

**M.A.A. « Maasai Aid Association »**
**2019 Activity Report**

Dear members, friends, ladies and gentlemen,  
 MAA completes 16 years of existence. Since its beginning in 2003, it continues its path as a humanitarian association on the behalf of the Massai population that lives in Kenya.

**Major projects:**

In 2019, MAA was able to realize, thanks to donations from generous institutional donors (SSI of the State of Geneva) as well as donations from private donors (Foundations), the following projects:

**Project I: "School infrastructures in 4 villages in Kenya and a campaign against FGM in 6 villages".**

Concretely:

We have built:

- 2 classrooms and 6 toilets in Olasiti village, Rombo region.
- 2 classrooms and 4 toilets in Enkaroni, Suswa, Narok district.
- 1 kindergarten classroom with 4 toilets in Ilgenchere village, Narok, Naroshura.

In addition, we have installed 2 water tanks in the village of Ilntumtum, and connected them with the existing water-network (built by MAA in previous years), one for the women of the village to use it domestically and the other for use in the High school called "Secondary Oletukat", although it is located inside Ilntumtum.

As for the campaign against excision (we say anti-FGM) we gave 5 alternative ceremonies (we say ARP = Alternative Rite of Passage) in 5 different villages (counting around 280 young girls saved from the knife ...) and 2 seminars in 2 villages, attended by around 200 parents.

In total, this project benefited 500 pupils and a double number of parents in 4 villages.

This project was funded by:

- The International Solidarity Service of the State of Geneva (55,000 CHF)
- The Gertrude Hirzel Foundation (6,000 CHF)
- The BNP-Paribas Foundation (CHF 9,000)
- The PICTET Charitable Foundation (CHF 10,000)
- The Municipality of Thônex (3000 CHF)

Its total cost was CHF 83,150.

Since its foundation, in the period 2003-2019 **MAA has built a set of 30 school-buildings in Kenya** (see the exhaustive list on the site [www.e-solidarity.org](http://www.e-solidarity.org)).

To better anchor the change in mentalities concerning the excision of girls, MAA promises secondary school scholarships to a certain number of girls per village. So we have in our 2020 scholarship file 12 more young high school girls for a total cost of around 6000 CHF annually, a cost that is not covered by any major donor, but by generous people like all MAA's godmothers and sponsors.

We have no guarantee that we will be able to assume this responsibility, and to find new sponsorships is a big challenge for the MAA in 2020!

### **Project II: Peace Initiative at Tiaty, East Pokot (north of Baringo Lake)**

This project achieved some progress during 2019, but it is not fully accomplished.

In January 2019 we supported, as in 2018, the primary school of Chemolingot, in Pokot County. In fact, We have provided:

- 100 uniforms for refugee students from a terrible water war that happened in 2016-17, which left dozens of internal displaced refugees in the country.
- 10 double deck beds for the dormitory of war orphans.
- School supplies to these orphan children.

We carried out a repair work at the school in Pokot village called Kashokon (roof of a classroom torn by the wind) and built 4 "real" toilets (because they had imitations! Yes, it exists in Kenya ...). We also dressed 60 children in the nursery school who were in rags or naked (!) and distributed school supplies to them at the beginning of the school year, as well as 600 kg of basic food (corn and dry beans).

This project, funded by SIG Foundation (5,000 CHF) and the Coromandel Foundation (20,000 CHF) in 2018 still has a significant balance, because we were unable to complete our plan.

Initially it was planned to take over and finish the water wells in Kashokon and Lemuyek village. Thus, these Pokot villages, in dire need of water, would be safe from a new conflict exacerbated by the indifference of the authorities and the injustice concerning the sharing of drinking water resources. As if "someone" miraculously finished the well in Kashokon and made it functional (given that the paths of Kenyan politics are impenetrable). This was done after 4 years of misery for the inhabitants and a lightning war in the region (2016-2017) which left many dead (police, Pokot and Tugen, the neighboring tribe favored). The technical intervention was attributed to Japanese cooperation, but when MAA contacted the Japanese Embassy in Kenya, they assured us that they had done nothing. From this we conclude that the well remained sealed during 4-5 years (although it WAS of vital importance for the population) in order to exacerbate the community conflicts related to the lack of water and to cause clashes between "irrigated" and thirsty tribes ...

As soon as MAA pointed the matter in this area and started investigating it, the source of the conflict unblocked the situation, apparently at its own expense. That much the political implication was.

### **Project III: School scholarships**

In 2019 we awarded 390 school scholarships at all levels of education in Kenya, including 10 at the University ("College", Private Universities). Most of them are long-standing MAA (primary and secondary school) scholarship holders and it is difficult for us to abandon them just like that without a professional qualification. Two of them are in a technical school (a seamstress, a cook), but the majority study to be primary school or kindergarten teachers. We also help a science teacher and an engineer.

Apart from you loyal private donors, in 2019 we were supported for school grants by the **Communes of Chêne-Bourg and Collonge-Bellerive, whom we warmly thank.**

### **Other projects:**

- **We have educated the 11 "forgotten" girls** in the village of Orgumaek, in Rombo. They were left behind, between 9 and 15 years old, doomed to excision and forced early marriage. By giving them a school grant, they all started 1st grade in the village school, they came out of the shadows and shame. Shame because their family had no money to send them to school and everyone considered them too "old" to start school.

- **Food aid for the kindergarten (3-5 years) of Emurua-Dikkir.**

We regularly provide, once or twice a year, for 3 months, a meal of cereals a day to the children of 3-5 years of this rural and isolated school. This makes the education of children attractive and parents encourage them to attend school more willingly. It is a sad observation, but is part of the local reality.

In addition, this year, thanks to the donation of the **Municipality of Puplinge**, we were able to provide a water tank at this Kindergarten in Emurua Dikir, in an arid region north of Narok. It is a "studied" system for collecting rainwater on the roof of the nursery class, which is collected into a new tank, thus ensuring students have drinking water at all (or almost all) times.

#### **- Surgical operations on disabled or injured children.**

We paid the Hospital and surgery for:

- Melvin Nashipae, 2 years old, badly burned and infected at CURE Kijabe Children Hospital.
- Leshikar de Rombo, severely paralyzed.
- Cynthia Barishoi of Transmara, clubfoot.
- Enock Lekishon with an orthopedic bone problem in one leg which required the installation of a metal plate.

Several of them will continue to have medical follow-ups in 2020, as these are heavy cases which require several operations. MAA collaborates with 3 Hospitals in Kenya, on the basis of a contract of trust: free admission of the patient on letter of guarantee from the president of MAA and the invoices paid after the necessary treatment are given.

The Hospitals are all located in Kijabe, 60 km north of Nairobi and are:

- CURE children Hospital
- Bethany kids Hospital
- AIC Kijabe Hospital

MAA obviously pays for the transportation of patients from various regions of Kenya to this focal point. The distances are long and as the patients (which are children from the village) do not speak the language of the County Kiswahili but only their tribal dialect, are necessarily accompanied by one of our collaborators, who works voluntarily. However, all travel and living expenses are covered by MAA.

#### **- Repairs of a rural school in Homa Bay, work funded by MAA-France on behalf of a French Lycée class.**

An English teacher in Avignon mobilized her students to raise funds. As a result, an association was formed, called "Maison des Lycéens (MDL) du Lycée Jean Vilar" ("de Villeneuve-lès-Avignon"). The students raised € 3,000 to help renovate the Sero primary school (Homa Bay, near Lake Victoria). The director of the Lycée insisted that the money collected by the students, pass through a European organization and not by a person in Kenya. MAA was chosen as intermediary organization and thanks to our collaborator John Mepukori we carried out this project, in Luo country in Kenya.

#### **Unsuccessful projects:**

- We could not find funds to start 3 literacy classes for Maasai women, as they had asked us.
- The Lord Michelham de Hellingly Foundation offered us 5,000 Francs to renovate the sanitary facilities of the Inkorienito primary school, in Transmara. Having been found unsanitary by the school hygiene inspection, the village was ordered to sanitize them or build 8 new toilets within 30 days, otherwise the School would be closed! As we could not find funds quickly enough, the situation remained the same for another 9 months. Finally we learn that the "County" is taking care of it and is building 3 new classes in this school. We hope that he took care of providing them with sanitary facilities this time. The money we have will be allocated to other sanitation works soon.

#### **Other activities carried out by MAA in 2019**

MAA has sold 6 copies of the anatomical model against excision (FGM) to NGOs working in this field in the Netherlands, England and Belgium. The profit from these sales contributes to the scholarships given to non-excised girls. We gave such a model to Beryl Magoko, a young filmmaker from the Kuria tribe in Kenya. She lives and works in Germany, and made a film on excision presented at the FIFDH in Geneva in 2019. This is where we have got to know her and wanted to help her at her quest. The Kuria tribe, like the Massai, practice the tradition of excision.

MAA renewed its NGO status with consultative status with the UN ECOSOC for another 4 years. As a result, we have the right to participate in all United Nations meetings, and to speak up if necessary.

## Thanks

We warmly thank our donors:

The Municipality of Cognoy, Thônex, Chêne-Bourg, Collonge-Bellerive and Puplinge.  
The Solidarity Service Intern. (SSI) of the State of Geneva  
The PICTET Bank Charitable Foundation  
BNP-Paribas Bank Foundation  
The Gertrude Hirzel Foundation  
The Lord Michelham de Hellingly Foundation

All the godparents who faithfully support dozens of young Massai children.

A big "thank you" goes to the members of the MAA committee, all volunteers: Aliko, Françoise, Elena, Paule, Syrle and Julien.

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

We also thank Ms. Schulte (lawyer) and Mr. Descourvières (bank employee) for the audit of the accounts they carry out on a voluntary basis each year.

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

Thônex, February 5, 2020

Annie Corsini-Karagouni,  
Présidente.

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