



Tana River Life Foundation

Mending Young Lives after the Conflict:
Mobile Library in the Tana Delta



Note from Gabriel

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Over the past seven years, Tana River Life Foundation (TRLF) has made a tangible and lasting impact in the Tana Delta of Kenya. Our vision at TRLF is to create a more just and honest society, leading to more complete humanity for all. Our values are centered on empowering individuals, especially the most marginalized and economically disadvantaged, to become self-reliant, and our programs exist to provide these individuals such opportunities.

From August 2012 to January 2013, the Tana Delta Sub-County was rocked by intense ethnic violence, which resulted in the displacement of entire village communities. These clashes destroyed roads, disrupted education, and affected farming and livestock breeding. However, the local community in and around Idsowe (the base of the foundation), unlike in other areas, chose peace over violence throughout this period of unrest. This could be attributed to the work of TRLF over the years. Through education support schemes, sustainable agricultural projects, community-based entrepreneurship schemes and youth mentorship and formation programmes, TRLF nurtures the inherent talents and potentials so that communities can progress sustainably and not be manipulated or marginalized by the rapid urbanization and uncertainties affecting their lives. Equipped with sound education, these beneficiaries are now able to make meaningful choices with freedom and dignity.

This report, **Mending Young Lives After the Conflict: Mobile Library in the Tana Delta**, encapsulates our core value of self-empowerment through providing easy access to quality education. By delivering books to the doorsteps of these students, we inculcate a strong reading culture in them, and equip them with the necessary skills to becoming independent, educated and discerning thinkers. This will mitigate the risk of the Tana Delta being a target of manipulation.

Our projects have been made possible through the support of our committed Board of Directors and individual supporters, our corporate partners, educational institutions, as well as the various religious organizations. I thank them for the continued support they have rendered. My deep appreciation goes out to all our volunteers who have worked hard on our projects and it's heartwarming to see them returning to help us.

unding is crucial to our organization. Your generosity will go a long way in supporting TRLF's work for the rural communities in Kenya. Together, we will work towards providing sustainable, peaceful and enhanced livelihoods for the families in Tana Delta.

Sincerely,



Gabriel Teo Kian Chong
Founder



Tana River Life Foundation

Tana River Life Foundation (TRLF) is a charitable organization based in Idsowe Village in the Tana Delta in Kenya. It was founded as a private trust in 2005 by Gabriel Teo Kian Chong, a Malaysian citizen resident in Kenya. TRLF was registered as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with the Kenya NGOs Coordination Board in 2007 (Reg. OP258/051/2007/0440/4836 & VAT Pin No.P051200475T).

In recognition of its contributions to society as an Institute of Public Benefit, TRLF was awarded income tax exempt status by the Kenya Revenue Authority for a 5 year period from 24th April 2013 to 24th April 2018.

Organization's Mission & Vision

Tana River Life Foundation's mission is to assist individuals and thereby entire rural communities, especially the marginalized and economically disadvantaged, become self-reliant in dignity.

Tana River Life Foundation's vision is to build a more just and honest society, leading to more complete humanity for all.

Through education support schemes, sustainable agricultural projects, community-based entrepreneurship schemes, and youth integral formation programmes, TRLF seeks to nurture the inherent talents and potentials of people such that they have the freedom and ability to build lives of dignity for themselves, their dependents, and their larger communities.

By connecting people from economically developed and developing societies, TRLF also seeks to give more meaning and depth to each life that it encounters.



S urmont
E ducate
E mpower
D ignify



Abstract

The Tana Delta, which forms part of Tana River County in Kenya, is a fertile delta rich in natural resources and birdlife. With a population of slightly over 100,000 covering an area of 163,600 ha, it covers the delta where the river Tana fans out into the Indian Ocean to the plains of the Tsavo National Park on the East, and the semi-arid eastern regions of Kenya bordering Somalia towards the north. It is served by only two tarmac roads, both of which remain maintained.

Education infrastructure, in spite of the significant gains in the last ten years, still lags far behind the rest of the country. Tana River County scores lowest in the Kenyan National Exams. It has the lowest transition rates between primary and secondary schools and the lowest literacy level nationally.

Aside from marginalizing native communities and preventing them from participating in the growth and development of the Tana Delta, low literacy levels puts youths at risk of many forms of manipulation, further inhibiting integral human development in the Delta.

From August 2012 to January 2013, Tana Delta Sub-County was ravaged by ethnic violence. The conflict, which many official reports have termed politically instigated, resulted in entire village communities being displaced. In particular the Pokomo and the Orma communities living in villages in Chara, Ozi and Kilelengwani locations, beyond the reach of all-weather roads, were most badly affected. Classes were interrupted and some schools, e.g. newly constructed Buyani Secondary School, were vandalized and forced to close.

Entire communities have struggled to rebuild their lives in the past months since the violence ended as abruptly as it started. Buyani Secondary School restarted in August 2013 with two classrooms borrowed from Chamwanamuma Primary School.

Access to quality education is one of the most effective ways to enable communities to break the cycle of under-development and dependency. Besides expanding horizons, access to quality education reduces inter-communal conflicts. An educated youth is less susceptible to manipulation. He/she appreciates that mutual respect, dialogue and reliance on law and order, instead of violence and war, are key to peaceful coexistence leading to sustainable development for all. He/she understands that there are no permanent winners or losers in a state of conflict and hostility. Most importantly, he/she will choose development over destruction.

Since 2007, Tana River Life Foundation has been working with communities in parts of the delta accessible by the two tarmac roads to improve access to quality education. These communities that benefited most from past TRLF interventions in education were **least** affected by the conflicts in 2012/2013.

This demonstrates that a better educated rural community is harder to manipulate and tends to choose peace and sustainable development over hostility. Development programs are better measured for effectiveness by their **qualitative** outcomes rather than by their **quantitative** output. Hence a choice for peaceful co-existence is clearly a positive outcome of rural communities who have received greater access to quality education.

As a result of the upheavals experienced by the communities in Chara, Ozi and Kilelengwani, from August 2012 to January 2013, there is now an urgency to extend the programs being run by the foundation to these communities in the interior. These programs are designed to mitigate the risks of future reoccurrences of the senseless violence witnessed in 2012/2013.

Setting up a mobile library is the first of a series of programs designed to improve access to quality education. The library will service schools in the interior with the least developed education infrastructure and that were most affected by the conflict in 2012/2013.

Cultivating a love of reading and improving language skills build generations of better informed and educated young people. This will blunt the tools of manipulation, circumventing future loss of lives resulting from senseless violence. This can make the Tana Delta a less fertile ground for manipulation which leads to senseless violence and loss of lives in the future.

MOBILE LIBRARY FOR RURAL SCHOOLS IN TANA DELTA



Mobile Library for Rural Schools in Tana Delta, Kenya

a) Project Description

The pilot mobile library project will provide students from two locations in Tana Delta – i.e. Salama (population 4,741 or 911 households*) and Chara (population 5,048 or 892 households*) access to libraries run by Tana River Life Foundation in Idsowe village.

Salama location is situated relatively close to the tarmac road. Its people exhibit a high level of tolerance between ethnic groups, as a result the community was relatively calm during the clashes. Its single public secondary school - Gadeni Secondary School - serves the villages of Wema, Bandi, Hewani, Korlabe, Eskedek, Maziwa, Tawakal, Kiembeni, Kulesa and Vumbwe. The school is expected to have an enrolment of approximately 250 students in 2014. The head-teacher, Madam. Maua is very development focused and has been able to bring refreshing changes during the past one year that she has been in charge. Student discipline is very high, probably the best amongst all the schools in the delta.

This being a pilot project, we targeted a school that has good leadership combined with high discipline to enable TRLF youth librarians to gain experience and exposure in managing the mobile library. Gadeni Secondary School was an ideal choice for these reasons.

Chara location is an outlying community that was directly affected by the ethnic clashes in 2012/2013. Many villages were entirely burnt down and abandoned since late 2012. Fearing for their safety, the villages stayed away until the middle of this year before returning to rebuild their lives. Peace talks led by local community leaders have been very effective in the location, progressing more effectively than any other location affected by the violence.

Chara hosts Buyani Secondary School. In 2013, there were 27 student enrolled, down from over 200 in 2012. This number is expected to rise to over 100 students in January 2014. It serves the villages in both Chara as well as Wachu Oda locations, which include Bokani, Semikaro, Ndura, Boramoyo, Dariga, Anasa, Kibokoni, Chamwanamuma, Mbelezon, Marafa, Shirikisho, Handaraku, Onworde, Tara, Lailoni, Matariba, Maderite and Bura/Anani.

The headteacher, Mr. Ayub, though inexperienced, is a committed educationist and has worked very hard to get the school restarted in August. Students from Buyani exhibit an extremely high level of thirst for education, more than their counterparts in the other schools. Although their journey to have their own secondary school has been marked by challenges and disappointments, their spirits have not been diminished. The school was chosen as part of our plan to extend development aid through affordable quality education to the areas most affected by the violence in 2012/2013.

A school bus owned and managed by the foundation, loaded with books from the community library run by the foundation, will make two visits per month to each of the 2 secondary schools selected for the pilot project (i.e. four library days per month).

Gadeni Secondary is about a 45 minute drive from the foundation's base in Idsowe village during the dry season. During the rains, the journey can take much longer as the access road is not tarmacked but made up of black cotton soil. The mobile library would be open for about 3-4 hours during each visit.

Buyani Secondary School is much further and takes about 2 hours to reach. However, given the smaller student enrolment, the library hours could be much shorter than in Gadeni, about 2-3 hours per visit.

A pool of 8 to 10 youth librarians will be trained to use a laptop and hand held scanner to record borrowings and membership data. They will manage the proper labeling of books and production of membership cards. Gadeni trips will require 6 librarians, while Buyani trips will carry 4 librarians.

For the first part of the year, i.e. Term 1 (from January to April 2013), activities will be confined to book loans only. After the initial startup period, the project will be expanded to include the following:

- (a) Extension to one or two primary schools neighboring Gadeni Secondary School and Buyani Secondary School; and
- (b) Introduction of book discussions and competitions for Buyani and Gadeni students.

The buses will carry sufficient books to enable each student to borrow up to 4 books per visit. A large range of books will be ferried every time, ranging from fiction (historical, fantasy, science fiction realistic), non-fiction (poetry, myths, biographies, sports, self-help) to reference books (atlas, dictionary, encyclopedia, thesaurus, research material).

To offset part of the costs of running the projects, students will be required to pay a membership fee of Ksh300 (USD3.50) per year. These fees will cover the following:

- a) Replacement costs arising from losses or spoilage;
- b) Fund library activities in the later part of the year, e.g. the cost of prizes for competitions.

Most of the beneficiaries come from farming or pastoralist communities. Their families have agreed to raise membership fees for their children from the sale of charcoal, mangoes, poultry produce and milk.

**Note: Population statistics based of Government Data published in 2012*



b) Project Financials

(1 USD = 85 Ksh)

Item	Calculations	Cost (per school year) ^[Note (a)]
Operating cost per trip		
Cost of fuel per round trip per month		
A) Buyani Secondary School	Ksh7,000 x 2 trips	USD2,588/school year
B) Gadeni Secondary School	Ksh3,000 x 2 trips	
Driver allowance	Ksh600 x 4 trips	USD311/per school year
Meal allowance for librarians	Ksh300 x 10 x 2trips	USD776/per school year
Cost of stationaries (lamination sheets/ book labels etc)		USD330/per school year
Competitions and other ancillary activities		USD1,000/per school year
Gross Annual operating cost		USD 4,675
Expected Local Contributions ^[Note (b)]		
Gadeni SS	Ksh300 x 200 students	USD988/per school year
Buyani SS	Ksh300 x 80 students	
Expected Contributions from the Local Community		USD 988
Net Annual operating cost		USD3,687
One time Startup Costs		
Cost of issuing library cards (includes cost of digital camera and photo printer)		USD800
Cost of library barcode scanner to record borrowings		USD150
Cost of laptop to record borrowings		USD1,000
Total Startup cost		USD 1,950

Notes:

(a) One school year = taken to be 11 months from Jan to Nov only

(b) Projected local contribution assumes 80% collection rate

Project will cost USD16 / beneficiary per year for 350 students

The cost per head will decline as the number of beneficiaries increase

c) Potential Long Term Impact

A story book is an extremely prized possession for a rural student. It is quite rare, and there are students who finish secondary school without ever having had the chance to own a single story book in their life. With this project, many students will for the first time in their lives be able to experience the wonder of a library, being able to select and borrow up to 3 books each fortnight. Not only will this expand their horizons, providing exposure beyond their rural environment, but it will also help them with their language skills and improve their learning capacity.

New knowledge acquired from reference books will stimulate their minds to be more inquisitive, questioning and discerning. In time, they will be better able to form their own opinions about issues that affect their lives directly, e.g. whether violence, blind hatred and sporadic enmity serve any valuable cause. These positive knowledge and values that they acquire will be transmitted to their families and larger communities.

Let's enable entire communities to participate fully in the impending development and urbanization of the Tana Delta.



TRLF's goal is to allow every child easy access to knowledge so as to empower them and guide their personal growth



ONGOING PROJECTS RUN BY TANA RIVER LIFE FOUNDATION

1. Education Support Scheme

a) Project Description

This scheme is aimed at providing greater access to affordable quality education to rural communities in Tana River, Kilifi and Lamu Counties, with a special emphasis on Tana Delta Sub-County. Interventions target two broad areas, i.e. (a) equipping students with the necessary tools and support needed to succeed in their education, and (b) improving the learning environment.

The first intervention instills self-reliance in youths by enabling them to attain professional qualifications and technical skills. Support is rendered at primary, secondary, vocational and tertiary levels, helping youths in various aspects of their education. Support schemes exist in the following areas – school fees bursaries, hygiene, provision of study aids at subsidized prices, remedial tuition and overseas scholarships.

The cost of education is high in Kenya, especially on a Purchasing Power Parity basis. Public schools charge between USD200 per year for day schools to USD450 per year for boarding schools. For most rural families, it is a daunting economic challenge to get a child through the 4 years of secondary education. In the Tana Delta, 70% of the population survives on subsistence farming or herding livestock that they do not own. The challenge increases when more than one child in the family is of secondary school age at the same time. When parents are unable to raise enough funds to pay school fees in full, students are forced to drop out of school mid-way or at best attend school intermittently until they sit for their final school leaving examination. In most cases, where a choice has to be made, daughters have to leave school.

TRLF runs a bursary program which assists over 500 students annually. The bursaries cover up to 80% of annual school fees to enable young people to complete their education. The level of financial support is determined by the students' academic performance.

For 2014, this programme has been revamped with the intention of making it more effective. TRLF will offer two kinds of assistance, namely:

- a) Scholarships - which will be awarded through the seven public secondary schools to students who demonstrate academic progress, good discipline, self-motivation and respect for other tribes
- b) Bursaries - which will be distributed across ***all*** the locations in Tana Delta targeting the most needy 5 to 10 students from each sub-location.



All study aids, i.e. sanitary napkins, scientific calculators, dictionaries, mathematical sets, clipboards, etc. are currently distributed at a subsidy through the schools and at TRLF bursary meetings. This program facilitates learning, and is effective in boosting the educational attainment of the girls, as well as the learning of Mathematics and Sciences for all rural students.

In addition to assisting the student, TRLF develops the learning environment, through the building school infrastructure and provision of furniture and equipment to primary and secondary schools across the Tana Delta.



TRLF youths distributing sanitary pads at subsidized prices

The state of public secondary education in Tana Delta ten years ago was characterized by inadequate and poorly maintained school facilities, teachers who lacked commitment and professionalism, and poor appreciation by the local community on the importance of education. Teaching quality then was extremely poor, alcoholism amongst teachers was rife, chronic absenteeism the norm, and syllabuses were never covered before the national examinations. In addition, teaching staff were mainly from the local communities, making it difficult for head-teachers to make independent decisions due to communal ties.

TRLF started developing Garsen High School (GHS) since its inception in 2004 with the aim of providing a viable alternative to boarding schools which were the norm in public secondary education in Tana Delta. GHS has grown steadily and is now the biggest public secondary school in Tana Delta with an enrolment of over 600 students (compared to an average of 150 to 200 each in the other six public secondary schools). Students are from all ethnic tribes within Tana Delta as well as from the neighboring Kilifi County.

Besides having the best facilities in the County (a library, bakery and two science laboratories), it is now staffed by over 20 teachers holding bachelor degrees from all over Kenya. This exposure has helped GHS students expand their outlook in life, especially towards education and the opportunities it offers.

Within the Tana Delta GHS charges the lowest annual fees of USD120 (which includes breakfast and lunch on school days), while providing a better quality of education. It emerged as the top school in Tana Delta in the national examinations of 2012.

In addition, TRLF continually seeks to improve the quality of education by sponsoring teachers to attend specialized academic training. This scheme attracts, motivates and retains highly qualified teachers who come from outside the Tana Delta. Part of the grants are also allocated to the purchase of reference materials and teaching aids for core subjects, such as English, Science and Mathematics, as well as for educational field trips for students.

Since 2012, TRLF has also started improving basic education at nursery and primary school levels. The approach will be similar to the one that was successfully implemented at secondary school level ten years ago at GHS. A viable alternative to the tradition nursery and primary schools currently available in the Delta will be developed, and then used as a model to improve the quality of education in all other public primary schools in the area.

In line with this, TRLF started a pre-school in 2012. There were a total of 58 children enrolled in three classes (nursery and 2 kindergarten levels) in 2013. This number is expected to increase by 25% annually for the next 5 years, reaching an eventual student population of 180. The school is being registered as the Delta Mustard Seed Academy. The County Education Board approved our application for registration on



27th Nov 2013, and has forwarded the same to the Ministry of Education for confirmation. We expect full registration by January 2014.

b) Beneficiaries

Youths from the Tana River, Lamu and Kilifi Counties, with a greater emphasis on Tana Delta sub-county.

c) Impact and results to date

This education scheme has benefitted entire rural communities immensely. Besides the over 500 students at different levels who benefit directly annually, there has also been an indirect benefit for their entire communities in Tana Delta as explained in the preceding section entitled "Abstract".

Tana River County produces the lowest number of university graduates nationally. The TRLF intervention over the years have enabled six students from Tana River District to pursue undergraduate studies at Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) in Malaysia on full tuition scholarships awarded by the governing body of UTAR. Another four students have been awarded the same scholarship for the 2014 and 2015 academic years. During semester breaks in Malaysia, these students meet with donors of the foundation in Malaysia and Singapore. This interaction helps them to better appreciate their great responsibilities towards their communities in the future.

GHS has always been and will remain a multi-ethnic and multi-faith school. Diverse communities of different tribes and faiths teach and learn together at GHS, learning to co-exist in peace. At the height of the clashes in 2012, when all other schools were closed out of fear of being attacked, GHS was able to continue operating without any disruptions. Parents transferred students from the other schools to GHS which became a safe haven. The entire student population of Buyani Secondary School (which was vandalized during the clashes) was hosted by GHS from September 2012 to July 2013.

The development of GHS as alternative model provided the necessary platform to improve the quality of education and level of professionalism in ALL the other seven public schools in Tana Delta. In 2013, TRLF held a meeting with the head-teachers of all seven secondary school to start joint efforts in improving service delivery in all public secondary schools from 2014 onwards. These include sponsorship of a pool of teachers from across the schools to attend training in examination techniques, a pilot mobile library project starting with two schools, and assistance with more school furniture for all schools at a subsidized rate instead of outright donations as previously practiced.

The level of competition and pride to excel is now evident amongst head teachers and staff members in secondary schools compared to the past. We hope to be even more effective as we improve the quality of education from nursery level.



Garsen High School Girls' Football Team

TRLF sponsored the uniforms and participation of 4 district teams at the 2008 provincial ball games



2. Sustainable Agriculture Project

a) Project Description

Besides education, TRLF has actively promoted sustainable agriculture projects within the local community. This enables the rural subsistence farmers to improve the quality of nutrition of their families as well as earn a living from the land. Sustainable agriculture promotes methods that do not destroy the environment. As a result, the rural family will not pollute the river nor contaminate the land, ensuring that precious resources are available for generations to come.

Improved food security and alleviation of poverty for the current and future generations are ensured. By alleviating hunger and malnutrition, the project improves the learning capacity of students, raising educational attainment.

As TRLF did not own the land on which the first sustainable agriculture project was carried out, it was not feasible to put in place permanent infrastructure, e.g. secure fencing, water infrastructure and a permanent store and farmhouse. As a result, most projects suffered the consequences of drought and destruction by wildlife and theft, and incurred high costs, e.g. fuel cost for irrigation.



Planting new banana crops post the floods in October 2013

In 2009, TRLF purchased a 10 acre plot of farm land situated along the River Tana, and an additional 5 acres was added in 2012. With that TRLF has established a model farm which is being developed into a centre for the learning and teaching of sustainable agriculture to benefit a wider cross section of the rural communities living in and around the Tana Delta.

The project is being managed by TRLF youth volunteers, and include fishery, beekeeping, poultry farming, rabbits, local food and fruit crops. In 2014 the youth will be purchasing 5 goats to start a livestock project.

b) Beneficiaries

Local communities in Tana Delta

c) Impact and results to date

The banana, bee keeping and poultry projects are now self-financing and generate enough income to pay for their direct running costs. Another three projects, i.e. rabbits, goats and fishery are expected to be self-financing by the first half of 2014.

The project has provided the surrounding local community with a model for initiating their own small scale sustainable agricultural projects, giving dignity to many as they provide their families with better nutrition through their own effort and skills. The Ministry of Fisheries has also been able to use the TRLF farm as a venue for training members of the local community on aquaculture.

The project has given the youth invaluable first hand training in entrepreneurial skills resulting in reduced exploitation by middle-men and financial losses due to the lack of knowledge. Over the years, the sustainable agriculture project has become an excellent tool in teaching the youth the importance of self-reliance and diligence towards achieving a better quality of life. It has helped them learn and internalize accountability of work responsibilities and financial matters. The current batch of youth volunteers is able to manage the project with minimum supervision resulting in it becoming an excellent management training tool. These factors lay the foundation for a more responsible, committed and just leadership in the future.

3. Community-based Entrepreneurship Programs

a) Project Description

TRLF runs two entrepreneurship programmes involving youth and women, i.e. **Youth Entrepreneurial Scheme (YES)** and the **Mitumba Project**. Both projects help members of the local communities find solutions to overcome challenges they face in raising their families through business related activities.

The **YES** is aimed at helping youths start and run small scale businesses effectively and efficiently. Most rural entrepreneurial schemes fail because of poor management due to insufficient knowledge, or communal practices which place a heavy burden on the owner of the small business. Currently, a number of youths have registered small businesses doing mobile phone repairs, electrical wiring, tailoring, food sales and sundry shop, which enable them support their families independently.

'Mitumba' which means recycled goods in Kiswahili, is a project that enables rural households to earn additional income for their household needs. Every year specific used items are collected from supporters in Singapore and Malaysia and shipped over to Tana Delta for resale by the local women. Other items are sold locally in Singapore at jumble sales where the proceeds finance the shipment of these goods to Kenya. Through the sales of these recycled items in Tana Delta, the enterprising spirit of these villagers are honed; the health and education of their families are improved.



Recycled goods collection in Singapore

b) Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries were selected based on their actual household situations. In 2013, we received over 100 applications from women with diverse needs. They were interviewed and 56 women were selected. These included women who are supporting siblings, children or grandchildren in secondary schools or colleges, or women with family members requiring urgent medical attention. A few places were given to women to help them stabilize small scale businesses.

c) Impact and results to date

This scheme empowers rural households to find solutions for their own problems. Aid is provided in the form that enables autonomy in decision making. This preserves the dignity of the receiver as the assistance is rendered in a fashion similar to a bank loan or credit facility. In addition, it provides donors from Singapore a chance to participate directly in the lives of rural families in the Tana Delta district.

This year the participants have had excellent credit history for the stock of goods that they have taken, no bad debts were incurred. The youths in charge of administering this program have been very efficient in planning, disbursing and accounting for the stock and collections. This is yet another example of a project that has both immense direct and indirect benefits. Through running the program the youth volunteers learn the values of honesty and accountability, all part of preparing people to lead their communities.



4. Youth Integral Formation Programmes

a) Project Description

Some of the perennial problems facing communities in the Tana Delta can be attributed to a lack of honest and responsible leadership. The Youth Formation Programme is aimed at mentoring between 10 to 15 youth every year to nurture them into responsible, honest and generous adults who can be positive agents of change for their own rural communities.

These youth have completed secondary education and have requested for sponsorship for their tertiary education. In the interim, they volunteer as interns with TRLF for an 18 month period. During this time they are trained in various areas including office skills, agricultural skills, finance, public speaking and participation in community development activities. There is a strong emphasis on the development of their moral values, in areas concerning integrity, faithfulness, generosity, mutual respect, responsibility, good-judgment, conscience and a curiosity to seek out answers in life.

During this time, the youth are taught to manage small amounts of money as they are exposed to practical aspects of life outside the Delta through educational trips. This enables them to internalize positive values so that when find themselves in positions of responsibility after graduation, they will work to bring positive change to their larger communities.

b) Beneficiaries

Youth from all over Tana Delta and their families.

c) Impact and results to date

TRLF incurs low overheads of 9% of total project expenditure per year. In order to carry out all the intervention programs outlined above, volunteer manpower has been essential. In the short term, the youth formation program helps provide the needed manpower to successfully implement TRLF programmes.



Gabriel with youth of TRLF, the future leaders of the community

In the middle term, this program helps prepare the youth to fully utilize their opportunities when they go on for tertiary studies. In most cases, when rural youth move to study in urban centers for the first time in their life, they tend to be unprepared for the culture shock. This affects their studies and diminishes the benefits of the sponsorship assistance. By being given the time and opportunity to prepare for life outside the Delta over an 18 month period, these youth often mature in wisdom and outlook. This contributes positively to their performance and focus at tertiary level.

In the longer term, this program provides a base for a future pool of committed professional staff, volunteers as well as donors from within the beneficiary community who will be able to contribute and participate in the implementation of TRLF projects in future.

VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY



This letter was written by Mwanahamisi Jakofa, the 15 year old headgirl of Buyani Secondary School, whose studies were disrupted between August 2012 to May 2013. She is from a small farming village of Chamwanamuma, which was attached and abandoned during the ethnic clashes of 2012 to 2013.

A video of Mwanahamisi Jakofa reading out an excerpt of the letter:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zj2eNpeA09k>

08/10/2013

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of my fellow students, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Buyani Secondary School.

As you know Buyani is a new school started just last year but one, and as you can see we are still experiencing a lot of difficulties and challenges, especially as a result of the tribal clashes.

We are faced with many problems and challenges. The following are some of the challenges.

1. We are not able to study during the night because the school lacks electricity, we therefore ask for generator or solar power to provide the school with power.

2. We need a library, chairs and lockers and a fishpond to supplement our school diet.
3. We lack a laboratory where at least we can perform practicals and experiments in different subjects such as physics, chemistry and Biology.
4. We like games very much. Games such as football, volleyball and net balls, but this time we are not able to practise because we don't have the games equipment such as the balls, the nets games kits and uniforms. The school for now is not able to buy these things, so we are begging you also to help us in this area also.

DONORS & THIRD PARTY ENDORESEMENTS

Donors

Private Individuals

Educational Institutions

Holy Innocents High School, Singapore
 CHIJ St. Theresa's Convent, Singapore
 Crescent Girls Secondary School, Singapore
 Catholic High School, Singapore
 Maris Stella High School, Singapore
 Raffles Institution, Singapore
 St Joseph's Institution, Singapore
 Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Malaysia

Religious Institutions

Wesley Methodist Church Melaka, Malaysia
 Wesley Methodist Church Johor Bahru, Malaysia
 Catholic Diocese of Melaka-Johor, Malaysia
 Wesley Methodist Church, Singapore
 WSCS Methodist Church, Singapore
 Parish of the Nativity of the BVM, Singapore

Charitable Institutions

Jonaron Foundation, Malaysia
 The Shepherd's Cove, Singapore
 Toh Kian Chui Foundation, Singapore
 The Binjai Tree, Singapore

Private Companies

AEDAS Pte Ltd, Singapore
 ARUP Singapore Pte Ltd, Singapore
 LAC Engineers & Associates, Singapore
 KPK Quantity Surveyors, Singapore
 AGEIS Building and Engineering Pte Ltd, Singapore
 August Pictures Pte Ltd, Singapore
 Radiance Communications Pte Ltd, Singapore
 Virars Rehabilitation Centre, Singapore
 Accenture Pte Ltd, Singapore
 Cambridge Industrial Trust, Singapore
 True North Leadership Asia LLP, Singapore,
 Palate Sensations, Singapore
 Gallery Helios Pte Ltd, Singapore
 Halia Restaurant, Singapore
 Kitchen Capers, Singapore
 Xotiq Chocolatier, Singapore

Third Party Endorsements

Channel News Asia

<http://www1.channelnewsasia.com/amlive/2012/03/14/interviews-charity-work/>

The Star

<http://www.thestar.com.my/story.aspx?file=%2f2012%2f12%2f12%2fmetroperak%2f12441045&sec=metroperak>
<http://thestar.com.my/lifestyle/story.asp?file=/2012/6/18/lifefocus/11252255&sec=lifefocus>

Gabriel on 938 Live

August 2011:

http://www.podcast.sg/radiopodcast/938/MDC110301_0000002/audio/MDC110802-0000003.mp3

6 August 2012:

http://www.podcast.sg/radiopodcast/938/MDC110301_0000002/audio/MDC120807-0000001.mp3

7 August 2012:

http://www.podcast.sg/radiopodcast/938/MDC110301_0000002/audio/MDC120808-0000001.mp3

8 August 2012:

http://www.podcast.sg/radiopodcast/938/MDC110301_0000002/audio/MDC120810-0000002.mp3

9 August 2012:

http://www.podcast.sg/radiopodcast/938/MDC110301_0000002/audio/MDC120810-0000001.mp3

Everyday Heroes

<http://video.xin.msn.com/watch/video/episode-4/1dk52mz6m>

BFM 88.9 Kuala Lumpur

<http://www.bfm.my/the-tana-river-life-foundation.html>

Youtube Videos

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHsBmq6CSnQ>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXoLk9sf3kc>
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5R_qghwU1k



TRLF IN ACTION



Recycled goods project – distribution & sales by Dziavye women's community based organization



Donors visiting the homes of TRLF youth



TRLF youth cleaning up donated chairs before using them in classrooms



Students of Garsen High School happy to mingle with the visitors



Gabriel with the Tun Ling of UTAR and the sponsored students at UTAR, Malaysia 2010



Gabriel out on excursion with TRLF youths



Ubuntu held in April 2013 – a fundraising event held in Singapore in aid of TRLF



Distribution of sanitary pads to the poorest students through YWCA Tana Delta



TRLF students picking up their subsidized school supplies



Gabriel addressing the UTAR Convocation in Malaysia in August 2013

Over 1,950 students graduated from UTAR University in August 2013. Gabriel Teo, Founding Trustee of Tana River Life Foundation, Kenya was one of the invited guests-of-honour for the convocation. He addressed the graduating students and offered them insights into the world as they took their first step out of school and into life.

“Never ever put learning in the box. Always try and learn and discover more about life, yourself and the world. Know that everyone has a value. For some, this inherent value has been subdued, or blocked, or masked away. I have learnt my greatest lessons in life both from people who are more educated than myself as well as those who are less,” advised Gabriel Teo to the students.

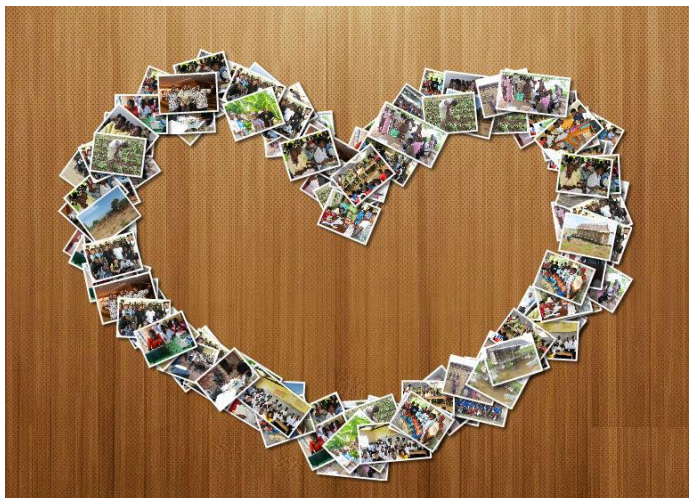
It was a momentous occasion for proud families and relatives of graduates as they responded positively to the speeches of guests-of-honors and celebrated the joyous moment with their loved ones.

Be An Agent of Change

To make a donation, be a volunteer or discuss further opportunities to be an agent of change through Tana River Life Foundation, please contact Gabriel Teo at gabrielteo@yahoo.com.

Bank Details are as follow:

Account Name	: Tana River Life Foundation
Account Number	: 0240077344101
Bank	: CFC Stanbic Bank
Branch	: Mombassa – Kenya
Currency	: USD
Swift Code	: SBICKENX





Tana River Life Foundation

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