



# Maji

## MAZURI

Children's Center

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### MAJI MAZURI HALF YEAR REPORT PERIOD JANUARY TO JUNE 2009

#### INTRODUCTION

Greetings to all the friends of Maji Mazuri!

We have come to the middle of the year 2009. We would not have made it had it not been for the grace of God and all our supporters and well wishers.

We would like to share with you the highlights of the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the year.

In this period we have also seen growth in improvements of our infrastructure especially at the Kiserian and Mathare Projects which have been undergoing major development of.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this newsletter and see what you have helped us achieve.

God Bless you all!

Wanjiku Kironyo.  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR.

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

The Youth Group and the Teenz Group have continued well in their activities in the last half of the year. The Youth Group have a new coordinator Mr. Jeremia Mwangi who is also working hand in hand with the Mavuno team. He brings in a lot of wealth in Community Development. Some youth have also been going for IT courses in collaboration with Nairobits, who have been giving our youths scholarships. So far 4 of them have undergone training. The last duo graduated on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and are awaiting to go into the 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of the training. They have also been very active in cleanups and visited the Kasarani Maji Mazuri Children to play and be with the children.

During the Easter holiday the youth group went for a camp at the Kiserian School and had a bonding session as well as took time to learn some life skills.

The Teenz Group have also become very active with two coordinators who are also teachers at the Headstart School. they continue to engage in drama, music and sports activities on Saturdays. They occasionally attend the theatre to watch a play once a month courtesy of the Phoenix Theatre run by Ian Mbugua, a reknown Kenyan thespian.

## **HEADSTART SCHOOL MATHARE**

Headstart School moved to its own plot of land this year. The plot of land was bought through the generous fundraising of Duara via Wilde Ganzen of Netherlands as well as their own generous contributions. Maji Mazuri will no longer pay rent for the Headstart school which is a major saving. The school was build last year and renovations done this year the place is spacious and also the children are happy with their new classes and so are the teachers. The school has now grown to grade 7 where it started out this year with only grades 1 to 5. The school has a total of 200 children now from 170 at the beginning of the year. this is a good start before the New Community Centre is built to accommodate even more children. However, as the school grows there is need for new teachers to be able to teach all the children adequately. Maji Mazuri appeals for any wellwishers who would like to support the salaries of at least two new teachers.

## **MAJI MAZURI KISERIAN PROJECT**

The Kiserian school has also grown and opened a High School for girls at the beginning of this year. the girls are now 30 in number and are from grade 9 and 10. the girls are doing well and have been mingling and settled well with the other children from the Primary school. The younger children are happy to have big sisters. The High School for girls opened as a result of some young girls rescued from IDP camps which resulted from the post election violence last year and because there was not enough space at the Upper Matasia High School. These have also combined with some girls from the local Community and others from surrounding areas who are very poor.

The farm is also doing well with sunflowers, greengrams, spinach, kales, pumpkins, cassava and sweetpotatoes planted.

The two cows acquired last year have both calved two young bulls and they are both healthy and strong. The rabbits are not disappointing and they are also littering well. our geese and turkeys have all got young ones as well and the goats have been served and we are waiting for them to get young ones.

The egg laying chickens are doing well and continue to lay eggs which are still fetching good sales. There was also an increase of the egg layers by 500 to boost the number of eggs for sale.

The alternative energy hybrid system is now functional with the school being lit using solar and wind power. The water from the borehole is now pumped using the system saving on high diesel costs which the generator was using to pump water from the borehole. The school also acquired a refrigerator to store food and seed oil processor to make oil for use and sale. The capital developments have been supported very generously by the Dayton Rotary Club in Ohio USA and Rotary Club of Muthaiga here in Nairobi.

### **UPPER MATASIA SCHOOLS**

The Upper Matasia Schools have also grown in numbers with the primary school now having a total of 232 children from 190 at the end of last year. This has happened due to the good performance of last year's candidates in the National Exam. The Primary school's staff has also been stable and have helped with the growth. The school also has a stalled building that Maji Mazuri is appealing for wellwishers to help in completing to be able to accommodate the growing number of children.

The high School also did very well in last year's National Exam with two candidates getting Bs.

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

Maji Mazuri Children's Centre Kasarani has also been stable throughout this first half of the year. Our Manager at the Centre was appointed into the Local Area Advisory Council for the Kasarani Division under the Ministry of Gender inder which our Organisation is registered as a Charitable Children's Institution under the Children's Act under the Children's Department.

The Centre also acquired a Posho Mill which will be used for income generating purposes for the centre and for milling corn flour. The money for the posho Mill was donated by Trinity Episcopal Church in Ohio courtesy of Cross Currents International long time supporters of Maji Mazuri.

Julie Canning from Canada was also volunteering for 3 months at this Centre and it was a delight to have her.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

The Programme Managers of Maji Mazuri have been met twice each term to deliberate of on the management of each Programme of Maji Mazuri and each meeting has been successful and has helped all the Programmes integrate well with each other.

Maji Mazuri also acquired a new truck bought courtesy of fundraising by members of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Canada long time supporters of Maji Mazuri.

The Tour D'Afrique team passing through Nairobi also took time to donate some 15 bicycles to Maji Mazuri this year and the bikes will be put to good use in the projects.

Each year we are always priviledged to host Maji Mazuri wellwishers and supporters from all corners of the world and this year has not been different.

We would like to thank the following visitors who have taken their time to visit with us during the firs half of this year.

Lauren and Matt Forgatty, Ashley Carr, Dorian Cheong who visited in January from USA and volunteered briefly with us. Julie Canning who came and stayed with us for 3 months working with the kids and staff at Kasarani, from January to April, Katharina

Moest and her Cousin Christina from Austria who spent the month of February with us volunteering at the Upper Matasia Schools, the SOMA Team of Pat and Dudley Baker, Karen Ohashi, Kjeryn Allard and Maureen from Canada who visited with us enroute to Rwanda on a mission.

We would also like to acknowledge Tanya and Terry who were introduced to Maji Mazuri by Julie Canning and who spent some time with us visiting our projects and collaborating with us. They have been very instrumental in drumming up support for Maji Mazuri in their Rotary Club and we appreciate their worthy efforts.

Fred Abrams and Jim Beerbower from the Rotary Club of Dayton Ohio who made a site review visit in May, Richard Morris from the U.K who was making a second visit from 2007 and a very good friend and supporter of Maji Mazuri. we also appreciate the visit from the Mt. Pisgah team from Atlanta, Georgia who are also very good friends of Maji Mazuri.

We will be having more friends coming in the second part of 2009 and we welcome them all.

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!



Kids receiving bikes from TDA



New Truck



New Headstart School.



Kids at Heastart new school



youth member with Kasarani kids



Youth members helping out with hanging at Kasarani



with staff



New posho mill at Kasarani



Rotarians doing a jig with Kiserian kid



Tree planting group Kiserian



new calf



2<sup>nd</sup> new calf



Geese with new chicks



rabbits at Farm Kiserian



Kids picking eggs Kiserian



kids packing eggs



kids with cow



Kids petting and feeding cows



kids picking eggs



kids with goat



High school girls Kiserian



tree seedlings



Turkey with chicks