

# \\ \\ \\ \\ MAMBO \\ \\ \\ \\

## KESHO News 2007



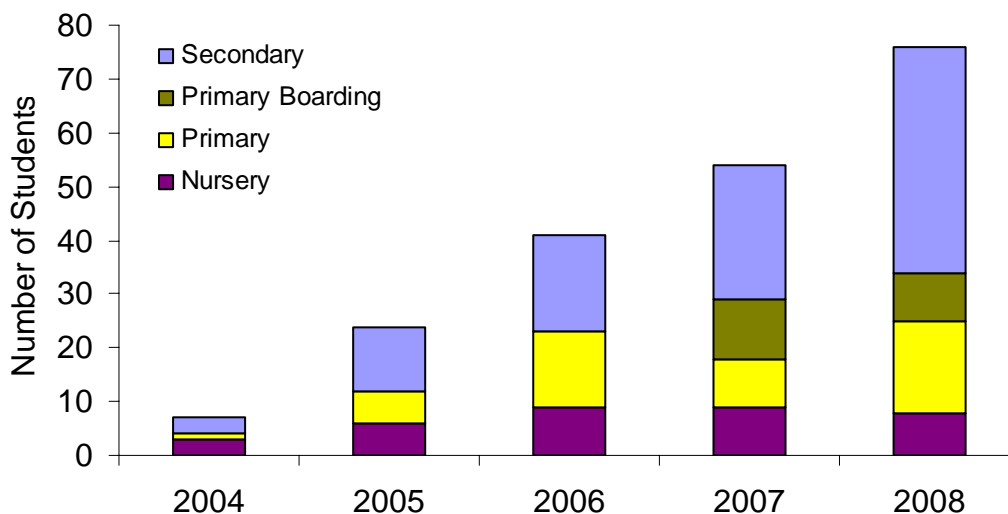
*Mambo means How are you? in swahili*

It's been a great year again at KESHO, and we'd like to let you know what's been happening through Mambo (issue 3) of our annual newsletter.

Since KESHO started, in a very small way, in 2004, a total of 67 children have now benefited through the sponsorship scheme. This year, there are 54 students being sponsored (26 Boys and 28 Girls) in 28 different schools around Kenya. Of these students, 17 are orphans. Thank you for all your support.

In 2008, we shall be recruiting 6 more primary students and 5 more secondary students. This was possible largely due to the fundraising efforts of a friend of KESHO which included a sponsored bike ride across Europe. In addition, Rotary International have pledged to sponsor a further 50 students, staggered over the next four years and have asked KESHO to administer the programme while acting as a Cooperating Institution with the Kilifi Rotary Club. This will approximate a doubling of student numbers over the next three to four years.

**Number of students sponsored by KESHO  
from 2004 to current**



### Sustainability and administrative support

The committee are currently very active in the management of the students, and all work voluntarily. While a limited amount of growth in the number of students being sponsored can be accommodated in the short-term, the group is going to be in need of administrative support in the future. Employing an administrator is a big step to take, and one which we've been stalling over for some time. However, with the numbers of students about to double in the next 2 to 3 years, we really must set up an administrative structure which will be more sustainable.

The aim is for the day to day activities to be undertaken by the administrator in the office with training and supervision by the committee. Accounts will remain the responsibility of the Treasurers, myself and Sally Crompton (UK). We have already submitted one proposal for funding and if we're successful funds should be forthcoming next June.

KESHO Days would still continue as we all felt they provide an important opportunity for students and committee to meet. Their role, however, would be redefined by giving less emphasis on administration and more on the provision of counselling services, access to career/further education advice, & offering a forum for talks, craft, drama etc.



KESHO Day Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 2007

### Student Databases and Accounts

Thanks to the invaluable support of Sally Crompton and Becky Njue (Kenya Committee Member) we've made considerable progress towards setting up a student/sponsor database both in Kenya and in the UK. These will help to streamline the administration considerably (Becky was shocked I was still using excel spreadsheets!).

Thanks to everyone for transferring your standing orders to our new KESHO bank account in the UK. Sorry for the inconvenience. A lot of work has gone into the management of the accounts this year. We now have a working system in Quickbooks which enables us to itemise income and expenditure for each individual child and a better system for tracking payments. It is proving absolutely marvellous!

## Promotion



We've not yet managed to set up a website, though we do now have a domain name of [Keshokenya.org](http://Keshokenya.org). We've got most of the material ready, we're just looking for some voluntary assistance. We'll get there next year I expect. We also have a new brochure which we'd be happy to post to you if you wish. Please ask!

## Local Collaborations

We're very keen to extend existing relationships with other organisations working in Kilifi District. Natural choices are with UPENDO, an orphan support group and Nursery School, and Moving the Goalposts (MTG), a group promoting football among girls in Kilifi District. Currently UPENDO host our KESHO Days and we refer anyone interested in sponsoring a nursery child directly to them. We also sponsor some of the older siblings of the UPENDO nursery children at primary or secondary school level. Furthermore, to try and redress the imbalance of boys over girls at secondary level, we will be offering 4 scholarships a year to MTG girls, using recently acquired funds from Rotary International.



## Emergency Fund

This year KESHO also set up an "Emergency Fund". The move was stimulated by a boy who was in need of an emergency operation. This newly started fund allows us some flexibility to extend our services and give additional assistance to those students who have particularly severe or acute needs. For example, should a student require emergency health care, a disabled student require crutches, or an orphan require transport to a KESHO Day gathering, the committee can provide for those needs on a discretionary basis.

## School Safari's

We have been on two expeditions into the interior of Kilifi District to visit some of the schools where KESHO students are being sponsored. It is our policy to visit students at school, or at home at least once during their period of sponsorship in order to give moral support to the student, assess their individual needs and clarify administrative issues and procedures. We reported on these visits earlier in the year. Here is a photo of Claris with her grandmother!



Many thanks once again for all your support. *Happy New Year!*