

# Njia Panda Ya Tumaini

Transforming Children's Lives

E-newsletter

Issue No. 5 July 2008

## Birunda Rescue Centre (BRC) Excels

During our recent 6 month report to Railway Children, our main sponsor for the project, combined our accumulated Monitoring Reports for the period January to June 2008. The combined figures are quite remarkable: The project came into contact with 2,427 children, 213 children sought shelter at the project, 83 would be street children have been reintegrated in their respective homes, 18 have been found long stay residential homes, and all 65 IDC (internally displaced children) have been successfully reunited with their families. These figures far exceed our expectations and are despite of budgetary shortfall caused by inflation.

## Liyavo 'filling the gap'

Liyavo Childcare Centre (LCC) fills a vital gap in our holistic approach in finding permanent solutions for homeless children. We define homeless as not having a home at all or where the home is incapable of caring for the child. While NPYT consider the 'family' as the preferred care giver, this is not always possible. HIV/

AIDS has left many children orphaned with other relations either unwilling or unable to care for the child. In some cases no relatives can be traced at all, and often the family are destitute forcing the child either to enter informal casual employment or driving them to the street to scavenge, beg, or worse. With little or no responsible adult supervision the children find themselves open to all kinds of abuse. While BRC does an

excellent job reuniting families this is not always possible and LCC then offers them a semipermanent home from where they can attend school and receive the love, attention and play all children need to flourish.

Our UK partner; Hear of Hope is now handling sponsorship and other donations from the UK and Europe for NPYT. Their account details are: Heart of Hope, Account Number: 11687654, Sort Code: 40-44-34 IBAN: GB16MIDL40443411687654. Ref: NPYT. HSBC, Boscawen St. Branch, Truro. Postal address is 15 Broad Street, Truro, Cornwall TR1 1JD United Kingdom. Email is [info@heartofhope.org.uk](mailto:info@heartofhope.org.uk)

The main road from Nakuru to Eldoret passes through some of the areas most devastated by the post election violence which tore Kenya apart in the first months of 2008. This is the main artery that links central sub-Saharan Africa with the coast town of Mombasa through which many of the regions imports and exports pass. Centres such as Mau Summit and Burnt Forest remain largely in ruins. Shops, hotels and homes burned out empty shells; toothless remains of once vibrant centres. The people who once lived and worked here are either still living in IDP camps or have



returned to their 'ancestral homes'. All must still be considered IDPs. The notion of 'ancestral homes'; that one tribe has more right to live in an area of Kenya than another is key to the whole scenario that erupted in the last days of 2007. That linked with the Kenyan obsession with owning land turned Kenyans against Kenyans, neighbours against neighbours; even separating some inter-tribal marriages. This lust for land is reducing Kenyas once rich farming history to memory as large productive farms are divided and subdivided leaving many areas just surviving on subsistence farming. Why do people who live and work in the major towns and cities also feel they have to own part of rural Kenya? It is because historically land ownership equalled wealth. That has no relevance in modern society where owning a town residence is much more expensive than a rural plot. Education, rationalisation and somehow diminishing the importance of ones tribe are key to ensuring what we witnessed recently can never happen again. Up to now there is every possibility of tensions erupting into violence at any time; especially as people become poorer by the day as rampant inflation pushes people on the brink into abject poverty.

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