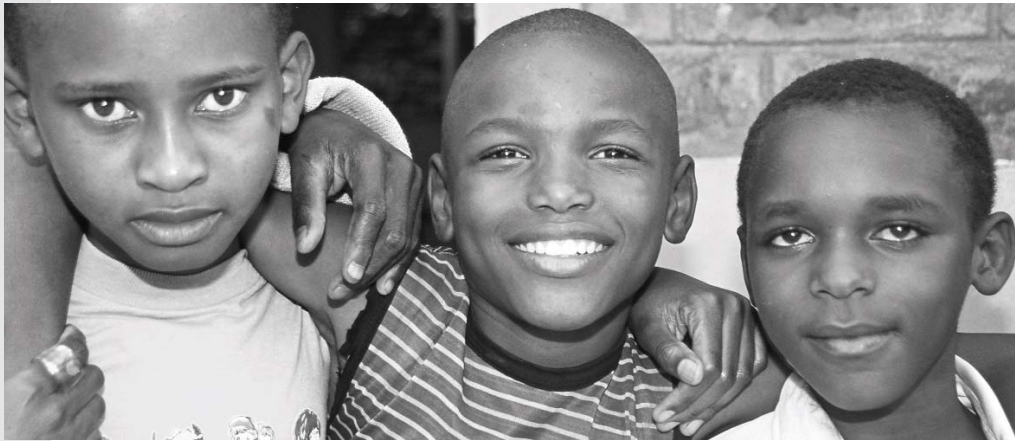


Mkombozi Centre for Street Children

Community Strengthening Project

NEWSLETTER

3rd Quarterly Report
(July - September 2005)



What do mentees say about mentoring?

It is now evident that mentoring has started bearing fruit. Some of the successes are highlighted below by mentees*:

"My mentor has greatly supported me. Finally I am getting specialised support. I do not know where I would be now."

~ Asha Makamba

"I am clear of what I want to become in life."

~ Erick Hamisi

"I am more informed and capable of dealing with sexual temptations from boys. Thanks to my mentor."

~ Maggie Mkapa

"My mentor is always with me and ensures that I am off to school. I focus on my studies."

~ Yussuf Nyerere

"Finally I will do my standard seven exams. I have learned how to deal with tricky boys."

~ Marie Maro

*NOTE: Names have been changed to protect confidentiality.

Final evaluation of the CS Project

The Final Evaluation of the Community Strengthening (CS) Project was conducted by Salma Maoulid from August 1st to 15th, 2005. Evaluation activities included a comprehensive document review as well as discussions with CS staff, Mkombozi children and community representatives. Community representatives included mentors, mentees, local government officials, mediators and Peer Supporters. The evaluator also undertook informal discussions with civil society organisations, religious leaders, street children and the general public.

A number of useful recommendations have emerged from the final evaluation, including:

- ⊙ To ensure greater synergy between the CS Project and the interventions undertaken by other Mkombozi departments, Mkombozi should adopt a more programmatic inter-departmental approach.
- ⊙ To increase the usefulness of the Info Guide, Mkombozi should strategically use identified services to encourage social responsibility.
- ⊙ To increase accountability, Mkombozi should strategically communicate the intention to eventually hand over stewardship of community-based interventions to the communities themselves.

Info Guide training proves to be an "eye opener"...

A recent Info Guide training session brought together more than 50 community conflict mediators. A primary objective of the training was to raise participants' awareness of the services that exist in their communities. Community conflict mediators were particularly enthusiastic about how such information would be helpful in supporting their work.

Observations made during the session (e.g. "Mr. Domisian Skaya has a vehicle", "Umbwe Catholic Parish has a Posho Mill") showed that communities can successfully identify what is locally provided. It was also shown that local services are valuable and greatly appreciated -- even those that are not free of charge.

Overall, by the end of the training, participants felt that there are many community-based service providers who, if well utilised, could effectively support their community.

Peer Supporters talk about education

Here's how one peer supporter from Kimanganuni Primary School told her father's story:

"Education is the basis of development of everyone in this world. My grandfather took my father to school. When he was not in school, he was dirty, but when he started schooling he changed a lot and he started becoming clean. He also started keeping rabbits and hens at home. At one time he had 21 rabbits and 30 hens. He sold them while he was at school and my grandfather took my father's money and opened a bank account for him. My father now is a farmer and has managed to build a house and is paying for our school fees and other necessary requirements. If he was not educated maybe we would not even go to school. So, I am advising my peers also to copy this example of my father."

Children's voices in 2005 general elections

Attention is turning to Tanzania's general elections scheduled to take place on October 30th, 2005. For instance, politicians aspiring to be office bearers are conducting campaigns to persuade citizens to vote for them and their parties. In fact, on September 10th, Silvanus Alloyce, Secretary General of the National Junior Council (and Mkombozi resident) met with 24 local Junior Council members from five districts in Kilimanjaro Region. At the meeting, Alloyce shared the outcomes of a previous, national meeting about the Children's Manifesto which took place in Dodoma on 29th June 2005.

The Manifesto summarizes children's priorities for the next 5 years. Child district representatives distributed the reports in their respective districts to the village leaders, Ward Executives Officers, and candidates for the positions of Councillor, Member of Parliament and President. The local council members reminded aspiring office bearers of their responsibilities to children -- for example, ensuring that children have the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential.

Posters, flyers and Children's Manifesto booklets from KULEANA have been distributed throughout the region. Campaigner Mr. Shambe Saggaf noted: "I am glad to inform you that I have given the Children's Manifesto booklet to the CCM Presidential Candidate, the Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, the Moshi Municipal Director, and a contender of Moshi urban parliamentary seat. I gave them during the campaign rally at Mashujaa ground and during the special meeting at CCM hall."

Community Mediators attend cases in their areas

Following the training session delivered to Community Mediators in the previous quarter, Mediators have attended a number of community conflict cases in their areas, and they are already reporting some successes. For instance:

- ⊙ In Manushi Ndo, children were stealing maize from a neighbour's farm. Although the parents wanted the children to be caned in front of the community, the case was resolved when the complainant decided to simply forgive the children, provided that they understand that stealing is wrong.
- ⊙ In Rau, a stepfather was constantly beating his stepchild, simply because he did not father him and because the child "came with his mother". The case was resolved by committee intervention.
- ⊙ In Shauri Moyo, children lost books that they had borrowed from each other. The children's parents became involved, threatening each other and demanding that the books be paid for or returned. The committee advised that the books be bought and the case was resolved.

