



Providing Economic Opportunity for the World's Poorest People

The Big Issue Zambia: A Snapshot

- Since its launch in August 2007, *The Big Issue Zambia* has trained over 100 young unemployed and slum-dwelling people in Lusaka.
- There are some 45 homeless vendors currently selling the paper regularly on the streets.
- *Big Issue Zambia* works with 'World Bicycle Relief' to incentivise vendors: the most successful vendors receive a free bicycle.



Social Enterprise in Developing Countries



Kibera slum, Nairobi: home to many Big Issue Kenya vendors.

It is estimated that over 100 million people are homeless worldwide and over 1 billion have inadequate housing. Many people struggle to access even basic necessities such as food, water, shelter, healthcare and education.

Street papers offer a unique route out of poverty. In recent years, they have become increasingly recognised for their relevance to the developing world. By combining a sustainable social enterprise model with an independent media voice, street papers provide an enterprising means to address poverty and freedom of expression.

Changing Lives...One Street Paper at a Time

In 2006, INSP received an overwhelming number of requests for support from newly emerging street papers in African countries. As a result, INSP made it a priority to provide systematic technical and financial support to new street paper projects in Africa in 2006-10.

So far, INSP has worked with dedicated local teams to establish 4 new street papers in Kenya, Zambia, Ethiopia and Nigeria. Together, these projects have provided employment and hope to over 4800 homeless and slum-dwelling people and their families.

INSP is building on this success, currently mentoring and supporting 3 more establishing street papers in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Burundi.

African street papers are an opportunity to show the rest of the world what Africa is capable of. We want to show the world that the people of Africa can change our own lives in a positive way.

— Samba Yonga,
Managing Editor,
The Big Issue Zambia

The Big Issue Kenya: A Snapshot

- With support from Scottish funders, *The Big Issue Kenya* launched in January 2007 during the prestigious World Social Forum in Nairobi and now sells some 4,000 copies every 2 months.
- The project has enabled over 200 young adults living in slums to earn a dignified income; some 50 vendors regularly sell the paper at any one time.
- 25 young budding journalists from Nairobi's slums attend weekly journalism workshops and 3 have already moved on into full time employment.
- The December 2007 'Election Special' edition was a sell out, as local people came to *The Big Issue Kenya* for 'a truthful and independent perspective' on the grave political situation.



Life in the slums sometimes seems unbearable, but since selling *The Big Issue*, I have no regrets about where life has taken me. Selling the paper helps me to support my mum, dad and younger brothers. I hope that selling *Big Issue Kenya* will help me move one step closer towards achieving my dream of either being a professional footballer, or going back to school to study marketing.

— Wycliffe Ihachi Muteshi,
Vendor,

The Big Issue Kenya

A Focus on Sustainability

By aiding in the development of strong and sustainable local projects in the developing world, INSP is bringing help to thousands of severely disadvantaged and vulnerable people aged between 18 and 60.

These organisations are in vital need of ongoing capacity-building and strategic support to ensure their continued ability to provide hope and support to thousands more disenfranchised people in their communities in years to come. But all of this takes resources.



Over 100 prospective vendors attend a special INSP training in Malawi, August 2008



INSP provides street paper development training to 'Search and Groom' NGO in Nigeria, June 2008.

Laying a Path for the Future

Since 2006, INSP's African street paper projects have had a significant impact on the communities they have served. However, the need is vast and growing.

While the accomplishments of these African organisations are extraordinary, they have long struggled to carry out their missions in the face of harrowing obstacles and scarce resources. Each is grappling with a unique set of challenges to their long-term survival and sustainability.

In 2009, INSP seeks to continue supporting its young street papers in Africa and support the successful establishment of 3 more street papers in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Burundi. Beyond this, INSP will move towards a focus in other areas of need such as Latin America and Asia.