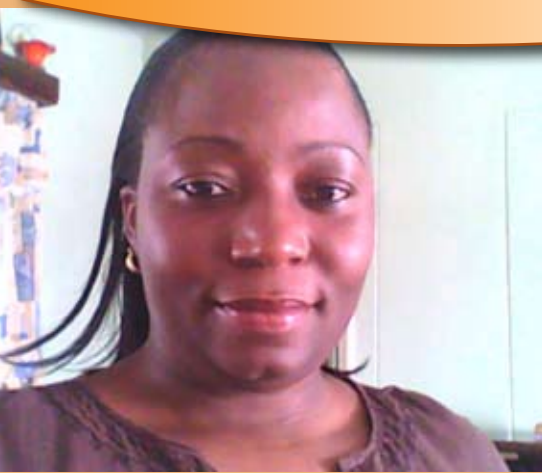


Mafanikio Newsletter

January – April 2009



Editor's Note

On behalf of Mafanikio Community Based Organization, Kirasha Community, Kiukuni Primary School, Mitingani Primary School, Mkwiro Community and Voi Children Centre, I would like to thank you very much for your continued support and efforts ensuring the running of the programmes. Your contribution has gone a long way, touched people's lives and changed most of them. You have made it possible for children to feed everyday and others to acquire high school education. We hope that you will continue walking with us through this road of improving livelihoods and educating the young generation which will tomorrow become responsible citizens of this country.

2008 activities recap

The year 2008 was a very trying year, filled with challenges, untold shock and pain and above all, total confusion as a nation. The country as a whole was immensely affected by the post election violence which broke out at the beginning of the year, leaving over 500,000 people homeless and thousands dead. It was a national nightmare that brought a country to a standstill. However, all was not lost, when the political allies decided to work in a coalition government. It brought about peace and tolerance amongst the Kenyans.

MCBO just like any other organization was adversely affected by the state of affairs, thus leading to cancellation of many volunteers. In such, MCBO directed some of her energy towards assisting the Internally Displaced Persons. Some of the projects carried out included;

- Empowering the IDPs through a communal farm in Kirasha
- Feeding programme for IDPs children at Sulmac Primary in Kirasha



Idp's Farm



Diana of Mafanikio and Maria of GRA

These were implemented courtesy of GRA (Growth Reaching Africa) and three volunteers namely Annemarie Costello, Siobhan Connolly and Deidre Moron. The school feeding programme and high school educational fund were able to run until the end of year, though they were faced with a myriad of challenges. The main challenge continues to be escalating food prices due to scarcity of food and school fee increment owing to food prices. We have also introduced new projects in Voi Children Centre, Mkwiro Primary School, Mkwiro Dispensary and a feeding programme in Utaati Primary School in Ukia Location, Makueni District. Last year, MCBO had a total of 4 volunteers last year, who worked at Kirasha, in Kamae Location and at Mitingani Primary School and Voi Orphanage. We were also been honoured by a visit from our partner and sponsor, Maria Butler from GRA and also a new partner, Aukje Hester De Boer from Netherlands.

2009 projects

Work camps

This year we have lined up work camps in new exciting places, laden with knowledge, experience and fun. Some of the work camps are within the vicinity of the United States of America's President Barrack Obama's father village, Kogelo. We are still inviting in applications for June, July, August and September work camps. This time more than ever before, Kenya needs a lot of support in terms of volunteers input and resources. This is because we are facing famine and drought and approximately 10m Kenyans are facing starvation and already it has been declared a national disaster.

Feeding Programme

This year MCBO has embarked on its objectives of empowering communities through diverse programs. As such, the school feeding program has become very crucial to the communities owing to drought, food scarcity and famine which has adversely the country at large.

Children in these areas are looking forward to going to school everyday because their families are not in a position to provide three meals a day.

Utaati Primary School is a very big school with a huge population of 465 children. All these children

receive a meal everyday lunch time since the beginning of this year. It's the most challenging school in terms of numbers. However, the programme is running smoothly.

In total we are sponsoring 1,005 pupils in these three schools.



Sulmac Kids after a meal

High School Educational Fund

This fund has been the key to reduction of poverty through embracing education thus acquiring knowledge and being on the same levels with the rest of the world. The fund has mainly concentrated on the areas where our projects are based. Currently, the fund is educating eight (8) students from Kiukuni area, two (2) from Mkwiro village,

six (6) from Kirasha, four (4) from Voi, four (4) from Nairobi totaling to twenty four (24) students. They are all provided for with school fees, basic needs and school requirements upon joining form I.



Kiukuni Students



One of the volunteers in teaching



Headmaster of Kiukuni Primary School during a prize giving

Water project

Mkwiro water, which is awaiting treatment plant, is the main priority since its half way complete. Efforts are being made to acquire the treatment and desalination plant which is very costly but will have sorted out the water problem in a long while. MCBO has approached Electric aid company in Ireland to fund for this plant and is still trying to source for funds to complete the project.



Mkwiro Women at the borehole

Aquachem Technologies Ltd is a reputable company which deals with water treatment and has vast experience in south coast waters. It has advised of the three equipments which are key to desalination namely;

- Desalination plant,
- Water filter and
- Water softener for the treatment.

Voluntary Placements

We have also introduced new projects namely

Voi Orphanage

Kaloleni Children Home is situated in Voi District, approximately 4km from Voi Township. It has a population of 20 children with the ages ranging one and a half year (1 1/2) to 19 years of age. The majority are nursery going children. These children are orphans of HIV/AIDS. Kaloleni is an area which has been infested by HIV/AIDS, however, the community is still bearing stigma which has resulted to many deaths owing to fear of disclosure and thus living positively.

Serafuongo Primary School

Serafuongo Primary School is situated in Nyanza Province, Bondo District, Nyang'oma Division, Nyang'oma sub-location, Lwala Village. Serafuongo has a total number of 372 children, 270 boys and 102 girls. It has seven (7) teachers. The economic activity in the region is fishing and has a population of 5,000 persons. It is approximately 40km from Kogelo Village, the home of President Barrack Obama's father.

Community Tourism

This is a new program that we have introduced. This program aims to build on the intrigue of the tourism sector in Kenya and augment the pleasure, knowledge and understanding of Kenya as a tourist destination through interaction with various communities. It is organized in such a way that the tourists enjoy the wildlife at the national parks and the beautiful scenery in three rural different communities' background while embracing the diverse Kenyan culture through living with the local people. This enables the tourist understand the local culture and integrate with the local people and share in their day to day activities. On the other hand, the community benefits through understanding a different culture, through the input of the tourist, education of the youth, supporting community projects and mentorship and experience. sharing with the youth.

Famine in Kenya

This time more than ever before, Kenya needs more support in terms of volunteering and resource wise. This comes in the wake of famine that has been declared a national disaster. Right now, 10 million Kenyans are facing starvations, already in most parts in the country. Some areas like at the coast, central, north eastern and eastern provinces are already depending on relief food for survival. This has been prompted by failure of rainfall and the post election violence last year, which made it impossible for main farmers to cultivate due to eviction from their farms. The farms were further

burnt down and now the nation is paying for this act.

The government has pledged to assist those who are starving, however, as it were, not everyone gets this assistance and unfortunately it never lasts for a longer period. All the schools under the feeding programme hail from some of the regions that has been adversely affected by famine and drought. With scarcity of food, the prices have sky rocketed. We are working on a very tight budget since it was drawn last year before the crisis hit the country.

We've got mail!

Mail from Maria Butler, Founder of GRA

Dear Mafanikio Supporters; Habari?

MCBO's partner GRA has been busy fundraising and working on projects with MCBO. GRA was proud to be Charity of the Month in an Irish Tatler magazine (see www.gracharity.com). GRA thanks all our friends for giving their time, efforts and digging deep into their pockets. The second annual GRA Ball was held in Dublin in September 08 and was a tremendous success attended by the special guest, Ambassador of Kenya to Ireland, H. E. Ms Catherine Muigai Mwangi.

Get involved in 2009;

- Volunteer in Kenya or ... Tell your friends about the work camps!*
- Fundraise for GRA and MCBO online; www.mycharity.ie/charity/gra . Take part in the Mini Marathon (Ireland), host a community event or be creative and adventurous for funds!*

*Thank you and keep up the good work,
Maria and the GRA team.*

www.gracharity.com / gracharity@gmail.com



Maria and Catherine Muigai Mwangi

Mail from Peter Mukosi, Kiukuni Headteacher

Kiukuni Primary School has benefited a lot from MCBO. Due to this, the school has shown improvement health wise, educationally, economically and socially. This improvement has resulted due to supply of food on the feeding programme since mid 2007, education of six students in secondary school currently, renovating classrooms in and constructing toilets for pupils in 2007 which have reduced the burden on the parents. Kiukuni is a semi arid area, badly hit by harsh weather thus drought and famine. We want to thank MCBO, volunteers and GRA for their continued support in our school and community at large. We also appreciate your efforts to source for water for our community, we are still hoping that the efforts will bear fruit one day. We are praying that since it's impossible to drill in our area due to hard rocks, we hope that water tanks can be installed. We are very thankful and grateful and hope God will equip you with more generosity. On behalf of Kiukuni community, I thank you very much.

Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the support of Growth Reaching Africa in our projects. They have made it possible for the projects to continue this year, amid difficult economic situation around the world. We would also like to acknowledge the support of all our volunteers for their efforts and contributions towards the projects and in advertising the work camps. We cannot thank you enough for being selfless and generous. Your efforts have gone a step further to mould people's lives in rural Kenya. Asante sana!

Mafanikio

Community based organisation

Bursary Funds

Feeding Programmes

Work Camps

Volunteer in Kenya

For any enquiries comments inputs or letters, please do not hesitate to write to us.

Also Visit our website, www.mafanikio.com

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