

From the Editor

What can we do to save each other?

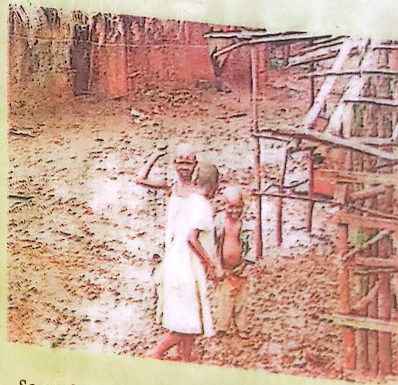
Two kilometres is all that separates the glitter of a prosperous city, its shops, its schools, its hospitals, its tourists, from the open wounds of two settlements that face each other across a narrow distance. A stone's throw. And yet, for the nearly 6,000 souls living there, that stone might as well be a mountain. These are people who fled violence long ago. They left their homes carrying nothing but their children and their memories. They dreamed of safety. They found survival. But survival is not living.

What is happening in these places is not merely poverty. Poverty is a lack of resources. This is a lack of dignity. Children do not go to school because education costs money, not in a remote village, but two kilometres from a city centre. Diseases run rampant because health facilities are a daydream. Prostitution is rampant because when hunger speaks, every other voice falls silent. HIV spreads because prevention and treatment remain luxuries for those who have nothing.

This is the tip of an iceberg. Beneath it lies a simple, terrible truth; we have allowed our fellow human beings to become invisible.

So what can humanity do? What can we do?

First, we must truly see because seeing is the beginning of compassion.



Second, we must refuse to accept that this is normal. It is not normal for thousands of people to live without health care. It is not normal for children to be unschooled two kilometres from a school. When we accept the unacceptable, we lose something essential in ourselves.

Third, we must act. Not someday. Now. Action does not require a government programme or a foreign donation. It requires one human reaching toward another. I hope this spotlight starts the action required to save this community.

Carol Atangaza

Ag. General Manager Editorial Allan Chekwech
Creative Editor Muhammad Tammam
Features Editor