

5 th GAM asbl voyage  
The unknown goodness of the world .....

# Newsletter



Brussels, 06-09-2016

« Groupe d'Appui Aux Messages »  
(GAM)

*Suuport group to messages*

*Our objective :*

It's an association that aims at contributing fighting poverty in the world through social development. The association supports sustainable projects aimed at promoting well-being of the poorest. GAM strives to achieve its social objectives, when possible in collaboration with other associations.

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**Belgian monitor publication**  
**890 951 631 le 19-07-2007**

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Nathalia, Marta, Aurora, Guillem, Felix, Victor and I, travelled to Tuum, Kenya, from the 8th to the 20th of August. The purpose of our trip was to meet our local partners and take note of the impact of GAM's projects in the region.

For those of you who don't know, GAM organizes an annual trip with the residents of Etterbeek or elsewhere as well as friends and supporters of the association.

Our journey from Brussels starts with a fair amount of fear and suspicion. As we set foot on the ground and witness the warm welcome of the locals, our fears rapidly fade away.

It is in Kenya, the Cradle of Humanity that 6 million years ago the first Australopithecus set foot on the hills of Tugen.

This land has been inhabited for as long as 25 million years making it the place where it all started for us, Humans.

The wisdom of these people living in such a hostile environment is striking. Seeing the gap between both our realities, it feels like time has stopped for them : the scarcity of water, the lack of electricity, roads, houses, food and hospitals. This sad reality was a wake-up call for us, making us realize the abundance that we have in our homes and in our society.

On these trips, we have the chance to meet local volunteers and partners of our association and let them know how much their efforts and devotion are appreciated and how crucial it is to the improvement of their environment. On their part, our local volunteers are keen on expressing their appreciation for the support provided by each one of you. Even the smaller gesture brings great benefits.

The Samburu and Turkane people are semi-nomadic populations who live in huts similar to the Manyatta of the Maasai. The walls of their huts are made of mud and dung and they use branches for the roofs.

Even the young Samburu and Turkane enjoy learning new things in school. For those who have to watch the herd during the day, there are special night classes at the mission, using light provided by solar panels. This alphabetisation program is called Tchakutti and is organized by the local missionaries in order to teach reading and counting in Swahili.

Operational even before works are done, we were all struck by the positive impact that the Training Centre had on the local population at Tuum. During our assessment meeting with the Human Promotion Committee, it is with great pride that we were presented with the successful results of the project.