



Nr 1-24

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Mutomoprojekten

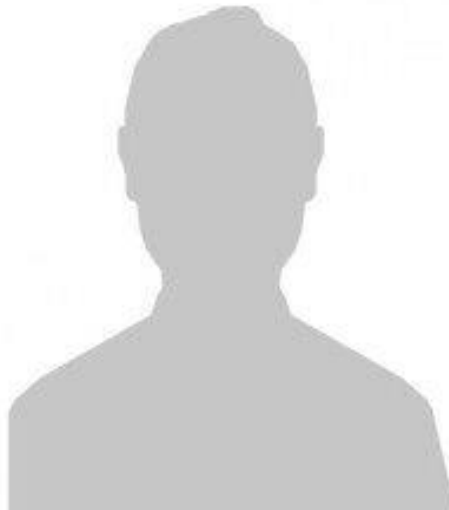
Website:

www.mutomoprojekten.se

MUTOMO NEWS



WANTED



We are looking for an auditor in Sweden

Ever since we started, Folkesson Råd och Revision has managed our annual audit on a completely non-profit basis. Thank you for the fantastic work you have done. Thanks to your heart-warming effort, we have been able to save a lot of our income for project-oriented gifts for aid projects within the Mutomo projects. Times are changing and we now unfortunately have to look around to try to find an accountant who

- Is prepared to work on the same non-profit terms as Folkesson Råd & Revision

or

- Is prepared to subsidize the fee for the benefit of our business

or

- Is prepared to help on purely business grounds

We turn to those who are closest to us – our Mutomo friends and members. If you, or someone you know, wants to help us, we would be very grateful. We hope for your help.

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Individual Christmasgifts

A much-appreciated event before Christmas is the Mutomo project's distribution of Christmas gifts to selected families in need of help. Before Christmas 2023, we gave out 45 Christmas packages (value SEK 500). In addition, goats, chickens and donkeys. These gifts can be implemented thanks to gifts via gift certificates as well as unspecified gifts during the year. The gift vouchers are an excellent way to help the particularly vulnerable. See the website or contact the undersigned for more information.



Christmas package á 500 SEK



Christmas gifts in form of goats

Januarytrip to Mutomo 2024

This year, 11 expectant members went with us on the trip and the mood and group spirit were at their best. A very pleasant week without incidents in the form of illness, wild animals or accidents.

This time the requests were very individual, but we managed to master most requests. Some visited the Nairobi Zoo and Safari before the journey to Mutomo started. Others chose the option of visiting Tsavo and Amboseli National Parks after the seven days in Mutomo. During the Mutomo stay, we followed a packed program which was, however, individualized as several wanted to make home visits to sponsored children and

Young Mothers that they support. Some wanted to buy animals (oxen, donkeys, goats) at the Saturday market for their sponsors and other needy people. Others wanted Kenya-inspired creations sewn up by a seamstress. Many tears were shed at the farewell and the group decided to see each other again after the journey home in March.



Business visit in our bakery.



Picknick lunch at Mutha Primary School



We also celebrated the birthday of Lena (one of the participants) at "her" school Kyatune Special School.



Our 14 year old girl on the trip -Dora- is welcomed to her class where she spent 2 days teaching



Dring before dinner



Appreciated tailor visit



Visit by Young Mothers



Farewell of Mutomo outside the office. Lovely team spirit with identical Mutomo shirts.

Thoughts after the last Mutomo visit.

In addition to a week with the group from Sweden, my 3 weeks in Mutomo also included preparation and implementation of the annual meeting for our Kenyan organization SMPI-NGO.

In addition, staff meetings, project visits, planning meetings with our new company for expansion of the business, etc. A motley mix - but what remains in the memory is that the need since the pandemic for help is great in the areas

- **Godparents**
- **Familyplanning**
- **Young Mothers**

As far as sponsor parents are concerned, we have lost some sponsors in 2023, but also managed to get new ones, so the need is covered to maintain the support we provide today. But the need is great and IF you have the opportunity, a commitment to a sponsor child is extremely welcome. Now the school system has changed - and so has the cost/year.



Primary School 1-6
Junior Secondary School 7-9
Senior secondary school 10-12
Then College and University.
This means that the cost of

Primary School 1-6
Junior Secondary School 7-9
Senior secondary School 10-12
After that - college and university.

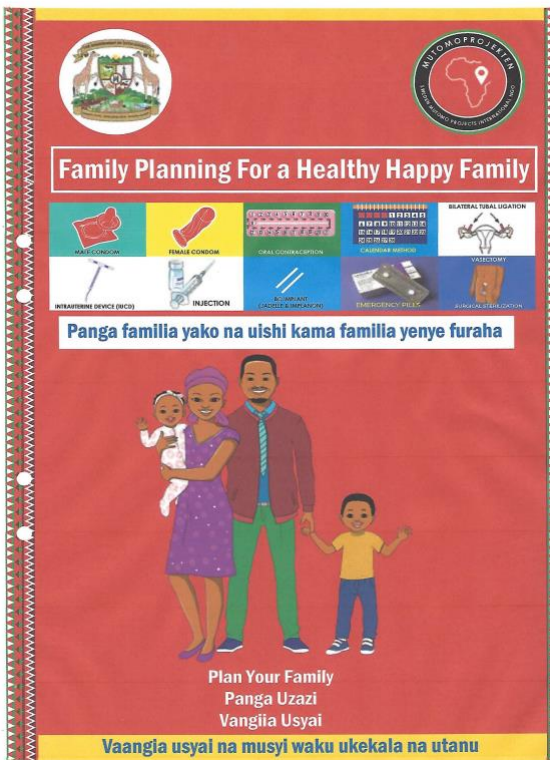
Primary School is SEK 2,400 /year and from Junior Secondary School (class 7) is SEK 4,800. The attentive person sees that former primary school has been extended by one year and upper secondary school has been shortened to 3 years. 3 semester system remains. All education beyond high school level is more expensive than SEK 4,800, but we have generally recommended seeing that amount as a contribution to college or university education. If you want to continue to support. In some cases, more expensive educations are fully supported by sponsors.



Example above, 3 girls are starting nurse training at Mutomo hospital. I met them

during my visit to Mutomo. There, the cost of SEK 14,000/year/pupil is covered by a separate sponsor.

Family planning is a project area that takes time to see results. We have now dealt with annual projects for 10 years regarding family planning and are currently doing an evaluation. The results of the evaluation are valuable for our continued operations in this area. Anyone wishing to receive the results of the evaluation can contact the undersigned. The appreciation from both women and men is great when they realize what a life change it brings with a reduced number of children/family. But getting our message across is not easy. We often experience so-called aha experiences when young people and married couples realize what it means. The information part is important and for this purpose we have created our own and easy-to-understand brochures. We see a great need for information and treatment.



These teenage pregnancies are usually not wanted. 1 in 5 pregnancies (20%) in Kenya is for girls aged 15-19. Our effort today is "a drop in the ocean" and can be improved significantly if we get more help with schooling and the opportunity for more information meetings.



Here, Louise Håkansson is seen together with a child in connection with a meeting during the visit to Mutomo with Young Mothers and their children. Louise is responsible for sponsored children, scholarships and Young Mothers in the Mutomo projects.

Schools

Thanks to 2 sponsors, 2023 ended with a refurbishment of Mutha Primary and Special School. 100 school benches and chairs as well as outdoor lighting, lunch food, water and a fence around the Special School were made. Recently, a student from the school wandered into a nearby pond at night - and drowned.



Chairs are loaded for transport to Mutha.



Regarding **Young Mothers**, we will support 6 in 2024. who can now return to high school studies. In addition, we organize 2 2 day seminars/year for approx. 80 girls. There they get information about

- Behavioral changes and life changes during motherhood
- Vocational guidance
- Parenting. Duties and information

One of our ongoing school projects is the construction of **new toilets** in 8 schools. Existing toilets had been condemned by the authorities.



Sport and Culture

During our visit in January, we met most of the 210 young people who practice football and floorball (outside). Both boys and girls. We now also help 3 schools (=350 students) in the Muto council with physical training and sports on a weekly basis.



In our own "culture house", young people gather and practice singing, dancing, theater and art. Thanks to Sportclub Sirius, Uppsala for nice sweaters!



Agriculture / Treeplanting

A good rainy season in November/December contributed to our own water dam on Waterland (22 million liters of water) flooded. This means that ongoing agricultural training for groups and tree planting will get off to a good start in 2024.



Waterland (22 miljoner liter vatten)

Picture in November 2023 from our waterdamm at Waterland.



Education of rational agriculture for the local population.



SMPI-Enterprises



This business, which today is based on bakery and water sales and water bottle sales, has had a good start. Also 100 beehives are waiting for the first harvest of honey. It is the first industrial activity in Mutomo, and skepticism, wonder, hope and scorn mirror the image of Mutomo people's reactions. Many are afraid that people in leading positions will "deceive" us from Sweden and steal money, behave unfairly towards job seekers, etc. Yes, the rumors are many and probably in the near future everyone will realize the benefit of SMPI-Enterprises when the profits go back to our relief activities, which benefit the population. Today we are the largest employer in Mutomo and not everyone can get a job with us - as some people think. It is not so easy to implement new thoughts in long-standing cultural ways of thinking. **A news item:** We have offered investors (business angels) a new alternative to investing in large-scale agriculture. We have leased 30 acres near the Athi River where we will grow watermelons and tomatoes for a 3-

year period. After 3 years, the investors will receive the planned profit in relation to the ownership share (40%).

The idea behind our local projects for earning profits is that future contributions from Sweden may decrease. Therefore, this buffer is needed.



Bread and water sales. Profitable operations in deprived areas such as the Muto district.



Combination of marketing and transport of products.



Part of farmland at the Athi River (40 kilometers south of Mutomo)

FINAL WORDS

Before this newsletter ends, I want to focus once again on those whom we are trying to help for a better life. More than 50% still live below the subsistence minimum in Mutomo

District and living conditions are difficult. Our slogans

**"Help to Selfhelp"
and
"Business for Charity"**

are our clues in our work.



Unfortunately, living conditions like this picture show are all too common in the Mutomo area. We want to change that. We can't do that without your help.

Godparents sponsors wanted



As an individual, a company or a Rotary club, you can get your own sponsored child. Especially this year, the need is great as the effects of the pandemic and increased living costs mean that some families are unable to pay school fees for their children. This means that they lose contact with society at an early age and never get the chance for a school education, which is the basis for making a living in the future.

How can I contribute to Mutomo operations?

The options are several;

▣ Membership

- ▣ Make a **targeted contribution** to one of our project areas. Feel free to contact Sten who knows where the needs are greatest.
- ▣ **Unspec. gift** that can be used where the need is greatest
- ▣ Sponsor – either for a school child or a young mother. Contact Sten for info.

Our websites

If you have a moment to spare - feel free to look through our 3 websites. Here you will find a lot of information that does not appear in Mutomo News.

Sweden: Mutomoprojekten – describe our activities: <http://www.mutomoprojekten.se>

Kenya: Our charityorganization in for of an NGO : <https://swedenmutomo.com>

Kenya: Our Incomegenerating company: SMPI-Enterprises: <https://smpienterprises.com>

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