmes.



Organisational Chart 2023



Year 2023 in Pictures & Numbers



PROJECT & ACTIVITIES 2023





EDUCATION PROGRAMME

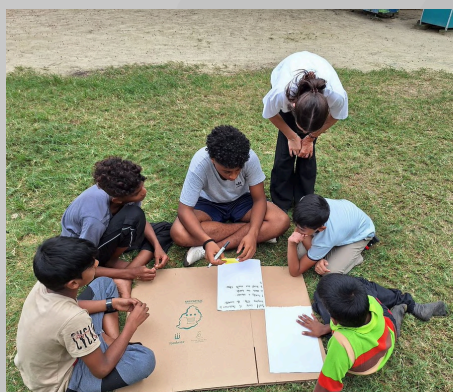
4 QUALITY EDUCATION



At M-Kids, we understand that a quality education is not just about providing access to schools and classrooms. It is about ensuring that our beneficiaries receive a holistic and inclusive education that equips them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and values to thrive in their personal and professional lives. To achieve this, in 2023, we allocated the majority of our funds towards various education-related initiatives.

We invested in hiring qualified and passionate teachers who can inspire and motivate our students. We provided resources such as textbooks, learning materials, and technology to create a conducive learning environment. Additionally, we conducted several extracurricular activities to broaden our young beneficiaries' horizons and enhance their employability.

By prioritising a quality education, we believe that we can empower the children in our care to break free from the cycle of poverty and create a brighter future for themselves and their communities.



After-School Remedial Classes

M-Kids remains committed to providing after-school remedial classes to our young beneficiaries. For many families, an additional assistance from the association works wonders for their children, who, for different reasons, cannot rely solely on schools or even on their parents or guardians for their academic success.

M-Kids After-school Remedial Classes offer the push they require to bolster their numeric and literacy skills, as well as many others. We remain a safe facility where we welcome children every afternoon, ensuring that they have a tutor assisting them and then afterwards, providing them with a hot meal. Each student is given individual attention, we regularly involve parents and boost students' confidence and motivation through regular short tests and positive rewarding systems.

M-Kids is here to make sure that no child is left behind, and our aim is to ensure that every child has an equal chance at success.

- ★ 90% attendance rate among students
- ★ 70% of students showed overall academic improvement
- ★ 70 beneficiaries enrolled
- ★ 65% demonstrated improvement in numeric and literacy skills
- ★ 65% beneficiaries showed long-term improvement in performance, confidence, and motivation
- ★ 20 parents or guardians actively involved
- ★ 2hrs 30 mins daily sessions



Distribution of School Materials

When a child embarks on his educational journey, he will still require his tools such as pencils, erasers, notebooks, rulers, paints, brushes, school bag, lunch boxes, uniforms, textbooks, and so on. These remain essential items to his journey, tools that will help them explore new horizons, build his capacity and unlock untapped potential.

M-Kids makes it a must that every child under its care receives the materials they will need to be able to perform at school, without being at a disadvantage. The rising cost of living makes it challenging for families with low incomes to bridge the gap between their expenses and their earnings every year. Along with school supplies, M-Kids made sure to provide pocket money to certain beneficiaries, enabling them to make small purchases and enjoy snacks.

The chances are already stacked against a child from a vulnerable background. M-Kids is actively working towards ending the generational cycle of poverty by equipping children with essential materials for their educational journey.

- ★ 500+ beneficiaries provided with school materials at a national level
- ★ 70% showed improved academic performance
- ★ 68% beneficiaries come from very low-income households



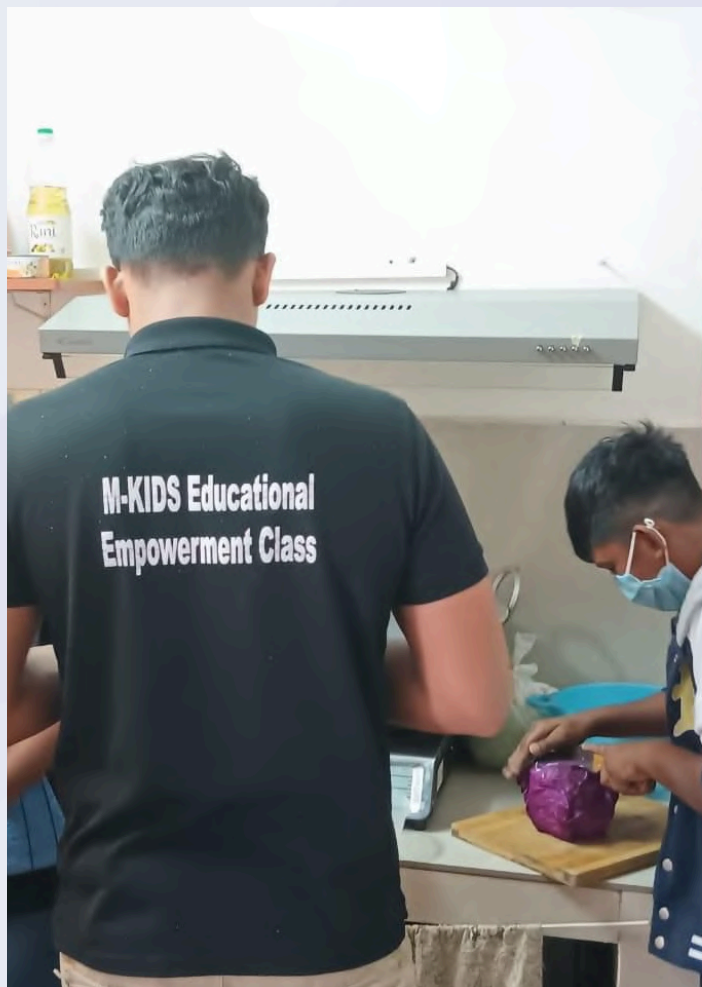
Educational Empowerment Class

In 2023, M-Kids implemented a second chance class aimed at students who dropped out or had difficulties in their academic performance. The Educational Empowerment Class (EEC) is made up of students who have, in some way, slipped through the cracks of traditional education. They are guided by a devoted teacher who is determined to help these teenagers bridge the gap and catch up with their peers.

Through the EEC project, we are equipping these youth with basic skills that they will require lifelong, guiding them in their career choices, and ensuring that they have at least a primary school certificate. In addition to reading, writing, and counting, the EEC also encourages them to engage in basic life skills classes, such as cooking classes.

The EEC is a full-day class held during the week, providing comprehensive support and education to help these students succeed.

- ★ 100% reported acquiring basic life skills
- ★ 100% expressed improved confidence and motivation towards education and career prospects
- ★ 85% improvement in academic performance
- ★ 4 students enrolled



Superkids

As a child begins their educational journey, they will need tools such as that's why M-Kids organises residential workshops and collaborates with other schools and associations. It's essential for children to socialise beyond the confines of the classroom, and they deserve a safe, enjoyable, and interactive space to do so.

M-Kids' Superkids project takes a holistic approach to youth empowerment, equipping young people with the tools, experiences, and support they need to thrive and grow. The programme aims to develop physical, intellectual, emotional, cognitive, and social abilities in our youth.

Our Superkids workshops are designed not only to educate but also to raise awareness about various issues such as bullying, nutrition, health, crime, and environmentally-friendly habits. Additionally, these workshops aim to enhance mental well-being by fostering a connection with nature and incorporating yoga sessions.

Our team of resource persons comprises a diverse range of professionals including yoga practitioners, teachers, police officers, F&B professionals, consultants, enthusiasts, psychologists, and IT professionals.

A distinctive feature of our Superkids workshops is the complete disconnection from technology. Participants refrain from using their phones throughout the 48-hour duration of the retreat. These retreats empower participants, nurture their skills, and cultivate positive friendships and influences. In 2023, we expanded our reach by organising three workshops in Rodrigues, connecting with young people there, sharing knowledge, and distributing gifts among the warm and welcoming youths!

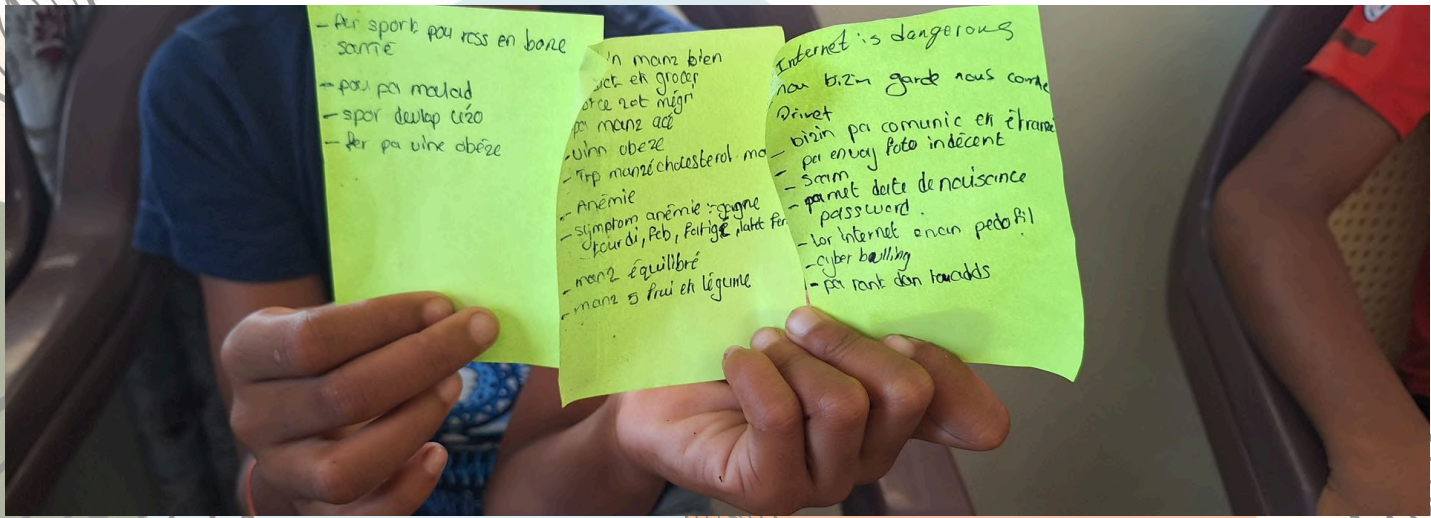
- ★ Over 300+ vulnerable youths reached
- ★ 90+ participants reached in Rodrigues
- ★ 13 residential workshops conducted in Mauritius
- ★ 3 one-day workshops conducted in Rodrigues
- ★ 3 residential workshops dedicated exclusively to girls



Photo from the 2023 Filles Formidables workshop featuring girls from Groupement Social de Souillac.



Distribution of educational materials during the Superkids workshop in Rodrigues.



- An sporik pou res en bon
 - sanme
 - pou pa malad
 - spor devlop kreò
 - ler pa vitre obeze

- An manz bien
 - manz ek gwoz
 - manz net mign
 - pou manz ase
 - vinn obeze
 - Trip manz cholestèrol. ma
 - Anèmi
 - symptom anèmi: gègne
 - kour di, Reb, feifigè, platte fer.
 - manz ekwilbrè
 - manz 5 frui ek legimè

Internet is dangerous
 - nou bizn garde nous konte
 - Dènet
 - vizin pa comunic ek etranje
 - pa envoj foto indécant
 - sanm
 - pa met dete de nouissance
 - password
 - lor internet anen pedo B1
 - cyber bulling
 - pa rank don touakds

IT SMARTLAB

The IT SmartLab Revolutionises Education in Mauritius

M-Kids is equipping the next generation of the country with the tools they need to thrive in the digital age through the IT SmartLab project. This initiative aims to democratise access to coding and programming skills, especially for children and young people from impoverished backgrounds across Mauritius.

With a visionary goal of bridging the digital divide, the IT SmartLab project empowers underserved communities with essential IT skills and knowledge. By offering these opportunities, M-Kids aims to level the playing field and pave the way for a more inclusive digital future.

In today's interconnected world, being tech-savvy is a necessity, not a luxury. The courses offered by the IT SmartLab project enhance language and technological skills while fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. Through the language of code, students learn to think innovatively and approach challenges with confidence.

The impact of the IT SmartLab project extends beyond the classroom, laying the foundation for personal and professional growth. By nurturing digitally literate individuals, the project empowers Mauritius to thrive in the digital economy of the future.

Undoubtedly, this project has illuminated the path for numerous beneficiaries, many of whom had previously believed that a career in IT was beyond their reach due to misunderstandings, limited access to computers, and feelings of inadequacy. However, this initiative is not merely teaching computer skills; it is actively reshaping their perceptions and bolstering their self-esteem!



- 62 students joined the IT SmartLab
- 61 certificates awarded to 41 students
- 60%+ lacked a computer at home, yet their determination prevailed
- 40%+ coded without permanent laptop access, showcasing resilience
- 1 standout student completed four modules, a testament to dedication
- Partnerships with École Père Henri Souchon and Muslim Educational Society (Rabita) expanded the project's impact, ensuring the widespread benefits of IT education across diverse communities



GEMS

In a world fraught with challenges and pressures, especially for young women, GEMS (Girl Empowered & Motivated for Success) provides a sanctuary—a haven where girls can find the support and resources they need to navigate the complexities of adolescence and emerge as confident, empowered individuals.

Through a blend of structured learning sessions and adventurous outdoor activities, GEMS equips girls with the knowledge, skills, and resilience necessary to thrive in today's world. Moreover, the programme emphasises the importance of embracing diversity and fostering interfaith dialogue, instilling values of empathy, understanding, and respect.

Within the nurturing environment of GEMS, our girls engage in meaningful discussions on topics ranging from mental health and body positivity to cultivating healthy relationships. These conversations not only empower girls to confront societal pressures head-on but also inspire them to embrace their true selves unapologetically.

Additionally, GEMS recognises the significance of spiritual enrichment, providing girls with opportunities to explore their beliefs, values, and inner strength. This comprehensive approach fosters a sense of purpose and resilience, empowering girls to overcome challenges and thrive in all aspects of their lives.

In essence, GEMS serves as a powerful catalyst for personal growth and development, empowering our teenage girls to overcome obstacles, pursue their dreams, and emerge as leaders of tomorrow.

- 💎 100% expressing improved self-confidence and self-esteem
- 💎 100% reporting increased knowledge, skills, and resilience
- 💎 90% reporting a greater sense of purpose and resilience
- 💎 13 girls enrolled in the GEMS programme
- 💎 5 discussions on mental health, body positivity, and healthy relationships
- 💎 1 interfaith dialogue session per programme session
- 💎 Bi-monthly structured learning sessions and outdoor activities
- 💎 Regular cooking sessions carried out to empower participants



POVERTY ALLEVIATION

In December 2023, a survey conducted by a qualified social worker with our beneficiaries and their families revealed concerning statistics. 33.1% of our beneficiaries are living with divorced parents or a parent who has abandoned them, while 21.9% reside in impoverished housing conditions. Additionally, 27.8% of beneficiaries are under the care of parents or guardians earning a basic income.

These figures, compounded by the fact that many of our beneficiaries come from households with two to five children, underscore the persistent prevalence of poverty in Mauritius. It is evident that urgent action is needed to support these families and children.

At M-Kids, we remain steadfast in our commitment to addressing poverty through various projects and initiatives designed to provide assistance to those in need. Our efforts will continue to focus on empowering families and improving the lives of vulnerable children, ensuring that no one is left behind in the fight against poverty.



Share-A-Meal Scheme

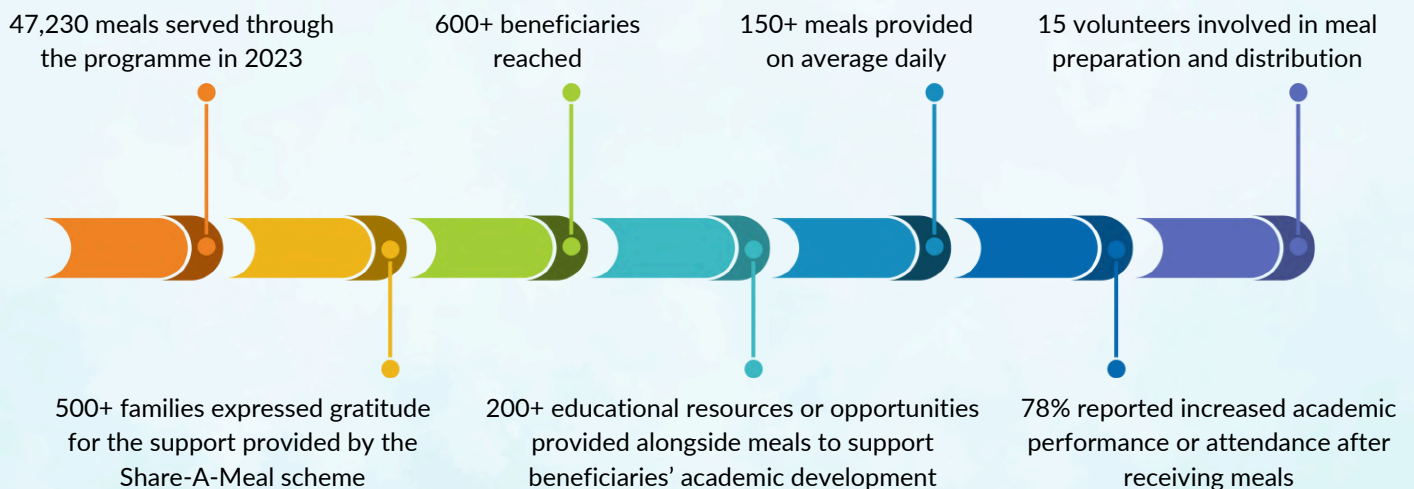


Our Share-A-Meal scheme is one of our longest running initiatives. Not only does it cater to a group of vulnerable children, but it also provides a common place where the children gather every day. The main aim of this scheme is to ensure that the beneficiaries under our care go to sleep satiated.

Additionally, it removes the burden of looking for food and preparing meals for their siblings. Through this scheme, M-Kids ensures that every child has ample time to study, look after themselves and fully focus on their education, just like any other child in Mauritius.

The meals served to our beneficiaries are always healthy, balanced hot meals! We understand that underprivileged families may compromise on health, but not at M-Kids. We make it a must to provide balanced and nutritious foods so that our growing children can thrive and reach their full potential. By prioritising their health and well-being, we aim to support their physical and cognitive development, giving them the foundation they need to succeed in life.

M-Kids actively contributed to the Islamic Cultural College Vallée des Prêtres in 2023 by assisting with the daily distribution of hot meals to students. Over 50 students received nutritious meals at school, ensuring that every deserving student had a healthy meal during the day.



Distribution of Food Vouchers & Victuals

Every month, M-Kids organises dedicated food drives to collect essential provisions for those in need within our community. Our food bank operates at a high turnover rate, swiftly distributing donations to those who require them most. Remarkably, our older teenage students play a vital role, not only participating in the food drives but also taking the initiative to pack and personally deliver supplies to those they know are in need.

Understanding that every family has different dietary requirements and preferences, M-Kids also distributes food vouchers that can be redeemed at various supermarkets. This empowers vulnerable families to prioritise and choose the food items that are most suitable for their needs, ensuring they receive the necessary nutrition while reducing the chances of food wastage. By allowing families to select items they actually consume, we support local small businesses and foster a sense of autonomy within the community.

In addition to food vouchers, we regularly distribute fish, meat, vegetables, canned and frozen foods, and fruits generously donated by our supporters. This comprehensive approach ensures that families have access to a variety of nutritious foods, meeting their diverse needs.

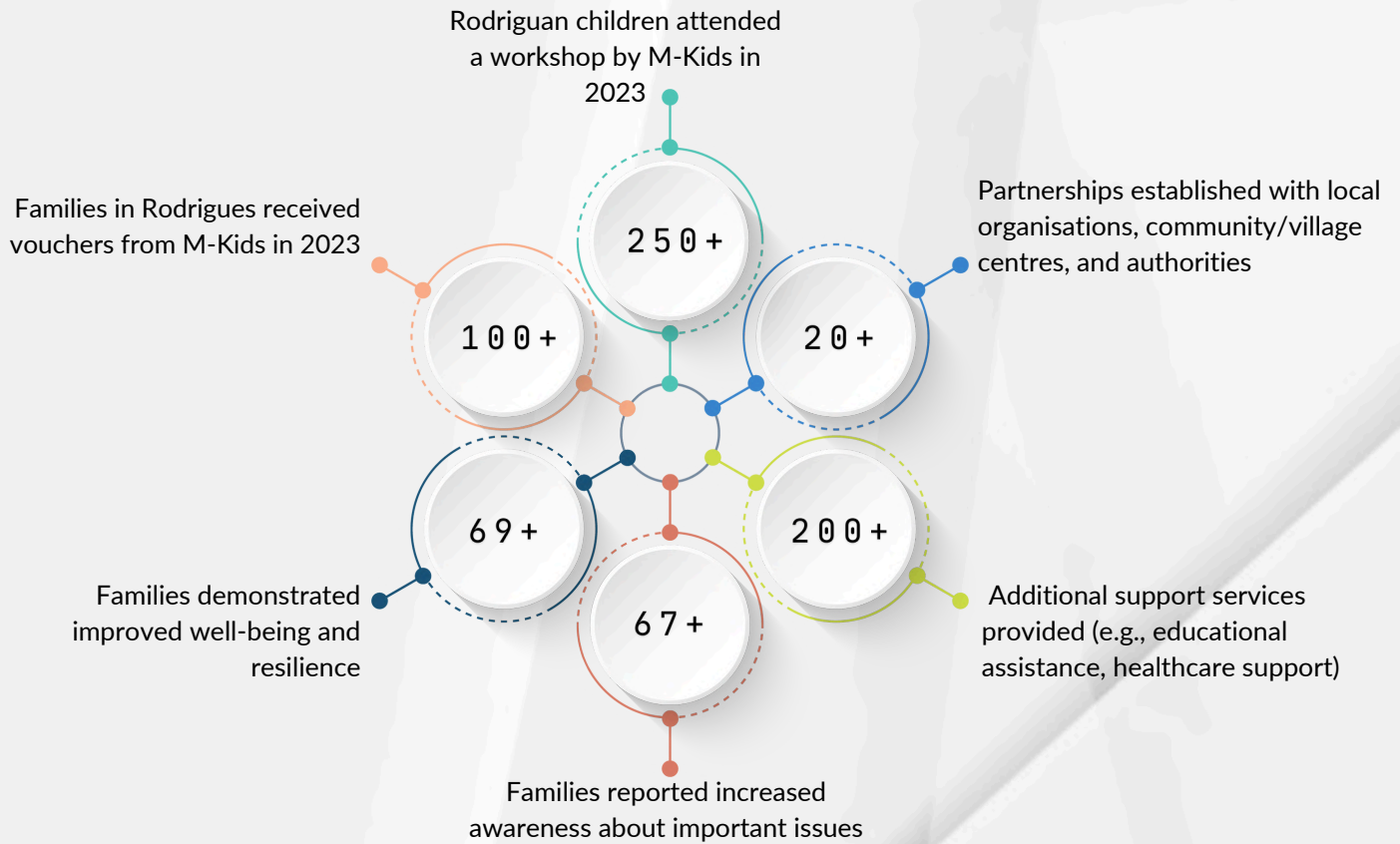
Through these initiatives, M-Kids not only provides efficient and meaningful assistance but also empowers individuals by giving them greater control over their food choices. Our commitment to supporting families is unwavering, with regular distributions and prompt responses to ad hoc requests for help, ensuring that no one in our community goes hungry.



Support to Rodriguans

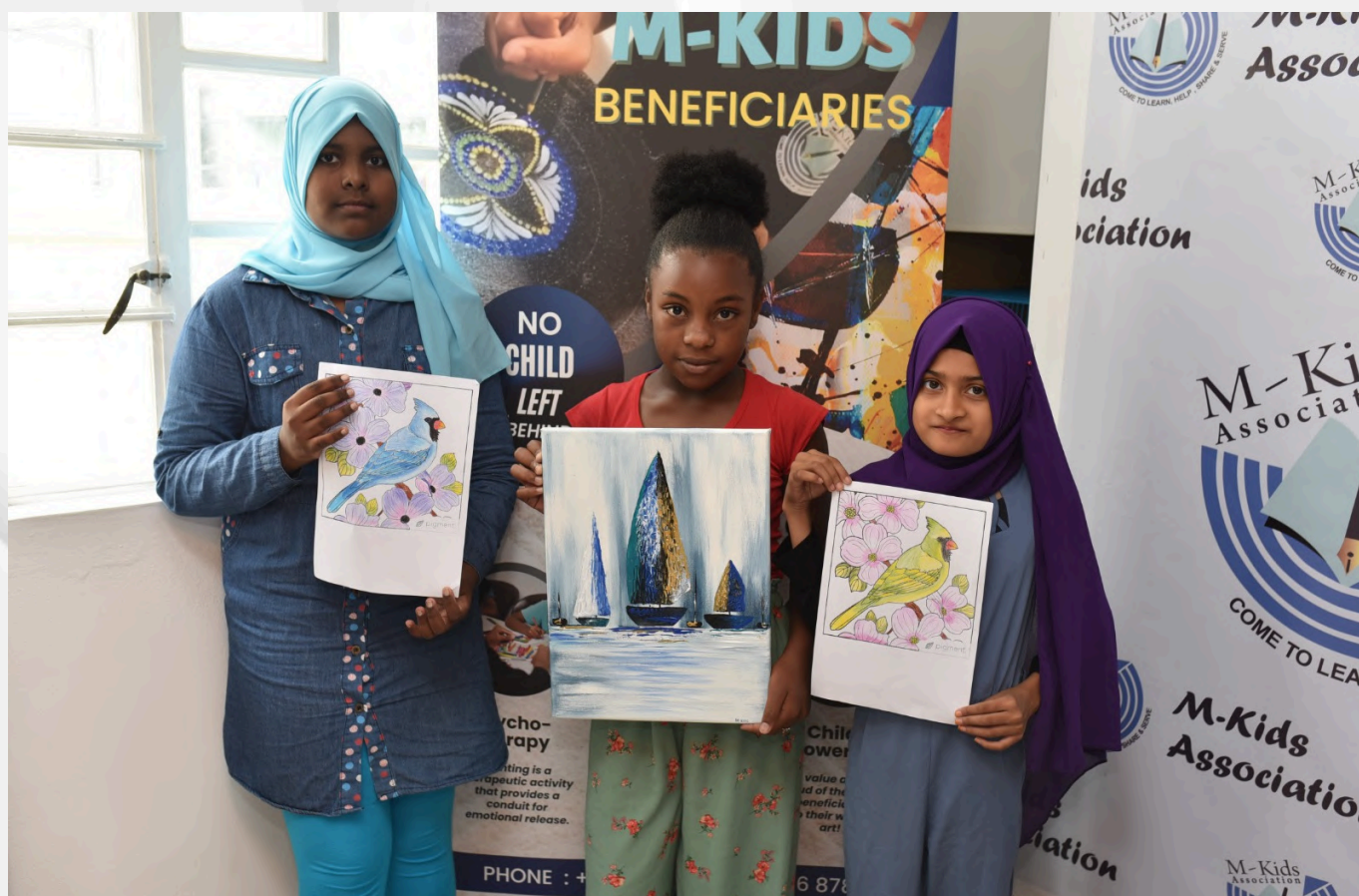
At M-Kids, our commitment to our Rodriguans fellow countrymen remains unwavering. Through our trips and sessions, we consistently extend support to families in Rodrigues. In 2023, our efforts included not only distributing vouchers to numerous families but also organising awareness sessions for the children of Rodrigues.

These initiatives underscore our dedication to poverty alleviation and raising awareness within the community.



PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT, COUNSELLING & WELLNESS PROGRAMME

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



All of our projects and activities are centred around promoting the good health and mental welfare of our beneficiaries, recognising the critical importance of both aspects, especially for children growing up in turbulent backgrounds. Whether it's providing emotional support, teaching coping strategies, fostering overall well-being, offering medical attention, boosting self-esteem through skill-building activities, or raising awareness on relevant topics, good health and well-being remain a top priority.

M-Kids ensures that vulnerable children receive crucial medical attention, including eye care, dental care, doctor visits, and hospital follow-ups, empowering them to maintain optimal health and well-being.

We understand that a child's mental well-being is fundamental to their overall development, resilience, and success. By addressing physical and mental health needs early on and equipping children with the necessary tools and support, we aim to empower them to navigate life's challenges, build healthy relationships, and thrive academically and socially.

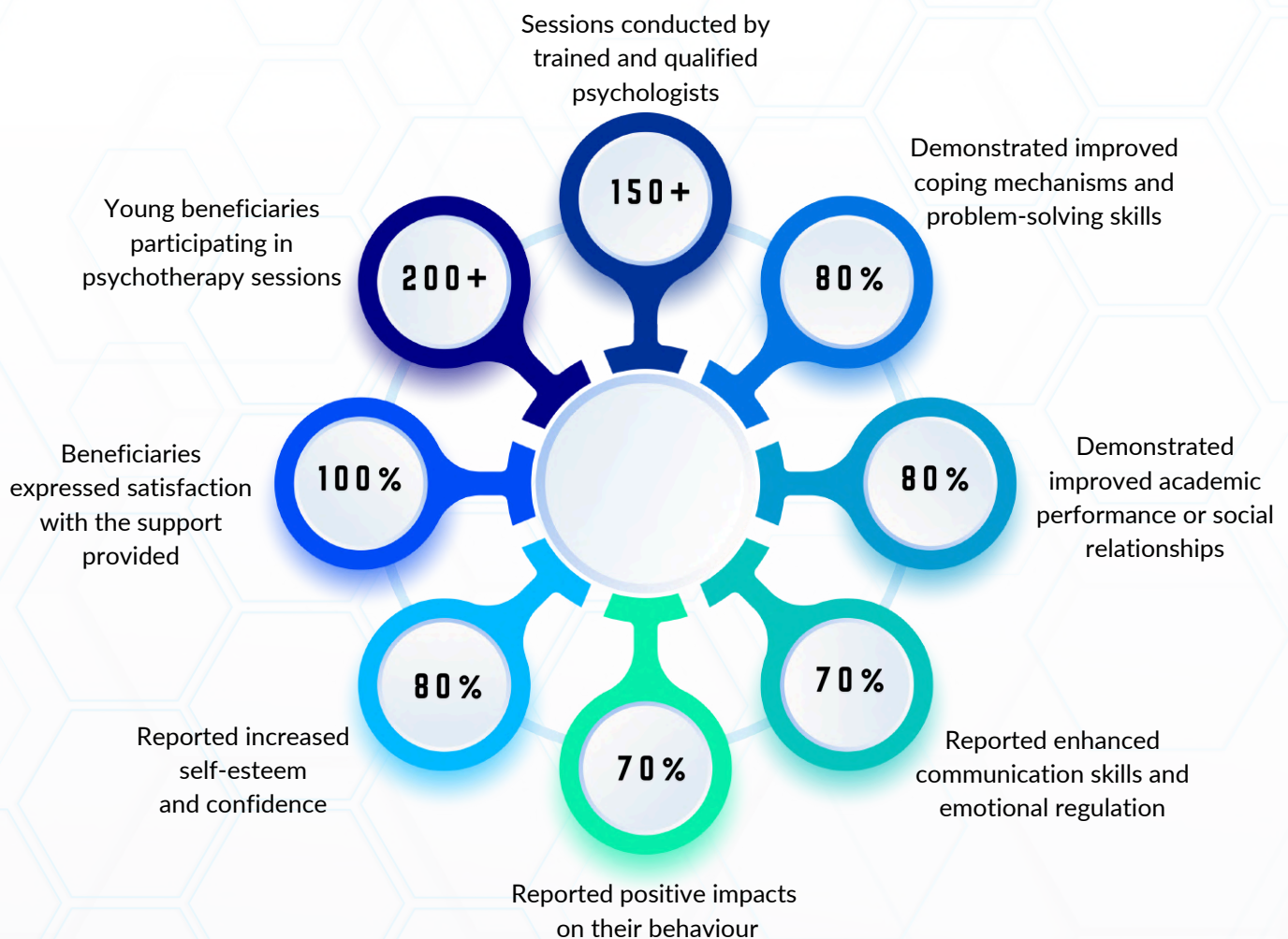
At M-Kids, we take extra care to mitigate factors that may cause distress to our beneficiaries, ensuring they grow and flourish in a supportive and nurturing environment.

Psychotherapy

Mental health remains a top priority at M-Kids. We've witnessed the positive impact of professional counselling on children's behaviour. In today's turbulent times, children encounter a myriad of challenges in both their home and school environments, such as absentee or troubled parents, neglect, peer pressure, depression, sleep disorders, anxiety, behavioural disorders, and bullying, among other difficulties.

Undoubtedly, having a trusted adult to confide in is invaluable. While it may not immediately alter a child's worldview, it provides them with valuable self-perspective and equips them with problem-solving skills to gradually overcome obstacles.

Our psychologists provide essential support to our beneficiaries through safe and individualised counselling and guidance. By participating in these sessions, our beneficiaries experience an increase in self-esteem and confidence while finding a secure outlet to express themselves and navigate through complex emotions.



Psychosocial Support

At M-Kids, we prioritise the psychosocial well-being of our beneficiaries through a diverse array of activities tailored to their interests and needs. Whether it's an art class, sports, or engaging outdoor adventures, we recognise the importance of uplifting their spirits and fostering meaningful connections.

We believe in the power of building relationships, not only amongst peers but also through active participation in volunteer opportunities, empowering teenagers to contribute positively to their communities.

Moreover, M-Kids regularly hosts cultural events to commemorate significant holidays and observances, such as Nelson Mandela Day, providing opportunities for participation and celebration.

Additionally, our outings and excursions play a vital role in positively impacting the lives of our children, offering memorable experiences and fostering personal growth. These outings not only provide a fun and educational experience but also help in building their confidence and social skills.

Through these activities, we aim to nurture the holistic well-being of our beneficiaries, promoting resilience, happiness, and a sense of belonging.

Trip to Rodrigues

Part of our psychosocial support, in the year 2023, we have taken a group of children for a visit in Rodrigues. Not only did this count as an educational trip but also as a psychosocial support activity as it allowed the children to explore a different environment and engage in various activities that promote their emotional well-being.

During the visit to Rodrigues, the children had the opportunity to learn about the island's unique culture, history, and natural surroundings.

The trip also included visits to significant landmarks and sites, such as historical buildings, museums, and natural reserves. These experiences not only enriched the children's knowledge but also sparked their curiosity and appreciation for their surroundings.

Moreover, the visit to Rodrigues provided a much-needed break from their daily routines and offered them a chance to connect with nature.

Interacting with their peers and experienced guides during the trip allowed the children to develop their social skills and build new friendships. They learned the importance of teamwork, communication, and respect for others while engaging in group activities and games.



Overall, the trip served as a holistic approach to psychosocial support, combining education, cultural enrichment, and recreational activities. It provided the children with a positive and nurturing environment to enhance their emotional well-being and develop essential life skills.

- 1000+ beneficiaries participated in psychosocial activities (e.g., art classes, sports, outdoor adventures)
- 200+ teenagers engaged in volunteer activities
- 100% of children expressed appreciation for Rodrigues' culture and natural surroundings
- 88% of children expressed interest in future educational trips
- 75% of children reported increased emotional well-being after the trip
- 60+ volunteer opportunities provided to teenagers
- 50+ group activities and games organised during the trip
- 40+ cultural and historical landmarks visited
- 35 cultural events organised in 2023
- 35+ outings and excursions organised
- 14 experienced guides facilitated the trips and visits
- 10 significant holidays and observances commemorated



Therapeutic Art Sessions

Painting is a core activity at M-Kids, providing our beneficiaries with regular painting classes, competitions, and the guidance of a dedicated art teacher. These sessions offer a peaceful retreat from their often turbulent lives, allowing children to express themselves creatively.

The quiet time spent focusing on the strokes of paintbrushes can transform a loud and chaotic environment into a calm and serene space. This creative process not only fosters a sense of accomplishment but also helps in developing fine motor skills, enhancing concentration, and encouraging emotional expression.



Research highlights the profound impact of art on vulnerable children. As psychologist Dr Cathy Malchiodi states, “Art can give a voice to children who have experienced trauma, providing them with a safe way to express their feelings and experiences.” At M-Kids, we have witnessed firsthand how painting helps children build self-esteem and resilience.

Through art, they can communicate their thoughts and emotions in a non-verbal way, aiding in their overall mental well-being. Our art classes are not just about creating beautiful pieces but nurturing the emotional and psychological growth of every child. These therapeutic art sessions play a crucial role in empowering our young beneficiaries, helping them to heal, grow, and thrive.

- 100% of participants have entered at least one painting competition.
- 100% of children have had their artwork displayed in at least one exhibition organised by M-Kids.
- 90% attendance rate for art-related events and exhibitions.
- 75% of children express a reduction in anxiety levels through regular painting.
- 75% of children continue to engage in art activities outside of M-Kids programmes.
- 70% of children report feeling a sense of accomplishment after completing art projects.
- 70% of participants have contributed to collaborative art projects that were displayed in public spaces.
- 65% of children have formed new friendships and strengthened social bonds within the art classes.
- 60% of children indicate that painting helps them deal with stress and emotional challenges.
- 30+ beneficiaries regularly attend painting classes.





Health Monitoring

M-Kids regularly carries out health screenings and monitoring to ensure the physical well-being of our beneficiaries. These screenings are vital, as many of the children under our care face significant disadvantages. Their lack of knowledge about their own health and the risks of unbalanced diets is compounded by their limited financial resources, preventing them from accessing specialised healthcare.

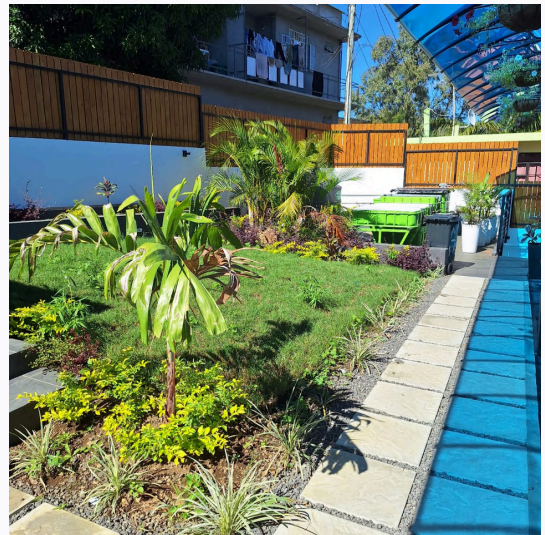
In response to these challenges, M-Kids arranges general health screenings for children and members of the community. Additionally, we facilitate specialised screenings for conditions such as vision impairment, dental issues, and orthopaedic concerns. For those in need of corrective eyewear or orthodontic treatment, we provide support to ensure they receive the necessary assistance.

Through these initiatives, M-Kids aims to address the immediate health needs of our beneficiaries and the underlying factors that may contribute to their vulnerability. By providing healthcare support, we are nurturing the well-being and setting up our beneficiaries for success in all aspects of life.

- 85 demonstrated improved academic performance or attendance
- 85% demonstrated improved physical health outcomes
- 80% of families expressed satisfaction with healthcare support
- 70 beneficiaries received regular medical check-ups
- 60% went for dental visits
- 40 beneficiaries referred to doctors or specialists
- 25 dental procedures performed
- 25% attended follow-up optometrist appointments
- 15 received eyeglasses or vision aids
- Medical check-ups conducted every 3 months



Haven of Hope PROJECT



In 2023, M-Kids launched the construction of its Haven of Hope project. This initiative aims to offer emergency relief to women and children who find themselves without shelter, providing them with a safe haven to stay for a few days or as needed.

Amidst the concerning rise in cases of violence against women and children, M-Kids has taken proactive steps to establish a secure space where individuals can seek refuge and support as they navigate challenging circumstances.

At the Haven of Hope, we are committed to providing comprehensive assistance, ensuring that those in need receive essential resources and care. Our dedicated team, including social workers and psychologists, will continue to offer support and follow-up services even after individuals have left the premises.

This project serves as a vital preventive measure against gender-based violence and offers protection to vulnerable children in need of a safe environment.

Through the Haven of Hope, M-Kids seeks to empower and uplift those facing adversity, offering hope and a path towards a brighter future.

YOUTH & THE ENVIRONMENT



In today's world, raising awareness about the environment is paramount to equipping our youth with the knowledge and tools needed to make informed decisions and take responsible actions. As an association, we recognise the urgency of this matter and are committed to not only becoming more eco-friendly but also actively involving our youth in the journey towards a more sustainable future.

At M-Kids, we are taking numerous steps to promote sustainability, including educating our youth about agriculture. By teaching children about the importance of sustainable farming practices, we empower them to become stewards of the environment and advocates for positive change.

Through these efforts, we aim to instil a sense of environmental responsibility and inspire our youth to take meaningful action towards building a better world for generations to come.



Farming Initiatives

Children from vulnerable backgrounds in urban settings face significant disadvantages, including limited exposure to agriculture and farming. They are often deprived of the opportunity to cultivate their own vegetables and learn about sustainable living. At M-Kids, we are bridging this gap by introducing our beneficiaries to farming practices that can enrich their lives and provide valuable skills. Currently, we have three sheep and around 15 egg-laying hens, which serve as practical examples.

The produce and eggs we harvest play a vital role in sustaining our Share-A-Meal scheme, ensuring that nutritious, homegrown food reaches those in need. Additionally, the extra produce is sold to community members, which helps sustain the project.

To combat ignorance and empower the young people in our care, we have also been teaching them how to grow simple vegetables that they can use in their daily lives. This hands-on experience not only provides them with the knowledge and skills to be self-sufficient but also instils a sense of responsibility and connection to nature.

Whether they wish to grow produce for personal consumption or as a potential trade, these farming initiatives offer a crucial foundation. By understanding agriculture, our beneficiaries learn about their role in the broader context of food security and sustainability. This initiative teaches them that they can contribute to a more sustainable world, standing on their own two feet with confidence and capability.

- 🌱 2,749 eggs collected in 2023
- 🌱 75 educational sessions conducted
- 🌱 75% reported increased knowledge about agriculture
- 🌱 70% demonstrated improved self-sufficiency skills
- 🌱 70% expressed interest in farming
- 🌱 65% reported increased awareness about environmental sustainability
- 🌱 55 families or more benefited from grown vegetables
- 🌱 40 teenage beneficiaries participating in this initiative
- 🌱 15 children involved in selling surplus produce
- 🌱 10+ types of vegetables grown in urban settings
- 🌱 1 rooftop vegetable garden established



YOUTH LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Interview with Manasvee R. Caulteechurn

1. CAN YOU TALK A BIT ABOUT THE WORK THAT YOU DO AT M-KIDS?

I am an IT tutor at M-Kids. In my role, I teach programming languages like Java and Python to kids, using an online platform called EduCode (based in Canada) for introductory programming. I also teach web development basics, including HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. Additionally, I've conducted several workshops to raise awareness about cybersecurity for kids. This is crucial in today's world because it helps teenagers understand the potential dangers of being online and equips them with the knowledge to navigate the internet safely, thus preventing them from becoming victims of cyber threats.



2. TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY WITH M-KIDS.

My journey started in 2023, when I joined the IT SmartLab project. I tutored a group of students at Oasis de Paix, also known as École Père Henri Souchon in Pointe aux Sables. After a few months, I also worked at Rabita Prevocational School for Girls in the same capacity. At M-Kids, I guided and monitored students for the African Code Challenge organised by the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre. My first workshop for the Superkids project was in Trou aux Biches, followed by another in Rodrigues in November 2023, which was an amazing experience.

3. WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WORKING WITH M-KIDS?

I admire M-Kids' mission and vision, which focus on providing opportunities for children and those seeking a life-changing experience. M-Kids has offered me several opportunities for which I am forever grateful. The working environment is amazing, with everyone being nice and helpful. Whenever I encounter issues, Oumaimah and the office team are quick to solve them.

4. WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY DOING IN LIFE?

I am currently a student at the University of Mauritius, studying for a BSc in Web and Multimedia. I am in my last semester and working on my dissertation, which focuses on reintroducing the Oasis de Paix website.

5. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG PEOPLE?

My advice to young people is to stay curious and never stop learning. Embrace technology, but always keep online safety in mind. Understanding programming and cybersecurity can open many doors and protect you in the digital world. Always seek out opportunities for growth and don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it.

Interview with Aisha, Member of the GNRC Children's Committee 2022-2023

In 2022, Aisha S. became a member of the GNRC's Children's Committee 2022-2023. This year-long internship, organised by the GNRC, brought together participants from around the world to learn about various topics concerning children's rights and issues.



1. CAN YOU SHARE WHAT THE GNRC INTERNSHIP IS ALL ABOUT?

The GNRC internship brought together children from different countries to create positive change. We learned about our rights and discussed global issues affecting children. We also shared our opinions and suggested solutions.

2. WHAT WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS YOU LEARNED DURING THE INTERNSHIP?

The most important topics I learned about were online safety and the SDGs. Online safety covered issues like hacking, phishing, and cyberbullying, teaching us how to prevent and tackle these problems. The SDGs topic educated us about the 17 sustainable development goals.

3. WHAT IS YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN MAURITIUS TODAY?

I believe children's rights in Mauritius are fair. The recent children's bill includes many laws for children's protection and well-being. The government is making significant efforts in this area.

4. WHAT ARE THE MAIN ISSUES AFFECTING CHILDREN, AND HOW CAN ORGANISATIONS LIKE OURS COLLABORATE TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVES?

A major issue affecting children is drug exposure through peers. Organisations can collaborate to raise awareness about the dangers of drugs and cigarettes and provide a safe community where children are less likely to be influenced by these substances.

5. HOW DID BEING PART OF THE GNRC'S CHILD ADVISORY COMMITTEE IMPACT YOUR PERSONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT?

The internship boosted my self-confidence and taught me to speak up for myself. Interacting with leaders and solving various cases enhanced my critical thinking skills.

6. HOW DO YOU THINK THE INTERNSHIP INFLUENCED YOUR ADVOCACY FOR CHILD RIGHTS?

I learned about the advocacy cycle, which provided me with a clear process to better advocate for children's rights.

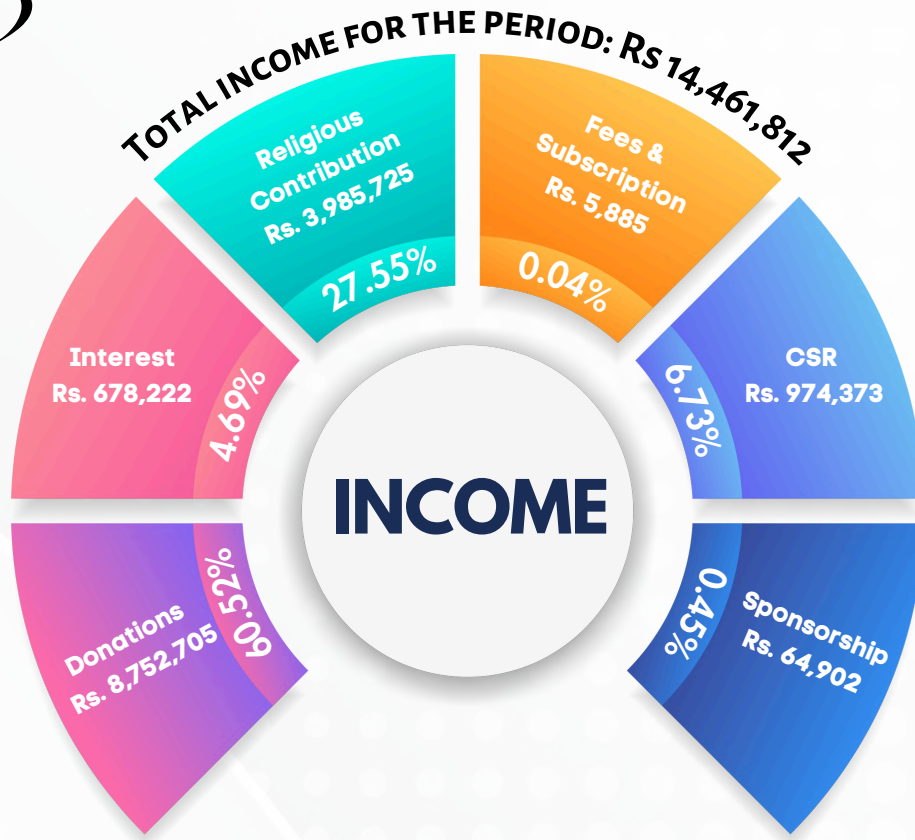
7. WHAT DID YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT BEING PART OF THE GNRC?

I enjoyed meeting friendly peers and working with a supportive mentor. Learning new and interesting things made the experience very rewarding.

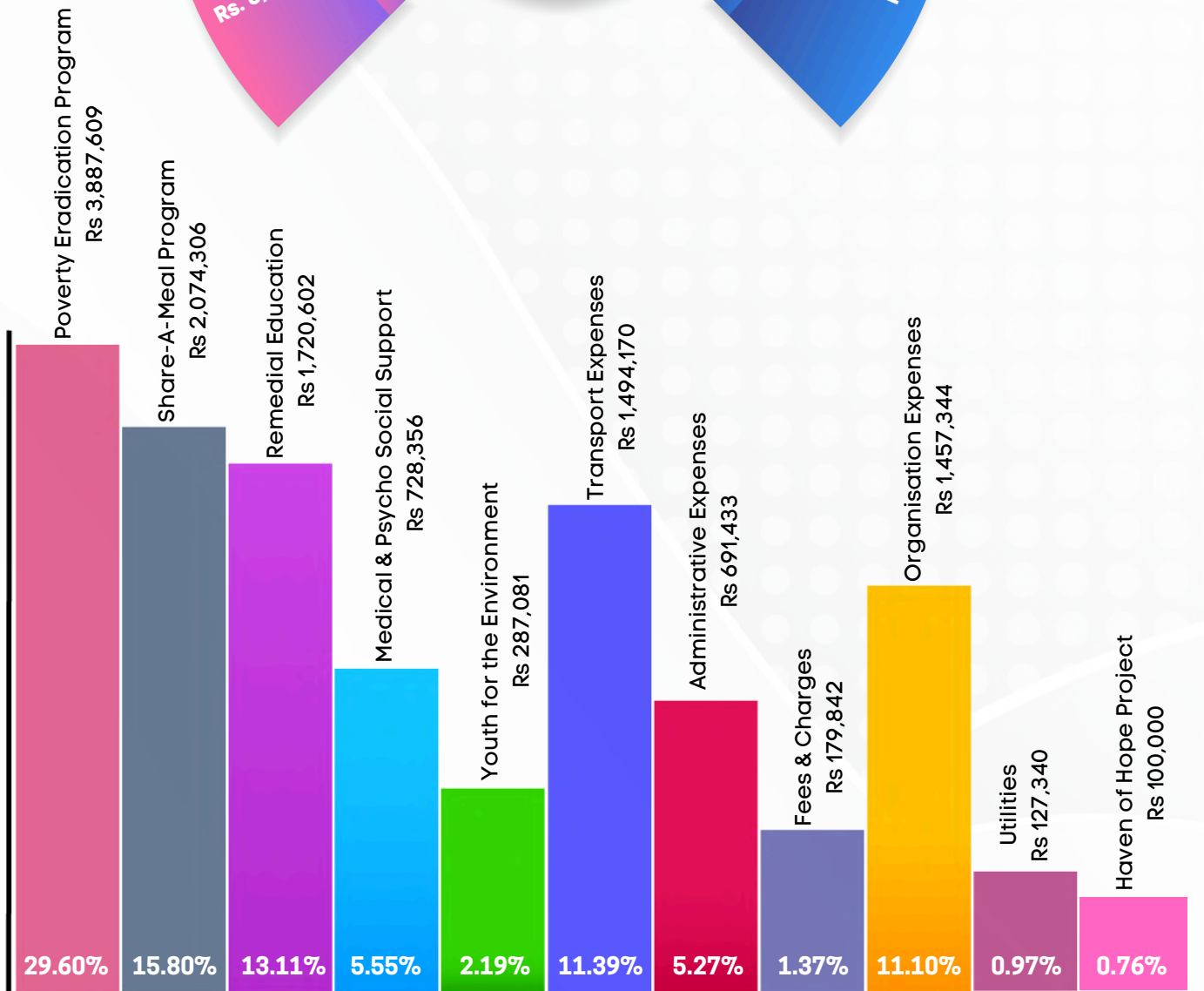
8. ANY FINAL THOUGHTS OR WORDS OF ADVICE?

My advice is to strive hard, maintain a positive mindset, and never give up. These three steps will help you achieve your dreams.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION 2023



EXPENSES



TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD Rs 13,124,888

REPORTS

M-Kids' revenue for the Year 2023 amounted to Rs 14,461,812. This total includes Rs 8,752,705 from general donations, Rs 64,902 from sponsorships, Rs 974,373 from CSR, Rs 3,985,725 from religious donations, Rs 5,885 in fees and subscriptions, and Rs 678,222 from interest collected. An unexpected windfall arrived in the form of a refund from the MRA. A significant Rs 992,491 was returned under the Prime à l'Emploi scheme, further enhancing our financial resilience.

In the financial year 2023, the expenditures for the Poverty Eradication Programme totalled Rs 3,887,609. This encompassed various components, including Directors' Allowances amounting to Rs 137,261, donations allocated for the empowerment and life skills training of beneficiaries, reaching Rs 1,729,236, and the distribution of food packs to beneficiaries, totalling Rs 215,860. Stipends totalling Rs 197,607 were disbursed to our most regular helpers, while the Office Assistant received a salary of Rs 139,361. Patronage for orphans amounted to Rs 34,291, and expenses for the Rodrigues project reached Rs 69,940. Additionally, Rs 230,376 was allocated to social housing for our beneficiaries. Expenditures for experiential learning totalled Rs 1,089,739, and funds amounting to Rs 43,938 were utilised to assist beneficiaries in covering their utility expenses.

The overall expenditures for our Share-A-Meal scheme amounted to Rs 2,074,306, encompassing salaries for cooks and a cleaner at Rs 217,480, along with the cost of providing hot meals, totalling Rs 1,856,826. Rs 1,720,602 was spent on the Remedial Education programme, with Rs 725,791 for Capacity Building Workshops and Rs 77,000 for the Project Coordinator's fees. Additionally, Rs 163,883 was expended on school materials and uniforms, while a supervisor received a salary of Rs 120,157. Teachers' fees reached Rs 633,771.

A total of Rs 728,356 was allocated for Medical & Psycho-Social Support, covering expenses such as medicine for beneficiaries, totalling Rs 43,836, along with the salary of a social worker at Rs 24,855. Doctor and psychologist fees amounted to Rs 23,000, while a trainee office clerk received a salary of Rs 117,981. Medical assistance for our beneficiaries accounted for Rs 518,684.

In our efforts to promote environmental consciousness and foster agricultural initiatives among our youth, we invested a total of Rs 287,081. This allocation included payments of Rs 158,562 to Child Care Attendants, Rs 73,327 for livestock feed in support of our farming project, and Rs 55,192 for the procurement of materials and equipment essential for these endeavours.

Transportation plays a vital role in our operations, with total expenses amounting to Rs 1,494,170. This encompassed various aspects, including airfare for our young beneficiaries and expenses related to conferences or fundraising efforts for our staff members, totalling Rs 447,776. Additionally, to facilitate our movement across the island, we allocated Rs 472,013 for bus and van rentals. Costs associated with driver salaries and allowances amounted to Rs 213,595, while delivery fees totalled Rs 1,426. Fuel expenses amounted to Rs 228,153, with an additional Rs 131,207 allocated for insurance, road tax, and vehicle maintenance.

The backbone of our organisation lies in our administration, with total expenses reaching Rs 691,433. Within this category, salaries for the Communications Officer amounted to Rs 145,528, while the Community Relations Officer's salary was Rs 111,041. A total of Rs 74,085 was spent on CSG, and NSF expenses reached Rs 80,806. PRGF incurred costs of Rs 70,995. The Executive Assistant's salary accounted for Rs 236,978, and we received an HRDC Refund (YEP) of Rs 28,000.

In relation to fees and other charges, we expended a total of Rs 179,842. This encompassed Accountant Fees, which amounted to Rs 67,041, bank service charges at Rs 17,363, and Subscription and Affiliation Fees (national and international) reaching Rs 30,063.

Regarding Organisation Expenses, Cleaning Fees amounted to Rs 115,823, while Consumables accounted for Rs 36,863. The purchase of Equipment totalled Rs 170,983, with Postage expenses reaching Rs 3,249. Rent and Building Storage costs amounted to Rs 296,806, while Repairs & Maintenance reached Rs 302,487. Stationery expenses amounted to Rs 44,303, and a total of Rs 486,830 was allocated to visibility expenditures. Utilities expenses reached a total of Rs 127,340.

In conclusion, the financial report for the year 2023 reflects our unwavering commitment to our mission of poverty eradication and community empowerment. We have diligently allocated funds to various programmes and initiatives, ensuring a comprehensive approach to addressing the diverse needs of our beneficiaries. Despite facing challenges, our responsible financial management and strategic spending demonstrate our dedication to transparency and accountability.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all stakeholders, partners, and supporters for their invaluable contributions, enabling us to make a meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve. Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission and committed to fostering positive change within our community.

YOUSOUF PEERBAYE F.C.A
Chartered Accountant England & Wales
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 Tel. / Fax (230) 240 4849 – Mobile : 52585252
 Email : yapeerbaye@intnet.mu
opeerbaye@gmail.com

AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBER OF M-KIDS ASSOCIATION

I have audited the financial statements of **M-Kids Association** which have been prepared on the proper basis of the accounting policies.

Respective responsibilities of the directors and auditors

The manager is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the college and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the proper accounting standard. He is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the college and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. It is my responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those financial statements and to report my opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

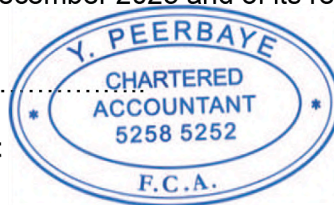
I conducted my audit in accordance with International standards on Auditing. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosure in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the manager in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the college's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. In forming my opinion, I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of the information in the financial statements. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the association as at 31st December 2023 and of its results for the year ended on that date.

.....
Yousouf Ali Peerbaye
Chartered Accountant
Licensed by FRC



Date:



Testimonials International Volunteers

Globalement, j'ai beaucoup aimé mon expérience au sein de l'association M-Kids. Pour cette expérience, je suis partie faire du bénévolat avec une amie à l'Île Maurice. C'était très intéressant de découvrir leurs habitudes, leur culture, leurs façons d'être...

Nous avons vraiment été prises sous l'aile du directeur de l'association. Il a fait de son mieux pour nous inclure, pour que l'on ne se sente pas à l'écart, et il était surtout très à l'écoute et très ouvert d'esprit. Ainsi, dès que nous avions une question, nous n'hésitions pas ; dès que nous avions du mal sur quelque chose, il prenait du temps pour nous répondre... Nous avons créé un véritable lien avec notre directeur d'association, mais aussi avec toute l'équipe sans oublier les enfants.

Les membres de l'association faisaient appel à nous lorsqu'ils en avaient besoin. Nous avons surtout été présentes avec les enfants de l'association pour faire des jeux avec eux ou toute autre activité. Le partage de culture était très intéressant. Comme nous l'avait expliqué notre directeur d'association, le fait d'être présentes pour les enfants était très important pour eux. Étant donné que les enfants étaient issus de milieux défavorisés, la bonne humeur que nous leur apportions était essentielle.

Ce que j'ai principalement aimé chez Mkids, ce fut la bienveillance des bénévoles et des employés ainsi que celle de tous les enfants. Voir les enfants épanouis malgré leurs situations parfois difficiles était vraiment touchant. De plus, l'ambiance familiale faisait que, bien que nous ne fassions pas partie de leur culture, tout le monde nous a accueillies les bras ouverts, veillant à ce que nous ne nous sentions jamais laissées de côté.



Léna
Student, France

My journey to M-Kids started as a dream. As a social worker in Australia, I always longed to visit my mother's homeland of Mauritius and support a charity in Port Louis, where my grandfather grew up as an orphan. In 2023, my dream came true when I connected with M-Kids. Inspired by their vision of a society where 'No child is left behind,' I reached out to them.

In April 2023, I met the kindest and most compassionate people at M-Kids. Upon arriving in Mauritius, M-Kids was incredibly accommodating, generous, and kind. They answered all my questions about Mauritian history, politics, and social welfare, and invited me to experience the daily lives of people in Camp Chapelon. I was welcomed into homes and enjoyed many dinners with the local community. The children, filled with hope, received excellent mentorship, meals, and educational programs, crucial for their growth.

I had life-changing experiences, such as meeting the Vice President of Mauritius to discuss eradicating child poverty, giving a presentation on supporting infant development to NGO practitioners, and celebrating Eid with many festivities. This enriching, transformative experience allowed me to see the real Mauritius and gain extended family there. I felt prouder than ever to be Mauritian and look forward to returning. M-Kids is truly an inspirational organisation that motivates me to bring the spirit of compassion back to Australia.

Merci beaucoup!



Amelia Dupla
Social Worker, Australia



Testimonials from Parents of Beneficiaries

MRS PERIGORD, PAILLES

Je connais M-Kids depuis 2008, car l'association offrait des cours gratuits de bricolage au centre communautaire. Mes enfants et petits-enfants sont devenus bénéficiaires en 2020. M-Kids a aidé notre famille pendant les inondations éclair de mars 2013. Une aide financière nous a été offerte pour surmonter cette période difficile, car l'eau était entrée dans notre maison et nous avons perdu une grande partie de nos provisions.

Mon petit-fils suit des cours de soutien scolaire chez M-Kids, participe à plusieurs ateliers et sorties, et est également suivi régulièrement par un psychologue. Il a des difficultés d'apprentissage, mais les cours de soutien lui ont permis de comprendre les concepts de base et de bien réussir à l'école. Même si li alle lékol spécialisé, aster zot in transfer li dan classe kot ban zanfan ki capav apran.

Les ateliers et sorties lui ont permis de visiter des endroits qu'il n'aurait pas pu voir autrement et l'empêchent de traîner dans les rues et de fréquenter de mauvaises compagnies. Il est toujours heureux après ces sorties, car il s'amuse et se fait des amis.

M-Kids fait vraiment déjà beaucoup pour nous, et mo remercier zotte beacoup.

SOLAY, LA BUTTE

J'ai connu M-Kids grâce à Kala Beda. Nous faisons face à des difficultés financières car ma mère ne travaillait pas et mon père n'avait pas d'emploi stable. Nous avons participé au programme "Share a Meal" et cela nous a vraiment beaucoup aidés ; nous avons moins de courses à acheter à la fin du mois, moins de repas à préparer pour le dîner, et nous étions dans une meilleure situation pour joindre les deux bouts. Nous avons également reçu des paniers alimentaires à plusieurs reprises, ce qui nous a soulagés.

Les enfants ont également eu l'occasion d'aller rester à l'hôtel avec M-Kids ; je sais que nous ne pourrions jamais nous le permettre et je suis heureuse qu'ils aient pu s'amuser. M-Kids a souvent emmené les enfants déjeuner au restaurant. Nou pas capav manzé déor souvent, bé mo trouv sa enn bon zafer, mo bann zanfan bien content.

MRS BACCUS, CAMP CHAPELON

Je connais M-Kids depuis très longtemps, car nous vivons dans la communauté, tout près de l'association. Mes petits-enfants y sont impliqués depuis 2021. Une suit des cours de soutien scolaire : elle réussit déjà bien dans ses études, mais les cours de soutien lui donnent un coup de pouce supplémentaire pour apprendre davantage et elle se fait aussi des amis.

Ils participent également aux sorties et au programme Superkids. Li bien content kan li gagne camarad, ek nou lacaz, ena place aussi kot nou pas ti pu cave amen li, mais avec M-Kids li gagne sa chance là. Parfois, notre famille bénéficie aussi de paniers alimentaires. Cela nous aide beaucoup, car nous achetons moins de courses à la fin du mois et nous avons déjà des dettes de courses.

NOOZAMAH, VALLÉE PITOT

Je connais M-Kids depuis assez longtemps mais suis devenue bénéficiaire depuis 2021. J'ai la responsabilité quotidienne de six enfants, dont certains ne sont pas les miens, mais je veille à leur éducation, à leur bien-être, et à tous les besoins dont ils ont.

Les enfants participent au programme "Share a Meal"; cela réduit nos dépenses journalières et à la fin du mois, car la nourriture dure plus longtemps.

Nous sommes également impliqués dans les sorties ; cela nous aide beaucoup. Mo pas cave amen zot tou sorti ensam, trop dépense, mais avek M-Kids zotte pe gagne sa chance là.



List of Sponsors



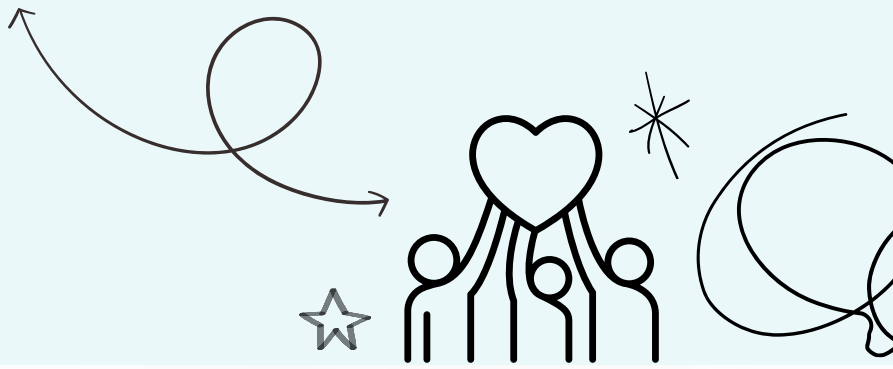


SWAN



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GENERAL DONATION



Mauritius Commercial Bank

Bank Account No.: 000441552552
 Account Holder: M-Kids Association
 IBAN: MU28MCBL0944000441552552000MUR
 Swift Code: MCBLMUMU

State Bank of Mauritius

Bank Account No.: 50300001049882
 Account Holder: M-Kids Association
 IBAN: MU32STCB1101000001049882000MUR
 Swift Code: STCBMUMU575

CSR / Haven of Hope

Bank Account No.: 000443062234 / MCB
 Account Holder: M-Kids Association
 IBAN: MU34MCBL0944000443062234000MUR
 Swift Code: MCBLMUMU

Education Fund

Bank Account No.: 000448295830 / MCB
 Account Holder: M-Kids Association
 IBAN: MU84MCBL0901000448295830000MUR
 Swift Code: MCBLMUMU



M Kids Association
58868786



"Charity is a gift of love, a selfless act that brings light and hope to those in need. Spread kindness always."



Designed By Shark Network Services Ltd

M-KIDS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT
2023

M-Kids Association is a registered charitable organisation/ institution with the Registrar of Association, 11495, with the National Social Inclusion Foundation, NCSRF/2017/0389, and with the Mauritius Revenue Authority.

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admin@m-kids.org

www.m-kids.org