



A NGO awarded consultative status with ECOSOC, United Nations.

NEWSLETTER – April 2014

Dear members and friends,

The New Year 2014 got off to a flying start for MAA ! As you certainly know, you are sponsoring the education of around 250 children and young Maasai every year. However January is the starting month in Kenya for the school year. We thus have to sort a lot of data last year grades and results and decide who is worth to continue receiving a grant, who not and why, who has changed school and area etc. Not without forgetting that in this first month MAA is giving out important amounts of money, because the 1st term in schools is the most expensive in Kenya, and in addition we have to provide students with uniforms, books, and other school expenses paid at once in the beginning of the year, such as KCPE fees (for "Kenyan Certificate of primary education" for children in level 8, around 15 years old, and KCSE "Kenyan Certificate of secondary education" for students in form 4).

"Free education for all" is still a far away and not accessible target...

At the same time MAA is facing administrative preparation for the annual general Assembly, writing reports, summaries, accounts closing and audits. However at the same month, the end of the fiscal year is requesting preparation of "donation bills" to all our donors, so that they can profit from fiscal deduction. And last but not least, we must update the donors about their "godchildren", meaning providing them with new photos and last year school performance. This is a huge work that MAA faces at every January month. We try hard to carry out all these tasks, without forgetting nobody.

Let us come to our activities:

- Workshops on reproductive health and the prevention of FGM (female genital mutilation) among 12 primary and secondary schools of the district of Loitokitok.
- Our collaborator in the South of Kenya organized and held seminars last December, at her area. The following schools were concerned:
 - Olmapinu primary
 - Matepes primary
 - Rombo girls primary
 - Rombo girls secondary
 - Rombo mixed
 - Essossian primary
 - Lemongo primary
 - Collin Davis secondary
 - Elerai primary
 - Olgira primary
 - Engasakinoi and Kilimanjaro primary
 - St.Claré's secondary.

Here are some photos taken during the workshops :





- **The typical case of a little girl** whose story was reported to us by our collaborator Cynthia and whose schooling we cannot refuse to sponsor.



Cynthia wrote to us : " - Judith Lanoi went to class 5 at Enchurai primary (Rombo area, south Kenya). I met her by chance at a market place, where she was selling bananas with her older sister (on the photo background). They lost both parents recently, and now they are without resources and left alone. The older sister is trying to provide food selling sugar-canes and bananas at the market place. She has nothing, no field; she is collecting it at the edge of fields of others. They barely succeed to feed themselves and Judith has stopped going to school they cannot afford it ! "

This was reported to us last December. Since then, Judith got a MAA grant that covers her school fees and uniform requested by all Kenyan pupils. MAA is looking for a "godfather" or "godmother" for Judith Lanoi.

- **Babies arrival at MAA**

Here are the first 2014 babies, who are born thanks to M.A.A. help. We remind you that M.A.A. pays the transport from bush villages to the nearest District Hospital (Maternity) for those women having a long and unsuccessful labour in giving birth. This contributes to the reduction of mother-child mortality, quite high in rural environment.



Nolari Kesier got a baby girl

Gladys Kipaken, a baby boy.



Kisaru Nkokoyioi a baby boy.

➤ **We read on Kenyan Medias :**

Kenyans demand justice for teen gang-rape victim

Daily Nation, 28th October 2013

The world's worst punishment for rape?



SIGN THE PETITION

To Kenya's Inspector General of Police:

“ We call on you to deliver justice for Liz including the immediate arrest and prosecution of her rapists and full disciplinary action for the police officers who dismally failed to handle her case. By holding these police officers to account you will send a strong message to police everywhere that rape is not a misdemeanour, it is a serious crime, and if police do not uphold the law they will be held to account. We call on you to ensure Liz's case is a turning point to end the war on girls.

Outraged Kenyans are demanding justice for a 16 year old gang-rape victim who was dumped in a sewage ditch, and left for dead. She was walking home from her grandfather's funeral in Busia when the attack occurred.

After the alleged rape by six men, she was buried in a 20-foot latrine. Neighbours heard her cries for help hours later and pulled her out, bloody and by then unconscious, according to Kenya's *Daily Nation*, which broke the story.

She identified three of her attackers, and neighbours hauled them off to the local police station.

Police ordered the suspects to cut grass in the yard, then released them shortly after, according to the newspaper, which is spearheading a fund-raiser to help meet the medical bills for the teen, who's been nicknamed Liz.

"This is yet another example of blatant impunity and repeated non-compliance by the police and other government authorities. Rape and other gender crimes have consistently been treated as lesser crimes - this is unacceptable," Kenya's Coalition on Violence Against Women said in a statement.

The girl has had to use a wheelchair since the attack, according to the *Daily Nation* newspaper. She's also suffering from a condition that makes her unable to control her bowels as a result of the rape.

At least 32% of Kenyan girls younger than 18 experience some form of sexual violence, according to a report released last year by the government and the United Nations.

The numbers may be higher because a lot of rapes go unreported for fear of stigma.

M.A.A. gets indignant about the impunity of such acts, and calls the Kenyan Justice to a stricter application of Women's Rights in the country.

We obviously signed the AVAAZ.org petition on this subject.



New Kenya law legalizes polygamy;

1st May 2014

(CNN) -- A new law that went into effect in Kenya this week makes it legal for a man to marry as many women as he wants. And a leading women's group is applauding it.

President Uhuru Kenyatta signed the polygamy measure into law Tuesday, formally recognizing what has long been a cultural practice in the nation.

Parliament passed the bill in March despite protests from female lawmakers who angrily stormed out of the late-night session at the time.

The bill initially allowed the first wife the right to veto the husband's choice of additional spouses. Male members of parliament successfully pushed to get that clause dropped.

"We are happy with the law because finally all marriages are being treated equally."

Christine Ochieng, executive director of Federation of Women Lawyers

"Marriage is the voluntary union of a man and a woman whether in a monogamous or polygamous union," Kenyatta said. Marriage Act 2014 defines various types of marriages including monogamous, polygamous, customary, Christian, Islamic and Hindu marriages."

No limit on number of wives: The law legalizes polygamous unions, but does not provide an official limit on the number of wives a man can have.

Polygamy already is a common fixture among many cultures in Kenya and in some other African countries.

"All marriages will be issued with marriage certificates, including customary marriages. Before this, customary marriages were treated as inferior with no marriage certificates. This opened up suffering for the women because they could not legally prove they were married to a particular man. "

M.A.A. believes that the bill is archaic and has no place in modern society. The place of Kenyan women is going backward and the Woman's life conditions become worst and worst.



We found on the web the useful WATERWHEEL, manufactured in India from WELLO organization, in order to relief women from transporting water, a daily and painful chore. Women spend over 25% of their time each day collecting water. With the Waterwheel, they can now transport 50L at once – between 3 and 5 times the amount of water possible as compared to traditional methods: this means MORE water in less time!



We have already ordered 10-20 samples of Water Wheels, but we wait for delivery in Kenya. Indeed, it would be of a great help to Maasai rural women.

We thank you for your attention and interest,

For M.A.A. committee:

Annie Corsini

Françoise Desson

www.e-solidarity.org