

M.A.A. « Maasai Aid Association »
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Activity report 2016

Dear members, dear friends, ladies and gentlemen,

MAA has completed its 13th year of operation as a humanitarian association in Kenya.

Major projects:

In 2016 MAA did not undertake new school construction, but carried out an ambitious project that was much more time-consuming and costly than expected: to supply drinking water to Enaramatishoreki Primary School and the village of the same name, Installation of solar panels that produce free energy needed to pump water to a depth of 210m below the surface.

This village is located on the great fault of the Rift Valley, between the town of Narok and Massai Mara National Park, a volcanic and rocky region with no water or electricity. The massai there are numerous and extremely poor. There is no access by road and the road that leads to this region is a stony track which gives an adventure journey of about 4 hours from Narok. In addition a 4x4 vehicle is required and a Massai guide who knows the region ... Despite the harsh living conditions, the Maasai settled there and lived there in a sedentary way by raising their meager cattle. Few people are farming because of lack of water and because of the random and insufficient rainy seasons since the beginning of climate change. Thus it is not unusual to have periods of famine where the children of the village school do not eat to their hunger. MAA was approached by the village and school authorities, who made us understand the vital role of water in the region and promised to grow a "school farm" to grow the necessary cereals Students' diet (a hot and nutritious meal a day). In the past, MAA has provided occasional food aid to the school, which is sometimes "forgotten" by the central government and does not receive the necessary funds to buy and transport grain from the city, needed for lunch for several month.

With this project (well + water pumping with photovoltaic energy + cereal cultivation close to the school) we hope to eradicate malnutrition for a long time (in the opinion of the engineers, the lifespan Of solar panels is about 20 years).

School scholarships:

MAA was extremely generous during 2016 by offering scholarships to 350 young people of all ages. The vast majority of beneficiaries are girls, but there are also boys (10-15%) and non-massai (other communities such as Kisii, Samburu, Kamba, Somalis, Kikuyu). We have also awarded 6 scholarships at the "College" level (mainly private universities in Kenya) mainly to train primary school teachers, a nurse and a young nutritionist. Since the number of sponsorships that MAA donors pay annually is insufficient compared to the demands of the young masses in need, we closed the accounting year with a deficit of about 18,000 CHF. This forces us to be more attentive in 2017 and to resize the volume of our stock exchanges so as not to end up in deficit each year.

A total of 250 annual scholarships would be more pragmatic and more suited to our resources.

In 2016, they supported us for the scholarships, except for our many private donors, the Commons of Thônex, Chêne-Bourg and Cologny which we thank warmly.

Surgical operations of the needy:

- Margaret from Transmara (Inkorienito village) was operated from a "frontal osteoma" that threatened to blind her by destroying one eye.

- John Lemayian a 6-year-old boy, burned to the paraffin lamp was operated twice by plastic surgery at the "Kijabe AIC Hospital".

- Two young sister and brother (Grace and Meshak) of Rombo, heavily disabled received treatment and operation at Kijabe Children Hospital. The enormous distance (400 km) that separates their village from the Hospital Center has required excessive transport costs because the two children of the same family suffer from cerebral palsy and can not travel by common transport due to the weight of their handicap. Moreover, it is sad to see that they will be handicapped all their lives.

- A mass mother from Transmara, Pauline, suffering from a fistula (extremely serious gynecological pathology requiring several hours of operation and a total reconstruction of the lower lanes) was transported twice by us to the Kissii Hospital operate. Fistula operations are handled by a large US NGO on an international basis. Ironically: even if the operation is free, the women's population is so poor that they do not have enough money to pay for their trip to the hospital! This is a problem of "health", unknown in our latitudes. It is worth remembering that fistulas are established by necrosis following a delivery that lasts several days. The root cause of this evil is obviously the excision that women underwent at a young age that makes the perineum hard, full of scars and not elastic.

The outlook for 2017.

At least 3 major projects are planned and found a budget in 2016.

A) "School infrastructures in 4 Massai villages", supported by the SSI of the State of Geneva and the "Lord Michelham of Wellingly" Foundation.

- construction of an additional class and equipment at the primary school of Matepes
- 6 toilets for the same school
- construction of a nursery school in Lemongo and its equipment
- 6 toilets for the same school
- An external study to measure the impact of the MAA project (2008-2011) on the prevalence rate of FGM and forced marriages among beneficiary populations and to assist MAA in the development of a strategy future.

B) "School Infrastructures at 3 Massai villages" supported by the DGSI of the City of Geneva and the Commune of Meyrin.

- a nursery class at the Oletukat school and its equipment
- 4 toilets for the same school
- bringing water to the Iltumtum primary school by tubes
- build 6 sanitary facilities for Iltumtum secondary school, which is currently not operational.

C) Create income-generating activities through a grain mill for two Massai women's cooperatives:

- one in Rombo (Loitokitok District, South Kajiado)
- one at Iltumtum (dsistrict Narok north).

A project supported by the BNP-Paribas Geneva Foundation.

Other achievements of MAA in 2016

- MAA has sold 5 copies of the anatomical model against FGM to organizations working in this field in England and Scotland. The profits from these sales pay scholarships to uncut girls.

- MAA offered food aid (purchase of cereals) to children from 4 to 6 years of age at the kindergarten of Emurua-Dikkir (Narok).
- MAA participated financially in a big festival of young schoolgirls against excision in Rombo (alternative rite) which lasted 3 days and was organized by several NGOs including AMREF.

Thanks

We thank our donors warmly:

- The SSI of the State of Geneva
 - The City of Geneva (DGVS)
 - The Counties of Meyrin, Cologny, Thônex and Chêne-Bourg.
 - The "Lord Michelham of Wellingly" Foundation
 - The BNP-Paribas Foundation
 - All godfathers/sponsors who faithfully support dozens of young Massai children.
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- A big thank you goes to the ladies of the committee of MAA, all volunteers: Aliko, Françoise, Katy, Paule and Syrle.
 - Many thanks to our collaborators in Kenya: Pauline, Rebecca, Jerusha, Cynthia Nemayian, Leshinka, and John Mepukori for their dedication and hard work.
 - We also thank Mrs Schulte (lawyer) and Mr Descourvières (bank clerk) for the audit of the accounts which they carry out each year on a voluntary basis.

Dear members and friends, continue to encourage us and support us with your words, ideas, suggestions and gifts.

Thônex, March 4, 2017

Annie Corsini-Karagouni,
President.