




ABA School

Newsletter

May / June

Highlights :



Status kids, adults, staff



New after-school arrangement




Visit to our friends at disabled school



Still keeping it green!



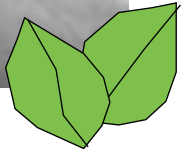
Granted money for fencing and small house



More swimming and even more.....



Random pics



Dear Friends

After spending almost two months working in Norway, I'm finally back in Mombasa with my lovely, crazy family! This letter is mix of May and June events.

The kids are growing and losing their teeth, the youngest ones are not using the potty anymore! They barely survived the rainy season with all the teachers being sick, Christian and Trizah were both admitted to hospital for Malaria and Dengue fever, but are now recovering.

Lately we have realized that many of our kids are struggling at home. Some have to take care of siblings or work for the family in different ways. Some come home to empty houses with no one to help them with homework or even cook them dinner. Also many of the parents are alcoholics. Therefore, we have initiated an after-school arrangement where we provide dinner before walking them home at 6pm. This off course costs money and luckily we have a few more monthly sponsors on board, but we could definitely need more. (See budget listed at the end)

Asumptor (new chef) and Ezra (new watchman) have become a part of the ABA family and both are asisting with the adult students as well as the kids. Beth and Cecilia are halfway in their teachers training studies and Annet is learning a software witch enables her to make digital drawing plans for designs of buildings.

Back in Norway I gave a few presentations on our project and finally spent some quality time at the drawing table with Christoph (our architect) sketching ideas for our new school. New connections with inspirational people are broadening our horizon and there are so many amazing things to explore!

All in all, things are moving forward and As always, we appreciate your support immensely!

- ABA Crew





Status kids, adults, staff



Playtime in our beautiful remade compound.

Here is a rash caused by caterpillars that jump down from certain trees and leaves itchy rashes on the skin.

The medicine is easy to get, but not very cheap.... luckily they are working and the scratching can come to an end!!



Beth visiting Christian who was admitted for Malaria



Beth in her element with the youngest students. Two of these kids came to us at an age that should have put them in a higher class, but with no school background, they had to start from scratch. One of them has an alcoholic mother, the other is being taken care of by the older sister who is only 15 years old. Since I left, both of them have flourished in reading and writing and become more confident and outspoken.



Trizah assisting the older kids.



The four youngest learning how to count.



Asumptor our new Chef



Ceciliah with the older kids.



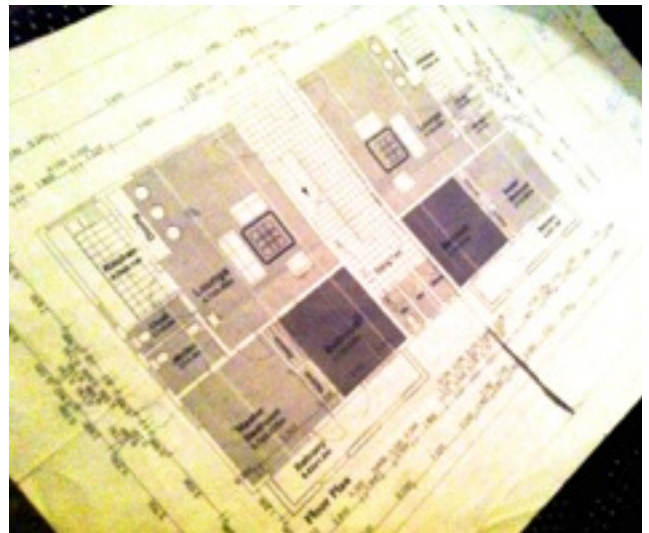
Beth giving out clay for the kids to mold in arts



Some have proven to be amazing artists, these pictures don't do justice to their incredible masterpieces....



Left: Nesbony College where Beth and Ceciliah are taking Montessori teachers training. To the right is their teacher Benson. They are currently making a lot of materials that they bring to ABA and test on the kids. Guidelines for classroom design, timetable etc. has enabled some changes at ABA that seem to be very helpful.



Annet doing homework. She is attending a course to learn a software (.....) on how to make and read digital drawings of buildings.



Christoph (architect) and me sketching out plans for construction of a new school and farm.

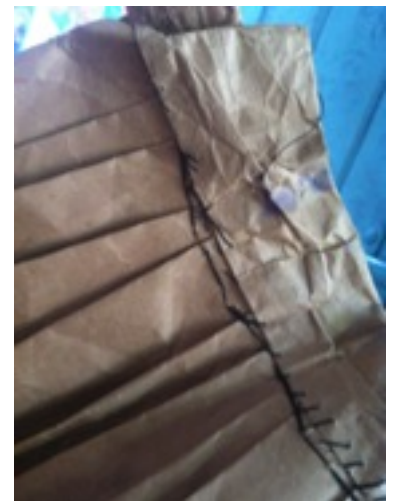
I met Christoph while having a small fundraising event in Oslo last year and all of a sudden he has joined the circle of trust :)





Here you can see an adult student with her sleeping baby. She is the mother of four, one is a student of ours.

Ezra is our watchman and is only paid to work nights, but he dreams about becoming a teacher. On his free time he volunteers to help out with the adult students. He is almost done with a IT course (but lacking 8000 KES/ 550 NOK to finish it) and really wants to teach the students how to use a computer. If anyone has an old laptop they wish to donate, please let me know.



Asumptor has been teaching the adults how to sew. Practicing on paper.

Right:
Staff meeting at ABA

This old man to right is 83 years old, he is our oldest student and loves to practice his english.





Left: Teaching Saida (our oldest kid) how to make french toast.



Right: Annet installed a plastic bottle with water and chlorine after we came across the project «Liter of Light». It reflects the light outside and spreads it in the room. Read more here. www.aliteroflight.org

Unfortunately the landlord did not approve of us cutting up her metal sheet roof and we had to replace them....



Left: Our neighbors have built a pub right next to our school. The customers take their chairs outside and sit in a circle exactly on the path where the kids need to pass. Unbelievable...

The outdoor class room is really coming to use, we eat there, have classes there etc.





Visit to our friends at disabled school



Together with Ingvild and the kids we visited our friends at Mtwapa Special School last week. The school consists of 500 children who all go bananas when we show up!

After giving away sweaters from Ingvilds mom and a bunch of other things like underwear and toiletries etc., we went back to ABA and had a talk to the kids about how they experience being there as this is their third time to visit. They had some interesting comments and some even fear them (particularly the ones children with small heads). We talked about why so many communities in Kenya neglect the disabled people and tried to give them different perspectives and scenarios to hopefully plant some seeds in their mind to prevent this attitude when they approach these individuals in the future.

In Kenya the men believe that if a woman gives birth to a disabled child, she has done something bad to deserve this and they leave her. When talking to the headmaster he said almost no fathers come to the school, mostly they are single mothers.



Ingvild arrives at ABA to meet family members of disabled children who have come to enquire about getting a sponsor so their kids can join Mtwapa Special School.



The building to the above right is a part of the new section of the disabled school. The Director of a cement company and metal sheet producer is the sponsor of the whole project.



This is Anton. He needs help to walk and struggles to make himself understood. The mother is dead and his sister is all alone taking responsibility for him.

Ingvild talks to the family, takes pics and documents their situation in order to look for a sponsor.

Read more about her facebook group «Hjelp til å hjelpe» here:

www.facebook.com/groups/177722905760692/?fref=ts



Beth and the gang, with their new items.



ABA kids in the dorms at the school.

To the right is a teacher at the school. As you can see his legs are crippled but he is an amazing craftsman! Many of the kids who turn 18 years start learning a profession and here they learn how to make anything from sandals to belts, footballs etc.

Depending on the amount of beads that are used on the items the price changes.

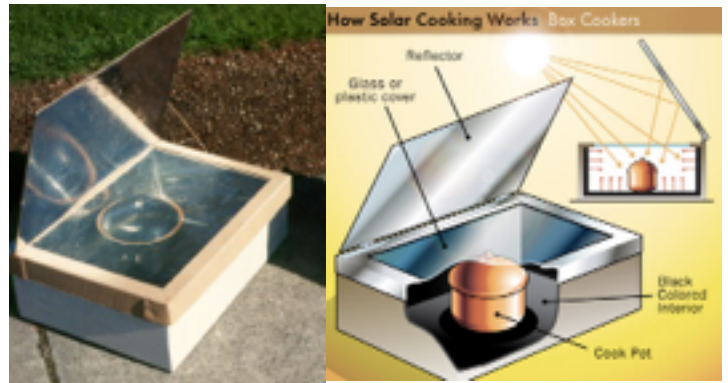
The sandals below are pics from the internet, but they make pretty much any design you want. Sandals like these go for roughly 350 KES/ 24 NOK/ 4 USD!!!

If anyone is interested in purchasing, let me know!



After-school arrangement

The cost of charcoal has really shot skyhigh since I left and using gas is not cheap either. We are planning to make different kinds of solar cookers and ovens to see if that can replace this expence (and also sustain the environment).



Still keeping it green

While back in Norway, I gave a presentation about ABA at the island where my mother lives. She is part of a group called «Grønn Øy» or «Green Island», a forum for spreading awareness/ideas/knowledge about green living.

A solid 20 + people showed up and I was introduced to some new faces and caught up with old ones. One of the women in the group is running a kindergarden where they started a re-usage-centre for the kids. Here they create toys, lamps etc. from waste materials collected from the factories and companies in the area. A huge inspiration for our school!

Since the presentation I now have a dialog with a hungarian product designer, an american engineer with experience from sustainable construction, the bee keepers and the head master of the Montessori primary school on the island.

AND a wonderful neighbor donated old phones for me to bring back to Mombasa!

Thanks mom, Grønn Øy and everyone who showed up !!!





The pics above were taken a few months ago. Here we are preparing for the rainy season drying and planting different seeds and digging beds.

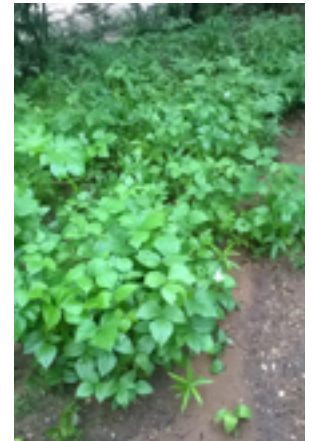


Left: Pojo and Mchicha (kind of beans and leafy green) have started growing just



Above: Tomato, coriander, sweet potato, chili and moringa!

Right: Mchicha and Pojo



Maggie picking Pojo.



Saidi-Kithi showing Modi Pojo.



Kindergarden gang with leaf....something.

Money granted!

A while back we applied for funding to fence the new plot for our school and also for a small mud/ cob house. Aaaaaand we got it!!!!!!!

Thank you Telemark Fylkeskommune!!!!

(This is a government grant from a norwegian county).



More swimming and more.....



The weather has been to rainy and cold (for them, warm for norwegians) to visit the pool. But now the rain is more or less gone and we are back on track.

Unfortunately the dates have crashed in order for the swimming instructor to come and teach the kids, but now we are looking into swimming two times a month in a pool closer to the school. This is all thanks to the truly amazing Ulrike who also wants to give the older kids lessons in horseback riding at her farm!







Random pics





Also, if you don't get this letter automatically and you want to be on our mailing list, send us an email: abaschoolkenya.com and see monthly budget below.

Many thanks,
-ABA Crew

ABA SCHOOL MONTHLY BUDGET PER JULY 1st. 2014

EXPENSE	KES	NOK	USD	Sponsors	NOK	KES	Ballance in NOK
Rent	3000	210	35	Marianne Olsen	250		+40
Food (3 meals per day)	10075	671	100	Synnøve + Kaia Vestøl	600		-55
Sanitary items	440	30	5	May Haukås	200		+65
Transport food	600	35	5	May Haukås	covered		covered
Charcoal	1300	70	10	May Haukås	covered		covered
Salary Beth (teacher)	8000	560	90	Christoph von Mac	500		-60
Salary Ceciliah (teacher)	8000	560	90	Per Frydenberg	500		-60
Salary Trizah (teacher)	8000	560	90	Olav Vestøl	500		-60
Salary Annet (assistant)	8000	560	90	Unni + Torkel Sanner	500		-60
Salary Ezra (watchman)	6000	420	70	Magnus Larsen	400		-20
Salary Asumpta (chef)	6000	420	70	Laurie Vestøl	500		+80
Internett + copying etc	3500	250	40	Mo Houshmand	300		+50
Miscellaneous	3000	200	35	Need help here...			
Exchangerate (15%)	9600	640	91	Need help here...			
Total	75515	5186	821		4250		

In the budget I list up what people donate every month. After currency exchange rates, I take out cash from an ATM here and 15% is spent in the transaction. I am planning to open a Kenyan bank account to avoid this but I need a Kenyan Pin number and still working on that one.

Some have also been questioning why we have so much staff for only 20 kids. The reason is that both Beth and Ceciliah are doing their teachers training parallel to teaching the kids and need time to study. When we are ready for kids at our new school, the ratio will be closer to 20 + kids per adult. But since we are shifting locations we don't want to take in any more kids from this area.

Also, I'm hoping to raise our staffs salary if we get more monthly sponsors.

- Lindsay

