



# Maragoli

Community Development Foundation Inc.

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# Annual Newsletter 2010

## Sustainable Agriculture and School Lunch Program Launched

With the generous support of a matching grant from the Dutch development agency, Cordaid, we have embarked on a three-year project to improve soil quality and agricultural practices on the plots of parents of Vigena and Vigetse Primary School students. In return for seeds, fertilizers and training in composting, double-digging and other sustainable practices, parents will donate a percentage of their increased yields to support school-wide lunch programs.



The new cooking hut at Vigena Primary School, complete with an energy efficient stove.



Wheelbarrows and hoes are among the tools purchased for use in the school lunch program.



A local agricultural officer demonstrates top-dressing of maize as part of a training session that blends the best practices of local farmers with sustainable farming techniques.

### *A message from...*



**Samuel Amukono Kidini**  
Local Board Chair

The new constitution, which was ratified in 2010, portends a very promising future for Kenya. The local citizens shall no longer tolerate corruption and impunity. In a nutshell, Kenyans are winning back their rights.

The local community is very happy to be associated with our trustees and donors at this exciting time. We have continued to receive enormous resources

from all of you. This year your contributions have supported so many worthwhile projects.

Meanwhile, the matching grant from Cordaid for sustainable agriculture and the Noble Foundation grant for a community resource center are unbelievable gifts to our community.

Please accept our deep and heartfelt thanks.



# Solar Cooking and Lighting Take Off



Over 80 families have now benefited from solar cook kits and water pasteurization kits, used to supplement cooking over an open fire. One woman estimated she saves one-sixth of her monthly income by not having to buy charcoal or firewood.

Participants in a solar cooking training session show off their fireless cookers (left), while coordinators from Sunny Solutions set up two parabolic reflectors and a solar lighting display (right)



## New Community Resource Center



Thanks to a grant from The Noble Foundation, a community resource center is being planned in Vigetse Village. When completed, it will provide a variety of free services, including a library, computer lab, battery disposal, seminar rooms, demonstration garden, and lodging for interns.

Volunteers from MACODEF stakeholder groups prepare the site for a new community center, which will have a roof and a "live fence" in traditional Maragoli fashion.

## Emergency Fund



Isaac Lihasi and his wife stand in front of their new home (below), built with a grant after ants and rain destroyed their old house (above).



## Meet the 2011-12 Local Board

The MACODEF local board of governors, comprising a cross-section of community members, is the pivotal bridge between stakeholder groups and the international board of trustees. In 2010, local board members donated countless hours to support MACODEF projects.



Members of the MACODEF local board are (front row, left to right) Elkanah Buhiru Okwaro, treasurer; Sheilah Vugutsa, office assistant; Esther Mucheneke, member; Beatrice Chadulo, member; and (back row) Francis Ludire, member; Samuel Amukono Kidini, chairman; Nebert Isambe, vice-chairman; and Joyce Adisa Bunyoli, coordinator/secretary.



Joyce Adisa, project coordinator, shows her digging skills

## Electricity Comes to Secondary School



Teachers try out the MACODEF-sponsored computer lab at Vigna Secondary School