

Mara Rianda

CHARITABLE TRUST

Supporting the Mara Rianda Primary and other schools and community, Maasai Mara, Kenya

20 December 2024



Evening Sky in the Maasai Mara, Kenya 2024

THANK YOU

For Your Support & Continued Interest in the Maasai Community Over the Last 21 Years

At the start of the year Nigel, Pola and I were wondering what next? After 21 years we are still surprised when things change and help for certain projects comes along.

The primary schools we visit always have a list of things they 'want' / 'need'. They have these lists posted in the headmaster's office, some of the larger capital projects such as dormitories, new dining rooms / kitchens and teachers living accommodation appear to be on the list for an awfully long time.

We are so grateful to a very generous donor who came forward and said they would be prepared to fully fund the construction of new accommodation for boys at Mara Rianda Primary School. In the anticipation that one day we may be able to fund such a project we previously had plans drawn up and therefore we were prepared to move quickly. In January 2024 we liaised with our trusted builder, Ambrose, who we've used on other projects, to agree the cost of the works and commence building. The news was greeted with great excitement by the school and the local community.

Recent visits have been undertaken by my fellow trustee Nigel Hollingsworth as it has not been possible for me to return to Kenya. Nigel has provided the wonderful photographs and written the majority of this newsletter.

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The Mara Rianda Charitable Trust • Charity No: 1102255 • Company No: 5035681

Directors & Trustees:- Richard Long | Colin Bird | Dominic Grammaticas | Nigel Hollingsworth

The works comprise the construction of a new 64 bed boys dormitory, the complete refurbishment of the existing boys dormitory and the construction of toilets and shower accommodation for the boys. Why we are concentrating on the boys accommodation? You may remember back in 2018 we funded the building of a 160 bed girls dormitory at the same school. Therefore for the last six years the boys have been living in very basic accommodation, with poor toilet facilities and a basic tin shed which was used as a shower area.



Neither the shower nor the toilets had any form of running water.

The photograph to the left shows the existing building used for washing. The costs of construction of a new shower and toilet block were negotiated over a couple of months by Nigel, who is a Chartered Building Surveyor, and construction started in the spring. As part of the agreement with the donor Julius our community worker (who Governors' Camp kindly provide for our support) kept a regular eye on the construction work. Nigel also carried out three site visits to ensure that the construction is to a satisfactory standard and also to ensure the money is being wisely spent. With three accountants as

trustees and only one surveyor you can imagine that ensuring money goes in the right direction is carefully monitored!

The new accommodation is being finished as we write this newsletter and the boys will move into the accommodation at the start of next term, 6th of January 2025.



New Dormitory



New Shower & Toilet Block

Once again we express our immense thanks to the kind donor whose generosity has ensured that children whilst at school will have reasonable and safe living accommodation.

Below are pictures of some of the 47 secondary school pupils that are at present being sponsored. They are at three schools in Narok, Maasai Girls, St Mary's Girls School and Narok Boys



We visit them each time we are in Kenya to check they are well and pay the relevant school fees, travel money and importantly pocket money. Our community worker Julius visits them regularly. We are thankful to his wife Lilian, who is a teacher, and has recently started travelling with Julius so that the girls have a female to chat through any issues. In October they all said they were well. The fourth grade students were just about to sit their final exams before leaving school.

In addition to the above we have a few primary school students who come from particularly poor backgrounds who we support. Soila and Purity, sisters, both sponsored by a UK based family have settled well into school life in Aitong.

Back in March doctors diagnosed one had anaemia. The doctor told her to eat two pieces of fruit each day for the next three to six months, this is expensive for a poor family. The fruit is being purchased through the charity and when Nigel met them in October they both looked well. It is amazing how a simple thing like fruit which we all take for granted in the UK can make such a difference.



As we have said in previous newsletters there is always a need for new books, sports equipment and general supplies in the primary schools.

The schools budgets have been further stretched as the Kenyan Government has changed the school curriculum drastically in the last year.

Primary schools now have to teach science (chemistry, physics and biology) in much greater depth but to our amazement they have not so far supplied funds for science equipment which is needed for the children to carry out practical work. We have supplied Enkereri Primary school with their first science bench and very basic science equipment, 60 children share the use of this one bench over the week to study chemistry.



Support is always welcome and greatly appreciated for general supplies, as well as for capital projects such as teachers accommodation at Enkereri Primary School and water boreholes in nearby Aitong.



Water is such a very basic need for life.

Aitong is a village that has grown substantially over the years. In 2010 we funded the installation of a wind powered pump to supply water. This is still being used today. Water is collected then transported on peoples backs or by donkey cart to their homes.

This one source supplies a medical centre, secondary school, a large primary school and the



local residents. Other water boreholes are needed to save people walking up to 5km to collect water.

Support is always welcome and greatly appreciated. Should you wish to please make cheques payable to The Mara Rianda Charitable Trust or contact me for bank details.

With Gift Aid your donations will be increased by 25%. If you are interested in providing support or assisting a child with secondary education, please let me know and I shall send you a Gift Aid and Standing Order form.

Whatever your faith or belief Christmas is a very special time of the year when our focus is very much on friends or families, it does also remind us how fortunate in many ways we are. Pola and I are constantly encouraged by your interest, support and prayers and this we will never take for granted. May I conclude with my personal Christmas greetings and thank you once again for your interest and support, it is literally life changing. As usual I do apologise if you feel this letter is an intrusion and should you not wish to receive any further letters then please do let me know.

Finally some personal news, I am now retired and the business of Richard Long and Co is now being run by my former partners, consequently the change of letter heading. As you know I have Motor Neurone Disease and I have been in a wheelchair for a couple of years. My MND is progressing, my hands and arms are very weak and I can no longer write or type. However, with Nigel I am still very much actively involved in the charity.

Yours sincerely

Richard Long
TRUSTEE AND DIRECTOR
THE MARA RIANDA CHARITABLE TRUST
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And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
Micah 6 v8 (NIV)