

Mkombozi

Empower. Engage. Enable.



“Going mobile” with street outreach...

Mkombozi’s mobile school delivers hope and opportunity in Arusha

The presence of children living and working in the streets indicates a failure to provide for, and to protect, our younger generation. In fact, this vulnerable younger generation is very visible in our major cities - Arusha, Moshi, Mwanza, Dar Es Salaam, Iringa and Morogoro. Given the difficult situation these children and youth are facing, Mkombozi deems it a necessity to reach out to them to ensure they have the chance for a life away from the streets.

Mkombozi uses a number of interventions to reach out to children and youth living on the streets. One of these interventions is the “mobile school”, a small, box-like trailer that telescopes out into a series of panels with interactive games facilitated by the Street Educator. The mobile unit is pushed through the streets of Arusha twice a week to be available to those living in the town center.

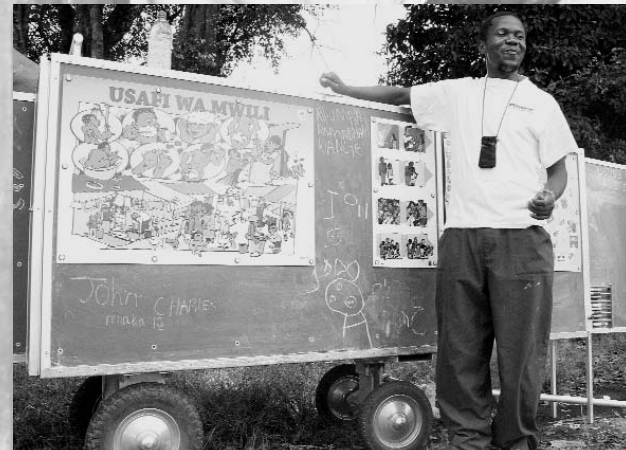
The concept of the “mobile school” is a joint venture between Mkombozi and Mobile School Foundation Belgium. The primary goals of this form of street outreach are to provide street-living youth with the hope that they can achieve what they set their minds to achieve, to help these youth to value themselves, and to encourage others living in the urban environment to understand and value children living in the street.

Currently, Mkombozi’s mobile school sessions take place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, usually at Soweto or NMC grounds in Arusha. On average, 25 to 30 children and youth participate in each session, taking the time to share their thoughts and feelings with the Mkombozi Street Educators.

Senior Street Educator, Ephygenia Mapunda, says: “During mobile school sessions, we get to know different children and young people and we form an attachment with them. We believe that for these kids to come and spend a few hours with us is a success, because we know that in other places where they spend their time they are in danger and anything can happen to them. Importantly, the teachings that we provide through mobile school are not like those taught in a normal classroom - most of the teachings are related to the situation in the streets, such as reproductive health, substance abuse and personal hygiene.”

Ephygenia continues: “We know that a child has gained from our time together when we notice positive changes in their behaviour, when they express wishes to return to their homes or to join a vocational or educational program which will further enable them in life.”

Overall, as an organisation, Mkombozi may not be happy that the mobile school is necessary in Arusha, or in any part of the world where children’s needs are not being met. However, Mkombozi is grateful for the opportunity to add value to the lives of children and youth who are currently living in difficult situations. Mkombozi knows that hope and opportunity are essential stepping stones toward a life that takes them away from the streets.



Mkombozi Street Educators know that a youth has been positively affected by street outreach when they express wishes to return home or to join a vocational / educational program...