



**Mkombozi**

**Annual Report**

**2009**

Empowering children  
Engaging families  
Enabling communities

## 2009 in numbers...

766 children and youth (686 boys and 80 girls) were directly reached by our services

35 boys and 3 girls were reunified with their families

191 initial and follow-up visits were made to the homes / families of children and youth

3 boys from the residential centre stayed with foster carers during the Christmas holidays

37 boys who live at the residential centre and boarding school stayed with their families during the Christmas holidays

49735 meals were provided at the residential centre

79 boys and 1 girl slept at Mkombozi's residential centre

482 children and youth (469 boys and 13 girls) were reached through street interventions

49 health education sessions were delivered

4 girls moved into transitional group housing

3572 instances of health services were provided

322 boys and 3 girls participated in sessions at our Mobile School and Mobile Unit

46 boys and one girl studied in MEMKWA (Complementary Basic Education) classes at Mkombozi's residential centre

18 children and youth enrolled in formal school after having attended Mkombozi's MEMKWA classes

13 girls and 88 boys were supported in their primary, secondary and tertiary education

8 boys participated in a peer support group

52 boys and girls from the residential centre, the streets and the local community participated in music, arts and dance workshops facilitated in cooperation with the Cre8 East Africa

140 children and youth from the residential centre, the streets and local primary schools participated in Sports Day

15 children and youth from Mkombozi's Drama Troupe performed at the palliative care unit at KCMC referral hospital

40 community members volunteered to mentor vulnerable children

7 children from Mkombozi's residential centre and 27 from the community were linked to mentors

14 mentees and six mentors volunteered to do community work at Rau Primary School

17 boys and 12 girls completed training in the Street Business Toolkit (SBTK); 10 are managing their businesses successfully

5 youth joined our apprenticeship programme at Affordable Computers and Technology for Tanzania (ACTT) to learn software, hardware and work place skills

3 youth were supported and trained in running a small scale business that sells IT related products and services as well as being ACTT agents ("Banda Business")

4 youth were linked to employment

12 educational institutions were supported to function as Community Technology Learning Centres (CTLCs)

3307 youth completed IT courses at ACTT / other CTLCs

< 3000 community members saw our awareness raising dramas about child abuse

Local leaders in 3 wards were facilitated to form Child Protection Committees

59 teachers from 4 primary schools were trained in child protection and positive student interaction

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## Message from the Chief Governing Officer

2009 proved to be the year to consolidate Mkombozi's vision and mission while developing ideas for the future - it was also a time for team building with a return to Mkombozi's core business. William Raj has settled into the role of Executive Director with the ease of a seasoned leader and the confidence of someone ready for transformation.

A beautiful plot of land has been purchased just outside of the municipality in Moshi that has the potential for becoming a special place for children and staff to unwind and make connections with community members, government officials, mentors, parents and guardians and other development practitioners in social work and children's rights.

The strategic planning process which guides the actions for Mkombozi's next five years of life was initiated, and some wonderful reflections have been developed that will bring Mkombozi back to its core business of "helping children grow in body, mind and spirit", including the element of awakening community responsibility.

The Board of Trustees has spent time developing its own capacities in order to guide the vision, mission and finances of Mkombozi in a more holistic and supportive way. Trustees have been a part of the strategic planning process both as actors and as practitioners. The process itself is a reflection of Mkombozi's new direction to be a more inclusive organisation ensuring that all stakeholders have a chance to express their needs and interests.

From experience, Mkombozi has found that long-term residential care for children lacks the social, cultural and religious structures that allow children to grow into well balanced, reflective individuals capable of reaching their fullest potential. Over the years it has therefore introduced a variety of different projects that enable community members, parents and guardians to take responsibility for children's upbringing. The Mentoring and Fostering programmes have opened Mkombozi's doors to the community and existing capacities to care for children, and both are encouraging projects that express the organisation's thinking of the future.

With the future direction of creating a Child Protection and Community Centre on the new plot in Sambarai ward, Moshi Rural District, children who have left home to search for a 'better' life on the streets will be able to make a more swift and effective return to their homes and communities.

This year of change has been one of reflection and progression, and I am honored to be a part of Mkombozi's continued successes...

*Kara Kirby*

### Building Blocks of SUCCESS:

- PROTECTION ■
- EMPOWERMENT ■
- ENGAGEMENT ■
- EDUCATION ■
- LEARNING ■
- INNOVATION ■

# Protection

## Mkombozi values child and youth protection...

because children can only develop their full potential if they are kept safe from harm.

### ■ ■ ■ ■ Mkombozi 2009: Key activities & events in Protection ■ ■ ■ ■

**HIGH COURT CASE UNSUCCESSFUL:** In November 2009, the High Court delivered judgement on the now long-running case for the repeal of laws that perpetuate round-up and detention of children who live/work in the streets by Municipal authorities in several Tanzanian cities. Mkombozi, one of its three petitioners, is sad to announce that the case was unsuccessful.

With the aim of putting an end to round-ups of children, the Caucus for Children's Rights (CCR) lodged a constitutional case arguing for the repeal of several legislations in 2007. At the core of the petition was the argument that round-ups, and the laws in themselves, are unconstitutional in that they permit children to be arrested, detained and deprived of their liberty without legitimate reason. We furthermore argued that the laws are unconstitutional since they fail to treat children differently than adults. They also fail to treat children who are in the streets differently from other children.

So, why was the petition refused? As the judgement was delivered, the judges specifically argued that it was in the interest of the public to protect cities and municipalities from undesirable, destitute and idle persons, and that it was not in the public's interest to treat children differently from adults.

The new Law of the Child (2009; see story on page 5) explicitly sets the standard that children's best interest should be kept in mind at all times, and that children should live free from discrimination and violence. Despite this, it remains legal to arbitrarily detain children whom are in the streets without adult supervision. In 2010, the Caucus for Children's Rights will be appealing the court's decision.



CHILD AT RESIDENTIAL CENTRE HAVING HIS BLOOD PRESSURE TAKEN BY MKOMBOZI'S NURSE.

## Making history in 2009:

### Tanzania establishes “Law of the Child”

2009 was a historical year for children in Tanzania as the old promise of domesticating the Convention on the Rights of the Child was finally honoured.

In 1989 and 1990 respectively, Tanzania ratified the CRC and the African Charter of Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) without reservations - thereby committing itself to transforming its national legislation and policies in the gradual realisation of children's rights. Even before then, as early as in 1986, the need to have a comprehensive law for children was publicly expressed by the Law Reform Commission of Tanzania. Since then, a lengthy process of legal reform has taken place through initiatives emanating from the government, civil society and international agencies. In July 2009 the government finally introduced the bill to enact The Law of the Child. On the 4th November, the 20th anniversary of the UNCRC, the bill was passed by the parliament of Tanzania in Dodoma.

The chain of events which has led up to the enactment of the Law of the Child has been one wherein civil society has played an active role in a long consultative process. In 2009, in cooperation with the Caucus for Children's Rights, Mkombozi was a member in the Civil Society Children's Bill Taskforce - a temporary CSO coalition that positively influenced the contents and enactment of the bill. In fact, on the day when it was passed in parliament, Mkombozi was present together with representatives from other member organisations.

The Law of the Child consolidates and amends the previously existing laws related to children, and it addresses most of the serious issues and challenges that Tanzanian children are faced with today - such as the right to a name and nationality, the rights and duties of parents, the right to opinion and the right to protection from torture and degrading treatment. The Law of the Child contains several parts that are highly relevant to the work of Mkombozi - it recognises foster care, provides guidelines for institutional care and directs local government authorities to provide services for children and to promote the reunification of children with their families.

Even though the Law of the Child has its limitations, its passing marks an important event in history for Tanzanian children.

“The insights I gained by interviewing street children have impacted profoundly upon me...”

...I always thought street children were there to wreak havoc on anyone approaching them and so I thought they should be avoided at all costs. But now I know that they have feelings, ambitions, are considerate, have potential. They ought to be nurtured.”

MKOMBOZI RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN 2009

# Empowerment

**Mkombozi values child and youth empowerment...**

**because youth realise their potential if they can take charge of their development.**

## ■ ■ ■ ■ **Mkombozi 2009: Key activities & events in Empowerment** ■ ■ ■ ■

**DEVELOPING STRATEGIES FOR EMPOWERMENT:** An internal review of Mkombozi's programmes conducted in 2009 by development consultant Salma Maoulidi (in cooperation with EASUN and the donor agency Comic Relief), raised several relevant and timely topics for reflection around Mkombozi's work with children and youth. One of the overall recommendations from the review was that Mkombozi should emphasise its role in strengthening children, their parents and communities - something which corresponds well with how the organisation envisages its future. Also, Mkombozi was advised to adjust its approach to empowerment such that children and young people don't merely realise that they have rights to claim, but at the same time, they are equipped to recognise the value of acting accountably and responsibly. The following sections provide further insight to how Mkombozi has been actively working to address such needs in 2009.

**RESIDENTIAL CENTRE GRADUALLY CHANGING INTO TEMPORARY SHELTER:** At this point in time, Mkombozi has fostered sufficient professionalism, consciousness and team spirit among its Children's Programmes staff and management to engage with the difficult task of outflowing youth who have lived in the centre for extended periods. In 2009, we moved one step closer towards turning residential care into a temporary transitional period for children on their way to family reunification, independent living or alternative forms of residence in the community. During 2009's internal review, it was highlighted by a few interviewed boys who formerly resided with the organisation that life in the residential centre may feel right at the time, but it is not a "realistic" one, and it does not sufficiently prepare them for the life they encounter in the community. That is, for some youth, long periods in the centre create a dependence on our services and a resistance around the idea of living with family members - unintended outcomes which are the opposite of the empowerment Mkombozi sets out to achieve. While balancing the best interests of every child / youth, Mkombozi is gradually shaping its residential centre to strictly fill the function of providing temporary protection - only providing longer stays as a last resort when all other options have been exhausted. The hope is that by doing so, we will be able to help a larger number of younger children by offering them safety, rehabilitation and necessary services while preparing for their move back home.



**COMPUTER APPRENTICE AT ACTT GAINING SKILLS THAT WILL BUILD A FUTURE IN IT.**

## **Mkombozi in partnership with Kilimanjaro Regional Social Welfare**

Through a new strategic partnership with Kilimanjaro Regional Social Welfare Office, there has been great success in family reunification, outflow and participation of relevant authorities in 2009.

Effectively immediately, a Social Welfare Officer is availed to be actively involved in Mkombozi's caseloads on a weekly basis. The Regional Social Welfare Office recommends for children not to live in a centre, and even if they are in need of basic services, those services should be provided in the home. In light of this, the partnership is acting as one of the driving forces towards strengthening Mkombozi's empowerment of families and communities.

Jointly, a plan was put in place for outflowing boys living in the centre as they graduate from primary or secondary school - this plan was preceded by intense exercises in clarifying expectations of children and their families. Collaboratively, contractual agreements have been set up with each boy as a means of marking their transition back into the community. The Social Welfare Officer who worked with Mkombozi in 2009 says that much of Social Welfare's role during this process lies in "making sure the community is welcoming the child back". The new partnership not only benefits Mkombozi, but also provides the local Social Welfare Office with a possibility to deepen its reach in the community.

## **Family reunification intensified**

The 2009 internal review (mentioned above) also established that, given Mkombozi's transition away from long-term residential care, youth at the centre are becoming increasingly aware that eventual departure from Mkombozi for a life in the community is an important step. In fact, in 2009, five youth living in the centre proactively approached Social Workers with the request to be reunified with their family.

During the second half of the year, a deliberate and consistent focus was put on family reunification, and subsequently, a total of 27 children and youth were permanently returned to their families between June and December. During these reunifications, emphasis was placed on recognising and capacitating family conditions in order for the children to remain in their homes. As it happens, most of these cases (22 out of 27) were successful.

Simultaneously, Mkombozi staff have even more consciously begun stressing to new children arriving at the centre that their stay will be temporary until options are explored - thereby helping to nurture their readiness and willingness to live a life where they can develop as part of a family and a community.

## **My most significant change in his own words...**

Mkombozi's residential centre should not house children for extended periods of time. It should however continue playing a crucial role for children who are in urgent need for protection. As exemplified by the following story, being in a safe place as opposed to being in the streets is an important way of minimising the risk of harm to children's health and development.

"I was brought to Mkombozi by my brother who is studying here, and I was received by Sister Upendo [a social worker]. I continued coming to study with my brother and then returning home, and we were living in a rented room close to Mtei [a location in Moshi town]. I fell ill with malaria and I explained this to Sister Upendo, and she told me to remain at Mkombozi. It was in October and I was given medicine by Mama Nurse and I became better - now I am doing well.

When Emanuel looked back upon his past six months, this is the most significant change he had experienced as a result of Mkombozi's intervention:

I am very glad because I sleep happily, I am no longer bitten by mosquitoes, and now I know how to read and write a little. I enjoy playing ball and eating rice and spaghetti, I am in good health now, and I eat every day. When I was living with my brother we were picking scrap metal [to sell for a living], and if we failed to find some we would not eat that day, and we also had to pay our rent.

Emanuel said that the reason that this change was significant to him was: "Because now I live like children who have homes."

Emanuel's unsustainable life of working in the streets, lacking proper care and being deprived of an education are now over. Right before the end of 2009, after a short period in Mkombozi's residential centre, Emanuel was brought to his relatives in Babati District. He now lives permanently with his loving aunt and her family, attending the second year of primary school.

# Engagement

## Mkombozi values community engagement...

because lasting positive change for children can only be achieved through transformation of people, communities and the government.

### ■ ■ ■ ■ Mkombozi 2009: Key activities & events in Engagement ■ ■ ■ ■

**ACTT CONTINUED SPREADING IT THROUGHOUT THE NORTHERN ZONE LANDSCAPE:** Affordable Computers and Technology for Tanzania (ACTT) is Mkombozi's income generating project - one that not only supports the organisations programmes financially, but at the same time uses Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as a tool for empowerment of youth, schools and the larger community. Every year, ACTT trains a number of youth apprentices referred from Mkombozi - in 2009, Mkombozi initiated the process of facilitating some of these youth to create their own small businesses that sell IT-related products and services while also serving as ACTT agents in different town centres (and thereby acting instrumentally toward their self-reliance). In addition to being a resource to Mkombozi and the young people whom we support, ACTT has become a contributor to national development by spreading IT throughout the Northern Zone of Tanzania.

The following is a statement by ACTT's manager Robert Mafie, speaking about the intended and unintended outcomes of the project and its stakeholders since its inception in 2004: "The past few years have seen great changes in how ICT impacts Tanzania - from basic understanding to a utilisation that I would have hardly imagined when we started. I remember our first sensitisation seminar to educational stakeholders who comprised of what you might call the "educated" in society, and how they would ask us questions about how computers work. Recently, their questions have instead evolved around how to best utilise computers for work efficiency - something that shows a great shift in their understanding, valuing and utilisation of computers. We now see educational institutions planning for budgets on IT equipment and maintenance, students who are interested to pursue IT as a career, and we even see the older working class community members taking computers classes in their free time. All this shows that despite of various challenges, ACTT has impacted the community in a positive way by bringing them the development tools of computers, support services, trainings and sensitisation around IT."



PARENTS MEETING AT MJI MPYA PRIMARY SCHOOL IN MOSHI TOWN.

## Child protection promoted in schools

In 2009, Mkombozi raised awareness among teachers and parents about child abuse and protection in four primary schools of Majengo ward, Moshi. During workshops with the teachers from all schools, it was revealed that the use of corporal punishment (caning) is a persistent norm. Mkombozi took the opportunity to promote the role of teachers as ambassadors responsible for safeguarding children's rights even beyond the schools gates. In addition to this, we advised non-violent ways to "correct" children when they misbehave. Teachers participated actively by sharing their experiences and challenges in disciplining children, and by identifying all the harsh physical punishments which are used in their surrounding community.

The following story gives an account of how Mkombozi has impacted a headmaster from another community through several years of contact: "The education which I have received has enabled me to help children who live in dangerous situations to protect themselves, to educate the community on how to relate to children's rights and how to use a participatory approach." The headmaster tells that as a result of Mkombozi's intervention, she has experienced the following changes: "to understand my responsibilities as a teacher in protecting children; to educate my fellow teachers to use alternative punishment (not only corporal); to examine the situation of vulnerable children; to educate the community about children's rights."

## "Big Brother / Sister" program growing into the community

Since 2003, Mkombozi has been linking boys in its residential centre to voluntary Big Brothers and Sisters with the aim of strengthening their social and emotional well-being. In 2009, the intervention took a new step as the majority of the Big Brothers/Sisters recruited were linked to children who live at home, and who study in Rau Primary School, Moshi. No longer restricted to the residential centre, "Big Brother / Sister" does now include girl children for the first time. On a strategic level, expanding and re-focusing this intervention to benefit vulnerable children living at home is a way of preventing them from becoming involved with the streets. It is Mkombozi's hope that leaders of local communities where we introduce this programme will eventually take over and run it themselves - thereby guaranteeing its sustainability.

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

"Now I am one of the foster parents [of Mkombozi]. My changes are in building good relationships, knowing the life of a caretaker, and being responsible as a parent. This is significant - now I know how to raise different families."

JOACHIM, MKOMBOZI FOSTER CARER

"[Mkombozi] took my children in when they were in the streets, they had run away from home... They are still getting help from Mkombozi - one is in school in Mbeya and the other has come home. To bring this child home is significant since he has agreed to live with his family."

MOTHER OF 2 CHILDREN FORMERLY IN MKOMBOZI'S CARE

# Education

## Mkombozi values child and youth education...

because it equips vulnerable youth with personal development and self reliance.

### ■ ■ ■ ■ Mkombozi 2009: Key activities & events in Education ■ ■ ■ ■

**MKOMBOZI'S MEMKWA CREATES LITERACY AND OPPORTUNITY:** MEMKWA is a programme that has been developed by the Ministry of Education to fast track out of school children through non-formal education (NFE) so that they can be mainstreamed into primary school. Mkombozi is a registered MEMKWA-provider that employs NFE with the tri-fold objective to mainstream students into formal school, to determine the best way forward with respect to children's educational needs, and also to generally prepare them for the next step on their path towards being reintegrated into the community. For some children, Mkombozi's MEMKWA classes offer an opportunity to finally become literate. Seventeen year old Tausi told this "Most Significant Change" story after having attended Mkombozi's class for a few months in 2009...

*"I was working for a lady as a house girl, but eventually I told her that I wanted to quit because my age did not permit me to do this work anymore. But the lady advised me not to leave my job, because due to my age, if I go home, I might get problems such as getting pregnant or getting diseases, since I do not have any education at all. So she said she would find me a school, so that I could progress. So she found me a school, which was a kindergarten, which was difficult for me because of my age. Eventually she found Mkombozi, another lady told her about this place. And this is where I study now. I now see big changes, because I did not know how to read or to write. But now I can read and write things, and people can understand what I have written. This is significant to me because I am now able to read things like books, newspapers, and I can understand what the content is about. And, if I see a poster or a sign telling me to do or not to do something, for example, 'you are not allowed to pass here', I understand - not like before when I would pass there anyway because I did not know how to read."*

As 2009 was coming to an end, Tausi was preparing to go and study tailoring in a vocational training school.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH RECEIVE PRIZES FOR GOOD PERFORMANCE AT MKOMBOZI "OPEN DAY".



# Learning

## Mkombozi values lifelong learning...

because we increase our effectiveness and impact by listening to our stakeholders and reflecting on our experiences.

### ■ ■ ■ ■ Mkombozi 2009: Key activities & events in Learning ■ ■ ■ ■

**DEEPENING OUR ORGANISATIONAL LEARNING:** In 2009, Mkombozi's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) underwent significant developments as the organisation finally created a dedicated position for this area of work. As a result, some of the improvements have been made during the year, including: ongoing data collection by staff who work directly with children; systematisation and improvement of our quantitative reporting, and advancement / refinement of existing qualitative evaluation approaches. All these developments caused the organisation to unearth a much larger question: How can we better measure the impact of our work? Leading up to this question was the conclusion that the past focus of the organisation has largely been the use of quantitative indicators to measure our success, and that these need to be balanced with qualitative indicators that include questions of the overall change and impact that Mkombozi aims to achieve in children and communities. On page 13, you can learn more about how we are developing our methodologies to gain such insights.

**HOW SATISFIED WERE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH MKOMBOZI'S SERVICES?** Annually, Mkombozi conducts a Children and Young People (CYP) Satisfaction Survey in order to receive feedback about CYP's experience of our services. This survey is quantitative in format, and is meant to indicate the organisation's areas of challenge and success. Preliminary results from the 2009 survey show that the range of CYP with whom we work are generally satisfied with our services, although there is still some room for improvement. One major success that can be highlighted is that 80% of street-based CYP expressed that they were satisfied with the health services that we provide in the streets and through local hospitals. Furthermore, a majority of the total group of CYP with whom we work reported satisfaction regarding the communication and respect that exists between them and Mkombozi staff members - something that can be considered a great achievement for the organisation.



**MKOMBOZI YOUTH ATTENDING THE "TALENT-DISCOVERY" PROJECT WITH CRES IN JUNE 2009.**

## **Most Significant Changes show increased self-awareness and ability to function well with others**

Mkombozi regularly invites its stakeholders to tell stories about the most significant change they have experienced during the past six months as a result of their involvement with the organisation. We use these stories, and our discussions of them, to track whether we are making progress towards our strategic objectives, and as a result of this, to advance organisational learning. In 2009, Mkombozi refined this approach by conducting a “secondary analysis” of collected stories, and was thereby able to detect which were the most common significant changes that stakeholders chose to mention.

With regard to children and youth, it was found that the most common types of change mentioned were related to literacy and education - a finding that partly emphasises how central the role of education is in the lives of young people. Furthermore, we were quite intrigued by how often changes related to ability to make long-term plans, build relationships, gain acceptance in the community, as well as changes in values, morals and behaviour were mentioned by children and youth. These types of changes - all of which testify to self awareness - have not consciously been factored into the organisations targets and reporting in the past, and therefore, the lessons from this story analysis can be seen as valuable new learning which can inform future goal-setting.

In his Most Significant Change story, one boy expressed that: **“My behaviour has changed, it is different from before, and now I have returned home and I live well with the community.”**

Another conveyed that during his time with Mkombozi, he had learnt **“to have good behaviour and respect - to respect others. This can bring you good achievements in your life.”**

He felt that this is significant to him because **“when you don't respect another, directly you will not respect your teachers who are teaching you, and because of this, they will not respect you back. This will bring you problems in your studies, and you will return to struggle in the streets. Respect and obedience are very important in a persons life. When I was in the streets I did not respect others.”**

**In 2009, 80% of street-based youth expressed satisfaction with the health services that Mkombozi provides on the streets and through local hospitals...**

**<<< MORE ABOUT THE SURVEY, P.12**

# Innovation

## Mkombozi values NGO innovation...

because positive change for children depends on revolutionary events and ideas.

### ■ ■ ■ ■ Mkombozi 2009: Key activities & events in Innovation ■ ■ ■ ■

**MKOMBOZI INVOLVED IN SEVERAL RESEARCH PROJECTS:** The Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children (MDCGC) collaborated with Consortium for Street Children (CSC) and many other stakeholders to conduct a quantitative national survey on children who live and work in the streets. The survey, in which Mkombozi played an active role, covered seven major cities and is meant to act as a baseline that can inform a national strategy that is being put in place to address the situation of children coming to the streets across Tanzania. Some of its positive outcomes is that it shows the magnitude and nature of the situation, and provides an understanding of its root causes.

Railway Children, a UK-based partner organisation, in 2009 conducted the data collection for a qualitative research project titled "The experiences of Children living alone in the streets in Tanzania and Kenya" in partnership with Mkombozi and Undugu Society (Kenya). The aim of the research project is to capture the experience of children living alone in the streets, to provide an evidence base and to result in a range of recommendations for practice and policy to meet the needs of these children. In 2010 the research report will be published, and Mkombozi and other stakeholders will be able to use the findings to inform its practice.

Lastly, Mkombozi has been driving the research project "Enhancing resilience in street children through psychosocial education, sport and play programmes". This study seeks to understand the significant risks of adversity and the protective factors experienced by children and young people who have "de-linked" from their families and have spent time on the streets in the past or do so currently. It further seeks to identify and understand their current resilience patterns and to discover whether those youth who receive an integrated package of care services from Mkombozi demonstrate more positive resilience trajectories than those who receive ad hoc services and remain on the street. Mkombozi looks forward to the completion and publishing of this research in 2010.



STUDENTS IN ACTT-ESTABLISHED COMPUTER LAB AT MARANGU HILL ACADEMY IN MARANGU.

## Surveying the perceptions of children who live / work on the streets by local community members

During awareness-raising drama performances in Moshi and Arusha in 2009, Mkombozi took the opportunity to conduct a small survey of community members perceptions around children who live in the streets. The objective was to gain insights that can inform the work of the organisation. Some important survey findings included:

■ When asked why children migrate to life on the streets, 66 of 106 survey respondents mentioned poverty, 41 mentioned orphanhood, 28 mentioned abuse, neglect, discrimination and conflict in the home, 23 mentioned poor parental care, and 21 said it was because of lack of the family's inability to provide access to basic education.

■ When suggesting possible responses to the situation of children living/working on the streets, 31 of 96 respondents simply mentioned that children should be given help, 36 mentioned that children should be helped to get an education, 15 mentioned that children should be brought to live in institutions, 6 said the community should be educated about the problem, 6 noted required improvements to the household and community economy and 5 mentioned that children should be helped psychologically, through advice or by being taught better values. Interestingly, comments that children on the street should be returned to their homes were almost non-existent.

■ Among 55 respondents expressing thoughts about who is responsible for addressing the situation of children on the streets, 36 indicated government, 16 indicated community, 12 indicated non-governmental organisations and 7 indicated family.

Overall, the survey opened some important channels for dialogue, reflection and analysis. For instance:

■ The findings indicate a lack of awareness in the community around negative child-caregiver relationships as a causative factor for children leaving home. The fact is, and Mkombozi's own research has shown, conflict and neglect in the home are main contributing factors.

■ The findings revealed that many people seem to perceive children in the streets as the responsibility of the government, and not so much of NGO-run centres and orphanages - which has often been Mkombozi's assumption.

■ The findings encourage Mkombozi to further analyse how people's perceptions of the situation potentially give birth to different stakeholders strategies to address it. It thereby allows us to reflect around communal acceptance and application of our programmes, and of the values that we promote in local communities.

### Community Responses in the survey of perceptions of children in the streets...

"Children live in the streets because of lacking values, some are orphans and others are those whose parents have divorced."

"I would like the government together with different religious groups to cooperate in gathering street children and getting to know where their homes are, then they will know more about the main reason why they left."

"The government should build schools where they can be educated, and if its possible they should not leave the compound of this school until they start knowing how to read and write."

## THE ROAD AHEAD...

In 2009, Mkombozi began visioning a new chapter in its history.

Here, we share our questions and reflections:



### 5-year vision:

#### Preparing for a new strategic plan

In 2009, Mkombozi identified the need to review its current strategic objectives and interventions in relation to its ever changing working environment. The past few years have brought significant growth in the organisation's size as well as complexity, and this has required it to reflect on how it can best stay relevant to its own context and vision. Towards the end of 2009, Mkombozi initiated the process of preparing for a new strategic plan (2011-2015).

Looking into the future, and with regard to a new strategic plan, some of the larger questions Mkombozi wants to address is how to place children's empowerment at the centre of interventions, and how to truly enable children and communities to actively drive their own development agendas. Furthermore, as our internal review of 2009 concluded, Mkombozi needs to streamline its focus and strategically choose how it interacts with its environment in order to maximise its impact.

In October 2009, Mkombozi first initiated the strategic planning cycle by agreeing on the steps and duration of the process ahead. As part of this process, a team was formed to produce a number of papers which analyse our external environment in relation to key programme uncertainties, at the same time as compiling knowledge needed to advance specific strategies. The following paragraphs capture some of the discussions that began taking place as Mkombozi entered the strategic planning process in 2009...

## > Who are our future clients, and which services are relevant to them?

A difficult question and a dilemma faced by our street workers daily, is: With which age group should we work? At present, we claim to work with children and young people (CYP) up to the age of 25 years, and in fact, our street intervention primarily involves adolescents and young adults - although many are still below 18 years. Having shaped some of our methodologies to primarily address the needs of younger children, there is often a mismatch between these methodologies and what is relevant for our present clients. The question then becomes; Is there a case for tailoring our interventions to needs of the different age groups with whom we work? Alternatively, should Mkombozi perhaps target CYP of a narrower age-bracket (e.g. those between the ages of 8 and 18)?

With respect to the gender of our target group, a majority of the CYP Mkombozi currently reaches through its street-based interventions are boys or young men. When reviewing surveys, censuses and statistics, Mkombozi has observed that there is a low representation of girls among CYP reached by our interventions if one compares to the actual proportion of girls who are in the streets. This raises the question: should we be working more with girls who live/work in the streets? If so, how could our programming better factor in their special needs?

## > What kind of residential care should Mkombozi provide?

An important lesson learned by Mkombozi is that long-term institutional care of children should be a "last resort" since institutions tend to undermine family and community care for vulnerable children and young people by making them attached to the institution instead of their community. It is therefore an organisational priority to focus more on family and community reintegration, and also to aim at reunifying children directly from the street without having them pass through the residential centre. Having long ago made these conclusions, the questions more specifically remains: What type of temporary residential care should Mkombozi provide, and what should be the maximum duration of a stay? Which specific strategies should the organisation strengthen in order to ensure swift family and community reintegration for children who are in the streets?

## > How can Mkombozi facilitate communities and government to create lasting change for children?

With several years of experience in community work, Mkombozi has learnt that the most successful initiatives are those that are owned by the community itself. With regards to this, one of the questions posed for the organisations next phase of existence is: How can Mkombozi mobilise communities to take charge of children's issues through tailor-made approaches that are informed by the unique local context? An important conclusion from our internal review, and from staff reflections of the past year, is that the foundation of our interventions should be that Mkombozi is a resource that works to improve the conditions of local communities - not for the community to "assist" Mkombozi in its interventions. Having already involved itself in national as well as local advocacy agendas, another question for Mkombozi's future is: How can Mkombozi best work in a focussed manner towards creating structural and sustainable change for children through advocacy agendas that are initiated and driven by children and communities, and that ultimately transform the dynamics of institutions and policy?

## > ACTT - part of Mkombozi's programmes or separate business?

Since its inception in 2004, Affordable Computers and Technology for Tanzania (ACTT) has been existing with shifting purposes. It has acted as an extension of Mkombozi's programmes working for vulnerable youth's self reliance, it has been a development actor that spreads technology in urban and rural areas of Tanzania's Northern Zone, and it has developed its business wing with the aim of acting as an income generator for Mkombozi's programmes. As for the future, there is a certain ambivalence in the organisation concerning what should be the primary purpose of ACTT - something the strategic planning aims to address. Should ACTT move a step closer into Mkombozi's programmes for children and communities by using IT as a tool for empowerment of the vulnerable, or should it focus its energy behind becoming an even more separate business entity with the primary objective of making a profit?

## > A place for Mkombozi to grow...

For years, Mkombozi has been dreaming about buying land and building its own facilities that can fully host our work with children and the surrounding community. In 2009, this dream was partly realised as the organisation finally acquired land in Sambarai ward on the outskirts of Moshi town. With its own land, Mkombozi will be able to design its own buildings in accordance with existing and future needs, reduce regular costs, experience increased freedom in its operations and provide ideal infrastructure for the full range of the organisations interventions. Once Mkombozi's new "Child Protection and Community Centre" has been built on the new land, this will be a milestone for the organisation - one that marks its development and increasing maturity.

## We value...

the numerous donors and supporters in 2009 who enabled us to advance a national movement for child rights at government, community and family levels.



Our role as a civil society organisation is to challenge a status quo that accepts the social exclusion of certain children from opportunities within their own country. YOU can help us to expand our reach, deepen our touch, change the world... One child at a time.

## APPENDIX: Financial summary

### Breakdown of income, 2009 (Tsh)

#### GRANTS RECEIVED

Comic Relief	234,215,160
Foundation for Civil Society	125,900,856
Friends of Mkombozi	64,144,750
Railway Children	65,354,868
International Child Support	134,206,200
Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA)	7,152,600
Pestalozzi Children's Foundation	111,045,900
Star Foundation	64,544,015
International Organization for Migration	7,470,240
OAK Foundation contribution	<u>8,156,205</u>
<b>Total grants</b>	<b>822,190,794</b>

#### DONATIONS

<b>Total donations</b>	<b>8,169,950</b>
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#### TOTAL INCOME

**830,360,744**

### Breakdown of expenses, 2009 (Tsh)

#### PROGRAMS

Childrens' Programmes	382,906,340
Community engagement	68,146,749
Quality assurance	56,197,741
External relations	50,776,128
HR & staff development	82,294,693
Financial management & admin	138,366,309
Communications	36,622,636
Fundraising	<u>820,223</u>
	816,130,819

#### ACTT

Revenues	138,417,990
Cost of sales	<u>-100,249,973</u>
Gross profit	38,168,017

Revenue other	4,287,750
Grants (Microsoft & Barclays)	<u>80,543,100</u>
	84,830,850

Expenditure	-79,677,650	43,321,217
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#### OTHER

Previous year expenses	6,465,676
Depreciation	9,262,163

<b>Other income</b>	<b>4,064,801</b>
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<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>784,472,640</b>
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<b>OPERATING SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>45,888,104</b>
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## **Donors, partners and friends in 2009**

### **THANK YOU for your crucial funding and partnership:**

Barclays  
Comic Relief  
Digital Link  
Enfants de Tanzanie  
Foundation for Civil Society  
Friends of Mkombozi UK  
International Child Support (ICS)  
International Organisation for Migration (IOM)  
Neema Foundation  
Pestalozzi Children's Foundation  
Railway Children  
REPOA  
Shoprite  
STARS Foundation

...and warm thanks to all of our individual supporters!

### **THANK YOU for your partnership and your promise of future support:**

Everychild  
Wise foundation  
The Romilly Forshall Foundation

### **THANK YOU for contributing your time, expertise and efforts:**

BAWATA (Moshi)  
Cre8 East Africa  
Change Beats  
Don Bosco Brothers  
First Aid Africa  
Jobortunity  
KKKT Kilimanjaro  
International School Moshi

### **THANK YOU for your encouragement, blessing and collaboration:**

The Municipal Councils, Police, Social Welfare offices  
(in particular Kilimanjaro Regional Social Welfare Office)  
and Community Development Offices of  
Moshi and Arusha Districts.

## Mkombozi...

is one of the leading child-focused agencies in northern Tanzania, working with over 1,000 vulnerable children and families a year in Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions. We help vulnerable children and youth to grow in mind, body and spirit and to build a more caring society for all.

## We want a world where...

all children and youth are prioritised and can access opportunities to become well rounded, inquiring and productive people, who are working towards a more just and democratic society.

## We believe that...

we can promote social justice through participation and collaboration. We capture local potential through learning and reflection and act as a catalyst for holistic development.

## Our “change vision” of the future...

is to move ahead in a determined and proactive way as a leading NGO in the field of child rights. This vision defines our intentions to be an innovative, grassroots NGO that others choose to follow and it inspires our work to change the public perception of vulnerable and street children.



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