

# HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time

## Mara Riente Nursery School, Kenya

We are delighted this month to be continuing our support of the Maasai who live in the Mara Riente area of Kenya's world famous wildlife tourism destination the Masai Mara. This is a community that High Five Club Trustees Cheryl & Manny Mvula have worked with extensively over the past 8 years, and one with whom High Five Club members are developing a long-term relationship.



### Background (for new members!)

The Kenyan government has really marginalized the Maasai tribe and give little support for health and education facilities in the rural areas they live. Education provision, particularly for the youngest children, is down to the parents themselves to provide. This is a big challenge for a community like Mara Riente that live hand to mouth, and many Maasai children never get the opportunity to go to school. Instead they stay in the village to help look after their family's livestock and do household chores such as fetching water and firewood.

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Over the past 4 years the Maasai people of Mara Riente have developed the first nursery school in the area with the support of the High Five Club and one of our corporate sponsors Roffey Homes, along with income earned by the community from their village's cultural tourism activities – an initiative introduced by Cheryl throughout the Masai Mara to end the deep rooted exploitation of this iconic tribe by Kenya's driver guides (see the Pro-Poor Tourism page of [www.tribal-voice.co.uk](http://www.tribal-voice.co.uk)).



As the school has developed, increasing numbers of Maasai elders have witnessed at first hand the benefits of education and more and more parents are now coming forward to try and secure their children a place at the school. The High Five Club has assisted the school to develop since its inception and despite now some of the best facilities in the area it unfortunately still has to turn children away because of its limited capacity.

## High Five Club Support

In response, we have joined hands again with the Maasai to part-fund the further development



of this community-owned and run nursery school. We have provided 705,000 Kenyan Shillings (£5,202.68), as a 50% contribution towards the provision of one additional new classroom and 2 teacher's houses, along with sixteen 3-seater desks, a teacher's desk, chair and cupboard. The Maasai community have contributed the other 50% out of the funds they have raised through their village cultural tourism enterprise, in

High Five Club's empowering spirit of a 'hand up', not a 'hand out'.



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It is unbelievable how far our collective funds have gone in uplifting education provision in this rural, impoverished community!

As a result of these recent developments Mara Riente Nursery School now provides quality education to close to 230 Maasai children aged between 3 and 6 years (50% girls and 50% boys), has 5 sturdy stone-built classrooms, a school office, 5 teacher's houses next to the school, toilets



for teachers and pupils, bathrooms for the teachers, a sports field/ playground and a rainwater harvesting system that provides clean drinking water during the rains. Those parents that can afford pay a small school fee each term that contributes towards the payment of the 5 teachers' salaries, all of whom are trained and qualified, with the Maasai's village tourism enterprise paying the balance. A truly sustainable school development!

Our contribution was funded through monthly High Five Club

membership donations, supplemented by £4,000 from our very generous 'educational projects' benefactor Roffey Homes ([www.roffeyhomes.com](http://www.roffeyhomes.com)). A BIG thank you from Mara Riente Nursery School to everyone involved!

For further information contact Dr Cheryl Mvula on [Cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk](mailto:Cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk)