

**M.A.A. « Maasai Aid Association »****Activity Report 2017**

Dear members, dear friends, ladies and gentlemen,

MAA has been in its 14th year of operation as a humanitarian association in Kenya.

**Main projects:**

In 2017 MAA, invested in the realization of its projects, without launching new ones, at least not before the 4th quarter. This is in keeping with our well-established activities cycle, established for decade, namely that every other year we launch projects and raise the necessary funds for their realization, and the following year we proceed with their implementation, which takes resources and all our attention and time.

The projects carried out by MAA in 2017 are:

- The school infrastructure and water supply projects in 2 villages of Massai country, Oletukat and Ilintumtum and Narok region (Central Kenya) supported by the City of Geneva and the Commune of Meyrin. We visited these two villages in July 2017 and we noted the good outcomes of the work.

- The second major project this year, the improvement of school infrastructure in 3 villages in the south of the country (Lemongo, Matepes, Loïtokitok, Rombo region), supported by the SSI (international Solidarity Service) of the Canton of Geneva and by the Lord Michelham of Hellingly Foundation was also successfully completed.

- In parallel with the construction of the 10 new sanitary facilities in the 3 above villages, MAA introduced the concept of systematic handwashing after latrine use. We first convinced the school teachers, we left each school a written manual with drawings of the various possible facilities which are used elsewhere in Africa, and we left each Massai school the decision as to which method that suits them. They sent us pictures of their devices and during our next visit to the Massai country, in 2018, we will see on the spot if good practice continues and to what degree.

- The 3rd project that was important to us and which was funded by

the "boost" of the BNP PARIBAS Foundation are the grain mills offered to two women's Massai cooperatives, one in the village of IlIntumtum (MAA women group) and one in Rombo (Nozim Women group). The machines / electric mills were delivered in the presence of President Annie, in July 2017 on site.

### **Scholarships:**

With the deficit in the provision for "Scholarships" of about 20'000 CHF in 2016, MAA was very cautious in 2017, limiting the number of scholarships awarded to about 229. However, after our annual on the spot trip in summer 2017, we returned having donated 73 more scholarships, increasing the number of beneficiaries to 302 (however this is still much lower than the 350 in 2016).

It is impossible to visit the poor and remote villages where people live far from everything and deprived of everything and resist the parents' request to help them to educate their children from 4 to 18 years old. We explain to them that materially it is impossible for MAA to satisfy everyone.

However their expectations of us are so great that we end up "cracking" and promising to help a 10th of pupils in each village by taking firstly, fatherless and motherless orphans, then children of single mothers, widows or single women, then those who have a father who is unable to work (blind, cancerous, etc.).

The needs of the people being infinite and the finances of MAA finite, it is difficult to strike a balance. We try to be as objective and neutral as possible, but it turns out to be a very arduous exercise.

In the second semester of 2017 we also awarded 10 university scholarships at the "College" level mainly to train young primary school teachers, called ECDE studies (Early Childhood Development and Education).

As the course length for high school graduates (equivalent of BAC or Maturity in Kenya) is limited to one year for qualification as a teacher of elementary education and two years for qualification as a primary school teacher, it seems to us that this financial effort on our part is a worthwhile accomplishment that crowns years of scholarships. Without recognized and useful professional training, our young beneficiaries are left to their own devices after the age of 19-20 because in Kenya, no vocational or

career guidance is offered at any stage of public or even private education.

In 2017, we received support for the scholarships from our numerous private donors and from the Communes of Thônex, Chêne-Bourg, Chêne-Bougeries and Cologny. We thank all warmly.

### **Surgical operations for people in need:**

The students of HEC (Higher Commercial Studies) of UNIL (Lausanne) spontaneously helped this project by an unexpected gift. We thank them warmly.

### **Children hospitalized for reparatory surgery by us:**

- Nairisha Tarayia, of Orgumet, Rombo. 8 years old, clubfoot. Operated at Kijabe CURE Children's Hospital beginning of December 2017.
- Fatuuba Madiba, 3, from Homa Bay, operated at Kijabe CURE Children's Hospital in early December 2017. She had both legs in parentheses.
- Simaloi Katoo, village Orgumet, Rombo 12 years old. MAA paid for an ophthalmic consultation at Kenyatta Hospital in Nairobi. She has a damaged eye from a needle stuck in when she was small. She was advised to wear glasses. She was educated by the care of MAA, forcing the father to let her go to the first year of primary school at the age of 12!
- Juliette Naserian, 2 year old baby from Transmara, Inkorienito village, with genital malformation from birth. She received a diagnostic consultation at Kijabe AIC Hospital and is scheduled to undergo an operation-ablation in January 2018.

**The impact evaluation of the MAA campaign against FGM in 2009-2012**, a campaign funded by the SSI (international Solidarity Service) of the Canton of Geneva and several communes of the Canton as well as private foundations.

At the request of the SSI, a sum of money was dedicated to this evaluation and a qualified person was suggested to MAA to carry it out in Kenya. This required several months of work and several thousand francs, because the evaluator had to visit one by one the places where

MAA worked 5-7 years ago. However, the evaluation was conducted very seriously and its results show very satisfactory long term outcomes.

### **The collection of sneakers** through the primary schools of the Municipality of Thônex where MAA is based.

We launched, with the help of the school authorities of 4 schools,

- School of "Bois des Arts" (Thônex)
- Adrien Jeandin School (Thônex)
- School of Pont Bochet (Thônex)
- Marcellly School (Thônex)

a collection of "old" worn sneakers, but in good shape and clean (washed). By encouraging students to bring back their old sneakers between November 2017 and February 2018, we will take them to Kenya, and distribute them in rural schools where children do not have shoes on their feet.

Many thanks to these 4 schools who answered "present" to our call.

### **The outlook for 2018.**

We are trying to find funds to carry out 3 major projects in 2018.

a) "**School infrastructure in 2 Maasai villages**": this is to build

- 2 school classes in the village of Iloopilukuny, in Transmara, with 4

toilets

and

- 2 classes in Orgumaek (Rombo village, Loitokitok) with 4 toilets too.

At the same time campaigns against excision will be undertaken in these villages.

b) "**East Pokot Peace Initiative**".

In the area north of Kenya's Baringo Lake, two communities kill each other for lack of water, and therefore food. According to the local point of view the "bad" (Pokots) steal cattle from the "good" (Tugen) because, as if by chance, the Tugen community is much better off than the neighbors as a result of actions by the successive governments.

The Tugen have enough wells, while the Pokots see their cattle die of thirst and then themselves from hunger! This is how the food chain works!

The desperate situation made headlines in the French newspaper "le Monde" and Annie first contacted the journalist who wrote it and then local people from both communities.

We also sent a former MAA collaborator, Peter Kedoki, who did a field assessment for us. The conclusion is that peace hangs by a thread and that the vital needs of the Pokots, scandalously neglected by the government, are enormous. On top of this comes our plan to feed and school war orphans, to compensate Tugen families who have been robbed, to build, repair or unblock wells for the Pokots, to give seminars on peace to both communities and to create 2 football teams so that the young warriors can play, instead of shooting kalashnikovs at one another.

The Pokot community is anxiously waiting for MAA action, they want to see and talk with MAA representatives (planned visit in 2018) and in the meantime they have stopped hostilities and cattle raids, as this is the condition of our intervention. It is therefore a highly strategic project for the region, and for the first time in the history of MAA we are engaged in a peace initiative.

c) **Water wheels** (budget guaranteed by a donation from the BNP-PARIBAS Foundation)

The first task is to buy in India 100 of these water devices (very solid cans of water, which are rolled on the ground, instead of being carried on women's backs!). Then it will be necessary to transport the barrels by boat to Mombasa and to distribute them to the Massai villages.

d) We have also planned some **seminars against excision (FGM)** in remote Massai villages, seminars which we hope to finance with funds left from the SSI project, if permission is granted by the SSI to do so. Moreover in Pokot country we also plan seminars against excision, because it is a tribe which practices it extensively.

Other activities conducted by MAA in 2017

- MAA has sold 4 copies of the Anatomic FGM model to organizations working in this field in England and Scotland. The profit from these sales pays for scholarships for girls who have not suffered FGM.
- MAA offered emergency food aid (purchase of cereals) to children

aged 4-6 at Inkorienito Nursery School (Transamara). Undernutrition was reported by our local collaborator, teacher Rebecca.

- MAA participated in a "Christmas sale" on 27/11/2017 organized by the association "Giving Women". Artistic works (painting on porcelain) by the artist Tatiana Dallest were exhibited and put on sale for the benefit of MAA. The artist and our treasurer Françoise participated in this event, and we thank them warmly

## **Thanks**

We warmly thank our donors:

- The Communes of Cologny, Thônex, Chêne-Bourg and Chêne-Bougeries.
- GERTRUDE HIRZEL Foundation
- The BNP Paribas Foundation
- The GUY CROISIER Foundation
- HEC students from UNIL,
- All godparents who faithfully support dozens of young Massai children.

A big thank you to the members of the MAA committee, all volunteers: Aliki, Françoise, Katy, Paule, Syrle and Julien.

A big thank you goes especially to our staff in Kenya: Pauline, Rebecca, Jerusha, Cynthia Nemayian, Leshinka, and John Mepukori for their dedication and excellent work.

We also thank Ms. Schulte (lawyer) and Mr. Descourvières (bank employee) for auditing the accounts which they do on a voluntary basis every year.

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

Thônex, January 24, 2018

Annie Corsini-Karagouni,  
President.