

DONATE NOW !

USD 150: monthly fee per child - to cover school, food, medicines and the support of the child at the village (including workers’ salaries and other necessities)

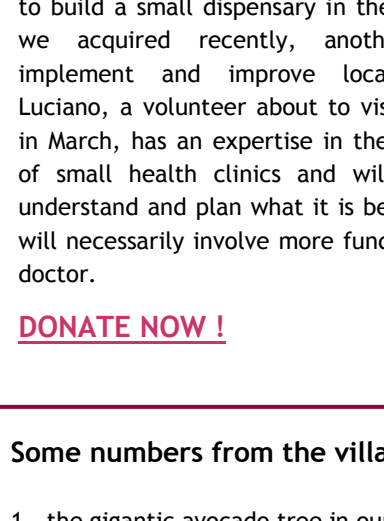
Dear friends and supporters,

first of all, we wish you - alas, belatedly - a Happy New Year and we thank you for your continuous support and generosity: they helps us to continue providing for the children of the village and constantly improving our offer to them.

Here we come with the second issue of the newsletter. Our aim is not only to keep you informed of the progress in our “**New Hope Orphanage**” of Nchiru but also to gradually introduce you to life there, to the children, the workers, the visitors and the volunteers with all their plans, activities, hopes, interactions and, sometimes, difficulties. We will choose a couple of these many characters for each issue: we hope you will gradually feel as if you are becoming part of life there. Let us know if you enjoy this.

AINA’s Staff

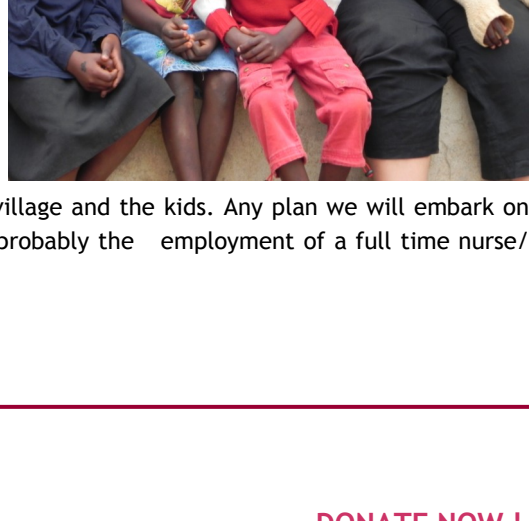
The latest news...



There are now 60 children living in the village: 13 more joined since November. Some of the new kids are Fides Ngugi (9 y.o.), Nussy Kanjiru (3 y.o.), Florence Gakij (9 months), Bridget Kageni (3 y.o.), Valentine Nuirote (9 y.o.) and Fridah Gauchi (8 months old). It is the first time we have many small ones under one year old: this has meant not only more work for the house-mothers but also the need to provide for them appropriate equipment: small cots, feeders, bottles, baby toys, etc. It is wonderful to see how the older children want to take care of the small ones: the new babies who have recently arrived have found plenty of young arms to cuddle them and welcome them.

There has been a bout of malaria in the village: many children have had to spend time in the local hospital which means driving them there (the hospital is in Tigania, 10 km away) and picking them up sometimes several days later, when all goes well in the evening so that they can sleep “at home”.

We have started seriously considering what alternatives there are to solve the problem of the frequent hospitalization of the children: we would feel more comfortable if we could look after them closer to home and avoid so many trips to the hospital. One idea could be to build a small dispensary in the plot of land we acquired recently, another to help implement and improve local resources.



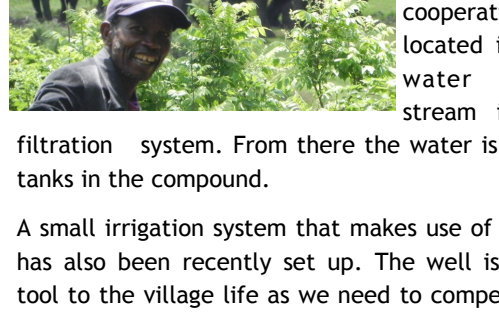
Luciano, a volunteer about to visit the village in March, has an expertise in the organization of small health clinics and will help us to understand and plan what it is better for the village and the kids. Any plan we will embark on will necessarily involve more fund raising and probably the employment of a full time nurse/ doctor.

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Some numbers from the village...

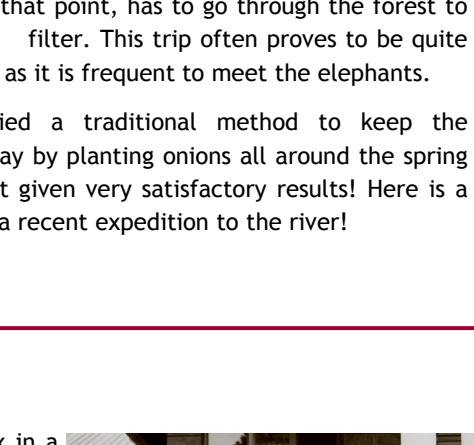
- 1 - the gigantic avocado tree in our courtyard
- 8 - months, the youngest kid: Fridah
- 25 - the chickens in our coop
- 50 - dollars monthly for the upkeep of the spring
- 95 - the number of eggs we use over a week
- 225 - the kilos of beans we use per month
- 800 - dollars: the cost of two months of petrol for the electric generator, our only source of electricity!

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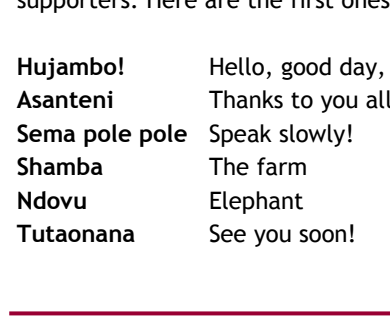
Who is in charge?

Since the end of November Marek Krakus is in charge of the village: it did not take him long at all to make friends with the kids and the workers and to find his feet! Marek comes from Poland but has worked for 20 years in Africa. He has been responsible for a village similar to ours which sheltered handicapped children and has therefore a very specific expertise to make the most for our project.



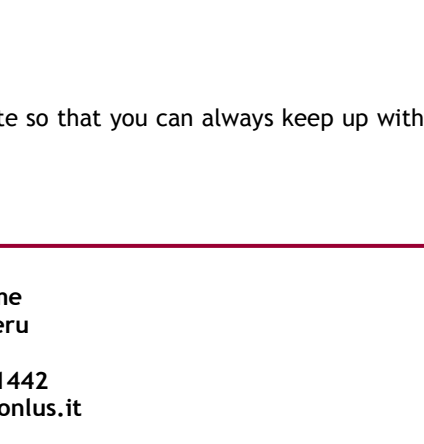
Marek speaks fluent English and Swahili, together with an excellent Italian and, of course, Polish. His languages allow him to communicate with the children, with the Kenyan institutions and with the Italian promoters of Aina. Marek has a small daughter who lives in Nairobi: he therefore not only has experience and understanding of the needs of young children, but also the ability to relate to them and love them! In these few months Marek has been in charge, many projects have been completed and others started. We feel we have been very lucky to come across him! Good luck, Marek!

Our water and the elephants...



With the help of the volunteers a small but essential project has been completed. After much labouring and with the curious collaboration of the *Shamba* workers we have managed to have a large project regarding our water supply completed. It took several weeks of digging and the cooperation of many to have a well for the village. It is located in the *Shamba*, next to the stream and it pumps water from the stream into a basic filtration system. From there the water is taken to the tanks in the compound.

A small irrigation system that makes use of the new well has also been recently set up. The well is an essential tool to the village life as we need to compensate for the spells of dry weather. Normally the village gets its water form pipes connected to a nearby spring: often, though, the elephants knock mud into the water that then blocks up the piping and the village remains then waterless.



Someone, at that point, has to go through the forest to clean up the filter. This trip often proves to be quite an adventure as it is frequent to meet the elephants.

We have tried a traditional method to keep the elephants away by planting onions all around the spring but it has not given very satisfactory results! Here is a picture from a recent expedition to the river!

Our night local guardian angel...

He is called Samuel and lives with his family of six in a hut just outside the village. The youngest kid was born in January. Samuel and his wife come from Amboseli, south of Mount Kenya and are a traditional Masai family. Samuel is very proud of his origins and his belonging to such a noble tradition of warriors and often sports his traditional Masai clothes both during the day and on duty. Samuel's responsibility, in fact, is to take care of the security of the village: he is the night guardian and one can see him at night, with his torch, patrolling the fence of the village. He is a very imposing figure and once you see him your fears of the night disappear. One very interesting feature about Samuel is that - despite his tradition which would dictate that no Masai should attend school as it poses a threat to their identity as a tribe - he is currently studying in high school and regularly takes exams. He aspires to become the first Masai lawyer.



Some swahili words...

We have asked the older kids of the village what words they would like to teach their U.S.A. supporters. Here are the first ones:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Hujambo! | Hello, good day, how are you? |
| Asanteni | Thanks to you all |
| Sema pole pole | Speak slowly! |
| Shamba | The farm |
| Ndovu | Elephant |
| Tutaonana | See you soon! |

Coming soon

We are working at the English version of the AINA web site so that you can always keep up with the news from the village and keep in touch with us!

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