

REPORT

DUARA and the Maji Mazuri Education and Talent Program (MMETP) August 2010-May 2011

By Naomi van Stapele

Introduction

I, Naomi van Stapele, am chair of Duara Foundation. In the period of August 2010 to May 2011 in capacity of chair of Duara Foundation and long-term partner of Maji Mazuri am supporting Maji Mazuri in implementing the following projects with regard to the MMETP:

1. Mavuno Youth Preparatory Trajectory, a preparatory trajectory to prepare youth from the most vulnerable groups in Mathare to access the Mavuno youth loan scheme.
2. 'STOP the BULLET!', a peace promotion project initiated by the Maji Mazuri Youth group and by Simama Pamoja Peace Initiative (SPI) in Mathare.
3. Green Heroes, a garbage collection project initiated by the Maji Mazuri Youth group in Mathare.
4. Training of trainers, train teachers to incorporate RC and Pedagogy of Excellence in the Maji Mazuri schools.
5. Follow-up database, assist Dani and Wambua in building a database of all students in Head Start and all teenz and youth members.
6. Fundraising and free scholarships.
7. A community radio station, Mathare FM.
8. Survey.
9. Youth and teenz annual programs and overall MMETP design

Below I will describe the rationale behind each activity, how I, and Duara at large, support each activity and how I envision handing over my work to the Mathare Team. I conclude this report with describing the foci of our fundraising efforts and our targets for 2011.

1. Mavuno Youth Preparatory Trajectory

Rationale behind Mavuno Youth loan scheme:

The Mavuno Youth loan scheme was founded in 2007 because Maji Mazuri identified a need to have a youth branch to enable youth members from MMETP and vulnerable youth in Mathare Valley to access business training and loans within the MMETP pipeline. The Mavuno Youth loan scheme is thus to be viewed as part of the MMETP. The Mavuno Youth loan scheme operates similarly as the Mavuno loan scheme and it follows the same set of rules and regulations but it differs in approach. Youth members are, proactively, recruited at bases and from the Maji Mazuri Youth group and they need more counseling before embarking on a business venture for, as research has shown, particular issues, such as peer pressure, seem to affect youth more than the older Mavuno members.

Background

In 2007 Duara foundation raised funds to help Maji Mazuri implement a youth branch of the Mavuno loan scheme as part of the overall MMETP. Emily became in charge of the Mavuno Youth loan scheme and MC, in August 2008, joined her to assist her in recruiting youth and guiding them in starting a business and repaying their loans.

Success

In 2009 the Mavuno Youth loan scheme was evaluated. The scheme turned out to be very successful since 80% of the youth repaid their loan and had been able to access higher levels of loans since its inception in August 2007. Most youth recipients, however, derived from the Maji Mazuri youth group and associated youth and Mavuno youth had been less successful in recruiting youth from vulnerable social groups in Mathare such as the *chang'aa* brewers and prostitutes rowe.

The objective to reach out and recruit youth from vulnerable groups in Mathare is twofold:

1. Many of these youth were involved in the post-election violence and the expectation is that these young men (and young women) will be less susceptible to mobilisation in such violence when they have a business to lose. This is of particular importance now that crime is up as a result of a steady decline in the *chang'aa* business allegedly caused by the 'Mututho law'.
2. Maji Mazuri's core objective is the social and economic empowerment of vulnerable groups in marginalised (urban and rural) regions. Therefore, reaching out to these youth

corresponds with its core objective and secures a steady stream of youth from marginalised social groups in Mathare to join the MMETP.

Maji Mazuri therefore decided in August 2009 to reach out to a base called Sare Moja and establish a relationship with the young men from this base. After a series of meetings the men were invited to join the Mavuno youth loan scheme but upon my return in August 2010 none of the young men targeted had joined.

Challenge

Thorough evaluation conducted by me and MC in August 2010 revealed that most men experienced a psychological distance between them and the Mavuno office where they were invited to register. Moreover, most men expressed a need to be trained as a group first to deal with and/or overcome certain habits, such as alcohol addiction and peer pressure, together. They emphasised the need to work together in a group of 20 divided in four groups of five because they stated that the social cohesion of the base would help them to help each other in the process. The men organised themselves in a group and presented a request to Maji Mazuri to counsel and train them in life skills and thus prepare them to enter the formal training that is part of the Mavuno Youth loan scheme. By creating an additional preparatory trajectory that trains men and women from vulnerable groups to eventually enter the loan scheme the Mavuno Youth loan scheme is adapted to the needs of the targeted population, i.e. youth members from the most vulnerable groups in Mathare Valley.

Planning of the Mavuno Youth Preparatory Trajectory

At present, Maji Mazuri is training the first two groups (one group of women and one group of young men, all associated with Sare Moja base) as an experiment (which involves thorough evaluation to base future expansion on) and the trajectory is set up as follows:

1. The first month group members meet once a week to establish the group, identify members, train life skills and assess their current situation and future plans.
2. The second and third month group members are counselled according to themes, such as alcoholism, peer pressure and family responsibilities, and at the same time they start with a small loan of 500/= for which they have to register and write a small business plan. While repaying their loans, members are guided to start saving.
3. The fourth month is dedicated to a thorough assessment of each member after which a member either enters the formal training of the Mavuno Youth loan scheme or stays within the weekly counselling and training program (the preparatory trajectory).

NB. A more detailed description and evaluation of the first two groups will be presented to Maji Mazuri in May 2011. Based on our findings the Mathare Team will develop a methodology that will be used in continuation and expansion of this MMETP activity.

First steps to expansion

Maji Mazuri has reached out to three other brewing bases in Mathare Valley and plans to gradually include them in the preparatory trajectory.

Questions and issues for further debate by the Mathare Team:

1. The new training venue.
2. When to include other groups.
3. Planning of the loans.
4. Budgetary planning.

Funds:

This program has enough funds as the account still has approx. 400.000/= left from the initial fund of 630.000/= raised by Duara in 2007.

My role:

I am working with Janet, MC and Dani to assist them 'on the job' to organise the groups, plan and prepare the trajectory and all meetings and monitor the experiment. In addition, I am helping them to develop a methodology based on this experiment and on RC theory and plan further expansion of this trajectory.

Recommendation:

1. Formally incorporate this project in MMETP and give it a separate bank account.
2. Have MC and Dani in charge of the Mavuno Youth preparatory trajectory and Emily in charge of the Mavuno Youth loan scheme. MC and Dani will assist Emily as soon as members enter the Mavuno Youth loan scheme (files, assessment and monitoring are crucial to guide the members during the preparation phase and when handing over useful information to Emily).
3. Evaluate the first two groups in May 2011 to analyse the 'Do's and Don'ts' for further implementation.

2. 'STOP the BULLET!', A Peace Promotion Project

Background

Duara funded a 6-day workshop at the coast, Mombasa, in December 2010 for 45 youth from Maji Mazuri and from Simama Pamoja Peace Initiative, both based in Mathare Valley. The workshop had the title 'STOP the BULLET!' and was aimed at capacity building on governance, poverty reduction and violence. The youth participants were inspired and came up with three project activities that were organised into one project that both youth from Maji Mazuri and SPI are currently carrying out in Mathare. The slogan of the project is: 'STOP the BULLET!'.

Rationale behind 'STOP the BULLET!'

The escalating violence of the past decade has left permanent marks in the Mathare community. Many people in the ghetto fear new violence as the 2012 General Elections draw near. The aim of this project is twofold:

1. Create awareness about past conflicts and the dangers of 'ethnicisation', (with 'ethnicisation' we mean understanding local tensions in ethnic terms that articulate with political narratives and play into the hands of manipulative political elites). This has fuelled violence in the past. The aim of this project is to create awareness about political instigation and include former and potential perpetrators in building a team of 'Shujaa wa Amani' together with youth from aforementioned youth groups. More and better information about past conflicts and the way violence is whipped up by local politicians will help reduce the susceptibility of youth (and other community members) to political manipulation.
2. Provide people in the Mathare community with new frameworks to grasp local tensions and work towards solutions together. Through community dialogue, counselling and workshops to work on conflict resolution 'in the moment' and 'from below'. This way Maji Mazuri aims to encourage community cohesion and assist the community to develop tools to quell simmering tensions as they are whipped up.

Project timeline:

From Feb. 2011-May 2011 (each Saturday)

- Training of 14 Maji Mazuri and SPI youth counsellors.
- Counselling of alcohol brewers and young prostitutes.

From June 2011-August 2011

- Organise 4 workshops to train gang members and prostitutes as advocates of peace.
- Assess situation in Mathare

From September-December 2011

- Peace tournament with teams from all bases and youth groups involved
- Held screenings with interviews with Mathare residents and community dialogue

December 2011

- Peace festival
- Evaluation on how to expand the project for 2012

Funds:

The two groups, the Maji Mazuri Youth group and SPI, will need to raise funds for this project.

My role:

I, together with MC and Dani, train all the youth and am guiding and supervising the implementation until the end of May 2011. I will work together with MC, Dani and Victor to prepare the future implementation, assist in writing proposals and evaluate the first phase.

3. Green Heroes, a garbage collection project

The Maji Mazuri Youth group started a garbage collection project in Mathare. The youth have bought protective gear for 37.000 ksh. that was donated by Duara. The marine coloured overalls have Maji Mazuri Youth group printed on them and the slogan: mazingira safi, afya bora

The Maji Mazuri Youth group have started with a 3 hour clean-up each weekend of several dump sites in the designated area (from the Maji Mazuri Office to Austin Ground). The aim is to clear all the dumpsites near houses and schools in this area and to work with landlords and tenants to start a garbage collection project for a small fee.

First, the youth want to build incentive in the community. As soon as the dumps are cleared and residents experience a clean environment we can start charging a small fee for garbage collection to continue to keep the community clear of garbage dumps. This would make the youth project self-sufficient and create job opportunities for youth and community members.

Every Saturday youth and community members will clean dumps until they are all cleared in Bondeni, Mathare. At the same time the group is working to have designated dump areas on the roadside and garbage collection by council lorries outside Mathare. The youth will also initiate a hygiene awareness campaign with community members. The residents will become aware of the health and economic benefits of a clean environment and simultaneously they will gradually experience a cleaner environment.

Funds:

Duara raised the funds for starting costs but for further expansion additional fund raising efforts are required.

My role:

I have assisted MC and the Maji Mazuri Youth group in planning the project and will further assist them in writing the proposal with them and conduct a thorough project planning for continuation and future expansion.

4. Training of trainers, train teachers to incorporate RC and Pedagogy of Excellence in the Maji Mazuri schools.

In May 2011 MC, Dani, Janet, Wambua and I will train 10 teachers within Maji Mazuri schools to become trainers of teachers on a method of teaching based on RC and the Pedagogy of Excellence. The Dignitas Project will further train 6 teachers at Head Start. All the knowledge and expertise gathered in both training trajectories will be compiled in a training syllabus that will form the basis for a continuous training program for all teachers within Maji Mazuri under the expert guidance of Ndiritu.

Funds:

Janet will raise funds locally and I will help her in preparing basic proposals that can be adapted to specific donor organisations and identify possible donors. This will enable Maji Mazuri to raise salaries and thus attract qualified staff in Head Start.

5. Follow-up database, assist Dani and Wambua in building a database of all students in Head Start and all teenz and youth members.

At present, an extensive filing system is being developed in Mathare (Head Start, Teenz and Youth group) to track students and teenz and youth members and help Maji Mazuri to evaluate and re-design educational and talent development program activities to current needs. Dani and Wambua are working hard to complete this database and will then plan on how to implement the file system in other Maji Mazuri schools.

My role:

My role is minimal. Duara has designed the files and they have been adapted by the Mathare team to local needs.

6. Fundraising and free scholarships.

As mentioned above Janet has embarked on a local fundraising campaign to raise funds to pay salaries Head Start and in the Mathare Office, buy 15 computers for ICT course 2 and for other prioritised elements within the MMETP. Dani is focussing on establishing relationships with educational institutions to find free or low cost scholarships for Maji Mazuri graduates and youth members. His main focus is to open the gates of vocational training centres for a majority of our youth (the main focus in MMETP) and he will also secure 5 free scholarships in Higher Educational institutes.

My role:

I help both Janet and Dani in the organisation, planning and preparing of proposals and requests for free scholarship.

7. A community radio station, Mathare FM.

Abstract of the radio project: MATHARE FM

Mathare FM is to be it's own organization founded by 9 organizations (see proposal for all names) and Maji Mazuri is one of the 9 founding organizations. Maji Mazuri decided it is better for all partners to have equal decision-making power, share accountability and share ALL responsibilities equally as to avoid conflict and truly make this radio community owned. This means that as of now the radio committee becomes the founding board of Mathare FM (i.e. The Mathare FM Board) and will produce a constitution, get a license and a registration as a community radio, raise funds and prepare the launch of the radio together.

Mathare FM will be the first community radio station in Mathare Valley and it will give people in this ghetto the information, the education and the tools to promote peace, gain access to jobs, funding and other economic and social empowerment opportunities and create unity in the community of 11 ghetto villages that comprise Mathare Valley. As a result of a decade of violence in the ghetto Mathare Valley the community of 11 ghetto villages are fragmented into different regional, class-based, ethnic-based, gender and age groups and each group has retreated inward to deal with current problems and face future ones. The danger of fragmentation and the subsequent exclusion of so called 'others' lies in increased susceptibility to political manipulation, peer pressure, negative stereotyping and even vilification of 'others'. This all could lead, and in the recent past many times has led, to violence while such demonising discourses have been often appropriated to legitimise violence. The process of 'othering' that has been enabled by the fragmentation of the community in various groups can only be countered by this community wide project, a community radio station that provides much needed civic and non-formal education and that initiates the sharing of information, interaction, cooperation and that encourages unification in social and economic empowerment activities.

The moment is now.

In the run-up to, during and in the aftermath of the 2007 General Elections it were mainly, so called, 'idle' youth in the Mathare Valley ghetto who were mobilised in political violence. The best way to promote peace now and in the near future is to base peace promotion strategies on their experiences and frame of reference, involve them in the implementation of such interventions and provide them with jobs and other social and economic opportunities that will give them hope. The community radio station will target the most vulnerable youth in this ghetto, the youth who survive by engaging in crime, prostitution and brewing alcohol, who lack hope for a better future and who have no network (and do not belong to youth groups, CBO's and NGO's operating in the area) to help them access jobs and other opportunities.

Thus far no peace intervention developed in Kenya has ever been able to reach these youth because they are not affiliated with formal organisations. Mathare FM will not only develop this community radio station and air programs together with 40 youth from the most vulnerable groups (i.e. criminals, prostitutes, alcohol brewers) but it will also provide all 'idle' youth with information about jobs and other social economic opportunities in and outside the ghetto. This guarantees that the radio content and conflict resolution strategies developed by these youth will speak to the mind and address the needs of many similar youth in Mathare Valley. The moment is now that the next elections are looming on the horizon.

My role:

I wrote the proposal together with MC and I am assisting the Radio Board in raising funds and in planning the preparation of the project.

8. Survey.

During a discussion I had with the Director, Wanjiku Kironyo, we came to a conclusion that some of the skills I have as a researcher could be very useful for the Mathare Team because these researching skills can enable this team to do a baseline survey, monitor different attitudes and social processes within the community and assess the effectiveness (and perhaps need) of (redesigning) certain Maji Mazuri programs. This survey is henceforth meant to support the Mathare Team to acquire such skills under my guidance

9. Youth and teenz annual programs and overall MMETP design

1. I am working with Dani and MC to think about how the annual program of activities can serve preset objectives and thus become more imbedded in an educational context.
2. I am working with Victor, current chair of the Maji Mazuri Youth group, on how the committee leaders can plan their work, set targets and evaluate progress.
3. I am working with Dani, Janet and MC on a better design of the MMETP. This new design will be presented to the Director in early April.

10. Foci of Duara fundraising 2011

1. Food for Thought: feeding program Head Start
2. Green Heroes: continuation and expansion
3. Scholarships: paid scholarships in vocational schools
4. Radio: is already in the pipeline.
5. Expansion of ICT course in Mathare: proposal is ready and already in pipeline.
6. Mavuno Youth: need to raise funds now so we can expand in 2012