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Hello from Limuru, Kenya! It has been wonderful re-uniting with the people in Jikaze Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Re-Settlement Village. After listening to their latest needs I have a renewed sense that we need to create sustainable initiatives to ensure real and lasting change. By using a poverty metric known as the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index we will be able to highlight the specific poverty deprivations and skill sets in Jikaze and then create programs around their skills, such as poultry rearing or shoe making. Our plans are to create businesses that meet a social need in the community, such as hunger or health, but that also generate income, allowing families to lift themselves out of material poverty through profits. Moreover, profits from the social businesses we will plant in Jikaze (poultry rearing, papyrus reed sanitary pads, shoe production) will be used to subsidize the cost of school fees for bright but impoverished children who will be attending Jikaze Secondary School, which we plan to begin building in May 2011.

Social Business: We've distributed two small loans to Jikaze in January. One was to a man named Samuel who is making shoes out of cow and goat hides. In his house-turned-workshop he showed us how he stains the hides black or brown using a homemade mixture of oil, charcoal and bark. Samuel is a testament to the ingenuity and perseverance of the people in Jikaze who are using their skills to lift themselves out of extreme poverty through business. My first order, a pair of Safari boots handcrafted by Samuel, should be ready in about two weeks. Moreover, we plan to start a poultry rearing business in Jikaze that will employ 4 individuals and will generate \$15,000 a year in profits that we will use to help fund Jikaze Secondary School, slated to begin construction in May 2011.



Education: On February 7th, we began construction on a Science Laboratory for Silanga Secondary School in Kibera. With over 1 Million people in a few square miles, Kibera is one of the largest slums in all of Africa. In June 2010, 15 Uhuru Child Volunteers from America worked alongside the Kenyans to build a Library for Silanga Secondary School. Also at Silanga we met a young girl named Monicah whose story of Post-Election Violence and Displacement was filmed and will be featured in an Uhuru Child documentary to be released this Spring.

Six 8th graders from Jikaze have passed their Primary School Final Exam with outstanding results and we have awarded them partial scholarships for High School. In line with our belief of ownership and empowerment we sat down with the parents of these 6 students and concluded that Uhuru Child would pay for the school fees and the families would pay for the child's school uniform, textbooks, notebooks and pens. One scholarship recipient, Ann Wacuka had just returned from a 3 hour trip to collect firewood when we arrived at her house to describe the terms of her scholarship. Now, Ann can go to High School and pursue her goal of becoming a Magistrate. As we sponsor these children to attend High School it is our desire to begin building Jikaze Secondary School in May 2011 to serve the educational needs of the IDP's in the area. Also, It is with much excitement that we announce that out of 309 applicants Uhuru Child is the Grand Prize Winner of the Out of the Box Award 2010, sponsored by The Community Toolbox in recognition of our innovative approach towards community development in Jikaze IDP Re-Settlement Village. We will be using the \$5,000 in prize money to help fund the building of Jikaze Secondary School. Thank you to everyone who voted for our project!

Construction begins on the Silanga Science Laboratory. Behind us is the library Uhuru Child Volunteers built last summer.



Jikaze High School Scholar, Ann Wacuka.



Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index: At Uhuru Child we strive to create our projects out of direct response to the expressed needs of the poor, and this has led us to the MPI. The MPI was created by development experts at University of Oxford with the express intent of being able to analyze the multiple factors that contribute to a families poverty beyond the classic approach of defining poverty by an income demarcation. By asking a series of questions relating to health, education and standard of living we are able to highlight the specific deprivations experienced in the community and trace the connection between poverty deprivations. Currently we have interviewed 40 of the 145 families in Jikaze and have learned of new deprivations and also of new skills that individuals possess, of which we were we were previously unaware. One MPI question relates to cooking fuel, and we have learned that families are spending an average of 11 hours a week collecting firewood. Due to this knowledge we are researching energy saving stoves that would cut their travel time down from 11 hours to 3 hours a week. Another question deals with malnutrition and we've learned that going without food for a few days is normal. Listening to the hardships that families are facing in Jikaze reminds me of why we are there in the first place and how we are called to spend our lives in service of others. The MPI will provide us with specific data that will allow us to create more effective and holistic development strategies with which to serve Jikaze.

Ann returning from
fetching firewood



Current Project Needs:

- \$2,500 to fix the borehole and provide clean water to the 1,000 villagers in Jikaze.
- \$12,000 as start-up capital for our Chicken Rearing Project in Jikaze, "Uhuru Kuku" (Freedom Chickens in Kiswahili).
- \$50,000 for construction of Jikaze Secondary School.

Much love and thanks to everyone who has and is financially and prayerfully supporting me and the work I am blessed to be doing in Kenya. The verse that has been resounding in my head this past month has been from Galatians 6:9 "Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up".