



# Maragoli

**Community Development  
Foundation, Inc.**

*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.*

## 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



### Message from the President

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that ten years have passed since we all joined together to form MACODEF. This past year once again saw forward momentum in our core project areas. We have staffed the village health clinic, completed the third year of our sustainable agriculture program, supported the education of vulnerable children and girls, expanded our solar lighting program, and made significant progress on building a new community resource center. Now the time has come to plan the direction of MACODEF for the next five years.

In early August, the international trustees (at their own expense) and the local board of governors will gather for a week-long meeting in Kenya to review the first decade of MACODEF's work and to chart the course for the future. In addition to seeing firsthand the impact of our programs, two questions will be at the top of our agenda: how to insure the sustainability of our core programs and how to improve the fund-raising capacity of our local board of governors. We are already sharing ideas for using the new community resource center as a nexus for income-generating activities.

We will give you a full report on the outcome of our August meeting in our fall update. In the meantime we ask for your continued support for the many ongoing and worthwhile projects that meet real needs in Vigeetse and Vigena villages. MACODEF's accomplishments to date have been largely due to an extraordinarily generous and loyal group of core donors, and we hope that you will stay with us for this next phase of our journey.

Thank you again for your continued support!

Jan Kees den Bakker  
President

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## Summary of Program Activities

In 2013, our collaboration with community members in Vigetse and Vigena Villages once again occurred against **an uncertain and precarious national backdrop**. In March, Kenyans conducted peaceful presidential elections; however, electronic voter identification and results transmission did not work according to plan, and the outcome was contested. The CORD party candidate, Raila Odinga, did not accept the results and appealed to the Supreme Court, which ruled that Uhuru Kenyatta, son of Kenya's first president, was genuinely elected. Later in the year, an upscale mall in Nairobi was attacked by Al-Shabaab militants from Somalia in a tragic saga that captured international media attention and led to widespread criticism of Kenya's armed forces. Meanwhile, the devolution of power mandated by Kenya's new Constitution has proceeded in fits and starts. The prospect of more resources being allocated directly to the county level, however, has significant positive implications for the long-term sustainability of MACODEF's programs, and we are currently exploring potential sources of funding from the Vihiga County office.

### Education Projects

The board of governors has made education the highest priority from the earliest days of MACODEF's existence, and that commitment has not wavered over the past ten years. In 2013, we continued **educational scholarships** through the Joshua and Salome Bunyoli Fund. More than 30 orphans and vulnerable students at Vigena Secondary School received funds for school fees payments and uniforms, while three dozen Vigetse and Vigena Primary School received school uniforms. The uniforms are made by a local tailor.

For the third year in a row, a "pad fund" supported by Patti Moll provided **sanitary napkins** to girls of Vigena Primary, Vigetse Primary and Vigena Secondary School respectively. The sanitary napkins enabled 419 girls to learn comfortably and improved school attendance as well as the health of the girls. Students at both primary schools continued to benefit from a **school lunch program** that is an offshoot of our sustainable agriculture project. The lunch program will be entirely sustained by parents in 2014.

In an exchange facilitated by a MACODEF trustee, Christine Kiphart and the students at Westridge Elementary School in Pasadena, CA conducted a **pen pal exchange** and raised a significant sum of money to support educational programming and sports/game equipment for Vigetse Primary School.

The cumulative impact of these programs has been noticeable to teachers and parents, who have commented on increased levels of motivation and attention among students. This past year the effects were also reflected in student scores on the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exam. Vigena Primary School, for example, with a mean score of 281 points, was ranked the best public primary school in Vihiga West Zone, which is comprised of 15 public primary schools. The teachers have expressed their appreciation to donors who have made it possible to improve the basic conditions for effective education.

### Health Projects

This past year marked a significant milestone in the progress of our **rural health clinic**. To enable the start-up of services, MACODEF bought a refrigerator, hooked up electricity, employed a clinical officer, a nurse and a watchman, and supplied medicines for the first six months of operation of the Vigetse Community Health Center. MACODEF has now handed over the project to a health management committee, and from January of 2014, the clinic has been running on funds jointly contributed by the county, the national government, and the Maseno Clinic. We deeply appreciate the donors, including the Noble Foundation, who contributed resources towards constructing, furnishing, and equipping the building itself, as well as helping out with the start-up of services.

## **Environmental Projects**

For the third year in a row, a matching grant from Cordaid made it possible for the parents of Vigna and Vigetse Primary schools to pursue **sustainable agriculture**. We asked government officials to provide extension services and training 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. Our project coordinator reports, “What has motivated us most is that this project has been an eye opener, for initially people believed and trusted artificial fertilizer more than organic. But now at least 30% do their composting or even buy organic compost and use water and soil conservation measures.” In 2014 the parents will take full charge of the project.

In 2013, we continued to support projects that harnessed **solar energy**. The Bogo lights remained very popular this year for their ease of use (they can be hung at night and used for homework or as a lamp in the kitchen or sitting room) and the reduction of smoke inhalation and kerosene use. The fireless baskets also remained in high demand, as they provide a useful way to keep food warm and safe after it has been cooked. We also continued support for **tree-planting**, which has led to a resurgence in the presence of indigenous trees in the two villages.

## **Community Resource Center**

Our biggest and most time-consuming project in 2013 was the ongoing work to construct a community resource center in the Vigetse area. Backfilling the foundation of the building up to the ground level posed a big challenge to the MACODEF stakeholder groups. Backfilling is done using stones and dirt (or “hardcore” and “murrum,” as they are called locally). The stones are manually broken from the huge granite boulders that dot the landscape; sometimes a fire is set on top of the boulder to make it more brittle. The dirt is dug from the ground and scooped into piles, after which both are transported to the building site. As a result of the quantity of rocks needed and the labor intensive nature of acquiring them, work has progressed at a very slow pace. However, the foundation is now ready for the slab to be laid.

The well at the site of the community resource center is producing some water, though the volume is less than we anticipated initially. The technicians who worked on the project are planning to do some readjustments on the fixtures for the optimum benefit to be achieved.

Our humble thanks go to the Wilde Ganzen Organization of the Netherlands for a matching grant, which resulted in a total sum of roughly \$10,000 for the community center. Most of these funds are still waiting to be used on the construction of the ground floor of the building once backfilling of the foundation is completed. We also implemented training of community members in tendering and procurement, first aid and safety measures, and disaster response.

## **Emergency Fund**

In 2013, 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 identify vulnerable individuals who could benefit rainwater harvest systems, wheelbarrows and hoes, micro-loans for cows and goats, and school uniforms. In addition, the board gave out small grants in emergency situations; for example, John Koja received a small grant to cover new roofing for his house, while Richard Chogo and others received small grants of about \$50 to help with unexpected medical expenses. Our efforts to combat income inequality and to empower the weakest members of the community continue to be central to our mission.

## Management and Administration

In 2013, our **international trustees** continued to provide financial support as well as input on the direction of MACODEF through regular E-meetings. This past year we welcomed a new trustee, Wade Powell, who taught at Ideleri Secondary School (near Vigetse) with his wife Patti in the 1990s. Wade is now a professor of biology at Kenyon College. Wade replaces Yumiko Yokozeki, who has stepped down at the request of her employer in order to avoid a conflict of interest. We are extremely grateful for the support Yumiko has provided as a long-term MACODEF trustee!

Our **local board of governors** continued to oversee all operations within Kenya and to contribute voluntary service for the betterment of their community, even though all board members have other work in addition to serving on the MACODEF board. The local board worked through several committees, including committees for monitoring and evaluation, environmental activities, health center management, audits, and tender and funds disbursement. Once again our chairman, Samuel Amukono Kidini, expertly steered the organization forward through this delegated management system, while our coordinator/secretary, Joyce Adisa Bunyoli, and our office assistant, Everlyne Minage, attended to daily activities. We are extremely fortunate to have such a skilled and dedicated team to coordinate projects at the village level.

Fortunately, the composition of our local board remained stable in 2013. The term of office of our **three top officials** runs through June of 2015, at which point we will choose a new chair, vice-chair, and treasurer. Our office assistant was reappointed for another year.

In addition to countless informal gatherings related to project implementation, the local board held a number of formal meetings last year to prioritize projects, discuss implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and to make recommendations on disbursement of funds. The board also met 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 again were called on to serve in many capacities in their local community and on the **regional and national stage** as representatives of MACODEF. For instance, our project coordinator attended a three-day conference in Bungoma on solar energy as well as a seminar in Nairobi sponsored by the NGO Council on new regulations affecting non-governmental organizations in Kenya.

The MACODEF local board welcomed **many visitors and volunteers** during 2013 and gave generously of their time to host them and to exchange information and ideas. In February, Hanna den Bakker and Floor Luijk completed the final months of their long-term service at the two primary schools. Other visitors included Kenya Voluntary Development Association (KVDA) volunteers from France, Switzerland, and South Korea, who assisted community members in work on the resource center, as well as projects at the health clinic.

During 2013, the president and secretary/treasurer of the trustees worked together with the chairman and the secretary/coordinator of the local board to write an **article on participatory development** reflecting on the challenges and accomplishments during the past decade of our work with MACODEF. We will present our reflections at the “Africa in the New World Order” conference in Kisii, Kenya, in July, 2014, and expect our article to be published in the journal *Practicing Anthropology* later in the summer. It has been exciting to revisit the early years of MACODEF’s work and to see how far we have come since 2004.

# Financial Report

Our donor community continued to give generously to support MACODEF's projects. We received donations totaling \$25,737 in the U.S. and \$7,322 in The Netherlands, for a grand total of \$33,059. In the U.S. individual donors gave gifts of \$17,399, a slight decrease compared to 2012. As in past years, over 98% of donor gifts went directly into the local economy, and just under 80% of donor contributions went directly to village projects. We are deeply grateful to our loyal donors for making our programs possible.

We benefited from the support of more than a half dozen foundations, non-profit organizations, and businesses. The Wooster Rotary Club gave a generous donation from their Kenya Fund and again coordinated an Alternative Christmas drive. We also received generous gifts from the Francis and Lemoine Peart Family Foundation, Westridge School, The Center for Economic Organizing, First Presbyterian Church, Microsoft, ABR, Inc., and the Wooster Book Company. Once again Patricia and John Moll generously supported a pad fund for girls at all three village schools.

We also appreciate the in-kind donations from many individuals noted at the end of the 2013 Donor List, all of whom gave generously of their time to support MACODEF's work. Vigna Secondary School continued to grant us office space free of charge. Our sustainable agriculture projects also benefited from Cordaid matching funds, and Jan Kees den Bakker worked hard to coordinate this project.

We continued to receive professional quarterly financial reports from our treasurer, Elkana Buhiru Okwaro. A government-certified auditor approved the 2013 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, 2012		\$10,904
TOTAL INCOME AND REVENUE:		\$25,737
	Individual Contributions	\$17,399
	Foundation/Non-Profit Gifts	\$6,813
	Corporate Donations	\$1,525
EXPENSES:		
	Program Services	\$20,848
	Administration and General	\$8,247
	Fundraising	\$511
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$29,606
BALANCE ON DECEMBER 31, 2013		\$7,035