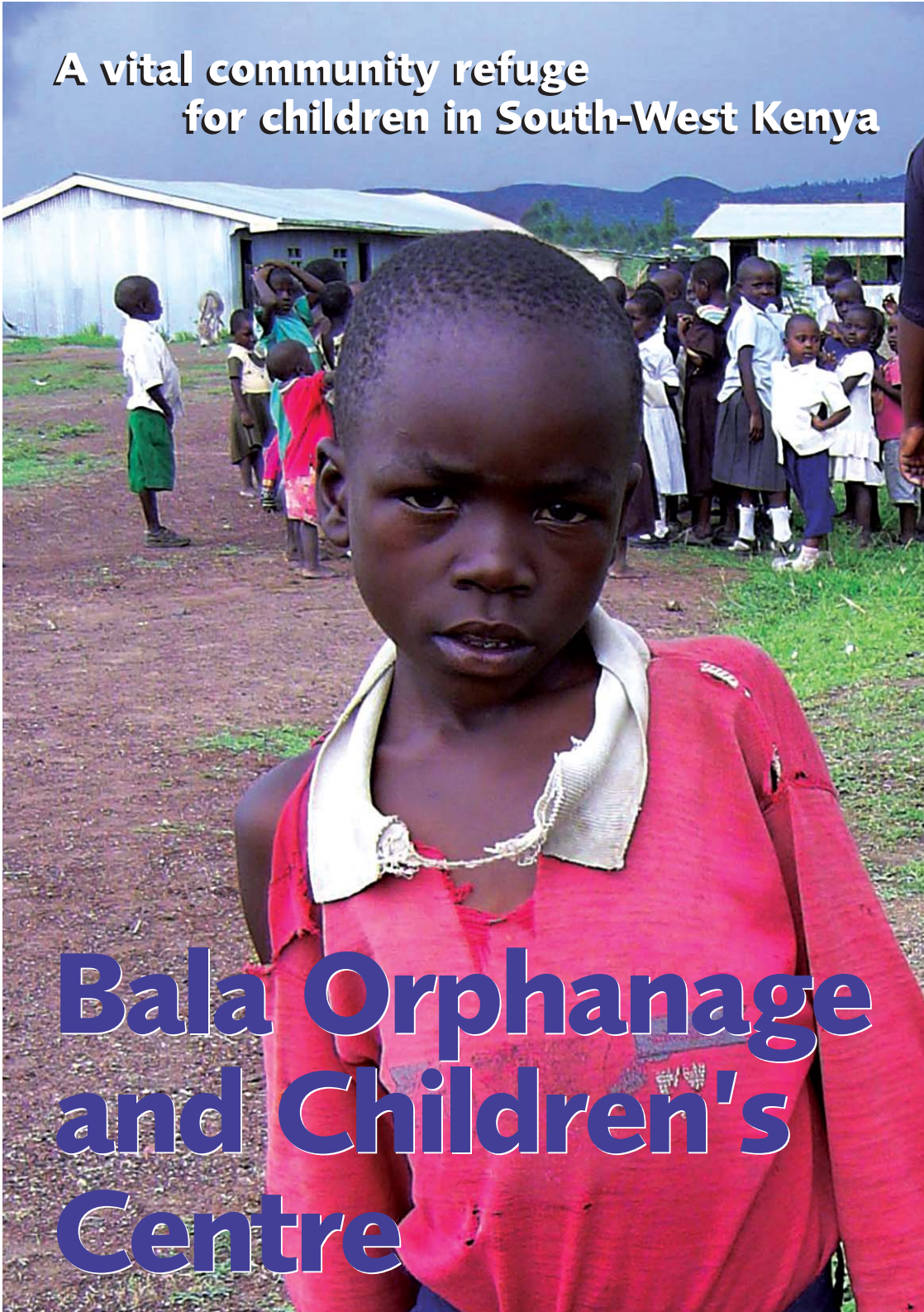
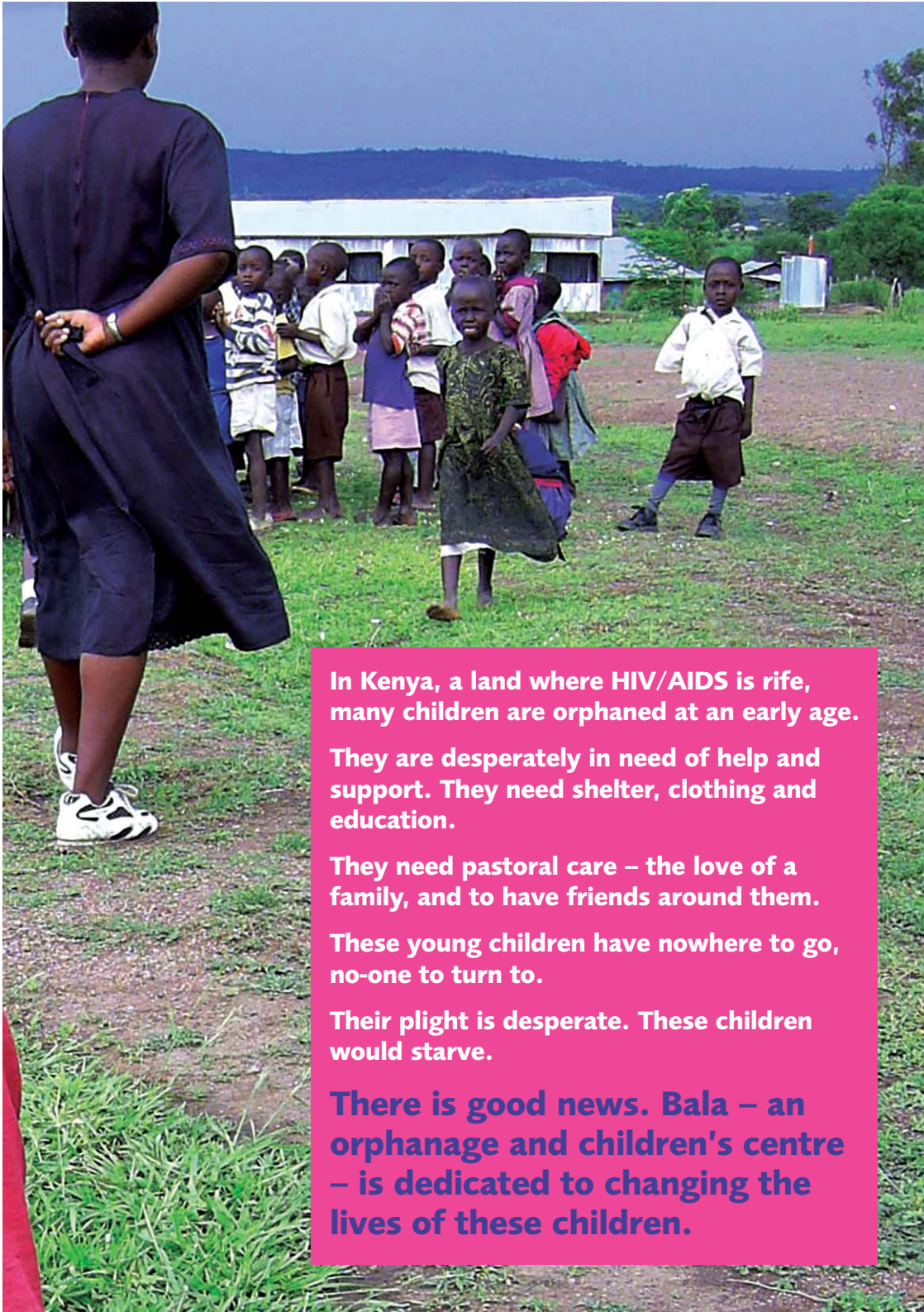


A vital community refuge for children in South-West Kenya



Bala Orphanage and Children's Centre



In Kenya, a land where HIV/AIDS is rife, many children are orphaned at an early age.

They are desperately in need of help and support. They need shelter, clothing and education.

They need pastoral care – the love of a family, and to have friends around them.

These young children have nowhere to go, no-one to turn to.

Their plight is desperate. These children would starve.

There is good news. Bala – an orphanage and children's centre – is dedicated to changing the lives of these children.

What is Bala?

The Bala Mercy Orphanage and Children's Centre exists to love and care for the children, providing food, clothing, an education and medical care as they have no-one else to look after them.

The Centre, located near Homa Bay in South-Western Kenya, currently looks after around 350 children from the surrounding area, a number of whom were street children. They are placed with local families – this is the Kenyan orphanage model.

The Centre is a source of real, practical help and support for these children, and it provides pastoral care to nurture the children and make up for what their parents can no longer give.

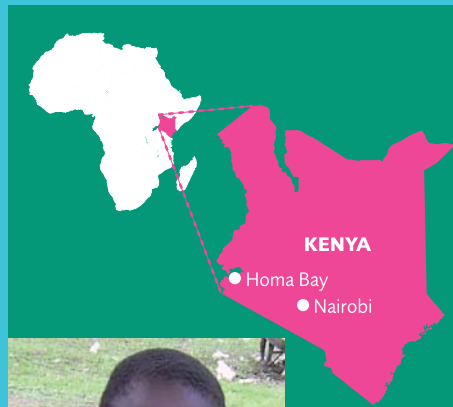


Where is Bala?

The Centre is 175 miles from Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, and Homa Bay, the nearest major town, is 20 miles away, on the shores of Lake Victoria. Seasonal flooding periodically makes the local roads and tracks impassable which brings communications to a halt.

Where do the children come from?

Bala serves a catchment which is defined by how far the children can walk – up to 12 miles. This area is mainly rural and has no major towns, but is densely populated by families living in settlements in the bush. The main activity is subsistence farming.



A message from Bishop Ochoo

The founder, Bishop Dominic Ochoo, who started taking children into his home in 2000, is a man of great integrity who commands respect from all who know him. He has a great love for the children, and has a very practical focus on what Bala is trying to achieve now and in the future; and how to ensure the children can fulfil their potential.

Bishop Ochoo says:

“We intend to help these orphans who otherwise would have little hope for the future. We have the will, but need the funds to help us provide the basic necessities and to develop a long-term solution and to enable the orphanage to become self-sufficient.”

... and from one of the children at Bala

Dear friend,

My name is Dancun Ormondi. I am 11 years old.
I am the sixth-born in my family.

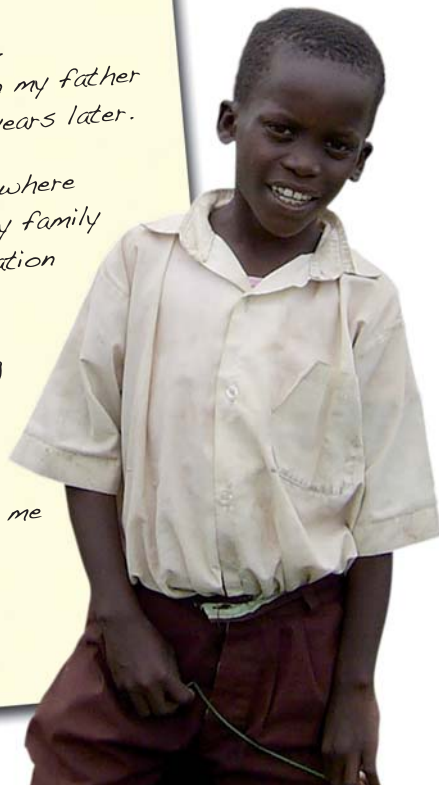
I have six brothers and two sisters.
We remained complete orphans when my father
died and my mother followed three years later.

I happened to get a chance at Bala where
Bishop Dominic supports me and my family
members with food, clothes, education
and medication.

I'm in class four and I'm working
very hard in my academic work.
Would you please sponsor me -
I want to work hard and never
to disappoint you if you sponsor me

Yours truly,

Dancun Ormondi



Get in touch ...

Now that you've read this far, please help us by:

- filling in the response form below
- visiting the Bala website at www.balaorphanage.org where there is a downloadable sponsorship form,
- emailing us with your contact details so that we can get in touch, or
- donating online through www.justgiving.com

If you'd like to receive further copies of this leaflet to send to friends, colleagues, a church or other group,

please get in touch so that we can send you the copies you require.

For further information, contact:

**Bala Orphanage Kenya, Ash Farm House,
Poole Keynes, Cirencester,
Gloucestershire GL7 6EG**

Tel: 01285 770535

Email: maura.f@tiscali.co.uk

www.balaorphanage.org

Bala Orphanage is a registered charity. Charity no. 1101120

Bala Orphanage and Children's Centre RESPONSE FORM

- I'd like to become a Sponsor and will give £10 a month per child
- 1 child 2 children 3 children 4 children other
- (Please complete Standing Order mandate below)
- I'd like to make a Project Donation – I enclose a cheque for £
- (To use a debit or credit card please visit www.justgiving.com)
- I am a UK taxpayer - please claim GiftAid tax relief on my donation
- I'd like to know more or help in some other way – please get in touch

Name	
Address	
Tel:	Email

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To: (name and address of bank)	Signature:

Please pay from the following account:

Account name	Date: / /
Account no. <input type="text"/>	Sort Code <input type="text"/>
The sum of £ <input type="text"/>	
Amount in words	

Every month, commencing on the / / (date)
and on the day of each month thereafter until further notice.

To the account of: Bala Orphanage Kenya
Lloyds TSB Bank PLC, Burford. Account no. 0265445 30-91-43

Please return this form to:
**Bala Orphanage Kenya,
Ash Farm House, Poole
Keynes, Cirencester,
Gloucestershire GL7 6EG**

Current work at Bala



Education is at the centre of the work at Bala. The school is staffed by a Headteacher and ten fully trained teachers.

Schooling starts at age 3-4 years of age. Most of the children only speak the local languages, Luo and Kiswahili, at this stage. They stay until about age 13 or so. Children are taught all the usual subjects in English.

The school aims to provide uniforms for the children, plus two meals a day.

The pastoral care side of Bala is vitally important, and two pastors provide daily care for the children. There is also liaison with the families. The Centre is a Christian-run establishment: there are church services on Sunday, and the curriculum includes Bible study.

Bala is a well-organised, professionally-run establishment, providing quality education. The school is registered and regularly inspected, Careful and detailed records are kept for each child who attends.



Facts of life for children in Kenya

- 1** Two in every three children born in Kenya die before reaching the age of five
- 2** Malnutrition affects around one in every three children
- 3** 70% of the population in rural areas have no access to clean, safe water
- 4** Only one in four children go to secondary school
- 5** Over 2,000,000 people in Kenya are living with HIV/AIDS – almost 15% of the population
- 6** 1,500,000 children are orphaned by AIDS



Planned projects

There are a number of planned projects which will develop the capacity and scope of the Bala Children's Centre:

- **Secondary school**
There is an urgent need to provide secondary education up to age 16 for the children, as state-provided secondary education costs an impossible £500 a year. The alternative is the probability of the children barely surviving below the poverty line, trying to scratch a living from the land. This project will involve buying additional land, providing materials for building, and pay for the additional staff that will be needed.
- **Vocational centre**
To provide skills for children over 13 to enable them to get jobs to support themselves and even to start local businesses. This will give the children an alternative to secondary education.
- **Clinic**
Bala badly needs a clinic to provide medical treatment and care to the children. This would involve a nurse, a visiting doctor and medical supplies. A clinic based at Bala could also provide care to paying patients so, once established, could be self-sustaining to some degree.
- **Dormitories for older girls**
The conversion of two existing buildings into dormitory accommodation would provide suitable accommodation for the older girls.
- **Self-sufficiency**
Bala needs to rent or buy additional land to grow enough maize, beans and other crops to enable it to become more self-sufficient in food. A chicken project and keeping some cows will provide the children with a better diet – and the Centre with additional produce which they can sell.

Running costs

It costs approximately £120 a year to feed, clothe and educate each child at Bala. There are approximately 350 children attending the Centre, although numbers are continually growing as no child in real need is turned away.



How you can help

The children and staff at Bala badly need your support. There are two ways in which you can support the work at Bala:

- **Become a sponsor**

Just £10 a month supports a child at Bala – food, clothing and education. Sponsorship support is particularly valuable to Bala as it provides the Centre with regular income for everyday provisions and running costs.

- **Support Bala's development plans**

A donation of £20, £50, or £100 makes a real difference to what Bala can do for the children in its care.

Bala needs enlargement and development to enable the Centre to look after the increasing numbers of children, and to offer them more facilities and resources to help them reach their potential.

These projects cannot be paid for out of regular income, so project donations make a real difference to the quality of provision at the Centre.



Don't forget – GiftAid adds 28 pence for every pound you give if you are a UK taxpayer!

The Treasury refunds the tax you have paid on your donation, so don't forget to tick the box on the form to enable us to reclaim this extra money from the Government.

giftaid it

Every penny you give goes to Bala

Nothing is deducted from the donations that you give, and the UK supporters and fund-raisers give their time and services freely, to ensure that every penny, every pound raised from supporters in sponsorship or project donations, goes to Bala where it is needed most.

