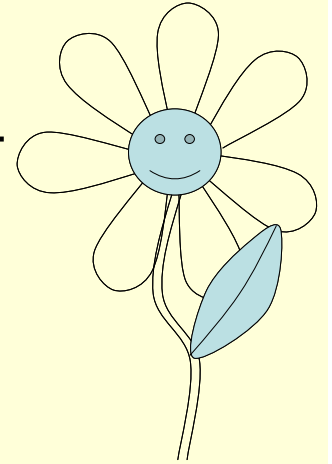


Happy Home Newsletter 1

Stellah, 28 July 2006



Content

- Thanking the donors
- Visit of the Belgian liaison office
- Action plans for the start-up of Happy Home
- Screening of orphans
- Renovations of the small building
- Action for the coming months

Thank you so much

- **Baby clothes, bed sheets, towels and Toys** arrived from Belgium, transported by the Belgian liaison during their trip to Kenya.
- **Clothes for primary school children** were donated by a staff of ICRAF, Nairobi
- **The donations and good advices** increase day to day. 2000 euro arrived from Belgium and 8000 KSh were donated through ICRAF.



Lovely clothes for children from primary school age.

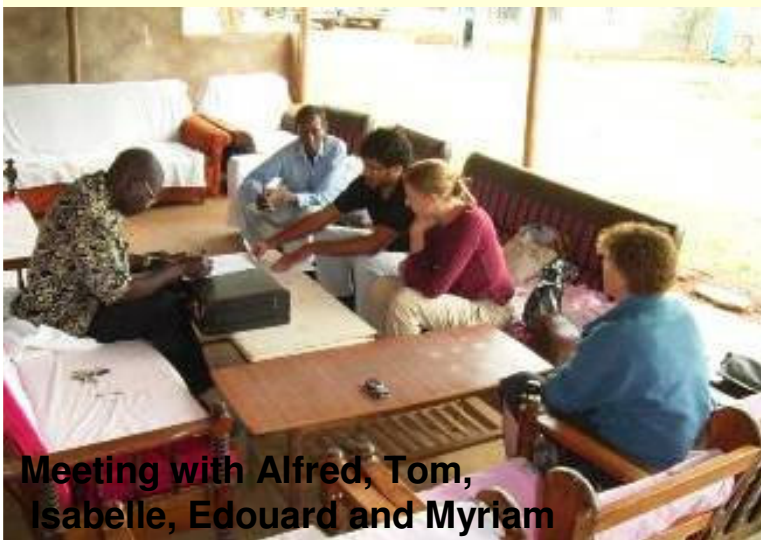


A huge bag of Baby clothes, toys, towels, bed sheets and baby shoes and socks

Visit of the Belgian office

Early July, several elements allowed a real start of the orphanage activities:

- The first **2000 euro** arrived from Belgium through asbl AMIE.
- The **Belgian liaison office**, represented by **Christian**, was in Stelah for 4 days.
- The last member of the Trustee Board, **Edouard**, arrived in **Kenya** and supported us with his management consulting capacities.
- **Time to make the real action plans.**



Meeting with Alfred, Tom, Isabelle, Edouard and Myriam



Omari (neighbour), Myriam, Christian, Isabelle and Edouard

Action plans

We faced two constraints for the start up:

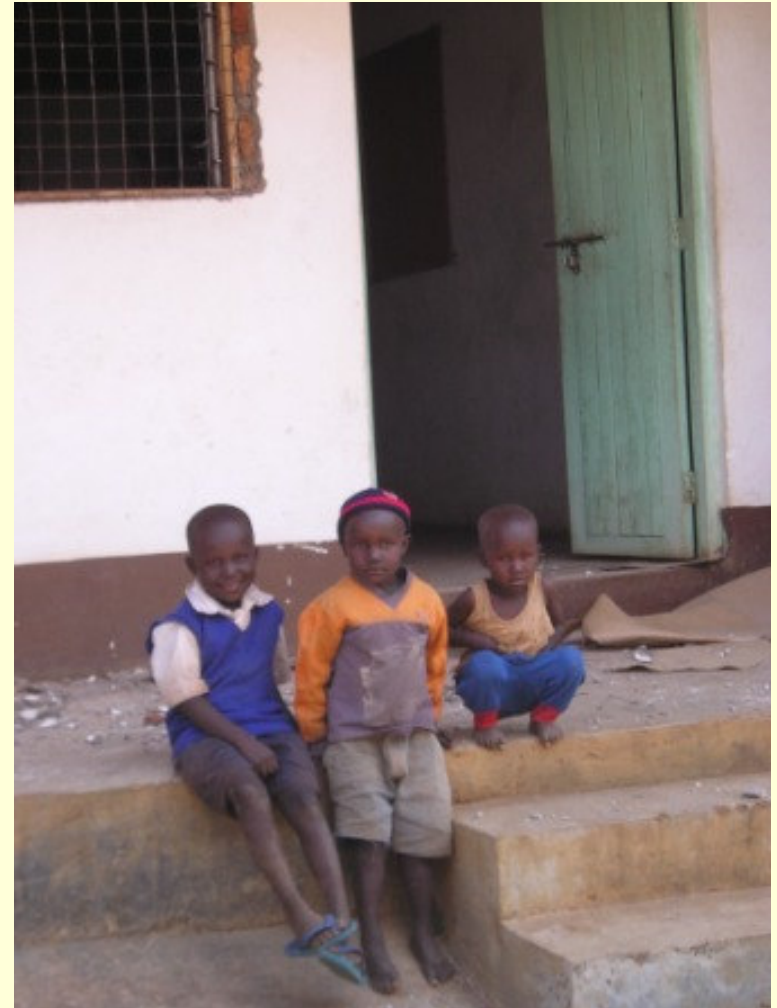
- The **government** requires **monthly reports** about the children as soon as the certificate is given. The institution cannot retain its certificate if activities do not start immediately.
- As long as **SUSTAINABLE MONTHLY funds** are not available to maintain the children in the orphanage, **we cannot host the children** in Happy Home.

Therefore, to reduce cost and “start” immediately, we decided:

- To start with **15 children**, from **primary school level** (smaller children require a lot of care, while secondary school children have expensive school fees).
- The social worker will **start identifying** these children in the surrounding of the orphanage. This gives us matter to discuss in the first government report.
- We will start giving support to these children **in their current host families** (clothes, food, school books, etc.) until we have sponsors for each child. And we will invite them once in a while to Happy Home to make them familiar with the place.
- We will **renovate only the small building** at this moment, as this is sufficient for 15 children. The renovation of the larger main building will be postponed.

Screening of orphans

Rachel, the social worker recommended to us by the government, started to survey Stella and the surroundings to **identify total orphans** and look at their present situation. As of now, she identified **more than 15** but will decide upon the **15 most needy cases** soon. Once the final decision is made, the files will be opened for our orphans, pictures will be taken of them and the documents will be prepared to legalise their situation.



Some orphans from the surroundings of Stella started hanging around to inspect the renovations since they heard an orphanage was under construction. Children are eager to live in a happy home.

Preparations for the Renovations

As explained earlier, Happy Home is composed of **two buildings**, having a total capacity of more than 60 children. Renovations are necessary to repair the roof, windows, and some other smaller repairs. The larger building is in a worse condition than the small one.

As we decided to start with **15 orphans only**, the smaller building should be sufficient.

Tom, Christian and Edouard went through every corner the building and roofs to **analyse the necessary repairs**.



Edouard, the chief and Tom



The roofs... leaking on the larger building



Tom and a fundi checking the windows to fix

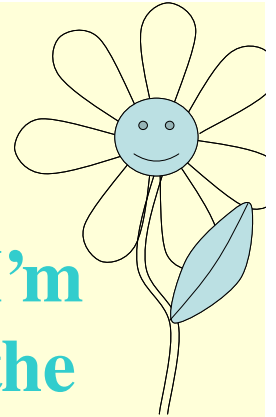
Renovations of the small building

The renovations started mid July

- All windows have been fixed, burglar grills have been added and mosquito nets were placed on the windows of the food storage.
- The signboard writer started painting the signboard on the roadside into “Happy Home”.
- **Two European volunteers** are on their way to help painting the building and finishing the small works.



To be continued...



I'm travelling back to Stellah this week Saturday. I'm very curious to see how the works evolved over the last two weeks.

The action plans for the coming months are:

- Finishing the legal arrangements
- Registration of the children
- Start supporting the children in their host families
- Preparation of the first expenditure and account balance report

