

## **Weekly Log Questions**

### **What went well?**

*(The progress I made; what was achieved and done)*

Last week one of my goals was to enable the rest of the team to do the best work they could, I think I made meaningful progress towards that end. While we were initially planning separate lessons for the older and younger cohorts at the Remand Home, Elliot (a new German volunteer who arrived with his Dutch friend Lloyd) had the idea of doing an anti-bullying lesson. I told Elliot this was a fantastic idea and that we should even combine the cohorts as bullying cuts across age groups. Elliot agreed and the lessons volunteers had been planning were put on hold until next week. From here, we collectively planned a five-section anti-bullying lesson and assigned each section to a different person. The lesson went fantastic on Wednesday and I hope it is repeated regularly.

### **What could have been done differently?**

*(Things that did not get done and/or could be changed)*

On Thursday, we travelled to a school in rural Kakamega county to hold the first (an introductory) YUMP session (youth unleashed mentorship program). While I think the day and the session as a whole was a success, I would have liked to better prepare for the session. That is to say, I wish I had time to research the area and resources available (if any) to offer more than just words of encouragement, motivation, and persuasion, but also try to point students feeling pressure to drop out of school in the right direction. Having said that, Samambo and Kelvin assured me this was an introductory session that was primarily to meet the staff students; I have faith that Better Me will provide these students with the resources they need in follow-up sessions.

Importantly, I was unable to schedule a meeting with Tuli (Mama Ngina Childrens Home centre manager) this week. The MOU is finished and I am eager to have it signed so Better Me can start sending volunteers to the centre, however, that was not able to happen this week. I am getting a bit anxious as delays to sign the MOU have occurred in the last two weeks, significantly altering the timeline I was hoping to accomplish. As I leave next week, I will have to work quickly to set-up a meeting and attend introductory sessions at the centre.

As a final note for this week, I just wanted to say there were a couple disruptions. First, I was lucky enough to take Friday, Saturday, and Sunday off and travel to Masai Mara National Park and go on a safari. Second, protests on Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> (not the 1<sup>st</sup> when we went to Kakamega) prevented us from going into town that day. Third, our Monday team meeting was delayed by about three hours, leading to a slower start to that day. I point these out just to explain why this log might be a bit thinner than others.

### **What did I learn about myself when working with others?**

*(Contributions, behaviours, and [values](#) I exhibited)*

The contribution I am most proud of this week was my role in planning and delivering the anti-bullying lesson at the Remand Home. Whereas volunteers usually plan lessons individually toward a common goal, or in groups of two, we all contributed to this lesson, sharing our different experiences and knowledge. Elliot is studying psychology, making his input especially appreciated. I think the combined effort to create this lesson led to an incredibly high quality lesson that I am very proud of. Further, the impact of this successful lesson was felt immediately, with multiple children at the Remand Home approaching Better Me staff and volunteers and sharing their past or present experience with bullying after the lesson.

### **What did I learn about leadership?**

*(Leadership [attributes](#) and insights I developed)*

This week I really thrived in my role as a leader, both in my collaborative work with the team and in my independent work. A couple weeks back the older students at the Remand Home were introduced to English punctuation. On Tuesday, I planned and delivered part one of a two-part punctuation class. On Friday, I will teach the second part and the students have been informed that there will be a test on Tuesday. All students who demonstrate effort on the test (regardless of correctness) will be rewarded, however, the highest scorers will receive greater rewards. I have really enjoyed teaching the older students at the Remand Home and taking on more ambitious plans (two part lessons, tests, etc...)

### **What do I want to develop or focus on next?**

*(What I still need to develop)*

Having been here over a month now and gotten more adept at Better Me's various operations I would like to develop my cultural humility even more and even learn more Kiswahili to employ while teaching lessons.