



# Maji

## MAZURI

Children's Center

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### **MAJI MAZURI HALF YEAR REPORT**

#### **MAVUNO MICROFINANCE**

This year, Mavuno started on a sad note because of the post election violence. However measures were taken to help the members recover their loses as well as get them on a more stable footing to normal life. Many were displaced and lived in the Internally displaced peoples camp in Mathare.

The relief distribution for those people who were affected in Mathare was successful and 35 people got some money to restart their businesses as well as food rations and rent. This was for 3 months until June.

From January to June a total of Ksh 916,000 has been disbursed in loans to the Mavuno members. They are also repaying well and the money they have been repaying has been used to reloan to them again.

Other than issuing loans to the members they had undergone training which included positive socialization that devalues negative ethnicity as many members were adversely affected by the post election violence and had also been victims of negative ethnicity. They also received training on proper use of their business profits. Many instead of using their profits for improvement used it for negative things such as marrying a second wife, drinking alcohol.

Mavuno Officers have also been going for training with COWA (Coalition of Works Association) so that they can increase their knowledge and be better equipped to train Mavuno Members.

On a sad note, there was a robbery at the Mavuno/ youth office which caused the management to rethink the repayment and disbursement of loans. The management settled upon having the loans disbursed by being deposited in the members' bank accounts and they are paying their loans by also depositing in the Maji Mazuri Bank account. The members have also appreciated the new way of disbursement and repayment.

Mavuno has also managed to start using pass books to fill in the details of the members repayments and loans which are easier to manage than the forms which they have been using for a long time.

#### **MAVUNO YOUTH SELF HELP MICRO FINANCE.**

The Maji Mazuri Mavuno is a branch of Mavuno but specifically dealing with youth between the ages of 18 to 25. the project is no 6 months old. Mavuno Youth also operates in the same structure as Mavuno but with slight differences. It has an officer, Emily Mutaaru who trains the youth and disburses loans as well as keeps tabs on how their businesses are doing.

So far Mavuno Youth Membership has 11 and 9 of them have been disbursed loans totaling to Ksh 45,000. One has finished repaying his initial loan and is awaiting the second phase disbursement and the others are still continuing to pay. The first phase loans attract Ksh 600 interest or 12%.

They intend to use passbooks to record their details. They are recruiting new members who are undergoing training.

In spite of the good progress, she had faced challenges with the Maji Mazuri Youth Group members refusing to join the Mavuno Youth as they thought the regulations were too strict.

She also visited PAWDEP to see how they operate she spoke to the manager and they deal with women only. The difference with their organization is that the members fund the revolving fund for loans.



Mavuno workshop



food packed for Mavuno and youth relief

### **MAJI MAZURI YOUTH GROUP AND TEENZ**

The Maji Mazuri Youth and Teenz Programmes have undergone a new lease of life. They now have an independent coordinator, Brian Kyalo, who helps guide their activities and also doubles up as a social worker for Maji Mazuri as a whole. He joined Maji Mazuri in the month of February.

he had embarked on a restructuring of the youth programme activities. They did this in such a way that they are able to implement their activities and evaluate them. The evaluations were to be done in one meeting and planning in another meeting and the rest of the time they were to be doing activities. Therefore meetings were to be had only once a month and the rest was to be activities. They have had scheduled activities and carried them out.

The Youth Group's attendance has been waning because of waning interest in the group. He had also been coordinating Headstart's counseling sessions with the teachers after the post election violence which affected very many of the children. They have been having two sessions a week and they are working. He has been following up with Nairobi Women's Centre for any members who have been traumatized.

Weks, a youth group member had also helped identify organisations which could help the youth.

Setbacks the youth were facing was that they had an identity crisis in terms of their autonomy. The issue of a constitution as opposed to a framework policy which should be workable.

New members are also being recruited to join the youth group to give it a new lease of life, some of these are the ex candidates from Upper Matasia Secondary School.

He has negotiated on behalf of Kennedy Odhiambo to join St. Peter's Claver's Adult Education Centre. He is now going on with his education.

Youth have been encouraged to use their own office for meeting instead of Kiboro for maximization of their resources.

There were two seminars organized by the youth one external and the other internal. The external one was a talk by Edward Mbatha on HIV AIDS which had a Q and A session.

The attendance by the youth was good. The second Brian gave the youth a talk on sustainable development and it was well appreciated.

Several proposals were made by the youth in that month one was to visit Kiambiu Children's Home. This proposal was rejected as it was seen to be diverting resources to a centre which had similar needs as our own Maji Mazuri Children's Centre.

The window period the youth group used to have was scrapped because it discouraged potential youth from joining as it opened them up to be studied by the in waiting group. They will also do away with the committee as it does nothing.

The library and office were also partitioned and now there is access to the library and the Teenz use it.

He is networking with the World Peace Federation to do a joint peace walk in Mathare to have youth collaborate.

He has been guiding the 2007 Upper Matasia Candidates on career choices.

On the school youth who finished form four at Matasia Secondary they had been dispatched to find courses which they want to do and some had decided the courses they want but have to choose courses which will allow them to get jobs. Below are some of the youth from Upper Matasia from Mathare's report.

Florence Achieng attends the youth meetings and is helping out at home she is considering doing a course in Journalism.

Veronica has also chosen to take a course in journalism. She comes for the youth meetings as well but has yet to give back full feedback on what she really wants to do.

Laban is working at a shop close to mama Kondes place . He chose to take a course in journalism he came with brochures from different institutions and settled on NIBS.

However his grade are low so he has to take a single certificate course to enable him to qualify for the diploma course. His issue now is to confirm the examining body for the course.

Irene is yet to get back to Brian after she was counseled on how to go deciding what she would like to do.

Dan Wambua wants to do a course in accounts and has gone to KASNEB and they asked him to register with an institution for them to register him for exams. We have settled on the September intake and he is now sorting his finances to register at kasneb.

Pauline Wairimu is now an assistant ECD teacher at Kiserian Maji Mazuri School. She is there before she decides what she wants to do with her self.

Mercy Githinji is also volunteering at the Kasarani Home.

The Teenz group was also revived and two coordinators were in charge of their activities.

The two coordinators were sourced from the youth group, Jane Wambui and Joakim Waringa.

The Teenz Group went to Phoenix and were joined by the older children in the Kids Club at Headstart and it will be a continuous thing to have the linkage between the kids club of Headstart and Teenz. The Kid's Club is facilitated by teacher Judith of Headstart.

Brian has been helping Headstart contact organizations to help them get resources.

## **HEADSTART SCHOOL MATHARE**

Headstart school has also had its fair share of set backs at the beginning of the year but the children have nevertheless pulled through. They are 140 children from 96 at the end of last year.

The children and their parents were affected by the post election violence and some were also in the IDP camps. We also helped out the children by getting them uniforms new

uniforms and giving their parents a 3 month reprieve to recover by not paying fees. 21 children benefited from this.

Headstart was also registered with Hope Worldwide Organisation which helps the kids a lot by donating all sorts of items to them.

The school has now reached STD 4.

The school's setbacks are lack of their own facility which causes them to have high expenditure due to rent.

Parents not being able to pay fees especially due to the problem of the post election violence. Most parents have large fees arrears which causes the operations of the school to be impeded.

A school committee was chosen just before schools closed last year.

The Headstart plot the access road has not been found and it is delaying the work of developing the plot. The old map is what was being used and the one in our possession is not clear.

Counselling programmes Brian has contacted organizations that can help with this and also teachers are encouraged to set up conferences with parents and teachers sensitized on how to handle kids so that they feel cared for.

The school got a new fuel saving kitchen cooker as well.



Some Headstart kids in clothes and items donated by Hope Worldwide



two of the affected kids with their new uniform



new cooker

## **MAJI MAZURI KISERIAN PROJECT SCHOOL**

At the Kiserian School, the kids have risen from 70 to 112.

There was an improvement on the mean score in the performance of the kids.

In upper classes there are some subjects which are performed poorly because of poor handling by the teachers. However, strategies where teachers are encouraged to teach what they are good and comfortable in have been introduced so the pupils benefit more. Extra curricular activities have been revived to encourage the children to develop in other areas. Debating club has helped them a lot.

Kids have been introduced to filling their exam past papers.

Kids assessment of the homework by parents to collaborate with the teachers has also been introduced.

Friday counseling sessions have been introduced by the school and are successful.

On 8<sup>th</sup> May 2008 the children from the Kasarani children's centre moved to the boarding and they are well settled and happy.

The children took part in the music festivals and were number 2 in their category of poem recital out of 37 participating schools.

4K club has been introduced to teach the children agricultural practices.

Adult education programme. This initiative started from the parents of the school as many are illiterate and having no appreciation for education. This programme has been registered under the Ministry of Social Services and Culture and materials to teach given.



Kasarani kids in  
Kiserian Boarding



Extra curricular activity



In class

## FARM

Kiserian farm has also had some growth with a cowbarn built and broiler chicks introduced. There are plans to introduce animals, cows, dairy goats and rabbits. Part of the animals will be financed by Heifer courtesy of Rotary Club of Dayton with the help of Churches in Atlanta via MMUSA.

Agro forestry will be introduced to boost the environmental health of the farm.

The fruit orchard has already been planted with mangoes, passion fruit and other fruits. Crops growing in the farm are onions, garlic, kale, cucumber and corgettes. Trees have been added.

The farm has also been turned into an organic farm and there is potential for organic crops. People can also train in the Maji Mazuri Farm for organic farming.

Gate has also been put up and security is much better.

Kiosks now face outside along the fence therefore no more people buying things come inside the compound as before.

Kie Apple fence also being tendered to have a good fence

Aloe Vera suckers have been harvested and are increasing.

New farm manager is registered with green belt movement and we can get registered with it as well to get trees. The manager is also preparing compost manure to be used in the farm as dung manure is not well decomposed and not working.

8 acres of land was acquired to increase the acreage at the Kiserian farm this year. This was courtesy of our partners at MMUK.

There are several projects which will be going on into the coming months, installation of a wind mill and solar alternative power courtesy of Rotary Club of Dayton.



Chicks



Animal Barn

## **UPPER MATASIA SECONDARY**

The school reopened on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Students will be sitting the mocks exams at the end of July.

There are now two teachers on teaching practice Brandon Golby a volunteer from Canada is also teaching science subjects.

The girls boarding is now full and no more can be taken. The boys' dorms were also increased and they are now not as squeezed as they used to be. There are thoughts about getting plumbing done to the boys' dorms using the tanks there.

Tuition was made compulsory for forms 3 and 4.

They had a prize giving day at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> term which was good. Even kids who were the least expected to get any gift got one.

They borehole water is not being misused as was anticipated taps not being left open. Shared responsibilities with the primary are they got an exhaustor to remove the sewage from their toilets, repair of the tank stand was done, external examinations have been sourced and now teachers don't have to set exams for the students which was a time consuming affair.

Susan Chaki from the Kasarani Project went to give a talk to the children at the high school on HIV and AIDS and she got positive response but very disturbing questions from the students which were written down and passed to her anonymously. She will be back to do a follow up session with them.

The first form four class KCSE results came out in April and they had passed better than anticipated.

Text books are now available and therefore they are now able to work well in terms of learning for the students.

Extra curricular activities with other schools has also been going on and they have been performing well and won several trophies.

There are plans to introduce water selling now that the borehole has been dug.

## **UPPER MATASIA ACADEMY**

They also reopened the school well and they had some children leave others come to replace them and admissions still coming.

The school fees is not poorly paid even though there are some cases. The children are now 170.

All the teachers reported back though one is on maternity leave and will resume later.

Kids who have problems with any subject are coached separately by teachers to catch up with the other children.

Every weekend the pupils do exams which are sourced from all over, photocopied and done.

Tank platform was repaired as well as bottom tank which was leaking

There are 7 prospective people who have requested to be supplied with water to their homes and institutions. They are going to get several contracts for water supply which they will look at and compare then draft one which is suitable for them to use for the clients.

New kitchen equipment which have a capacity of 180 litres and saves 70% firewood.

There are computer classes where even teachers learn for a subsidized fee and pupils pay 500 per term.

The new School committee is also doing well and attending meetings well as well as active.

The Staff SACCO is also doing well.

They have branded Tshirts which pupils are now going to buy as their uniforms for P.E and games. There are also staff branded Tshirts.

There are plans to finish the STD 8 syllabus by July and concentrate on revising in 3<sup>rd</sup> term.

Children are being counseled one on one by the teachers to help them improve on their weak subjects.

For both Projects, a water purifier system was put in to treat the water. This was generously done by Dan Blevins and Dennis Lord from MMUSA



Water purifier being installed



new fuel saving kitchen cookers



Purifier demo

### **MAJI MAZURI CHILDREN'S CENTRE KASARANI**

Kasarani has been a very special centre (Pun intended) which depends on wellwishers alot. However those wellwishers who have made time to visit the centre have supported in kind and material and food, such as feed the children, red cross, nestle foods worth Ksh 89,000. there are also those who have donated medicines and also helped financially. There have been baby day care classes. They will be moving and shifting around rooms to accommodate the new children coming from outside to attend class.

He has started recruiting kids to replace the ones who move to Kiserian.

15 children moved to the Kiserian Boarding facility from 8<sup>th</sup> May 2008. Only those with special needs were left and the very small ones.

52 children were dewormed and various treatments offered to the children.

The ECD class had 5 children at the end of March and by May had 12 on reopening.

They have been moved to the old computer room to give them adequate attention. The computer room moved to the Matron's office which she rarely uses and all the administrators use the main reception office.

Staff were also being given more training as some have not gone through school. Some are taking computer lessons and paying 500 for them.

There are new children who are handicapped and have created a lot of work for the physiotherapist and the occupational therapist. They do not want to take in new admissions due to the pressure of work on them.

The centre was visited by one local media station, K24 which highlighted the work and difficulties of the centre and its children and gave publicity for the centre. From this, Dr Mohammed from Aga Khan donated drugs worth Ksh 5000 each week and also got food donation from him as well. He also promised to get specialists to attend the kids as well. Many others responded to the footage aired on the station during prime time news by visiting and donating food and other materials. Also a group from Mathare called the

playback group has visited 3 times and has done activities with the children such as music.

Evelyn, Brandon Golby's wife is also volunteering at Kasarani working with the special education teachers.

Ladies from the Inner Wheel Club of Rotary also visited the centre and donated a sewing machine courtesy of Mae Berkel of Dayton Ohio Inner Wheel Club in honour of her mother.



Inner Wheel ladies presenting fruits and sewing machine

There was a staff workshop held in April and it was very successful. The staff learned about working together, HIV/AIDS and the Maji Mazuri Organisational structure operations.



Maji Mazuri Staff at the internal workshop

## **IN GENERAL**

Maji Mazuri has recovered from the post election violence period we would like to take this opportunity to appreciate all the positive support given to us by our local and international supporters in prayers, financially, materially and being with us all the way. You are highly appreciated.

Thank you to all our international visitors who braved the situation and put everything in God's hands and still visited us inspite of the travel advisories against our country.

Naomi and Marcelle from Duara, our partner in Holland, were here during the toughest and most dangerous time in December and January we admire their bravery, they got to witness first hand the situation as it was for us. Duara is supporting the 3MYG Project which aims to boost the Mathare projects as a whole this year. They are supporting the acquisition of land and a building in collaboration with Wilde Ganzen Holland. They are also supporting the Mavuno Loans. they have also been supporting UMA and Kiserian. Duara helped support the emergency relief effort for the Maji Mazuri affected in Mathare.

The Mt Pisgah team from MMUSA of Doug Irvine, Debby Zinn, Lorri Shellman and Bryce also braved the situation and visited us in February. Mt. Pisgah has been supporting Maji Mazuri by having many of their congregants sponsor our children in all Maji Mazuri Programmes this is under the wider support of the MMUSA which greatly

supports our sponsorship programme. MMUSA has also generously marshaled support for the Mathare Emergency relief during the post election violence.

Fred Abrams from the Rotary club of Dayton Ohio also visited in February to scope the progress of the Rotary funded projects at Kiserian, which include the cowbarn, alternative power installation of a wind mill/ solar as well as Rainwater harvesting System being installed in Kiserian. RCD was introduced to Maji Mazuri by Crosscurrents International, a long time supporter of Maji Mazuri that has been supporting in child sponsorship programme as well as administrative operating costs.

Jeanet from Duara was here in March to analyse the progress of the Patient file prototype that Inview is coming up with for Kasarani, as well as Jan Mullock with a young friend Cate from Canada and they volunteered once again in Kasarani.

The St. Paul's team of Pat and Dudley Baker, Kjeryn Allard, Karen Spinney, Maureen Bedford, Karen Ohashi and Ellen Brutch from North Valley Christian Fellowship in San Jose, California were also here in March. the St. Paul's church have fundraised for a tractor which will soon be bought as soon as the most suitable one is found for our farm in Kiserian. It was also courtesy of Peter Allard that Stuart Heaslet did a wonderful documentary of Maji Mazuri which is now complete and out. Peter Allard has also donated very generously to the Mavuno Micro finance and to the drilling of a borehole in Matasia last year, which was commissioned for use this year. Ellen Bruth offered to sponsor a child from Maji Mazuri during their visit.

Arnold Mosterd who volunteered in Maji Mazuri in 2005/6 paid Maji Mazuri a return visit and also accompanied by his mother. He volunteered in Kasarani.

Evelyn and Brandon Golby also arrived in May to volunteer and have been doing so in Kasarani and Matasia respectively.

Irene Karsenne from Holland is also another volunteer from duara who came and did a workshop with Mavuno in June.

Dan and Susan Blevins and Dennis Lord also visited in June and installed a water purifying system in both Matasia and Kiserian.

We appreciate all those who have supported Maji Mazuri in every way as groups or individuals, God Bless you very much you all have a very special place in the heart of Maji Mazuri.