



Maragoli

Community Development
Foundation, Inc.

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The mission of the Maragoli Community Development Foundation is to assist the Maragoli people of Western Kenya in improving their quality of life through the funding of sustainable development projects that community members themselves conceive and implement.

2012 ANNUAL REPORT



Message from the President

Dear Friends,

Last December, Martha and I visited the MACODEF community and projects and had the honor of officially opening the health clinic of the Vigeetse women's group, comprised of older, mostly illiterate women. It was a long ceremony—over four hours—with lots of singing and speeches. We learned that the women's group started building the clinic back in the early sixties! There were many setbacks and problems over the years. MACODEF started supporting this women's group about 8 years ago, and now, finally, it is bearing fruit.

In any part of the world, developing a community is something for the long haul, an endeavor that takes perseverance and requires people on the ground who believe in the vision and stick to it. In the 2012 MACODEF report, you can read about all the projects we carried out last year, including completion of the foundation for the community resource center, expansion of the solar lighting program and the pad fund, the opening of the health clinic, and our sustainable agriculture program.

Each of these and other projects represents a small step in a long-term process coordinated by our local board of governors and relying on the input of dozens of stakeholders groups. Little of this would be possible if not for your continuing support. Thank you for allowing us to continue our forward momentum for another year!

In July of 2014, just over a year from now, the trustees and local board members will meet in Kenya to celebrate MACODEF's ten-year anniversary, to see projects up close, and to discuss the way forward in the coming years. Thanks to your generosity, we will have much to talk about!

We deeply appreciate your continued support!

Jan Kees den Bakker
President

Summary of Program Activities

In Kenya, the year 2012 will be remembered for the run-up to the March 2013 presidential elections, which saw Uhuru Kenyatta, the son of Kenya's first President, Jomo Kenyatta, defeat Raila Odinga. Though the outcome was contested, the voting was peaceful, and calm prevailed in the aftermath of a Supreme Court decision upholding Kenyatta's victory. The new government will have much work to do to make good on its promises, especially in Western Province. According to an article in *The Standard* that ran shortly after the election:

Vihiga County has a disturbing 62 per cent poverty index. And the survey shows only a paltry 12.7 per cent of the county's population has secondary school education, and this, in addition to lack of water and sanitation, has stagnated development.

Against this backdrop, the fact that Vigeitse and Vigena Villages have reduced their poverty rates to 40% (based on the Millennium Development Index of \$1.25 per day per capita) is a clear indicator of the accumulating effects of our programs.

Health Projects

After years of planning and construction, the **Vigeitse Community Health Clinic** was officially opened on December 29, 2012, with community leaders, MACODEF stakeholder groups and board of governors, and trustees Jan Kees den Bakker and Martha Magee in attendance.

The ceremony came on the heels of a number of administrative milestones. First, the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation did the final inspection and approved the completed building structures for the clinic. Then the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board licensed the **nurse and clinical officer** who will work at the clinic. In addition, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development registered the clinic as a community facility, which means that the clinic will run independently from the Vigeitse Women's Group. We are still hopeful that the government will take over partial funding of the clinic, though there has been no commitment to date in writing.

The official opening of the clinic brings to fruition an investment of nearly \$30,000 from donors, including The Noble Foundation, over a period of six years. These funds were used to raise the building and to install latrines, a placenta pit, a rainwater harvest system, fencing, a sentry box, a gate, and back-up power systems, such as solar panels, a generator, and pressure lamp. MACODEF also furnished and equipped the clinic and paid the wages of one of the clinic watchmen. In 2012, we helped purchase some final equipment, such as a refrigerator, and arranged for an **electrical hookup** for the building. There is no running water at present, but we are hopeful that a pump and gravity system can be installed from the well at the community resource center.

Emergency Fund

In 2012, the local board of governors continued to identify **individuals who had fallen through the social safety net** and needed immediate assistance. The board used the Wooster Rotary Club's Alternative Christmas drive to fund seven school uniforms for pupils, seven solar lights, five rainwater harvest systems, two clay water pots, two solar cook-kits, two goats, a cow, a pit latrine, three wheelbarrows and three hoes. The pit latrine, for example, was constructed for Gershon Bai, an 80-year old man who lives alone in his home. Joyce Liyosi, a widow, received funds to help build a small house; Peter Agada received assistance to help with a disabled child; and many others received small grants of Ksh 5000 (about \$50) to help with unexpected medical expenses or other emergency needs. These efforts to combat income inequality and to empower the weakest members of the community continue to be central to our mission.

Education Projects

A key educational priority of the local board and communities has been promoting **gender equality** in the two primary schools. In 2012, for example, Vigetse Primary School enrolled 179 girls and 171 boys, while Vagina Primary School counted 257 girls and 200 boys. Teachers have been discouraging traditional barriers that placed a heavy load on girls in the performance of manual tasks, such as carrying water.

With the generous support of Patricia and John Moll, 157 girls at the two primary schools were supplied with **sanitary pads** on a regular basis throughout the 2012 school year. Teachers report that morale, attendance and school performance were enhanced by the program, which was so successful that it was expanded in October to include 231 girls at Vagina Secondary School.

Vigetse Primary School has a **school library**, thanks to Brandon Jacobs and the Zoe Christian Fellowship church in Warrington, PA. A student on the 2011 Wooster in Kenya Program, Brandon helped raise \$3000 for construction of a new Salvation Army church building directly across from the school. As a result, the church goers surrendered the former church, which was situated inside the compound of Vigetse Primary School, back to the school. In Kenya, it is common for public schools to be affiliated with and sponsored by churches.

The Vigetse and Vagina communities also welcomed and hosted two **long-term volunteers** from the Netherlands. Floor van Luijk and Hanna den Bakker taught for 7 months at Vigetse and Vagina Primary schools, respectively. They are also coordinated a pen pal exchange program with two schools in the United States and raised about \$300 for each of the schools for the renovation of classroom floors.

The schools also received donor support for **school uniforms and scholarships** through the Bunyoli fund, which assists AIDS orphans and students from backgrounds of extreme poverty. At Vigetse Primary School 21 students received school uniforms, while 35 students at Vagina Secondary School received partial scholarships.

Environmental Projects

For the second year in a row, a matching grant from Cordaid made it possible for the parents of Vagina and Vigetse Primary schools to venture into **sustainable agriculture**. We asked government Agriculture Officers to provide extension services through farm demonstrations in which they trained parents on how to improve soil fertility and productivity, including composting, erosion control, cover crops, and double digging. After harvesting, the parents gave back 10% of their increased yields for the school lunch program and for inputs for the following year. The plan is that parents will provide all the bean seeds needed in 2013 and will sustain the agriculture program on their own in 2014. The good farming practices have increased yields by 25%. In addition, Vagina and Vigetse Primary Schools now cook student lunches in kitchens equipped with high efficiency stoves that use very little firewood.

Support for **tree nurseries** operated by the Vagina and Vigetse Environmental Groups has increased tree cover on land in the community to 3%, a small but significant step towards the goal of achieving forest cover of 10% on farms. The Wooster Rotary Club's support for clean water projects was the catalyst that enabled the environmental groups to establish tree nurseries, which continue to distribute seedlings to community members.

More than half of the families in the two villages have received **solar lights** as a result of generous grants from The Noble Foundation and the Alliance Rotary Club. In 2012, we distributed 172 Bogo lights, which are easy to re-charge in the sunlight and can be carried or hung at night. The lights are very popular among the community and have resulted in significant savings on paraffin and less smoke inhalation from candles.

Community Resource Center

Work continues on a **community resource center** located on land purchased with the assistance of The Noble Foundation. The Ministry of Lands released the land title (deed number: 0009513; Kakamega/Lusiola 722; 0.36 hectares) on May 18, 2012. The community unanimously decided to put up a two-story building to accommodate a meeting hall, the MACODEF office, and a library/information technology center.

Since construction required a lot of water, the community embarked on **digging a well** at the center. Many rocks were encountered in the process of digging the borehole. Even after blasting the rocks, the well did not yield sufficient water. After doing various tests, a water engineer who visited the site found out that the well would not contain sufficient water throughout all seasons. The engineer relocated the well to a second site and predicted that after digging 52 feet deep, the new well will provide 1030 liters of water per hour. The second well is currently under construction and the water supply looks promising. In the meantime, the foundation of the building has been laid up to slab level.

Many stakeholder groups have contributed **labor and in-kind donations** to the project, including building a second shelter to hold homemade bricks and crushing boulders to make gravel. We again benefited from Kenya Voluntary Developmental Association (KVDA) volunteers who performed manual work at the site in August, 2012.

Management and Administration

While the international board of trustees serves primarily in a fund-raising capacity, our **local board of governors** is the compass that guides MACODEF in all decision-making. As the stakeholder groups continue to grow in number, and the projects expand, the challenges facing the local board also grow. Board members bring a diverse set of perspectives to community development, and though they don't always see eye to eye, they have been able to work together with remarkable unity and commitment.

The term of office of our **three top officials** expired on July 31, 2012, but all three accepted reappointments to a new term of three years. The office assistant, whose one year term of office expired, was reappointed to work for one more year. In 2013 she will be working five days a week. We also welcomed a **new local board member**, Emily Ngodeywe, a nurse by profession. She will boost our team by offering advice and guidance in the area of health care.

The local board continues to hold about six meetings annually to prioritize projects, discuss implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and to make recommendations on disbursement of funds. The board also meets with **stakeholder groups** on regular basis. Such meetings provide an opportunity to get feedback from the community and chart the way forward together. Board members continue to be called on to serve in many capacities in their local community and on the regional and national stage. In November, 2012, for example, the three top officials were invited to attend the Kenya Voluntary Development Association's 50th anniversary and annual meeting in Nairobi.

The MACODEF local board also welcomed **many visitors** during 2012 and gave generously of their time to host them and to exchange information and ideas. Hanna den Bakker and Floor Luijk served as long-term volunteers from the Netherlands, assisting with community projects and teaching in Vigena and Vigenet Primary schools, respectively, for seven months. Other visitors included Lauren Grimani, director of the Akaa Project in Ghana; Isaac Oneka, Kenya Voluntary Development Association Executive Director, and David Matutu, a member of the executive committee, as well as a team of volunteers who joined community members for three weeks to work on the community center; and Jan Kees den Bakker and Martha Magee, MACODEF trustees, who visited many projects, attended meetings, and officially opened the health clinic. The community and the local board thanked them for the role they have played as trustees and expressed appreciation for their efforts to raise funds in the Netherlands.

Financial Report

In spite of the sluggish economy, donor commitment remained very strong. We received donations totaling \$27,636 in the U.S. and \$20,532 in The Netherlands, for a grand total of \$48,168. In the U.S. individual donors gave gifts of \$19,729, an increase of more than 10% over 2011. Over 98% of donor funds went directly into the local economy. Due to construction of the community center, our administrative costs were slightly higher this year, with just under 80% of donor funds going directly to projects.

We benefited from the support of more than a half dozen foundations, non-profit organizations, and businesses. Zoe Christian Fellowship raised \$3000 for a new Salvation Army church, which allowed Vigetse Primary School to re-purpose the church on the school compound for a library. The Wooster Rotary Club conducted an Alternative Christmas that netted more than \$1490 in gifts for the neediest segment of the community. We also received \$1500 from the Alliance Rotary Club for solar projects, \$1000 from the Center for Economic Organizing, and \$500 from The Francis and Lemoine Peart Family Foundation. Corporations supporting MACODEF were Microsoft, ABR, Inc., and the Wooster Book Company. Leading the way for individual donors were Patricia and John Moll, who generously supported a pad fund at village schools.

We are deeply grateful for the in-kind donations from many individuals noted at the end of the 2012 Donor List, all of whom gave generously of their time to support MACODEF's work. We especially appreciate Vigna Secondary School continuing to grant us office space free of charge.

Our sustainable agriculture projects also benefited from Cordaid matching funds of nearly \$20,000. Jan Kees den Bakker gave many hours of time to ensure that these funds were secured and transferred properly.

We continued to receive professional quarterly financial reports from our treasurer, Elkana Buhiru Okwaro. A government-certified auditor approved the 2012 books kept by our local board of governors. The finances were found to be in order and copies of the report were sent to Kenya's NGO Coordinating Board.

Breakdown of Income and Expenses

BALANCE ON DECEMBER 31, 2011		\$44,842
TOTAL INCOME AND REVENUE:		\$27,636
	Individual Contributions	\$19,729
	Foundation/Non-Profit Gifts	\$7,490
	Corporate Donations	\$417
EXPENSES:		
	Program Services	\$49,127
	Administration and General	\$11,995
	Fundraising	\$452
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$61,574
BALANCE ON DECEMBER 31, 2012		\$10,904