

Learning by Ear
People Who Make a Difference
Kenya: Slum TV

EPISODE 07

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Sound clips in DALET: Learning by Ear: LbE_PEO Kenya Slum-TV

Characters:

1 Narrator: Female voice

4 VOs:

- **Collins Omondi, male, 21 years old**
 - **Ephantus Kamau, male, early twenties**
 - **Billian Okoth, male, in his twenties**
 - **Esther Waweru, female, 21 years old**
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Introduction (Announcer):

Hello and welcome to our “Learning by Ear” series about People Who Make a Difference. Today we introduce you to a young African hero who uses his camera to bring together people of different ethnic backgrounds in Kenya to live in peace with each other. He lives in Mathare Slum, the biggest slum in Kenya’s capital Nairobi.

TEXT:

1. SFX Door opens

2. Soundbyte Collins Omondi 1 (English)

“My name is Collins Omondi, member of Slum TV. I come from Mathare and I was born in Nairobi. I started school in Pumwani Primary then I transferred to James Gichuru in Dandora, where I finished my primary education. After that I did not continue with my education because in 2002 my mother died. She was the breadwinner of our family so I could not be able to continue with school. My father comes from Kisumu and my sister lives in Kasarani here in Nairobi. “

3. SFX Office Slum TV

4. Narrator

21-year-old Collins Omondi is a volunteer at Slum TV in Mathare. An estimated 700,000 people live in crowded shacks amidst open sewers and rubbish heaps in this shanty town. In 2006, the members of Slum TV started to shoot films about the day-to-day life in the slum and show them to the community. The big project is “Peace Exchange” where they go into the slum and shoot reports that focus on the efforts by individuals, groups or churches to help to bring harmony and establish peace among the different ethnic groups living in Mathare. Slum TV also portrays the so-called “Superlatives” where they focus on the best of the best in the slum, for example, the best driver, the best knife sharpener and the best footballer. Collins joined Slum TV a year ago.

5. Soundbyte Collins Omondi 2 (English)

“A friend of mine, he was the one who introduced me to slum TV. Before I joined Slum TV I was in an organisation called MYSA. I was taking pictures then I left and started to find other ways to get some money. My friend came and told me to join Slum TV. I said ok, I’ll come. I keep on coming, coming, coming, up to now. “

6. Narrator

Collins joined Slum TV, because he likes helping people. Working here has opened up for him a new world of opportunities. It’s here where he learnt to operate a camera and edit a film, skills which he uses elsewhere to make films and documentaries about birthdays and weddings in order to earn some cash to keep him going.

7. SFX Sound of a door, a car

8. Narrator

Collins Omondi takes us to his home in Mathare slums. His room is a small shanty, made of corrugated iron. A kerosene lamp is a must, because even during the day it’s too dark to see anything inside. The floor is not cemented; it’s made of mud. His household is small, but he has everything he needs here.

9. Soundbyte Collins Omondi 3 (English)

“I prepare my breakfast here, lunch here, supper here. These are some plastic utensils which I use to go fetch some water and bring it here. This is a stove. I use paraffin. I buy from the shop. This is for putting my utensils and here are spoons. This is where I put salt, tea leaves. This is for putting tea. I normally put my tea here in the plastic jug. And this is where I put my soap after finishing doing some household chores. This bottle here is for buying the paraffin and storing in case of emergency. “

10. Narrator

From Monday to Friday, he goes to the offices of Slum TV in the neighbouring Eastleigh. It takes about 15 minutes by minibus, but more often than not he is on the road for more than 45 minutes. Nairobi's roads are very congested. Besides working as a cameraman, Collins has been appointed as the office administrator because of his leadership skills. This means more pressure on his daily assignments, but he says he does not feel he is being pushed to take on more responsibilities.

11. Soundbyte Collins Omondi 4 (English)

“No! I am not being pushed. It is just a matter of taking responsibility and right now I feel great. I want to show the people of Mathare how life is going on and to encourage them to join Slum TV. If somebody is able to come and take a camera and go do some documentaries, it will be good.”

12. SFX Editing ambience

13. Narrator

At the office, his colleagues are already busy editing the stories. Slum TV has a total of 20 members. Their place of work are two small rooms in a business building. There is hardly any space left. The rooms are packed full with a laptop computer, a camera and a wooden shelf that holds video cassettes of previous productions. Ester Waweru, a 21-year-old girl, born and raised in Mathare slums, is one of the people present today. Collins convinced her to join.

14. Soundbyte Esther Waweru 1 (English)

“Of course I love Slum TV. This is my life, this is my everything. About Slum TV is Esther, Esther is Slum TV. I am part and parcel of Slum TV. The first day I joined Slum TV I came with luck because I got there (when there) was a workshop about camera going on and I was like waaa! That’s me. I want to join that! Personally my future looks bright. And for the community, I think it will be very good for them to have their own media.”

15. Narrator

The life of a young ambitious lady has been changed through the influence of Collins Omondi. Slum TV offers them the chance to escape poverty. Even though they don’t get paid for their work, they can put their skills to use and earn money on the side by shooting films at weddings, birthdays or funerals. Slum TV does not have its own broadcasting station, but they hope one day to grow and become a professional station.

Collins works with young people of his age and takes a lot of interest in learning from them and encouraging them to work hard in achieving their goals. Ephantus Kamau works with Slum TV. He goes out into the slum to search for stories and film videos. He has been made the assistant coordinator of Slum TV.

16. Soundbyte Ephantus Kamau 1 (English)

“Aaa living in the slums - life can be terrible. But there are success stories, good news, a lot of talent that go untold to the world. For me telling the stories to the world, that good things can come out to the slum was my drive towards joining Slum TV.”

17. SFX Screening of Slum TV production

18. Narrator

Today Ephantus and Collins realize once again that all their work was worth it. More than 2,000 people have gathered at an open space inside Mathare to watch their latest films. They are all ages: mothers with babies strapped to their backs, old men clutching their walking sticks and even a few children. Today’s films are about “superlatives” – they are about the best minibus driver and the best knife sharpener. Ephantus enjoys every moment of the presentation.

19. Soundbyte Ephantus Kamau 2 (English)

“Wow! It’s wonderful. That’s the day we all look forward to have because when you go there play our music before we start screening, everybody comes to see what we are about to do. So we get massive support from the community and I like the trickle-down effect from the community. They really love us, they like our job and every now and then we mention about screening, everybody is asking when the next is going to be.”

20. SFX Machine sound in the slum

21. Narrator

Some of the community however don’t like Slum TV – sometimes recording is a risky business. Brewers of illegal alcohol for instance do not like to see a camera near them. But they can’t stop Collins from doing his work.

22. Soundbyte Collins Omondi 5 (English)

“I am not afraid because it is normal. I am a hero. It is just a matter of talking to them because for right now, we have Slum TV security officers. These are people who can sometimes help us to go through there to brewers.”

23. Narrator

His work has made Collins Omondi famous among the young people, both inside and outside the slum. Billian Okoth is a musician from Eastleigh estate opposite Mathare. He works closely with Slum TV as one of the many artists who entertain the audience before the screening.

24. Soundbyte Billian Okoth 1 (English)

“Yes Collins is a good pal. First of all ever smiling so when I see him on a camera yes I just feel he is gonna be somewhere, promise you he’s gonna be somewhere because he is dedicated to his work, he is ever consulting, like I know him and he always does his best. Yes I know him through Slum TV through his work, his talent, the skill he gets from Slum-TV I know he’s gonna be somewhere. He is a very good guy.”

25. Narrator

Collins Omondi has worked hard and might reach the top even though there’s tough competition. He’s making a difference to the community of Mathare slums today – and possibly to the people of Kenya tomorrow.

OUTRO (Announcer):

And that is all for today’s Learning by Ear programme, written by Josephat Charo. Please don’t forget, if you would like to learn more about this programme or just listen to it again, visit our website: www.dw-world.de/lbe Thank for being with us. Until next time, good bye!

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