

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time

Mara Riante Village School, Kenya



We are delighted this month to be continuing our support of the Maasai tribe who live in the Mara Riante area of Kenya's world famous wildlife tourism destination the Masai Mara. This is a community that Cheryl & Manny have worked with on the ground over the past 10 years, and with which the High Five Club has developed a long-term relationship.

Background (for our new members!)

The Kenyan government gives very little support for health and education facilities in rural areas. Education provision is down to the community themselves to provide. This is a big challenge for the people living in Mara Riante who live hand to mouth, and many Maasai children therefore never get the opportunity to go to school. This is a big injustice as education is key to ending the cycle of poverty so prevalent in such communities.



Over the past 5 years the Mara Riante Maasai have themselves developed the first school in the area, with a little hand up from High Five Club members and one of our educational supporters Roffey Homes. Our support has been equally matched by the community through the

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revenue they earn running a responsible village tourism experience for safari clients staying in the neighbouring lodges and camps. This is an initiative that Cheryl helped Mara Riante and other Maasai villages across the Masai Mara develop, to bring an end to over 30 years of deep rooted exploitation of the Maasai by Kenya's safari guides (see the Pro-Poor Tourism page of www.tribal-voice.co.uk).



As the school has developed, more and more parents have been encouraged to send their children to school. The High Five Club has assisted the school to develop from its inception, and the school has grown from one small nursery class of 40 pupils to now 334 pupils (55% boys and 45% girls).

High Five Club Support

We have recently part-funded the construction of one further classroom and to equip it with sixteen 3-seater desks, a teacher's desk, chair and cupboard.

Our support to date has seen this rural school grow from one nursery class to today 8 sturdy stone-built classrooms, a school office and head

teacher's office, 7 teacher's houses, bathrooms for the teachers, toilets for teachers and pupils, a sports field/ playground and one rainwater harvesting system that provides clean drinking water in the rains. Those parents that can afford pay a small school fee each term that contributes towards the salaries of the 9 teachers (1 for each class and a head teacher), all of whom are trained and qualified, with the Maasai's village tourism enterprise and an overseas NGO paying the balance. A truly sustainable school development!

From day 1 the High Five Club has supplied 50% of the construction costs. The other 50% of construction costs have been raised by the Maasai themselves through their Village Cultural Tourism programme.

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The addition of the new classroom and classroom furniture cost £3,637.40, with 50% being raised by the community and £1,181.70 being gifted by High Five Club members and our charity's long-term educational benefactor Roffey Homes (www.roffeyhomes.com).

It is truly remarkable how far our collective funds have gone in uplifting education provision in this rural, marginalised community. A BIG thank you from Mara Riante Nursery School to everyone involved.



For further information contact Dr Cheryl Mvula on Cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk