

INFORMATION SHEET



THE KILIMANJARO INITIATIVE

Tim Challen's Experience

Tim works as a Member Service Representative for the United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) in Geneva. In 2003, while on mission in Nairobi, Tim was shot below the left knee during an armed robbery at his flat. After extensive surgery and a long period of rehabilitation back home in Switzerland, Tim felt confronted by a dilemma: he could choose to move on with his comfortable life in Geneva, distancing himself from the harsh criminal realities encountered in Nairobi, or help confront some of the ills of East African communities. He chose the second option.

The Vision of the Kilimanjaro Initiative

The vision of the Kilimanjaro Initiative is to offer hope to people who have been affected by crime, highlighting for them that crime should not dictate a life and that hardships can be overcome. The Kilimanjaro Initiative hopes to sensitise the communities in East Africa on their safety needs and help form partnerships that will secure better urban environments.

The Objectives of the Kilimanjaro Initiative

The main objectives of the Kilimanjaro Initiative are to raise awareness of the problems linked with crime and collect funds to support various crime prevention initiatives in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi.

The Kilimanjaro Initiative seeks to use sports as a tool for fighting crime in East Africa as a means to promote education, health, development and peace.

Sport is a valuable tool in enhancing youth participation and empowerment. It has been used across the world in various campaigns on issues aimed at development. It is through sports that the youth can be engaged in Crime Prevention Initiatives, HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign, and Environmental Awareness Campaigns among others.

Safer Cities Programme

In order to better understand the causes of crime, the Kilimanjaro Initiative has approached UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme coordinators and local authorities in Kenya and Tanzania for their advice and support.

The Safer Cities programme aims at addressing the underlying issues contributing to crime, including problems of unemployment, poverty and exclusion. It does so by initiating income generating projects and integrating the youth into local authority decision-making framework.

Crimes, and the fear of crime, are serious threats to the stability and social climate of cities. Sustainable and economic development need a decent quality of life and full recognition of human rights. Urban violence erodes the social capital of the poor. Insecurity affects the poor more intensely, breaks down socio-cultural bonds and prevents social mobility, thus contributing to the development of urban ghettos and stigmatized neighbourhoods.



Safer Cities Survey on Crime in Nairobi

It is estimated that about 3 million inhabitants live in the city of Nairobi, of which over 60% are the urban poor living in informal settlements. A victimization survey done in 2001 has showed that:

- 37% of all Nairobi residents had been victims of robbery in 2000
- 40% of all victims were injured as a result of violence used in the robbery
- 29% of all homes had fallen victims of burglary
- 30% of commercial enterprises were victims of burglary
- 25% of all women in Nairobi have been physically, economically, sexually or emotionally abused
- 75% of all respondents felt unsafe in their homes during the night
- 54% of all Nairobi's residents felt unsafe during the day and 94% during the evening in the City Centre
- 72% of all residents avoid travelling and working after dark

The surveys indicated that crime is more prevalent in Nairobi than in other similar cities. In terms of the types of crimes that are most prevalent, and the circumstances in which they occur, Nairobi is similar to Tanzania. However, what is interesting to note is that the general public believe that there is **little or nothing that can be done about crime in Nairobi**. From the findings of these surveys, it was suggested that decision makers need to urgently address the social and institutional cause of crime by embarking on an inclusive strategy of crime prevention, which centers on **establishing action groups** that focus on the key areas of crime against women and youth. At the same time, urgent steps need to be taken to strengthen the capacity of the local authorities and the police to handle criminal cases.

Safer Cities Survey on crime in Dar es Salaam

The City of Dar es Salaam is the economic capital of the United Republic of Tanzania. It has a population of more than 3 million inhabitants. From a survey conducted in March 2000:

- 43% of victims said their houses were burgled over the previous five years
- 32% of the people have been victimised
- 20% of the respondents were involved in cattle theft in the city's rural districts
- 16% of the people were assaulted
- 67% of the people said they felt unsafe in the residential areas after dark.

From the survey, the most prevalent crime in Dar es Salaam is burglary. Violent crimes were reported less often than property crimes. The rate of assault in Dar es Salaam was high compared to South African cities.

Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro

The Kilimanjaro Initiative plans to organize an annual ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro, the 'roof of Africa', as a main feature in its efforts to raise awareness and combat the underlying causes of crime. The first climb is scheduled to take place between 25 February 2006 and 01 March 2006. The participants of the climb will include: ten youths from Kenya and Tanzania UNHABITAT, ILO, ICTR and other UN agencies; as well as volunteers who have been helping with the Kilimanjaro Initiative. The climbers will be escorted by General Sarakikya, a retired Army General and diplomat who planted the Tanzanian National flag on the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro when the country gained its independence in 1961.

Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro offers not only a personal challenge but also acts a powerful symbol in overcoming adversity.

Fundraising

The Kilimanjaro Initiative plans to raise a minimum of US\$50,000 for various crime prevention initiatives supported by Safer Cities Programmes in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi. Here are examples of these projects:

- **Kibera sports Field**

The sports field is located in Silanga, in the southern part of Kibera slum. Kibera is the largest slum in sub-Saharan Africa, with a population of approximately 800,000 people. Currently, the football pitch is in a bad condition and it is difficult to play on such a surface. At night, the field is a hotspot for crime. The renovation of the field will encourage more young people to channel their energies in a positive way and it will become a convenient meeting place for the community. Moreover, lighting at night will turn the area into a safer place and reduce the level of crime.

- **Water project in Kibamba sub-ward, Kinondoni Municipality, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

The aim of the project, proposed by a community group called 'Kiluvya', is to pump water from a natural source, located 3 km away from the centre of the Community, into a large water tank that will be more accessible to all. Reliance on the water provided by the city's water board is not always viable, as it is scarce and not always readily available. Instead, the water from the source, which freely belongs to the community's authorities, can be sold at nearby water-kiosks to local residents and may also be distributed to adjacent homes. The income generated from selling of water will help fund a watch group that can patrol the ward at night time and hence help prevent crime in the area.

- **The TAHOYAG youth group, Temeke, Dar es Salaam**

The TAHOYAG youth group is made up of young people who have encountered various problems in their lives. The men have been involved with drugs, either through habitual consumption or selling illegal substances. Some went as far as being 'mules' between South America and Africa, transporting illegal substances in the hulls of cargo ships. The women are mainly ex-prostitutes. Together, they have formed an association where they can put their energies together and overcome their problems through legal trade. The group I visited opened a batik shop and sell items of clothing within the community. The income they collect not only helps them with their basic financial needs but also sponsors their night-watch scheme.

Other Information

The following groups have assisted with the Kilimanjaro Initiative:

- **Outward Bounds Trust of Kenya (They are training the young women and men)**

Outward Bound Trust of Kenya is the largest provider of Experiential Based Training in East Africa. They are the only one with global affiliation; Outward Bounds being a world wide organization. They also do excellent Team Building, Corporate Culture Change, Change Management, Leadership Development etc. for corporate clients. They have over seven youth programs covering ages 11 to 25 years.

- **Sadili Oval (two 'youths' are coming from their camp)**

"Nature and Sports Camps", provides 600 children in communities in Langata (a middle class area), 4000 in the adjoining Kibera (a slum area) in Nairobi City and 2400 in Manyatta area (low-income area) in Kisumu town with an opportunity to aspire, be trained and be environmentalists as well as act as role models for other children in their communities. It also seeks to recognize the outstanding quality of children by providing educational opportunities for some of the children in camps. The camps provide

sport training and involve them in weekly environmental projects including community cleanup, recycling and tree planting.

The Nature and Sports Camps are part of a concerted effort by The United Nations Environment Programme, Sadili Oval and other partners, in supporting environmental leadership and sports training amongst the youth.

- **Street expressions** (set up by Musician Gidi Gidi, who will be climbing with the Kilimanjaro Initiative group)

The aim of street Expressions is to send out positive and constructive messages into the community through Hip Hop Music and Graffiti displays.

For more info on the Kilimanjaro Initiative, please visit our website: www.kilimanjaroinitiative.org

or

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