

Newsletter Nr.8 Juli 2008

Im zweiten Teil mit einem Bericht über die aktuelle Lage in Kenia, erschienen in der letzten Ausgabe der Zeitschrift NEW PEOPLE



Aufgrund der Wahlunruhen in Kenia im Dezember vergangenen Jahres bzw. zu Beginn dieses Jahres konnten die Vorbereitungen für ein Workcamp im Sommer 2008 leider nicht rechtzeitig beginnen. Noch zu Beginn des Jahres war es unsicher, ob es die politischen Rahmenbedingungen überhaupt zulassen, in das Land zu reisen, um dort ein Workcamp durchzuführen.

Um jedoch auch in schwierigen Zeiten den Menschen in Afrika zu zeigen, dass wir Anteil an ihrer Lebenssituation nehmen, haben sich vier Vereinsmitglieder entschlossen das Partnerprojekt in Kajiado zu besuchen. Hierfür fand vom 5. – 6. Juli 2008 ein Vorbereitungstreffen in Benediktbeuern statt. Auf dem Programm stand zum einen gegenseitiges Kennenlernen, als auch die organisatorische Planung des nun stattfindenden „kleinen Workcamps“. Ein Vortrag von Sebastian Schäfer zur politischen Lage verbunden mit geschichtlichen Aspekten, interkulturelle Rollenspiele und eine Informationseinheit zur Kultur der Massai waren ebenso Bestandteile des Vorbereitungswochenendes wie die konkrete Planung der einzelnen Workshops, die mit den Mädchen des Massai Mädchen Projekts durchgeführt werden.

So werden Sebastian Schäfer, Franziska Jüttner, Christine Glöggler und Anja Bollinger zwei Wochen im August in Kajiado verbringen und voraussichtlich anschließend noch das Partnerprojekt in Subukia besuchen.

Anja Bollinger



*Neu beim Workcamp, aber Afrika erfahren
Anja und Christine*



Im Folgenden Hintergrundinformationen aus der im englischsprachigem Afrika recht bekannten Zeitschrift NEW PEOPLE, die von ‚den Combonis‘ gemacht wird – in Italien ist sie bekannt als NEGRIZIA. Ich denke, dass die meisten auch ohne deutsche Übersetzung etwas mit dem Text anfangen können.

Werner

Kenya: displaced people

The forgotten victims

One of the greatest challenges following the post-election violence in Kenya is to restore the physical and mental wellbeing of 300,000 displaced people, many of whom have witnessed atrocities and lost contact, in many cases permanently, with their families.

By Caroline Njenga



Kenya has stood firm, with the mediation process being led by former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan together with Gracia Machael and Benjamin Mkapa. President Mwai Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga saw that violence was not helping anyone.

Mr. Kofi Annan's efforts have allowed Kenya to emerge from the dark clouds that had engulfed it and brought back a ray of hope to our nation. Now

the two leaders are entering into new political harmony with goodwill. Good as things might seem right now, we cannot forget that five years ago the two leaders formed a coalition government but certain issues were never honoured. This time round it is up to Kenyans to keep the pressure on the politicians and remind them that we want peace, prosperity and unity above all else. We have learnt that it is far easier to plunge a country into chaos than it is to bring it back up again. Yet, as we might be happy celebrating

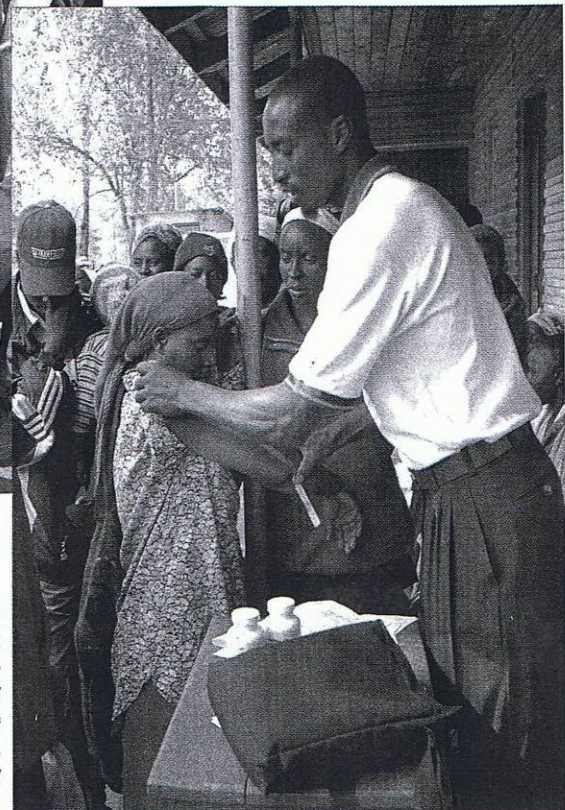
that we are back on our feet again, there are still many displaced families that are yet to go back to their homes.

At the Eldoret showground, which is one of the largest internally displaced person's camp hosting close to 20,000 people, women, children and men who once had acres of farm land at their disposal, now have to live within a proportion that can only hold a tent, that is too uncomfortable when it is hot and gets soaked when it rains.

At the Eldoret showground, I met



Nakuru, women with their children at internally displaced people's camp. Right, medical attention to displaced people in Nyahururu: "We as women and mothers are most affected by this post-election violence".



Harun Macharia, a victim of the Kenya Assemblies of God Church Kiambaa which was torched with women and children inside killing close to 30 tragedy that changed the life of his family.

I am one of those who were affected by the clashes and the events that took place in the church that was burnt down in Kiambaa, here in Eldoret. As I speak to you, one of my last born daughters is dead. She was burnt down to ashes in the church. My wife was also burnt with 80 percent degree burns and she is still in the hospital. I have also a son who was also burnt but he was discharged from the hospital. He had burns on his head and hand. I have nothing, all my property was destroyed. As you see me, this is the way I left my house; this is the way I have been since that day. I am in this camp. My wife is at the Moi Referral hospital here in Eldoret. My children are not here; I decided to take them to my aunt's house in Muranga town because

of the psychological disturbances they suffered from the things they saw. They were having nightmares all the time. The one who got burns on his head kept having attacks. He is a small boy in class five (10 years). From that day, I spend my days between the hospital and the camp. I go there everyday. When I am not at the hospital my daughter in law spends time with her; my oldest son has married and that is how our lives have changed. I am a Born Again Christian and when this things happened at first it was very difficult for me to forgive those who caused this tragedy, but I have now forgiven them totally. I am a church leader with the Full Gospel Churches of God, Kenya. I forgave them because if you do it from deep inside your heart you will not have any pain anymore and that is what I did. After forgiving them, I asked

God to forgive them also for they did not know what they were doing. Although I lost my beloved daughter, my wife was burnt and my children are now scattered, I said to myself that this is a test in my life and I know I will pass it because life has to go on."

Unsafe conditions and mistrust

The women and children who have been at the camps for the last three months have endured a terrible situation at the

Eldoret showground. The conditions are unsound, as most of the IDPS fear going back to their farms since they are suspicious of their neighbours whom, they say, they can never trust.

"This camp has been very squeezed since we arrived-Mary Wanjiku told me. The children are going to school in a tent and each tent is holding around 200 children. Even the teachers who are teaching them, are affected by the conflict. They also have a lot to think about because they too lost property. So as much as they would want to help the children, they are not able to concen-

trate fully. We, as women and mothers, are most affected by this post election violence which has caused a lot of marriages to break. There is a lot of unfaithfulness going around. Because the food that people are being given in the camp is not enough, there are women who are going out there and trying to find money to buy food for their children in any way they can. They can't stand to see their children suffer and go hungry. Look at me, right now I am going to look for porridge flour for my granddaughter. She was born in this camp and she is called baby Gracia Wanjiku after Gracia Machel, because she was born when the mediation team arrived in the country on January 22. Her mother is only 15 years old, she is also a baby herself but life has to go on".

Sexual violence

Last March, an assessment carried out by three agencies found out that the risk of rape and sexual abuse remained high for thousands of young girls and women displaced by Kenya's post-election crisis in January and February.

Detailing the findings of the rapid assessment of gender-based violence suffered in camps, the UN Population



Nakuru, classroom-tent for displaced children: "The children are going to school in a tent, each tent holding around 200 of them".

In Kuresoi, Molo district, I met Ann (name changed). She married a man from a different community and expected to be in a happy marriage. And true to her expectations, her marriage was a bed of roses. But this was only to last three years.

The person Ann trusted most turned a monster, raping her for a whole night, threatening to stab her if she dared resist. Her woes started on 30th December at Baricho B farm, in the post election hit

Kuresoi constituency, when the couple was having their lunch. "A group of men came to our house and ordered me and my only daughter aged two to leave before they set our home ablaze. We fled to my sister in law's house and sought refuge there". But Ann's husband would not hear even his fellow community men's warning that they would 'clear' him and his family if he declined to send his wife away.

"Pressure for him to send me off mounted and he stated saying there was a rumour that I was cheating on him... he said I slept with neighbours for them to allow me to stay there"-said Ann who was still shaken and shedding tears. "I will never forget the night of 6th February. We went to sleep as usual, but my husband forcefully assaulted me as he held a knife and confessed that he would slaughter me once he had finished doing his work. I managed to convince my husband not to kill me for the sake of our young child, who all along slept peacefully unaware of what was happening."

Kenya has to reinvent itself from the ruins. It has to remake itself anew. Yes, Kenyans are happy about the power sharing pact, but the pact will be meaningless for Kenyans if it does not result in fundamental reforms to reshape the country. The politicians have been focussing on who will get which post when the new coalition government comes into force. Yet the leaders whom the Kenyan people elected forget that there are displaced women, children and men who do not know whether they will go back to their homes or if they will ever go back and mourn their lost fathers, mothers and children.

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Fund (UNFPA), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Christian Children's Fund (CCF), said the women had repeatedly expressed fears of sexual violence because of makeshift sleeping arrangements, where men and women were forced to sleep under one tent or out in the open. They also voiced concerns about lack of regulations in the camps, allowing men from the outside to enter unchecked by camp officials.