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# Nakuru Children's Rescue Centre

## International Children's Mission

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Jesus is LORD Team / Children Rescue Centre / Rehema School / Jesus is LORD Radio

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### POLICY DOCUMENT



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### Policy Statement:

**PROJECT TITLE:** Nakuru Children's Rescue Centre  
P.O.Box 12951, Nakuru  
Tel: 051-850911

**PERSONS IN CHARGE:** Michael Nieswand - 0722741822  
Archbishop Dr. Paul Athans Onjoro - 0722206604  
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**MISSION STATEMENT:** To organize a homely institution, to cater for the physical, social and spiritual needs for street boys, orphans and destitute boys through providing formal and informal education.

**VISION:** To restore the young boys in Kenyan streets for their own good and for the good of the society to the Glory of GOD.

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# 1.

## Introduction

The International Children's Mission is an inter-denominational Christian Children ministry and registered NGO with its headquarters in Nakuru, Kenya. Its main objective is to rehabilitate street children and to help orphans among other forms of destitute children.

Our approach in changing the lives and behaviour of the children is through the Gospel of Jesus Christ and prayer. Pastor Michael Nieswand who currently serves as the Executive Chairman founded ICM. His vision is to remove all children from the streets and to rehabilitate them to be useful members of the society.

# 1.

## 01 History

Mr. Nieswand initially came to Kenya in February 1983 as a missionary with the African Inland Church. He was mainly involved with street evangelism and worked with the A.I.C Diguna team. It was at their mission station near Mbagathi in Nairobi where a gang of thugs attacked him in 1984 and seriously injured him. After narrowly surviving, he wondered why unruly youth would attack and even kill others for no apparent reason.

He found the answer a short time later when he met the street children in Nairobi town and realized how they grew up in the street school of violence, hate and all sorts of crime and horror.

Once graduated from that destructive course, it's only natural for that kind of person to engage in all forms of violence and criminal activities, since that has been his normal life experience since early childhood. Nobody should therefore be surprised if attacked or killed in the city as long as children are left on the streets, being uneducated and raised up by criminals.

His efforts of preaching about the love of Christ in Nairobi were frustrated by the children themselves who challenged him to explain what kind of love GOD has if the Christians live in beautiful houses and drive big cars, while rejecting children and letting them dwell in dustbins on street corridors.

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Mr. Nieswand was shocked with the revealing truth in that question and realised that these children would not be able to understand the love of GOD, unless they practically experience parental love and care. Preaching only looked senseless and hypocritical.

After seeking GOD in prayer, Mr. Nieswand realized that the children must be removed from the streets and given a home where they can experience love.

In late 1984, he started the first children home “Bindura Children’s Family,” that was located in Binder village in Eldoret. In 1993, he started the Eldoret Children’s Rescue Centre which he later gave to the Government of Kenya to run. In 1997, Mr. Nieswand was requested by officials of the Nakuru Municipal Council, including the Mayor then (Mrs. Chelaite) to help rehabilitate the many desperate street children in Nakuru.

After praying about it, he later received a similar request from the Head of State then personally. The Nakuru Children’s Rescue Centre was started in 1998 and in 2001, the ICM was registered as an umbrella organization for the increasing number of projects. The Rehema Primary School followed shortly and meanwhile expanding to Rehema Secondary School. In August 2002, the Jesus is LORD Radio Station went on air.

## 1.

### 02 Approach

Successful rehabilitation of street children can only be achieved if the child is first of all physically and permanently removed from the streets and settled in a more positive environment with access to the Word of GOD, education and counselling.

While on the streets, the children mostly live in gang-like structures where addiction to drugs, sniffing glue, drinking of alcohol as well as peer pressure and addiction to street life itself (often manifested through criminal and anti-social activities) prohibit any meaningful change of behaviour or character.

Therefore ICM is opposed to half-hearted rehabilitation efforts that leave the children surviving on the streets while maybe providing money, food or clothing to them.

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Such efforts might prove to be counter productive because they encourage the children to move to the streets in order to get those benefits and in a way, reward the children for publicly misbehaving on the streets

ICM advises well wishers not to support children in their rebellious way of life on the streets, but rather to discourage it and take the children to school in order to save them from becoming future beggars or criminals.

The ICM staff mainly through the gospel crusades and personal counselling is reaching out to the children on the streets. However, others come on their own or are brought by relevant government officials.

Once a new child has been received and settled, the ICM field work staff tries by all means to trace the relatives of the child, in order to establish the root cause of the child's problem at home. If the problem at home can be resolved, the child can be reconciled with the family and later repatriated after rehabilitation.

Other children are taken for residential care at the Nakuru Children's Rescue Centre. Here, ICM provides them with all the basic needs including medical care, formal and informal education as well as guiding and counselling. In the processes, the talents of the children are identified and developed through various activities like sports, music and art.

## **2. Problematic Situation**

There are many things that have led to the existence of street children and other forms of destitute children in many parts of the world today. In the nation of Kenya, some of the things are as follows:

- ❖ HIV/ AIDS Epidemic
- ❖ Increased social evils e.g. rape & prostitution
- ❖ Domestic violence
- ❖ Early marriages due to family pressure
- ❖ traditional and cultural practices e.g. FGM
- ❖ Drug addiction/ abuse
- ❖ Population pressure hence poverty
- ❖ Lack of formal education

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- ❖ Gender issues
  - ❖ Acute unemployment
  - ❖ Up-coming street families
  - ❖ Physically disabled parents
  - ❖ Marital problem, i.e broken marriages and divorce
  - ❖ Economic crisis that has caused diverse effects to many people
  - ❖ Post-Election mayhem of 2007

### **3. Problem Statement**

Many children have left their homes due to various reasons and sought refuge in the streets where they are suffering due to various reasons including basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, and also lack of basic education, medical care and above all, parental care and guidance.

These have led to anti-social behaviour and norms such as drug abuse, petty crimes, physical assault and abnormal sexual practices. In-fact, the general public perceives these children as worthless criminals and social misfits that create a lot of animosity between them and the children; eventually, this puts them at great risk.

### **4. Vision**

To restore the young boys in Kenyan streets for their own good and the good of the society for the Glory of GOD.

### **5. Mission Statement**

To organize a homely institution that carters for the physical and spiritual needs of the street boys and destitute boys by providing formal and informal education.

### **6. Target Group**

Our main focus is on total orphans among other forms of vulnerable and destitute children of age bracket **9-14** years. These are the groups of boys we admit in the centre. the boy stays in the centre until the age of **17** years when he can graduate to another level thus his exit from the children home is now ready.

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## 7.

### Main Objective

To rescue and provide a home for the destitute children and street children, to give them education, training and make them ideal citizenship for the world of work and for the Glory of GOD.

## 8.

### Specific Objective

- To meet an individual child with a holistic approach
- To provide a home with a homely atmosphere with parental love, guidance and understanding
- To provide formal education and skill training
- To provide apprenticeship learning in a farm because Kenya is an agricultural country
- To provide organised use of leisure for rehabilitation functions
- Provide an atmosphere for physical needs of the child e.g. medical care, food, clothes and shelter
- To investigate the background/ causes of the child resorting to street life
- To carry out fieldwork of the specific child with an aim of connecting the child with his family
- To create an awareness of HIV/ AIDS among the children
- To provide spiritual guidance based on the Bible
- To plan for the sustainability of this program

## 9.

### Strategy

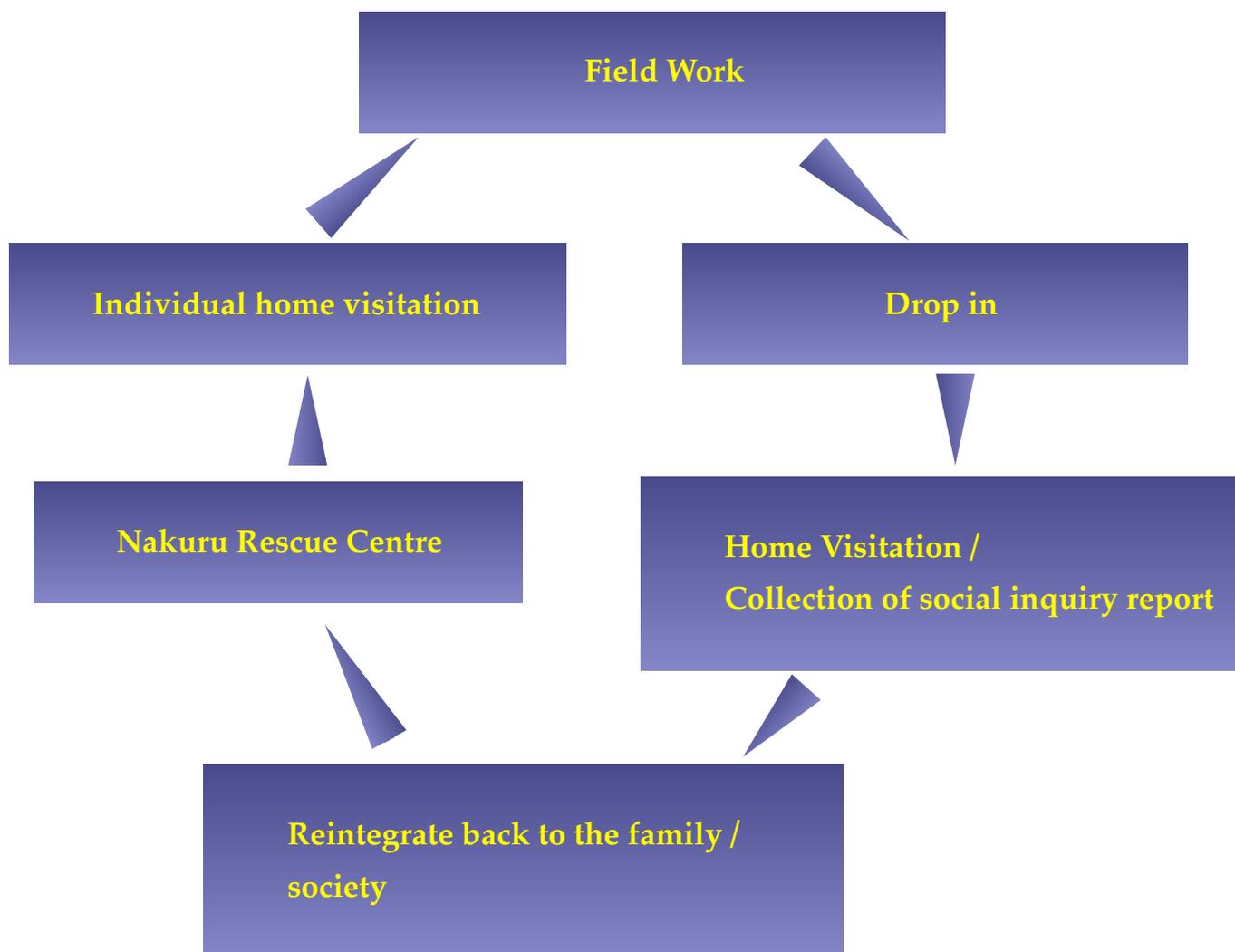
- ❖ Associating with the children where they are, identifying with their situation, accepting to be part and parcel of them in order to understand and meet their needs.
- ❖ To build the capacity of the working team through job training seminars and in-service courses as stipulated in the Children Act of 2001, to enhance good workmanship.
- ❖ To get connected with other service providers in order to share information and experience for good performance.

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## 10.

## Activities

The activities in Nakuru Children's rescue centre can be described as a circle that begins with fieldwork in most cases, and ends when the child is fully re-integrated back to the society. Some children need to go through all the steps while others go only through some as summarised below.



## 10.

### 01 Field Work

Many a time, our outreach teams through the mission work do visit various towns in Kenya, in the processes they do to come into contact with these children and build relationship with them. We do also talk with them on the streets to try and convince them to stop street life.

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## Objectives

- ❖ To meet the children where they are and build a relationship with them.
- ❖ To motivate them to leave street life
- ❖ To find out the reasons as to why they are on the street
- ❖ To try and find out how to help them and even bring them into the home

### 10. 02 Drop-In

On another visit of a particular town, the child previously identified i.e during the visits of the outreach team or staff members concerned receives the correct assistance as it deems fit.

## Objectives

- ❖ To bring the child to a safe place away from the streets and drugs
- ❖ To screen the child and be able to establish their background and real family situations
- ❖ Be able to provide basic needs for the child
- ❖ To enrol them in rehabilitation class
- ❖ Be able to plan the way forward for the child

### 10. 03 Visitation (Collection of social enquiry report)

When most of the boys come into the institution, they give information concerning their background as per what they can remember

## Objectives

- ❖ To get to know their ancestral homes
- ❖ To be able to verify the information given by the child
- ❖ Be able to understand and know their people
- ❖ To know how best we can assist the child
- ❖ To develop contact with the family / relatives for future purposes
- ❖ To provide guidance and counselling / spiritual help to the child and guidance in the path to develop a reunifying process

Many destitute children need to be rehabilitated first before being reintegrated to the society / relatives. In many cases, their families may also need to be restored before they can be able to care for their children. The period of rehabilitation varies from one child to another due to:

1. The situation at home
2. The drugs exposed to and for how long
3. Period of time spent in the streets

Our rehabilitation program entails various activities that begin with informal education, which includes guiding and counselling, Bible study among others, as the LORD directs us. We also provide formal education through our primary school fully registered by the Ministry of Education, in service training, in technical work/ Radio broadcasting and driving, that culminates to having the most interested parties taken to relevant institutions for further training.

We also train our boys in farming (Kenya being an agricultural nation) and animal husbandry; some of the skills that they would not have learnt if they were with their parents. We also give them social, emotional and spiritual guidance.

## Objectives

- ❖ To rehabilitate the child as effectively as possible with GOD's love and help.
- ❖ To give the child informal and formal education
- ❖ To develop skills and talents of each child
- ❖ To investigate the background of the child and family situations and assist where possible
- ❖ To find out why the child had resorted to the streets
- ❖ To find other solutions for the children who cannot cope up with formal education fully
- ❖ To create awareness of emerging issues to the boys, e.g effects of drug abuse and HIV/ AIDS
- ❖ To create public awareness and help find a lasting solution to the root cause of the problem affecting the children and their families

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## 10. 05 Individual Home Visitation

While the child is undergoing rehabilitation, we do carry out individual home visitation to get acquainted with their family members. Those undergoing formal education may be given permission to visit their people if known. However, this will entirely depend on the home situations and the rehabilitation maturity status the boy may have reached - this is basically to avoid having the children recycling back to street life and habits while on home visits. We3 do also try to be in touch with those who have left the institution after the rehabilitation process is over, in order to know their progress though it's not an easy task.

### Objectives

- ❖ To be able to reintegrate the children with their families and the society
- ❖ To know the family setup and background
- ❖ To counsel and motivate the parents/relatives to receive the child to their ancestral home
- ❖ Help the child understand that her still has a sense of belonging to GOD and in the society.

## 11. Facilities

The Centre is located on 150-acre land belonging to the International Children's Mission.

- We have three dormitories with cubicles and a caretaker's room in each of them. Each cubicle has a capacity of 12 boys with each having a bed, blankets and mattresses.
- We also have a multi-purpose hall capable of holding a capacity of 500 people per sitting
- We also have improved modern jokiist in place of diverse capacity; 1001, 1501, 2001 and 3001
- The Centre has a very big store for storage of cereals and foodstuffs. In addition to this, we also have vegetable gardens to supplement our vegetable needs with water reservoirs to store water for irrigation during dry seasons
- The Centre also has a borehole 250m deep where water is pumped by electricity to storage tanks which enhances continuous water supply in the centre, the same is supplemented by harvested rain water.

- In addition, the Centre has nine classrooms in the primary section capable of accommodating 40 pupils, a staff room, library, administration block. Playgrounds are also in place for various games.
- The centre also provides housing for its staff and also a first aid room for handling emergencies.
- There are also vehicles for fieldwork and for outreach work.
- A radio station is also in place and is very vital in reaching out to the entire wider community to help curb the issues of immoral behaviour among many others that have led to the increase of street children in the country.

- **Farm**

The farm in the Centre is used to grow crops and fruits. To supplement our feeding program, various crops are grown, such as wheat, beans, maize, fruits and other fodder crops like Napier and sunflower that are used to feed dairy cows kept for the production of milk for the boys in the centre. The boys also through the same are able to learn animal husbandry, aimed at making them responsible persons and managers of their homes. The centre also has a tractor, which is used to till the farm and is driven by one of the former boys of the Centre employed by the organization after he completed training at the Centre. Bee keeping is also practiced on the farm.

- **Posho Mill:**

The posho mill in the home is basically used to serve the centre by preparing posh for the children and also used to prepare the fodder we need to feed our dairy animals. It also serves the community at subsidised prices to generate running cost for the machine.

## 12. Criteria For Admission

In Nakuru Children's Rescue Centre, there are divers methods of admission of the children. We do admit street children who are orphaned that we meet during out missionary work outside and visit to various towns.

After the children are in the centre, we do our best to establish the truth whether the children are indeed orphaned and this is done by getting to the roots in trying to get the documentations of proof about the death of their parents. This involves getting letters from the area chief and churches and other relevant authorities. Children brought in from poor families by relatives and well wishers have to produce the same.

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Some children are brought in by the government through the children's department. Regardless of the case, every child has his own file that all the relevant information about the child is kept during the whole processes of rehabilitation and care while the child is at the centre.

### 13. Children's Welfare

The issues concerning the children take the very first priority in the institution more so as stipulated in the Children Act. We do focus on the interest of the children. Moreover, all forms of mistreatment of the children and child abuse are prohibited

Boys in the centre have two main channels to make their complaints through the different phases of the day.

1. During school time
2. Outside the normal school hours

During school hours, there are several ways in which complaints can be represented during school hours although during all this time, the child is free to reach out to the Manager and these ways are represented as below:

**Class Prefect** (should report the case to the class teacher)



**Class Teacher**



**Deputy Head -Teacher**



**Head-Teacher** - Expected to handle all the complaints but he can forward to the Manager if the matter may seem complicated to him. However, action shall be documented (from the class teacher's level)

Outside school hours, the complaints are to be reported to any leadership available; the protocol below may be followed. However, the child is free to seek help from any person they feel comfortable with but all the persons involved should notify the

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management of the cases and the action taken and should be documented

**Any Prefect available/trusted person**



**Teacher on duty**



**Guidance and counselling office**



**Manager** - Should be able to handle at all levels. The complaint shall not be subjected to any kind of victimization and if possible in some cases, he shall remain unanimous but the remedy and case documented.

## 14. **Health**

The health of the children in the institution is taken with a lot of gravity. Any child who requires medical care is well taken care of through our first aid room and in case of further medical attention, they are referred to relevant professionals in diverse medical facilities within Nakuru County.

Apart from that, we see to it that the children get balanced diet; routine health care is carried out. We also see to it that our children have clean and sufficient water for drinking, washing, bathing, and also have enough soap, shoes, polish, petroleum jelly, toothbrushes, etc.

We also ensure that the food of the children is prepared in the right manner by use of well cleaned utensils, clean water, vegetables thoroughly washed before cooking and well cooked by a professional chef.

## 15. **Staff / Employees Training**

The institution employs staff on contract basis. these contracts are renewed yearly as the board may deem fit to do for the individual employee. This is done by having many individual employees to request for the same.

## Nakuru Children's Rescue Centre Administration Structure

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