

# CHILD RESTORATION OUTREACH –CRO – UGANDA

P.O BOX 34, UGANDA. Tel: 256 045 45 35340

Email: [crouganda@infocom.co.ug](mailto:crouganda@infocom.co.ug).



## 2008 ANNUAL REPORT



Street children have a right to Education, Health and Protection.

# ACRONYMS

AIC:	AIDS INFORMATION CENTER
ANPPCAN:	AFRICAN NETWORK FOR PROTECTION AND PREVENTION AGAINST CHILD ABUSE AND NEGELECT.
BUCINET:	BUGISU CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK.
CRO:	CHILD RESTORATION OUTREACH
IGA:	INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES
ILO:	INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION
JCRC :	JOINT CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER
JEDNET:	JINJA DISTRICT NETWORK
MADNASO:	MASAKA DISTRICT NETWORK FOR AIDS SERVICE ORGANIZATION.
SHG	SELF HELP GROUPS
SHR:	SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH.
TASO:	THE AIDS SUPPORT ORGANISATION
URCNN:	UGANDA CHILD RIGHTS NGO NETWORK
YEP:	YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

# PAGE

NATIONAL COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE.....	4
CRO VISION/ MISSION, GOAL.....	6
INTRODUCTION.....	7
COREPROGRAM ACTIVITIES.....	7
CHILDREN ACTIVITES.....	8
HEALTH PROGRAMS.....	12
COMMUNITY ACTIVITES.....	14
ADVOCACY .....	17
NETWORKING .....	18
PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL FUNCTIONS.....	19
CONSTRUCTION.....	19
STAFF AND LEADERSHIP.....	20
CHALLENGES.....	23
LESSONS LEARNT .....	23
FUTURE PLANS.....	24
FINANCES.....	25
APRECIATION.....	27

# MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR.

In 2008, Child Restoration Outreach (CRO) Uganda continued to make progress in rehabilitating and educating street children so that they can contribute with dignity to the development of their communities and the nation at large.

The aim of CRO was to reduce the number of children on the streets, rehabilitate them and reintegrate them into their families.

The organization planned to assist 1,041 children and young people. But as the year progressed, more children came on the streets sighting domestic violence, HIV/AIDS pandemic and poverty as the leading reasons why they came on the streets. According to the CRO regular quarterly counts, 890 children were found on the streets in the four towns where CRO operates. It was pathetic that most of the children found were aged between 4 and 12 years old and were indeed very vulnerable on the streets.

The children attended the CRO centers six times a week. They received support in different areas such as education, skills training, health, counseling, nutrition, personal growth, development of interests and skills, and spiritual development.

The climax of the year was when we celebrated with joy the “first fruits” of CRO. We echoed the famous slogan YES WE CAN! because three of our young people graduated; one as a social worker and two as police men. This was a clear message to the community that it’s possible for the street children to change, be educated and become productive adults.

We also had great blessings in the year. We embarked on the construction of the drop in center for CRO Masaka, and continued to construct the resource center for CRO Mbale. Both buildings are half way complete. Also a building was purchased to house the CRO Lira drop in center. Renovation works on the building are still in progress. The developments of the three foot ball pitches and a club house in CRO Mbale are still in progress.

During the year, CRO received an award of merit from ILO for having piloted and excelled in implementing the project; HIV/AIDS induced child labour.

The major emphasis in the year was to build the capacity of children so that they are aware of their own existing strength and maximize their opportunities. The children chose new leaders to manage their affairs. The peer clubs were also restructured and strengthened to have more impact.

Through the Action learning case study, CRO was able to hear the testimony and story of one child, and learn how important it is to use the children’s experiences to improve programming. In 2009, we shall continue with this process so that we can bring better results for the children.

On behalf of the children, staff, management and Board of Directors of CRO, I thank all our esteemed partners for their generous support to the street children organization.

Your support has ensured that the rights of street children to survival, development, protection and participation are realized.

Through this report, I would like to share with you our activities, achievements, challenges and lessons learnt in 2008.

Enjoy reading this report.

**Christine Kamiti**  
**National Coordinator**  
**Child Restoration Outreach**

## **CRO VISION**

“A society where former street children are living a life as originally intended by God”

## **CRO MISSION**

To rebuild the lives of street children, restore and reconcile them with God and with their families, empowering them to become productive members of the society.

## **CRO GOAL**

To contribute towards the prevention, rehabilitation, education and resettlement of street children and empowerment of their families in order for them to become productive and self reliant.

# INTRODUCTION

The year 2008, marked 16 years of CRO's existence in the realm of rehabilitation and Education of street children in Uganda. During the year the activities scaled up in order to provide quality services and also impact a larger population. 1,477 children were assisted by CRO through various ways including rehabilitation, resettlement, health, counseling and education.

In 2008, CRO Mbale wound up the HIV/AIDS induced child labour project with ILO, working closely with the district to continue assisting the 500 beneficiaries. CRO received an award of merit for completing the project successfully. CRO Jinja continued with the Masese project where 347 children were being supported in school and the school library furnished. This helped to present more children from coming on the streets.

CRO Lira participated in several activities of the district sector working groups, such as child protection to improve the welfare of children. In CRO Masaka, great efforts were made to engage the local business community to stop engaging children in scrap business.

## ACTIONS IN 2008

- Identification and rehabilitation of street children.
- Family tracing and reintegration of street children in families
- Provision of formal and informal education.
- Training street children in work skills
- Health and nutrition support to street children
- Child participation.
- Youths Exchange Programs.
- Agricultural development
- Recreation activities
- Community empowerment programs.
- Capacity building/ construction works.
- Net working/ collaboration/ linkages

# CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

## STREET VISITS

CRO social workers visit the streets daily in order to select the right children for support. They talk to the children on the streets and find out how they can be assisted. The children are then invited to the center to attend the rehabilitation program.

The children found on the streets are vulnerable in many ways. They are exploited, abused, prone to sickness including HIV/AIDS, malnourished, addicted to drugs and engaged in criminal activities. A quarterly day and night survey is done to establish the magnitude and cause of street children.

In 2008, 890 children (148 females and 742 males) were found on the streets i.e. 280 in Mbale, 120 in Jinja, 250 in Masaka and 240 in Lira town.

## REHABILITATION PROGRAM

CRO has designed a rehabilitation curriculum where by street children are equipped to improve their well being. A half day rehabilitation class is conducted daily where children learn crucial life skills, functional literacy and are introduced to academic subjects such as mathematics, English, science and art. The children also learn about HIV/AIDS, Sexual Reproductive Health, and personal hygiene.

The class is highly flexible, interactive and addresses the individual needs of the child.

In 2008, 280 children (230 boys and 50 girls) attended the rehabilitation program. i.e. 79 in CRO Mbale, 59 in CRO Jinja, 56 in CRO Masaka and 86 in CRO Lira. At the end of the year, 90 % of the children qualified to join formal school or vocational training.

## PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Many of the children found on streets are suffering from poverty, trauma, stigma, discrimination, diseases and multiple losses. They have lost hope in themselves and are struggling to survive. 80% of CRO children and young people have been made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS and civil wars. They have gone through experiences of social, mental and emotional abuse. Most of them have built strong walls around their lives and do not trust adults anymore. It is the duty of CRO to provide psychosocial care and support to the children in order to enable them to enjoy their child hood. Each child at the center is attached to a counselor who meets with the child at least two times a month. The counselor establishes a relationship with the child and creates an atmosphere of dialogue and openness so that the child can freely share his/her problems through one on one sessions. The children are also helped through peer group and family counseling sessions, enabling them to build resilience, and find solutions to the problems they face using the available resources. Counseling sessions have also enabled children to remain in school, decide for resettlement, and improve behavior. Through the regular counseling sessions, children are helped to deal with loss, grief and the helpless situations that they find themselves in after the death of their parents or when they ran away from home.

In 2008, 19,582 counseling sessions were carried out. 12,069 sessions at CRO Mbale, 1,463 at CRO Jinja, 4,600 at CRO Masaka and 1,500 at CRO Lira.

The social workers also find time to counsel the parents/ guardians to live in harmony with their children.

## **FORMAL EDUCATION**

CRO ensures that every street child has opportunity to go to school. And that it's through education that young people will break the cycle of poverty and gain better opportunities for now and the future.

In 2008, CRO supported 759 children and young people in school. 621 children attended primary school, 119 secondary school and 19 attended tertiary and university.

CRO supported the students with tuition fees, learning materials and uniforms. Regular school monitoring visits to check on the progress of the students was done. Career guidance and provision of food helped students be retained in school and complete their classes.

At the end of the year, most students' performance was above average. 90% passed to join the next class, while 5% failed and another 5% dropped out due to various reasons including pregnancy, peer pressure and domestic responsibilities.

## **VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

Some of the young people who feel older and also have no interest in formal schools choose to be trained in a work skill of their choice. They are attached to local artisans to learn as apprentices for a period between six months and two years depending on the skill. For students who complete primary seven and senior four, but are not able to pass to the next level, they have opportunity to enroll in formal vocational institutes to train in different skills. CRO pays for the training fees, learning materials and tools. At the end of the training, the trainees are equipped with start up kits to initiate their own business.

The common skills taught are cobbling, tailoring/ design, carpentry, cement and brick laying, metal fabrics, mechanics, electronics, art and design and farming.

Training in work skills has enabled young people especially those in child headed households to gain skills and earn income to support themselves and their siblings.

In 2008, 45 youth trained in various skills i.e. 15 in CRO Mbale, 3 in CRO Jinja, 20 in CRO Masaka and 7 in CRO Lira. 23 completed the training; 14 are continuing and 8 dropped out.

## **NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT**

Food is an important component of the CRO program. Children on the streets are often hungry and malnourished. They eat left over food from the garbage heaps or local restaurants which is not good for their health.

However, at the CRO centers, the children are served with good food. They receive breakfast and lunch.

The food enables children to participate in the CRO programs and to attend formal school. The children's physical and mental health is greatly improved as a result of regular feeding provided. CRO pays for the feeding costs at schools for some of the children studying far from the project.

In 2008, 958 young people received food at the CRO centers. 540 at CRO Mbale, 187 at CRO Jinja, 151 at CRO Masaka and 80 at CRO Lira.

## **FAMILY TRACING AND REINTEGRATION**

Reintegrating street children into families and the community is the most powerful and sustainable form of providing them with support. Tracing for the families and resettling the children was done throughout the year. Some times it was not easy to reconcile the children with their families as they were not welcome back. Others, the conditions at home were still bad and not conducive for their stay. Both children and families were prepared for reconciliation.

Long distances, transportation and bad roads were other challenges faced during resettlement. The children were resettled with a package including; books, a blanket, a mattress and for some, a young goat to keep.

In 2008, 219 street children were reconciled with their families thus reducing on the numbers of children sleeping on the streets. 70 in CRO Mbale, 24 in CRO Jinja, 30 in CRO Masaka and 95 in CRO Lira.

### **HOME VISITS**

60% of the street children have family ties in the slum communities. Once the children are reconciled with their families, CRO social workers visit the homes once a week. The purpose of the visit is to encourage the child to live at home, check on sick parents, and encourage them to seek medication. Counseling is also done during the visitation to help the child overcome the challenges they face at home and also link them to other social support systems for support in the community. Through the home visits, the social workers also check on the business operated by the family. Those who find it difficult to survive in the slum community are advised to return to their original home area, where there is land to engage in farming. Home visits have enabled CRO to build strong relations with community members.

### **PEER EDUCATION.**

At every CRO center a peer club comprising 35 students is in place. This is a special group of students who live exemplary life so that they are models to other young people. The clubs carry out several activities which include; club session on major issues such as information sharing on HIV/AIDS/STIs, behavior change and peer counseling.

They hold street and community outreaches, meetings and work shops where they disseminated information through music, dance, drama, poetry and use of puppets. The members are further trained in psychosocial knowledge and skills to be able to help other children. The peer club members also sensitize other children about their rights and responsibilities, proper discipline, prevention of violence and participation in CRO programs, and advice given about voluntary counseling and testing.

As a result of the peer club activities, more street children know about HIV/AIDS/STIs and their rights, thus protecting themselves from the disease. They have changed their behavior and are participating in programs affecting them.

### **DISCIPLESHIP**

CRO believes every street child is a gift from God, and therefore it is our responsibility to nurture the child in the best way possible. We also seek to work holistically, caring for street children as whole persons. The children come to the CRO centers the way they are, and are accepted to participate in the CRO programs. However, restoration of a street child is done holistically i.e. the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs of the child are addressed which are considered as essential elements in the development of a child. At the CRO centers, children participate in devotion. They have opportunities to share their experience and how their lives have been transformed as a result of the discipleship sessions.

This resulted in behavioral change, and children making good decisions to improve their well being.

## **AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

CRO's dream is to establish model farms at all centers that will be able to generate food and income for the projects. The farms will also become training centers where children can acquire agricultural skills to develop their own farms, since Uganda's economy is mostly based on agriculture.

In 2008, CRO Mbale, Jinja and Lira carried out agricultural activities. The farms were planted with maize, beans, potatoes, cassava and vegetables which supplemented the children's feeding. In CRO Mbale, coffee and trees are growing on the farm. Two cows are also kept. One cow gave 15 liters of milk per day. 1,500kgs of maize and 205kgs of beans were harvested. 120 poles sold raised USH 360,000 to maintain the farm. An expert in organic farming was hired to improve the farm, which has led to better yields than the previous year. CRO Jinja planted potatoes and maize which supplemented the children's feeding.

In CRO Lira, they hired 4 acres of land to grow cassava for the children's feeding. CRO Masaka is yet to acquire land for farming.

## **CHILDREN'S PARTIES.**

CRO held two parties for children in the year. An Easter party and Christmas party. All street children and their families were invited to the party. The chief guests were important people in the government. The main purpose of the parties is to celebrate the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, but also most important is for children to interact with important people in the community and the government. Through the children's presentations, the invited guests were able to learn about the work of CRO and the progress that children have made.

In 2008, the chief guests at each of the parties commended the work of CRO, and pledged government support for CRO programs. During the Christmas party, children who excelled in academics, behavior and sports were recognized and awarded.

## **CHILDREN'S CAMP**

In 2008, CRO took children for camping. CRO Mbale had two groups of children. The junior camp was held in May at Dabani girl's school in Busia district. 200 children attended the camp. They participated in various activities including sports, discipleship, counseling and swimming in Lake Victoria.

In August, CRO Mbale senior children's camp was held at St. Peter's high school in Jinja. While CRO Jinja, Masaka and Lira also camped in Jinja at Narambi primary school. This was an exciting time for all the CRO children to meet at Jinja. 605 children and young people participated in the activities which included sports, focus group discussions, counseling, fun night, visiting the source of the Nile and Bujagali falls. The climax of the camp was the CRO national sports events where the children competed against each other in different sports. The winning teams were awarded trophies. The camping trip enabled children to spend quality time with each other and the staff. Many counseling issues were addressed and some of the children made positive commitments to change their lives.

## **RECREATION PROGRAM**

CRO provides opportunities for street children to develop their skills and talents. Sports, games, music and drama are exciting activities at the CRO centers. Each CRO center has teams of football, volley ball, net ball and table tennis. At CRO Jinja, they also play rugby while CRO Mbale has a team playing Frisbee. The girls football team is also encouraged at all CRO centers.

During the year, the CRO team participated in different tournaments, such as the CHRISC tournament, the CRO annual tournament, the East African tournament and the super league.

CRO Mbale football club represented the Eastern Region at the super league, where their performance was average, despite their poor financial state.

Each CRO center has a children's choir, which is being invited to perform at government and other private functions. The choir also sings songs about the plight of street children, HIV/AIDS, and how the community can help. The above activities have been a key tool for advocating for the children's rights and CRO programs. Children have opened up for assistance as they experience different challenges. Also many have been identified having skills and talents which are being developed for better opportunities in the future.

## **YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (YEP)**

In 2008, CRO participated in the Youth Exchange Program (YEP) organized by Stromme Foundation. CRO received two youth from Norway Elaine and Marit. They helped with the education and social departments, making a great impact in the lives of street children. CRO also sent two youth to Norway, Simon and Brenda. While in Norway, they learnt about the culture, sports, life skills, and camping. They also participated in fundraising activities, helped out at kindergartens and the churches. The youth testified of having gone through a transformation of their lives. They were now mature in their thoughts, acquired leadership skills, had become responsible and gained a zeal to get involved in development work. The youth who participate in YEP are increasingly becoming models for other street children, when finally return. Each time the youth return, they can confidently say; "YES WE CAN" and only the sky is the limit.

# **HEALTH PROGRAMS**

## **MEDICAL CLINICS**

A medical clinic is operated at each CRO center to address the health needs of street children and poor families living in the slum communities of Namatala (Mbale), Masese (Jinja), Nyendo (Masaka), and Bar-ogole (Lira). The common ailments treated at the clinics include; malaria, fever, abdominal worms, skin infections, chest infections, wounds, peptic ulcers, diarrhea and other diseases associated with HIV/AIDS. The clinics are managed by senior nurses. All complicated cases including dental and eye problems are referred to government general hospital.

CRO works closely with AIC, TASO, JCRC in providing treatment to the clients.

During the year, 9,085 cases (3,635 females and 5,450 males) attended the CRO clinics. i.e. 6,481 at CRO Mbale, 2,125 cases at CRO Jinja, 274 cases at CRO Masaka, and 205 cases at CRO Lira. 218 complicated cases were referred to other health units for further management.

## **FAMILY PLANNING AND IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM**

CRO works in collaboration with the District Medical Office to provide family planning and immunization to the slum communities. The mobile clinic is held twice in a month.

Parents are urged to bring their children for immunization against the eight killer diseases, and for pregnant women to be immunized against tetanus.

During the year, in CRO Mbale project, 184 pregnant mothers were immunized against tetanus diseases. 155 people (26 males and 89 females) were using family planning methods to plan for their children.

In CRO Jinja, 11 community health sensitizations sessions were conducted in the masese slum. 60 women were sensitized on the family planning methods. The project worked with the District to implement the child Health Day's program, where by children were immunized against the eight killer diseases, provided with vitamin A, and also dewormed.

The people sensitized about family planning learnt how to plan for their families. Immunization carried out reduced on the mortality rates for infants and children under the age of five, and for maternal mortality.

## **HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND EDUCATION**

60% of street children and young people have lost parents due to HIV/AIDS. Worse still, children living in the streets or in slum communities are at a risk of being infected with HIV. Most children are involved in un protected sex and have no or low knowledge about HIV/AIDS. In addition the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS often deprives them of basic social services and education. Throughout the year, CRO embarked on raising awareness through the HIV/AIDS project as a way of dispelling some of the enduring myths surrounding the pandemic.

At each project, CRO has a peer club comprised of 35 young people who raise awareness about the disease to their fellow young people and to the community at large. HIV/AIDS messages are developed through role plays, drama, songs, poems and use of puppets to disseminate information to people.

The peer educators have played an important role in reaching other young people on the streets, communities and in schools with messages on HIV/AIDS and making referrals for further help.

CRO projects have also conducted work shop trainings to accelerate learning and information about the disease. They have linked with partners such as AIC, TASO, and JCRC to provide services for affected persons.

In 2008, CRO Mbale reached 3,024 people (1,109 males and 915 female) with messages on HIV/AIDS. Out of these, 468 (92 male and 376 female) were tested for HIV/AIDS. 52 (16 male and 46 female) were positive and referred to TASO and JCRC for further management.

CRO Jinja worked closely with the ANPPCAN Uganda chapter in training peer educators on HIV/AIDS issues, and child rights.

CRO Masaka worked with Aid Child to sensitize the street children on HIV/AIDS, while CRO Lira worked with AIC, EDEPR and Family Planning, to provide HIV/AIDS information to the street children.

# **ACTION LEARNING CASE STUDY**

From the 20<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October, CRO carried out an Action Learning Case Study. This was facilitated by ICS and Context International Cooperation in the Netherlands. The purpose of the workshop was to learn together about how positive change comes about in order to improve the wellbeing of children.

27 people participated in the story telling workshop, who included the street children, staff, Board of Directors, opinion leaders, Civil servants and business persons. The workshop centered on the story of Steven Mwidu, a former street child assisted by CRO Jinja. All participants helped to construct and complete the story after it had been told.

Through Steven's story, participants were able to learn about the drivers for change and the fact that street children clearly understand what is best for them. There is therefore need for CRO to plan with the children, programs that directly address their needs based on the children's experiences.

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES;**

### **WOMEN AND MEN CLUBS**

The women and men clubs are established at each CRO center. They comprise of the parents/guardians of street children and other needy persons in slum community.

CRO Mbale runs three clubs in Namatala slum; two women clubs and one men's club. The women clubs compose of 50 women each while the men's club has 25 members. At CRO Jinja a women's club is established in Masese slum. It comprises of 35 women. In CRO Masaka, a women's club is having 52 members and a men's club 20 members who meet in Nyendo slum. In CRO Lira, two women clubs one consisting of 20 members and another of 14 members meet in Bar-ogole slum.

During the club sessions, the members learn about children's rights, nutrition, personal hygiene, gender roles, parenting skills, skill development, family planning and immunization, HIV/AIDS, life skills, girl child education and child protection and income generation activities. They also discuss topics such as child sexual abuse, domestic violence, widow inheriting and taking of property by relatives.

Through participation in club activities members have gained knowledge and skills to improve their livelihood, and to care for their children. Some of the men are now taking responsibility for their children, and listen to the ideas of their wives. The members have also improved their behavior by overcoming some of the challenges of immortality, drunkenness, etc which expose them to HIV/AIDS/STIs. The clubs are also an opportunity for women/men to talk, learn and share as they spend time together.

## **PARENT/ GUARDIAN MEETINGS**

At each CRO center, the parents/guardians meetings are held three times a year in January, May and September. The key issues addressed at the meetings included; provision of scholastic materials for their children at school, good parenting habits, living exemplary lives towards the children and making a monthly contribution of UGX 1000 towards the support of children in school. It is still a big challenge for some of the parents to visit their children's schools to check on their progress, and also to provide scholastic materials. Most parents site poverty as the main cause for their children being on the streets, to get money so that they can contribute to the family needs. On average 542 parent/guardians attended the meeting i.e. CRO Mbale 220, CRO Jinja 192, CRO Masaka, 70 and CRO Lira 60.

## **COMMUNITY TRAINING WORKSHOPS**

CRO works towards empowering the communities in its operation areas with knowledge and skills on topical issues to improve their well being.

The training workshops are carried out on quarterly basis. In CRO Mbale, 5 workshops were conducted in five areas i.e. Namatala, Nauyo, Busamaga, Mooni, and Musoto. There were 30 participants at each workshop. They were trained on child rights, child protection, parenting skills, and hand washing with soap.

In CRO Jinja a consultative workshop on the role of stakeholders in the promotion of child rights was conducted for 60 participants. Several recommendations were made and key among them was the emphasis of a joint/collaborative action for CRO Jinja, school teachers, local leaders and the district civil committee in carrying out child activities in 2009.

In CRO Masaka and Lira workshops were conducted to train the community on child rights and the dangers of employing children. People who participated in the workshop gained a better understanding of children and the need to protect them against all forms of abuse. As a result of training, two child protection structures were established in Masese area in Jinja.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACHES.**

CRO conducted 16 community outreaches; 8 in CRO Mbale, 2 in CRO Masaka 2 in CRO Jinja and 2 in CRO Lira. The outreaches were carried out in CRO operation areas. The purpose was to sensitize the community on child rights, the plight of street children and how they can be supported.

The community was also sensitized on the care and protection of people affected by HIV/AIDS, and a voluntary counseling and testing for HIV. CRO worked closely with TASO, AIC,ANNPCAN, District Probation Officers, to sensitize the people.

As a result of the outreaches, more people now understand the plight of street children and are willing to assist them. 3085 people (979male and 2106 female) attended the outreaches. The participants were also encouraged to carry out voluntary counseling and testing. 675 people (128 male and 547 female) accepted to be tested. The results were disclosed to individual owners, and those found positive were referred to AIC for further management.

## **FAMILY ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING**

Strengthening the incomes of the families is a key factor in preventing children from coming on the streets. In 2008, CRO started more 200 businesses with the parents/guardians of the children. 100 businesses started in Mbale, 50 in Jinja and 50 in Masaka. This brought together 614 businesses monitored by CRO. Most businesses are about selling food stuffs, charcoal, clothes among others. During the year, 80% of the businesses were successful. The entrepreneurs made savings, out of these they were able to expand their businesses, pay house rent, provide scholastic materials, pay medical bills, provide food and clothing for their family. CRO was able to link 25 entrepreneurs to Micro finance institutions to access loans. The small businesses have enabled parents/guardians to improve their livelihood and support their children in school

## **SELF HELP GROUPS**

In 2008, CRO Mbale and Lira started to form SHG's with the poorest of the poor communities in the slum areas. The purpose of this is to bring poor people together so that they unleash their potential to development socially, economically and politically. The women meet regularly on a weekly basis and save their little money. Members are encouraged to take loans and pay back with an agreed interest by the group. In addition to making the weekly savings, the members share their lives with each other i.e. talk about education of their children, children's rights, nutrition, personal hygiene, HIV/AIDS prevention and care and income generating activities. The women have benefited a lot from the SHG's. Their self esteem, confidence and financial discipline has been built. They have built strong relations with each other and receive support from the groups. Also they have increased their household incomes, through savings and investing their money profitably.

During the year 14 groups were started in 7 communities in Mbale. Each group comprises of 15 – 20 members. In CRO Lira, 3 groups have been formed (2 women groups and 1 men's group) in the slum area of Bar- ogole. All the SHG groups are progressing well and have begun benefiting from the groups.

## **ADULT LITERACY**

Illiteracy is one of the problems that hinder women participation in decision making processes in their homes and community. CRO Mbale has organized adult literacy classes for women and men who are interested. The class meets once a week to learn how to read, write, keep records, learn English, and simple arithmetic. An average of 20 people attended the classes. The class equipped the participants with skills such as reading and writing. So that they are able to keep records of their businesses, read their children's report cards and participate with confidence in the community meetings. The class empowers the learners to be able to visit the children's school and talk about their child's progress in class.

## **MEETING WITH THE LOCAL LEADERS**

In 2008, CRO held 8 meetings with local leaders. 3 in CRO Mbale, 2 in CRO Jinja, 1 in CRO Masaka and 2 in CRO Lira. The meetings aimed at sensitizing the leaders on the plight of street children, inclusion of street children to benefit from the social services provided, and involving them in solving the street children's problems. The leaders were also reminded about children's

rights and how best they can protect children in their communities. 145 leaders attended these meetings. CRO Mbale and CRO Jinja participated in meetings with the District leaders concerning the Orphan and other Vulnerable Children policy and strategic plan.

In CRO Mbale the district authorities promised to open up the road reaching the sports field as a way of local contribution to the project. As a result of the above meeting, CRO has worked well with the local leaders in service delivery and they are also instrumental in mobilizing the communities for action.

### **TEACHER'S TRAINING WORKSHOPS**

During the year, CRO conducted training workshops for teachers at its 4 project sites. All together 88 teachers from different schools participated in the trainings. The main areas of training were in psychosocial knowledge and skills, child rights, child protection and child participation.

In CRO Mbale, the teachers were also trained in SCREAM counseling methodologies which are a child friendly counseling tool that helps to make the school environment and classroom more attractive to children. Teachers' knowledge and skills were enhanced to enable them support children in schools. This would in return help children to be retained in school and reduce on school dropouts.

## **ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES**

In 2008 CRO undertook a number of activities to advocate with the street children for their well being. They include the following;

### **RADIO TALK SHOWS**

Each CRO center carried out 4 radio programs on the local FM stations to discuss the issues of street children and how the community can assist them. In CRO Lira regular radio spot messages about the vulnerability of street children were produced and broadcast on two FM stations in Luo and English.

The response towards the radio talk shows were encouraging as many people called in to participate in the discussion. Also some of the people's attitude towards street children began to change as people began to understand the reasons why children are on the streets.

Through the local leader's meetings, CRO advocated for the enforcement of by laws to protect children from all forms of abuse, especially the selling of "drugs" to children and engaging children in exploitative labour.

### **CHILD PEER GROUPS**

During the year, CRO facilitated child peer groups at the CRO centers and also in 8 primary schools to sensitize the fellow young people about their rights, life skills, HIV/AIDS, SRH, and about proper discipline in schools. The groups impacted on their fellow young people who became knowledgeable in their rights and also gained life skills to survive in their environment. Through the peer groups, children are able to speak up for themselves and also advocate for their rights.

## **SPORTS TOURNERMENT**

In order to enhance the advocacy work at CRO Mbale, a school sports tournament to commemorate the international day against child labour with a theme “the right response to child labour” was organized. 7 partner schools participated. Messages against child labour were shared before the sports event began. All the schools which participated agreed to carry out the sports event every year as a means of advocating against child labour. Many people turned up to watch the sports event, which was strategically held close to the main road.

## **POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION**

During the year, a poster design was organized with the theme “HIV/AIDS and child labour”. Children from 7 schools participated in drawing the pictures to depict a situation of a child forced into labour due to HIV/AIDS. 10 children who had the best pictures depicting the theme received prizes at a public function.

As a result of advocating against child labour and abuse, 3 child labour committees were established in Mbale. Their main role is to identify, withdraw and recommend the child domestic workers and other children at a risk of being involved in child labour, for assistance.

## **PUBLICATION OF CALENDERS**

At the beginning of the year, CRO also produced 2008 calendars which depicted the work of CRO. The calendars were distributed in the four districts as a way of letting people know about the work of CRO. Most people requested for calendars but unfortunately we had a few of them.

## **MEETING WITH THE LANGO CULTURAL FOUNDATION**

In CRO Lira, management met with the Lango Cultural Foundation and the Lira District officials to sensitize them about the plight of street children. The clan leaders proposed that the homes of street children should be traced according to the clans they emerge from, since every Langi person belongs to a particular clan. However, the process of realizing, this strategy is still a long way. Some of the leaders have visited the CRO offices to appreciate the work being done with street children.

# **NETWORKING**

The CRO success in 2008, also largely depended on networking and strengthening partnerships with other organizations, district departments, and individuals working directly with children and families. During the year, CRO worked with the following originations in the areas of community awareness about child rights, HIV/AIDS, and service delivery especially in voluntary counseling and testing, family planning and immunization, resettlement, medical care and legal aid to abused children.

The Aids Support Organization (TASO),Joint Clinical Research Center(JCRC),The District Medical office, The Police, The District Probation Office, Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (URCNN),Jinja District Network (JEDNET), Bugisu Civil Society Network (BUCINET), AFFORD,

Masaka District Network for Aids service organization (MADNASO) , the NGO forum, and other Child NGOs and local councils.

Through networking, CRO had access to the necessary resources, improved service delivery and impacted on a larger population.

## **PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL FUNCTIONS**

Each year the CRO projects are being recognized by the district authorities. CRO is always invited to participate in district functions, where the children's choir is allowed to sing at the function.

In 2008, CRO participated in the following events;

- Women's day 8<sup>th</sup> March.
- Labor Day 1<sup>st</sup> may
- The day of the African Child 16<sup>th</sup> June.
- Independence Day 9<sup>th</sup> October
- The World AIDS day 1<sup>st</sup> December

Each of the above days was celebrated at District levels. During the functions, the children were heard and seen. They advocated for their rights and support from the government.

## **CONSTRUCTION WORKS.**

During the year, CRO embarked on construction works at various centers. In CRO Masaka, construction of the drop in center for street children began. The foundation for the rehabilitation class, medical clinic, library, kitchen and dining were laid, walls built and the structures roofed. In CRO Jinja, the rehabilitation class was renovated and a new sewage system installed. In CRO Mbale, the first floor of the library was built up to slab level. In CRO Lira, an old building situated on Otim Lakana road was purchased for the street children project. Renovation of the building began in the year to make it a better place for children.

Once all the structures put in place are completed, it will provide a good environment for CRO to give quality services for the street children and eradicate rent costs especially for CRO Masaka and Lira.

## **RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

In 2008, CRO Mbale stepped up its local fundraising drive, to raise income to support some of the programs. The resources were raised both in kind and cash. Those in kind included; clothing's, food, books, shoes and medical drugs.

The resources were raised from individuals, visitors, corporations, churches, sale of calendars, T-shirts, and from children's presentations in the churches.

A total of USH28, 640,965 was raised in cash while CRO received goods in kind amounting to USH23, 338,200. The amount raised contributed to 49% of the CRO budget supported by Stromme Foundation.

## **STAFF AND LEADERSHIP**

In 2008, 56 staff worked in the four centers of CRO i.e. 20 in CRO Mbale, 12 in CRO Jinja, 10 in CRO Masaka and 12 in CRO Lira, and 2 in the National Office. 8 part time staff and 16 volunteers assisted with the work at various centers.

### **STAFF TRAININGS**

In order to enhance their capacity and improve service delivery, different staff attended specialized trainings as follows.

- 1 staff trained in psychosocial skills in South Africa
- 1 staff participated in experimental learning and child labor issues in Zambia.
- 2 staff attended a work shop on child rights programming in Kampala
- 1 staff trained in monitoring and evaluation in Kampala.
- 2 staff trained in HIV/AIDS programming and child participation in Naivasha.
- 2 staff attended training on advocacy in Kisumu.
- 1 staff trained in child protection issues in Kampala.
- 2 staff attended training on change for children in Naivasha.
- '6 staff participate in the Outcome Assessment (OA) study carried out on entrepreneurs in Kasese district to establish the factors that influence their livelihood strategies.
- 12 staff participated in the Action Learning Case Study in Jinja.

The trainings attended enhanced staff knowledge and skills and helped them to improve performance.

### **STAFF RETREAT**

In November, 56 staff went for a four days retreat in Tororo district. The purpose of the retreat was to rest from the work, learn from each other's best practices, challenges, lessons, and also to build the CRO National team.

During the retreat, staff were also trained in child protection, advocacy, psychosocial skills, and monitoring and evaluation. By the end of the year, most staff were burnt out especially as work with street children is often stressful. It was therefore important that staff take a break, reflect and energize in order to continue providing quality care to the children.

## EXCHANGE OF GIFTS

At the end of the year, CRO staff at their different centers exchanged gifts with one another as a sign of appreciation and love to each other. This culture of gifts sharing has continued to bind staff together and it has enhanced the spirit of giving to others. Each year staff give each other quality gifts and have developed strong relations among themselves.

### CRO UGANDA STAFF

#### National office:

1. Christine Kamiti- National Coordinator
2. Juliet Galenda - Data officer
- 3.

#### CRO MBALE STAFF:

- |    |                   |                 |                    |           |
|----|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 1  | Moses Bwayo       | Program Manager |                    |           |
| 2  | Nathan Magona     | Accountant      | 14. Edith Wamalugu | cateress  |
| 3  | Elizabeth Amongin | Secretary       | 15 Mordecai Adoko  | Day guard |
| 4  | Carol Okotel      | Social worker   | 16. John Mayeku    | Driver    |
| 5  | Janet Mukama      | Social worker   |                    |           |
| 6  | Cate Mutonyi      | Social worker   |                    |           |
| 7  | Julius Gizamba    | Social worker   |                    |           |
| 8  | Ronald Muruya     | Social worker   |                    |           |
| 9  | Richard Mutambuli | Teacher         |                    |           |
| 10 | Nicholas Mafabi   | Teacher         |                    |           |
| 11 | Esther Namaganda  | Female Nurse    |                    |           |
| 12 | Thomas Magombe    | Male Nurse      |                    |           |
| 13 | Sam Tukei         | Caterer         |                    |           |

#### PART TIME STAFF

1. Betty Odimbe Senior Nurse
2. Paul Karinkaaba Saturday Caterer
3. Fabian Enebu Weekend guard
4. Rose Nabafu Saturday Teacher

### CRO JINJA STAFF

- 1 Elizabeth Gumula -Program Manager
- 2 Godefry Okoth -Assistant Program Mgr
- 3 Lillian Nabirye- Accountant
- 4 Phoebe Busingye-Secretary
- 5 Bosco Mukiibi- Social worker
- 6 Rose Mufumbira-Social worker
- 7 Fred Were Wataga-Teacher
- 8 Dorothy Namarome-Teacher
- 9 Margaret Mukyala-Nurse
- 10 Nehemiah Apudah-Office attendant
- 11 Wilson Dedy-a-Day guard
- 12 Monica Namugere-Cateress

### CRO MASAKA STAFF

- 1 Elizabeth Kiwanuka Bwayo- Program Manager
- 2 Adah N Ojur- Assistant Program Manager
- 3 Denis Kiweewa- Accountant
- 4 Caleb Wakhungu- Social worker
- 5 Saul Kasule- Social worker
- 6 Doreen Namyalo- Teacher
- 7 Richard Sebuuma- Teacher
- 8 Betty K Ssekireve- Nurse
- 9 Julius Mulwany- Day Guard
- 10 Leticia Nabbumba- Cateress
- 11 Joseph Mulindwa- Part time caterer

## **CRO LIRASTAFF.**

1. Alele Vincent	Program manager	7. Harriet .J. Odur	Nurse
2. Joy Okello Epila	Accountant	8. Esther Acheng	Social Worker
3. Suzan Akello	Secretary	9. Thomas Obong	Guard
4. Jane Ekayu	Resettlement Officer	10.Draniru Jennifer	Cateress
5. Mildred. M. Okello	Child Mobilizer	11. Alex Okello	Driver
6. Beatrice Okello	Teacher		

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

CRO is overseen by the National board of directors at National level and by Program Boards at district levels. The National Board met once to agree on the National policies and guidelines for CRO. The program boards met three times to monitor the progress of the project, review program plans, recruit, discipline staff and identify new policies to govern the projects. They also provided technical advice to the management in relation to social, financial, educational and agricultural challenges.

### **CRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS;**

The CRO National Board of directors are;

- 1 Rev. Simon Peter Emiau - Chairperson
- 2 Pastor Benjamin Otim - Vice Chairperson
- 3 Mrs. Naomi Watiti -Member
- 4 Pastor Sam Mukabi – Member
- 5 Rev. Sam Angweri - Member

### **CRO MBALE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. Pastor Benjamin Otim – chairperson
2. Mr. Davis Mundayi – Treasurer
3. Mr. Peter Okotel – Member
4. Mrs. Betty Odimbe – Member
5. Mr. James Okoboi – Member
6. Mrs. Naomi Aryada – Member
7. Mrs. Betty Mabonga - Member

### **CRO JINJA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. Mrs. Naomi Gonahasa Watiti - Chairperson
2. Pastor Billy Melechizedec - Vice chairperson
3. Mr. Ben Isiko – Treasurer
4. Mr. Peter Mawerere – Member
5. Mrs. Beatrice Ogutu – Member
6. Mr. Charles Okala – Member
7. Mr. Sam Kisoro – Member

### **CRO MASAKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. Pastor Sam Mukabi - chairperson
2. Pastor Emanuel Kalibala - Treasurer
3. Ms. Angela Nalusiba - Member
4. Mr. Vincent Lubega Zzaake – Member
5. Mrs. Anne Wandera - Member
6. Mrs. Jane Kimanje – Member
7. Mr. John Okello - Member

### **CRO LIRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- 1.Rev. Sam Angweri Chairperson
2. Mrs. Tamari Okao. Treasurer
3. Mrs. Anna Agnes Ojok- Member
4. Dr. Charles Noki- Member
5. Mr. Peter Epila Okello– Member.

# CHALLENGES

- Children have continued to come on the streets as a result of HIV/AIDS pandemic, poor parenting habits, limited house hold income, drought and famine in the karamoja region. As CRO gets off children from the streets, more come in which sometimes frustrates the efforts of the program. While in the streets the children engage in collecting scrap for cash, working in restaurants and at the market places. The little fee they are paid is an attraction for them to continue coming on the streets. To prevent more children coming on the streets, CRO has continued to sensitize the communities about good parenting habits, HIV/AIDS and child rights. The business community has been sensitized to stop employing young children. CRO has also empowered some families with income generating projects so that they can improve their livelihood.  
CRO has identified community volunteers to provide care and support to families infected with HIV/AIDS, but it is a big challenge to maintain the volunteers, since they have their own families to care for.
- The increasing food prices on the market affected the CRO feeding program. It became very expensive to feed the children on three meals a day. Only two meals were provided. CRO has also embarked on improving the production of food at the farms to supplement the feeding.
- The program in Lira faced a number of challenges which slowed down its activities. The CRO rehabilitation process was mistaken as a way of attracting children in the streets. However, CRO does not attract children in the streets, but it takes children off the streets, rehabilitates and reintegrates them into families. After rehabilitation, it ensures that children are placed in schools or vocational institutes. This is a slow but sure approach of assisting children in a sustainable manner.

# LESSONS LEARNT

- It is important that the rights of children are placed at the center of every activity.
- In the first year of its operations, CRO Lira has faced a number of challenges regarding the CRO approach in helping street children. We should not assume that what works in one area will automatically work in another. There is need to study each environment carefully, adjust the programs accordingly, in the best interest of the child.
- Listening to one child's testimony revealed to us that children fully understand their situation, how they should be helped and they are critical of the decisions the adults make on their behalf. Children have multiple solutions to a range of problems and difficulties that they face. They need to be given opportunity to participate.
- The children and young people have so many questions concerning their bodies, sexuality, relationships and HIV/AIDS. Most of their knowledge is derived from what other children at school or in the streets have told them. Unfortunately most of it is half

knowledge or even wrong information. There is need to build capacity of the peer educators so that they can pass on the right information and also empower young people in life skills so that they can deal effectively with the challenges of their everyday life.

- Mainstreaming child participation in all CRO programs motivates children and produces better results.
- Radio talk shows are a powerful tool to encourage the public in discussing issues of street children. Many people call in and give their ideas on how to support the children.
- Increasing the awareness of children about HIV/AIDS could reduce its impact on the young people.

## FUTURE PLANS

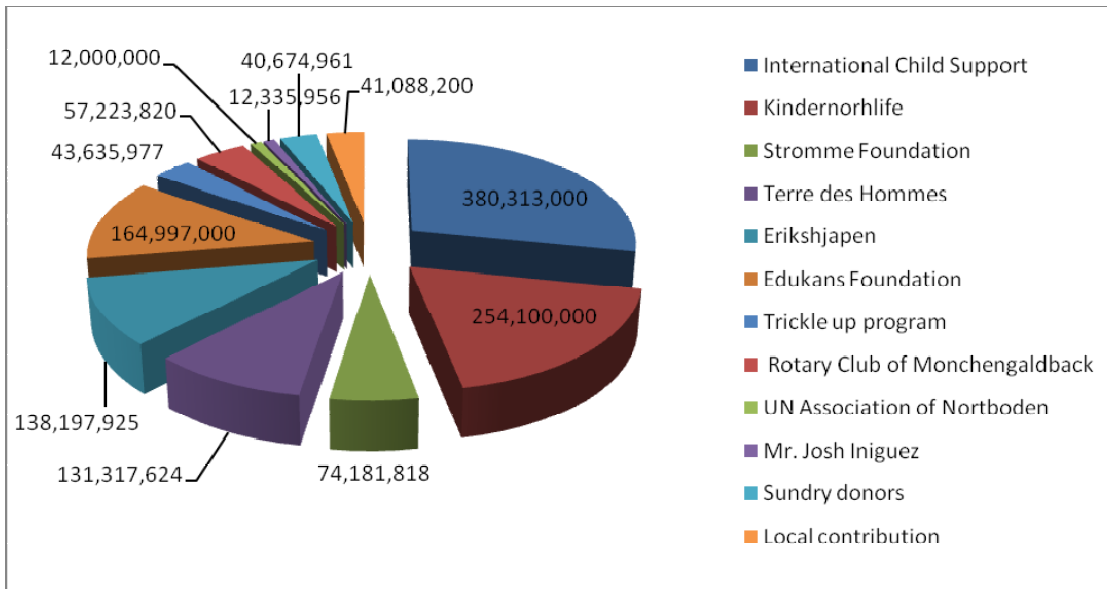
In 2009, CRO will focus on the following;

- Rescue and rehabilitate children from the streets.
- Support rehabilitated children and young people in schools or vocational institutes.
- Provide psychosocial care and support to children and their families.
- Provide food supplements to children attending school or vocational training.
- Develop CRO farms for improved production.
- Main stream child participation and protection in all CRO programs.
- Complete construction works at the youth center in Mbale, CRO Masaka drop in center and CRO Lira drop in center. A club house and three football pitches will be completed.
- Conduct community activities such as; outreaches, trainings, meetings, women/men's clubs, family planning, immunizations e.t.c.
- Conduct a needs assessment on Sexual Reproductive Health of street children and young people.

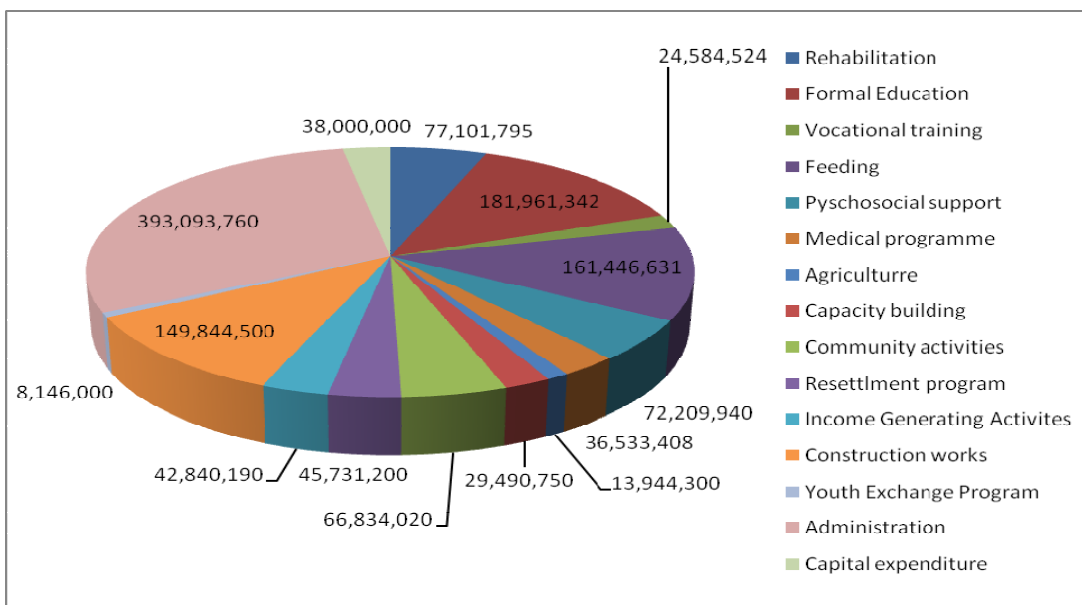
# FINANCES

In 2008, CRO received funding from key development partners and individuals, enabling us to make significant progress in improving the lives of street children and their families. The total contributions in the year were USH1, 337, 730,325 and the total expenditure was USH 1,341,762,362.

## INCOME 2008 (USH)



## EXPENDITURE 2008 (USH)



# VOTE OF THANKS

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the various development partners, individuals and groups who supported our activities during the year. We want especially to thank, International Child Support, Kindernorhlife, Terre des Hommes, Erikshjalpen, Edukans Foundation, Stromme Foundation, Trickle Up Program, The Rotary Club of Monchengladbach, Mr. D.Klokman, Ms. Molly Heineman (CROSO), Ms Uta Hollweg, Mrs. Margret Glaser and the team, the Berlin American Club, the Better place, Alliance for Africa, Mr. Berit Liv Walberberg, Mr. Elvind Myhr, UN Association of Nortboden, Suzzana Hills, Anne and Bjark, Mr. Andrew Zeal, and AFFORD, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Josh Iniguez, Mr. Thomas Gjerated, Pastors Margaret and Malcom Theobold, EV Kirchenkires, Berlin International School, Berlin American Club, Ding school, Hans .J. Orgen wenn, and Stadtmitte KL Oster.

Your generous support enabled us to rescue children from the streets, protect them from all forms of abuse, further their rights, responsibilities and expand opportunities for them to live a life of dignity in the community.

We thank the District authorities, particularly, the Police, the Probation Office, the District Medical Office and the Local Council Officials for their support and partnership in the implementation of the various activities.

We are grateful to the local FM Radio stations who accepted to host us, so that we could sensitize the public on the plight of street children.

CRO is grateful to all the children, staff, management and Board of Directors for their effort and commitment to ensure lives of street children are transformed.

**FINALLY, WE THANK GOD FOR HIS CONTINUOUS SUPPLIES IN 2008. HE WAS INDEED JEHOVAH JIREH, THE ONE WHO SUPPLIES ALL OUR NEEDS ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY BY CHRIST JESUS. (Philippians 4:19)**