

MOVING the GOALPOSTS

Newsletter



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No. 1

This is the first of MTG's biannual newsletters giving you all the latest news from Kilifi. We had a busy start to the year with success at an international tournament, a training camp for over 100 girls, five new staff members and we were winners in a global competition. And MTG has a new logo!

The winners: MTG United under 13 team

The MTG United team for girls under 13 played in the MYSA tournament with the theme "Women unite for peace and reconciliation" in Nairobi. For most of the girls it was their first ever trip to Nairobi. The girls were younger and smaller than all the other teams in the tournament. But this was not a problem. The girls beat their opponents with their skills, speed, and determination. They only conceded one goal all tournament in the last minute during the final when their opponents scored through a penalty. But MTG had already scored twice and won the final 2 – 1. This success shows that there are talented girls footballers in Kilifi and that MTG is on the right track in coaching and guiding these girls to fulfil their potential.

Winners 2: Changemakers

A prestigious jury selected two MTG proposals as finalists in the global Nike Changemakers competition "Sport for a Better World". The competition recognised outstanding innovations in sport and development. As two of the sixteen finalists MTG has been invited to the Changemakers summit in the U.S. later this year. MTG's proposals were setting up a national network to develop girls and women football in Kenya and producing and marketing affordable sanitary pads.

Sanitary pads for sustainability

Many girls in Kilifi and most other parts of East Africa cannot afford sanitary pads: every month they use cotton wool, cloth or rags instead. MTG is carrying out a feasibility study for a social enterprise, using local technology from Uganda to produce and market affordable pads for girls and women. Reproductive health and HIV/AIDS information will be included in each packet. We hope the social enterprise will provide employment for girls and profit for the organisation to help improve sustainability.

Football leagues

MTG has 27 girls football leagues going on in 18 fields in Bahari, Vitengeni and Ganze division and Kaloleni district. This means that every Saturday hundreds of girls in Kilifi are active in playing or managing football activities, in first aid, officiating matches, peer led health education and counselling.

Although in Kilifi we were not directly affected by the post election violence the girls in MTG got together to donate clothes, blankets, sanitary pads, soap etc that the Red Cross distributed in the camps for internally displaced persons.



Standing: Kaluwa Pasa, Saumu Shida, Loice Lewa, Betty Kahindi, Suna Chaleb, Mwanaidi Karisa, Lydia Karisa
Kneeling: Fatuma Kahindi, Beatrice Tunu, Mbeyu Mwambeyu, Nuru Shida
Front with cup(!): Mahenzo Kazu



A new referee

New
Jacquelean Wanyonyi joined MTG from MYSA in April. She is coordinating the football section. Four volunteers became staff members: Lilian Mbeyu and Doreen Sirya coordinate the MTG activities in Kaloleni and Ganze respectively. Janet Karembu Konde is coordinating the coach programme and the MTG United teams. Harriet Chea is assisting the accountant Mr. Mwaro.



Coaches during the camp



First aiders assisting others



St. John's girls, winner of MTG's tournament

Training

When schools closed in April MTG took the opportunity to train 36 new referees, 25 first aiders and 26 coaches during a residential camp in Kilifi. Two babies joined the training camp with their mothers. Two other "babies", two eleven-year-old girls who were the youngest participants to be trained, were determined and eager to learn everything about first aid and refereeing. The girls were excellent role models!

Health education

The peer educators have done a lot of work in developing sessions for our own MTG manual on health education that focuses on empowerment for girls, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. The peer educators have held sessions in 17 schools in Kilifi and Kaloleni district, with football teams at the league fields and during the secondary school tournament. Every year schools are visited with MTG video shows. This time the topic was "decision-making" to enable the participants to make informed choices in their relationships. New, and a great success, was the participation of boys in these video show sessions.

Staying in school: scholarships

Since 2007 MTG has a scheme to support good footballers to continue with their education at secondary level. MTGK links the girls with the Rotary Kilifi, Kesho and Waa Girls Secondary School who sponsor the girls. We started this because less than 50% of the girls in Kilifi who complete primary school go to secondary schools. In 2007 there were four girls who got a scholarship. In 2008 it's a total of eight more girls who benefit from this programme. Friends of MTGK support one girl in university. All the girls remain active in MTG and act as role models for other girls.

MTG Secondary School tournament

In February and March a tournament committee composed of MTG girls organized a successful MTG 2008 secondary school tournament. Sixteen Secondary School teams played to become the best team in Kilifi district. St. John's girls' secondary school won the final 1-0 in a thrilling final against Kilifi High school.

Upcoming activities

- ★ **MTG will expand its activities to Chonyi division.**
- ★ **Two staff members will lead three workshops at the Commonwealth Games conference in Glasgow in June.**
- ★ **MTG will publish a book later in the year on the teenage lives of nine girls from the project. The book covers their stories about families, school, football, religion, boys, relationships, pregnancy, abortion and HIV/AIDS.**

MTG cannot do all these activities without the help of our key partners and supporters.

We wish to thank:

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- I%club tegen armoede, VSO.

If you want to get involved or if you want more information please contact us at:

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