

TRAVELOGUE OF PAUL'S JOURNEY TO EAST AFRICA – FEBRUARY 2020



From February 2 to 20, 2020, Paul Sutmuller, our treasurer, visited current projects and projects for which funding applications were made in Tanzania and Kenya. With all flights and bus tours it was a real safari through East Africa; he visited 1 project in the far north of Tanzania close to the border with Uganda, 1 project at Lake Victoria in Tanzania, 2 projects in Nairobi (Kenya), 2 projects in the far north of Kenya close to the border with South Sudan and 2 projects in Western Kenya at Lake Victoria.

TANZANIA

Migara Vocational Training Centre – Rubale – Tanzania

The Migara handicraft school for the disabled was built in 2004 with financial support from Australia. Until 2008, the school was funded by Sweden and run by Swedish volunteers. In those years there were between 30 and 50 students. The school has four classrooms, two dormitories, toilets and showers, a dining room, kitchen and sports grounds (all accessible for the physically handicapped). The school was recognized by the Tanzanian government and had a VETA certificate. At the end of 2008, Swedish aid (financial and volunteers) stopped and the school had to close its doors soon thereafter. From 2009 to 2018, the school was empty and was taken over by nature, completely overgrown. In 2019, the TEKLA-KAGERA organization (Tanzanian organization for the physically handicapped) received permission to take over the school and to revive it. After cleaning it and some repairs, the school was able to open its doors at the end of 2019. The school has school furniture, wheelchairs and a limited number of teaching materials (4 sewing machines and 6 computers). TEKLA-KAGERA's strategy is to make it a mixed school; boarding for the disabled and day school for non-disabled. TEKLA-KAGERA wants to equip the school first with machines and tools for the various courses (tailor, furniture maker, shoemaker, mobile phone repairman and motor mechanic) and apply again for VETA recognition.



Hope for Girls and Women – Serengeti – Tanzania



A Safe House was set up in 2014 with the support of the Tanzania Development Trust in Mugumu and a second Safe House in Butiama in 2017. There, girls and young women who have fled from genital mutilation and other gender-related violence are taken care of. Every year, hundreds of girls in Tanzania's Mara region flee from home to escape traditional female circumcision. The number of girls who fled has fallen for the first time in 2019, too early to judge whether this is coincidental or whether it is a result of the anti-FGM campaign. In December 2018, 150 girls were

accommodated in the Butiama Safe House and in December 2019 there were 83 girls, 74 of whom were able to return home after consultation with the parents, 9 were rejected by the parents and are still staying in the Safe House.

Every three months a check is made to see if the girls that returned are safe and back to school. The girls who have to stay longer learn handicraft and tailoring. If they can return to their village after a while, they will be given a sewing machine (and parents to buy the material) with which they can make clothes. These girls become anti-FGM ambassadors in their villages, they monitor the situation of the girls that returned to their villages and signal if gender-based violence or a new FGM is imminent. Some of them are equipped with a smartphone with an app installed that allows them to easily transmit data (about FGM and gender-related violence), which are sent to the server of the Safe House and to the server of the municipal administration, who are thereby constantly informed of the situation in the various villages. This app and digital mapping has been set up with the help of USAID. Hope for Girls and Women receives funding from a number of permanent sponsors to cover the running costs of the Safe House. Only in the month of December, extra funds are needed, depending on the number of girls who are seeking refuge, extra mattresses are needed, extra food is needed and sometimes medical care. In December they also have transport problems, with one landrover they can manage the other months, but in December that is not enough to pick up girls. The building in which the Safe House is located is rented and the rent is a considerable cost item. Grumeti Game Reserve in the Serengeti National Park has pledged to provide land on which a Safe House can be build (in the game reserve products made by the girls are being sold to tourists). Fundraising will be started as soon as the plans for the new Safe House have been worked out.



The economic dynamics surrounding FGM are clear. A father wants to circumcise and marry off his daughter for the dowry (money or cows). The father can use it to buy a motorcycle for himself or for buying cows as dowry for his son. Girls who have fled, learned a trade, can make money are suddenly welcome; they have added value. The economic impact was also clear from the story of one of the girls interviewed: she was rejected by her father because she did not accept circumcision and fled. She spent some time in the Safe House, had the opportunity to study at the hotel school in Mwanza, got a good job and earns a good salary. Her sisters were circumcised and married off, but all ran away from their husbands because of domestic violence. The shame for the father regarding his (married) daughters that ran away from their husbands is many times greater than for the daughter who ran away from the circumcision and now makes a financial contribution to the family.

The FGM campaigns persuaded several women to abandon their profession as a cutter. The traditional circumcision ceremony has been turned into a big traditional dance festival, which makes parents proud rather than ashamed that their daughter is not circumcised.

KENYA

Lambwe Vocational Training Centre – Homa Bay - Kenya

The Lambwe Vocational Training Centre was founded in 2012, started with only 5 students and there are now 37 students in 2020; an important part of the students comes from distant villages. The girls from these remote villages cannot travel back home every day and the centre has to provide them with sleeping facilities and meals. The main challenges of the centre are the shortage of tools needed for training and the difficulties students have to pay their school fees. An additional problem is that practical and theory lessons must be given in the same room, the school has no workshops. The school intends to build a multi-purpose workshop where practical lessons can be given for the various courses. The car mechanic training only has an old broken engine block, which cannot be dissembled due to a lack of keys. Students are satisfied with the training but also express frustration that they can never try anything in practice; teachers express the same frustration. The board has asked to be assisted in drawing up a school business plan and in developing plans to increase the sustainability of the school.



Ayaga Dani Widows Group – Homa Bay – Kenya



The organization was founded in 2002 by a widow who wanted to work for other widows from the village and gradually also for single teenage mothers. The organization mainly focuses on the (economic) empowerment of these women. During the meeting with the board and a large number of members / beneficiaries of the organization, there were many questions that were actually intended for the board and that did not need to be answered by the Foundation, it seemed that there is no optimal communication in the organization.

The board consists, possibly for cultural reasons, mainly of older, wise men and not women. The state of affairs regarding the delivery of the sewing machines was explained (container documents are currently being verified by customs). It may take another month before ADWG has access to the sewing machines. ADWG does not have its own building, meetings are held in the open air and planned training (tailoring) will be organized in a classroom of the village's primary school. The kindergarten only uses a classroom in the morning and that room can be used by ADWG in the afternoon for the tailor course.

Anna Nanjala Resource Centre – Lodwar – Kenya



In 2012, Brother Don submitted an application to the Van Doorn Foundation for learning materials (computer, LCD and projection screen) that they were able to purchase in early 2013. Until 2008, the Anna Nanjala Resource Center, which was built with financial support from Ireland, was run by Irish nuns. The Anna Nanjala Resource Center tutored young people from the surrounding villages and provided training to teachers from those villages. With the departure of the nuns, the resource center's operating budget also disappeared and the resource

center actually had to be closed.

The diocese then appealed to Brother Don to run the resource center. Due to the very limited financial resources, Brother Don knocked on the door of sponsors, some offices in the center were leased to international NGOs and the rental income covered part of the running costs. The auditorium was also regularly rented out for workshops and seminars, and a kitchen was set up next to the auditorium to cater for the workshops and seminars. Initially the approach was considered too commercial, it took a while for the diocese to understand that renting out spaces and catering were part of a sustainability strategy. The resource center receives no financial support from the diocese and has no other income. The center is now financially independent and functioning as it was once intended: guiding young people from the villages, tutoring, access to books from the library and distraction and information during the school holidays.

Turkana Community Foundation – Lodwar - Kenya



The Lodwar region is a Savannah, a desert-like area, and fertile in only a few places: along the river and Lake Turkana. With the discovery of oil in the area, the city is now gaining more attention from the central government, and a new road is being constructed connecting Nairobi to Lodwar. This road will ultimately be extended to South Sudan, making the city an important center. The boys from the region look after the herds with their fathers and the girls search for water and fish in the lake with their mothers, the young people haven't learned other

skills and many are illiterate. Lodwar has several primary and secondary schools and a university but no vocational training. Lunches are offered at primary schools; when children go to school and notice that no smoke is coming from the school kitchen, they immediately turn around. They mainly come to school for a free meal.

In 2015, the Turkana Community Foundation was established to empower the community. A difficult start, partly because the machines and tools that had been purchased were stolen. In 2018, the organization moved and was given space in the community centre "Wings of Hope" of the Nazarene church. The organization provides tailoring lessons to widows and single mothers. After the training, the women make and sell clothes and are guided in handling money and microcredits. With the support of the Van Doorn Foundation, they want to set up a small computer training program and link it to a computer centre where young people who know how to use computers can use the internet for a fee, write manuscripts, and perform online work. Young people with computer skills can then more easily get a job with the government. The organization is drawing up a school business plan and is already looking for a teacher for the computer courses who can also repair the computers.



Fountain Youth Initiative – Githurai – Kenya



The founder of FYI was raised by his grandmother and was able to go to primary and secondary school through financial help from third parties, and because he achieved good results, he received a scholarship to study. He chose to study community development, much to the disappointment of his family who would have preferred him to study medicine or business management. After graduating, he got a job with a Norwegian NGO and worked for them in refugee camps in South Sudan and subsequently in refugee camps in Northern Uganda,

near the South Sudan border. Back in Kenya, he wanted to do something for his own community in the Githurai. He used his contacts with Norwegian NGOs to raise funds. The first projects were in the field of reproductive health care, followed by small-scale tailoring and computer skills training, training for no more than 8 people at the time. He looked for opportunities to set up courses for boys, furniture making or car mechanic, he came into contact with the Dutch volunteer organization "vliegende meubelmakers" and with their help a small carpentry – furniture making workshop was set up. FYI wants to expand the furniture making training and thereby also generate income for FYI.

Levozy Self Help – Darogetti Corner – Nairobi – Kenya

In 2016 the Van Doorn Foundation helped this organization to renovate corrugated iron sheds to become decent classrooms; in 2017 they have been assisted in developing a school business plan and curricula for the courses; and in 2018 additional machines and tools were made available via Tools-To-Work. The training centre is until today functioning very well. The teachers and students are very enthusiastic.



The board members themselves have a craft school background and are moved and involved with the fate of street children. They keep it simple and remain committed to their target and target group. The best running courses are still the tailor course and the car mechanic course. The carpenter / furniture maker training was started three years ago. The teacher hired, was qualified but turned out to have too little practical experience, could explain the theory of carpentry very well, but could not show the students how to do it in practice. This teacher has now been replaced by an experienced furniture maker, so that the training is now more practical. Shoemaker training has been temporarily suspended because the teacher has returned to his home village due to a death in the family; the training will resume as soon as he is back.

The Levozy Self Help Group wants to build a small space and furnish it to give limited to computer training, for all students in addition to their vocational training for tailor, carpenter / joiner, welder / metalworker, car mechanic and shoemaker. The Levozy Self Help Group intends (in accordance with its strategic plan) to carry out the following three activities over the next two years:

1. Setting up a computer training course;
2. Building toilets for the students (separated boys and girls), and
3. Building an extra classroom.

HOYWIK – Kibera Slums – Nairobi – Kenya

The HOYWIK organization was founded in 2008 and aims to give orphans and children of single mothers an opportunity for education. The founder, himself an orphan from Kibera slums, knows what it is like to live as an orphan in a slum; he was lucky enough to have someone help him pay his school and tuition fees. As a student, he was hired by an international NGO that wanted to conduct research in the Kibera slums.



Because he himself lived in the slum, the residents had confidence in him, and it was relatively easy to conduct a survey. However, the survey yielded nothing for the residents of the slum. This eventually became the reason for the student to implement a number of recommendations from the study, such as caring for children of single mothers and thus giving mothers the opportunity to work and generate income. Day care for children of single mothers was set up with donations from the Church and others; that then became a nursery school, where orphans were taken care of (day-care with lunch).

After a few years the pre-schoolers had to go to primary school and HOYWIK started to offer primary education and after a number of years secondary education was added, and now they want to start primary and secondary vocational education. Not everyone can go to a secondary school after primary school, for them vocational training would be more suitable. HOYWIK wants to start with a tailor training and, depending on demand and experience, add other training later.