

# Njia Panda Ya Tumaini

Transforming Children's Lives

E-newsletter

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## Kenya in Crisis

Since the faulted Presidential elections of December 2007 Kenya has seen unprecedented violence that has made an estimated 800,000 people IDPs and several thousand refugees. Over 1,000 people have been killed, houses burned, warehouses and shops looted in what was an orgy of tribo-political attacks that affected every corner of the country and neighbouring landlocked countries that rely on the port of Mombasa for their supplies.

At NPYT project level the knock on effects have been several. At Birunda Rescue Centre we have had to accommodate an additional 65 children who were separated from their



parents by the ethnic/political violence. Some of them had witnessed atrocious acts of violence and murder against their family and friends. In the relatively happy and safe project surroundings many received counselling enabling them to confront their emotions and move on.

Kitale remains under curfew from 7.00pm to 7.00am though that has been relaxed a little and people are moving around from 6.00am. Most commodities are again available since communications have been reopened and deliveries can get through. Prices have rocketed; a bag of maize (the staple) has risen by 50% from 1,000 to 1,500, rice has more than doubled, indeed the government has admitted to an overall 28% inflation rate for the last 3 months. These price hikes have seriously undermined our budgeting for 2008 and will leave financial shortfalls if the situation is not reversed.



## Training

NPYT was invited, as a contributing organisation, to a 3 day workshop on Child Protection in Emergencies. Janet, one of our Programme Officers attended and is scheduling complementary workshops at both children's centres

## Donors Stay Away

Following the pull out of one of our long term donors/partner, Terre des Hommes (NL) we had 2 prospective international donors who planned to visit the project in January 2008 and fund it from April. Thanks to the post election violence they have not come and have as yet not rescheduled their visits pushing Liyavo Childcare Centre to the verge of closure. At the moment we have sufficient funds to keep open until the end of June 2008

## Tears of Joy

For families who became separated during the post election violence the anxiety of not knowing the whereabouts of your children or if they are even alive is acute. Every waking hour a challenge.



The incredible relief and emotion that is overflows when you reunite parents with their children is in itself such a reward for the reuniter and greatly relieves the misery of the last few months. NPYT, in collaboration with the Kenya Red Cross, has managed to end that pain for 34 families and we are confident of finding more as some IDPs return to their homes.

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