

Le blog d'Anne Sinclair -- <http://annesinclair.typepad.fr/journal/2010/03/out-of-africa.html>

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Out of Africa -- English translation of section on Mme. Sinclair's visit to the Lubuto library by Penelope Meyers, Barnard College

"On Thursday morning I went to visit a children's library - The Lubuto Project Library – located inside a shelter for street children. The name itself of the shelter, “the Fountain of Hope,” says a great deal. Orphans whose parents have died of AIDS and whom no one looks after, runaway children wandering without a roof over their heads, or even children abandoned by parents too poor to be able to feed them, come to the Fountain of Hope in search of food, several shabby beds, and a semblance of a school over the course of several weeks or months, the time it takes to understand each of their situations and see if they'll be able to reintegrate into a family home.

A library was built there with some 4000 books in English in order to familiarize them with the official language of the country. These books come from various loans and donations, and range from children's stories to more sophisticated novels, to picture books or to atlases. The most consulted is the *Guinness book of World Records*, but the *National Geographic Atlases* come in as a close second. How to give dreams to those who cannot escape...

Martin Luther King was the figure and the theme of the week, and illustrated books with his famous quotes inspired drawings, paintings and skits performed by the children for their visitors with spirit and pride.

I admire those who devote their lives to these associations with passion and enthusiasm. I don't know how they maintain a certain joie de vivre alongside all the misery of the world."