



An NGO in special consultative status with ECOSOC, United Nations.

NEWSLETTER – September 2017

Dear members and friends,

This month, we wish you a "Happy school year", nice autumn return, and courage to resume your activities after the summer holidays that we hope very pleasant.

In Kenya at the beginning of September it begins the 3rd and last school term (T3) of the year which will last until the end of November. December is a month of school holidays.

With the beginning of the school year, we also make an inventory of our obligations in MAA committee. Many new children came to us during our trip in July 2017, to apply for a sponsorship. Most of the time, it was the initiative of the schoolmasters, sometimes the mothers or grandmothers in charge of an orphan, and so on.

In short, we are overflowing with requests for rescue situations.

Annie and Perrine back from Kenya have brought back in their luggage:

- 80 new children applying for a scholarship. Sometimes a paltry sum (like 10 or 20 € / month), is enough to send to the school several of them.
- A dozaine of surgical operations to be planned and budgeted within next months, on children born with disabilities or after an accident (such as the girl who has received a needle in her eye while playing with her sister and she did not see well for 6 years ...)
- The crying need for building several school classes in distant and forgotten villages.
- The need for sanitary facilities in villages, communal washing facilities and other water-related installations. This chapter remains of current interest, **with lack of water being one of the most serious problems in Kenya**. In some areas of the country (like Bongoria, Pokot, Laikipia) the war is declared among the inhabitants around a dry well or for stolen cattle (when the herd of cattle dies because of thirst, the breeders will steal neighbors farmers cattle, the ones who have a little more chance of water ...). These raids and other water-related conflicts have killed many people in northern Kenya. In Maasai areas where MAA works, we give special emphasis to water supply projects. We visited regions in Maasailand where it has not rained since 3 years now ! Lucky are the villages that have a well drilled deep down and it's always full of water. Surface water capture systems have all dried up.
- One dozen of young people from several areas, teachers in primary or kindergarten but without a diploma (and therefore without pay), content with a symbolic salary provided by the parents of all village pupils they asked us to help them financially to obtain a Certificate (to be a nursery teacher) or a Diploma (to be a teacher in primary). These private College studies, like all vocational training courses in Kenya, last 1 or 2 years depending on the studies level. We have called on various municipalities in Geneva to offer professional scholarships to these young people who are motivated but without a future.

To all our members and friends:

If the heart tells you, make a donation to MAA to meet the educational needs of our protected children.

With a sponsorship of 20 or 25 \$ / month, you allow 5 or 10 children (depending on the village and primary school) to attend school on the spot. A uniform, a meal per day at least assured, it gives dignity and pride to these children.

MAA is committed to informing you in detail about the beneficiaries of your sponsorship and to follow them in Kenya.

For large projects (such as school building, well drilling, surgical operations, etc.), we call on Foundations or Institutional donors.

MAA needs many new godparents and small donations, but oh how effective!

Some photos and stories from the ground that have impressed us ...



1. The Moran young man, who wants to follow school.

When we visited the primary school in Matepes at Rombo area, the director presented us this extremely rare case:

A 16-year-old man, never educated in his life and whose illiterate parents had destined to be a Moran (traditional warrior, without education and without profession), he left the bush (where the Morans live) and was spontaneously presented to the near school to ask for asylum and the right to education !!!

Given his age, he passed quickly through the 1st and 2nd class and now follows the 3rd primary with success. He is the only student aged 16 years, among comrades who are 8-9 years old. Brave attitude and determination !

There is no age to take his life in hand and choose his way. I congratulated him warmly.

Touched by his story (and his parents' refusal to enroll him) MAA offered him a scholarship.

We are happy to tell you, the young man found already a lady sponsor !



Ann Tesi, in 3rd primary class at Engasakinoi primary, Rombo. A radiant child who joined the list of new grantees of MAA.



Godfrey Yusufy, pupil in 5th class at Engasakinoi primary also. The HT told us that he is the best in his class, a brilliant but very needy boy. Sponsored by MAA as well.



2. The children with a sunny smile

Primary school at Engasakinoi :

The school has no drinking water. It buys and stores it in a plastic tank.

Our kids need new pullovers, t-shirts for boys and dresses/uniforms for girls. In addition, their number increased from 10 to 13.

At Matepes primary the number of needy pupils increased also from 36 to 54 ! (hence the need for new godparents).

Sponsorship of a child in Engasakinoi primary: 25 \$ / year.



Esther Napunia, 13 years old. MAA had given a grant, years ago to her sister who died unfortunately from TB. She would like to take her grant, the sadness on her face.



Two girls were introduced to us at Matepes primary. (In 1st and 4th classes). They have recently orphaned, their father died of liver cancer.

3. The "chicks" of the kindergarten



Many kids at pre-school age want to get a MAA scholarship. They came personally with their mothers and grandmothers although night falls.



They are between 3 and 5 years old, they are shy and hide behind the petticoats of the mother. They go to a "child school" and will be the next generation of women educated (for the first time).



We have 12 young kids between 3 and 6 years in Matepes Village. They came accompanied by their mothers to ask us for a sponsorship.
Sponsor them with 40 \$ /year !!!



Night falls at the village of Matepes. Still some children are queuing in front of us to ask for a sponsorship. At the background the Mount Kilimanjaro with its 6'000m of height, remains impassible.

4. The women who walk carrying 20 liters of water on their head, 5 km, per day.

Futur MAA project (expected on 2018)



Frequent view in Massai countryside: women carrying in their back jerrycans of 20 liters of water walk lasting km to bring the precious drinking water at home.



The weight is carried by means of the leather strips on head and neck. A very very painful daily activity.



The name of the young woman is Agnès Motonga, from Oletukat village (Narok west).

I passed by car near this small group of 3. I stopped the car and I went down for their to speak (helped by my Maasai guide).

Having taken their names, home place and photos, I promised to them to come back and offer to them "water wheels" as soon as possible. Indeed, MAA has a project for 2017-18 where it is about to buy 100 " water wheels " from Indian manufacture and ship them by boat to Mombasa first, then to Maasai villages



Therefore women wont carry anymore water, they will roll it !

5. The orphan with the sweater that yawns!



He is the grandson of the Massai grandmother on the right, met in the village Enaramatishoreki. Meteur Sargengongu, his name, in 4th primary, completely orphan, he lives with his grandmother, his only surviving relative.



The brave lady, longtime friend of MAA (2004) because she is committed to emancipating her village to the eradication of girls cutting (FGM). We promised her, a scholarship for the grandson and a new sweater!

We are looking for a donor who can spend 25 \$ / year for him.

We are aware that it is difficult ouradays to find funds for our children. Thus the idea of a bazaar of massai objects brought from Kenya germinated.

Take the time to flip through the catalog in appendix with massai or simply Kenyan items and jewelry, and buy one if the heart tells you. Be sure that the purchase amount will go straight to pay the school of one or more children.

Thank you for your attention and interest in reading us.
For the M.A.A. Committee

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