

Friends and donors of the Duara Foundation

Last summers long visit to Kenya, by Naomi van Stapele (Chair) and Marcelle Senden (Fundraiser), turned out to be very productive as it focused on the implementation of the second phase of the Maji Mazuri Talent Program. Below is an impression.

Cooperation

Duara supported Maji Mazuri to open an ICT-training centre in partnership with **Nairobits** (www.nairobits.com), a well-known NGO and ICT trainings institute for youth from slum communities in Nairobi. Nairobits provided the computers and the trainer while Duara renovated the training location (to provide Maji Mazuri with a secured training centre, fit for a slum location) and covered the costs for the installation of Internet. Duara will stay involved to support Maji Mazuri in meeting the reoccurring operation costs such as Internet subscription, rent and maintenance.

Duara also pays the salaries of the youth coordinator and youth counselor involved in monitoring the progress of the 140 students because these students automatically become part of the Maji Mazuri Talent Program that now has 550 students on a yearly basis.



This means that, on top of the ICT course, the ICT students are involved in life skills training offered by Maji Mazuri and they are counseled by Maji Mazuri staff to avoid dropouts due to problems at home, gang affiliation or drug addiction (and other challenges these students have to face growing up in a slum).

After completion they are referred back to Nairobi where they can pursue further education and obtain an accredited diploma. Maji Mazuri will stay responsible for students who fail to achieve the required level to pursue a diploma. Maji Mazuri will guide and train them to start a business in the Mavuno Youth program (A tailor made micro-credit scheme for youth that is part of the Maji Mazuri Talent Program).

Shared news and views

With the cameras and training Duara provided to the Peace Promotion Project, Maji Mazuri has been able to set up a reporter's network. The young Maji Mazuri reporters have been trained to make short films to advocate peace, initiate community dialogue and promote Maji Mazuri on the web. With continued financial support from Duara, this network will in future work together with **Ghetto film club**, an independent media group from the slums in Nairobi. Ghetto film club will teach the youth to use film to give vent to their views and opinions on incidents, events and developments in the community to contribute to community dialogue.

The overall aim set by Maji Mazuri and Duara is to hold a Peace Film festival in September 2010 in Mathare Valley. Many slum inhabitants are illiterate making films, in particular movies made by their own youth with stories from their own



community, a powerful tool to encourage community cohesion, social responsibility and mutual understanding.

Peace Project

Duara supports a new network of youth groups (with a total support base of 500 youth) called **Mabatini**, named after the ward in which they operate, who work together to promote peace in rival slum villages. Youth and staff from Maji Mazuri founded this network in March 2009.

They experienced a major set back in May 2009 when politicians tried to mobilize this network for their own agenda.

The youth group that invited the political elements has been expelled, and the network has reinstated itself on the foundation of strict rules that promote political neutrality. Duara has been able to link this network to youth groups in other neighborhoods and will support the peace promoting activities, such as network meetings, sharing of information and community outreach, initiated by this network.



Hopefully, in the future, this **peace promotion network** will cover all slum villages in Mathare that were involved in the previous violence especially now that most slum villages are dominated by only one ethnic group and only one gang. Tensions and violent interactions are still rampant and this fuels the desire of these youth to promote peace. All fear a conflict that exceeds the post-election violence of January 2008 and it is their wish to do everything to prevent this of happening.

Duara works side by side with this network supervised by Maji Mazuri to support its endeavor. These are the highlights of our work in Kenya. We are very hopeful and feel inspired by our youth, although they are up against the odds:

- The economic crisis have led to a 40% rise in food prices in the slums
- Crime has increased tangibly since the post-election violence
- Opportunities for education have become less due to the economic crisis and many children and youth are left to fend for themselves

Good reasons to continue our work with Maji Mazuri in Mathare Valley and beyond.

Thank you very much for your support, without our friends and donors we would not be able to support Maji Mazuri in helping the most vulnerable groups in the slum Mathare Valley to build towards a socially and economic stable future.

Our next newsletter will be published in April 2010. If you want more information on any of our activities visit our website at: www.duara.org or you can always contact us at: info@duara.org.

Do you want to help?

Support one of our 12 teachers who work in the primary school of the Maji Mazuri Talent Program in the slum Mathare Valley

Donate €5, - a month!

Donations to support our work in Kenya are very welcome at:

DUARA FOUNDATION

ABN AMRO Rotterdam account number 57.25.65.607

KvK 24358494

NB: Please notify us which program you want to support (i.e. Maji Mazuri Peace Promotion or the Maji Mazuri Talent Program).



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