



MAASAI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2026 | NEWSLETTER NO. 18



“EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON
WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.”

-NELSON MANDELA

WELCOME BACK FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



BRIAN BENHAM
MEF Chairperson

These messages often begin with a thank you to our donors. This issue is no different. Your generosity in the face of the water crisis facing EEMPS and the Engaruka community was nothing short of miraculous. With your help, MEF raised almost \$91,000 USD in less than a month. THANK YOU! Unfortunately, as you will read later, the attempts to drill and develop a well to serve the school have been unsuccessful to date.

Because a safe, sustainable water source is critical to maintain the safe learning oasis that is EEMPS, it has become clear that a government intervention is needed to address the school and community's water needs. Martha has continues to work very hard to increase awareness about the need for local, regional, and national government intervention to address the water crisis. In

July, Martha hosted national and regional political leaders at the school. Martha has been engaged in follow-on meetings with these and other leaders to discuss next steps. MEF is continuing to work with Martha to see how we can support her, ENCO, and EEMPS to address this existential crisis.

ENCO has also continued to move forward with readying its new guest tents. As you may recall, MEF provided a grant to ENCO to purchase and construct six guest tents that are located within walking distance of campus. History has shown that visitors that are able to spend even a brief time at the school tend to become financial supporters. MEF's support for the guest tents is intended to help ENCO generate donations from people that visit the school as part of a longer trip to Tanzania. Board member Jen Spurl has been instrumental in this effort. Thank you Jen! And again, as always thank you to all of MEF's supporters. The success that is EEMPS would not be possible without your support!



MARTHA MERESO SENGERUAN

EEMPS & ENCOSS Manager
ENCO Executive Director



LETTER FROM THE MANAGER

Greetings from Engaruka! I am very happy to share a few updates on the progress and achievements at EEMPS and in our wider ENCO community.

We are grateful for the progress made with the guest tent project. Five out of the six tents have now been completed, and we have already had the pleasure of hosting three groups of visitors. This is an exciting milestone for us, as the tents are helping us welcome guests more comfortably while also creating an opportunity to generate income to support the school and community programs.

Our Grade Seven students also completed their National Examination, with 45 students sitting for the examination. We are very proud of their hard work and dedication and look forward to seeing the results of their efforts.

Another wonderful achievement has been the successful ENCOSS fundraising campaign. Through the generosity of the Engaruka community, school friends, and other supporters, we raised approximately TZS 77 million toward the construction of two classrooms at Engaruka Community Secondary School. This is a powerful demonstration of what can be achieved when the community comes together around education.

Finally, I was honored to represent the Global Greengrants Fund East Africa Advisory Board at COP17 in Mongolia. The experience was an important opportunity to learn, connect with people from different parts of the world, and share perspectives on the environmental and community issues that matter to us in Tanzania.

We continue to be deeply grateful to MEF, our friends, donors, visitors, and the Engaruka community for standing with us. Together, we are creating opportunities for our children and building a stronger and more sustainable future for our community.

MID-YEAR WATER CRISIS FUNDRAISER RESULTS

The MEF Mid-Year Water Crisis Fundraiser was a massive success, ending over 20 days earlier than expected due to the generosity of our donors.

Our goal was \$50,000 USD in donations and an additional \$22,000 USD in matching funds. We secured \$67,620 USD in donations and pledges, the \$22,000 USD in matching funds, and an additional \$1,250 USD in pending corporate matches for a total of **\$90,870 USD**.

The MEF Board members, EEMPS teachers and staff, and the children at EEMPS and ENCOSS would like to express our gratitude to the following donors that made this fundraiser so successful: Aiden, Allen, Andrew, Anonymous (6), Audrey, Betsey, Bill, Brian and Karen, Carl, Caroline, David C, David M, David S, Deborah and Mary Leigh, Donald, Ellen, Gene and Froggy, Ginny, Glenn, Greg, Harvey, Isabella, Jackie, Joe and Celia, Josiah, Juliet, Kathy, Laura, Lori, Lynn, Margie and John, Mary, MaryGrace, Michael, Parker, Paul, Randy, Randy and Paula, Rebecca and Frank, Rob, Robert, Robert, Ron and Beth, Saied and Patty, Shannon, Shirley, Stephani, Steve and Ann Marie, Steven, Susan, Susie, Theo and Rebecca, Tom and Dani, Tracy, Verena, Whitney, William and Sidney, Wimberly, Zach and Dianne, and Zeena and Mohamed!

WATER CRISIS UPDATE

MEF sponsored drilling three wells to date with a combined depth of approximately 1,720 feet and a cost of \$16,000 USD. Unfortunately, none of the wells found adequate water. We still have approximately \$74,000 USD raised during the fundraiser for water system improvements. Fortunately, the community water supply system has been partially repaired, and the school is receiving some water but only a fraction of what was received before the flood. There is adequate water for drinking,



Well being drilled by WaterPro

WATER CRISIS UPDATE, CONT'D

cooking, bathing, and flushing toilets, but school gardens have been abandoned due to lack of irrigation water. Possibilities to improve the water supply situation include: an additional geophysical survey to find more promising sites for well drilling, additional storage tanks to store water when it is more plentiful, rainwater collection and storage during the wet seasons, and investing in the community water supply system (better community dam and water intake structure) to provide better water for the whole community and the school. We will also be exploring water treatment options to provide the school with safe potable water and additional storage tanks at the school so that there are adequate water reserves for future water supply disruptions.

Martha has shared the following school plan to address the water issue: "The school has initiated discussions with relevant government authorities to explore opportunities for collaboration in improving the area's water infrastructure and identifying sustainable

solutions for the school and the surrounding community. At the school level, plans are underway to significantly upgrade the current water system by adding water storage capacity to improve water availability throughout the year. ENCO also plans to redesign and upgrade the school's water distribution network by reviewing and improving the plumbing system to ensure more efficient water delivery across the campus. These improvements will enhance the school's ability to capture, store, and distribute the available water more effectively while reducing the impact of seasonal water shortages. ENCO

remains committed to working closely with MEF, government partners, and other stakeholders to implement these improvements while continuing to pursue a reliable and sustainable long-term water solution for EEMPS."



MARTHA'S VISIT TO MONGOLIA

Martha, Director of ENCO and EEMPS and ENCOSS Manager, was recently selected to serve on the Board of the Global Green Fund for the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from August 17-28, 2026 under the theme "Restoring Land. Restoring Hope."

The following is her account of the experience.

"The conference brought together stakeholders from different parts of the world to discuss critical issues related to land degradation, desertification, drought resilience, and sustainable land management. I participated in several caucus and thematic discussions, particularly those focusing on the rights and priorities of Indigenous and local communities.

I also participated in the official opening of the UN meeting and attended presentations from different regions. It was interesting to follow the development of various declarations and recommendations being submitted and discussed within the UNCCD process.

One of the most valuable outcomes of the visit was the opportunity to establish potential connections for ENCO. I met with individuals and organizations working on issues closely aligned with ENCO's work, particularly Indigenous rights, women's empowerment, climate resilience, land restoration, and community development. I look forward to exploring possible opportunities for collaboration.

Beyond the conference, I also had the opportunity to visit some historical sites and meet nomadic families. Experiencing their way of life was particularly interesting, as there are many similarities with pastoralist communities in East Africa in terms of land, livestock, culture, and traditional knowledge."



Martha attending COP17

COME EXPERIENCE EEMPS FOR YOURSELF

We are excited to invite you to experience the Engaruka English Medium Primary School (EEMPS) campus in a whole new way! Six beautiful, comfortable Serengeti-style safari tents are nearing completion on campus, giving visitors the opportunity to stay right at the school and experience the community firsthand.



Each tent features two extra-long double beds with linens, a comfortable sitting area, a private bathroom with a European toilet, hot-water shower, and a private porch sitting area. The six tents can accommodate groups of up to 12 guests.

We recommend a three-day visit: arrive in the afternoon on Day 1, spend a full Day 2 at EEMPS, and depart just before or after lunch on Day 3. Your experience will include classroom observation,

time interacting with our students and local Maasai women, all meals, and a special celebration dinner together on the evening of Day 2.

Whether you are new to EEMPS, have supported the school through donations or child sponsorship, or have visited in the past, this is a wonderful opportunity to deepen your connection to the school, experience the Maasai community, see the impact of your support firsthand, and meet the children whose lives you are helping to change.



MAASAI EDUCATION SOCIETY

A Canadian charity was formed to support the school in the spring of 2023 called the Maasai Education Society (MES). MES specifically aims to provide sponsorships for Maasai students in need. Over the last year, generous Canadians have donated \$50,000 CAD toward sponsorships.

If you are Canadian and would like to support a Maasai student directly, please contact us at audreylspielmann@gmail.com or maasaieducationsociety@gmail.com, or eTransfer to mescandonate@gmail.com. You can also check out the Maasai Education Society website or donate here via PayPal. Feel free to contact Audrey Spielmann (audreylspielmann@gmail.com), based in Vancouver, if you have any questions.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Naima Said Alawi is a 10 year old girl in the 6th grade from Engaruka village. She is the second of three children. Naima studies in grade 6 at EEMPS and loves school very much. She says that when she grows up, she wants to be a teacher just like her class teacher.

Naima's future depends on consistent educational support. With a sponsor, she can have the stability she needs to thrive, access learning materials, and stay focused on her dream of completing her education. Please consider sponsoring her so she can stay at EEMPS and be successful in her learning.



**CLICK HERE
TO SPONSOR**



HOW CAN YOU HELP EEMPS OR ENCO SECONDARY SCHOOL?

STUDENT SPONSORSHIPS: An EEMPS student sponsorship is \$700 USD per year, and ENCOSS sponsorship is \$900 USD per year. Sponsorship covers a child's tuition, fees, clothing, room and board, and medical care. You can also provide partial support for a child. Sponsors receive regular updates on their child. MEF will assist you in picking a child to sponsor if you do not select one from [our website](#).

DONATIONS: General donations go towards school operating costs or facilities construction. Construction needs include staff housing so that ENCO can attract the best teachers and support staff, a water treatment system, and guest housing for visitors. To donate via credit card, click [HERE](#).

CORPORATE MATCH: Many corporations match the donations of their employees to charities. We receive over \$15,000 in corporate matching funds annually from corporations such as Altria, Apple, GE, IBM, and Verizon. Thousands of companies participate. Please check and see if your donations are eligible for a corporate match at the following website: <https://www.charitynavigator.org/donor-basics/giving-101/employee-match-programs/>.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS: The Kroger family of companies (Kroger, Ralphs, Dillons, Smith's, King Soopers, Fry's, QFC, City Market, Owen's, Jay C, Pay Less, Baker's, Gerbes, Harris Teeter, Pick 'n Save, Metro Market, Mariano's) and some other merchants donate a percentage of your purchases to a charity if you specify them as your preferred charity. Sign up at: <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>.

EBAY SALES: Did you know that you can designate all or a portion of eBay sales to charity? When you do so, eBay waives the percentage of the fees that you donate. For example, if you sell something for \$20 and designate all the funds for a charity, eBay will waive all your transaction fees. If 50% is designated for charity, 50% of fees are waived.

MEF AMAZON WISHLIST: Items for the school will be delivered on our next trip. Donated items are charitable donations and tax deductible.

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/6ADPF403U0A2>

Questions? Reach out to us at info@maasaieducationfoundation.org.

HOW TO DONATE

BY CHECK: Send checks payable to –
Maasai Education Foundation,
345 Woods Lane | Newport, VA 24128

BY CREDIT CARD (no fees): Select the applicable PayPal Giving Fund –



AMERICAN DONORS
DONATE NOW
CLICK HERE



CANADIAN DONORS
DONATE NOW
CLICK HERE



MONTHLY DONATION OPTION

For just \$700 USD per year, you can cover the cost of a primary student's education. Through our [PayPal Giving Fund](#), you can offer your support via a monthly donation of \$58.33 USD; you can also choose to cover the associated PayPal fee (1.99% plus \$0.49 USD). If you would like to donate a different amount monthly, please [contact us](#).

You do not need a PayPal account to set up monthly donations, but you will need an account to stop or change monthly donation amounts in the future. Receipts and thank-you notes for tax-deductible gifts made via PayPal will be sent to you by MEF periodically during the year and you will receive a summary of all your donations early in the following year.

**CLICK HERE TO SET UP \$58.33 USD MONTHLY
DONATIONS FOR A SPONSORSHIP**



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