



MAMA Project News

SUMMER 2022

2781A Geryville Pike, Pennsburg, PA, 18073 • 215 679 4338 • info@mamaproject.org • www.MAMAProject.org

Greetings to MAMA Project Supporters!

Are you having a drought right now? We here in Pennsylvania, like many of you, are in a heat wave and summer drought. The water levels in ponds and reservoirs are low. We have to water our vegetable gardens. Lawns are turning brown. But those drought conditions cannot rival the droughts, excessive heat and food shortages that some in communities far and near are enduring.

Pray with us for abundant rain for places in the world that need it. We can't make it rain literally, but we can do our part to cause showers of blessings to fall on families in need.

Whatever our summer brings, let's enjoy our blessings, while we find ways to befriend and share with those in need!

Thanks to all who are part of the MAMA Project Network! Thanks for supporting MAMA with funds during our "Annual Summer Financial Drought"! Pray for partners and staff that are working with MAMA, beside families who are struggling to survive. It takes all of us, together, to do this work of love!

Priscilla Benner, MD Director, MAMA Project

Here's a bit news from MAMA:

Tanzania



Donald Nyakyema, MAMA Tanzania Representative called a few days ago. I asked **"How things are in Tanzania?"** He replied- **"Things are very hard right now. The drought is causing a lot of difficulties. People are suffering here."**

He explained that there was a drought at the usual rainy season, then it rained for a few days. People planted their crops, then the drought returned and the plants dried up. So there is a shortage of rice and other food for rural families to eat. And because of the war in Ukraine, food is scarce in the markets.

Donald is a tireless advocate for the poor in Tanzania, and is an important part of the MAMA efforts to address the many needs. He was the person who beseeched us to come to Tanzania when he learned about MAMA during his year of volunteering at Quakertown Christian School.

After we learned about the situation from Donald, and decided to explore options, we connected with Friends of Shirati, led by Dale Ressler, and then met Dr. Chirangi, the director of the Shirati Mennonite Hospital. Dr. Chirangi invited us to help confront the severe problem of childhood malnutrition, in the hospital and the communities. Our team of partners committed to addressing these issues is growing. In Shirati, hospital

volunteers and staff, are working diligently to implement strategies to improve care of malnourished children. They realized the need for better facilities, and have just remodeled a small building on the hospital grounds to be a Nutrition Office, and a place to produce the new MAMA SuperBar- made from local ingredients but including many of the ingredients of our original food supplement.

The cost of the remodel totaled \$6,500 with the improvements required by the ministry of health. The hospital needs our support to accomplish all that can be done in this place of desperate need! We hope that in years to come the tragedy of a child dying of malnutrition in the communities surrounding the hospital will become a rare event, or perhaps completely cease to occur! We know that hunger is 100% curable!



Please consider designating a special gift to the Tanzanian Nutrition Office!

Kenya

"We are getting many more malnourished children referred to us because of the economic situation." *Evelina Ndilu, MAMA Kenya*

She reports that although COVID restrictions are subsiding and lockdown is over, the effects of the pandemic linger in the slums. Many food prices have doubled, transportation costs are way up, & parents cannot find work. Many families cannot feed their children anything close to a healthy diet. And in the rural areas of Kenya, the drought is causing widespread famine. Right now, election related conflict is making their work more difficult.

Again, this year, in partnership with **Worm Project**, we just shipped another **200,000 deworming tablets** to Kibera Slum in Kenya. We are re-training volunteers and preparing to do another round of door-to-door home visits to detect malnutrition, deworm the family, and share health messages. The visits provide opportunity for them to be seen, listened to, and their greatest needs assessed by volunteers who care about their struggles. The humble looking deworming pill represents more than meets the eye! Deworming makes a major impact on the health of the community, especially the children. And the visit gives the message that someone cares about you and your family. When parents feel isolated and overwhelmed, the visiting volunteer can become closer than family to them, and give them support and hope. The MAMA Kenya Mothers Support groups can also give encouragement

as well as practical advice. It made me happy to learn that the name was just changed to "Caregivers Support Groups", because many fathers wanted to join in!

These support groups are being asked to help come up with ideas for income generation, home gardens and local production of nutritious foods.

Thanks to generous donations, MAMA Kenya is also preparing to launch a distribution of **500 water purification systems** in the Kibera Slum of Nairobi Kenya. Our partner, **The Bucket Ministry**, will train the recipient families, day-cares, schools, churches and clinics in how to use the buckets. Lack of clean drinking water is a major cause of illness, especially diarrhea, and parasites. The Sawyer filter turns dirty water into drinking water. The Bucket ministry trainers will follow the recipients for 1 year to be sure that they are using the buckets correctly, and our volunteers will reinforce messages of health and hygiene, continuing after The Bucket Ministry moves to other communities in Kibera.

Jesus said that it was important to give a cup of cold water to a little one.... It was true when he said that to his disciples and it is still true today.



The work of MAMA in Kenya has been growing and new partnerships are expanding the impact of our work. A number of exciting opportunities are on our doorstep, only awaiting official permissions. Meanwhile many are still suffering the ravages of injustice, and severe poverty. This is a time and place that calls for action and advocacy for people whose ability to meet their own families' basic needs in life is squelched by circumstances beyond their control.

MAMA Kenya report gives us a glimpse into family life in Kibera Slum:



Meet Dennis and his two young sons.

"Doreen and Dennis live in Kibera Slum with their four children. Their two oldest children, ages 7 and 12 are in school so and the parents have to pay around \$250 per year for school fees. The family stays in a single room that has been subdivided by a sheet to separate the bedroom and the sitting area.

Dennis, in this picture with his young sons, is very worried about Ryan, in the striped shirt, who has not been growing well. During door-to-door visits, Ryan was discovered by the health volunteers to be very malnourished, and Dennis reports that he has never been healthy since birth. He has had frequent diarrhea. Both parents are working very hard to provide for their children. Currently he and his wife are unemployed and rely heavily on daily "hustles". The mother looks for menial cleaning jobs that pay 3 dollars per day. The father works as a jua kali (casual laborer) looking for daily engagements with meagre earnings. As a result, they face financial challenges. He believes the creation of jobs and development of entrepreneurial skills would be key in elevating his family's current financial situation.

Ryan is now enrolled into the MAMA Kenya home food fortification program and this will be backed up by close supervision and monitoring of nutrition, and hygiene and from the Community Health Volunteer and the MAMA Kenya field officer attached."

Success Story excerpted from MAMA Kenya Monthly report:

“Other than the few red flag cases, there’s marked improvement noted amongst majority of the beneficiaries that get to be assessed monthly. Nola Muo, is one of the many beneficiaries that have made massive improvements.

Below is a narrative from Nancy Mule, the mother of Nola Muo, a resident of Kibera.

Nola was born premature at 7 months, with a weight of 1.9Kg (4.18 lb). Upon his birth, he was admitted at Kenyatta National Hospital for one week. He was breastfed for six months and after weaning him off, Nancy noticed that he had developed a loss of appetite and reduced weight.

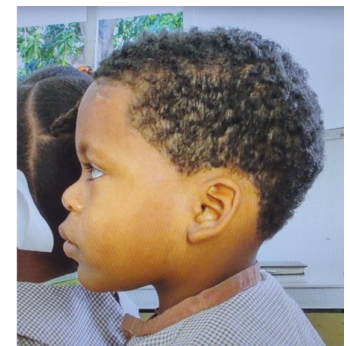
Through the active case finding intervention that is being implemented by our devoted Community Health Volunteers, Nola was enrolled into the program and since Nancy has started using home food fortification with micronutrients, she has noticed significant improvement in her baby’s growth and even less susceptibility to illnesses. The parents are grateful for the interventions that have helped their child, including provision of MAMA’s micronutrient powder to fortify his food, food baskets, and regular follow-up visits by MAMA Kenya Community Health Volunteers.”



Kevin our Community Health Volunteer
Nancy & baby Nola Muo

Haiti

Joel Buissereth from Haiti reports: “The school year 2021-2022 has been a great success for us even though we had an earthquake in August 2021, we were able to manage and move forward with our program. As for graduation of our students, we have not been able to implement that because it is too costly. The amount of money that you have just sent is going to be applied to fix damaged classrooms for students while they are on vacation. There are students who are in need for sponsors, it would help to prayerfully seek guidance to find people who are able to help in this ministry. Keep us in prayers because we have not had any rain for 3 months, it is very dry. Pray for rain because we depend on it. We appreciate your faithful support and prayers. May the blessings of God be upon all of you.”



The news from Haiti has been so heart breaking! We grieved to hear that they had another earthquake, on top of drought, hurricanes, gang violence, corruption, the assassination of their president, the kidnapping of missionaries and the ongoing grinding poverty and hunger. We could be tempted to give up in despair, but God has not abandoned the people in Haiti, nor can we. We need to be faithful in prayer, giving and advocacy for the suffering poor in that beautiful suffering country. The Tree of Life School is a beacon of hope, and an example of what should be in every community.

India

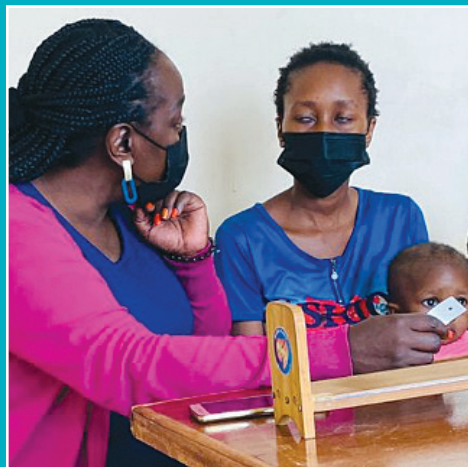


Lorie Schrock, MAMA India Representative, and Nurse Sajani

send us a lot of pictures. Most of them are of children in the slums and the orphanages, Nurse Sajani with her team, are treating many people for all kinds of problems. Right now, Lorie reports, that even in the horrific heat in Delhi India, Sajani is still going to the slums 4 days per week. She is busy deworming, assessing children’s growth, providing food supplements for malnourished

children, and teaching. She is often seen treating foot infections, so you can see why providing shoes for children was a high priority. I couldn’t help but smile at the pictures of children drinking clean water from the water filtration water that MAMA India is providing. Our partner, ASHA Mission is faithfully bringing help and hope in very difficult circumstances.





Seeing sick, weak, lethargic children becoming healthy, strong, energetic, curious and even mischievous is a never-ending source of joy and motivation to keep us going! What an amazing difference nutritious food makes! Grain-based diets are not enough. Parents need knowledge, help, and opportunities to raise healthy children. So often they are struggling against enormous odds, feeling isolated and abandoned. Where better place to be than in those homes, either personally, or as part of a partnership that brings help and hope to those in extreme need. It is hard to imagine the pain, frustration and struggles of the millions of people in our world right now who are in dire circumstances. So, as we often do, we brought you a few pictures and stories that illustrate MAMA's work.

Fundraiser News:

Ice Cream Fundraiser:

15th of September 2022 Thursday 6-9pm

Enjoy Ice Cream while you support families in need!



The Downtown Scoop at 11 West Chestnut Street, Souderton Pennsylvania is sharing a portion of their profits with MAMA Project from 6-9pm. And there will be a collection canister for everyone to give an extra donation to support MAMA Project.

Auction in the Spring was a successful event. Thanks to all who donated items, and to the donors who bid on them! Remember if you didn't get what you were bidding on, you can still give the money that you would have spent! It's for the kids!

Plan a MAMA Project **Read-A-Thon!**
Everyone, Everywhere, anytime!



While you devour good books, you can help. You can print these sheets from www.MAMAPROJECT.org.

MAMA Project
Mujeres Amigas Miles Apart
(Women Friends Miles Apart)

- Nutritional Rehabilitation
- Medical & Dental Brigade
- Work Teams
- Cross Cultural Training
- Deworming & Vitamin A Campaigns
- Donating Medical & Dental Equipment & Supplies
- Community Development
- Scholarships
- Child Survival Training

The MAMA News is a newsletter available for free to anyone who would like to receive it. To add, remove or change your address on our mailing list, contact us at:

MAMA Project
2781A Geryville Pike, Pennsburg, PA 18073
(215)679-4338 or info@mamaproject.org
www.MAMAPROJECT.org

MAMA Project is a non-profit charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. tax code - federal tax identification #23-2993647.

All donations given to MAMA Project are tax-deductible and a receipt will be sent to the donor.

All photos were taken by MAMA project staff or service team members.

We are sending out news via email- please send us requesting email news! And, MAMA Project Instagram, Twitter and FB will soon become more active!

We are happy to supply **Collection Canisters** to anyone who wants to collect funds for MAMA- in their home, business, school or club. Use for special giving projects, or use your own imagination. You can turn the collected funds into a check and mail to us, or send via PayPal.

