



Maragoli

**Community Development
Foundation, Inc.**

Intl Office: P.O. Box 776
Gambier, OH 43022
macodefus@gmail.com

Kenya Office: P.O. Box 40, Vihiga
www.maragoli.org

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2018 Annual Report

A message from the President

Dear Friends:

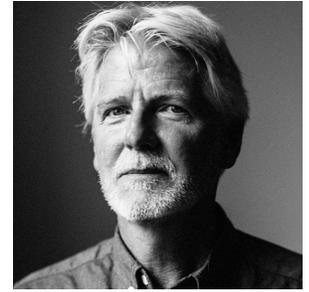
Through the work of MACODEF, we have changed the lives of many people in the Maragoli community for the better over the past 15 years. Better schooling for needy children, sustainable agriculture, raised income levels, emancipation of women and disadvantaged groups, and more. The quality of life has demonstratively improved. *Community-based development* has been our consistent strategy throughout. That is, the community decides what is most needed for the development of the area. MACODEF has been very successful in this and has proved to be a long-term community force in the fight against poverty, all thanks to your continuing support!

This success paved the way for the next step, which we will take at the outset of 2020: Handing over the complete responsibility for MACODEF to local ownership. The local Board of Governors will be fully empowered in all aspects of the Foundation, including fund-raising and reporting. Together with the MACODEF local Board and staff, we have been preparing this step since our gathering in Kenya in 2014 to craft the current strategic plan. In the ensuing five years, more emphasis has been placed on income generating projects, so that the social work of MACODEF can be partly funded by the community itself. Handing over MACODEF to local control is for the International Trustees a matter of principle. We believe that international development aid should always be temporary and result in local ownership and control.

MACODEF will continue in 2020 with its mission of community-based development. You can still support this work, contributing directly to the Foundation in Kenya, which is operated by the same dedicated and competent Kenyan collaborators of the past 15 years. Final details about the Foundation's ongoing work, the procedures for continuing your contributions, and the mechanisms of transparent accounting and reporting will be shared during the coming months of transition.

Once again, thanks for your continued support. Please know how much your contributions mean to many individual lives in the Maragoli community.

Jan Kees den Bakker
President



Summary of 2018 Program Activities

2018 began in Kenya with great uncertainty following the aftermath of the two elections held in late 2017 and the contentious resolution of the presidency early the next year. From the tumultuous early months through the transition to calmer months of increasing stability and prosperity, MACODEF moved steadily forward, supporting needy students with tuition scholarships in the new school year, advancing the *Days for Girls* projects to supply menstrual products to school girls, assisting impoverished neighbors with emergency needs, and providing a community focus at the Resource Center in Vigeetse. Thanks to the support of our generous donors worldwide and the increasing sustainability of local income-generating projects, MACODEF enjoyed a notably successful year, funding sustainable development with projects conceived and implemented by community members to address unique local priorities.

Resource Center

The Resource Center in Vigeetse village is MACODEF headquarters. Its bricks-and-mortar presence is a highly visible symbol of organizational strength, while the activities hosted there represent the most potent and persistent embodiment of the foundation's mission in the community. It is the site of our administrative office, a laboratory for small-scale pilot efforts of potential development projects, and a training site for participants in ongoing initiatives. A unique community hub for all ages, the Resource Center continues to provide a gathering place for local students, members of stakeholder groups, and customers for services and agricultural goods that fill local economic niches and help raise funds for projects.

- The Resource Center hosts a library that is frequented by students who are studying to prepare for high-stakes standardized exams, making expensive study guides (“revision books”) available to students of all economic means.
- It provides internet, computer and printer access (“cyber services”), technologies that are almost completely absent in local homes, as well as a place for the many local folks who lack home electrical services to charge mobile phones, an increasingly crucial tool for communication and banking for Kenyans at all levels of income and wealth.
- It is a marketplace, where agricultural products are sold.
- It is a training center for those who will develop new skills, such as tailoring, and use them in support of development projects.
- It is a gathering place for all members of affiliated local stakeholder groups at their annual meeting. In 2018, SENGE, a new stakeholder group comprised of recovering alcoholics gathered there for mutual support and to provide volunteer service in the Center's upkeep and agricultural efforts.

Your contributions are an important element of the effective, reliable, and uninterrupted operation of the Resource Center, including staffing, equipment and supplies, and utility bills. In turn, the Resource Center provides the solid foundation on which all other MACODEF missions are built as well as the key to the organization's long-term sustainability and ongoing impact. Recognizing our goal to increase locally derived project support, the International Board of Trustees designated Resource Center operation as a crucial element of our 2018 financial

strategy and a priority for the use of undesignated contributions from the United States. The resulting stability enabled us to generate greater income in Kenya to fund development projects directly and without delay. Dutch MACODEF funds supplemented local project funding.

Entrepreneurship and Sustainability

In keeping with the strategic plan conceived by the local Board of Governors and International Trustees in 2014, MACODEF devoted increased effort this year toward local sustainability through the expansion of income-generating activities. The rental of tents and chairs and provision of cyber services continued apace, while the sale of agricultural products enjoyed its most successful year yet. In addition to growing and selling popular local vegetables, the local Board invested revenues in procuring staple foods—maize and beans. Obtained during the harvest season when commodities are abundant and prices are low, these products were stored at the Resource Center and sold at a profit in later months. Napier grass, grown in the Resource Center compound and sold as livestock feed and roof thatching, continued to be a fruitful venture, while the poultry operation encountered challenges due to a local epidemic that struck the chickens of many surrounding homes and farms.

Crucial lessons were learned from both successes and setbacks, lessons that expand MACODEF’s capacity for self-sustainability. Importantly, profits from income-generating activities were invested development projects chosen by the local Board, accentuating the principle of local control and multiplying the effect of contributions from abroad.

Education

The education sector continues to represent the core of MACODEF’s development efforts. Every January, Vigna Secondary School staff identify candidate beneficiaries of the Joshua and Salome Bunyoli Scholarship funds, providing tuition and uniforms for promising students who lack the economic means to attend school. In 2018, twenty-seven students received full or partial scholarships to attend high school at Vigna, and for the first time, the Foundation supported three full scholarships for students at nearby Ideleri Secondary School. While primary school is fully supported by the Kenyan national government, significant costs nonetheless remain for younger students. To defray these costs and keep more students in school, MACODEF provided uniforms for dozens of students at Vigna Primary School.

Menstrual Pad Project: *Days for Girls*

MACODEF has long recognized the special importance of girls’ education for successful community development. One point of vulnerability for schoolgirls is the limited access to costly feminine hygiene products, often leading to several missed school days every month. In 2018, we addressed this challenge through continued partnership with the *Days for Girls* foundation, whose goal is to increase access to quality menstrual care and education. Using patterns and training from *Days for Girls*, MACODEF manufactured and distributed reusable pad kits to over six hundred girls at schools in Vigna and Vigetse. In addition, several local

women and men were trained and employed to make the kits, adding both immediate and future economic value to the enterprise. Nascent expansion efforts sought to provide a manufacturing center for pad kits that will be distributed to schoolgirls over a broader geographic area in western Kenya, potentially increasing MACODEF’s outreach and influence. We especially thank Patti and John Moll for their substantial designated gift to underwrite this initiative.

Emergency Fund

Assistance of our neediest neighbors was once again a passionate interest of the local Board of Governors. Especially notable this year were the purchase of a wheelchair for Ngayira Vindizi, a victim of a motorcycle taxi (piki piki) accident, and the replacement of the roof on the home of Leah Eboyi. At the year-end stakeholders’ meeting, dozens of solar lamps were distributed to needy households, enabling students to study into the night, after the conclusion of school, the long walk home, and farm-related chores. Other families were supported with small grants to seek medical assistance for acute illnesses.

Administration

After substantial leadership transitions at the end of 2017, the composition and membership roles of the local Board of Governors and the International Board of Trustees remained stable this year. Mr. Mwondi, the Resource Center’s daytime caretaker, and Mr. Miller, the night watchman, both retired at the conclusion of the year. We thank both of these gentlemen for their long and cheerful service. Project Coordinator Joyce Bunyoli and Board Chair Nebert Isambe continue to provide able day-to-day leadership in Kenya.

US MACODEF Financial Report

Balance on January 1, 2018	\$ 1,102.85
Funds Raised (all individual donors in US)	\$15,274.68
US administrative overhead (accounting services and PO box rental)	\$ 500.00
Resource Center Operation	\$ 7,236.63
Contributions to local development projects*	\$ 4,750.00
Total Expenses	\$12,486.63
Balance on December 31, 2018	\$ 3,898.90

*Substantial additional development project support was derived from contributions to Dutch MACODEF and from MACODEF income generated locally.

2018 MACODEF Donors

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