



**Sanam Vaziri Quraishi Foundation
Progress Report
January to March 2007**

Free The Children is pleased to report on progress made on community development projects being undertaken in the Salabwek community in Kenya. Concrete steps have been taken to ensure swift progress on the project, coupled with strong community support for the project; however, schoolbuilding has been delayed somewhat by the rain that has fallen continuously since December until recently. Fortunately, drier weather has enabled the team to move forward quickly on construction, aided by groundwork laid by the team over the past several months.

Several important steps have been taken to advance the project since December. In particular, community consultations have continued, and community mobilization on the project through a series of meetings has created a strong basis of local support for the project. These meetings continued in light of the rain, and enthusiasm for the project remains high amongst community members. Such discussions enable Free The Children to build a sense of local ownership over the project, helping to ensure the sustainability of the schools, and also facilitate dialogue on girls' participation in education and other related subjects. Other outcomes of these meetings include the creation of parent committees, identification of community interests relating to school components, and assignment of specific community responsibilities for various stages/aspects of construction and school operation.

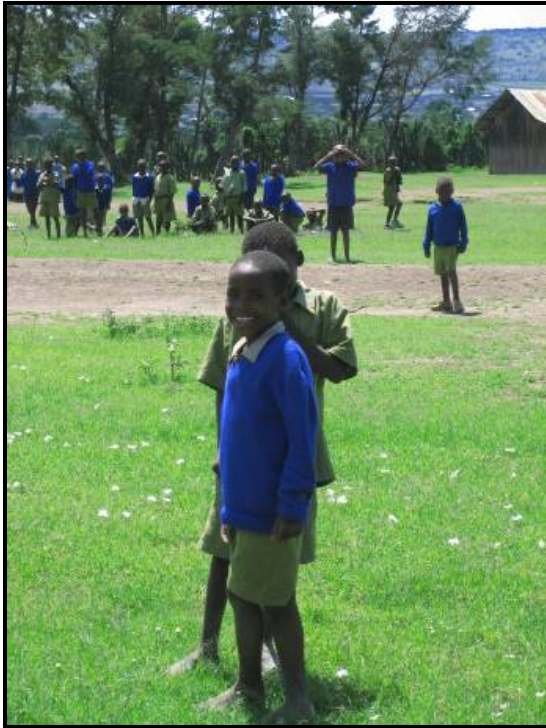
In addition, Free The Children recently undertook the process of demarking and registering the land on which the school will sit so it can be considered communal land. This process is essential to the sustainability of the schools, as it ensures that no one person or group of people can own a school and therefore exert control over who can and cannot attend the school. It helps to maintain equality of access to education, while also creating the largest possible basis of support for the school in that the whole community owns and must care for the school.

Additional steps towards achievement of project goals include:

- Creation of a basic access road for material delivery;
- Delivery of materials;
- Demarking and leveling the land for the first phase of buildings.

As a result of this progress, construction has commenced and we plan to have 4 to 6 buildings complete by August, in addition to the water program.

The Community Consultation and Mobilization Process:



Excitement about a new school draws children to the community meetings to learn more and to participate in the process.



Free The Children's Kenya Country Director, Peter Ruhui, answers questions about the project.



A community elder shares his views on the project.