

Help Us Settle 195 Internally Displaced Families This Season!

Message from National Director

Dear Friends,

We are still dealing with the aftermath of the post election violence that wrecked our country after the elections of 2007.



A woman carrying a mtungi (jerry can) towards the construction site.

Briefly, the elections were poorly executed and the run up to the elections was characterized by hate speeches against certain communities and when the results were out, an orgy of violence, arson, rape and all manner of crimes were committed against communities considered to be settlers or foreigners in certain regions. By the time law and order was established, 1,133 people were dead and 630,000 displaced.

In my previous communications with you, I had updated you on the work we are doing with a group of very resilient internally displaced people who, in spite of the atrocities committed against them, including losing relatives, friends and property, and the trauma that goes with that, picked themselves, dusted themselves off, gritted their teeth and decided to create a new future for themselves in a new location.

I am happy to report that, as a result of

your generous giving and support, we have been able to build and move 112 families into spacious, three roomed houses of permanent construction and have started construction of another 34 units and hope to give this as a Christmas gift to a very deserving group of very resilient Kenyans.

Those who have moved into their houses have seen an immediate transformation of their living conditions. They are no longer subject to the wind, rain and dust that would find them in the

temporal tents that they had been provided for close to two years ago and which have since become torn and no longer afford any shelter to the families that are forced to live in them.

One girl, Anna Wamaitha, aptly summarizes what her new home means to her - she is now able to study because dust and wind no longer gets into her new house - and she has improved grades to prove it!

While we join in the joy of the 112 families that have houses that they can call their own, we are acutely aware that 195 of their neighbouring families are being rained on in their tattered tents and are praying that resources for constructing their houses become available.

The answers to their prayers lie within us and collectively, I am confident that we can raise the resources needed to house these 195 families. One housing unit

costs 2,667 US Dollars, but any donation leading to the completion of a housing unit is welcome. Kindly take time to visit our website (www.hfhkenya.or.ke) and click on the IDP tab for more information on how you can give a family the best Christmas present ever. You can send a cheque payable to Habitat For Humanity Kenya.

Kindly use the conversion rate of 75 Shillings to convert the Kenya Shilling figures to US Dollars when deciding which component of a house you wish to donate in the sheet provided in the website and which is also reproduced on the back page of this newsletter.

We remain amazed by the outpouring of love and kindness and practical assistance to internally displaced persons. People of goodwill have provided us with resources that have helped us build 34 additional houses and to all of them, we say, thank you very much. Your donation has changed the life of a family in Kenya.



A boy stands in front of the tent that he has lived in for the last 2 years.

I do take this opportunity, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Habitat for Humanity Kenya, to wish you a joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Global volunteer work camps: a heartwarming contribution

During the year, we had the joy of hosting ten Global Volunteer (GV) work camps within different regions of our country. Travelling far from their homes, these teams joined HFH Kenya in partnering with local communities to build homes and hope.

Kenyan people are well known for their warmth and hospitality, hence our visiting GV teams are always joyfully welcomed and hosted by our communities. One of our field officers aptly describes this as follows:

'For several months, the Mitamboni community group prepared for the UK St. Barnabas Church team led by Richard Jones and was therefore very excited when the team finally arrived in mid-October 2009 for an eight day visit. On arrival, the weather had drastically changed with the very first showers of rain falling after a prolonged dry period, and one could not fail to notice the relief and joy mixed with the excitement of receiving volunteers from abroad in the village. The visitors were received with joyful singing, clapping and jubilation and although the team members could not understand the words

of the traditional songs, they were overwhelmed by such a lovely, warm and touching welcome which was visible in their beautiful smiles and happy tears. For most Kenyan communities, it is believed that any visitor who comes along with blessings of rain is surely a God-sent blessing.'

Adventure and discovery

For the visiting teams, almost everything promises to be a new experience including those things which most Kenyans consider common such as using a pit latrine, bathing from a basin, as well as our traditional food and the serene environment of the countryside. They also get to see various animals and insects that they have only read about in books which fill each day with memorable surprises.

Learning and raising awareness

During a work camp, the team members have the wonderful opportunity of experiencing for themselves the way of life in the villages, while contributing towards eradicating poverty housing. They work hard to help a family build their house, often to the surprise of the community members who may not be used to seeing ladies participating in construction work!



UK St. Mary's Church team gets ready for the day's work.

Through the interaction between the host community and the visiting GV team, awareness is also raised on the need for decent, affordable housing in the neighbouring communities. This encourages more community groups to partner with HFH Kenya with the aim of improving their living standards through building of decent housing. Indeed the GV work camps leave behind memorable experiences and are a blessing to the host communities.

Next year, HFH Kenya is planning to host 30 GV teams, with twenty recruited so far.

Welcome to Kenya!



Canada open team takes a pose behind a wall of a house that they had been working on.



Habitat for Humanity Kenya dedicates the 3000th house with dance and pomp!

On 2nd October 2009, Habitat for Humanity Kenya (HFHK) held a grand and colourful celebration to mark the completion of the 3000th house! The event was held in the Kayole area of Naivasha to commemorate the completion of 3000 low income decent houses that have so far been built in seven regions across the country.



HFHK Board Vice Chairman, Mr. Sam Owen (back left), Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Musalia Mudavadi (front left), HFHK Board Chairman, Mr. Koome Kiragu (centre) and HFHK National Director, Mr. Simon Nyabwengi (right), enjoying a light moment during the event.

The special occasion, full of dance and pomp, attracted over 300 guests and was graced by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Local Government Hon. Musalia Mudavadi. Accompanying him was the Naivasha District Commissioner Mr. Mohamed Birik, and the Naivasha Mayor, His Worship Paul Ndung'u Karanja. Hon. Musalia Mudavadi participated in the actual dedication of the 3000th house and congratulated the elated home owner Ms. Martha Wangui, who warmly received her distinguished guests into her new home. Hon. Mudavadi also unveiled a commemorative plaque that lists all the names of HFHK's partners and supporters, and took time to plant a tree alongside other guests, in line with the need to conserve our environment.

In his speech, Hon. Mudavadi congratulated HFHK for the noble

undertaking of addressing poverty housing. He noted that while efforts had been made towards addressing the basic needs of people such as education, food and health care, provision of decent housing had remained a significant challenge. He however commended the Government's commitment to eradicating poverty housing, such as through the ongoing slum-upgrading projects.

Mr. Koome Kiragu, the Board Chairman, Habitat for Humanity Kenya, commended HFHK's partners, donors and staff for all their hard work in ensuring that low

income people have access to decent, durable and affordable housing. He said that the occasion was not only to dedicate the 3000th house built by HFHK, but also to launch construction of 4,500 low income houses across the country within the next four years.

Mr. Ezekiel Esipisu, the Regional Director, Habitat

for Humanity Africa and Middle East, added that the eradication of poverty housing can be achieved through partnerships between the Government, supporting partners, and a participative community. He, however, noted that decent housing also requires adequate water, sanitation and electrification issues which should be addressed simultaneously to provide a healthy and conducive family environment.

Mr. Richard Hechle, the General Manager, Panda Flowers Ltd., praised the partnership with HFHK saying that it has enabled low income earners of Panda Flowers Ltd. own land and houses in which they live. He, however, made an appeal to Hon. Musalia Mudavadi to assist the new home owners in getting electricity connection as this was yet to be achieved due to the high cost of securing electrical supply.

Mr. Simon Nyabwengi, the National Director, HFHK, highlighted the plight of the majority of Kenyans who live below the poverty line, and in dire need of decent housing. He reiterated the belief that, poverty housing can be successfully addressed through partnering with low income earners to build decent and affordable homes.



Home owner Ms. Martha Wangui (left) chats with Hon. Musalia Mudavadi (centre), and the Naivasha Mayor, His Worship Paul Karanja (right), in the living room of her new home.

The key message from the speakers was that all people deserve decent housing which can be achieved through partnering of Government, the private sector, individuals and communities.



Panda Flowers Ltd. employee, Mr. Joseph Kamau outside his new home in Naivasha.

The joy of the thirty four workers who received keys to their new homes was summed up by Mr. Joseph Kamau, who said that he had always dreamed of owning his own home, and can now proudly call himself a landlord.



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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY KENYA - IDP HOUSE COST ESTIMATES

Level of work	Description	Amount (KShs)
Foundation	Concrete Strip foundation, quarry stone wall and concrete slab.	38,200.00
Walling	Quarry stone wall bedded and jointed in cement/sand mortar.	51,000.00
Roofing	Timber trusses and fabrication with 30gauge ordinary corrugated iron sheet cover.	34,200.00
Floor screed and plaster	Cement/sand plaster finished with lime and cement/sand screed finished with red oxide.	24,700.00
3 Doors	Timber doors; One T-door and two batten doors complete with installation	8,000.00
4 Windows	Steel window casements complete with installation and glazing	22,000.00
	Sub-total cost of house	178,100.00
Ventilated pit latrine	Reinforced concrete slab, quarry stone wall and ordinary corrugated iron sheets, with a plaster finish.	17,000.00
Water		4,500.00
	Grand Total	199,600.00

Warm appreciation for well wishers' support of IDP resettlement project

We wish to thank all our partners, friends, and well wishers who have so generously contributed towards the resettlement of internally displaced families.

Special thanks goes to – Barry Segal Foundation, Commercial Bank of Africa, Housing Finance Co. of Kenya, International School of Kenya, Kenya Tourism Federation, Mission Tour & Travel Ltd., Ribena and Unilever E. Africa. And to all other well wishers, your kind donations have gone a long way in giving hope to an internally displaced family this Christmas through the provision of a decent and durable home.

Asanteni sana (thank you very much) and may God bless you all!



*Thank you for helping HFFH Kenya put smiles on many faces!
We wish you and your loved ones a joyful Christmas
and a blessed New Year.*