



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.

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Message from the President

Dear Friends,

Thank you for staying with us for another exciting year! All of the trustees and local board members continue to cherish the opportunities for mutual learning that our joint venture has afforded. This past year of MACODEF's work was marked by the completion of a community resource center, the continuation of our core projects, and several new ventures.

One highlight of the year was the realization of our dream of opening a community resource center in Vigetse Village. It now houses the MACODEF office and provides a site for coordination of our many projects, including income generating activities such as rental tents and chairs, cyber services, and poultry raising. We thank all stakeholders for staying true to the vision of a center that would serve community interests.

This year we continued to support clean water and renewable energy projects, as well as sanitary pads for school girls and educational scholarships for needy children. Two Davis Peace Fellows from Kenyon College gave funds to install a water tank at Ideleri Secondary School. As part of our community safety net, we helped several individuals whose housing had significantly deteriorated.

I'm happy to report that individual donations in 2015 broke all previous records. As we've said many times, we have been blessed with an extraordinary group of loyal donors who have seen the value of prioritizing local decision-making and long-term engagement with stakeholders.

Thank you for your continued support, and we hope you'll stay with us in 2016.

Jan Kees den Bakker
President

Summary of Program Activities

The year 2015 was one of change and new directions for our collective efforts. A new team of leaders and board members assumed office in June and undertook a review of MACODEF's Constitution, which was subsequently approved by Kenya's NGO Coordination Board. The completion of the community resource center allowed the MACODEF office to move to Vigetse Village, where our projects will now be coordinated from one central location. We also initiated some modest income-generating activities in order to increase local levels of support for projects. Many of these changes were made possible by the stable foundation that was built by the previous board, and we continued to fund core projects in education, health care, entrepreneurship, and environment, and to provide a community safety net.

Education Projects

Orphans and students from extremely poor backgrounds received **school fees and uniforms** through the Joshua and Salome Bunyoli scholarship fund. Once again these scholarships were generously supported by Marilyn McConnell, Lemoine Peart, Bob and Kathy Gorman, and other donors. More than three dozen students received uniforms and/or scholarships in 2015. Patti Moll continued to supply school materials to pupils of Vigena and Vigetse Primary Schools. The cumulative effects of these efforts are showing up in attendance and performance rates.

We continued our collaboration with the non-profit, Days For Girls, which has enabled the entire female population of upper primary and secondary school students in the area to have **washable sanitary pads** throughout the year, all of them sewn by local tailors. New pupils entering the three local schools in January have received kits as well. Thanks to Patti and John Moll's generous gifts, we have now completed the transition to reusable sanitary pads for more than 600 girls, and the reviews continue to be very positive.

This year we supported a **youth polytechnic institute** for vocational training that opened at Vigetse Primary School. The institute has attracted more than two dozen students, and we provided used computers and other ICT (Information Communication Technology) equipment for the class. The technical skills gained by students who are unable to afford secondary schools will improve their employment prospects.

Environment Projects

Because of the keen interest in **solar energy** in the village, our project coordinator, Joyce Adisa Bunyoli, attended a week-long conference on solar energy and came back with many new ideas for encouraging solar use. We purchased a parabolic reflector for the community center, and through the Wooster Rotary Club Alternative Christmas campaign, we distributed solar lamps to the elderly and to the poor. The growing use of solar lighting has lessened dependence on electricity, which is now available in the village but tends to be too expensive for many households.

The popularity of **rainwater harvest systems** provide a reliable alternative to community springs, which sometimes dry up during the dry season. Through the tireless efforts of trustee Wade Powell, two Kenyon College students received Davis Peace Fellowships to support the construction of a water tank that is now serving the entire student body at Ideleri Secondary School. School staff and MACODEF officials expertly shepherded this project from start to finish. In addition, because of the considerable expense of drilling a borehole, we have installed a rainwater harvest system at the community resource center in order to offset some of the water needs of staff and visitors.

Community Resource Center

Plans for a community resource center began almost seven years ago with the purchase of land and the drawing up of plans for a site that would house the MACODEF office and provide a central location from which to coordinate all of our projects. A local *harambee* (fund-raiser) raised more than \$1000, and the **opening ceremony for the new building** was held in November of 2015. Along the way, donor gifts and grants from the Noble Foundation in the U.S. and from the Wilde Ganzen Foundation in the Netherlands helped purchase steel bars, cement, roofing, and other essentials, while local stakeholder groups, with periodic help from international visitors, crushed rocks for the foundation and donated bricks and other materials for the construction.

The opening of the center not only provides **a permanent home for the MACODEF staff and local board** of governors, it also marks a real milestone in our efforts to serve the community. Two former volunteers who visited again last year, put it this way: “What surprised us most is how nice the resource center looks by now! Having a central MACODEF office makes the organization way more clear and tangible. People come to the compound all the time to have stuff typed out or copied or to do volunteer work in the garden.” Community members have many creative ideas for ways to use the resource center in the future, including growing mushrooms, raising goats, teaching adult education classes, hosting international visitors, and more.

Entrepreneurship

In line with the priorities of Kenya’s new public benefit organizations act, MACODEF inaugurated **income-generating activities** with an eye towards gradually moving from reliance on outside funding to local sustainability. Though we have always encouraged and funded stakeholder groups to engage in entrepreneurship, this marks the first time that the local board itself has undertaken such activities. These efforts have already benefited from the presence of the resource center, which has, for example, become a go-to site for ICT services in the community. In addition, tents, chairs, dishes and utensils were purchased and are now being rented out for funerals, weddings, and other occasions. The center boasts a nice garden and board members are looking to find new markets for the produce. A small chicken coop has been built, and discussion is under way about opening a library.

Emergency Fund

In 2015, the local board of governors **provided a social safety net** for a number of individuals who needed emergency grants for health care or housing. For example, Daglas Ombima and Joseph Ladema received money for jigger treatment, Diana got funds for a leg operation, and Gunga received a small grant for a new house. Our efforts to combat income inequality and to empower the poorest members of the community continue to be central to our mission.

Our attempts to **narrow the inequality gap** are paying off. As our project coordinator Joyce Adisa Bunyoli writes, “Reports from the community show that especially the poor appreciate the work MACODEF is doing, for to some extent it has lessened the gap between the poor and the rich. Those who were not able to pay school fees now are in school. Those who finished school are employed and have lifted living standards in their families. Women who did not own anything now – through the assistance of MACODEF – have something like a goat, a cow, some hens or a business and are very proud.”

Management and Administration

In 2015, our **international trustees** provided financial support and coordinated international fund-raising, as well as provided input on the direction of MACODEF through weekly email correspondence and monthly E-meetings. The composition of the board of trustees remained stable last year. As in the past, our **local board of governors** coordinated all of our work within Kenya and continued to provide voluntary service for the betterment of their community. In addition to a half dozen full board meetings to prioritize projects and make recommendations for funding, several committees oversaw various aspects of MACODEF's work, including the Ideleri Secondary School water project.

The **composition of our local board** changed considerably this past year, following Samuel Amukono's retirement. Nebert Isambe assumed the office of Chair, Beatrice Chadulo became Vice-Chair, and Jairus Maloba joined MACODEF as Treasurer. In addition, the board welcomed two new members, David Onzere and Brown Indiazi, both of whom had previously volunteered for numerous MACODEF projects. Esther Mucheneke and Francis Ludire will continue for another term as board members. Joyce Adisa Bunyoli will continue in the role of Project Coordinator. Our office assistant, Everlyne Minage, was also reappointed for another year. Local board members contributed to MACODEF under the Mulina (Friend) category this year as another way of showing their commitment to the community.

The local board continued to meet with **stakeholder groups** on a regular basis to get feedback from the community and chart the way forward together. At the November 27 stakeholders meeting, for instance, 58 attendees engaged in a spirited discussion of MACODEF's projects, including the future of the community resource center. The minutes of that meeting note, "The stakeholders were informed how the donors sacrifice so that the stakeholders may benefit to improve their lives. Thus in the same way the groups should sacrifice and when the goats give birth, the kid can be passed to a different stakeholder who did not have a goat. Members said that the entire community is touched by one donation or another, be it a sanitary pad to the children or a solar light for the entire household".

As usual, the MACODEF local board welcomed **many visitors and volunteers** last year and gave generously of their time to host them and exchange ideas. Hannah den Bakker and Floor Lujens, who worked in Vigetse and Vigena, returned for a visit to renew friendships, while Jeanne Geraads spent several months volunteering in the community and sharing skills such as knitting, gardening, and healthy cooking. International volunteers from Japan and from Europe also assisted community members in work on the resource center. In addition, our project coordinator, Joyce, represented MACODEF at a conference in Rome on development and brought back a number of ideas for local application.

Finally, the local board and the trustees worked for several months to hammer out a **revised Constitution** in accordance with new government guidelines. MACODEF remains a non-partisan, non-profit, non-religious organization, but is now able to conduct income-generating activities on its own and reinvest them in the organization.

Financial Report

Our donor community was exceedingly generous this past year in providing funding for MACODEF projects. We received donations totaling \$34,483 in the U.S. and \$3087 in The Netherlands and \$1415 in local community contributions, for a grand total of \$38,985. In the U.S. individual donors gave gifts of \$28,293, our largest total ever, while foundations and non-profit organizations contributed \$5,940. As before, over 98% of donor gifts went directly into the local economy in Maragoli; our administrative expenses were 28% of the total funds raised, a bit higher than usual due to the construction of the community center. We remain deeply grateful to our loyal donors for their sacrifices.

We benefited from the support of several foundations and non-profit organizations, including the Noble Foundation, the Wooster Rotary Club, the Francis and Lemoine Peart Family Foundation, The Center for Economic Organizing, and Microsoft's Giving Campaign. We also received a generous grant from the Davis Peace Fund via two Kenyon College students who won awards to further water projects in Maragoli. Patricia and John Moll again generously supported a pad fund for girls at all three village schools.

Several individuals gave of their time and resources to support MACODEF's activities. Their in-kind donations are noted at the end of the 2015 Donor List. We received professional quarterly financial reports from our treasurer, Jairus Maloba, and a government-certified auditor approved the 2015 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, 2014		\$34,437
TOTAL INCOME AND REVENUE:		\$34,483
	Individual Contributions	\$28,293
	Foundation/Non-Profit Gifts	\$5,940
	Corporate Donations	\$250
EXPENSES		
	Program Services	\$36,935
	Administration and General	\$11,078
	Fundraising	\$310
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$48,323
BALANCE ON DECEMBER 31, 2015		\$20,597