



# Greetings

Welcome to the Spring issue of NewsVision. Here are some of the activities that we've been involved with over the past few months...

## 2007 review

Our financial year ended on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007 and we were delighted to have welcomed an additional 3,401 new sponsors during that time. We now have 15 ADPs (Area Development Programmes) across Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Mauritania, Sierra Leone and Swaziland, allowing us to help some 500,000 people.

## Somaliland Health and Education update

In addition to our Area Development Programmes, World Vision Ireland also undertakes a number of projects funded by Irish Aid, the Irish Government's programme of assistance to developing countries. In January, Sheila Garry, our Programmes Director, travelled to Somaliland, situated in the North West corner of Somalia, to visit health-care projects in the districts of Baki, Lughaya and Gabiley which have been supported for over two years with funding from Irish Aid.

The work has focussed on putting in place basic infrastructure and on training community staff and volunteers. Nurses, lab technicians, traditional birth attendants and community health workers receive regular training and provide health care and growth monitoring for children as well as informing communities about nutrition, maternal health care and the importance of vaccination. Mothers also receive valuable training in caring for malnourished children and protecting the health of their families.

We are also helping communities in the same districts to rebuild their education system. Schools are being built and teacher support provided. Throughout Somalia there is a severe lack of educational infrastructure. In many instances, children are being taught under the shade of trees and their teachers have little more than primary education themselves. With Irish support, children will be able to learn in a safe and conducive environment with access to safe drinking water.

## Kenya Crisis

It is with great sadness that we watched the violence unfold in Kenya since the elections on 27<sup>th</sup> December. We have worked in Kenya for 18 years and our ADPs there are filled with such wonderful communities who work so hard to build a brighter future.

Thankfully none of World Vision Ireland's ADPs have been affected by the troubles and appear unlikely to be affected in the future. The situation has however had an impact on sponsor correspondence - no post has been sent from our national office in Kenya to the ADPs since December; this includes gift notifications (GNs). It's unlikely to change until the end of March or even April, as the situation is volatile and only essential travel is permitted, so please bear with us if you have outstanding requests.

## Mauritania

Juliet Lang, one of our Programmes Officers, has recently returned from Mauritania where she visited our Gerrou ADP in eastern Mauritania. During her visit she met with the community and saw the great progress we are making in the key areas of water, education and HIV & AIDS education and support. During her visit, Juliet also travelled to the south of the country where she met with the community in M'Bagne which will become our second ADP in Mauritania in 2009.

As always, thank you for making our efforts possible,



Helen Keogh  
Chief Executive



Juliet Lang visiting the site of a Gift Catalogue well in rural Gerrou, Mauritania.

# Kenya Crisis – Eileen’s Update 4th February 2008

“It was with apprehension that I boarded the near empty plane to Nairobi. I have called Kenya home for the past year and was deeply worried about what I would face on my return. Was everyone that I knew safe? Had my apartment been looted? Would the city look the same?

Driving to the office from the airport, middle class Nairobi looked largely untouched. What I could not see, hidden behind the leafy suburbs, were the slums. I was about to discover that no matter where you lived in Nairobi, there was no escaping the effects of the past month of destruction. The explosion of violence in Kenya has come as a shock to many people across the world, not least the Kenyans themselves. The anxiety and frustration amongst my colleagues and friends is palpable: “This was not supposed to happen! Why are Kenyans destroying other Kenyans?” they say.

Adding to their misery, many have relatives and close friends trapped in their homes or in boarding schools in Naivasha, Nakuru, Eldoret and Kisumu. Around them, houses and businesses are burning and the sound of live gunfire fills the air. There is no escape and no way of reaching them: gangs of armed men have blocked the roads. Even those desperate enough to take the risk are stuck, as the buses have stopped running.

Kenya’s economy was thriving and its future was bright before the election results were announced on December 30th. Tourists filled

the beaches in the south, learning pidgin Swahili – Hakuna matata bwana, (no problem man!) and buying brightly coloured kikoyis (sarongs). They returned home with fond memories of the local people, elegant wood carvings and often, a strong desire to return.

It seems nothing is ‘hakuna matata’ now. The beaches are empty, hotels are closing, and millions of dollars has been lost in the tourist industry alone. As companies’ earnings plummet and businesses close, people across the country are losing their jobs. Civil servants, teachers, and health workers are fleeing affected areas. Food has become scarce for many and prices have risen for all basic commodities.

It is hard not to draw comparisons between the post-election violence in Kenya and to other crises that have shattered countries throughout Africa, particularly when images in the media portray mobs of angry young men wielding machetes. But Kenya is not lost, there is huge will amongst the majority of Kenyans for an immediate end to this violence and the restoration of law and order.

There are also high hopes that when peace is restored, a truth and reconciliation process will be instigated to address the historical injustices, ingrained corruption, and the unequal distribution of national resources. These have generated bitter resentments between tribes, which erupt into violence at every election. Kenyans want to know the truth, even if it is distasteful and they wish to address these injustices.



Relocation to safer areas around the country.



A group of internally displaced people arrives at the camp in Nakuru.

Right now though, Kenya is facing a major humanitarian and political crisis. Over 900 people have been killed and hundreds more injured. 300,000 people have fled their homes and 500,000 more have been affected by the violence. The Irish Government has generously donated €1 million to respond to the crisis and other international donors are also to be commended for their aid packages. More, however, is needed.

The bravery and dedication of my colleagues and other humanitarian workers who risked their lives to reach the affected must also be applauded. They have mounted so strong a response that, according to a recent UN report, many of the displaced peoples’ acute emergency needs have been met. Concerned Kenyans are also playing a major role by donating money and foodstuffs, as well as taking in displaced families who have been evicted because of their ethnicity or had their homes razed.

However, this is just a temporary solution. A strong political settlement and clear and mature leadership is required from both sides of the political divide to end the violence and to address salient issues such as land ownership, poverty, youth unemployment and tribalism.

It is critical that the international community, including our own government, back the African Union mediated settlement process, led by Kofi Annan. They must also continue to pressurise Kenya’s politicians to restore order and end the destruction that is crippling the country.

The international community must not give up on Kenya; not only because of its duty to protect human life and prevent further atrocities, but also because Kenya is crucial to the stability and development of the region. Kenya’s ports and road and rail networks bring food, fuel, and other essential supplies to the rest of East Africa. This past month of conflict is already seriously affecting vital humanitarian programmes and the development processes of neighbouring countries.

Furthermore, it is critical that when the violence has ceased and the political crisis has been resolved that significant and sustained funding is made available both to the Kenyan government and to civil society organisations to rebuild the country and its peoples’ lives, as well as strengthen democracy and the rule of law.

We need only look at the countries surrounding Kenya – Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda – to know what will happen if we fail to act. ”

*Eileen Morrow, programmes officer for World Vision Ireland, is based in Nairobi. World Vision is providing food and non-food items to nearly 155,000 internally displaced people, including 60,000 children. Staff from the Kenya and Africa humanitarian offices are making distributions to assist displaced families in Nairobi, Nakuru, Eldoret, Mombasa and Kisumu. World Vision is also providing counselling to people and staff members affected by the violence and upheaval.*



Cherengany Police Station Camp - Western Kenya.



# Talibé Street Children

According to a study carried out by UNICEF, it was estimated that 100,000 children were living on the streets of Senegal, with the majority of them in the capital, Dakar. These children are victims of poverty, family violence, and drugs. One group is known as 'Talibés' – young boys, ranging from three to 14 years of age who have been handed over by their parents to Koranic Teachers called 'Marabouts', but instead of being cared for, they are exploited and abused.



A group of young Talibé boys sleep in a disused building in Kaffrine, Senegal.

Ann Birch, World Vision West Africa Regional Office and Juliet Lang, World Vision Ireland report on World Vision's advocacy and rehabilitation work.

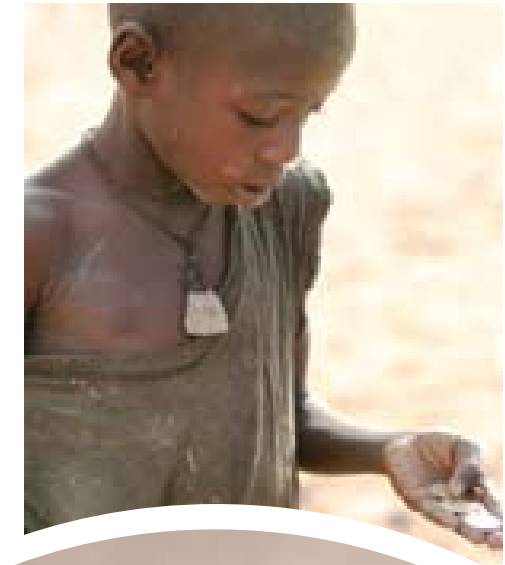
In the past, it was cultural practice for families to hand their children over to the Marabouts so that they would be immersed in the Islamic religion and grow up in its discipline. There was a high cultural value placed on this practice, so much so that community institutions called 'Daaras', financed by contributions from the community, existed as places where the Marabout could teach the children.

However, due to conditions of extreme drought and poverty, the Marabouts were eventually forced to migrate from the countryside into the cities. The cultural value of this practice lost its essence and it became merely a way by which the Marabouts could obtain an income, by forcing the children to beg on the streets.

A Talibé's day involves going out to the streets each morning with a tomato can to beg for their quota that would support their needs. If they are unable to collect that amount, they are punished severely. Many live in appalling conditions.

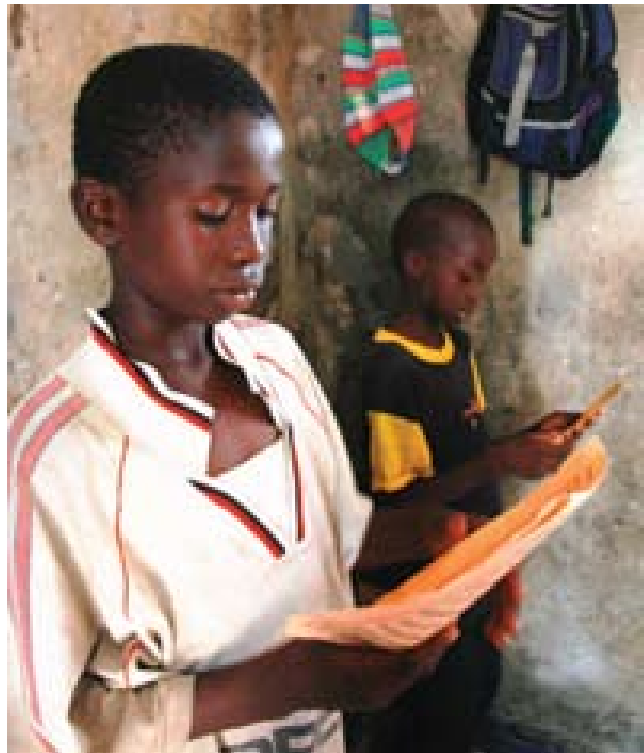


Talibé boys beg for money and left over food in Kaffrine, Senegal.



World Vision Ireland has been working with Irish Aid to fund a project called the Senegal Talibé Advocacy and Rehabilitation Project, which proposes to assist Talibés by implementing two pilot advocacy initiatives – one in the urban setting of Dakar and the other in the rural regions of Kolda and Kaolack. The project started in July 2007 and is planned to continue through until December 2009.

World Vision Senegal has been building on information gained through national round table meetings with all church leaders, meetings with Marabouts, discussions with over 100 Talibé and participation in NGO workshops where Marabout lead discussions on how to rehabilitate Koranic schools.



A young Talibé boy prays at a Koranic school (know locally as a Daara) in Thies, Senegal.

In consultation with the local district government, this project has begun to work with four Marabouts overseeing four Daaras in the suburbs of Guediawaye and Malika in Dakar. The project is providing the Marabouts with alternative income generating activities in addition to providing much needed nutritional support and improved living conditions in the Daaras. The Talibé boys living in these Daaras are now participating in formal education while the older boys have taken on vocational training in addition to literacy classes.

In addition to these activities targeting the boys already living in Daaras, the project is also working at rural level to encourage parents to rethink their decision to send these boys to the city. The aim of the project in the future is that many of the boys and the Marabouts may have the means to return to the villages and the traditional way of teaching.



A group of young Talibé boys enjoy much improved conditions in their Daara in Dakar, Senegal.



The project has already made great strides and both the Talibé and the Marabouts participating in the project have been proud of the achievements that they have made. Many of the boys who are now participating in formal education spoke of the joy that they had in learning and attending these classes, especially in contrast to the shame that they often felt in begging on the street.

The project has opened new possibilities and opportunities for these boys as they talk about becoming teachers or doctors or mechanics. It has also allowed the Marabouts more time to teach the boys the Koran as they are no longer spending hours begging on the streets.

# Corporate Funding

World Vision Ireland is very happy to have welcomed two new corporate funding partners who came on board in 2007.

## Arnotts

Arnotts Department Store donated €13,300 towards funding a school rehabilitation project in the Bonthe District and Imperi Chiefdom in Sierra Leone. Due to an 11-year civil war, much of the country's educational infrastructure was damaged or destroyed, with both the Bonthe District and Imperi Chiefdom badly hit. By the time the war ended, thousands of children had left school and most educational infrastructure had been destroyed or vandalised.

But with the help of Arnotts, World Vision has now been able to begin improving the learning environment for 800 children and their teachers with the rehabilitation of destroyed classrooms and construction of toilets. And the really great feedback we've had from our colleagues in Bonthe is that they've seen an increase in school enrolment rates and a reduction in drop out rates, especially for girls.



## Cloughvalley Stores

Cloughvalley Stores, who have a Londis store in Carrickmacross and a SuperValu store Crossmaglen, became involved with World Vision Ireland when they sponsored two children from the Ndala ADP in Tanzania, called Omary and Wande. Last year the staff then decided they wanted to raise an ambitious €30,000 for a project in the children's community and, with the help of World Vision Tanzania, World Vision Ireland identified a number of water projects in the area that badly needed funding.

It is estimated only 1,890 of the population (3.5%) have access to clean, safe water. The area is faced with severe drought every five years and there are no permanent flowing rivers or other sustainable sources of water throughout the year. The lack of technical expertise also means the community is always struggling to find water for their domestic use and animals.

However with the help of staff in Cloughvalley Stores, we have received the first instalment of €7,500 and have begun the planning for the first three shallow wells in Wita, Ndala.

Cloughvalley Stores are continuing to fundraise using various wild and wacky methods so if you are passing, please pop into them and offer your support!

On behalf of the communities, we'd like to say a big and heartfelt thank you to all of the staff at Arnotts and Cloughvalley Stores that have made these and many other projects possible.

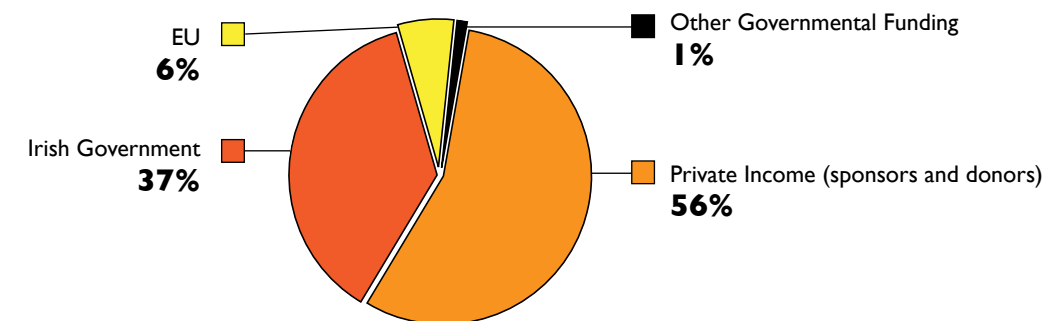
If you are interested in establishing a staff fund or corporate social programme, please contact us at 1850 366 283

# World Vision Ireland Accounts

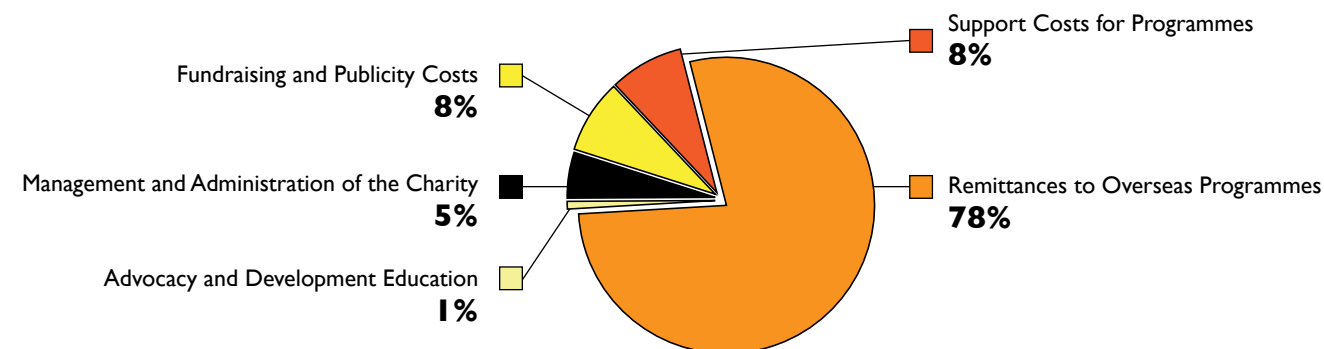
Every year we publish our accounts and make them available on our website [www.worldvision.ie](http://www.worldvision.ie)

In order to keep costs down, we don't post them to all of our supporters. However if you would like a printed copy, please call us on 1850 366 283 and we'll gladly post a copy to you.

## World Vision Ireland Total Income Year Ended 30th September 2007



## World Vision Ireland Expenditure Year Ended 30th September 2007



# Fundraising Stories



## Act One – Christmas Show (pictured left)

Act One School of Acting have raised the money for their child sponsorship from their annual Christmas showcase for the past two years. This shot features Deborah Geoghegan and John Kelly as Widow Quinn and Christy Mahon in a scene from Playboy of the Western World.

## Tina Porter, Inch Island – Coffee Morning

Tina held a coffee morning in the local community hall to raise funds for the community of Mutonguni in Kenya where her sponsored child Muthui lives.

## Blackrock College – Rugby Tournament

For the second year running, the students and staff of Blackrock College held a rugby tournament to raise the annual sponsorship funds for four children in Tanzania.

## Daniel Burke - Sponsored haircut

17-year-old Daniel bravely asked people to sponsor him for a public haircut of his long locks and used these funds to pay for a gift for the Burke family's sponsored child Joyce and a community gift for Mundemu ADP.

## Emir Dourieu and students – Carol singing event (pictured below)

Emir Dourieu and the 75 students in her music class held a fantastically successful carol singing event again this year - raising enough money to build a house for a young needy family in Swaziland.



## Shauna and Des – TriAthlone Marathon

Not only did Shauna Brady and Des McColgan successfully complete the TriAthlone Marathon, they raised money for World Vision too!

## Eva and Hazel Ashton – Handmade Christmas cards

Nine year old Eva, six year old Hazel and their parents raised their sponsorship money for Aminata in Sierra Leone by making their own beautiful Christmas cards and selling them to their friends in Gort, Co. Galway.

## Chris Small, Alternatives

Chris Small of Alternatives was dared by his colleagues to cross-dress for the day. He was paid €300 for flashing his legs!

## Saoirse Higgins – Gave up her scooter!

Five year old Saoirse decided that she would buy chickens and piglets from the Alternative Gift Catalogue instead of getting a new scooter and helped three families in Africa this Christmas.

## Yoga teacher, Helen Morrow

Raised €609, through holding 3 fundraising classes at the Kilternan Adult Education Centre and Stillorgan Cancer Group. She donated €120 through gift notification to her sponsored child, Elizabeth and the remainder was donated to Elizabeth's community.

## Sinead Kirwan – pyjama party (pictured right)

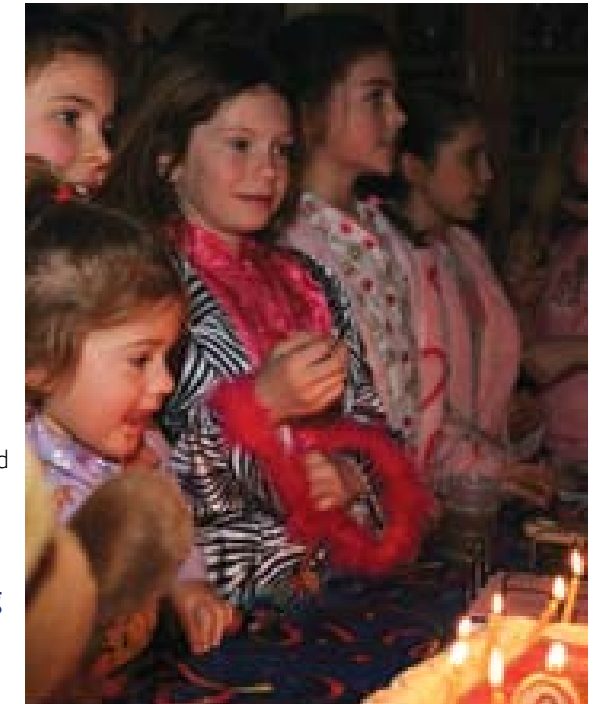
Nine year old Sinead Kirwan decided to ask for a donation instead of a gift when she invited her school mates to her pyjama party. The money, as indicated on her invitation, was to go towards sponsoring a child via World Vision. Sinead is now one of our Mauritanian sponsors.

## St Matthew's National School, Ballymahon – Goat Day!

The children of Junior and Senior infants each paid €2 to pet a local goat and enter a name-a-goat competition, with the money raised going to buy a goat from the Alternative Gift Catalogue.

## Biochemistry Department, Trinity College – Coffee Morning

Tania O'Connor and her colleagues in the Biochemistry Department in Trinity College Dublin, raised funds for our Swaziland Appeal by holding a coffee morning.



# Feedback & Contacts

## Tax Reminder

By now you should have received a tax claim form from us, which explains how all charities can reclaim the tax portion of donations made by PAYE workers. As explained in the letter, if it is not reclaimed by the charity, it remains with the Revenue Commissioners. This additional donation doesn't cost anything, it's simply a case of you signing your form and returning it to us – but it could mean up to an additional 70% on top of the donation you've already made to us.

So if you have a moment, please complete it. If you have any questions, please call us on **1850 366 283** or visit [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie).

## Gift Notifications/Correspondence with Kenya ADPs

As mentioned in Helen's Welcome page, the violence that has erupted since the Kenyan elections has not impacted on the safety of our Area Development Programmes there. However it has had an impact on sponsor correspondence – no post has been sent from our national office in Kenya to the ADPs since December, which includes gift notifications (GNs). It's unlikely to change until the end of March or even April, as the situation is so volatile and only essential travel is permitted. So please bear with us if you have outstanding requests.

## New Advice to Sponsors regarding Letters and Parcels to their Sponsored Children

We have been advised by our local staff that there is an increasingly high incidence of post being tampered with, and postal addresses which are written on the back of letters and parcels being noted and used for scamming purposes. We are recommending that sponsors **DO NOT WRITE** their addresses anywhere on the item (including in any letters to their sponsored child) and only write their name, the child's name and the child's ID number on the back of the letter or parcel.

## Correspondence by email?

Thank you to those who responded to our request in the last issue of NewsVision for email addresses. We are continuing to strive to reduce our costs and our impact on the environment however only 10% of the emails we sent last issue actually reached their destination. This is generally due to work email systems detecting a 'mass' email and blocking the message.

We are working with our web/email advisers to help us with this problem and until then will have to revert to posting updates to all sponsors and donors whose emails 'bounced' last time. We ask for your patience on this matter.

## Weddings

John and Aggie O'Keeffe who married in October 2007 decided to spend their 'wedding favours' budget in a more creative way than most – they provided equipment, books, pens and pencils to 50 school children in our Area Development Projects instead!



If this is something that you would like to do for your wedding or event, please contact us on 1850 366 283 or visit [www.worldvision.ie](http://www.worldvision.ie) and click on the Alternative Gift Catalogue link where you can even set up your own online wedding list.

## World Vision Ireland

### World Vision Ireland

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[www.worldvision.ie](http://www.worldvision.ie)

World Vision Ireland was founded in 1983 and is part of World Vision International, one of the world's leading international relief and development agencies. World Vision works towards ending poverty, fighting hunger and injustice, and bringing about lasting change for the better in the lives of more than 100 million people in some 100 countries worldwide.

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