



# Maji

## MAZURI

Children's Center

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### MAJI MAZURI HALF YEAR REPORT PERIOD JULY TO DECEMBER 2010

#### INTRODUCTION



Greetings from Maji Mazuri! We have finally come to the end of the year 2010. It is indeed by God's grace that we have come this far knowing that we have undergone many challenges in the course of our work as well as many joys.

We prefer to dwell on the joys as that is what keeps us going from year to year.

Even as we celebrate a successful year, we end it on a sad note after losing one of our very dedicated staff members to cancer this November, Mrs. Mercy Wahome. Mercy diligently served our children at the Maji Mazuri Children's Centre for Special children and OVCs in the position of resident matron and nurse. She had been hospitalized for 4 months from June this year to September before her sad passing on in November. She will be dearly missed by the Maji Mazuri fraternity and we pray God rest her soul in eternal peace.

Without further ado, it is my pleasure to give you highlights of the second half of the year 2010 July to December and take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Wanjiku Kironyo.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR.

## **HEADSTART SCHOOL MATHARE**

Headstart School continues to have a strong and stable staff of 11, with 9 teachers and 2 support staff. The school has been vibrant during the third term of school having reopened school for the last quarter of the year on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010 after the August Holidays.

Lessons and extra curricula activities went very well where on 26th October 2010, pupils visited the Animal Orphanage right next to the Nairobi National Park and saw various wild animals. They also visited the Wilson Airport which is just near the Animal Orphanage and one of the busiest small airports in the world as it serves as a hub of connection for export goods and passengers via small charter planes to countries around East Africa. The trip was successful and the pupils enjoyed themselves very much.

Fridays was exclusively for co-curricular activities in football, athletics and others. Debate club was scheduled to take place on every Thursdays with shairi (Kiswahili Poems) being done on Tuesdays. Kids' club and talent programme is held every Wednesday from 12:00 pm–12:45 pm for pre-school and from 3:10 pm–4:00 pm for lower primary. During this term kids club has assisted four pupils with uniform and shoes. The Kids Club is supported by Hope Worldwide and the Talent Programme by DUARA. On 18th October, we had a dancing competition where we hosted other three schools and our school emerged the winner. We appreciated our kids with refreshments. However, there was a challenge since our pupils lacked dancing costumes and drums.

We were also invited for the world eggs day on 8th November where four pupils presented a shairi. In return, they provided each pupil an egg, a bag and a ruler. As we approached the end of the term, each class sat for their end year exams. The performance was very encouraging since each class showed improvements in their mean score.

We also received this November, Daniel Wambua one of the Upper Matasia Secondary School alumni and volunteer at our Kasarani Home became a full time administrative assistant at the school. He has been of great benefit to the school. He has worked tirelessly in assisting Tr. Joyce in running the school. We are proud to have him on Board. He completed his diploma in Social work after a two year stint and has just finished sitting his final exams. He has dedicated his full time in attending office issues such as meeting the parents or visitors, collecting school fee and writing any reports needed. This has given Joyce ample time to attend her class and other administrative duties.

Pupils sat their end of term exams in November after which their parents were invited to see the best three pupils in each class awarded with some gifts in front of all the parents and their fellow pupils. Other categories like prefects and best improved pupils were also awarded. Our aim was to award as many categories as possible such as most disciplined pupil, the smartest, sportsmanship and active participants in clubs to motivate pupils all round. The rewarding ceremony was to motivate those who did well and to encourage the others to rise to the occasion. The school officially closed at 2pm on 24th November 2010.

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

Teenz Group has been very active in the second half of the year. Since July, we have been able to recruit new members in the group hence increasing the number.

The group was able to have the first team building activity at Nairobi arboretum and Sub groups within the group have been formed. This includes:

- Drama group led by Edwin Okumu
- Traditional dance led by Julieut Oseno
- Other dances led by Moses Minudi
- Poems/shairi led by Risper Wanjiru and Tom Onyango
- Drawing group led by Edwin Okumu
- Football team led by Moses Minudi
- Debate led by Nasla Harriet

All the teens have been trained on how to prevent themselves against HIV/AIDS, avoid peer pressure and how to behave well in the community.

We have been able to identify the hidden talents from the teenagers and grouped them for development. The teens have been trained on how to do away with shyness, speak in public, relate with others properly and have a positive attitude.

The group has also been able to have an educational tour to the animal orphanage and safari walk.

The group has been recognised in the community hence creating positive attitude towards it and the organisation at large.

The Youth Group Training Centre took in its 5<sup>th</sup> intake since its inception in September of last year and the students that have completed their schooling there are now in phase two at one of the Nairobits satellite centres with the ones who pass phase two going to phase 3 at Nairobits itself.

The Youth Group has also been busy with various activities and has begun a new income generating venture in garbage collection. This has been spurred from their community activity of environmental cleanups. This will help the group earn some cash for their activities and help them gain experience in running a small business.

The Youth attended a camp in Mombasa this year and this was the first one in four years.

They were also joined by a new staff member, Daniel Wainaina, an old member of the Youth Group who is now in the MM Youth Alumni.

## **MAVUNO MICROFINANCE**

Mavuno has seen some reorganization with a new strategy being written by the finance team to help revamp and maximize its interest growth. We hope to launch the new strategy by February of next year.

## **MAJI MAZURI KISERIAN PROJECT**

Kiserian Maji Mazuri Centre and school has seen tremendous growth in infrastructure.

With help from Rotary Clubs in Ohio District 6670 in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Muthaiga, a health clinic has been built and is now awaiting furnishing and registration with the Ministry of Health to begin running. The Clinic will serve not only the children at the school but also the surrounding community.

Not only has Rotary built a clinic for the school but is adding an additional classroom block which will help to decongest and add rooms for the Girls High School which has now grown to 50 girls from the initial 30. We hope to have an increase of more girls in the high school next year as we add a new Grade 12 to the High School.

The biogas plant has been completed and is now being used to cook for the children. Gone are the days of using firewood and saw dust thanks again to Rotary that funded the biogas digester. The digester will also be a teaching and sensitizing point for the community to conserve trees by using renewable energy to cook.

The new Heifer International cows also calved 3 new calves 2 female and one bull. However due to the policy of gift giving by Heifer the 2 females will be donated to another farmer but subsequent calves will remain Maji Mazuri's. A new rabbit hatch was also built to accommodate growing number of rabbits.

The Greenhouses have been planted with tomatoes and we expect a good harvest sometime next year. The rest of the farm has cabbages, capsicum and more tomatoes as well as some kales growing well. Additional irrigation has been added to the farm courtesy of Rotary as well as overhead irrigation tanks to increase the water capacity into the farm for better crop production.

The Dormitory was also fitted with solar water heater for the children to take hot showers and the kitchen to have hot cooking and washing up water.

Our Grade eight class of candidates sat their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education exam and we hope that the candidates will have done well. The exam results are expected to be out by end of December.

The Primary school acquired 3 new teaching staff in the Upper Primary Section and the High School acquired one new staff member. The students also attended various friendly matches with neighbouring schools and the High School choir visited 3 churches during the term and hosted a church youth group in the school.

## **UPPER MATASIA SCHOOLS**

Upper Matasia Schools saw a busy term with the High School having a new Parents Teachers Association put in place to help in the school's management. So far it has worked hand in hand with the Principal to come up with new strategies of bettering the performance of the students. One of the new introductions has been morning prep, where the students wake up early to

attend morning revision when it is quiet. They have also been attending activities in the nearby church when the church has youth activities going on. The school's Upper High School section has also attended set book plays and gone for excursions to Lake Magadi in the Rift Valley to learn about soda ash production. The 4<sup>th</sup> Form 4 candidate class sat the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education and the results are expected to be out in February of next year. There are plans to have all Grade 11 and 12 students at Upper Matasia High School board for better performance.

The Primary Section is also doing well and the ongoing school building has had its window and door grills put in for the classes. It is hoped that Teacher Seela's class will relocate to the new building to make room for the High School Boarding facility for girls which is now congested.

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

As highlighted in the introduction, MMCC lost a dedicated staff member to Cancer in November. Mercy fell ill early this year and in June was hospitalized after being diagnosed with cancer of the oesophagus. She was hospitalized for 4 months and discharged however she succumbed to her illness on 22<sup>nd</sup> November after she worsened. She was laid to rest on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

The Centre is never lacking in activities with many local and international visitors coming to visit with the children. The Centre is also a registered member of Cerebral Palsy Society of Kenya and in September the children attended a free medical camp hosted by the Society. The Home is also registered with Kenya Society for the Mentally Handicapped who have been sending a social worker to the Centre to give support counseling services to the children as well as teaching the staff the rights of the mentally handicapped in society.

The children also visited the Animal Orphanage and Mamba Village, a crocodile farm just outside the Nairobi City Centre. The children were also hosted to a music festival at the Korean Church and they won in the competitions.

The Home has also seen numerous individual and group visitors during this second half who have visited and donated foodstuffs and various items. The children have also been invited for Christmas lunch by the Rotary Clubs in Nairobi for their annual luncheon. Several corporates and church groups have also visited the home to play with the children and donated various items.

The home was also furnished with new therapy equipment courtesy of Mt. Pisgah Church in Atlanta Georgia. The children are now receiving improved therapy services due to the kind donation.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Maji Mazuri recently launched its new logo and banner to go in line with the new website. Many thanks go to Luisa Frias who so generously donated of her time and skills to come up with the splendid design with input from the web team comprising of: Kevin Corcoran, Lark Bui, Wandia Chiuri, Naomi Van Stapele, Taylor Harper and the Maji Mazuri Kenya Team.

We would like to thank the following visitors who have taken their time to visit with us during the Second half of this year and give of their time and lend their valuable skills to Maji Mazuri. Joke Lannoye, Marlene Schild who came from Belgium and Austria and volunteered at Kasarani and Mavuno, Kevin Corcoran and Dennis Robinson Welsh from USA Kevin is the President of MMUSA and Dennis a long time friend of Kevin's as well as Maji Mazuri's. Both gave their valuable time by coming up with a viable business planning tool for Maji Mazuri Kiserian Farm and Kevin also spared much time with Mavuno Microfinance as well as the Head office Administration Staff. They gave valuable accounts advice. We were privileged to host the Rotary International Audit Team of Heather Forsburg and Michael Webb for two days at Kiserian and Mathare as they audited the Rotary Club of Muthaiga for the Phase 1 Rotary-Maji Mazuri Educational Centre Project. We report that the Audit went very well and was successful. In the words of the team it was the best ever audit they had done.

We cannot forget Naomi Van Stapele from DUARA Holland who will be with us for one year working with Maji Mazuri in the Maji Mazuri Mathare Talent Programme which DUARA funds with many of DUARA's supporters. We also appreciate the short visits by friends of Jean McBean, Mr. and Mrs Alan Fielding and Mr. and Mrs. Dick Worton for their interest. We are also expecting Elizaveta Friedman who will be with us for a short time in the month of December as well as Aidan Mardigan-Curtis.

To all those who have been supporting us and kept up with our activities through various ways by making visits, sponsoring children, donating funds for our many projects and keeping us in your prayers, writing to us via email and being engaged with us in any way, we say thank you and God Bless.

## Pictorial



Headstart Children listening to a visitor



Grade 6 Headstart reciting a poem.



The newly built display shop for crafts made by the Kasarani Children



Award that Kasarani children won at the Korean Church Music Festival



New Physiotherapy equipment funded by Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church



Kids from Kasarani showing off shoes donated to them by Safaricom, Kenya's largest cell phone service provider



Kiserian High School Girls listening to a talk



Rotary Audit team and Members of RCM listening to a presentation by Kiserian Children.



Kiserian High School and Primary presenting to Rotary Team



Upper Matasia students listening to a Talk



Upper Matasia Students during computer lesson



Upper Matasia Best pupils being awarded presents



PTA Member at Upper Matasia Speaking to parents at end year AGM



Rotary Members helping to bale hay at Kiserian Farm



Newly completed clinic building



Green house watering dam



Overhead Greenhouse irrigation tank



Cabbage crop being irrigated



Tomato Crop being irrigated



Capsicum crop



Tomatoe crop in the Greenhouse



New Rabbit Hatch to hold more rabbits



New Born rabbits



Additional Heifer Calves



Hot water solar panels on dorm roof



Hot water in dorm bathrooms heated by solar panels on roof



Complete and filled up biogas digester



Biogas cookers no more firewood!



Biogas level measuring metre



New school building in progress



*We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and A Happy  
New Year!*