

Action for Children in Conflict in Kenya



"Innovation in Crisis"

Annual Report

1st April 2008 – 31st March 2009

Action for Children in Conflict in Kenya

Action for Children in Conflict in Kenya (AfCiC Kenya) is **the** leading child protection agency working in Thika District, Kenya. We are small, locally staffed, needs focused and results driven. We deliver holistic care to the most vulnerable children in Thika: street children. We ensure that they and their families are able to access educational and economic opportunities to enable them to live positive, safe lives.

Mission Statement

To provide holistic, sustainable educational, economic and psycho-social services to street and other acutely vulnerable children and their families in Thika District, Kenya.

Background

Thika encapsulates the best and worst of Sub-Saharan Africa. Hardworking men and women, entrepreneurial spirit, a constant focus and fight for survival, affluent housing, overcrowded slums, appalling sanitation, desperation, critical poverty. We came because no-one was working on the problem of street children and Thika is small enough that things can be changed. The problems are big but not insurmountable. There was and is hope.

In 2003 there were over 400 street children in Thika. Today there are less than 50. Industrial areas surrounding Thika are developing rapidly however and street children are being attracted to these areas. Poverty is increasing following the post election violence in January-March 2008. More and more families cannot afford to feed their children. There is more unemployment. We have a duty to prevent the causes that lead children to the street and to continue to assist the 350 that we have helped back into educational and vocational training. We are dedicated to leaving no child behind who wants to work with us to secure their future.

Contact Details

Action for Children in Conflict in Kenya

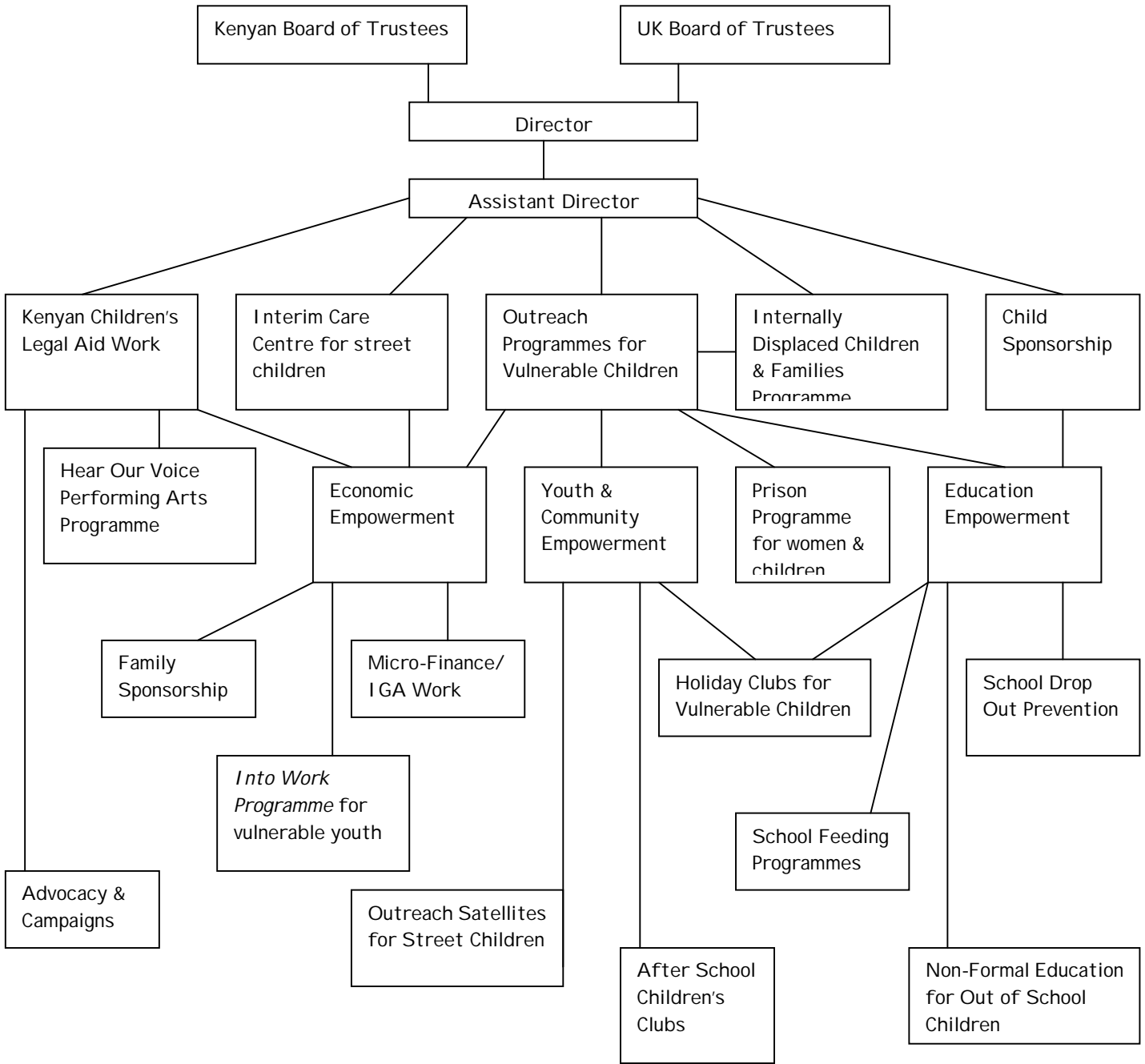
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Contents

Page

1. Innovation in Crisis: Letter from the Chairman	5
2. Executive Summary	7
3. Political & Economic Context	14
4. Prevention	
i. Outreach Programmes for Vulnerable Children	16
ii. School Feeding & School Holiday Club Programme	20
iii. Kenyan Children's Legal Aid Work	27
5. Rehabilitation	
i. Interim Care Centre for Street Children	33
ii. Family Sponsorship	37
iii. Hear Our Voice! Performing Arts Project	39
6. Internally Displaced Children & Families Support Programme	44
7. Financial Information	48
8. Vision 2009/10	50
9. Thank you	54
10. Conclusion	58



The view from the AfCic Offices of Thika

1. Innovation in Crisis: AfCiC Kenya 1st April 08 – 31st March 09

Dynamic, daring, innovative and tirelessly hard working in a pressurised environment: that was 2008/9 for Action for Children in Conflict in Kenya. This Annual Report provides some insights into our ever-improving, tailored, grassroots prevention and rehabilitation programmes for acutely vulnerable children and their families in Thika District, Kenya. It was not easy. Political violence, unprecedented inflation and financial constraints challenged and tested us to our limits. But, we are unquestionably stronger and more invigorated as an organisation because of it.

Our Street Census in 2007 demonstrated the incredible impact of our prevention and rehabilitation model for street children in Thika: a 50% reduction in 4 years. Unprecedented, exceptional results in street children rehabilitation work. The Census also highlighted new areas of concern, however, with new industrial areas near Thika (Makongeni and Ruiru) attracting new street children in search of money for food, and very young school-going children coming to the streets in the evenings to search for food and being exposed to many forms of exploitation and abuse.

We also identified a core group of older stagnant street youth for whom traditional rehabilitation means had not proven to be so successful. These youth needed both appropriate, tailored skills training and practical support to enable them to transfer the skills they learnt into viable, feasible employment. Education without employment is a significant cause for concern throughout Kenya, particularly in light of the post election violence that preyed on unemployed, frustrated youth to conduct the violence.

To meet the needs of street children in Makongeni, we set up a new time-bound weekly **outreach clinic** in February 2008. We worked with 30 street children aged 6 – 16 years over an 8 month period. Of the 30, 18 are now in school, 9 are undergoing intensive rehabilitation in our Interim Care Centre and 3 have returned to the streets. Again, fantastic results. Using the knowledge acquired in **Makongeni**, we then set up a new, improved outreach clinic in **Ruiru** in December 2008. 37 children are currently attending this clinic. We work with local churches, mosques and other well-wishers to source free venues for our activities and obtain water for washing to make the clinics as cost effective to run as possible.

To meet the needs of a growing group of acutely vulnerable children both attending school and coming to the streets in the evening we launched **Children's Clubs** after school and at the weekends at our Outreach Centre for Vulnerable Children in May 2008. Providing a child friendly space, fun activities, counselling and crucial life skills these Clubs provide a vital supportive link for over 30 children. These clubs are now moving directly into the two poorest schools in Thika in 2009 as we target additional at risk children.

To address the challenges of stagnant **older street youth** we formalised and structured an **Into Work programme**. Using our knowledge and expertise in community skills training placements we focused on providing appropriate placements and facilitating the move to employment through the provision of tools, equipment and training. This programme is unique and innovative in focusing on the realisation of employment rather than just ensuring youth complete vocational training.

We doubled our financial commitment to our highly successful **school feeding programmes** at St Patrick's and Garissa Road Primary Schools in light of unprecedented food inflation. We also increased access to our **school holiday clubs** to meet growing demand for safe, educational environments for vulnerable children in the holidays. We ensured that the most vulnerable children were retained in school but it was a significant challenge and a deep concern going forwards.

In our free legal advice and advocacy programme – **Kenyan Children's Legal Aid Work** – we provided specialised legal advice, educational and medical services to abused and neglected children. We assisted each and every child and young person who had been violated to access the justice system in a safe, protected way. We provided expert training on Government legislation in relation to the Kenyan Children's Act, Sexual Offences Act and on special issues – HIV/AIDS and compensation for victims of the post election violence. As we go forward we are reaching more people than ever before.

We also re-visited our structure and programme of operation at our 6 month residential centre (our **Interim Care Centre for Street Children**). Implementing a new performing arts project (Hear Our Voice!), a new structured counselling package, new teaching methods and a new exit process during the latter part of the year, we have further improved our effective rehabilitation model and initiated unique peer advocacy activities.

Family Sponsorship, where we focus on the family rather than an individual child, was formalised and properly launched and 22 families are currently being supported through business loans and other support to take effective care over their children.

Hear Our Voice! is a participatory, creative, education project, working with street children to share their experiences with other children through the performing arts. Launched in April 2008 the project has directly benefited over 65 street children as participants and over 3500 children and guardians through performances.

In response to the post election violence and displacement of over 6000 persons to Thika District, we set up a small, enabling project for internally displaced children and their families (**Internally Displaced Persons Programme**). Conscious of the explosion in street children numbers following the 1992 tribal clashes in Kenya, we acted swiftly to ensure our good work in Thika was not undone. We worked with local schools to identify newly admitted pupils through the crisis and added them to school feeding programmes where possible; we purchased 259 school uniforms to enable children to enter new schools and have supported over 92 families with Business Loans to help them rebuild their lives and not fall into the desperate poverty trap of the local slums.

The premise behind all these new initiatives and improvements is that only by innovating, despite the crises around us, can we assist vulnerable children and their families in the most effective, durable way. We are a committed partner and we will continue to evaluate, reflect, reform and test our relationship with our friends and clients in new, diverse ways.

Please continue on this exciting journey with us.

Charles Mwihi

Charles Mwihi, Chairman, Action for Children in Conflict in Kenya

2. Executive Summary

2008/9 was an extremely challenging year both for Kenya and for Action for Children in Conflict itself. Faced with financial and economic instability, political violence and escalating levels of poverty and abuse amongst Kenyan children, strong, committed and creative action was required to ensure sustainable, effective, pro-active responses. AfCiC did this and more.

Outreach Programmes for Vulnerable Children/ Day Care Centre for Street Children

In May 2008, in response to the changing needs and demands we were witnessing in Thika, our Day Care Centre for Street Children became Outreach Programmes for Vulnerable Children and we launched new three new programmes: education empowerment, economic empowerment and youth and community empowerment to increase our impact and effectiveness.

Education empowerment

- **137 acutely vulnerable children** were returned and retained in local primary schools in 2008 through early intervention in schools and in families.
- **251 former street children** were supported to remain in public primary schools through assistance with school uniform, books, pens, school feeding, counselling & positive encouragement.
- Through **child sponsorship** 5 former street children were retained in secondary school, 8 new children joined Form One in January 2009, 3 deaf and mute children joined Kamboi School for the Deaf and Mute and 3 younger children were able to access good primary schools through direct sponsorship of fees and expenses by both local and overseas sponsors.
- **460 hours of Non-Formal Education** were provided to out of school youth.
- **48 Creative Child Play Therapy sessions** were provided to children 4 years and under, incarcerated with their mothers in Thika Women's Prison.

Economic Empowerment

- **19 older street youth** taken for **skills training** in the community to enable them and their families to support themselves without needing to rely on donor support.
- **3 older street youth** are now in **decent and productive employment** through our *Into Work* programme.
- **20 acutely vulnerable families** have been supported with **Micro Finance Training and loans** to enable them to set up income generating activities and become economically self sufficient

Youth & Community Empowerment

- **3,048 in-depth interventions** for street and at risk children
- **230 parents** of street children directly supported with practical, financial and emotional support to enable genuine family reunification
- **6500 well balanced nutritious meals** provided
- **32** at risk children retained in school through our **After School Children's Clubs**

- **96 home and school visits** conducted to enable street children to successfully return home and stay at school – addressing problems before they escalate in home environments
- **10 street children** referred to our **Interim Care Centre** for intensive rehabilitation
- **16 street children** reunited with their families
- **4 parent and community training days** organised
- **8** large successful **community education events** for vulnerable children run, raising awareness of the issues impacting on street children, improving knowledge of the Children’s Act and mobilising the local community in protecting vulnerable children, alongside providing vital education and health services to at risk children.

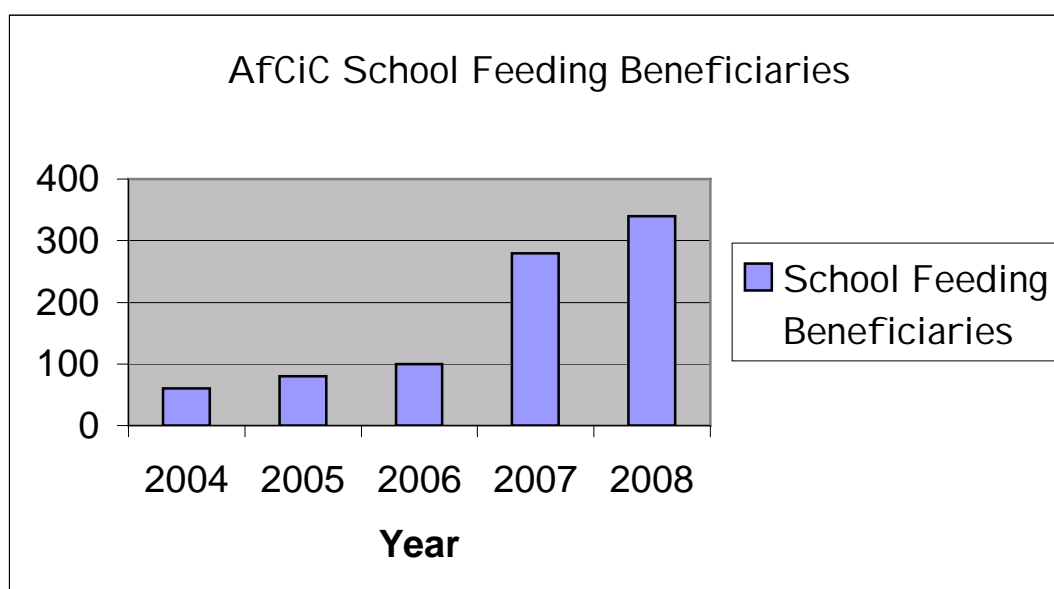


Distribution of 800 bed kits, 21st June 2008, Garissa Road Primary School, Kiandutu Slum

School feeding programme & school holiday clubs

School feeding is an extremely cost effective, high impact strategy that ensures the poorest children are able to stay in school and benefit from “free primary education”.

- Over **1000 acutely vulnerable children** provided with free or heavily subsidised school meals through our school feeding programmes at St Patrick’s and Garissa Road Primary Schools
- **20 former street children** benefited from our new **individual school feeding** programme and stayed in school despite substantial difficulties in their homes
- **School Kitchen** built at Garissa Road Primary School
- **320 children** participated in our School Holiday Clubs, keeping them in a safe, child friendly, educational environment and away from the streets
- **Improved academic performance** at St Patrick’s and Garissa Road Primary Schools
- Through school feeding and the holiday clubs we have been able to **reduce school drop out rates** and improve academic performance in some of the poorest schools in Thika.



A significant challenge in 2008/9 has been unprecedented food inflation – inflation on cereals currently stands at over 50% (Feb 09 Stats). This has had an enormous, detrimental impact on impoverished families in Thika and our ability to assist them.

FOOD INFLATION TABLE

Food Item	January 2008	January 2009	Difference
90kg Maize	1700Ksh	2500Ksh	+ 47%
90kg Rice	2350Ksh	3400Ksh	+ 44%
Cooking Fat 10kg	490Ksh	750Ksh	+ 53%
Sugar (1kg)	46Ksh	67Ksh	+ 45%

AfCiC has been extremely successful in building local partnerships, initiating more sustainable programmes for schools and in permanently reducing the number of street children in Thika through positive, durable means. Despite this, the challenge of food is significant and 2009/10 will be a difficult year in which to maintain our current feeding provision.

Kenyan Children's Legal Aid Work (KCLAW)

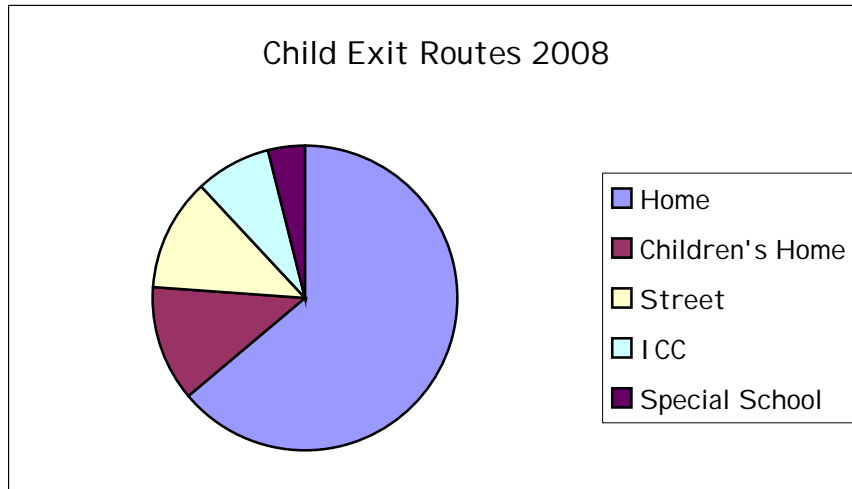
Our mission is to enable the most impoverished and vulnerable children and their families to access justice and legal redress where their human rights have been infringed through the provision of free direct legal advice, tailored advocacy and campaigning and ongoing community education and collaboration work.

In 2008 we focused on providing specialist free legal advice on any children's right violation and professional training for local stakeholders on working with orphans and vulnerable children (police, court officials, hospital staff, teachers and community elders).

We have a current caseload of **468 cases**, focusing on **child neglect, maintenance, abuse** and succession and inheritance. We provided specialised training on children's rights to over **80 professionals, 400 children and 200 parents/ guardians**.

Interim Care Centre for Street Children

Since our inception in June 2005 we have assisted **241 children** to return to education and their families. This is a phenomenal success. In 2008 we had an **88% rehabilitation success rate**, our highest ever, with only 3 older children returning to the street after attending our 6 month residential programme.



- **1300 hours** of **Non Formal Education** were provided
- **104 group** and **160 individual counselling sessions** provided
- **156 Home & School visits** conducted
- **160 Creative Art Therapy sessions** provided
- **364 structured hours** of **Sports & Recreational Activities** provided



October 2008 intake for rehabilitation at the ICC

Family Sponsorship

We believe that children's homes should be the option of last resort. The place for a child is within the family where possible. We recognise that lack of food and other basic items is a key reason that pushes children to the street, combined with family breakdown and violence. Unless we tackle endemic poverty within these families, siblings will also end up on the street and our highly effective child rehabilitation work is undone. Family Sponsorship tackles these root causes.

In 2008 we assisted 22 families with small interest free loans and other essential support (school support, medical emergencies, food packages and housing assistance). Supported by individual sponsors in Kenya and overseas, these families are building their emotional and economic capacity to effectively care for their own children without ongoing outside intervention.

Hear Our Voice! Performing Arts Project

Hear Our Voice! was launched in April 2008, an innovative, educational performing arts project, delivered by disadvantaged, socially excluded young people for other young people. The project has provided a unique opportunity for those who have experienced abuse, neglect and social exclusion through being on the streets to make their voices heard, share their experiences and prevent others from suffering as they have. The participants have also learnt valuable performing arts skills and other important life and social skills that can assist them in building better lives for themselves and their families.



Some of the Hear Our Voice participants performing

- **65 current and former street children** provided with performing arts opportunities and a creative forum to share their experiences, learn new skills and assist others in need.
- **Life & Social Skills:**
 - Increased confidence, self-esteem, problem solving, critical thinking, communication skills, team work, patience, concentration and creativity amongst the participants
 - Improved ability amongst participants to reflect on their past experiences and feel more positive about the future
- **30 performances** conducted in schools, slums, rural communities, churches and children's homes to over **4500 audience members**.
- Significantly increased awareness about issues surrounding street children within Thika District, particularly within vulnerable communities.

Internally Displaced Children & Families Support Programme



IDP Camp, Nakuru Showground, December 2008

Over 6000 persons were displaced to Thika District in the aftermath of the post election violence (DC Statistics March 2008). These children, individuals and families found their way to relatives, supportive community members or utilised their own resources to resettle in the District. As they chose not to stay in the IDP camps, less attention was devoted to their needs and the needs of their children.

Following a detailed needs assessment in April/ May, we launched an Internally Displaced Persons Support Programme focused on direct family and child support to enable displaced families to rebuild their economic foundations as quickly as possible, to return children to school quickly and effectively, to address any emotional and legal needs of families in relation to the violence and, most of all, to prevent the next generation of street children.

- **152 families interviewed in our in-depth IDP Needs Assessment**
- **92 families** provided with **interest free business loans** to restart their lives
- **239 School Uniforms** purchased to enable displaced children to return to school
- **36 displaced children** provided with school fees assistance to enable them to access either nursery or secondary level education
- **36 displaced families** provided with **repatriation assistance** to enable them to return to their homes in the Rift Valley and Western Province
- **11 counselling sessions** provided to families.
- **7 displaced youth** identified and placed in **skills training placements**
- Over **330 home/ work visits** conducted

Finances

Put simply and concisely, we helped more children than ever before last year. Our total income was £126,302.77 and our total expenditure was £112,932.79. We met the incredible challenges of 50% food inflation and significant depreciation of the Sterling Pound through careful and tough financial planning, combined with substantial innovation and creativity in making every penny go further than it had in 2007/8.

Vision 2009

No organisation can be the best in what it does without continuous reflection, honesty, active seeking of knowledge and information from others and without continuously looking to develop and find new ways to succeed in helping others more effectively to help themselves. **AfCiC Kenya prides itself on being such an organisation.**

In 2009/10 we will focus on tailored, holistic prevention programmes to stop children from ever finding the street. For those who are already there, we will provide the best possible rehabilitation services to ensure family reunification and, return to school or entry into skills training is long term, durable and wholly effective.

AfCiC made significant progress in 2008/9 in developing our sustainability through establishing new internal income generating activities, ongoing fundraising and financial management training for all our staff, improving our communications work and increasing child participation in our strategic planning. We are excited about 2009/10 and the children and families we will be working with to improve lives for the better.

Conclusion

In 2008/9, AfCiC Kenya was highly innovative, dynamic, effective and passionate in our search for new solutions to the crises that surrounded us. We reflected on our existing work and initiated new holistic programmes to address the social and economic crises we witnessed around us and prevent our very good work over the last four years from being undone.

Our School Drop Out Prevention Project, Internally Displaced Persons Programme, Hear Our Voice! and Family Sponsorship are key examples of our innovation and creativity in 2008, providing the essential balance between effective prevention and genuine rehabilitation that encompasses the ethos of AfCiC Kenya. Preventing the next generation of street children whilst addressing the issues facing current street children in such a way that they do not become the street adults and perpetrators of abuse tomorrow.

We have weaknesses. We are still financially insecure. This fear inhibits our development and we must fight against it. We are arguably doing far too much with far too few resources. This creates incredible pride and joy but also high levels of anxiety in ensuring the right balance in resource distribution. Yes, we are very good at what we do, but we must have more supporters. We must communicate our success better to others, create new funding partnerships, and improve our fundraising and capacity building and initiate new income generating activities to ensure a level of self-sufficiency. We will do these things and more in 2009. Stay with us and enjoy yourselves.

Thank You,

E J Harrison

Eleanor Harrison

Director, Action for Children in Conflict in Kenya

3. The Political & Economic Context

Post Election Violence left over 1000 people dead, many more seriously injured and over 350,000 displaced. A year on, many continue to live in makeshift camps or with overburdened relatives; consumed by the fear that if they return home they will not survive.

The post election violence, caused by disputed General Election results, which built on longer term societal and economic problems related to high youth unemployment, unequal land distribution and a powerful, untouchable political elite; was a catastrophic tragedy for Kenya; psychologically, socially and economically.

The crisis put the economy in meltdown with Kikuyu farmers in the Rift Valley abandoning their farms, businesses being razed to the ground leading to job losses and money diverted from savings into basic needs survival. Compounded by international economic crises, linked to changes in food production, speculation on oil prices and a financial crisis in Western Countries precipitated by dangerous debts on US sub-prime mortgages, Kenya is in a very fragile, dangerous situation at present. 2009 has also started with a chronic food shortage, caused by the post election violence, lack of rains, and corruption at the highest levels. Maize prices are increasing once more and the poorest children are resorting to eating from the dustbins of the elites in the evenings.

The impact on our programmes has been phenomenal. One year ago we were spending approximately £230 per month to feed 140-160 children at St Patrick's Primary School, it is now costing us £460. To provide three nutritious meals a day for 20-25 children at our Interim Care Centre for Street Children used to cost £300-350 per month. It is now costing £500-550 per month.

We had successfully reduced the number of street children in Thika over the preceding four years through our unique combination of holistic prevention and rehabilitation work. Over the last few months we have seen young boys and girls returning to the streets in search of food, collecting scrap metal and getting involved in commercial sex work. There is a sense of intense desperation amongst the poorest families in the District that we have not witnessed since our arrival in Thika in 2004.

We are dedicated to working with these families, sharing this burden and creating new economic opportunities that enable these families to support their children despite the harsh economic climate.

Prevention

Adopting a holistic approach to the issue of street and other acutely vulnerable children, Action for Children in Conflict (AfCiC) aims to not only reduce the number of children currently living on the streets of Thika, but also to reduce the number of children turning to a life on the streets.

We operate several programmes aimed at preventing children from drifting to the streets.

Outreach Programmes for Vulnerable Children, School Feeding & School Holiday Clubs and Kenyan Children's Legal Aid Work provide the essential resources to tackle neglect and abuse and encourage children to remain in school, continue their education and stay off the streets.

4i. Day Care Centre for Street Children / Outreach Programmes for Vulnerable Children 2008

Summary

Our mission is to provide in-depth, tailored prevention programmes to prevent at risk children from taking to the streets through early intervention, and to provide swift and effective rehabilitation for those who still find themselves in such an exploitative and dangerous situation.

In May 2008 we renamed our Day Care Centre for Street Children, *Outreach Programmes for Vulnerable Children*. This was to better reflect our diverse, community based programmes and the increased number of street and other at risk children that we have been assisting.

Our programme activities can be summarised as:

- **Education Empowerment** – a School Drop Out Prevention Project, working directly with teachers in poor public primary schools to target those most at risk and meet their needs whilst still in a schooling environment; Non Formal Education for out of school youth; Child Play Therapy Sessions in Thika Women's Prison and a Child Sponsorship programme for former street children attending secondary schools and special schools.
- **Economic Empowerment** – a Skills Training and *Into Work* programme for older street youth, Family Sponsorship and Micro Finance projects with acutely vulnerable families and for those displaced by the post election violence to improve economic self-sufficiency and empowerment.
- **Youth & Community Empowerment** – After School Children's Clubs to prevent identified children from being exploited on the streets at night and at weekends, Outreach Clinics for street children in Makongeni and Ruiru and Community Events, Training and Research activities.



A group of children we are working with playing an educational game

Achievements 2008

2008, despite the financial challenges, was an incredibly successful year for Outreach in terms of creativity, dedication and innovation in crisis. We assisted more street and acutely vulnerable children than ever before. More children were successfully returned home, more children kept in school, and additional street youth facilitated with appropriate skills training and employment opportunities. With sufficient financial support, we look forward to 2009 with energy, enthusiasm, passion and the knowledge that we love what we do and the results we are having.

In the period January – December 2008 we achieved the following successes:

- **3,048 in-depth interventions** for street and at risk children:
 - Children's Club for at risk and former street children: 1920 interventions
 - Ruiru Outreach Clinic for Street Children: 280 interventions (started in November 2008)
 - Makongeni Outreach Clinic for Street Children: 272 interventions (March 2008 – November 2008)
 - School Drop Out Prevention Project: 115 interventions
 - Women's Prisons Programme: 80 interventions for children left at home (since June 2008)
 - Internally Displaced Children from the post election violence: 381 interventions

- **230 parents** of street children directly supported with practical, financial and emotional support to enable genuine family reunification
- **137 children** returned to school through the purchase of essential **school uniform** and other school assistance
- We provided **6500 well balanced nutritious meals** to current and former street children. Food is essential in recruitment, rehabilitation and school retention of street and other acutely vulnerable children:
 - 336 meals for older street youth undergoing skills training
 - 420 meals for former street children attending local schools
 - 194 meals for internally displaced children from the post election violence to prevent them from going to the street
 - 3,150 meals to vulnerable children attending Easter and Christmas holiday clubs
 - 2,400 meals for street children attending our Day Centre and Outreach Clinics for street children

- **32** at risk children were retained in school through our **After School Children's Clubs**
- **96 home and school visits** were conducted to enable street children to successfully return home and stay at school – addressing problems before they escalate in home environments
- **10 street children** referred to our **Interim Care Centre** for intensive rehabilitation
- **16 street children** reunited with their families
- **19 street children** successfully returned to school

- **19 older street youth** taken for **skills training** in the community to enable them and their families to support themselves without needing to rely on donor support
- **3 older street youth** are now in **decent and productive employment** through our *Into Work* programme.
- **20 acutely vulnerable families** have been supported with **Micro Finance Training and loans** to enable them to set up income generating activities and become economically self sufficient
- **48 Creative Child Play Therapy sessions** for children under 4 years incarcerated with their mothers in Thika Women's Prison
- We have provided training, supervision and other assistance to **5 local volunteers** to assist them in gaining employment in the deeply competitive and limited Kenyan Economy
- We provided over **460 hours of Non Formal Education**
- We continue to support **251 former street children** in public school through assistance with school uniform, books, pens, feeding & counselling & positive encouragement
- We continue to support **2 former street children** in **Secondary School** (Martha & Anthony)
- **3 former street children** joined secondary school in January 2009 with our support
- **1 former street child** (Loise) completed Form Four in November 2008



Day of the African Child 16th June 2008

- **4 parent and community training days** coordinated to provide education and an open space for parents to learn and share about their children
- **8 large successful community education events** for vulnerable children

Qualitative achievements

- Significantly improved attitudes and behaviours amongst current and former street children
- Increased retention in schools/ reduced school drop out rate amongst acutely vulnerable children in Thika
- Improved academic performance amongst former street children
- Reduction in drug and substance abuse usage amongst the children we work with
- Improved understanding, awareness and support amongst local community for the issues facing street children
- Acknowledgement of successes in working with street children through the Municipal Council of Thika, Education Offices, local media and by local businessmen

- Empowered families taking responsibility for their children despite the economic difficulties in Kenya

Challenges

- Unprecedented **food inflation** had a significant negative impact on our operations as the cost of cereals, particularly maize, beans and rice (staple foods in Kenya) went beyond the reach of most of the already desperately poor families we work with.
- Running at between 30-50% inflation since January 2008, we can no longer feed the same number of children the same quality, well balanced meals, with the same funds. 60% of street children initially come to the streets because of lack of food (Street Census 2007). If we are unable to provide this basic commodity we cannot gain access to these children's lives.
- **Unprecedented success** in our programmes has led to a growing reputation for best practice in working with street children leading to overwhelming demand for our services and support. We see the challenges families are facing and have worked innovatively to assist many more than ever before, but there remain those we cannot assist due to lack of funds.
- **Primary School Teacher's Strike January 2009 = vulnerable children on the streets**
Teachers in public primary schools in Kenya went on strike on the 19th January 2009 over a pay dispute with the Government. This strike impacted very negatively on the most vulnerable children in Kenya. Combined with severe economic hardship many took to the streets for food and money for their families. Children adapt to street life very quickly. AfCiC has been conducting regular street sweeps to identify new children and provide early intervention but there is no doubt that the strike, combined with lack of food at home, has impacted on acutely vulnerable girls and boys being pushed to the streets in early 2009.

Conclusion

2008 was a year of radical change. The Day Care Centre for Street Children was transformed into Outreach Programmes for Vulnerable Children and despite significant financial challenges, we were able to create new programmes that assisted more acutely vulnerable children in new ways than ever before. Previously we were reaching an average of 20-25 street children per week, now we are assisting over 120 street and other acutely vulnerable children on a weekly basis, meeting their needs through more diverse, tailored responses. We will be building on this work and reaching out to new vulnerable children in 2009.

4ii. School Feeding Programmes & School Holiday Clubs 2008



Mwangi, 8 yrs, Garissa Road Primary School, A beneficiary of AfCIC's School Feeding Programme

Aims & Objectives

- To permanently reduce the number of street children in Thika
- To improve concentration and academic performance in poor public primary schools
- To improve access to "free primary education" in Thika for the most vulnerable children

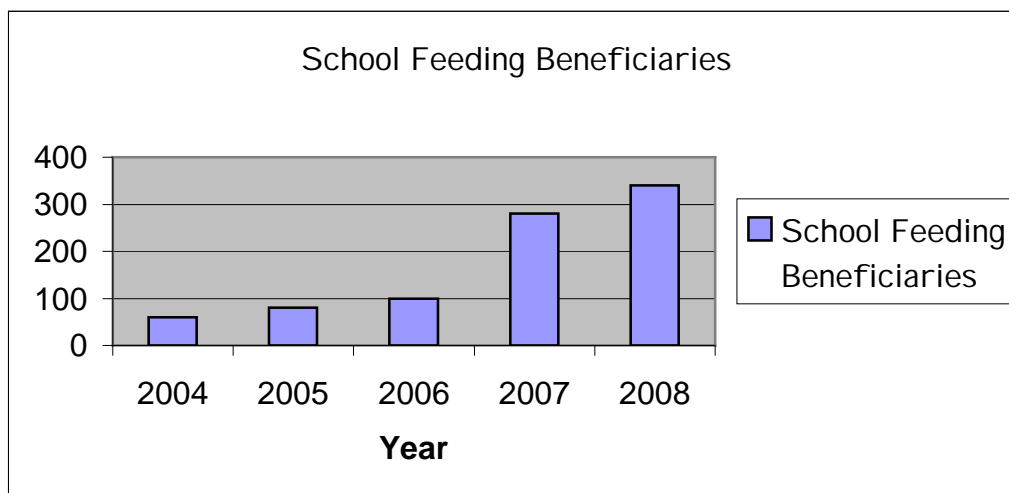
Activities

- To provide free and subsidised meals to the most vulnerable and at risk children at two partner public primary schools; St Patrick's Primary School (Thika Town) and Garissa Road Primary School (Kiandutu Slum).
- To provide individual school feeding for former street children who have been rehabilitated through our Interim Care Centre, have successfully returned to school and are unable to access a school feeding programme in their home area and whose parents are currently unable to provide this.
- To provide structured, safe, child friendly, educational school holiday programmes, combined with free lunch, for identified at risk children and former street children in our centres and at both St Patrick's and Garissa Road Primary Schools to prevent children from going to the street.

Achievements

- Low number of new street children in Thika. Thika continues to have the lowest number of street children for a town of its size in Kenya. This is a fantastic success and our school feeding programmes play a critical prevention role.
- **200 children fed daily** at St Patrick's Primary School in 2008.
- **800 children fed daily** through a partnership with Education for Life (shared resources go much further) at Garissa Road Primary School.
- **School Kitchen** built at Garissa Road Primary School through the generous support of Andrea Federman and friends.
- Effective and dynamic **School Holiday Clubs** in August 2008 for **320 children** at St Patrick's and Garissa Road Primary Schools - ensuring very few new street children in September 2008 when the school term resumed.

- Holidays Clubs in April and December 2008 for 70 most vulnerable children at our Outreach Centre for Vulnerable Children.
- **20 former street children** have benefited from our new **individual school feeding** programme and stayed in school despite substantial difficulties in their homes.
- **Improved academic performance** at St Patrick's Primary School with 4 former street children supported by AfCIC being in the top 10 in the Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education Examinations at the School in November 2008.
- Through our information sharing and guidance we have been able to encourage other organisations to engage in school feeding programmes in the district, resulting in hundreds of other children benefiting from school lunch.



“School lunch is sometimes my only meal of the day. It keeps me in school and able to concentrate in class. I use to be on the streets. I originally went to the street because of lack of food, so eating at school is really important to me.” (Muya, 16 yrs, Garissa Road Primary)

SCHOOL PROFILES: WHERE WE WORK

Garissa Road Primary School

Location:	Kiandutu Slum, Thika District
School population:	800
No. of teachers:	13
No. of orphans:	170
Problems facing the children:	Family breakdown Abject poverty Lack of food at home High unemployment in families Lack of money for school uniform
AfCiC Intervention:	Partnership with Education for Life (local NGO) in 2008 to ensure all 800 children fed daily for a subsidised rate of Ksh1 per day School Kitchen built in July-October 2008 to improve fuel efficiency, reduction in firewood usage and improve hygiene and cleanliness Free school holiday club for 140 children in August 2008 Essential school uniform purchased for 22 children out of school/ told to leave school because of lack of uniform Provision of counselling & life skills on request Identification and distribution of bedkits to 121 vulnerable children through Sleeping Children Around the World and Thika Rotary Club Home visits and family and economic support in individual cases Weekly Children's Club for the 40 most vulnerable children launched in January 2009 at the School.



SCHOOL PROFILES: WHERE WE WORK

St Patrick's Primary School

Location:	Thika Town, Thika District
School population	500
No. of teachers	11
No. of orphans	100
Problems facing the children	Family breakdown Mistreatment/ abuse at home Abject poverty Lack of food at home High unemployment in families Lack of money for school uniform
AfCiC Intervention:	200 children fed daily Subsidised meals of Ksh10 for any other child Free school holiday club for 180 children in August 2008 Essential school uniform purchased for 25 children out of school/ told to leave school because of lack of uniform Provision of counselling, life skills and motivational talks on a regular basis Identification and distribution of bedkits to 156 vulnerable children through Sleeping Children Around the World and Thika Rotary Club Home visits and family and economic support in individual cases



Challenges 2008

- **Unprecedented high food inflation (30-50% on cereals) = more money needed to feed the same number of children**

Food Inflation Table

Food Item	January 2008	January 2009	Difference
90kg Maize	1700Ksh	2500Ksh	+ 47%
90kg Rice	2350Ksh	3400Ksh	+ 44%
Cooking Fat 10kg	490Ksh	750Ksh	+ 53%
Sugar (1kg)	46Ksh	67Ksh	+ 45%

(Figures from our School Feeding Programme Receipts)

Why?

- Post election violence resulted in many farms being abandoned in the Rift Valley in Jan-March 2008. Many Kenyans have still not returned home in fear of their lives and continued insecurity. This resulted in a substantial reduction in food production.
- A focus on bio-fuel production in the USA and Europe, speculation on oil in the international markets, the onset of the global credit crunch, poor rains, deforestation, climate change and corruption at the highest levels all contributed to high food prices in Kenya

Impact?

- Starvation and famine in the North and East of Kenya
- **But** in Thika it is not a question of starvation/ famine. There is food but due to the deteriorating economic situation people simply **cannot afford** to buy it. People are starving in Thika through lack of income and the lack of affordability of the food in the market.
- We have found it incredibly difficult to maintain our food provision to the children and families we work with. The parents we work with are finding it even more difficult. This is the most important challenge facing Kenyans at present and we must be dedicated to support them in their hour of need.

Our Response?

- Increased fundraising drive locally and overseas. Increased support from the Kenya Red Cross, Thika Branch and customers at Tusky's Supermarket and other local businesses and individual donations from overseas have helped us to maintain our food provision at present.
- We have substantially increased our economic empowerment work with additional micro finance loans, business and budgeting training and skills training offered to a greater number of the vulnerable parents and guardians we work with.
- Increased sustainability measures at both schools (water harvesting, vegetable gardens, fuel efficient stoves, partnerships with other charities)

Additional funding is still essential and we are working hard to see what we are able to obtain so that these children are not put at risk.

- **Post Election Violence = Hungry Internally Displaced Children**

6000 persons/ families displaced by the post election violence settled in Thika District in 2008. Approximately 2000 have returned to their homes in the Rift Valley and in Coast and Western Provinces during the course of the year. 4000 have remained in the District however and require urgent attention to prevent them from being forced into a permanent cycle of poverty (Please see Internally Displaced Persons Support Programme Report). 38 displaced children joined Garissa Road and 18 St Patrick's Primary School. These children had lost everything in the fighting and needed to be fed to prevent them from going to the street. This was an additional, but necessary burden on our resources in 2008 as we added them to our school feeding programmes.

- **Sustainability?**

We are fully committed to a self-sufficiency component in all our programmes. This protects our critical programmes from failing due to lack of adequate funding.

This mission has been extremely challenging in our school feeding programme due to high food inflation – particularly in relation to cereals as has been indicated above. Successes were still achieved, however, at both schools.

St Patrick's

- The school management committee launched, developed and extended a vegetable garden. This garden is providing the school with the vegetables required for the feeding programme. In the school holidays, these vegetables are sold to generate income for the school's contribution to the feeding programme.
- Recently a water harvesting system has also been introduced at the school. This has meant that the water requirements of the vegetable garden can now be met.
- The school has also developed a partnership with the Kenya Red Cross, Thika Branch, through the Head Teacher Peter Ngugi and this has resulted in additional donations of maize being made on a regular basis.

Garissa Road

- We built a kitchen through the wonderful support of Andrea Federman and friends, improving fuel efficiency (reducing the amount of firewood required) and the hygienic environment needed for cooking. We have explored water harvesting and a vegetable garden at the school but the school requires fencing first for security purposes and we are investigating funding opportunities with the school at present.
- We also partnered with a local organisation, Education for Life, in February 2008, to enable us to increase feeding from 140 children to the whole school (800 pupils). Through sharing our resources we have been able to maximise impact and assist a greater number of children.

All these measures play a critical role in improving local ownership and responsibility for the programme. They unfortunately cannot meet the challenge of high cereal prices but Action for Children in Conflict is continuing to explore ways to meet this challenge.

In 2009 we intend to partner with local agricultural organisations to start training the schools on the different foods available that can be eaten. We recognise that the reliance on maize as the main staple food is further hindering development across Kenya because of its current high price.

Diversifying diet and eating old traditional foods is extremely important. We do not expect immediate results but hope to have an impact in the long-term.

Conclusion

2008 was an extremely challenging year for our school feeding programmes. Without the generosity of the Clara Burgess Trust, Terry Nicholls and others we would not have survived. We achieved an incredible amount and over 1000 acutely vulnerable children were kept in school with your support.

School feeding is an extremely cost effective, high impact strategy that ensures the poorest children are able to stay in school and benefit from “free primary education”.

The high cost of cereals in Kenya is putting many of these programmes in jeopardy and we have seen other organisations terminating their programmes in different provinces as the year has progressed.

AfCiC has been extremely successful in building local partnerships, initiating more sustainable programmes for schools and in permanently reducing the number of street children in Thika through positive, durable means. Despite this, the challenge of food is significant and we are not confident that these programmes will continue wholly intact from June 2009 unless we are successful in our current fundraising.

4iii. KCLAW Report 2008

Kenyan Children's Legal Aid Work was extremely active in 2008; assisting new acutely vulnerable clients with free legal advice, pushing important cases on fundamental human rights to court, training young women in self representation skills, training the District Children's Office and Area Advisory Committee in the Children's Act and continuing with our vitally important community education work throughout Thika District.

Mission Statement

To enable the most impoverished and vulnerable children and their families to access justice and legal redress where their human rights have been infringed through the provision of free direct legal advice, tailored advocacy and campaigning and ongoing community education and collaboration work.

Aims & Objectives/ Activities

1. To provide free legal services at the grassroots level to the most vulnerable children and their families; ensuring that poverty is not allowed as an excuse for inaction on gross child and other human rights abuses.
2. To provide effective, durable grassroots lobbying and advocacy on the rights of Orphans and Vulnerable Children and their families in the local, regional and national context that enables the genuine protection of the child.
3. To actively disseminate KCLAW knowledge and expertise in professional forums and facilitate legal justice and advocacy networking and liaison at all levels of society, recognising that knowledge and action is critical at all levels to protect the individual, to protect the community, to protect society, from human rights abuses.
4. To provide additional psycho-social, medical and other practical services where possible to our clients, in order to ensure the best possible outcomes for those orphans and vulnerable children and their families seeking our legal assistance.
5. To develop a self-sufficient model of grassroots legal advice and advocacy to ensure a durable, innovative presence in the promotion and protection of human rights in Thika District and beyond.

Achievements 2008

Written by Danny Wamheu, KCLAW Director

A. Provision of legal aid

We continued to provide invaluable free legal aid to the most vulnerable and ostracised children, youth and women who otherwise would have no way of enjoying their rights or accessing justice. Our caseload continued to increase significantly, currently standing at 468 cases.

The majority of our caseload is child neglect cases thus calling for support & maintenance. This area is the most challenging and most important area of KCLAW services, as successful intervention can ensure a child does not end up on the streets. Through mediation, counselling and legal direction, fathers and mothers are persuaded to resume/discharge their parental duties to support and maintain their children. In addition we dealt with other types of cases including, child

abuse, succession/inheritance, medical, sponsorship, custody/access, adoption and family reintegration.

KCLAW made remarkable achievements in 2008 with 67% of cases successfully resolved through mediation; exceptional, tragic prosecutions were taken forward, peace was facilitated between children and their parents, defaulting fathers & mothers started regular support and maintenance payments for their children and we protected and nurtured children who have survived abuse and neglect. These actions were always difficult and sensitive, but important and essential also.

Case studies

- A young boy charged in a criminal case with uprooting the beacons marking the boundary to some land was referred to KCLAW. Following investigation it materialised that the case arose out of a family dispute and that the cousin had actually attached the boy, stabbed him in his private parts. As a cover-up, the cousin's father framed this boy with the criminal charge of uprooting the boundary beacons. Following our legal intervention the boy was thankfully acquitted and is receiving medical attention for his injuries.
- A sexual abuse case involving a father who had been defiling his own two daughters for over 3 years was referred by Thika District Hospital. KCLAW moved swiftly and the father is currently in remand pending prosecution. The children are now safe with their Mother.
- Lucy, a student in secondary school, sought help from us in desperate circumstances. She was a Form Four student and pregnant. Her mother and family had abandoned her saying she was a disgrace. Lucy wanted to commit suicide or abort; those she insisted were her only options. We intervened, spending substantial time mediating and peace building between her and her mother. Lucy was able to return home and recently came back after giving birth to a healthy child. Relations between her and Mother are good and improving, and she is keen to return to school next term; We are working to make this a reality.



Some current KCLAW Clients

B. Community Education programme

We continued with our pioneering community education programme through Thika District conducting several workshops and trainings to advance knowledge, understanding and awareness on children's rights. Our activities in this area included:

- January 2008: children's rights & responsibilities training for Standard 7 & 8 children at Memorial Church School, Thika

- February 2008: Teacher Training for teachers working in poor public primary schools on detecting child abuse and neglect
- April 2008: Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC) Street Families Exhibition, promoting and sharing our important work with others in the sector
- May and June 2008: **Day of the African Child**. KCLAW carried out a series of sensitisation workshops for this event in several schools throughout the District including Thika School for the Blind.
- September 2008: HIV/AIDS training at Thika District hospital. The participants were mainly elderly grandmothers taking care of orphans of their own children who died of AIDS and people living with HIV. We trained them on child rights and succession/inheritance matters.
- November 2008: St Xavier's Secondary School. 200 girl students. Rape sensitisation and education for young women.

C. Advocacy, Networking & Facilitation

KCLAW has taken the lead in promoting and protecting the rights of the child in Thika District, building capacity, knowledge and commitment to vulnerable children at all levels of society. We have been involved in drafting policy recommendations on the Children's Act and other legislation at the national level, and enabling a Thika Community Watch Group to translate policy into direct action at the local level. We work with all stakeholders, including the District Children's Office, the Courts, Police, other Non Governmental Organisations (FIDA, KAAC etc.) to the community and children themselves to improvement systems, policies and processes on handling children whose rights have been violated. Our activities in 2008 included:

- **Hear Our Voice! Women's Group**

In 2008, we brought together a group of female clients to meet monthly to share their experiences of abuse and build a network of support for each other. During the year they have developed monologue pieces and now a dramatic play on their past experiences to share with other women. Their primary aim is to let other women know that they are not alone, that help is available and not to feel ashamed for what has happened. They have visited over 12 different communities so far and the impact has been incredible.

"My name is Jane Mwihaki, married with 4 children. I benefited... by knowing that I'm not the only one who has experienced rape... as a house girl. Two young mothers said how they got their children from being raped by those who employed them. The same happened to me when I was 19. I was raped by the man who had employed me...(he) told me if I tell his wife he will beat me and never pay me my wages ... I lived with a lot of fear and stress ...up to when my mother came and asked them to give me some leave since she was sick. What was good for me ... is to know that there is a legal procedure but for me I just kept quietIt made me understand and realise I should also tell the young girls who go for house girl work to be very careful and report anything like that if it happens to them and not to be afraid." (Audience Feedback)

- **Probation/Community Case and Service Orders Review Meeting**

KCLAW was invited to join the above 2 committees whose Chair is the District Commissioner and the Children Magistrate respectively. The Committee in the Probation Department under the Office of the Vice President reviews the progress of cases, which are under probation and also those under the community service orders and makes recommendations.

- **Prevention Of Corruption Committee (Chair)**

This is a Government Committee for the Office of the Vice President. The Committee examines the workings and systems of the various departments namely Probation, Prisons, Betting Control and the Children's Department. It keeps a constant check on organizational operations and procedures of those departments and ensures that there are no opportunities for corruption. All the aforesaid departments are accountable to this Committee.

- **Orphans & Vulnerable Children**

As an active member of the Area Advisory Committee, KCLAW has been actively involved in the OVCs cash transfer project. The project targeted families with orphans from locations with high poverty levels within the district. At its inception the project benefited over 276 households with orphaned children in their care in Thika with each household receiving Ksh 3000/= every 2 months.

In 2008 KCLAW has been heavily involved in the implementation and expansion of the Orphans & Vulnerable cash transfer programme including attending to payment, verification and validation meetings. The program now covers 750 households who receive a total of Ksh 250,000/= every 2 months.

- **Area Advisory Council**

KCLAW was called upon & continued to play an active, guiding, advisory & crucial role in the Thika District Area Advisory Committee. This committee has a duty & authority over all children matters in the district.

- **Legislation**

KCLAW was involved in a series of policy and legislation events, working with Kenyan Alliance for the Advancement of Children (KAAC) and other organisations to ensure good amendments were made to the Children's Act.

Challenges

- **Demand & awareness of our service.** Despite our ongoing community education work, we are still not as well known as we need to be in the District in terms of outlying villages. We know that a child is being abused every day in Thika but we still see only a small section of these cases and we sadly know that they are not going elsewhere for assistance, as we are the only direct legal advice provider physically based in Thika.

We must reach out to these children and their families through outreach surgeries in rural communities, improved communication with Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs, better contacts with local health clinics and more performances of the Hear Our Voice! women's group. We have a duty to give voice to those who are currently voiceless.

- **Strategy.** When you are dealing with individual cases, giving them your complete attention, you can sometimes forget to devote time to forward planning and strategic thinking. How can we change policy, public opinion, our services, to have a greater impact on more lives? In 2009 we have devoted time to strategic planning and through this we are intending to launch essential research activities and new advocacy campaigns, whilst continuing with our essential legal advice provision.
- **Resources:** Time and Money. We cannot take every case to court that we would wish owing to insufficient resources. We cannot run the number of professional workshops we would like as people expect allowances that we cannot pay. These issues are deeply frustrating to us. This

requires continuous networking with Thika Lawyers to expand our “pro-bono” base, dedicated fundraising and improved marketing of our services so that salaried workers in schools, hospitals, the courts and police, recognise the advantage of specialised training in this field and the culture of allowances for training attendance are overcome.

Conclusion

Activities in 2008 consolidated and enhanced KCLAW's reputation in Thika District as a pioneering, responsive, successful child legal protection service. Through sound strategic planning, good budgeting and focused fundraising and networking we intend to build on this solid foundation in 2009, taking advantage of our strengths and our relationships with others, to reach out to more children and their families and ensure justice is realised where needed.

Rehabilitation



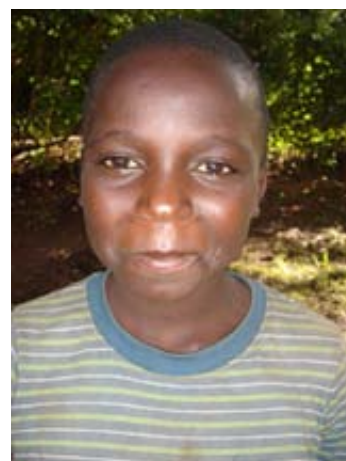
For those children who still find themselves on the streets and at risk, we are dedicated to assisting each child to come to terms with their past experiences and re-enter their families, education and society in positive, durable ways.

For the children's families we are dedicated to being partners and enablers. We are committed to assisting them to develop their own social, economic and emotional resources so that they become self sufficient, not needing our help.

We are committed to complete rehabilitation; education, psycho-social support, physical safety and well-being, economic security and sanctuary.

5i. Interim Care Centre for Street Children 2008/9

"The ICC is helping me so I can go back to school. All of the staff are very nice and I am learning lots from the classes. I wake up in the morning and go to the dining hall where I get good food. I also get to go to running club in the morning, which makes me feel good! My family still has problems but I hope we can sort them out and I can go home soon." (Edwin, 12 years)



The Interim Care Centre for Street Children (ICC) was launched in June 2005 to provide holistic, intensive, six month residential rehabilitation for the most abused and vulnerable street children. Since its inception we have assisted 241 children to successfully re-enter society and return to their families, school and the community.

20 children are recruited every six months through referrals from our outreach programmes, from the District Children's Office, Municipal Council and other stakeholders. They follow a structured programme of non-formal education, counselling, creative art therapy, sports and recreational activities. These activities are combined with on-going home visits, parental support and other necessary interventions. At the end of rehabilitation they are then supported to return home and re-join school or undertake a skills training.

Activities in 2008/9

- Intensive Non formal education to prepare the children for re-entry into mainstream school **(1300 hours provided)**
- Individual & Group counselling to enable children to address their feelings and experiences about home and living on the streets **(104 group counselling sessions provided and 160 individual sessions conducted)**
- Home and School Visits to enable family and school reintegration and ensure after care support **(156 visits conducted throughout Central Province)**
- Creative Art Therapy (beadwork, art and crafts) **(160 sessions provided)**
- Hear Our Voice Performing Arts Project (see separate section)
- Sports & Recreational Activities (Acrobatics, Football, Table Tennis, Running Club) **(at least 364 structured hours)**
- Community Service (cleaning the police station weekly) to build relations between the children and the police
- Household duties (cooking, cleaning the compound, washing clothes) to enable the children to assist their families when they return home
- Agricultural activities (clearing, planting seeds, tending to plants)
- Animal activities (caring for rabbits, goats & chickens)
- Community events & activities – raising the profile of our work and the talented, worthy children that we work with **(Kiangombe grandparents, decorating Thika District Hospital, World Aids Day, Mr & Mrs Integrity, Caritas Celebrations etc.)**

RUNNING CLUB & NAIROBI MARATHON 2008/9

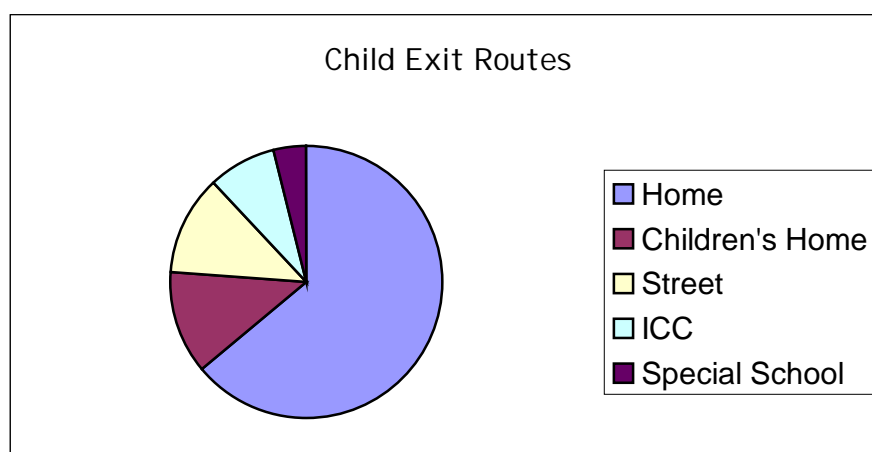
In late November, Edward Osore, Housefather at the ICC ran the 10km race at the Nairobi Marathon and Chris Howarth, international volunteer, participated in the 42km Marathon Race. Both successfully completed the race and raised crucial funds for AfCiC.

Edward had been taking the children on ad hoc runs in the evenings for many years – helping to keep both himself and them fit and energetic! Inspired by the race and wanting to run to the 42km race in 2009, Edward partnered up with new volunteer Kathryn to start an official AfCiC running club. Leaving at 6am 4 days per week the children jog through the town centre and through Kenya Tanning (the compound where we reside) keeping themselves healthy, preparing them for the day ahead and promoting the work of AfCiC.

Edward is confident that he and some of the boys will be able to compete in the Nairobi Marathon in 2009 for AfCiC. We will keep you updated!

In 2008 we took undertook rehabilitation for 25 children from January 2008-July 2008 (including 5 returnees – children whom we had successfully assisted previously but new challenges brought them back into our care). Of these:

- **16** have been successfully settled at **home** and are in school
- **3** have been successfully referred and entered into **children's homes** locally (one a specialist centre for those who are HIV+)
- **1** is in a boarding **special school** for the deaf and mute, but has been successfully placed at home during the holidays
- **2** have **returned to our care** after continued problems at home and we are trying new strategies to assist them and their families
- **3 older children** are **on the street** having not completed our rehabilitation programme



Street Children rehabilitation is an inherently difficult process and we are extremely proud of our high success rate in 2008.

A success story: Francis, 12 years, deaf & mute



Francis, lost his hearing after an ear infection went untreated. He was found by our outreach staff and after initial follow up referred to our Interim Care Centre in February 2008. Francis is a very active child and was a boisterous participant in all our centre activities.

During his rehabilitation his mother passed away and Francis became an orphan. But, Francis was able to see his mother before she died and rebuild the bond of love between them, which was crucial in helping him to grieve.

Through David Burley (a father a one of our international volunteers) we were able to pay for his initial entrance and term one school fees at Kamboi School for Deaf & Mute children. Fiona Cook (former fundraising officer of AfCiC UK) then came in as a wonderful ongoing sponsor to ensure Francis is able to stay in this school and achieve. Francis stays with his Aunt in the holidays.

We conducted a school visit on February 7th 2009 (we have 2 other children also at this school) and Francis has learnt how to say he is feeling good and not so good in sign language! A big thank you to David Burley and Fiona Cook for making this happen.

To find out more about child sponsorship please visit www.actionchildren.org or email sponsorship@actionchildren.org

ICC In-depth Evaluation August-September 2008

We undertook an in-depth evaluation of all our case files since inception in August-September 2008 to assess our success, challenges and areas for development. This information was collated and analysed in a strategic review of the centre in late September 2008. From this review we have implemented the following programmes in late 2008:

- A new structured counselling packages, that includes both the child and parent through the different stages of rehabilitation
- A revised education timetable which takes a more individual approach to a child's learning needs (utilising local and international volunteers to provide more one to one and small group teaching)
- Individual tuition for children we have successfully returned home but are struggling at school due to time lost when on the streets (particularly focused at those who are 16 years + but still in primary school)
- Hear Our Voice Project as a key part of our ongoing creative art therapy
- Economic assessment of each family in month 4 of rehabilitation and provision of family sponsorship to each relevant family where sponsorship makes this possible.
- Provision of business training, planning and budgeting as well as family planning and parental training for all parents.
- Sourcing of child sponsorship for children to attend the best possible schools and access a good quality education.

- Ensuring individual school feeding for children returning to school who cannot attend a school with a school feeding programme – preventing food from being a reason to turn back to the street.

New Intake of Street Children: October 2008

In October 2008 we recruited 22 street children for rehabilitation. They are aged between 6 and 18 years from Ruiru, Makongeni, Gachage and Kiandutu slums and Muranga. We anticipate that they will leave the centre in May 2009. They have many complex issues and difficult families. They have learnt bad language, experienced many drugs and other substances on the streets and suffered from many forms of neglect, exploitation and abuse in their families and on the streets. Our duty is to listen, learn and assist; re-socialising, re-integrating and re-unifying them with their families and society so that they can be children once more.

CASE STUDY: Derick, 12 years, October 2008 Intake

“I'm Derick, I am 12 years old and I haven't been to school for many months. I ran away from home because my stepfather was not happy with me. There was no food and no care. Living in the centre is good, I have learned good behaviour and have good manners now, but I want to go back to school so I can make my life come good”.



Derick was discovered by our Outreach staff in Makongeni early last year and referred to the ICC where he began rehabilitation in October. Prior to that, he had been on the streets for 9 months after dropping out of school in class 6.

When his parents separated, his mother remarried a man who would not accept Derick. His Stepfather's rejection meant Derick was not cared for properly and there was rarely food for him. Derick ran away from home early last year and spent his days working in the market, doing anything he could to get money to eat. His mother now has a young baby so has to stay at home, this leaves her completely dependent on her husband as the breadwinner of the family. Derick has been slowly moving through the rehabilitation process and he is absolutely determined to go back to school, but we must address his family problems first.

Conclusion

Our ICC had a fantastic success rate in street child rehabilitation in 2008. The main reasons for this success are our extremely dedicated, professional staff and volunteer team; our high staff to child ratio enabling individual, tailored care; our holistic, creative rehabilitation programme; our focus on the child in the family setting; and ongoing thorough after care support.

Dedicated to continuously improving our protection and nurturing of each child that enters our care we revised and restructured our centre activities in late 2008. We are confident that these new methods and activities will ensure even higher success in 2009: more children successfully rehabilitated; better academic success for those who return to school; more economic prosperity for the families we work with.

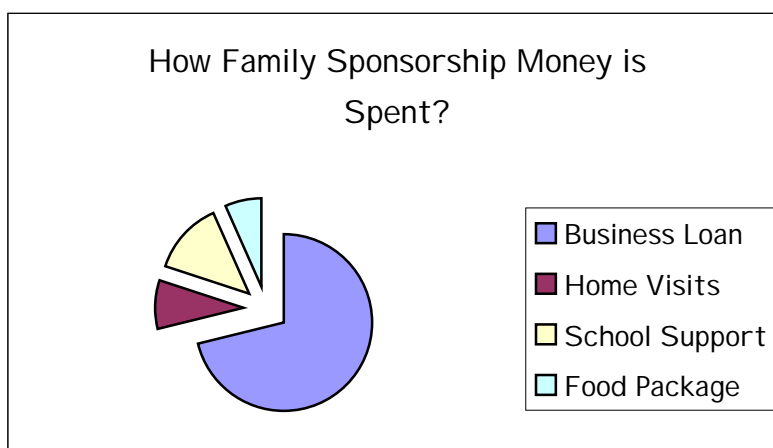
5ii. Family Sponsorship Report 2008/9

Written by Jo Bayley, Volunteer Sponsorship Coordinator

AfCiC's Family Sponsorship Programme offers tailored support to an entire family to improve their socio-economic prospects and enable them to become self sufficient by the end of the sponsorship. Through this sponsorship scheme we aim to improve the lives of the whole family and therefore better protect the child.

In 2008 the number of families supported by the Family Sponsorship Programme increased to 22. Poverty, hopelessness and addiction are complex issues and the Family Sponsorship Programme aims to find real, lasting solutions. Sponsors' money becomes part of a specific fund that is used to reintegrate the street children we work with and to assist their families towards financial self-sufficiency. Specific needs vary from case to case but sponsorship money helps pay for:

- Bi-monthly home visits from a social worker over a 12 month period to monitor relationships between the child and their parents/guardians and to ensure that any conflicts are mediated upon before they escalate.
- School support (uniform, fees, skills training).
- A basic monthly food allowance/package if required.
- Training with other families on income-generating activities and small business start up
- An income generating loan
- A small medical allowance for emergencies so that any medical crisis does not push the family back into poverty.



Joseph Kimani, 12 years, ICC June 07 - Jan 08



Joseph's mother, Ann, has been supported to set up a green grocer business. Due to neglect, Joseph came to the street in Waithiere in 2006. Brought to the ICC in 2007 by a well-wisher he underwent six months of rehabilitation before being taken back home and reunited with his family. He was assisted in returning to school where he continues to do well despite new problems that have occurred since his rehabilitation.

Unfortunately, after Joseph had been sent home, the family unit split up. Joseph's father threw his wife and children out of the family home and Joseph's mother was forced to find a one-roomed house to live in, carrying out casual jobs to try and make ends meet. Ann and her four children were forced to live in abject poverty; their house had only one bed and no mattress. The children had to sleep on sacks on the floor and they rarely had enough food to eat.

Ann showed enthusiasm and commitment to start up her own business so that she could provide a more adequate standard of living for her family. Family Sponsorship has helped the family by providing Ann not only with the opportunity to earn an income but by restoring some of her confidence after being mistreated by her husband. Now she is able to support her children, the children are remaining in school and we hope they will have better chances in the future.

Conclusion

Family Sponsorship has transformed the lives of 22 families in 2008. Through focusing on empowering families economically, the need for a child to go into care or onto the streets reduces significantly. Family sponsorship also means that all siblings benefit, rather than an individual child. We hope to increase the number of beneficiaries to 40 in 2009, providing we are able to source more donors.

To find out more about family sponsorship please visit www.actionchildren.org or email sponsorship@actionchildren.org

5iii. Hear Our Voice! Performing Arts Project 2008

Hear Our Voice! is an innovative, educational performing arts project, launched by AfCiC in April 2008, delivered by disadvantaged, socially excluded young people for other young people. The project provides a unique opportunity for those who have experienced abuse, neglect and social exclusion through being on the streets to make their voices heard, share their experiences and prevent others from suffering as they have. The participants also learn valuable performing arts skills & other important life and social skills that can assist them in building better lives for themselves and their families.

Aims & Objectives

- To provide performing arts opportunities to a group of extremely socially disadvantaged and isolated young people in Thika, Kenya – street children and abuse victims, helping them to share their experiences in a creative, safe, participatory forum with other young people
- To stimulate, educate and engage children who have been out of school for some time in an interactive and participatory learning forum.
- To provide essential life skills education and social skills to the above group of vulnerable children. The project will assist with problem solving, critical thinking, language skills, confidence, patience, team work and self-esteem.
- To provide interactive, peer education through the use of the performing arts on the issue of street children and child abuse in Thika District, Kenya .
- To develop a best practice template for working with street children and other vulnerable youth in the performing arts to share with other charities working in the same field.

Activities

- Individual and group interviews with street children, other vulnerable children, social workers, police officers, the local council, teachers and other relevant stakeholders.
- Creative writing workshops to gather information on the experiences of street children
- Improvisation workshops with street children and abuse victims to build content for a play, poetry, dance and music on their experiences on the streets of Thika. Workshops integrated into rehabilitation timetable at our Interim Care Centre
- Regular rehearsals (focusing on language skills, team work, patience and concentration skills)
- Hear Our Voice Performances in Children's Homes, local primary and secondary schools and in slum communities
- Filming of play, dance and poetry for a Hear Our Voice Documentary to share with other young people.
- Filming of a fictional film on Hear Our Voice as a means of peer education to prevent other children resorting to street life
- Media work to promote Hear Our Voice and the children involved



Some of the Hear Our Voice! participants

Achievements

- **65 current and former street children** provided with performing arts opportunities and a creative, educational forum to share their experiences, learn new skills and assist others in need. (The project has played a key role in encouraging street children to return to mainstream education).
- **Life & Social Skills:**
 - Increased confidence, self-esteem, problem solving, critical thinking and communication skills amongst the participants, particularly in terms of English Language and Public Speaking Skills.
 - Improved team working skills, patience, concentration and creativity amongst the participants.
 - Improved ability amongst participants to reflect on their past experiences and feel more positive about the future.
- **30 performances** conducted in schools, slums, rural communities, churches and children's homes to over **4500 audience members**.
- Significantly increased awareness about issues surrounding street children within Thika District, particularly within vulnerable communities.
- Improved knowledge on children's rights amongst vulnerable children, their teachers and guardians.
- Positive publicity for the project in Kenyan National Media (Daily Metro, The Standard and Onoro FM).
- Unique **child-to-child dialogue** on the issues of abuse and neglect in Thika District. Disadvantaged child sharing their experiences with others in a safe, friendly environment.
- Development of a website www.hearourvoicekenya.com to share our work with others.

HEAR OUR VOICE - INTERIM CARE CENTRE BOYS TESTIMONIES

Raphael Muturi. Age 15. I come from Kiandutu.

Due to poverty I found it difficult to live with my parent. I couldn't tolerate with my mum's behaviours. She used to come home drunk and she never care for me as her only son. As time pass by she shown a heavy cloud of adding me a brother or sister. So I decided to run to the street to a better living.

There I face the life and later Action for Children in Conflict decided to rehabilitate me. I joined a drama Hear Our Voice. I have learnt to talk with people and also to entertain them. Surely Hear Our Voice have been good for me and I'm proud of it.

I am Michael Ndungu from Matuu. I am 12 years old.

My mother used to mistreat me as if she conceived me by mistake. She could even misplace her money and accuse me that I have taken her money. Then I decided to run to the street and I used to eat food from dustbin.

Later I was rescued by Action for Children in Conflict and joined Hear Our Voice. It has made me to know the danger of sniffing glue and taking drugs.

Hear Our Voice has given me the courage to open up myself in front of people and it has made me know English and also it has encouraged me to go back to school.

I'm David Chege. I come from Kandara town. Aged 11 years.

Since I realise what life is I have passed through difficult situation. My parents who were both Daily Drinking Officers (D.D.O) could come and beat everyone in the house.

Most of the time my brother and I used to go without food so I decided to run away from home to the street. From there I was rescued by Action for Children in Conflict.

At the centre I joined drama (Hear Our Voice). I have experience good qualities e.g. to associate with people, courage and perfection of my doing. With Hear Our Voice I have learnt how to talk. I can speak Kiswahili as well as English. Hear Our Voice has taken me to school and it is a great dream for me.

My name is George Ng'ang'a. I am 16 years old. I come from Gatundu North.

I have experienced a lot of problems. The first problem that I encountered was when my mother and my father divorced. After that my father chased us away with our mum. There in my mother's home my brothers and I were overworked since that was not our right place to stay we decided to go to the streets.

However after sometime I was taken by a man to rehabilitation centre (Action for Children in Conflict). Then I joined Hear Our Voice, which has now made me to be a good actor and to know many places all over our country.

Hear Our Voice has given me the courage to share what I have experienced before. It also educated me and I have high hopes to have a better future.

Samuel Mungai Njihia. I'm age 17. I come from Gatundu North.

I stay with Action for Children in Conflict (AfCiC). I have seen many things both good as well as bad. I joined AfCiC due to circumstances. As time pass by we come up with a drama titled Hear Our Voice.

What I have experience from Hear Our Voice is that one can change into a good person. Also I have learnt from Hear Our Voice that somebody can develop his/her personality by use of his talent.

The Marginalized's Cry

This poem was written by the children for the Hear Our Voice project

Am sure you wonder why am here
In home no peace, no food, no care
Neither is there appreciation
It's with enough reasons that I'm here.

To the streets I went hoping it was better
To my dismay was more pain
When people called me chokora
And in stinking rubbish I pursue
In search of food
But it's with enough reason that am here.

Though dirty, shaggy and stinking
Some men must be mad
For they give me coins in return for sodomy,
Some even rape me.
It's only with enough reasons that am here.

A mountain of problems the young suffer on
streets
For the big take advantage of them,
Hence the street philosophy:
Survival for the fittest,
It's only with enough reasons that am here.

No matter how coward a dog is,
it shakes its tail
Whenever at home I pity myself
For never have I been in a position to shake
my tail.
It's only with enough reasons that am here.

Brothers and sisters its clear we are
desperate.
Last Sunday in church a pastor dared
mention
That God has a reason for everything that
happens.
It's only with enough reasons that am here.

A question we pose to the righteous:
Does God have a reason for my suffering?
Is this reason or inhumane?
It's only with enough reasons that am here.

A yes or no leaves me curious.
I wish an interpreter would come in
And explain to us,
For if yes then this must be fair.
It's only with enough reasons that am here.

Whether yes or no,
Whether explained or not,
I wonder why me? And why not you?
I wish we share this pain with you.
It's with enough reasons that am here.

We cry unto you all
It's with enough reasons that am here.
You who are in a position to help,
It's your support that will cause
A difference in my life.

Challenges

Hear Our Voice! was intended as a 6-12 month project. The project has been an incredible success, both in terms of the substantial therapeutic and educational role it has played in the rehabilitation of street children at our Interim Care Centre, and as a vehicle of highly effective child to child advocacy on the experiences of street children and preventing abuse.

The evaluation of the project's impact has shown us the importance of making Hear Our Voice! a permanent project within Action for Children in Conflict's programme activities and an integral feature of our holistic rehabilitation process.

We have sourced funds to enable the project to continue until December 2009 as present, it is essential that we explore new partnerships and ways to make this project sustainable going into 2010, looking at both charitable and commercial opportunities to ensure the lasting impact of our work.

Conclusion

Hear Our Voice! was launched in April 2008, offering new creative educational opportunities to street children in our care in Thika. The project has been a fantastic success, giving children new skills, opportunities, experiences and confidence and enabling us to protect other children from the exploitation and abuses of the street through effective child-led interactive advocacy work. We intend to publish a documentary, fictional film and collection of works in 2009 to consolidate this success, encourage others working in the field to draw on our experiences and to work with new groups of street children, as they undergo rehabilitation, in this creative way.

If you would like more information on Hear Our Voice! Please visit www.hearourvoicekenya.com or email Kenya@actionchildren.org.

Internally Displaced Children & Families Support Programme 2008



Evans Munyinyi (AfCic Staff) & family, Molo, Feb 2008)

Over 6000 persons were displaced to Thika District in the aftermath of the post election violence (DC Statistics March 2008). These children, individuals and families found their way to relatives, supportive community members or utilised their own resources to resettle in the District. As they chose not to stay in the IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camps, less attention has been devoted to their needs and the needs of their children.

Actions January-April 2008

Our initial response to the crisis was ad hoc support in terms of food relief, blankets, clothing, one off counselling sessions and free legal advice. Whilst demand for this support was very high it is not durable support and was not the best use of our limited resources. We recognised that we needed a well planned and implemented strategy that maximised our limited resources to assist the most vulnerable and ensured that we were providing a hand up rather than a hand out where possible.

Following detailed discussions we prioritised our resources in the following ways:

- **Direct child support:** Purchase of school uniform, payment of registration fees, school fees and other school expenses where applicable for displaced children who are not in school because their parent is unable to currently meet these costs.
- **Direct child & family support:** Tailored and specialised counselling (where necessary) for children and their parents.
- **Direct family support:** To provide micro finance loans to parents with children less than 18 years to start new businesses, enabling families to build up a new income and therefore be able to meet the needs of their children (preventing children from being forced to the streets in search of money or food).
- **Direct family support:** Repatriation assistance for families with children under 18 years who want to return to their homes.
- **Direct family support:** Free legal advice where necessary on land rights, property rights and Government compensation for IDPs.

- **Direct Community Support and Training:** Interactive inter-tribal training on peace and conflict resolution through a series of community and professional level workshops and exercises.

£10,000 was raised for this highly important work through an Emergency Appeal we launched in February 2008. We then combined resources with another concerned organisation, Macheo Children's Centre in Thika, to make our funds go further and impact on more lives.

Actions May 08- March 09

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve knowledge and expertise on IDP issues amongst staff • To increase awareness and build partnerships with other organisations working on IDP issues. • To improve our knowledge and expertise in working on micro-finance issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenyan Government and UNICEF Training on IDCs in April 2008. Received training on registration of separated and accompanied IDCs, • KARDS micro finance training attended by social worker in July 2008.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conduct a needs assessment to identify the most needy displaced families in Thika District through an in-depth needs assessment. • To identify families with children less than 18 years displaced by the crisis that would benefit from our intervention - either through micro finance support or personal needs support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed needs assessment form designed May 08. • 152 IDP Families interviewed in Juja, Waitheire, Kiandutu Slum, Gatanga, Gatundu, Githurai, Thika, Landless, Kiganjo Slum, Gatunyaga in May/ June 08. • 112 families identified as eligible for a micro-finance loan following screening exercise. • 20 additional families identified as eligible for support to return home or personal needs support only. Other families screened out as all children over 18 years. • IDP Family database created.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conduct home visits where displaced families are residing to verify information provided in survey and provide a secondary assessment of vulnerability and capability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 115 home/ work visits conducted • Areas covered: Juja, Waitheire, Kiandutu Slum, Makongeni, Kiganjo slum, Landless, Gatunyaga, Githurai
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To visit community elders and chiefs where displaced families are residing to assess current support structures and plan ways of working together on shared assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits conducted May, June and July 2008. Positive reception by community leaders.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To purchase school uniform & address other critical child related issues immediately. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 239 School Uniforms (Primary School) purchased and distributed to identified children who were out of school between June and December 2008

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify groups of 7 displaced families to benefit from the loan disbursements (Waithiere 2, Juja 2, Landless 1, Makongeni 1, Githurai 1, Kiandutu & Kiganjo 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 micro finance groups identified by Social Workers following in-depth assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide micro finance training for IDP groups To obtain signed legal agreements from all those receiving a loan To disburse loans to groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 day trainings provided on writing business plans, financial management, budgeting, micro-finance groups and on legal obligations to repay loans. Conducted Aug – Dec 08. All legal agreement forms signed and 92 loans disbursed to groups Aug08 – Jan 09.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To monitor loan repayments on a weekly basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDP Group repayments on a weekly basis. Penalties for late payments. 85% repayment rate currently. Reasons for non payment primarily ill health and death of family member.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conduct follow up home visits to check on business progress and address any new issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 115 follow up home and business visits completed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify the most needy children for school fees assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution of Ksh 2000 towards School fees provided to 36 most needy children
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide medical services to the most critical cases of child ill-health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical assistance provided to desperate cases. E.g.: Serious skin disease requiring immediate treatment to stop long term damage Critical menstrual problems for a young girl Heart failure of a single mother
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide repatriation assistance to displaced families wanting to return to their former homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 36 families provided with repatriation assistance (Ksh2000-7000) to return home – particularly for grandparents looking after their grandchildren. Families returned to the Rift Valley (Molo, Nakuru, Kericho). No IDPs wanting to return to Eldoret.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDP Assessment forms to be screened for counselling and legal needs and referrals made to relevant departments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 referrals made to our counselling department 3 referrals to our legal department 11 counselling sessions provided to families.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify vulnerable displaced youth displaced for skills training courses, enabling them to enter viable employment and support their families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 young people identified and placed in skills training Radiator Repair (1), Mechanics (1), Tailoring (2), Mobile Phone Repair (1), Coffin Making (1), Carpentry (1)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate any other funding opportunities so that our programme can assist more displaced families in need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial meeting held with US Embassy and USAID but resources are being directed towards the Rift Valley region. No funds currently allocated to Central Province.

Case Study: Eunice 8 years

Eunice is the youngest in a family of seven children, now hosted by an aunt in a single room in Landless, Thika district following the post election violence. The family is from Kimuri village, Uasin Gishu District, in Rift Valley Province. Their home and possessions were burnt during the crisis by their neighbours.

Eunice had not been attending school in Thika because of lack of uniform and was spending her time loitering on the streets near her home. She was unhappy and also in danger of being exploited by the many young men who are out of work in the locale.

Following our intervention we purchased a uniform for Eunice and she is now attending Mountain View Primary School. Eunice is now a much happier, more settled child, *“now I am like other children again”*.

We also identified that Eunice and her brothers and sisters were going hungry. Following our needs assessment we gave a small loan to the mother to develop a business of selling porridge to construction workers in Landless. This is proving to be a small, but successful business and they have now been able to rent a small room for themselves. Food, shelter and education are basics they now have thanks to the IDP Programme.

Conclusion

Our Internally Displaced Children & Families Support Programme is proving to be a highly innovative, critical and successful intervention for those displaced by the violent crisis and residing in Thika. The demand for our service continues to outstrip our ability to supply but where we are assisting families our support is sustainable, relevant and effective.

7. Financial Information AfCiC Kenya 1st April 08 – 31st March 09

Financial Overview

	2008/9	2007/8	Difference
Total Cash Income	£126,302.77	£95,027.02	£31,275.75
Total Expenditure	£112,932.79	£84,678.06	£28,254.74
Balance C/F	£13,369.98	£10,348.97	£3,021.01

Income

Donor Source	Income 2008/9	Income 2007/8	Difference
Balance C/F (Restricted & Unrestricted funds)	10,348.97		
AfCiC UK	47,500.00	57,829.87	-10,329.87
Individuals	7,160.00	4,740.00	2,420.00
International Volunteers	7,425.00	720.00	6,705.00
Restricted Grants / Funding	53,868.80	31,737.15	22,131.65
Outreach Programmes for Vulnerable Children	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
Education Empowerment Programme	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
School Feeding Programme	7,200.00	3,500.00	3,700.00
Garissa Road Kitchen	0.00	4,172.15	-4,172.15
Holiday Clubs for Vulnerable Children	1,800.00	2,000.00	-200.00
Interim Care Centre for Street Children	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Family Sponsorship	2,025.00	165.00	1,860.00
Child Sponsorship	7,000.00	3,000.00	4,000.00
Hear Our Voice! Performing Arts Project	6,500.00	7,000.00	-500.00
AfCiC Children Christmas Tour	1,500.00	1,200.00	300.00
Internally Displaced Children & Families Programme	11,843.80	700.00	11,143.80
In Kind Donations	3,670.00	950.00	2,720.00
Food Stuff (maize, beans, rice etc.)	600.00	200.00	400.00
Electronic Equipment (Computers, Cameras)	2,070.00	350.00	1,720.00
School Books	260.00	0.00	260.00
Mattresses	170.00	150.00	20.00
Clothes & toys	250.00	100.00	150.00
Stationery (folders, pens, ink cartridges etc.)	200.00	150.00	50.00
Sports Equipment (Football, Tennis, Darts etc.)	120.00	0.00	120.00
Total Cash Income	126,302.77	95,027.02	31,275.75
Total Cash & In Kind Income	129,972.77	95,977.02	33,995.75

Expenditure

Activity/ Programme	Expenditure 2008/9	Expenditure 2007/8	Difference
Outreach Programmes for Vulnerable Children	16,366.00		16,366.00
Day Care Centre for Street Children		17,005.94	-17,005.94
Education Empowerment Programme	4,418.50		4,418.50
School Feeding Programme	5,543.00	3,752.72	1,790.28
Garissa Road Kitchen	4,172.13	0.00	4,172.13
Holiday Clubs for Vulnerable Children	2,048.00	1,923.20	124.80
Kenyan Children Legal Aid Work	11,922.94	12,255.67	-332.73
Interim Care Centre for Street Children	26,008.13	29,006.56	-2,998.43
Family Sponsorship	1,292.00	143.73	1,148.27
Child Sponsorship	6,970.52	3,046.15	3,924.37
Hear Our Voice! Performing Arts Project	7,900.00	1,000.00	6,900.00
AfCiC Children Christmas Tour	1,460.00	1,290.00	170.00
Internally Displaced Children & Families Programme	10,027.00	800.00	9,227.00
Volunteer House (Self funding)	6,167.00	3,737.00	2,430.00
Training & Development	638.15	647.04	-8.89
Michezo Youth Initiative	0.00	1,375.00	-1,375.00
Transport	966.48	1,189.82	-223.34
Kenya Government Taxes (PAYE, NSSF, NHIF)	2,331.42	2,208.67	122.75
Staff Welfare	107.36	248.75	-141.39
Administration:	4,594.16	5,047.81	-453.65
Book Keeper	918.60	861.23	57.37
Contents & Workman's Compensation Insurance	584.75	0.00	584.75
Internet Connection	556.22	789.92	-233.70
Telephone	513.39	634.83	-121.44
Vehicle Maintenance & Insurance (1 19yr old Subaru)	1,072.56	1,328.19	-255.63
Stationery (ink cartridges, photocopying, paper etc.)	614.15	972.98	-358.83
Audit Fees	250.00	300.00	-50.00
Bank Charges (new bank account 06/08)	84.49	160.66	-76.17
Total Expenditure	112,932.79	84,678.06	28,254.73

Notes:

1. These are un-audited accounts. For audited accounts please email Kenya@actionchildren.org.
2. Administration as a % of total expenditure: 4.06% (2008/9) & 5.96% (2007/8)
3. Exchange rate fluctuations and the substantial depreciation in value of the Sterling Pound have had a significant, negative impact on our income in early 2009.

8. Vision 2009: Onwards & Upwards for AfCiC Kenya

No organisation can be the best in what it does without continuous reflection, honesty, active seeking of knowledge and information from others and without continuously looking to develop and find new ways to succeed in helping others more effectively to help themselves. **AfCiC Kenya prides itself on being such an organisation.**

In 2009 we will focus on tailored, holistic prevention programmes to stop children from ever finding the street. For those who are already there we will provide the best possible rehabilitation services to ensure family reunification and return to school or entry into skills training is long term, durable and wholly effective.

Outreach Programmes for Vulnerable Children

- To intensify our **Children's Club programme** and reach out to other extremely poor public primary schools that have high student drop out rates and produce significant numbers of street children. It is imperative that we reach these children and their families as quickly as possible: before drugs, sexual abuse and health problems take their tragic toll.
- To provide one-to-one and group training for the teachers working in the most vulnerable schools in Thika through our **School Drop Out Prevention Project** to reduce the number of vulnerable children inadvertently pushed out of poor schools by unwitting teachers.
- **Community education activities, research and advocacy** to enable and empower local communities in slum areas to protect and nurture the children living amongst them.
- To enhance our new **Economic Empowerment Programme** to reach more families and ensure more older street and disabled youth are able to move from skills training into employment. We are committed to appropriate and effective business training for parents/guardians and tailored practical and psycho-social support for those youth undertaking courses.

School Feeding & School Holiday Clubs

- Enhancing St Patrick's Primary School's capacity to manage the feeding programme independently through training on monitoring & evaluation and budgeting skills
- Encouraging regular giving from local businesses through our donations drive at Tusky's supermarket
- Working with local stakeholders to enable **fencing, water harvesting** and a **vegetable garden** at Garissa Road Primary School
- **Lobbying** the Government at the District level to improve funding for school feeding for the Most Vulnerable Children (MVCs)

Kenyan Children's Legal Aid Work

- 2009 will be the **year of advocacy** for KCLAW, focusing on new research and campaigning on child sexual abuse, child trafficking and child labour issues. These are extremely sensitive, prevalent issues in Thika District and we intend to take the lead in protecting children and their families. We will undertake grassroots, primary research into the above areas, work with local and national stakeholders on effective campaigns and draft legal papers and policy recommendations where necessary.
- We will extend our direct legal aid provision to rural communities through **outreach surgeries** on a weekly basis – enabling those who cannot afford transport to Thika to still access justice.

Interim Care Centre for Street Children

- **Best Practice in street children rehabilitation.**
 - Every child successfully returned home
 - More former street children successfully completing primary school
 - Symbolic graduation ceremonies for children completing rehabilitation, signifying their completion of one stage in their life and initiating their return to their communities.
 - More families supported through family sponsorship
 - Completion of first cycle of improved rehabilitation process
 - Enhanced networking, facilitation and information sharing on our work to enable and support other organisations

Family Sponsorship

- Increase our family sponsors to 40
- 85% Business Loan repayment rate for families with loans
- 20 new families supported
- Quarterly parental training

Hear Our Voice!

- Hear Our Voice! to be an ongoing, creative arts programme at our Interim Care Centre as an integral part of the rehabilitation process
- Completion and distribution of **Hear Our Voice! Documentary** and **fictional film**
- **Audio recording** and radio broadcast of Hear Our Voice! productions in Kenya and UK

Internally Displaced Persons Programme

- To create a **Peace & conflict programme**. We plan to train the children and families we work with on dealing with conflicts in their communities peacefully and constructively. We do not want a repeat of the post election violence in 2008. The disastrous impact on the poorest is living evidence that the poorest always suffer the most in such tragic conflicts. Through dialogue, friendship and education we aim to prevent young impoverished boys and youth fighting in the 2012 elections or any other time they are incited by wealthy politicians and businessmen.

AfCiC Kenya Whole: Self-sustainability.

We must generate an increased level of our own income to protect ourselves financially from economic crises. At present we sell jewellery and other retail items, we grow some vegetables and are rearing goats and chickens. This is good but not enough. We must and will do more in 2009. We will:

- Launch a series of **Micro finance projects** for AfCiC Kenya itself to aid self-sustainability. A Kinyozi (barber shop), an organic mushroom project, expanding our goat and chicken rearing and acquiring a mini bus for private hire.
- Continue to actively pursue the 5 acres donated to us through the Harries families and the Municipal Council of Thika. We must grow our own food to protect ourselves from inflation on food prices, own our own premises to expunge rent obligations and have the capacity to set up business services to the local community.

Networking & facilitation

Networking, facilitation and information sharing are central values of AfCiC Kenya. We cannot replicate our effective prevention and rehabilitation model for street and other acutely vulnerable children in every town, in every country. We can, however, share our experience, knowledge and skills with others. We must also use our skills and community links to build local networks so that systems can be developed to genuinely protect vulnerable children.

In 2008, AfCiC Kenya helped to coordinate the launch of the **Thika NGO Network** bringing together over 20 different children's organisations in the District. In 2009, we will focus on enhancing the strategic role this network can play in the District and in organising children's events locally. We will also continue to provide training and other services to the Area Advisory Committee, Thika District and consolidate our links at the national level, particularly in relation to advocacy and campaigning.

Communications

AfCiC Kenya will put new emphasis into communications in 2009. We will:

- Publish a quarterly **e-newsletter** for all our supporters and those interested in our work
- Publish a **monthly bulletin** for local distribution in Thika to improve understanding and awareness of our work
- Re-design, publish and distribute a new brochure on our services
- Improve programme, volunteer and sponsorship information on our **website**

Fundraising

In 2008 our part time Fundraising Officer, Fiona Cook, left to take up a new full time opportunity with another charity. Fiona did a fantastic job pushing AfCiC fundraising forwards and her leaving left a big gap, at a time when the economic climate makes new fundraising efforts even more important. The trustees and the Director of AfCiC Kenya have taken on this challenge.

In 2008 we conducted a series of trainings focused on improving fundraising knowledge and expertise amongst our Kenyan staff and 2009 will see further training, practical activities and events in this area. Fundraising must become integral to all our work to ensure our future. We will:

- Provide ongoing **fundraising training** and assessment for our local staff
- Recruit fundraising **volunteers** to work directly with AfCiC Kenya
- Build on our growing volunteer network to expand awareness about AfCiC Kenya overseas
- Conduct presentations and workshops in schools, companies and for Trusts and grant-seeking bodies
- Hold regular fundraising **events** (i.e. the Monopoly Walk, March 2008) to generate new funds
- Improve ways to donate through our website & further publicise our **AfCiC Gift List**.

Capacity Building & Strategic Planning

There is no good organisation without capacity building and strategic planning. In 2008 different AfCiC Kenya staff and volunteers undertook training in **Micro Finance** (including a field visit to projects in Uganda); **Financial Management** to improve budgeting and financial management understanding; **Fundraising** (Activities & Proposal Writing); working with **Internally Displaced Persons**; **Trauma Counselling** and in **Leadership** and **Management**.

In late 2008 and early 2009 we also undertook strategic planning in all sections of the organisation so that we have structured work plans going forward. In 2009 will we look to support staff and volunteers with training in: **Sign Language**, to improve our work with deaf and mute children; **Peace & Conflict Resolution**, to improve our capacity to work on peace & conflict issues in Kenya; **Financial Management**, (this is a continuous learning process, building on the knowledge already learnt is critical); **Proposal Writing, Research Skills, Presentation Skills, Monitoring & Evaluation skills** and **Certified Public Accounts Training**.

We are confident through our ongoing work in this area we will ensure that we continue to find creative solutions to existing and newly developing issues and that we have the necessary skills to meet these new challenges in cost effective ways.

Conclusion

Throughout this report we have referred to unprecedented food inflation and the negative impact this is having on our vital work in Thika. We have also mentioned the disastrous economic and political fallout from the post election violence, escalating corruption, a teacher's strike pushing vulnerable children back to the streets, and we are now beginning to feel the effects of the "global credit crunch" on the already highly volatile and fragile Kenyan economy.

As a result we are facing incredible challenges in continuing to implement our work. Newly destitute families are emerging with increasingly regularity in Thika because of circumstances outside their control. We are dedicated to work with those in need, using our expertise, knowledge and skills; implementing our vision in 2009 to sustainably improve the economic, social and educational environment for the children and families we work with.

9. AfCiC-Kenya Donors & Supporters

THANK YOU

AfCiC-Kenya is very grateful to those who have donated to our programmes in 2008. Our achievements are because of you. Thank you.

OUR REGULAR DONORS!

We cannot list you all but THANKYOU SO MUCH for providing us with invaluable regular support. You enable us to plan ahead, to target resources where they are most needed, to ensure we are the best we can possibly be. Your support ensures that we are always needs driven rather than donor driven – ensuring we are able to assist each and every child, irrespective of age, gender or location. Thank you.

FAMILY SPONSORS

You are making an incredible difference to rehabilitated street children and their families, providing hope, opportunity and a level of economic prosperity where there was nothing. Thank you for being innovative and willing to test new ways to help vulnerable families. This programme is unique; we are just at the beginning, but we are already seeing poor families slowly being able to improve their economic situation and therefore being more able to support their children. We have much to learn and many more families to support. Thank you for being the leaders and starting this programme with us.

Thank you **Samantha, Anne, Holly, Peter & Sue, Julie, Martin, David, Cath, Catherine, Mike, Karen, Marilyn, David W, Susie, Pat & Roger, Bethany, Joy & Graham, Melinda, Beth, Roger & Silvia.**

CHILD SPONSORS

Thank you for giving former street children a genuine chance at education and real hope for the future. For those children with special needs, you are ensuring that they can attend special schools for the deaf and mute. For children with complex family issues that prevent them from staying at home, you are giving them a once in a lifetime opportunity to attend a primary boarding school. For those former street children who have completed primary education, you are helping them to realise their dreams of going to Secondary School. None of this would be possible without your support.

Thank you **Cat, Maeve, Terry, Tessa, Kelly, Mark, Jennifer, Gina, Fiona, David, Mike & Roz, Megan, Roger & Silvia, Julie, Geoff & Lynne, Dr Jerzy & Barbara, Sandy, Viviana, Vivien, Jen, Nathan, Mike & Charlie.**

INDIVIDUALS

There are those individuals who will always stand out. For their dedication, commitment, passion and determination that each and every child AfCiC Kenya comes into contact with has a chance at a decent future. Those individuals who are innovative, dynamic and always looking to improve and enhance what we do. Those individuals who are our shoulder to lean on when the challenges seem too much.

So a BIG THANK YOU to: **Anne McClure & friends, Bruce Gow, Chris Le Fevre, Elio Lolli, Kelly Fitzgerald & friends, Samantha Whittaker (& her cousin Andrea & friends), Revd Mike & Roz Harrison & friends, Stuart Armitage, Mike Weimar, Sheila Farrell, Terry Nicholls.**

TRUSTS/GRANT MAKING BODIES

The support you give us critically important. The funding enables us to deliver on our promises, to plan ahead, to prioritise, to save more lives. The support you have given us in 2008 has made us what we are. Please continue to be our partners and our friends. Together we can be the best child protection agency in Kenya; sharing with others how children's lives can be transformed at low cost in a community setting.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO:

- **Action for Street Kids**
- **ArcAid**
- **Lady Margaret School, London**
- **Ruabon & Penylan Churches, North Wales**
- **United Reform Church, Birmingham**
- **Jesus College, Cambridge**
- **Girton College, Cambridge**
- **Clara E Burgess Trust**
- **St John's College, Cambridge**
- **Hazel Footprints Trust**
- **Laura Case Trust**
- **Rotary Club of Abingdon Vespers**
- **Rotary Club of Wootten Bassett**
- **Khetshi & Virimati Trust**
- **British Foreign Schools Society**
- **Cambridge RAG**
- **DUCK, Durham University**
- **Hurtwood House, Surrey**

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

AfCiC Kenya is a small organisation. Volunteers play a crucial role in assisting us in carrying out our duties and improving our programmes. So a big thank you to:

- **Julie Nichols** for her excellent contribution to our Holiday Club, August 2008. Highly capable, imaginative and a wonderful social worker. It would not have happened without you and would not have been such a success without you. Looking forward to seeing you in December!
- **Chris Howarth**. Playwright Director, Hear Our Voice, April 2008- March 2009. Engaging, dedicated, creative and passionate. The project has touched the lives of many children. Please come back soon.

- **Helena Kaliniecka**. Counselling Assistant, Interim Care Centre, April 2008 – December 2008. Highly professional, thoughtful, reflective, with excellent ideas to improve the quality of our counselling and monitoring and evaluation at the centre. Thank you and see you in June!
- **Simon Webster**. Teacher, Interim Care Centre, June 2008. An inspiring teacher who taught the children some excellent English. Thank you for the vital assistance you also gave to Samuel and George for their final year exams and for your ongoing fundraising work!
- **Terry Nicholls**. Debating Instructor extraordinaire, July 2008. Bringing argument, good communication and debating skills to dusty classrooms in Thika each year. Skills they could not get without you and which can assist them in everything that they do in the future.
- **Mike Harrison**. Community Facilitator and Administration Assistant, June -August 2008. Some jobs are not the most exciting but they are perhaps the most important! Thank you so much for assisting us with our accounts, sorting the IDP database and other key administrative tasks that must get done. Thank you also for the wonderful leadership training in Sagana that was appreciated by all and the crucial DIY improvements on AfCiC premises!
- **Roselle Birkbeck**. Photographer, December 2008. It was a pleasure to have you with us, if only for a short time. We look forward to putting on a photographic exhibition in the UK so that many more people can know our wonderful work. Thank you!
- **Megan Burley**. Family Sponsorship Coordinator, April –December 2008. New sponsors, new families supported, new systems, processes and communications. Thank you so much for helping us to properly launch and formalise family sponsorship and making it the impressive success that it is. Thank you!
- **Alexandre Gallopin**. Lawyer, September – November 2008. Intelligent, caring, thoughtful and a great sense of humour. A great addition to the KCLAW team with impressive insight into our work. We expect to see you in June!
- **Kathryn Becher**, Fundraising and Capacity Building, November 2008 - . A professional, experienced fundraiser and trainer. A wonderful and invaluable addition to our team. Thank you for helping us to move forward, both strategically and financially. We are very glad you are still with us in 2009!
- **Wout Janssen**. ICC Volunteer, January 2009. Short stay but high impact. An excellent and fun teacher. The swimming lessons, field slashing and amazing campfires were particular highlights. We miss you and expect to see you in 2010!
- **Jo Bayley**. Family Sponsorship Coordinator, December 2008 - . A hardworking, dedicated member of our team, improving family sponsorship communications, information on our website and in other public forms, improving our systems and processes and also providing a vital assisting role in fundraising. Thank you!

We would also like to send a BIG THANK YOU to **Aaron Westerby** in New Zealand for his ongoing invaluable assistance in improving and updating our website and **Tasha Prior** for her dedication and commitment to AfCiC UK.

CHARITY SHOPS – The Managers, volunteers and customers

Our charity shops in Abingdon, Faringdon, Didcot and Grove play a crucial and vital role in our work. Our hardworking managers, volunteers and great customers are the reason we are able to help so many street and other acutely vulnerable children in Thika. They deserve a huge **THANK YOU!**

STAFF & LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

Hard working, passionate, imaginative, committed, thorough, inspiring. 2008 was a challenging year for AfCiC Kenya. We were pushed to think outside the box, find new ways of working with limited resources and respond to new crises in our midst. We succeeded and became a stronger, more exciting organisation because of our wonderful staff and volunteers.

THANK YOU **Danny Wambeu, Josephine N'gang'a, Evans Munyinyi, Nancy Wangui, Peris Gathu, Florence Kaberi, Peter Muiruri, Daina Kibera, Margaret Muiriuki, Anne Mwangi, Catherine Mugo, Elizabeth Gakure, Edward Osore, Margaret Juma, Joseph Owinyi, Charles Juma, Newton Njoroge, Mark Kinyanjui, Allan Maina, Anthony Maina, Joshua Njuguna.**



AfCiC Kenya Staff & Volunteers

TRUSTEES

There is no successful charity without hard working, dedicated Trustees. We are very grateful for the time, experience, skills and fantastic support you continue to give to the children of Thika. **THANK YOU!**

UK

Chris Le Fevre, Chairman
Pauline Low
Martin Hodgkinson
Geoffrey Heaford
Peter Sulston

Kenya

Charles Mwihia, Chairman
Wilson Huruko
Francis Nyoike
Danny Wambeu

10. Conclusion

2008 was an exhausting, difficult year for Kenya. Kenya's dark, troubled side was shown to the world through the appalling post election violence. The grand coalition government that was formed in late February has been shown to be unable to manage the challenges Kenya faces; with endemic corruption and graft dominating the headlines. The lack of any comparable experiences for the wealthy elite and the poor is an area of deep concern. The decision makers are far too removed from the ordinary day-to-day existence of poor Kenyans. They are making decisions without understanding, knowledge or genuine compassion for their suffering.

Change is desperately needed. Kenyans are highly capable, hard working, entrepreneurial people who need opportunity, security and stability to address their country's complex problems. Without social, economic and political justice, progress will be difficult to achieve nationally in 2009.

In 2008, AfCiC Kenya was highly innovative, dynamic, effective and passionate in our search for new solutions to the crises that surrounded us. We reflected on our existing work and initiated new holistic programmes to address the social and economic crises we witnessed around us and prevent our very good work over the last four years from being undone.

Our School Drop Out Prevention Project, Internally Displaced Persons Programme, Hear Our Voice! and Family Sponsorship are key examples of our innovation and creativity in 2008, providing the essential balance between effective prevention and genuine rehabilitation that encompasses the ethos of AfCiC Kenya. Preventing the next generation of street children whilst addressing the issues facing current street children in such a way that they do not become the street adults and perpetrators of abuse tomorrow.

We have weaknesses. We are still financially insecure. This fear inhibits our development and we must fight against it. We are arguably doing far too much on far too few resources also. This creates incredible pride and joy but also high levels of anxiety in ensuring the right balance in resource distribution. Yes, we are very good at what we do, but we must have more supporters. We must communicate our success better to others, create new funding partnerships, improve our fundraising and capacity building and initiate new income generating activities to ensure a level of self sufficiency. We will do these things and more in 2009. Stay with us and enjoy yourselves.

Thank you.

E J Harrison

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