



## Foundation plan

Helping the street children of Kenya



**'You must be the change you want to see in the world.'**

*Mahatma Gandhi*

*Indian political and spiritual leader (1869 - 1948)*



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## Foreword

This plan is to introduce the BeHoCa Foundation. BeHoCa Foundation is established to support the street children of Mombasa in achieving a promising and healthy future. Our goal is to reduce the number of street children roaming aimlessly on the street of Mombasa, Kenya. Alleviate poverty and empower the 'Boy Child' the vulnerable boy orphans. The statistics indicates the increasing rates of boys abused and neglected by society. There is evidence enough that no action is taken towards boy child education, due to aggressive NGO's and the civic organization massive campaigns in favor for the 'Girl Child' Rights.

Over the recent years, there has been a degradation in morals and ambition from the boy child. This is so due to the attention focused on the girl child. There is also lack of enough father-figure models and we can blame it on alcoholism, drugs and neglect of responsibilities by most men. There is need to focus on the boy child so as to change the next generation and bring forth a happier, stable society. Equality should be embraced on all matters of life. The boy child needs to be saved so that we can have a reduction in the number of widows, orphans and street children. BeHoCa Foundation suggest ways in which the boy child could be rescued. The various organizations that advocate for female rights are overwhelming and the support in terms of financial capital is not equivalent to that of the boy child. No one gender at a particular time should be more superior than the other. Additionally, more gender sensitive organizations should be formed rather than only an organization addressing a particular group.

After six months of volunteering in Mombasa, Kenya, I came up with the idea of raising BeHoCa Foundation. During my volunteering I worked with street children. I saw how many children fell short in so many ways. Like every other child, they have the right to a carefree childhood, with a perspective of a promising future. That is why I see this as my mission. With support of the Kenyan government and other charitable people, BeHoCa Foundation can offer the street children of Mombasa this opportunity. This plan describes where BeHoCa Foundation stands, what the foundation aspires and how the foundation operates. BeHoCa stands for Believe, Hope and Care. In other words faith, hope and care. The kids are keeping their **faith**, despite the life they are living. They continue to believe in God and a chance for a better life. Faith keeps them standing in the life they live. I believe in these children. I believe they can and will change. The children have **hope** as well. Hope for a better future, hope for schooling, but most of all hope for help. When you communicate with the children on the street their eyes shine for a little moment, a glow of hope. Hope is the mainspring of life. If you lose hope, you lose everything. All children are entitled to **care**. Care can offer these children a youth to which they are entitled and through the right care they will be able to face a promising future.

**'What we are doing is just a drop in the ocean, but if we did not do it,  
the ocean would be smaller, because of that missing drop.'**

*Mother Teresa - her life and work in words and images Utrecht: Servire, 1997*

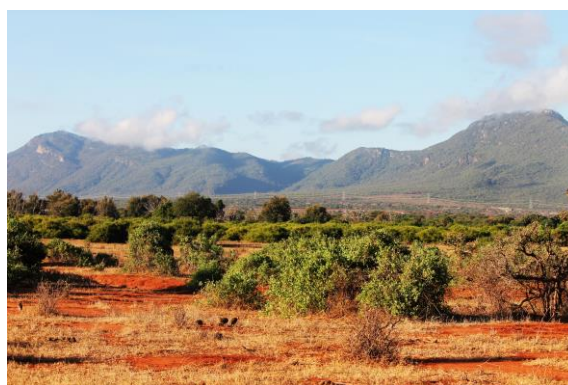
Melissa Kreps  
Geffen, 1st of July, 2012



## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Kenya

A beautiful country in eastern Africa, named after Mount Kenya. This mountain is located almost in the middle of the country and is the second largest mountain in Africa and one of the largest single mountain in the world. Kenya is situated in the middle of the equator and covers an area of approximately 583.000 km<sup>2</sup>. Kenya is bordered in the east by the Indian Ocean and shares its borders with: Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania. The capital of Kenya is Nairobi. Mombasa is one of the other five major cities of Kenya, with the main port at the Indian Ocean. The Kenyan population consists of groups from all across the continent. Because of this, Kenya has more than 70 ethnic communities, who speak almost eighty different dialects. English is the 'official' language and Swahili the 'national' language of Kenya. Most Kenyans are Christians. This is due to the missionaries who brought the faith. About 45% of the population is Protestant, 33% Catholic, 10% has an African Christian religion and about 10% are Muslim. The currency of Kenya is the Kenyan Shilling. The most famous national parks in Kenya are the Maasai Mara, Amboseli and Lake Nakuru.<sup>1</sup>



### 1.2 Numbers

Many organizations believe that the number of children living in the street is approximated to be somewhere between 100 million and 150 million. The age of these children starts from 0 years old.

UNICEF defines street children into two categories<sup>2</sup>:

1. Children who have some kind of economic activity on the streets, like begging or selling. These children are going home at the end of the day. They give their earnings to their family. These families are often unstable. That is why the children may choose for a permanent life on the streets.
2. Children who live on the street outside a family circle. Perhaps family ties do exist, but they are loose and are inadequately maintained.

Kenya has more than 250.000 street children.<sup>3</sup> These children are forced to live on the streets, because they have no (safe) home. Many of these children are orphans, abused at

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<sup>1</sup> Barsby, J. (2008) *Cultuur Bewust! Kenia, een leidraad voor gewoonten & etiquette*, Uitgeverij Elmar B.V., Rijswijk

<sup>2</sup> [www.unicef.nl](http://www.unicef.nl)



home or neglected. They deliberately choose for a street life or are sent to the street to contribute to the family income.

In Kenya there are more than 46 million people. 40.9% is younger than 14 years.<sup>4</sup> Approximately 1.5 million people are carriers of the HIV/AIDS virus, including children (see figure 1). Kenya has a total of approximately 1.1 million AIDS orphans.<sup>5</sup>

Figure 1. People with HIV/AIDS



The poverty line varies by country. Therefore the poverty line is usually referred to as: the income that a person needs to have to be able to cover basic needs. When an income is equal to the poverty line, all of the income will be spent on the expenses.<sup>6</sup> Between 40% and 50% of the Kenyan population lives below the poverty line.<sup>7</sup> As a result, many parents are forced to send their kids to the streets to meet the basic needs of the family as much as possible.

Many of these children will ultimately stay on the street. They barely return to their family. The children experience more freedom at the streets than at home. At home they have to give their earnings to their parents. When the income is too low, they often get extra spanking.

### 1.3 Living conditions of a street child

The living conditions of the children on the streets is harsh. They have little or no access to education, health and rehabilitation. They sleep and live in unsafe places, eat and drink unsafe water and food. The children face violence, abuse and sexual exploits every day. They are repeatedly chased by the police and neighbors and come into contact with crime and drugs. Especially in the capital Nairobi, with around 4 million<sup>8</sup> inhabitants, life is hard. From experience many children will therefore move from Nairobi to Mombasa. About 650.000

<sup>3</sup> [www.cordaidkinderstem.nl](http://www.cordaidkinderstem.nl)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.indexmundi.com/nl/kenia/demografie-profiel.html>

<sup>5</sup> [www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ke.html](http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ke.html)

<sup>6</sup> [www.wikipedia.nl](http://www.wikipedia.nl)

<sup>7</sup> [www.wikipedia.nl](http://www.wikipedia.nl)

<sup>8</sup> Engelhardt, M. *Kenia Tanzaniaen Zanzibar, Ontdekken en beleven*, Zuidnederlandse Uitgeverij N.V. Aartselaar, België





people are living in Mombasa<sup>9</sup>. In Mombasa life is just a little quieter, less aggressive and has more tourists who think the children are 'pitiful' and easily give food and money to the kids.

Nevertheless, the children in Mombasa still have to deal with the harsh and unsafe life on the streets every day. The children who live on the streets often come into contact with drugs. Glue sniffing is the number one use of drugs. This is cheap and has an effective action on the children who are getting high on it, so that they can 'escape' from reality for a moment. The consequence of this can be that buying glue is more attractive than buying food for example. In addition, chewing Miraa (Khat) is also very popular. The impact of Miraa is more effective and longer lasting than glue. It is just a bit more expensive.



The concept of 'reality' can be based on the world as it can be experienced by one person. This may include how the person experiences himself, how the person experiences his social environment (the other), or how the person experiences physical surroundings (the other). Children in the Netherlands 'escape' mostly from reality through play and activities. Who hasn't been a doctor, princess, knight, pilot or policeman in their youth?

Children play because they feel like it at that moment. Play is spontaneous, you cannot say to a child 'go play'. Playing is a form of spontaneous self-expression. Self-expression means: express what is in your thoughts, desires, feelings, et cetera. Playful behavior means that consideration is given to the feeling of freedom to immediately express your thoughts, desires, feelings, et cetera. The children in the Netherlands are free, able and allowed to do this. They don't need to use drugs for this. Usually they have tools which stimulate playing and expressing. These tools can be: dress up clothing, computer games, reading books, playgrounds, et cetera.<sup>10</sup>

The street children of Kenya don't have any of this. They do not have the option. On the street it's all about survival. And you will not survive as a princess, or knight. The reality for these children is that they live on the streets, they will grow up here and many of them will also die on the streets. To approach a life outside the street is too big to do alone for these kids. They are children and children should not have to take care of themselves. These children have the right to be allowed to escape from reality, because they feel like it,

<sup>9</sup> Engelhardt Engelhardt, M. Kenia Tanzaniaen Zanzibar, Ontdekken en beleven, Zuidnederlandse Uitgeverij N.V. Aartselaar, België

<sup>10</sup> Rosmalen, J. (2007). *Het woord aan de verbeelding*, Spel en kunstzinnige middelen in het sociaal agogisch werk, Bohn Stafleu Van Loghum: Houten/Diegem



because they want to express themselves. Not because they are so desperate and see drugs as a last resort. BeHoCa Foundation is committed to this!

### **BeHoCa stands for Believe, Hope and Care.**

Life in some parts of Kenya, especially for the poor in most parts of the region is marked by an unending struggle to see through diseases, conflict, poverty, forced labour, rape and other quandaries from birth, through childhood, adulthood and even death. In fact, the journey of a child, born of a poverty-stricken parent starts from the mother's womb. While some women have to flee conflict-infested areas, many others have to labour and sweat just to find something to feed on. To many of the surviving children, life never gets any better as they come to live in urban slums grappling with a plethora of challenges from economic to social, political to climatic. A region so dire and where the poor inherit poverty from their poorer parents and plunge even deeper, where education is many a times a luxury, disease an indispensable enemy, and insipid life an inevitable scenario.

If not looked after, the situation for these children catapult from bad to worse before degenerating into a case of desperate situations calling for desperate measures. Many find themselves braving the pungent smell and sickening sight of garbage as they sort trash and desperately scramble with flies and fungi for leftovers in dumpsites. Some others become the subject of abuse, being forced into child labour with a meager or no pay, while



some others, out of abject poverty and utter helplessness get absorbed into crime and grime, abusing drugs and alcohol and engaging in activities like illicit brewing. As they grow into adulthood, most of them die while the youth blood is still running in their veins. Others become masterminds of the crime business committing crime after another, getting beatings after beatings and their lives wearing out and deteriorating by every minute count. Some move from one correctional facility after another, before eventually ending locked up behind bars where life never changes for the better. It is sometimes in these dingy settlements stained with zero amenities to many, sexually transmitted diseases and hardcore criminals that many of them meet their death. The life of an African boy child can only be described as desperate, unsavory, distressing, nondescript and perhaps non-existent.



## 2. Reason of existence BeHoCa Foundation

### 2.1 Establishment

BeHoCa Foundation was established in May 2012 in the Netherlands by Melissa Kreps. As many street children as possible will be offered a promising future.

During her Social Work study at Avans in the Netherlands, Melissa completed her internship in South Africa in 2009. After completing her studies in the Netherlands she returned to Africa because of the beautiful experience during her time in South-Africa. 'I've lost my heart to Africa', says Melissa. However, Melissa ended up in Mombasa in Kenya this time. She worked with orphans, AIDS orphans and eventually with street boys. While working with the boys Melissa



encountered that the children came short in many areas. The number of homes for these children in Mombasa is minimal. Most of the time the homes only look at the basic needs of the kids. However, these children have more needs than food, drink, housing, education and clothing (these requirements are clearly discussed in chapter 3).

Melissa had many conversations with the boys of Mombasa to collect information. She discovered that especially children in the city appear to be invisible to the locals. The local population sees the children as a burden. But what else can these kids do? They have little to nothing to fall back on. The street is often their only chance of survival.

### 2.2 Tools to support the street boys

Melissa would like to start a home for the street boys in Mombasa. In this home they will look further than only the first necessities of life. The child is seen as an individual with many abilities and talents. Many children are very creative, are good at singing and dancing or are resourceful and enjoy working with their hands. Melissa will be the coordinator of this home with the support of BeHoCa Foundation in the Netherlands.

On the other hand, these children have far greater psychological needs to be address as the fact of the matter. Providing them with the basic needs like food, clothing, shelter and education practically does not address the wholistic needs of the child. It is proven that 4 out of 5 children would likely to run away from home and to go back to the street and resumed the harsh living conditions rather than living in the home and going back to school.

### 2.3 Social relevance

Worldwide children have rights. To ensure that these rights are met 'The Convention on the Rights of the Child', has been adopted in 1989 by the General Assembly of the United





Nations.<sup>11</sup> According to the Convention, children have the right to a balanced development and growth to adulthood. The Convention on the Rights of the Child has 54 articles. These articles are divided into care, protection and information and the expression of opinion. For example, children are entitled to education, health care and a safe place to live and play. Likewise, children have the right to protection from abuse, child labor and sexual exploitation, including prostitution and pornography. In short, this pact covers all areas of the life of a child.

The girl child empowerment in Kenya has sidelined the boy child pushing him to the periphery. The boy child has been ignored for too long. The boy Child is suffering a life skills crisis and needs to be empowered. Life skills enable us to deal with day to day challenges. Consequently, family values are in danger since the boy child is expected to head the family. This has caused many families today to be dysfunctional. The nation which is built on the foundation of the family is standing on a shaky foundation. Children upbringing models a person to be what he is. Current boy child has been brought up mainly by their mothers. Most fathers are absent physically or emotionally to act as role models to the boy child. Consequently, he has not been trained in the responsibilities of a man. It's common to find family men who are running away from their responsibilities.

When challenges arise at home many men hide in work and in the bars getting home late. This takes them deeper into drugs and substance abuse which has become a national problem threatening to cripple the nation. Women though empowered bear the heavy burden of caring for the family single handedly. However all is not lost and we can start a new balanced empowerment legacy. As an individual, the boy child can choose to become a role model and empower the future generation.

Everybody is suffering from these past empowerment disparity, and it should come to a halt. Deal with negative experiences, set realistic expectations and be optimistic. BeHoCa Foundation initiatives are focusing on the boy child empowerment which should be embraced and supported. However the current boy child empowerment efforts are far from adequate, donors and sponsors needs to commit themselves to the worthy cause in Kenya.

The aim is to accomplish important development before 2015 in these goals. The eight goals are concrete and measurable. The progress of these goals are measured every year and reported. If necessary more pressure can be exerted on the countries to increase their efforts.

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<sup>11</sup> [www.unicef.nl/over-unicef/kinderrechten.aspx?gclid=CLTNzpOCpq8CFYaDDgodJwSGZA](http://www.unicef.nl/over-unicef/kinderrechten.aspx?gclid=CLTNzpOCpq8CFYaDDgodJwSGZA)



The eight goals are:

1. Poverty eradication, decreasing hunger
2. No Child Left Behind (Rights to Education)
3. Gender equality
4. Reducing child mortality
5. Improving maternal health
6. Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Protection of the environment, clean drinking water for everyone and less people in slums
8. Access to affordable medicines, a fair trade, less debt for developing countries

All these goals have an effect on the life of a child. So when these goals are achieved, there will be less children who have to live on the street and they have more chance of a positive future with their parents.

The MDG's are not just a matter for governments and civil society organizations. In order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals before 2015 everyone has to work hard worldwide. But the world is running behind schedule. With additional effort, the goals are more likely to succeed.<sup>12</sup>

BeHoCa Foundation sees its social necessity to advocate the rights of street children in Mombasa. And also to contribute to the achievement of several Millennium Development Goals (see chapter 5 to which of the MDG's it's about).

The goal of BeHoca is to provide services for vulnerable children in the least restrictive environment possible and address the plight of children and youth with emotional, behavioral and learning problems.

- Identification, assessment, categorization, and placement procedures; provide skills and attitudes with the goal of rehabilitation and adjustment of street children and the vulnerable to the environment
- Provide volunteers experts, professional who are skilled in theory and in the practice of dealing with Emotional and Behavioral Problems
- Increase the inclusion of vulnerable and disadvantage children in regular schools, related services, and community-based programs increase parental participation
- Identify gifted and talented children early and provide them with special programs that will increase the development of their special gifts and talents

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<sup>12</sup> [www.dewereldvandevn.nl/de\\_verenigde\\_naties/millenniumdoelen](http://www.dewereldvandevn.nl/de_verenigde_naties/millenniumdoelen)



## 3. Target group

### 3.1 Street children

Street children are forced to live on the streets. Usually they do not go to school. Each child has a different reason to live on the streets.

The child...

...is (AIDS) orphan

...is (sexually) abused at home or neglected, because of the poverty and alcohol abuse, they walk away because of the powerlessness feeling

...thinks the streets have more to offer than his or her family

...is sent to the street to help increase the family income, usually they sleep at home

...lives on the street with his or her family

Street children are often in the crime scene to survive. They steal, deal drugs, use drugs, or use (sexual) violence.

- Worldwide there are over 100 million street children
- 1 in 5 street children are younger than 15 years
- 1 in 10 street children is a girl<sup>13</sup>

### 3.2 The home

Currently BeHoCa Foundation focuses on all street children of Mombasa in Kenya. We are aiming to take as much boys into the home as possible. The home is a 24-hour reception home and will give place to boys. This is because the number of boys is many times larger than the number of girls. A lot of girls are already taken in by other institutions.<sup>14</sup> The boys can stay in the home until they are capable and independent enough to live on their own. During this process they will be supported by the social workers of the home. We make sure they've got work and a place to live. They boys can always depend on our help.

The home works with an age guideline when the boys are taken into the house. The age will start from the minimum of 4/5 years old to the maximum of 13 years old. We have chosen for this directive, because the children are obliged to education in this age (from 7 to 15 years). The children in this age group have the greatest potential to improve their lifestyle. We don't want to have a big age gap between the youngest and the oldest child. This is a guideline, but with each child we will look at his 'potential'. With the intake we prefer boys who are orphans. This is because they are no longer able to have any contact with their parents. Street children who do have parents, don't have to stand alone in principle. But hereby we will still look at the individual situation of every child. For every child will be decided whether or not we will include him in the home. Again, there will be looked at the 'potential' of the boy.

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<sup>13</sup> <http://streetkidnews.blogspot.com/category/1/north-south-america/honduras-streetkid-news> Street Children News-assesment of street children

<sup>14</sup> informatie Kinderbescherming Mombasa



We will be working on a firm process, with the help of a local expert. If the foundation is considering to take in a boy, they will meet the boy several times. Agreements will be made and information will be collected. When the boy attends to the meetings, his information is considered relevant (and his statements are not contradictory), then the boy is allowed to enter the home.

*Example: a boy of 15 is an orphan but is strong, knows how to get money, can survive on the street. He would just really like to go to school and have a life beyond the street, but doesn't get the chance because of his street life. He attends to the meetings with the expert of BeHoCa Foundation. He may be taken in. Another boy of 14 has parents. He ran away because he was mistreated and saw no other way out. Going back is not an option. This boy is not strong enough to live on the streets. He is always the target of abuse and his properties are constantly stolen by other street children. This boy would really like to go to school and wants to live off the streets. This boy attends to the meetings with the expert of BeHoCa Foundation as well.*

*The foundation has one spot open for a child and will eventually choose the boy of 14 to come into the home, although he still has parents. The boy of 15 is more capable to face the street life than the boy of 14.*

These are horrible decisions that the foundation has to make. Why he may and why he may not. But ultimately, the foundation is working with funds from donors and donations. Through this rigorous approach, the funds is not wasted. The children who will be admitted really want to change and really need it.

The foundation has to deal with two different groups of street boys in Mombasa. There are boys who use drugs and boys who do not use drugs. There will not be made any distinction between those two at the intake. Again, there will be looked at the 'potential' of the child.

'Potentials' of a child can be read as:

- Will the child be able to adapt to the rules/structure of the home?
- Will the child be able to let go of the street life?
- Will the child respect the agreements that are made?
- Will the child be able to live together with the other children?
- Will the child be open to the staff and guiders?
- Would the child want to change and improve himself?
- Is the child able the keep standing in the street life or not? How important is it to his development that he will be taken in the home?

### **3.3 Mentality and procedure**

The home is based on a Holistic and Humanistic vision. This vision is based on people as individuals with a human-centered approach, and not an approach on his or her problems. Due to their history, every boy needs a different approach. A child who has become an orphan, because his parents are deceased by HIV/AIDS has a different basis than a child who has run away from home, because he was abused, neglected or raped by his parents.



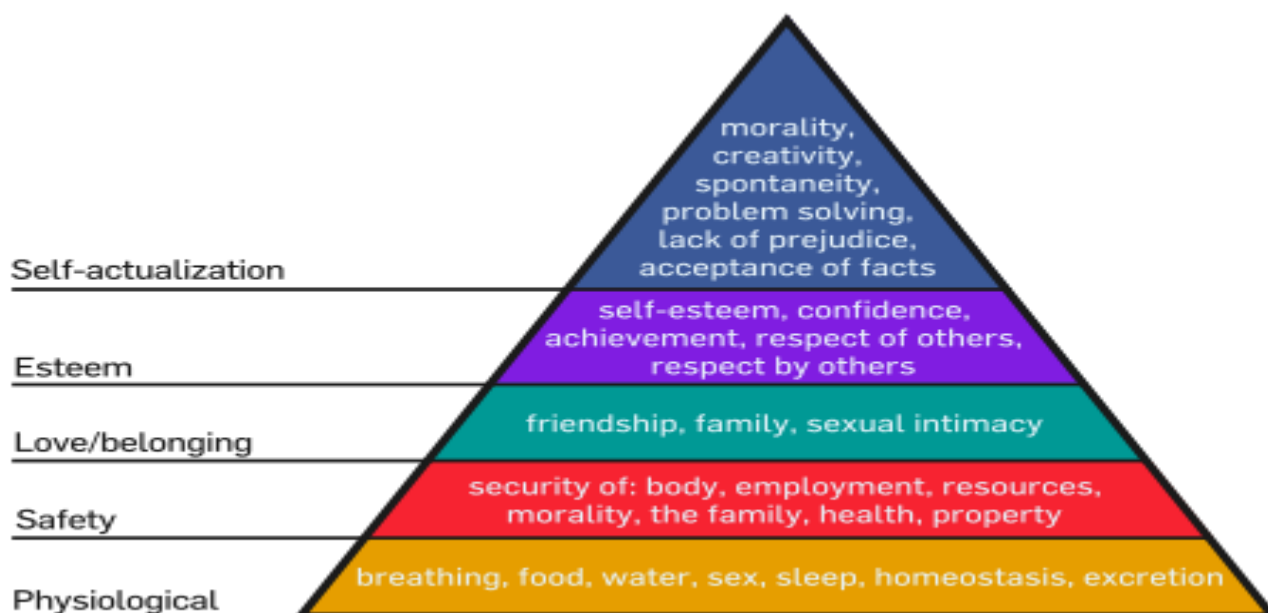


*'The humanistic thinking believes that a person shows problem behavior, because his attempt to self-development is blocked or obstructed. The reason for this is the fact that so called 'lower' needs, like physiological needs and safety needs, are neglected or blocked.'*<sup>15</sup>

As the foundation looks at the person and his needs, they can work bit by bit on satisfying the necessary needs of the boys. Then the attempt of self-development will no longer be blocked or obstructed.

According to Maslow (1907-1970) the need areas of a human being exists of five layers. According to Maslow the inner need is always the motivation for a particular action, regardless of cultural background. If the need changes, the motivation will change as well. The Pyramid of Maslow is his theory about the different motives behind the human acting. This pyramid contains five layers.

Figure 2. Pyramid of Maslow



The lower four layers are central to abolish the shortcomings. The basis of layer five is growing, the development of man by self-development. The guidance for the boys consists of providing the necessary needs layer by layer.

For example, everyone needs security first, before you are able to develop yourself and before you open up for contact and/or love. The boys particularly need to know that they are safe. And to know that they are taken care of. And to know there are food and drinks. They do not need to arrange these things themselves. This will allow the boys to open up to the other layers. By supporting them in achieving these layers, they will eventually develop

<sup>15</sup> Dito, J.C., Stavast, T., Zwart, B.E. (2008). *Basiszorg*. Houten: Bohn Stafleu van Loghum



themselves. After that they can be guided to independence and ultimately their own promising future will shape and live.

Kenya is committed to achieving education for all of its citizens (MOEST, 2004). The Kenyan constitution states that all children have a right to benefit from a full and decent life in conditions that ensure dignity, enhance self-reliance, and facilitate active participation in society.

However, the Kenyan school system remains highly examination oriented resulting in the ranking of schools; therefore, schools discourage students with learning, emotional and behavioral difficulties to sit for national exams. As a consequence, the benefits of education for children who are unlikely to succeed in national examinations are unclear to those supervising the system. Educational needs of children with behavioral and emotional disorders are not being adequately addressed. Despite many problems, including lack of funding, facilities, and trained personnel, encouraging progress is being made putting into account the nature of Kenyan economy. However, the public should be more receptive to the needs of individuals with behavioral, emotional and learning disabilities.

Transition planning should prepare children with social, behavioral and learning difficulties for a broad array of post-school outcomes including post-secondary education, vocational educational education, integrated and supported income generating project, independent living or community participation.

Designed within a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with behavioral and learning difficulties to facilitate movement from school to post school activities, including post-secondary education, vocational education, integrated employment, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living or community participation.

Based on the individual child's needs, taking into account the child's strengths, preferences and interests; and includes instruction; related services; community experiences; the development of income generating project and other post-school adult living objectives; and, if appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and provision of a functional vocational evaluation.

- Initiated the educational assessment of children with behavioral and learning disabilities. The provision of professional help the child/youth and care givers for the children's rehabilitation and integration and the provision of educational assessment and related services.
- Children and youths with behavioral problems are usually educated in rehabilitation facilities. They are treated in the same manner as juvenile delinquents Rehabilitation centers cannot help an individual maximize his or her potential.
- The plight of children with behavioral and emotional problems is even worse, because identification of these children is left entirely to medical professionals who place them in medical wards for individuals with mental illness or in rehabilitation centers with juvenile delinquents and HIV-positive individuals.



The younger the child, the more academics; the older the child, the more emphasis on Independent Living, Community Living and Vocational Skills.

Community based and revolves around five components:

1. Functional Academics
2. Community Living
3. Independent Living
4. Recreational/Leisure Skills
5. Vocational Training

Functional Academics vary according to the child's individual needs and age, however the functional use of academic skills is stressed at every age along with finding a mode of communication each student can use successfully. A variety of community experiences are offered each week so academic skills can be generalized into the community.

The program is a functional, life-skills curriculum. Emphasizes community-based instruction to provide a smooth and successful transition to adult life. Children schedules are individually created within the framework of a seven-period instructional day.

The program provides a structured environment focusing on social skills, behavior management, communication, functional academic and employment skills. Uses techniques allowing students to maximize their potential for independence, empowering them to transition into the community with a sense of accomplishment, ability and integrity.

### *Life Skills*

Serves teens and young adults ages 15 - 20 whose Individual Education Plan (IEP) reflects a life skills and pre-vocational driven curriculum. The homeschooling emphasis is placed on developing necessary functional academic, pre-vocational, social, behavioral, and community skills to transition into adult life. Some example activities include mobility in the community, practicing specific vocational skills, practicing daily living skills, and applying functional academic skills. Individual priority skill areas are identified through the Individual Transition Plan, Individualized Education Program, assessment, and interest surveys. These areas are then addressed in the classroom through in-class, community instruction and activities.

As a part of a meaningful adult life, recreation is also taught and practiced. With individual interest and abilities in mind, recreational activities may include sports and clubs, library, community center, community parks, and on-site social gatherings.



## 4. Mission

*'BeHoCa Foundation supports as many street children as possible, in Kenya, to leave the streets, so this way of living will no longer be an obstacle to building a healthy and promising adult life.'*

More than 250.000 children roam the streets of Kenya. Aimlessly and without a future. These children need help. Not a single child belongs on the street. All children have the right to a childhood in which they do not have to worry and feel safe and experience love. A childhood in which the child has rights, but also duties. A youth which has a focus on individuals. A childhood where they can develop and grow in freedom and safety. Everywhere children are the 'weaker' of society. Especially children without parents or guardians are weak. They need someone who stands up for them and ensures them that they will get what they need and what they deserve.



BeHoCa Foundation is committed to doing this and takes as many street children as possible in their home where the children receive adequate specialized assistance and support. When this is done the children will dare to open up again, dare to dream, dare to change, to learn and grow, but most of all to **dare** and **may** be a child again!

**'I have a dream.'**

*Martin Luther King, minister and political leader (1929/1968)*





## 5. Objectives

BeHoCa Foundation aims to help as many street children as possible in Kenya to a promising future, with the use of appropriate specialist help and support.

To achieve this objective, BeHoCa Foundation works with sub goals. These are divided into two groups: goals focused on the activities of the foundation and goals focused on activities of the home in Mombasa.

### 5.1 Objectives foundation

Below the objectives of BeHoCa Foundation:

- Recruiting monthly/one time donors, both private individuals as companies
- Organizing events/actions for raising money
- Calls for fundraising for BeHoCa Foundation by third parties
- Informing donors of developments around the home and the children through a newsletter (quarterly, if required sooner) and website
- Keep donors informed of developments in their financial adoptive child (quarterly, if required sooner)
- If desired, the establishment of contact between child and the financial adoptive parents
- Recruiting volunteers for both the foundation in the Netherlands and for the home in Kenya, and recruiting interns for the home
- Provide information to volunteers/interns, with respect to the ability to 'work' in the home
- Create awareness through advertising/actions/events/social media

### 5.2 Objectives home

Below the objectives of the home:

- Accommodate education (home schooling and mainstreams schooling) (MDG 2)
- Attending courses if: the child is old enough, the child has sufficient support, the child is psychologically and physically open to it (MDG 2)
- Providing safety and security / a good home base / food / shelter / clothing / health / hygiene / keep them off the streets / hobbies and other activities (MDG 1 and 7)
- Offering day structure
- Solve direct (psychological) problems / feel happy / rehabilitation / offer addiction treatment
- Providing support in getting a social network (people who can help them, but also learning to recognize 'real' friendships and expend the friendship)
- Self-reliance and self-stimulation, treat everyone as an individual and allow themselves to develop as a unique individual
- Help with finances: earn money, but also learn how to deal with money (MDG 1)
- Provide information sessions on various areas, think of HIV/AIDS, drugs, trust, et cetera, both in the home and on the street (MDG 6 and 7)
- Supporting the children to independence



BeHoCa Foundation also aims to ensure an equal treatment between men and women. In hiring and paying staff in Mombasa will be no distinction made in sex (MDG 3).

### 5.3 Principals BeHoCa Foundation<sup>16</sup>

As mentioned in chapter 3, BeHoCa Foundation works with the holistic and humanistic thinking. This is the basis for the formulation of the principles.

#### *Responsibility for themselves and others*

The man is, insofar as he is capable, responsible for its own performance. At the same time, he is responsible for others. Everyone must experience the ability to function properly. BeHoCa Foundation considers himself partly responsible for the operation of street children in Kenya. The street children experience deficits to function properly, they are unable to do that. BeHoCa Foundation will complete these shortages. From there the children will be able to feel and be responsible for themselves and others again.

#### *Every person is unique*

Because every person is unique, the world is observed in different ways. People respond to the world as they see it, experience it and encounter it. BeHoCa Foundation believes that each child is unique. No one is the same. Each child has his own story and tells/shows his story in its own way.

#### *Autonomous*

The human being is an independent and responsible creature. This means that each person can decide and determine how he wants to give meaning to his life and shape it. Every man does this within the powers he has. Every person has a will of its own and is recognized. The street children also have the right to be autonomous, but haven't got the possibility. BeHoCa Foundation encourages and provides opportunities for the children to express their own will and opinion. This allows the children to give direction to their own lives and organize their lives.



#### *The innocence of a child*

Children are pure and innocent. Every child has the right to live as a child. It is important that a child can be who he really is and develop to a full-grown person. The street children of Mombasa are also innocent. The situation at home has driven them to the streets and the associated actions/habits. BeHoCa Foundation sees these children as children with a cry for help. A cry for help which the foundation obeys to by taking in as many street children as possible and support them in the home.

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<sup>16</sup> J.C. Dito, T. Stavast & D.E. Zwart, (2008) *Basiszorg*, Bohn Stafleu van Loghum, Houten



### *Work transparently*

Because BeHoCa Foundation source funds from donors, there should be as much transparency as possible in the working process. The foundation provides information about disbursement of its funds and how the money is being generated. This is done through a newsletter, website, and an annual report which appears every year.

### *Volunteers/interns*

BeHoCa Foundation provides the opportunity for volunteers and interns to work in the home of the foundation in Kenya. They will be there to provide support to existing Kenyan workers in the care and treatment of the boys. The foundation believes that an interaction of different cultures contributes to the quality of care. They encourage each other and will learn from each other. BeHoCa Foundation believes that everyone deserves a chance to be able to experience what it is like to work with these wonderful children in beautiful Kenya. It will be a life experience for their whole life, where they can look back on with positive feelings. The foundation provides opportunity for everyone this experience!





## 6. The foundation

The legal body of operation that is chosen for BeHoCa Foundation is the form of a foundation. This legal entity ensures that the foundation has no members. The foundation wants to achieve a goal. This independent ensures that the foundation has a board.

The board of BeHoCa Foundation consists of a chairlady, a vice-chairlady, a secretary, a treasurer and a PR & webdesigner. The foundation has its location in the municipality Maasdonk of the Netherlands.

### 6.1 Staff

Board members in the Netherlands:

- Chairlady: Melissa Kreps
- Vice-chairlady: Marja van Garderen
- Secretary: Anke Meersta
- Treasurer: José Kreps
- PR & web designer: Rianne Heijkoop

In addition, the board is supported by various volunteers.

Board members in Kenya:

- Chairlady: Melissa Johanna Katharina Kreps
- Secretary: Michael Kimotho Kahari
- Treasurer: Ann Louise Biating
- Program officer: George Godfry Juma

In addition, the board is supported by various volunteers and there are local Kenyan people joining the foundation as an employee.

### 6.2 Method

BeHoCa Foundation solicits donors and funds in the Netherlands to support the street children in Mombasa. The costs of these fundraising campaigns are maintained as low as possible. Almost all of the donations (from donors, corporations, foundations and schools) will benefit the home in Mombasa with its operation and the children as the direct beneficiary.

The foundation is a non-profit organization. The board and volunteers receive no compensation for their part in the foundation. They do this work with their heart and soul for the street children of Kenya.

At the beginning of its operations of the home in Mombasa, the home will depend entirely on donations and sponsors. In the future will consider the possibilities to function as independently as possible. By creating a project generating income like farming and rearing animals for both domestic and commercial use. The home is located in Mombasa, run by the





founder of the foundation (Melissa Kreps). This allows the foundation to ensure that every penny reaches the boys directly, there is not a single intermediate station!

BeHoCa Foundation:

- Keeps donors informed of the state of affairs through a newsletter via the website, email, or by post if requested
- Keeps 'adoptive parents' informed of the child they sponsor, through a newsletter, by e-mail, or by post on request
- Sends no unauthorized soliciting letters
- Recruits no donations through street recruiters, commercials or paid ads
- Strives for monthly donations fixed for a certain period, in order to ensure continuity for the children

The foundation offers donors the opportunity to adopt a child financially. This means that the donor sponsors a child through a fixed amount per month. This makes the donation a little more personal. The 'adoptive' parents are kept informed of the progress of 'their' child through a newsletter. There is also the possibility to maintain contact with the child. Think of mail and e-mail or if it's even possible to visit the child in the home in Kenya. The kids love this kind of special contact. They will know that someone (even if it's in a different continent) is thinking of them, cares about them and supports them. This gives the child motivation and inspiration to change and to continue to do the best he can.

It is possible to fulfill an internship and volunteer at the home in Kenya. The foundation offers people (from the Netherlands and Kenya) the opportunity, because they feel that this wonderful educational experience should not be denied to anyone. This possibility brings people closer together, closer to the country with its culture and gives people



the opportunity to see what it does with them to live and work in a developing country. This life experience is an experience you will remember and honor all your life. For the home and especially for the children, this possibility is also a valuable contribution. It means that the child gets extra attention and more support/guidance. Also, the child learns to deal with people from a different culture with different working- and thinking methods. They find it great to get visitors.