



Give a Child a Future



Autumn 2009 Newsletter

Welcome to Vision Africa News!

Welcome to the Vision Africa autumn news update with all the latest information about what's going on in the world of Vision Africa – Give a Child a Future. Once again I have provided a summary of the latest news from our web site, plus a few additional items of interest. As always you can get the latest news in full, with pictures, from our website: www.vision-africa.org/news/

Christmas Cards & Gift Cards: We have some great new Christmas cards available for you to order. They come in packs of 10 and feature two different designs that were produced by children from Kandara Children's home. They only cost £3.50 (plus 50p post & packing) per pack and each pack sold will raise money for Vision Africa.

We also have refreshed our Gift Cards which you can use to make a different kind of gift at any time of year, but especially at Christmas. We have added more lower cost options and each card will provide much needed support to our Vision Africa projects.

Please see http://www.vision-africa.org/get_involved/gift_cards.php for more details and download your order form. If you received this newsletter via email from us then I've attached an order form for you to use.

If you would like some cards to sell on behalf of Vision Africa please contact lesley@vision-africa.org to find out more.

A word of thanks: In our last newsletter we put out a plea for folks to vote for us on Global Giving to help us secure a permanent presence on this fundraising web site. This was important for us, not just for the Seed of Hope project it was supporting, but because this is a US based site which helps our US supporters give in a more tax efficient way to our work. Well, I am so pleased to report that you responded magnificently and we reached our \$4000 target with time to spare! So a big thanks from me and the whole team. Thank you.

Laptop Required: Do you have a laptop in good condition (or even a new one!!) that you could spare and would be willing to donate to Vision Africa? Henry, the administrator of Riandu Children's home, would really like to have a laptop to help with paperwork, admin etc. If you can help we will take care of getting it out to Kenya if you would be willing to get it to one of our UK based team. Please just drop me a line, or contact us via info@vision-africa.org if you can help. Of course if we get more than one we can always put them to good use! Thank you.

Social Networking: Can't wait for our quarterly newsletters, or too impatient to watch our news page for our regular updates? Well, the good news is there are lots of other ways of keeping up to date with our work:

Facebook: Last time we told you about our Facebook Group, but now if you're a Facebook user we would like to invite you to become a fan of Vision Africa. We regularly update our Facebook fan page and you'll get the updates directly on your home page if you sign up. Find our page at <http://www.facebook.com/visionafrica>

Twitter: For those of you who enjoy twitter you can follow us here: <http://twitter.com/VisionAfrica>

And if you're not a Facebook or Twitter user but still want to see what we're up to you can always keep an eye on what we're shouting about via our web site: http://www.vision-africa.org/news/social_networking.php

YouTube: Want to see video presentations of our work? <http://www.youtube.com/user/VisionAfricaGCF>



Child Sponsorship: I guess given the current economic climate it is inevitable that we would lose some of our sponsors while folks are being cautious with their hard earned income. If you do find yourself in the unfortunate position where you cannot renew your child sponsorship could I ask that you kindly just let us know. A quick email to our team via sponsor@vision-africa.org will do the trick and will save us a lot of admin effort in chasing folks up to see if they have just forgotten etc. Thank you.

Of course, now that we are starting to see signs of economic recovery we sincerely hope that you will continue to sponsor a child with us for some time to come. The need is greater than ever with the cost of food and materials escalating in Kenya and many more families falling into extreme poverty, so if you know of anyone who would like to sponsor a child with us please do pass on our details: www.vision-africa.org/sponsorship.htm Thank you!

Anyway, that's all from me for this quarter, on with the news...

Kind regards,



Bob Dowty.
Chairman, Vision Africa.

October 2009.

Football Tournaments in Kibera Slum:

MANCHESTER FOR KIBERA 2009



Saturday 12th September saw the finals of Kibera Mpira Mtaani's "Manchester for Kibera" tournament. Launched on the 8th of August, this tournament ran throughout the August school holidays and involved 124 teams across 5 categories.

With just a few weeks to go until launch day we were worried that this annual event might not take place as no donor had been found to fund it. Thanks to fundraising by volunteers Anne-Marie and Jacqueline McLernon and Scott Russell and donations of strips by Jim Boyle in Edinburgh, the tournament went ahead on a restricted budget.

There was a different feel to finals day this time round with no PA system, no performers or tents. What hadn't changed was the sense of competition, enthusiasm and determination to win. The event also attracted a large crowd as matches were played at the Undugu ground in the heart of Siranka village in Kibera making it accessible to a much greater number of people than Woodley stadium where most of the previous finals have been played.

[Abridged]

All in all, a good day was had by players, coaches, committee members and spectators. The tournament was only possible thanks to hard work by the committee and officials, co-operation of coaches and players and of course the donations made by our supporters. Our thanks go to all involved. If you would like to learn more about the work of Mpira Mtaani or support their next tournament, please use our contact form to get in touch: http://www.vision-africa.org/information/contact_us.php

Check out our Photo Gallery for more pictures from the Manchester for Kibera finals 2009...
http://www.vision-africa.org/gallery2/main.php?g2_itemId=1518

This article is heavily abridged, to read the full article with more pictures please visit our web site here:
<http://www.vision-africa.org/news/index.php?id=156>

INFORMAL SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT



After the successful completion of this year's Manchester for Kibera tournament, there is no rest for the Kibera Mpira Mtaani committee as they move straight in to preparations for an informal schools tournament. Thanks to a donation from a Vision Africa supporter, the funds are available for a one week football tournament that will kick off on the 8th October.

There are currently around 75 informal schools in Kibera. These schools are often set up by local churches, NGOs (Non Government Organisations) or community members to cater for children whose parents can't afford to send them to a government school. With only 4 government schools within reasonable walking distance of Kibera, the majority of children attend informal schools which received no funding from the government. Although primary education in government schools is free, there is still the cost of uniforms, stationery and transport to consider. Another factor is that many of the informal schools attract feeding programmes from NGOs so parents can guarantee that their child eats at least once a day.

[Abridged]

Our thanks go to the donor who made this tournament possible and we look forward to posting an update to show the highlights from the tournament in October. If you would like more information about Kibera Mpira Mtaani or to support their work, please use our [contact form](#) to get in touch.

This article is abridged, to read the full article with more pictures please visit our web site here:

<http://www.vision-africa.org/news/index.php?id=157>

You're Never Too Old!



Vision Africa supporter Joe Timperan celebrated his 80th birthday earlier this year by doing a sponsored cycle ride in his home area in aid of Vision Africa. As a result, he raised the wonderful and amazing total of £1,790!!!

Joe has been a staunch supporter of Vision Africa from its very beginning back in 2001 and we say thank you to him for his recent birthday event.

A BIG THANK YOU JOE AND GOD BLESS YOU!

If you are planning a fundraising event for Vision Africa and would like more information, resource materials or a mention on our website, please use the [contact form](#) on our web site to let us know.

Read the article with a larger picture here: <http://www.vision-africa.org/news/index.php?id=152>

Seed of Hope - Third Term



September saw the start of the third term for our Seed of Hope centres. This is the shortest of the three terms and the most pressured one for both first and second years. For first years there is their first experience of government exams and for second years the preparations for graduation and leaving the centre to start up their own business.

In December, our first year students will sit their Grade 3 Dressmaking exam. Regulated by the Department of Industrial Training this is a national exam which, if passed, gives the girls a certificate which is recognised by employers in the industry. Students sit these exams at external centres. The exams are mainly practical but also involve some theory.

Our second year students sat their Grade 2 Dressmaking exam in August and are awaiting their results. In the meantime, there is lots of work to be done in their final term at Seed of Hope. There have been some changes to the curriculum which has seen the addition of a design competition for second years across all four centres. This project involves each student designing 2 outfits and producing them. Students have free choice over the designs but must incorporate some of the skills they have learned in craft lessons – beadwork, fabric painting, tie and dye. They must also produce accessories such as jewellery to compliment each outfit. The winning designers will be awarded towards the end of the term.

In November, our rural centres will start to establish “Roots” businesses for second year students. “Roots” sees the girls divided into groups of about 5 girls who go through the process of starting up a business under the supervision of their teachers. For each business, Seed of Hope will provide for a sewing machine, 3 months’ rent and a trading licence.

[Abridged]

If you would like to support the activities of Seed of Hope either by helping with the costs of setting up a Roots business or income generating activity, sponsoring a student or contributing to the costs of running the centres, please use our [contact form](#) to get in touch.

Together we can offer hope, dignity and opportunity to our students.

To read the full article, please visit <http://www.vision-africa.org/news/index.php?id=158>

re:future



Those who have been following our news over the past few months will be aware that Vision Africa is looking for long-term solutions to minimise the impact of the current global economic crisis while giving our projects a helping hand towards a more self-sufficient future. Having lost 35 sponsors in recent months, it is clear that we need to look for alternative ways of raising income to support our work. To that end, we have been introducing income generating activities (IGAs) at as many of our projects as possible.

Each of our 4 Seed of Hope centres were asked to put together a plan of action showing which IGAs they felt would be successful in their area. In the rural centres in Kitui, Kisii and Muranga, the most obvious choice has been farming – breeding chickens, growing vegetables, rearing cows etc. There have also been suggestions of bee-keeping, bakeries and a cyber cafe being set up in the future.

For our centre in Nairobi there is no land to be cultivated and the market is full of suppliers of chickens and milk. So we had to think in a very different direction and came up with **re:future**.

What is re:future?

re:future is a new brand that represents care for the environment, and a transformed future. There is increasing awareness of global efforts to save our planet by caring for the environment. In Kenya, we know too well the negative impacts of neglecting our environment and our planet. It's time to take some positive action to transform the future.

re:future will collect recyclable materials (initially glass, plastics and various papers) to be recycled or re-used rather than wasted or simply disposed of.

re:future will train and set an example for young people on the importance of caring for the environment and how they can transform the future, creating a brighter, cleaner environment.

re:future will raise awareness of environmental issues and encourage people to act to counter climate change and global warming.

re:future will provide a means of income for Seed of Hope Centre. All materials collected will be sold to organisations which will re-use or recycle them. In turn, 100% profit will be donated towards the running of Seed of Hope centres. This means that **re:future** will not only Transform the future of the planet but will also Transform the future of girls who are part of the Seed of Hope program.

[Abridged]

re:future - transforming the future of girls as we transform the future of the planet

Read the full article here: <http://www.vision-africa.org/news/index.php?id=159>

Updates from the Field

Vision Africa founder and Field Director, Vera Packard, reports on two projects she recently visited...

KAMBITI SCHOOL



Upon my recent return to Kenya, I visited Percy Davies School for Children with Special Needs in Kambiti. Being in a recognized very arid area it was like a desert - very hot, dry and dusty, not a blade of grass anywhere. Food is very expensive and in short supply and John Kiboro, our Vision Africa Administrator, is finding it hard to make ends meet. A 90kg sack of maize is now costing between 2700ksh-3000ksh (£22-£25) and beans 5600ksh-6000ksh (£46-£50) as prices have continued to rise. Crop growth in this area is nigh impossible. Even mangoes, for which the area is well known, are very bitter and lacking in flavour.

However in the midst of this we have a school of very happy children. They have a rabbit hutch with some very nice rabbits, they were able to show them to me and they loved to hold them. This, for them, was great fun. The children look healthy. I did however notice a lack of things to play with so thanks to the generosity of a friend in UK who raises money for Vision Africa I was able to purchase some balls and skipping ropes. I also intend to get some tyres and paint them different colours, the children love these.

We have also been able to purchase some uniforms for a few children. Many of the children who came to the school with severe learning difficulties are progressing well. I was amazed at the improvement in their skills.

We have recently added pigs and hens to their collection of animals. The compound is well fenced in now bringing security. Later this year, we plan for a celebration to officially open the school and we are looking forward to this. It was a pleasure to visit this project.

RIANDU CHILDREN'S HOME



This is located in another very arid area. We had to take a different route to the home this time as the usual route is some 12 inches deep in soft soil, so soft it is like talcum powder making it impossible to drive. Unfortunately, this also meant a longer journey than usual - sitting in the vehicle in the hot sun is not the best way to spend an hour. Along the way the scenery was like something out of a science-fiction movie. Every leaf, stalk and tree was covered in dry red dust rather like when we have snow falling and covering everything.

However, what a welcome when we entered the home, the children were excited to see us. I had taken lots of clothes and each child received something new to wear, later they enjoyed lollipops, biscuits and juice. The children look very healthy and are happy.

The bakery has done very well as an income generating project and so far this year has covered the school fees for the children. However it has hit a snag as the man who delivered the goods to nearby shops etc. is demanding more money that would render the project non viable. The answer would be if we could afford a motor cycle then Henry (the home's administrator) could make the deliveries himself. This would cost us around 70,000ksh to buy (approx £600).

Despite losing a new born calf the cows are doing well and continue to provide milk for the home. Rearing chickens and pigs are the other income generating projects and these are going well. To date the rains are long overdue and water is rationed making things somewhat difficult. 2 water tanks have been installed but there is no water to fill them.

It is always a joy to visit our home in Riandu and we rejoice with Henry and his wife Joselyn in that they are expecting their first child sometime in December.

Read the full article with pictures here: <http://www.vision-africa.org/news/index.php?id=160>

Stop Press! – Kibera Football update:

Reports by Kirsty McLulich on the recent Informal Schools Tournament...

INFORMAL SCHOOLS FINALS



I have attended many Kibera Mpira Mtaani football matches and tournament finals over the past 3 years. Finals days are always busy with good crowds showing up and at least 5 matches to be played, often with lots of penalty kicks. So I thought I knew what to expect as I went along to the pitch for the finals of the Informal Schools Tournament on Friday 16th October. I was wrong.

This was a tournament unlike any other in Kibera. I hadn't realised just how unique it was until I spoke to some of the teachers who were coaching their school teams. They told me that no other organisation provides a tournament for informal schools. Government Schools enjoy activities every term – football, athletics, music and drama festivals. There are only 3 accessible government schools servicing Kibera – so the majority of children never have the opportunity to show off their talents.

Coach Badi of Olympic Academy told me “Mpira Mtaani is the only organisation that arranges an event for informal schools. It's very good to have co-curricular activities and gives the children the chance to nurture skills and friendships. Football gets them fit, makes their minds stable and gives them something else other than school and homework”.

I then spoke to Daniel, head teacher from St. Christine's primary school. He said the tournament “...gives us a chance to identify hidden talents. Schools don't have time or space to do sports so this helps them. Children can make friends and understand what other schools are doing.” He then added “It promotes peace for me, Kibera is usually known for violence.”

Speaking to these people, you realise just what a powerful tool football can be and why Kibera Mpira Mtaani push for tournaments like this. We are very grateful to our sponsor who made it possible for the tournament to go ahead.

The teams which made it to the finals were Slome and Makina Self Help for the girls and Undugu and Calvary for the boys. The crowds which showed up to support them were big in number and also in voice. I have never heard so much cheering at a finals day. Even teachers got excited when their players gained possession and were shouting and encouraging their team. One of the girls' teams had more than 6 teachers around them at half time offering words of support. At the award ceremony at the end, there were prizes for the most supportive teachers, rather than those whose team had won.

There has been a lot of talk in the world press about the World Cup in Africa in 2010 and how this is an opportunity to improve education and the lives of children in Africa. By supporting Kibera Mpira Mtaani, **YOU** can play a part in that. We need sponsors for their activities in 2010 so that we can provide tournaments for these children in Kibera who have talents, energy and appreciation for your support.

If you would like to support Kibera Mpira Mtaani in 2010, please use our [contact form](#) to get in touch.

Read the full report with pictures here: <http://www.vision-africa.org/news/index.php?id=161>

IN THEIR OWN WORDS...



We often speak of the value of our football tournaments. This time round, we thought we would give the children a voice and let them tell you why they liked the Kibera Mpira Mtaani Informal Schools Tournament.

KMM committee member, Claris Akinyi, interviewed 8 players about the week-long event that took place in October. Here are their comments...

Maureen Akinyi – Olympic Academy

- (a) Students from other schools are able to identify my talent
- (b) I am given the chance to play and enjoy the game
- (c) I enjoy being cheered by my schoolmates

Joseph Shirangi – St. Charles Lwanga

- (a) I am able to meet more friends from different schools
- (b) For the first time, I am able to play football
- (c) I was able to identify more than 10 schools

Alice Awuor – St. John

- (a) We are able to have a school team
- (b) I am happy to see school mates playing
- (c) It has given us the opportunity to visit other school
- (d) The games are always fair (with no injuries)
- (e) Clubs are able to identify good players from the tournament

Grace Akinyi – Slome

- (a) I am able to show my talent
- (b) I got the opportunity to visit other places
- (c) My school managed to be the best team

Vellah Karea – Makina Self Help

- (a) There is something eatable for the teams
- (b) My school is able to compete against other schools

Erick Otieno – Undugu

- (a) We are able to show team work as a school
- (b) I feel happy when a teacher appreciates my effort in the game

Haroon Ali – Makina Self Help

- (a) The games are fair without complaints
- (b) Awards are majorly books which are good for students
- (c) There is something for us to compete for

Henry Kwamba – St. John

- (a) We are able to change their environment (and see other places)
- (b) I was able to interact with students from other schools

Many thanks to Claris for these interviews and we hope that anyone who doubted the value of sport in education has now been convinced!

Claris also told us why, as a committee member and a footballer, she feels this tournament was important. Read this article in full with more pictures here: <http://www.vision-africa.org/news/index.php?id=162>

Vision Africa on the web

Just a quick reminder of some of the places you can find us on the internet:

OUR WEB SITES:

- Vision Africa: <http://www.vision-africa.org>
- Seed of Hope: <http://www.seedofhope.info>


NEWS AND SOCIAL NETWORKING:

- Facebook Fan Page: <http://www.facebook.com/visionafrica>
- Facebook Group: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=35493762907>
- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/VisionAfrica>
- You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/VisionAfricaGCF>
- Vision Africa Blog: <http://www.kabissa.org/group/vision-africa-blog>

GIVING AND FUNDRAISING:

- ▶ The Big Give: http://www.thebiggive.org.uk/charity.php?charity_id=6276
 - ▶ Justgiving: <http://www.justgiving.com/visionafrica>
 - ▶ Global Giving (US): <http://www.globalgiving.com/projects/seedofhope-train-300-destitute-girls>
 - ▶ Global Giving (UK): <http://www.globalgiving.co.uk/pr/3900/proj3807a.html>
 - ▶ Easyfundraising.org: <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/visionafrica>
 - ▶ Easysearch: <http://visionafrica.easysearch.org.uk>
 - ▶ Everyclick: <http://www.everyclick.com/vision-africa>
 - ▶ Optimist World: <http://bit.ly/Ec6l3> or [click here](#)
 - ▶ Charities Aid Foundation: <http://www.cafonline.org/charityprofile/visionafrica>
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RSS News Feeds

 If you have an RSS feed reader, or the latest web browsers such as Firefox 3 or IE8 you can keep up-to-date with our news by subscribing to our news feed.

What is RSS? It stands for 'Really Simple Syndication' and provides a real time feed of any updates we make to our news pages. Many web sites, especially news based sites, have RSS and you can use a simple programme or browser add-in to keep an eye on the headlines. Popular RSS readers include: Feedreader (www.feedreader.com), Google reader (www.google.co.uk/reader/) and RSS Owl (www.rssowl.org), but there are lots out there, just do a search on 'RSS reader' to find one that suits you.

You can get our newsfeed here: www.vision-africa.org/news/rss.php

And our Chairman's blog can be found at www.vision-africa.org/bobsblog/atom.xml or www.vision-africa.org/bobsblog/rss.xml

Contact Information

Just a reminder of some of our key contact information:

For child sponsorship: sponsor@vision-africa.org

For fundraising & Kibera Football: kirsty@vision-africa.org

For Gift and Christmas cards: lesley@vision-africa.org

For general enquiries and everything else: info@vision-africa.org

WEB CONTACT FORM

You can also contact us via the web at www.vision-africa.org/information/contact_us.php

To join our newsletter mailing list please go to our website and use the form provided to subscribe your email address: http://www.vision-africa.org/get_involved/newsletter.php

If you no longer wish to receive newsletters from Vision Africa you may use the same form to unsubscribe.

Please pass this newsletter on to anyone who you think might be interested in Vision Africa. Thank you!
