

streetaction 

COMMITTED TO
STREET CHILDREN THROUGH
ACTION AND PARTNERSHIP

Street Action Cycle Challenge 2010

London to Brussels

11-14 September 2010

Fund-raising information



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registered charity no: 1119578

registered company no. 05852940

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Street Action London to Brussels Cycle Challenge 2010

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Introduction

Thank you for signing up to the **Street Action Cycle Challenge 2010**. We hope that this document will give you a flavour of who Street Action and our partners are and why we are committed to supporting the work we do. It will also give you some more information regarding the current funding priorities for Street Action and our partners.

Street Action was founded in 2007 and was inspired by personal relationships that had been developed with street children and former street children in **Burundi** and **South Africa**. It was meeting a child living on the streets and seeing that child helped to find a sustainable and alternative life away from the streets that inspired us to commit to the idea of a world in which no child lives on the streets – that became our vision. It was the understandings developed through these connections that convinced the founders of Street Action that more needed to be done to support these children and raise public awareness of the issues they face – that became our mission.

That vision and mission hasn't changed. We are not naïve enough to think that the vision is totally achievable, or that the mission is simple. But once you know one street child who has become a former street child, then the simple truth is you want to help the next one.

Organisations and projects in towns, cities and villages across Africa are doing great work helping these children. Therefore, as a UK charity, Street

Action seeks to fulfil roles that cannot be done by our partners who are focussed on working locally with street children – currently in Burundi and South Africa. By working together we maximise the opportunities for engagement with partners, funders and individual supporters as well as developing and sharing ‘good practice’ models between partners and, hopefully, supporting the development of new partners in Africa.

When we build connections and relationships, it makes people’s lives better. The London to Brussels Cycle Challenge aims to do just that. Street Action acts as a broker between the needs of our local partners (existing and future) and those in the UK, and around the world, who have resources to give. We are looking to empower street children through our partner projects and to empower the network of Street Action supporters to efficiently donate their time, skills and money and other resources to these partners. The cycle challenge will also be a celebration of endurance and resilience and will bring a team of committed people together to raise support and awareness for our partners work in Burundi and South Africa.

Joe Walker & Nick Turner, Co-founders and directors Street Action

Street Action: Our Vision and Mission

The vision and mission of Street Action doesn’t change. Our vision is to commit to the idea of a world in which no child lives on the streets. Our mission is to support children who do (both directly and indirectly) and raise public awareness of the issues they face.

What this means in practice is that, as a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) based in the **UK** and the **USA**, we work with local partners to tackle the complex needs of children living on the streets. We promote the work of our partners, building connections and links with our Street Action community of supporters around the world.

More specifically, this translates, into our four aims of:

- 1. Providing sustainable financial support for local pioneering street child organisations.**
- 2. Raising public awareness and promoting the work of our partners.**

3. Putting street children back on the agenda through advocacy and research.
4. Expanding 'good practice' models from existing partnerships to support the development new and existing partners in Africa.



Our Partnerships:

We build partnerships with and make connections between local and grassroots organisations, predominately led and operated by former street children, to provide practical help and support for children and young people living on the streets. We work with partners at different stages of their development cycle.

New Generation (Burundi): New Generation is one of only a small number of projects working with street children in Burundi. Staffed by local Burundians, some of whom are former street children, they work with children on the streets and seek to re-integrate them back to their homes and communities. Find out more –

www.streetaction.org/about/burundi

Umthombo Street Children (South Africa): Umthombo is a 'voice from the streets' and aims to change the way that society perceives and treats street children through educating people about the realities of the street child experience. It is predominately run by former street children, empowering children to leave the streets and reintegrate back into their communities. Find out more -

www.streetaction.org/about/south-africa

What are we raising money for?

Our target for the Cycle Challenge is to raise at least **£10,000**. Street Action prioritises projects with our partners that we are currently developing and that requires resources. It is our aim that all projects will ultimately become self-sufficient, although this may practically mean different things for the different type of projects.

Over the next six months a key funding priority for Street Action is for our Burundi partner New Generation to build a **'New Generation Village'** for street children, with up to 4 houses. This would provide short and long-term options for street children to find alternatives to street life.



Burundi. Street Children Village – providing a home and future.

Some background:

“Some times donors give but they then face big problems and they stop. It is very hard to tell a child that you have to go back on the streets. But if we had our own houses, and a village, it will be sustainable for us and we can grow food, have a farm, animals. The children can also be involved to help themselves and not to wait every month for donations for food, rent and other needs.” Dieudonné Nahimana, New Generation

A recent UNICEF report on Burundi has estimated that there could be up to **3,000** children living on the streets in the country by the end of 2010. Although we are cautious with statistics, we know that the number of children and young people arriving on the streets of urban areas such as Bujumbura is

increasing and the work of organisations like New Generation is becoming more urgent.

The work of New Generation is well-respected by the government of Burundi and they have donated a piece of building land. New Generation has a six month window of opportunity to raise funds to begin building otherwise the land will be taken back by the authorities. Each house would be able to generate food (and other income) from agricultural projects set up and run by the street children in the village, and avoid the need to pay rent on an existing house.

Street Action is committed to supporting this project. The cost to build one house, which would be a home for twenty street children, is **£25,000** including running costs for the first year. We are excited because this is an innovative and sustainable way of helping children make the transition from the streets back into communities.

Making connections for the future

Street Action was started by personal connections and that is the way it has grown. It may sound obvious, but we only want people to be involved because something about the work we do resonates with them. We recognise that you have chosen to take part in this **Cycle Challenge** for different reasons and have been drawn to the work of Street Action through different connections and relationships. We therefore want you to feel that you play a part in deciding where the money raised goes.

This document has given you some guidance towards our fund-raising priorities at present. As a team we will discuss where the money raised could be spent. We want to ensure the money you raise personally from your sponsors goes towards the projects you feel most connected to.

In addition to the work outlined above, Street Action continues to focus on other areas of our work such as the development Umthombo Street Children's Safe Space therapeutic drop-in centre for street children in Durban and our ongoing research and advocacy work here in the UK and US. Through this we

continue to increasing the visibility of the challenges street children face on the streets and seek to address the underlying causes of the street children phenomenon.

We hope your experience of the Street Action London to Brussels Cycle Challenge is a positive one and that your relationship with Street Action continues into the future helping to build further connections as we support our partners to change the lives of street children.

For further information regarding our funding priorities for 2010 and beyond please contact co-directors Nick Turner nick@streetaction.org or Joe Walker joe@streetaction.org

Murakoze – Siyabonga – Thank you

Good luck and we really appreciate your support



“I sometimes think that maybe if I had parents that loved and cared for me I wouldn’t have this disease. I sometimes blame myself for my situation.”

Street child talking about HIV/AIDS, South Africa

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