



CBO FORMALISING



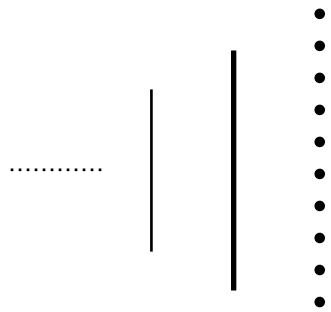
PLOT DEVELOPMENT



NEW CURRICULUM

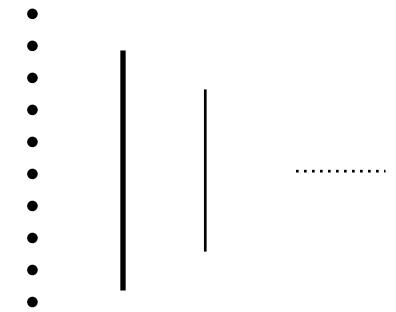


DONATIONS



Eco Moyó

Education Centre



NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL AND MAY 2016



CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP



HOW OUR KIDS LIVE



DORM DESIGN FINISHED



ON THE RADIO

SUMMARY

It's already June!!! - What happened, where did the time fly ???

The kids had a holiday in April and resumed school in May. They are doing good and growing so big - our oldest girl Saida is almost taller than all of us!

The teachers are handling daily operation of the school so well - we opened a bank account on the CBO for them to manage - very exciting - so far so good :)

Lee and I are back in our respective countries (Australia and Norway) working to save up enough cash to hopefully allow us being in Kenya for a longer time this round.

In May the rainy season kicked in and our caretaker Livingstone has almost finished planting 900 m of the living fence all around the plot!

Eco Moyo has been on the Norwegian radio and we are trying to get **EVERYONE WE KNOW** to join us for what we have called **ACTIVE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY** in Kenya - helping us build the student home for our 20 kids out of cob.

Happy reading!

- Big hugs from all of us in Eco Moyo Crew



CBO FORMALISING - LEAD BY SMART AND HARDWORKING WOMEN



As some of you might already know, our teachers are the chair members of the CBO (Community Based Organisation) which we registered last year with the name: *Eco Moyo Centre*.

We have now opened an account for them to manage. As our project is growing, as well as the skills of our staff, we have decided to give them the responsibility of managing the finances concerning the daily operation of the school. Each month they deliver budgets and receipts, before receiving any cash for the upcoming month. They must all be present in order to withdraw money from this CBO account.

So far they have done an amazing job! It's so fun to see these ladies handle new tasks - and they seem to enjoy the challenge!

NEW NATIONAL CURRICULUM IN KENYA

- More emphasis on skills as opposed to theory and examinations.
- The new system of education will replace the current 8-4-4 system, which has been in place since 1985.
- Pre-primary and lower primary will focus on foundational skills such as numeracy, reading, social and life skills as well as digital skills.



“The 8-4-4 system (8 years of primary education, 4 years of secondary education and 4 years of university education.) has been widely criticised for being expansive, heavily loaded in terms of content and too examinations-oriented. Instead, a 2-6-3-3-3 system recommended.

This is great news for us at Eco Moyo (as well as the whole nation for that matter). No matter how long it takes for this new curriculum to actually be executed, just the fact that *skills* and not just *theory* is being recognised by the government, is a huge step forward. Specially, in a country where unemployment rates are insanely high amongst young academics.

PLOT DEVELOPMENT



Building a road from the top of our plot (entrance) to the bottom of the plot (school area) has been a massive job. Casual workers from the area have been working in crazy heat and dug up enormous tree stumps, we still have 50 m to go... We ordered a delivery of what we *thought* was crushed stone. As the truck poured out the material we realised they had brought us stone dust... After the initial frustration (flipping out in Swahili), it was not all bad news after all.

Luckily, after spreading the material out on the road and letting the rain pour down, it created a very hard and solid surface. This situation kind of sums up what working with construction in Kenya is much about. You freak out, then you improvise :)

THE LIVING FENCE

This was the main job we left our caretaker with; planting of a thorny bush all along the fence line (900 m). He has been instructed to only call women from our area to assist with the job. This is because we have used only men for working on the road as the labour was heavy and quite physically demanding.

So far they have planted roughly 500 m! More pics in the next newsletter will follow, but apparently they are growing very well!



ECO MOYO ON THE (LOCAL) RADIO

Since I have been back in Norway, I have emailed all the national newspapers, magazines, radio and TV shows I could think of to try and get some publicity around Eco Moyo.

I was invited to talk about Eco Moyo on a local radio station; *NRK Telemarksendinga*.

On these 7 minutes of fame I spoke about how the project started 3 years ago and about the work that has been done so far.

The interview is short and sweet! For the Norwegians reading this, who would like to hear the interview, you can find it by clicking on the link below. (Skip to minutes: 01:05:55)

RADIO INTERVIEW

<https://radio.nrk.no/serie/distriktsprogram-telemark/DKTE02008816/10-05-2016#t=1h10m43s>



VISITING SPONSORS AND ROTARY CLUBS

Paying a visit to Martin Watson is always a blast and I'm so impressed that despite being a world renown artist and now a father of two youngsters, he finds time and energy to help us fundraise for Eco Moyo - either by donating his art on auction or initiating other events. Earlier this year he worked with Fredrik Bornø Haukebøe, Nelson Seo and more than 25 artists with a charity auction that raised 157,000 NOK (18,000 USD)!!! We are forever grateful!

Looking for partners and sponsors for Eco Moyo is not an easy task. You call and email 100 and get 1 invitation. Here is a picture from one of these invites; a visit to Skien Rotary Club. I gave a brief presentation and was given a very warm welcome. Unfortunately for Eco Moyo (but very good for other projects) many Rotary and Lions clubs are already involved with other charity projects....

If anyone knows Rotarians or a local Rotary (or Lions) club that might be interested in a project like ours, please let us know! Our goal is to connect a club in Norway with a local club in our area in Kenya. This way, there are funding possibilities from *Rotary International* which could potentially open a whole new world of opportunities.



THANKS FOR DONATIONS !!!



JOURNEYS OF SOLUTIONS

Since we started our project 3 years ago, JOS has been our partner (they work voluntarily to help grass-root projects).

Last month they decided to give us a grant of 1000 USD!!! Thanks so much to Bob, Bonnie and all the amazing volunteers working with them!!

OTHER INDIVIDUALS

To all the people from Westerdals school of communications who have donated through Vipps: Thanks soooo much for you donation after receiving some unexpected repayments from the school. This all going towards plot development.

To Line Hotvedt Eikeland:
Your **OUTRAGEOUS** donation to the student home is immensely appreciated :)

ACTIVE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

We are now inviting **EVERYONE** to come and visit us for a building workshop this upcoming Christmas! We are building a student home for 20 kids out of a natural building technique (cob).

Read more about the **BUILDING PLANS** here: http://media.wix.com/ugd/f5cb61_139b58259be24539abbe6e6fcd54c4da.pdf

ENGLISH flyer here:

http://media.wix.com/ugd/f5cb61_29635839077643d8b5ee3f7bc8c981ad.pdf

NORWEGIAN flyer here:

http://media.wix.com/ugd/f5cb61_3e47df6792e045aa846592462c55a672.pdf

Eco MoYo
Education Centre

Come to Kenya and join us for an

Active Christmas Holiday!

22 - 31 December 2016



- Learn how to build with "Cob"! A traditional, building method (easy to learn, fun for both adults and children!)
- Work side by side with locals and other volunteers
- Experience how your presence (not just your money) actually makes a huge difference!

We are building an **ECO STUDENT HOME** for 20 children we have helped with education since 2013. Read more on link below:

www.ecomoyo.com

WE KIND OF DESPERATELY NEED MORE MONTHLY SPONSORS :(

A while back, the monthly donations covered our monthly budget. However, that is not the case today, for 2 reasons:

1) Our budget has gone up as we needed to hire a second watchman at the new plot.

2) We have lost some sponsors (some are broke and some forget)

What happens then, is that when we are lucky enough to get single donations that we would like to save for construction plans, we are forced to use them to meet our monthly expenses... Below is what the numbers look like:

Currency	Monthly Budget	Monthly sponsors	Money lacking
Kenyan Shillings	114,000	65,800	48,200
USD	1,130	654	476
Norske Kroner	9,400	5,450	3,950

We hate begging for cash, but until we get the project up and running on the new plot, this is the situation.....

If you have a few extra bucks each month, small sums make such a huge difference - WE WILL LOVE YOU ALLWAYS!!!!

Follow this link to see how you make monthly payments from your bank:

<http://www.ecomoyo.com/#!/donate-1/c24tg>

STUDENT DORM DESIGN FINISHED



This is what our Eco Student Home is going to look like!

This is the structure we are building for the christmas workshop in December.

Read more about it here: <http://www.ecomoyo.com/#!/latest-news/cl7nx>

HOW OUR STUDENTS LIVE - WELCOME TO THEIR CRIBS

For the last part of this newsletter, we want to show you how many of our students live.

The reason for this is not so that you can feel sorry for them, but we want to show why building the Student Home is so important for us.

Our students live in pretty shit places to be honest. They share beds with siblings, in most places it is dirty and unhygienic. They are living in poverty.

We want to give them their own bed, with clean sheets, a place that is comfortable where they can play and be kids and not have to be adults, constantly helping their parents.

The teachers sent us these pictures just recently, and we apologise for the low quality of the photos...

Asha and Reyson



The house



Their father

Asha and Reyson live in a small mud hut with their mother and father plus 3 other siblings.

Their father is a fisherman and their mother takes random jobs, but is mostly at home.

The toilet is a simple hole in the ground covered by random materials as walls.

They both sleep on mattresses on the floor.



The Toilet



The Bedroom

Daniel



The House



His mother

Daniel lives in a part mud, part stone house together with his mother, sister and older brother. His mother makes a living by selling palm wine (local moonshine).

The toilet is a hole in the ground with walls of palm leaves as walls. The bed is a mattress on the floor in a room with holes in the walls.

Daniel's mother is often away and his sister usually shows up for parents meetings. We know he spends a lot of time alone at home after school and is probably the student that is worst looked after...



The Toilet



The Bedroom

Elijah and Sophy



The House



Their mother

Elijah and Sophy live in a mudhut as well, together with their mother, an older and a younger brother. Their mother is alone with them and she makes a living from selling palm wine too.

The toilet is a hole in the ground without walls to cover it. They all share a mattress on the ground.

We know they are both exposed to a lot of alcoholics because of the mothers job. We also notice their language and behaviour is affected by this unhealthy environment.



The Bedroom

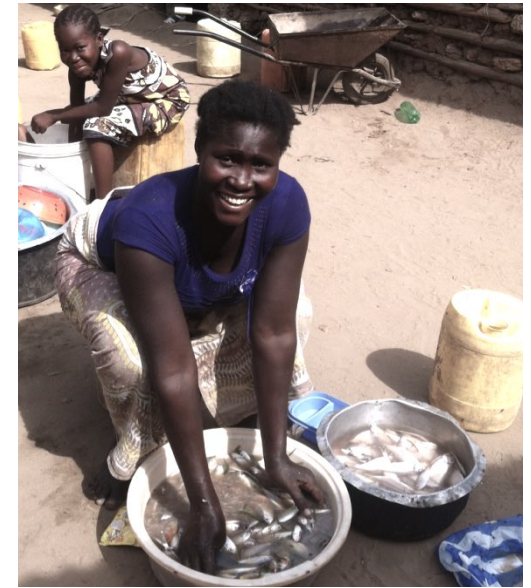


The Toilet

Saida,
Salma,
Zaituni,
Modi
and
Hamissi



The House

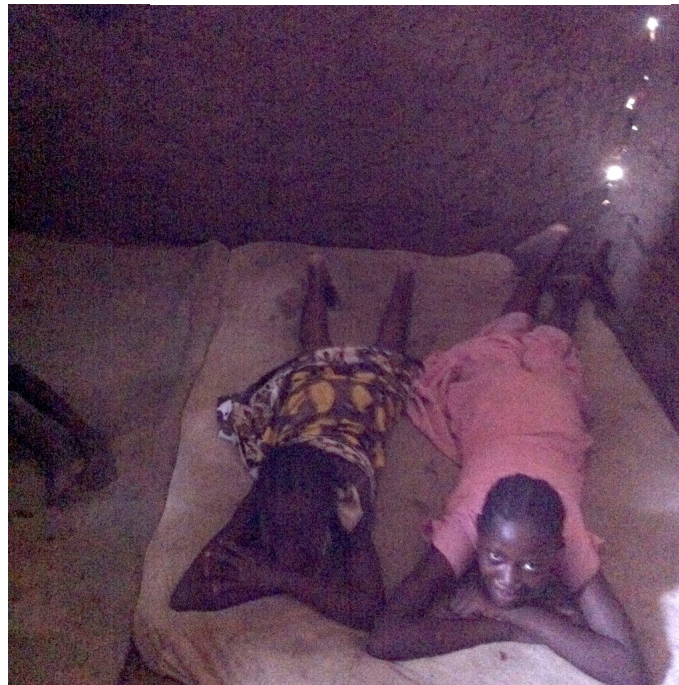


Their mother

Saida, Salma, Zaituni, Modi and Hamissi live together with their mother, their grandparents and two more siblings in a few smaller mud houses sharing a compound. Their mother makes a living from selling fried fish on the street and cleaning houses.

As the children mentioned above, the toilets are dirty and improvised, they all share old mattresses on the floor.

This family really struggles and often we give them extra clothes and food.



The Bedroom



The Toilet

Saida, Salma, Zaituni, Modi and Hamissi



The House



Mother and siblings

Murimi and Norah also live in a mud house with a big family. Mother, father, grandparents and 6 other siblings.

Their father works casual jobs (and is in fact the only male whom has ever showed any interest in their childrens development at school). The mother does not work.

These guys at least have a bed. Girls and boys sleep separately. The kitchen is a bit run down and is a separate unit to the house.



The Bedroom



The Kitchen

Riziki



The House



Her mother

Riziki lives alone with her mother in a very run down apartment.

The mother was injured in an accident years ago and limps heavily. She makes a living from selling fish.

Riziki is emotionally looked after, but as you can see, they live in very poor conditions.



The Bedroom



The Kitchen



The Toilet

THANKS
FOR
TAKING
THE
TIME
TO
READ
THIS

Also, take a look at these slideshows:

Here, we are explaining how our monthly budget is spent.

ENGLISH Version

<https://vimeo.com/168526235>

NORWEGIAN Version

<https://vimeo.com/168530900>

(Great if you can help us spread them and share with others)

