



Dear Reader,

Welcome to our first e-newsletter. Through this medium we hope to give you a quarterly insight into some of the activities we are involved in, while giving a good sense of the local context. If you wish to continue receiving these e-newsletters do nothing. If you wish to be removed from our mailing list then please e-mail the subject line 'unsubscribe' to [info@npyt.org](mailto:info@npyt.org) you can subscribe or introduce a friend at the same address. Thanks!

#### **Need to improve monitoring:**

The first quarter of 2007 has been one of reflection and reviewing our performance in 2006. We have had great successes with over 120 children through the Birunda Rescue Centre, 193 benefiting from the Liyavo Child Care Centre and over 4,000 treated at our clinics. We do however find we have been weak in some areas of monitoring, particularly following up those children who have been repatriated to their homes, completed training or finished school. We are already improving our monitoring methods and celebrating our successes and learning where things had not gone as expected.

#### **New project for children held in prison:**

Janet Kariuki, one of our project officers, became concerned on a recent visit to the Kitale prison where many young children are living with their mothers in the cells. They are receiving an education at a school within the prison compound though they are otherwise treated as inmates. This obviously raises serious child protection issues. Janet has taken it upon herself to do a survey of these children with the aim of initially rescuing the most in need, and then lobbying the government to provide separate accommodation at all Kenyan prisons for children who have nowhere else to go when their relations are arrested. Our close relationship with the Kitale police and judiciary may also help us reduce the number of single parents with dependent children being served custodial sentences.

#### **Liyavo to make more impact on slum families:**

Liyavo Child Care Centre has for many years taken children from the Kitale streets, given them love, care and an education, dispatching them back into society as educated and skilled young people. There have been some notable successes where children have left the streets for good and are now young independent adults able to assist their own families. However we have also seen that some families have more children the second we take their offspring off the streets. These children in turn end up on the streets. In a couple of cases we also find we are looking after the children of children we initially took off the streets in the 1990s! At our weekly consultation meeting the idea was tabled that all parents of children at Liyavo have to participate in seminars on family planning including the economic impact family planning can have. We have already consulted with the District Public Health Nurse who is excited by the prospect and is able to facilitate the seminars and fast lane access to family planning for those who chose to plan. The same will be offered to families in both Birunda and Liyavo villages while the project will also offer meaningful sex education to our teenage kids. Sex education is given in Primary Schools but is limited by lack of experienced teachers, morality issues and general embarrassment or immaturity among the children.

#### **Condoms:**

NPYT fully supports the use of condoms, not only in family planning but also in the war against HIV/AIDS. Behaviour change alone does not work as the Ugandan experience clearly illustrates. Where they once had an admirable reduction in infection rates now have an increase in rates following demands by some international donors that use of condoms be discouraged.

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