



Malta Supports Nairobi Schools through Conectando Mundos (Inizjamed)



See also the article, "[Malta helps two Kenyan schools,](#)"
in *The Malta Independent on Sunday* (Nov 29, 2009)

Through Conectando Mundos, Inizjamed, together with its project partners and the Humanist Centre of Kenya, has facilitated the participation of a number of Kenyan schools, two of which were Liberty Community School and Maendeleo Learning Centre, in its international global citizenship project.

Both schools are located in the slums of Nairobi. Maendeleo Learning Centre is a primary school for pupils between 5 and 13 years of age, located in Mkuru kwa Rueben; Liberty Community School, in the Kawangware slums, is a primary school which caters for students between 5 to 14 years of age. The schools provide not only educational, but also medical and social services to poor and orphaned children and young people, as well as to the schools' communities at large.

Due to the heavy post-electoral riots in early 2008, the community schools faced severe problems such as displacement, financial and physical insecurity and the consequences of the ethnic hatred that was devastating the country.

Subsequently, the schools experienced a great lack of resources to provide their students with the basic services they needed and this led Inizjamed to search for ways to help the staff and children of Liberty School and Maendeleo. Together with the schools' administrations and the Humanist Centre of Kenya, by mid-2008, Inizjamed developed a project proposal that aimed at enabling the schools to create a long-term sustainable environment for the schools' students and communities.



A request was sent to the general Maltese public and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), resulting in the collection of €12,645, the bulk of which was provided by MFA. On 16 October 2008, with the support of Bank of Valletta (BOV), which had agreed to waive all bank charges involved, the sum had been sent in full to the Humanist Centre of Kenya, the latter being in charge of monitoring the process of the project on the ground.

The Humanist Centre distributed the amounts to the two schools, which had bound themselves to make the best use of the funds available. By mid-2009, both educational institutions had managed to amend the schools' infrastructure considerably. Ongoing communication between Inizjamed and its Kenyan partners confirms that the project has fully met its aim to help the schools and their communities help themselves in developing a sustainable environment which allows

Liberty School and Maendeleo to provide much needed services to the children and their families.

At Liberty Community School, the following was achieved through the project:

- *We built three slightly-standard classrooms each of 18x21ft, and put up a large dining hall, equaling five such classrooms. The dining hall is christened "Malta Hall" and with a footnote "Funded by the Government and People of Malta".*
- *We have tapped electricity from the mains at a cost surpassing Ksh.70K. Wiring cost us more, as the cost of materials has surpassed our earlier estimates. Lights are now on in the school at night, boosting the much needed security in the area. Our two computers are also 'benefiting'.*
- *We have expanded water in the school through distribution pipes and further bought two small tanks to supplement .This ensures water reaches the toilet and kitchen respectively, ensuring kids and teachers get necessary services close to their point of call.*
- *Further guttering installations done will ensure more rainwater is caught to help empower the kids with quality health. The community's main undoing is lack of water and the myriad water borne diseases that accompany lack of it.*

On the other hand, at the Maendeleo Learning Centre:

- *We managed to construct 4 new classrooms of 20x15 sizes. This was a wonderful job given the cost materials and labour.*
- *We were able at the same time to convert our old dining hall and a kitchen into computer room, high school staffroom, and administration block for both high school and primary school. This housing a cashier's office, accountant and the primary school headmaster's office. The last bit of it was turned into girl's dormitory of a capacity of 6 double-decker beds but until now we only have 4 beds.*
- *We also were able to reconstruct the old classrooms and we able to create additional classes because we did not have enough classes according to the number of children we are having which between 400-500 kids from pre-school to high school. It was able to create 3 new rooms of 20x15 sizes and can now accommodate all primary kids plus 1 primary staff room.*
- *We were able to repair a section of the fence which was falling down.*
- *There was also possibility of installing our own electricity and now we don't borrow from neighbours as it used to be.*
- *We bought 3 computers which will be used for training the kids as soon as we buy the computer tables.*

As a result of the successful partnership, all involved in this project have agreed that they will continue their collaboration in the future.

Inizjamed, the Humanist Centre, Liberty School and Maendeleo sincerely thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Maltese public for the financial contribution to this project.

For further information, kindly contact Dominik Kalweit (Project Manager - Inizjamed) on dominik.kalweit@maltaforum.org.

A Message from Simon Okech of Liberty School, Nairobi

16 September 2009

Dear Friends

Africa seems to sit on the time bomb whenever any affliction of apocalyptic types hit the world. Recently, an explosion of swine flu, which is ravaging many countries in the North was expected to make a windfall in the sub Saharan region, leaving devastations worse than what happened in Spain in the wee days of 1918, or the Japanese 'end of time' of 1945. I can confirm to you that many of us have gone through this fever quietly, with not much ado, thanks to our immunity. However, the expected El Nino about to land in Kenya could trigger the disease's inactive genes, reversing the present resistances.

It will also not be prudent for the developed west to bathe our leaders in climate-dollars, as reported recently from a climate conference. What needs to be done is to help Africans with ideas to adapt through climate change. Ideas last longer than sermons. If our leaders are given this money, many will opt to return this money to the west through building Nimrod-type babels in the same western capitals, while making their subjects poorer and more vulnerable to the effects of the changing climate. To the western imperialists, this will be like giving with one hand and claiming the same with the other.

Since generations that have lived since 1945 have the same old thoughts, and have been able to marshal resources to defeat diseases and live longer to see anarchy prevail through manipulating the grandmasters of third world politics, economics, etc, the best way to overcome their deceit is to invest in the young generations that are coming up with novel ideas, like Grech and Dominik through their march for a better world free of pollution. In turn, these generations pass over the mantle of good thoughts to our children, and the cycle goes on and on. It is my utmost belief that had those in citadels of power in London, Washington, Paris been given the money used to upgrade Liberty School, Nairobi, they would have thought of investing them elsewhere, like in industries that billow deadly smoke to reduce lives in the third world.

The partnership between the Humanist and Inizjamed is one worth emulating. Through that, we have power in the school for computers, and now kids are able to surf the internet and lights to allow them read books even at night-small

investments that change lives with great impacts for the future. Infact, in this way, we have cheated early childhood deaths through quality education and good health sourced from information obtained from these media. Inexonorably.

Long live friends.

Kind regards,
Simon Okech, Liberty School, Nairobi