

Mkombozi

Empower. Engage. Enable.



Mkombozi wins... STARS 2008 Impact Award

Mkombozi is thrilled to announce that we have won the 2008 STARS Impact Award! The STARS Foundation, a UK charity, "improves the well-being of disadvantaged children around the world by supporting organisations which meet their health, education and protection needs." Annually, the STARS Foundation recognises three recipient organisations, selected against a range of criteria, to receive the Impact Award (of USD \$100,000) in the categories of health, education and protection.

Mkombozi first heard about the STARS Award after having received the request for applications in 2007. We were attracted to the award because it recognises good practice in organisations working with children. This year we decided to apply for the second time, and after the STARS assessment process was made, we were selected as the winner in the category "protection".

During the selection process, the STARS Assessment Team, the Panel and the STARS Trustees found that there were a number of strengths in Mkombozi's application which helped to differentiate our organisation and work:

- Our application showed strong responses against most selection criteria, especially within the areas of governance and ICT.
- STARS were impressed with the holistic approach of Mkombozi and with the way we tailor solutions according to the need of each individual child.
- STARS were impressed with Mkombozi's strategy of networking and collaboration, and of mobilising support for vulnerable children at grassroots levels.
- The way we voice young people in a difficult environment was considered a demonstration of creativity.
- Mkombozi was seen as highly innovative for the advocacy work of the 50% Campaign to Protect Children (www.50campaign.org).

On September 17th, Mkombozi attended a first awards ceremony in Nairobi, Kenya, where recipients of the Impact Awards were announced to the public. In early December, representatives from Mkombozi will attend another awards ceremony in London, homeland of the STARS Foundation.

Mkombozi's focus is to become an organisation that moves ahead in a determined and proactive way as a leading NGO in the field of child rights and to change the public perception of vulnerable and street living children. Thus, the STARS Impact Award is truly a great opportunity for us to promote and to share our practice with others locally and globally, and it encourages us to further develop our practice in working with vulnerable children.

The STARS Award is particularly welcome during the current leadership transition at Mkombozi; that is, the award provides a wonderful closure for our Director Kate McAlpine as she leaves the organisation after 11 years of dedication in building Mkombozi into what it is today.

Mkombozi would like to take this opportunity to express deep appreciation to our stakeholders, the children we work with, and to STARS Foundation for their true commitment to children. All of us, together, share the honour of this award!



SPECIAL THANKS to our children and stakeholders