



OVER
25 YEARS
WITH
STREET
CHILDREN

Amani is a non-profit association that works to uphold the right of children and young people living on the streets to an identity, a safe house, food, education, health and the affection of adults.

Since 1995 Amani has built and supported shelters, schools and training centres in **Kenya, Zambia and Sudan**. Every day Amani offers concrete opportunities and options to children forced to live on the streets in shanty towns and on the edges of Nairobi and Lusaka.

Amani is independent, secular, and non-partisan. In 2000 it was recognised as an NGO by the Foreign Ministry, and today it is a registered Civil Society Organization with the AICS (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation). It has headquarters in Milan and many local teams operating throughout Italy where it works with schools, associations, public and private bodies, parishes, local government, foundations and businesses.

In Italy Amani organises cultural initiatives and meetings to promulgate news and debate. Every year since 1995 it has offered summer camps in Kenya and in Zambia to allow teams and individual volunteers and families the chance to see first-hand the realities Amani works in and live for a period in a local community.

ACTIVITIES

Day-to-day management of activities in Kenya and Zambia is handled by Koinonia Community, a local non-profit organization with which Amani shares responsibility for every initiative.



Shelter

More and more boys and girls are living on the streets in big cities like Nairobi and Lusaka. For over twenty-five years Amani has worked to tackle this phenomenon, aiming to create new opportunities and prospects in the lives of many people. The first step is to shelter the children in structures where they can feel safe and enjoy a positive experience of living together.

Ndugu Mdogo Rescue Centre (2005) - Nairobi, Kenya

Ndugu Mdogo, which means “little brother” in Swahili, is a shelter for children living on the streets. It is located in Kibera, one of the biggest shanty towns in Africa. With the help of qualified experts, the kids take their first steps on the road to recovery, so that they are ready to return to school. The aim is reintegration with their family of origin but, where this is impossible, the children can continue their journey at the Kivuli centre.



Home

Boys and girls in situations of severe family and social vulnerability can be given shelter in care homes. Here again the goal is to rebuild positive relationships with their families of origin. In the shelters the kids find a roof, healthy food, affection, attention and medical care. They are guaranteed access to education at local public schools, and offered recreational, sports and cultural activities to develop their individual inclinations and capacities.

Kivuli Centre (1997) - Nairobi, Kenya

Kivuli in Swahili means “refuge”. This is exactly what the Kivuli Centre sets out to provide for former street kids: a safe place that can offer them affection, the right to education and a group of friends with whom to play and grow. With its multiple services - medical dispensary, sports field, community radio and safe drinking water - Kivuli has become a point of reference and aggregation for all young people in Riruta Satellite, the local neighbourhood.





Anita Home (1999) – Ngong, Kenya

Immersed in the greenery of the Ngong hills on the edge of Nairobi, Anita Home is Amani's only shelter specifically for girls and young women, whether they are from vulnerable families, the street, or fleeing from child marriages. Besides going to school full time, the girls help to look after the nursery and the farm, two activities that have educational value as well as furthering the sustainability of the centre.

Mthunzi Centre (2000) – Lusaka, Zambia

Mthunzi in Nyanja means “shade” or “refuge”. In a large rural area on the outskirts of Lusaka, the Mthunzi Centre is an oasis of safety for street children and teenagers from the city or the surrounding areas. Living in close contact with the local Koinonia Community, the children here gain self-confidence and receive everything they need for healthy growth: food, affection, healthcare, play and school.



Family

Amani is convinced of the vital role the family plays in the growth of each individual. Special support programmes also help boys and girls outside the centres to reintegrate with their families of origin.

Families to Families (2010) – Nairobi, Kenya

The Families to Families programme assists children from Kivuli and Anita Home on the road towards reunification with their family through workshops, seminars, psychological support and home monitoring visits. In some cases the families receive small loans for entrepreneurial ventures.

Mthunzi Home Based Program (2003) – Lusaka, Zambia

Mthunzi Centre also supports girls and boys who live with their families in the surrounding areas. It guarantees their schooling and provides healthcare and psychological support, including regular home visits and weekly group activities for the children, held inside the Centre.

Lonjedzani (2004) – Lusaka, Zambia

Lonjedzani, or “promise” in Chewa, is a day centre designed to improve the living conditions of girls and young women by assisting them with their schoolwork and medical needs. Every morning they get a packed lunch to take to school. In the afternoon they receive help with their homework and look after the garden and the little chicken coop. They visit Mthunzi regularly for group activities.



Health

Kivuli Dispensary (1998) – Nairobi, Kenya

The Kivuli dispensary tries to bridge the gap in public healthcare in the Riruta Satellite district, where it is located. The dispensary not only serves the needs of the children in care, but also those in the surrounding community. The Riruta Health Program also provides preventive healthcare and home visits to the terminally sick and HIV positive patients.



Education

By facilitating access to education and supporting girls and boys in their studies, each according to their capacities and inclinations, Amani hopes to reduce inequality in Kenya and Zambia, nurture talents and raise strong, self-aware citizens for the society of tomorrow.

Diakonia Institute (2010) and Shalom IT Centre (2004) – Nairobi, Kenya

Diakonia Institute is a training school offering a variety of vocational courses: pedagogy, social services, project management, business, hotel management, hairdressing, etc. It also comprises the Shalom IT Centre, a school of computing.



Basadonna Scholarships (2008) – Kenya

Basadonna scholarships enable deserving young men and women to attend university and further education.

Lubuto Library (2017) – Lusaka, Zambia

The multipurpose library next door to Mthunzi is called Lubuto, which means “light” or “knowledge” in Bemba. It offers services and activities to children at the Centre and in the surrounding community. Besides books and a reading room, it provides adult literacy courses, a computer lab and a space for outdoor events. In particular, the computer lab called Mthunzi IT lab (2013), was set up to provide basic computing education to the Centre’s children and the local community.



Work and enterprise for young people

Social enterprise and cooperatives can be a valuable way to reduce poverty and stem the tide of street children. In both Kenya and Zambia, Amani supports craft and farming cooperatives, with positive knock-on effects for the social environment.

Shalom House (2002) – Nairobi, Kenya

Shalom House, in the Dagoretti district of Nairobi, is a multipurpose structure containing a guest house, a space for receptions, a Kenyan cuisine restaurant, an Italian pizzeria, the Diakonia Institute and the Shalom IT Centre. It provides jobs to about thirty people and the profits go to supporting the Koinonia Community’s work in favour of the economy and human dignity. It also hosts the seats of various organizations active in promoting cultural and social progress.

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Contribute to Amani

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