# KIVUKO

## CHANGING THE FUTURE FOR STREET CHILDREN'S LIVES IN TANZANIA

RAILWAY children
Fighting for street children

Kivuko is a Swahili word for "ferry" or "journey".

Railway Children's Kivuko project is like a **journey** too. Using a wide range of services and support, we help children in Mwanza, Tanzania travel from a dangerous street life to a destination of safety and security, where they can fulfil their incredible potential.

Mwanza is Tanzania's second largest city. 70% of its 500,000 inhabitants live in unplanned settlements which lack basic facilities like road, schools and water.

Many children feel they stand a better chance on the streets. As of 2021, there are at least **880** children on Mwanza's streets.

**What they find on the streets, however, is often much worse.**

Street children in Mwanza face dangers like **violence**, **sexual exploitation**, and **drug use** every day.

Kivuko aims to help these children.

Working with local authorities and statutory social workers, we provide **urgent care**, engage children in **education**, reunite them with their **families**, and provide **business** and **employability support** to young adults.



"Before joining Kivuko I was just eating once a day because we were so poor. Now I eat 2-3 meals every day."
- Mosi

### STREET OUTREACH

Railway Children finds children on the streets, provides them with rehabilitation, education and support, and prepares them for reintegration into their families.

### SMART SCHOOL DROP-IN CENTRE

Children can access informal and friendly educational lessons teaching basics such as maths and writing, get psychosocial support and life skills training.

### FAMILY REINTEGRATION

We work to reunify children with their families, and then work with the family as a whole to address the issues that led to the child running away, and stop it from happening again.

### YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS

Gangs of young people are provided with business support, training and placements to develop the capacity to generate income, and leave street life behind.

## READ ON TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT KIVUKO.

# STREET OUTREACH

Street-connected children are often robbed, beaten or raped. More than 88% of children we spoke to had been victims of **extreme violence** and/or **sexual violence**. Children are at risk of being recruited into **criminal activity**; street-connected girls are routinely forced into **sex work**. Depression, anxiety and trauma are common. **Drug use** is widespread. There is no access to **education**, leading to poor employment prospects later in life, and the prospect of continued **extreme poverty** into adulthood.

Our Outreach Workers walk the streets during the night looking for children like this while they are still asleep. Our immediate priority is to address the children's urgent needs, such as medical support.

**<u>Support includes:</u>**

**Health care:** Even before the pandemic, medical problems like rashes, diarrhoea, typhoid and malaria were common. The consequences of a lack of medical attention can be devastating - and even mean death on the streets. We can administer basic first aid, and we work with local government so children can access statutory healthcare.

**Shelter:** The most basic need for street-connected children is somewhere safe to sleep. Once children are engaging with Kivuko's activities, our team can link them to a residential facility which provides a safe space to stay on a temporary basis. We use this time to help prepare children for a return back home with their families.

**Education:** Though many recognise the importance of school, street children are deprived of formal education. Our **Mobile Classroom** is brought to areas where street-connected children gather and we run fun and friendly basic sessions around literacy, maths and life skills.

Street Outreach reaches around

**300**

children every year

**Emotional support:**
Street-connected children are like all children - their most basic need is for **love** and **care**. Away from home, they don't get it. Sadly, what they commonly receive is the complete opposite.

In Tanzania, street-connected children's experiences with adults are overwhelmingly negative. The majority of the public perceive street-connected children as a 'problem' or 'nuisance', and children are often the target of **abuse** and **violence**.

Many children have been through traumatic experiences, both at home and on the streets. It can take time for our Street Based Workers to win the trust of the children, but we provide experienced counselling to help children process the negative experiences they have been through.



# FAMILY REINTEGRATION

The safest place for a child is **at home with their family**. We help more than 100 children return to their families every year.

Support is of no fixed length - every child is unique, and so too is every child's reintegration journey. Support can be **Intensive** or **Non-Intensive**. For example, in cases involving violence and neglect, weekly visits may be necessary.

## HOW WE DO IT

Outreach Workers make contact with the child's family to begin the process. Simple cases take less than two weeks to reintegrate, but families with backgrounds in drugs or domestic violence might take as long as two years.

Visiting the family on regular occasions, we use the **Family Therapeutic Model** that focuses on resolving the effects of trauma, and building strong attachments between each family member.

We start by looking at the issues that led to the child ending up on the street and agree **targets** for the future. Targets can be as simple as 'live together as a family', or 'reducing alcohol in the family home'.

Support takes the form of fun, interactive sessions that focus on **relationships** and **trust** between family members, but our support may be practical too.

We may support the family to grow their earning capacity, which could involve business training, bio-intensive farming training, employment support, or business start-up grants.



*Rosa was struggling to feed her children, so they sought a better life on the streets. We reunified the family and helped Rosa with a business grant and some hairdressing training. Now she has a stable income and the children eat three meals a day. A happy family once more.*

More than

**100**

children are reunified annually

## 12 MONTHS AFTER REINTEGRATION...



**8 OUT OF 10**

children are still in school



**10 OUT OF 10**

families are still together



**8 OUT OF 10**

families generate more income

# SMART SCHOOL DROP-IN CENTRE

Street-connected children tell us that the single most important thing they need help with is access to a good standard of **education**. Without it, their life prospects are severely limited. Despite this, Tanzanian regulations make it difficult for children to get back into school after a long absence.

**Kivuko Smart School**'s friendly and welcoming atmosphere provides an important bridge to street children while we help them to get re-enrolled with formal schooling.

The Smart School is open from 7.00am-2.00pm, Monday to Friday. Lessons are delivered by Kivuko's Project Officers, and occasionally by special experts like doctors and nurses.

**100+**
children attend lessons every year

Street children also benefit from courses in **life skills** that either their parents or their formal schooling has not been able to give them. Examples include understanding violent behaviour, having normal relationships, manging money, how to find employment, and knowledge about their rights.



## LESSONS INCLUDE:

**Basic educational sessions:**
Fun, informal lessons help with the building blocks of a good education, including **maths** and **literacy**.

**Hygiene program:**
Especially important in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the hygiene program teaches children basic personal and environmental hygiene together with the practical activities of washing their **clothes**, **bathing**, **shaving**, and includes provision of washing facilities including **soap**, and **baby care** products for young parents (approximately 30% of the girls we support are mothers).

**Life skills:**
Sessions cover **violence**, children's **rights**, child **safeguarding**, **abuse** and its consequences, **conflict-resolution** skills, risk assessment **decision-making** skills, **behavioural changes** and **peer support**. We also hold an annual camping trip for intensive life skills training.

**Psychosocial Support Program:**
We also provide psychosocial support to build **confidence** and promote **positive changes** in behaviour. We do this with a mixture of activities, including **games** and **sports**, **drawing**, **art therapy**, **group therapy**, **one-on-one support** and **meditation**.

> *"Children on the streets need to be educated, because **one day we will all be adults**."*
>
> - Ila, 12

# YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS

**8 OUT OF 10**

go on to secure income + accommodation

Children who have been on the streets for a long time often group together in gangs, which only results in further danger. **Drug use**, **violence** and conflict with the **police** are common.

With training, specialised support and guidance, Railway Children empowers these gangs to instead form **productive**, **self-sufficient** groups ('**Youth Associations**'). Instead of gang members, they become **colleagues** with secure **housing** and **financial sustainability** through **employment**; and even their own businesses. We manage 10-15 groups at a time, with a total of **200-300** participants.



## HOW IT WORKS

We identify children and young people (aged 15-24) who have been on the streets for a long time. We earn their **trust** by playing sport and games, building **relationships**, and enlisting young people and organising for the group to meet once a week.

The group select their own leaders, sets rules and decides on a group name. They go on an intensive three-day **skills-building** camping trip, helping to cement relationships and set realistic goals. Next is Capacity-Building, where participants learn **life skills** such as substance awareness, HIV education, conflict-management, decision-making and more.

Groups may decide to run a business together, or seek employment as individuals. Whatever they decide, we will help them to achieve it. Over the next 6-12 months, we support the Youth Association into relevant **vocational training** and **work placements** to build their group and individual capacity. We may help with **startup grants** and **legal support**, such as registering as an official company. When groups graduate, we link them to other local businesses so they can continue their learning.

Youth Associations are phenomenally successful, with 80% of participants going on to secure income and accommodation.



When Khadija's dad died, her mum couldn't cope and abandoned her. On the streets, Khadija - **just a child** - turned to sex work. She was regularly **raped** and **beaten** by clients and police officers. She attempted **suicide** more than once.

In 2018, Railway Children found Khadija and persuaded her to join a Youth Association. Our **counselling** services helped her to process her trauma, and she trained on different life skills. She revealed her **dream** of working with food. We secured a **placement** on a food production course and her performance was so outstanding that she was quickly recommended to a hotel.

Now 18, Khadija **earns** £50 per month; enough to **rent** a house for her and her younger brother, and send her brother to **school**.

One day, Khadija dreams she will start her own restaurant. Thanks to Kivuko, **she is now in control of her own future.**

# OTHER PROJECTS

Kivuko also carries out other work for Mwanza's street children, including:

**105**

families per year receive ACT training

## ACT PARENTING PROGRAMME

The ACT Parenting Programme is training programme for parents who are at risk of their children leaving for the streets. It is a **preventative** project which has been recognised as an effective parenting program by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The 9-week course covers:

Understanding children's **behaviour**; Consequences of a child's exposure to **violence**; Controlling **parental anger**; Understanding and helping **angry children**; **Discipline** and **parenting styles.**

## COMMUNITY CARE PROJECT

We train local '**Community Champions**' to look out for street children, know what to do if they see a child at serious risk, and help them to access Kivuko.

Community Champions are normally in roles such as **bus driver** or **food seller** who come into contact with street-connected children on a regular basis. They are identified, with the help of the children themselves, as people who have been supportive and helpful, and who may want to do more to help. Last year we trained **20** new Community Champions - and together they referred **30** vulnerable children to Kivuko.



## CHILDREN AND YOUTH PLATFORM

Our Children and Youth Platform is a space for street-connected children to meet, reflect, exchange ideas, and learn how to contribute towards matters that impact their lives. They receive coaching in **public speaking**, and basic education around **children's rights**. Children are given a platform to voice their concerns and views to the **authorities** and other stakeholders.

This project helps children **speak for themselves** and **each other**.

## LEGAL AID

We help children and young people who are in trouble with the law.

We have a Legal Officer who can secure bail money, or support children to get out of the police station, help them to be aware of their rights, and be an advocate for the children

**THANK YOU FOR READING ABOUT KIVUKO.**
**WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE JOURNEY.**

# APPENDIX 1: BUDGET

FULL BUDGETS/BREAKDOWNS FOR EACH LINE ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

| PROJECT/PROJECTS | ITEM | DETAILS | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Street Outreach** | **Project Costs** | Project expenses including transport, activity costs and food and refreshments for children. | €15,853 |
| **Street Outreach + Smart School** | **3 x Street-based Workers** | Make contact with children and young people on the streets, provide any urgent care, engage them with sports and games, and run sessions at the Smart School Drop-In Centre. | €23,165 |
| **Smart School** | **Project Costs** | Project expenses including transport, activity costs and food and refreshments for children. | €7,973 |
| **Family Reintegration** | **8 x Family Workers** | Reintegrate street children with their families and work closely with families to address the core reasons the child ran away, over a period of weeks or months. | €57,870 |
| **Family Reintegration** | **Project Costs** | Project expenses including transport, activity costs and food and refreshments for children. Cost also includes supporting families to start their own businesses or start bio-intensive farming. | €58,601 |
| **Youth Associations** | **4 x Youth Workers** | Support young people to form Youth Associations, help young people to access the services and training that will build their capacity and increase their earning power. | €34,652 |
| **Youth Associations** | **Project Costs** | Course materials, travel expenses for youths to get to vocational placements, business start-up grants, costs of providing temporary accommodation to young people, and more. | €41,916 |
| **ACT Parenting Programme** | **Project Costs** | Costs including course materials and travel expenses to reach the families who will benefit most from the training programme. | €3,112 |
| **Community Care Programme** | **Project Costs** | Training, admin and support costs for members of the community who are sympathetic to street-connected children. | €2,365 |
| **Children and Youth Platform** | **Project Costs** | Stationery, refreshments and travel expenses to enable street-connected children with few or no means to participate. | €1,778 |
| **Legal Aid** | **Legal Officer salary** | Generating legal literacy and legal awareness among children and youth living and working on the streets, and be a legal advocate for children in conflict with the law. | €7,716 |
| **Legal Aid** | **Project Costs** | Stationery, refreshments and travel expenses to enable street-connected children with few or no means to participate. | €1,788 |
| **All Projects** | **Support Costs** | Costs include salaries of the Project Manager, Finance Manager, Administrator, Advocacy Officer and Driver. | €62,600 |

## KIVUKO TOTAL COST

**€319,389** PER YEAR