

# Providing the basic necessities of life / Integral Pastoral

### The Bethlehem Mission Immensee as Organization

The Bethlehem Mission Immensee (BMI) is a catholic missionary organization with its seat in Immensee (Switzerland). In cooperation with other religious and civil organizations, it is engaged worldwide on behalf of the disadvantaged in society. It provides experts to take part in specific and limited assignments in the projects of partner organizations and promotes the processes of international solidarity.

The motivation of the BMI is the vision of a just and peaceful world and the desire to work together in partnership with people from other cultures and religions. The basic needs for existence, dignity and rights for every person are BMI's most important topics.

The experts consciously lead a simple lifestyle and thereby share the life and are fully present with the people in their living context. They make careful use of the means on hand in order to avoid dependencies.

### A general overview

The national borders of Kenya, which has been independent since 1965, run right through traditional tribal areas. For certain ethnic groups their ethnic rules end at the boundaries of their own group. Since the elections in 2007, the rift has deepened between different ethnic groups and the latent distrust that shows itself in daily life has grown stronger. In the north of Kenya access to water and grazing lands for the livestock of the nomads and semi-nomads plays an important role in the maintenance of peace.

The lack of earning possibilities and of educational and medical facilities in rural areas has led to a concentration of the population in the cities. The spirals of poverty, unemployment, discontent, lack of perspectives, and crime continue to spin. The capital city, Nairobi, has a central function in East Africa (Administration, Banks, Insurances, UNO, international and national NGOs and relatively good educational possibilities) which attracts people like a magnet. This further sharpens the already-existing problems of supply and logistics, traffic, shortage of living space, poverty and criminality.

Since 1978 the BMI supports and assists partner organizations in Kenya to overcome the many challenges.

### Thematic priorities and key aspects of activities

The BMI country programme for Kenya 2009–2012 supports projects in the fields of health, pastoral, organization-development and income generating projects for disadvantaged



people, both in the poor areas of the capital city of Nairobi as well as in the rural areas in the north of the country. BMI is engaged in such themes as the improvement of the services of health institutions, advising and assisting partner organizations in developing their Human Resource Management, marketing, finance administration and in the area of Institution Building. By means of suitable educational possibilities, people who are marginalized obtain the necessary basics to enable them to participate in the commercial development of the country. Through appropriate and effective social-pastoral programmes of the Church and parishes, they become motivated and able to take their lives in their own hands, to develop strategies and use resources that improve the quality of their lives. Parish members take over the responsibility for their parish and take an active and creative part in its further development.

### Target groups

Marginalized women, men, young people and children, nomads and semi-nomads, refugees, people with leading positions in partner organizations.

### Partnerships and Networks

The Catholic Church is presently the most important partner in Kenya, represented by the Archdiocese of Nairobi, the Apostolic Vicariate of Isiolo and the Diocese of Marsabit. Other NGOs are also involved as partner organizations. The BMI-Coordination and the skilled persons are engaged in various local networks.



# Country programm

## Kenya

Bethlehem Mission Immensee

### The BMI locally

The BMI is represented locally by a coordinator who is the contact person for the partner organizations, guides the experts, and is responsible for assuring the quality of an assignment. The partner organization bears the responsibility for the project and provides the necessary framework for the expert to work within. A local responsible person oversees the work of the project together with the coordinator. It is the duty of the expert to work in the project according to the quality criteria mutually agreed upon.



### Contact:

Bethlehem Mission Immensee  
 Postfach 62, 6405 Immensee  
[www.bethlehem-mission.ch](http://www.bethlehem-mission.ch)  
[mission@bethlehem-mission.ch](mailto:mission@bethlehem-mission.ch)

### Facts

Area	580 367 km <sup>2</sup>
Population	39 Mio. (2009)
City population	22%
Life expectancy	57,86 years
Population below the poverty line	52%
Literacy rate	85,1% (2003)
BIP pro head in US\$	776 (2007)
Main export goods	coffee, tea, cut flowers, simple industrial products
Main export countries	Uganda 16,9%, Great Britain 9,3%, Tanzania 8,2%, Holland 8,2%, USA 6,4%, Pakistan 5,2%, EU (26%)
Foreign debts in US\$	6,749 Bio.

Facts: information collected from Internet – Sources available from the Mission Dept.