

Emergency Appeal for Assistance to Displaced Families in Kenya

3/3/2008



Young children supported by AVSI and eager to learn in a crowded classroom in Kenya.

The post-election violence in Kenya has left more than 1,000 people dead and thousands more displaced throughout the country and across the border into Uganda. AVSI has been working in Kenya since 1989 in many areas of support including education and care for orphans and vulnerable children. AVSI-Kenya manages a large program supporting over 3,000 orphans and other vulnerable children through partnerships with 22 local organizations throughout the country. The local organizations which work with AVSI include schools, day-care centers, orphanages, parishes, congregations of religious and other community organizations.

Two of these organizations have requested help in meeting the challenges of this crisis period. Please read the letters from Mary of **Shelter Children's Home** located in Kajiado District in the Rift Valley Province, one of the areas most affected by displacement, and from Sr. Persi of **Baldo Children's Home** in Nyahuru District in Central Province.

In summary, the request is to assist 311 children in school and an additional 50 displaced families. In total, \$34,000 is needed to cover the basic nutritional, health, education and shelter needs of these roughly 550 people, or just \$62 per person. In the United States, checks can be made out to AVSI-USA and marked with "Kenya Emergency" in the memo line or attached note. Please send checks to the following address: AVSI-USA 529 14th Street, NW, Suite 994 Washington, DC 20045.

27th Feb 2008

Dear Leo

RE: APPEAL FOR SUPPORT OF 50 DISPLACED FAMILIES.

Total Request: **kes 1,097,356**

Shelter Children's home is a home to 160 children who are orphans, destitute, abandoned and abused. The home is situated in Ngong –Kajiado. This is a pastoralist's area occupied 80% by the Maasai community and 20% by other tribes, either by intermarriage or by buying land.

Since the year 1982, the Maasai community has always fought with other tribes mostly Kikuyu due to lands. In the last general elections, the Maasai took advantage of the violence and moved all the Kikuyu from their lands as they refer to them. Most of these families fled to different areas but 50 of them are camping next to Shelter Children's home. We are trying to support them with the little resources we have like water and vegetables.

The children are attending a nearby Kibiko Primary school but need uniforms and little funds for exams, lunches and tuition. The families are hungry and need support from all of us. As they prepare to move back, as soon as the mediation talks are over, they will need some funds for transport. Other issues of concern are access to sanitary items, washing basins and enough sufurias to cook with.

I know that AVSI has a big heart for the hurting communities. These families look to us for help because of the children we are accommodating. In view of the above prevailing issues, I wish to appeal to you to support us to make the lives of these very vulnerable families bearable. I have attached a budget to this letter detailing what they need to survive for now until the government gives other instructions.

Thank you for the continued collaboration and support.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Muiruri, Executive Director Shelter Children's Home

Baldo Childrens Home P.O. Box 6 Ndaragwa

2/25/2008

Dear Mr. Leo,

I hope you are Ok and doing well. We are fine though with some problems of internally displaced people (IDP) which we had thought with the community around involving also the local authority we would have managed to deal with it. We have mobilized the local community and we have managed at least to feed and donate clothes for the past month. Now we have a problem with the children we have enrolled in our centre, in primary and in secondary school. Since we can not help all the schools around we have chosen the school with the highest number of IDPs children who are really needy, for a total of 311 children.

Total request: kes **1212980**

Thanks, and I hope you will consider our request. God bless.

Sr. Peris