



# GLOBAL RELATIONS

NYHETSREV FEBRUARI 2018

Tack vare din insats får nästan 300 elever gå i skolan, äta sig mätta och känna mer hopp om framtiden. Vi anser att utbildning är en viktig väg ur fattigdom och avgörande för hur man klarar sig vidare i livet. Tillsammans med dig ger vi ungdomarna en chans till en ljusare framtid och med det här nyhetsbrevet beskrivs vad som händer i föreningen och på Kenswed Academy.

## KENSWED ACADEMY

Kenswed Academy är en gymnasieskola för fattiga ungdomar i Nairobi, Kenya. Fattig ungdom är i det här fallet ungdomar som inte kan betala skolavgifter, bor i slummiljö och har i regel ensamstående föräldrar med mycket låg inkomst. Sedan starten i februari 2012 har skolan nu vuxit till en skola där de första 47 eleverna tog examen hösten 2015. Skolan har nästan 300 elever, 15 lärare och 8 ytterligare i personalstyrkan som är där på daglig basis (kokerska, köksbiträden, vakter, kurator). Dessutom hjälper några alumner till på skolan mot en mindre ersättning. På bilden nedan kan du se Kenswed Academy med matsalen, köket och toaletterna längst ner. Till höger syns ett av de första klassrummen och i mitten av skolgården syns ett volleybollnät som används under gymnastiklektionerna.

Här kan eleverna fokusera på sina studier och må bra tillsammans med sina kamrater. På skolgården finns träd och enklare odlingar samt toaletter där avloppet blir till biogas som används för matlagning. På morgonen serveras té med bröd och till lunch serveras Ugali (majsgröt), Githeri (majs och böngryta) eller annan lokalproducerad mat. En dag i veckan serveras det kött. Lokalerna har även indragen el som gör det möjligt att använda datorer och projektorer i stor omfattning samt att även studera på kvällen när solen gått ned.

Kenswed Academy följer den kenyanska läroplanen och de regler som Ministry of Education har satt upp. Skolan har även ofta utbyten med svenska lärare och lärarstudenter för att utveckla pedagogiken på skolan.

Skolan drivs som ett fristående projekt inom frivilligorganisationen Global Relations, i tre insamlingsgrupper situerade i Göteborg, Linköping och Stockholm, samt via vår huvudfinansiär Zelmerlöw & Björkman Foundation.



## SENASTE NYTT

### Mödravårdsklinik

En mödravårdsklinik kommer att byggas i anslutning till skolan. Planen är att den öppnas under hösten och finnas tillgänglig för de som bor i närområdet.

### Byggnationer

Skolan har expanderat mycket senaste tiden. De senaste byggnationerna är personalrum, rektorsrum, mottagningsrum och musikstudio. Utöver mödravårdskliniken planeras det även att bygga på en våning på internatet, samt ett nytt klassrum ovanpå det nybyggda personalrummet. Även ett guest house kommer byggas på området ovanför skolan.



*Skolan i dagsläget med nybyggna längst till höger*

### Besök

I januari fick Kenswed besök av studenter från Berzeliusskolan i Linköping. Bland annat diskuterades avfallshantering, HIV och levnadsstandard. En annan grupp studenter från Göteborgs Universitet besökte skolan i januari. Mer om det längre ner i nyhetsbrevet. Ytterligare en grupp studenter från KTH är där och undersöker biogasen som används till köket. Syftet är att se om gasen kan användas även till odlingar.



*Diskussioner mellan elever från Berzeliusskolan och Kenswed*



### **Ulf Lidman utbildar lärarna**

I april kommer lärarna få en kostnadsfri utbildning i tvärkulturell krishantering av Ulf Lidman. Ulf har två magisterutbildningar från USA, en i tvärkulturell krishantering och en i teologi med fokus på familje- och relationsterapi. Han har specialistkompetens inom bland annat tvärkulturella möten relaterat till kris, konflikter och missbruk. Han har samarbetat med ett stort antal organisationer, såväl kommuner som näringsliv, inte minst med verksamheter som arbetar med särskilt utsatta grupper, till exempel HVB-hem, flyktingmottagning och individ- och familjeomsorg. Ulf har även en spetskompetens där han integrerar tvärkulturell krishantering med motiverande samtal och krisstöd.

### **Yrkesutbildningar**

Målare utan gränser har besökt skolan och vill starta en yrkesutbildning. Även andra svenska organisationer vill starta utbildningar inom hantverk och smyckesdesign. Markägaren Isaac är positiv till initiativen och erbjuder mark för detta.

### **Container**

En container ska fyllas med allt som tänkas behövas till en skola eller mödravårdsklinik. Om du vet någon som vill bli av med stolar, bord, hyllor, kläder, verktyg eller annat så skicka gärna ett mail: [info@globalrelations.se](mailto:info@globalrelations.se).

### **Vattenprojektet**

Distribution av vatten till boende i närområdet har påbörjats. Därmed är skolan nu delvis självförsörjande!



*Pågående lektion och gruppdiskussioner på Kenswed*

## REPORTAGE OM ISAAC MACHARIA

*Isaac är en utav föreståndarna på Kenswed och även markägare. Han tar många beslut på plats i Kenya och är väldigt engagerad i studenternas utveckling eftersom deras uppväxt liknar han egna. Läs mer nedan om hans bakgrund och visioner.*

### Who is Isaac Macharia

My names are Isaac Macharia Wanjohi, the first born child in a family of 10 siblings. We are born five girls and five boys from the same mother/father.

At the age of 38 years, I have been a professional athlete specializing on road running and Marathons in a career that spans to almost two decades. My first international assignment being in the year 2001 when I did my first competition out of Kenya. I have also been in business, buying used cars from Japan and selling them here in Kenya. With time I ventured into entrepreneurship, starting small scale real estate Company which buys and sells land.

In these my sunset days in running I have graduated to ultra-Marathon running debuting with 56Km race in South Africa. I am also increasing my involvement and working more with the youths who I'm coaching and mentoring to take up sports and education as a career path. Having a training group in Ngong and training camp in Nyahururu.

Basically my main calling is supporting the youths through my knowledge of running and entrepreneurship (which I'm mastering in) to change their lives for the better. That is my greatest satisfaction.

### Background story

Imagine of a young girl with no education having dropped out from school at grade 2. At the age 15 years she gets a baby boy, nine others follow in close succession. This mother is either breastfeeding or expectant at any time for many years.

The father is unemployed, works on other people's farms to fend this huge family. The normal is going for days with little or no food, being sent home for school fees every so often that they are at home most of the time. And this absence from school is an opportunity for the children to join the father on the farm, working for food. At the early age of seven years these kids are out there working to support themselves.

This girl is my mother, her firstborn child is me. My background was that humble, being the firstborn in a family of ten siblings same mother same father. Poverty and deprivation is something I have experienced firsthand. Many occasions we survived with little or without food.

How did we as a family overcame this, the life through these difficulties?

Being bombarded by many challenges pushed me to think, think hard and wild. Unfortunately I had nothing in my hands to start life, no opportunity whatsoever, just me and my conviction that I could overcome. Looking at my father, mother and siblings struggling gave me more energy to overcome for them and for me.

After my high school, I had accumulated so much fees arrears, therefore I couldn't be given my form four certificates until I clear. Went back to farms and started working hard, saving money to clear school fees arrears. In the process I was hired by a Power generation company as a casual laborer, my job was to dig six feet holes for the poles. I did diligently and proved to be the best. This earned me a scholarship to their

Training school to train as a technician. Golden opportunity but I didn't have accommodation at college! A friend offered accommodation some 18Km away from college. But I didn't have bus fare to go to school so I decided to run every morning to school, took a quick bath in a river and went to class. Did this for two years.

My breakthrough came when I went to help in Kibera slum. There was a charity half Marathon 'the flying toilets half marathon '. A race to collect funds to build toilets in Kibera. The name 'flying toilets' because these people don't have toilets, they help themselves in plastic bags and at night they just through them out literally flying to wherever. I was there to support by running. Luckily enough the first three finishers were sponsored by AMREF to go run in Austria. Guess what, I was the third finisher!

Got this trip to Europe and went as a team to Salzburg where I did a strong run to be ranked 12 in the world that year. I got an agent and Adidas Shoes company as my sponsors, and life looked brilliant.

I went back home to continue with training for professional race as an elite.

In a month I booked a plane to Paris. Off I start my maiden flight alone as an elite athlete. A young boy from Kenya with no traveling experience just landed in Charles de Gaulle Airport. Supposed to connect to another city by train. With no information and believing that I have arrived at my destination, I stayed and waited for pick up. From morning, evening came, and night and morning, and evening again, night....for three days I was there. No food, no money, no telephone no courage to ask for direction or/and guidance. My only meal was gulps of water from the bathroom.

On the third day, police came to my rescue, took me to a train station and guided me how to reach to my destination. But how do you expect a young boy from Africa to connect the subways, change trains etc. I did not have a mobile phone then, google wasn't in existence then. What do you expect, getting into a wrong train which took me round and round. Miraculously I got to my hotel at 2am in the morning, the race day. Remember I'm three days fasting, restaurant is closed. Went to bed, woke up very early to have some food in three days.

After breakfast we were taken to the starting line, and off the race starts. It is an uphill 21Km and it's summer, the sun is scorching hot. I'm hanging in there with the leaders for the first 10km, getting to 12Km I tire off but I'm still holding close. Getting to the 17 km mark, I just ran out of fuel, the days I fasted sets in. I have no energy left and I'm also dehydrated.

In my mind I'm like, this is my first international race as an elite. If a drop out, the agent will kick me out and Adidas contract will be terminated. My otherwise changed destiny will slip back to the poverty and tribulations, man up and keep digging hard. And I did try with all the imaginations of getting money and helping my family.

At 19km I got a blackout, couldn't see properly and was dizzy. There was no energy left to run anymore, I could stop, start walking, start, stop and start again. At some point I couldn't stand, I was crawling on my fours, thankful to the crowd that kept me moving. I struggled to the finished but collapsed on the finish line, in fact it was a jogger who push me to fall on the line to finish, otherwise I wouldn't have finished. Taken to hospital, administered with water by intravenous to stabilize the body. Took me 12 hours to gain consciousness. An experience of a lifetime, tortured and destroyed my body, I could hardly walk for many weeks.

A mother will always be a mother. When I lastly gained strength, I went home to see my family. On narrating the ordeal to them, my mum cried and thanked God that I survived. She cried because of the motherly love and care, it crushed my emotions. She advised me never to run again, that it shall be well through other means. But what other means?

I started training gradually and after some months I took another flight to France, this time better informed and well guided. My first half marathon I broke the course record which stood for 12 years, the next three races I won by far. Made good money. As fate would have it I lost half of the money at Charles de Gaulle Airport on my way home. There was a strike by the flight attendants, so thousands of passengers had piled in the Airport. I dozed off at the waiting area and someone took away my small bag that I had secured my euros in. I got home with only two huge trophies but no money. Luckily the next payment was wired to my bank and life became good.

With my earnings, I was able to educate all my siblings, two to high school and the others to universities. Moved my parents to a better neighborhood and built them a nice house. I went back to college for my degree, still learning a course in entrepreneurship now. My passion is to assist many youths and women realize opportunities, start their own businesses for a better dignified lives. In this country of ours, women and the youths are the main victims of imbalance in resources and opportunity allocation. Some bad cultures and beliefs that only men should manage resources.

#### Got in contact with Global Relations

Global Relations has had many projects in Kenya particularly in the Kibera slum for many years now. Under the patronage of Dr. P-O Hansson, the GRs has impacted our communities in varied ways through sports, arts, music and education. These are the activities our youths hunger for as their platforms to launch their lives for the better.

When a friend introduced me to Dr. P-O Hansson, we shared in length our inspirations and aspirations, goals and visions as pertains to community work. We realized we shared a Vision of giving youths an equal opportunity in life by giving them opportunities not only getting education but quality education. Education in Kenya is the main vehicle in poverty eradication however education cost is prohibitive to many of the less privileged.

I had a piece of land which I had bought out of my athletics earnings. Willingly I donated it as a seed to have Kenswed School project start.

#### Roll at Kenswed Academy

My background is an ideal story of many Kenswed students, we share the same background with them in my early life and youthful years. My role in Kenswed is not only be the school leader/director, but rather a team player with other members in what we call the Kenswed Family. My satisfaction is when I'm offering these kids with the much needed moral support and by sharing my own life experience. I give them skills on how to overcome challenges of poverty and deprivation through hard-work and choosing to live by values. I walk their journey with them.

Of course the other role is of managing Kenswed school as an institution locally and steering it's vision. I keep watch that we follow the laid down regulations from education ministry even as Kenswed strive to be a good example of best teaching practices in this community.

#### Ambition with Kenswed

The impact already realized in the few years of Kenswed existence has been phenomenal, many children have changed their lives and that of their families. Education has a trickling effect, you educate one and the whole community benefits. My ambition is to see Kenswed grow to a big school opening more centers of learning across the region.

Talking of expansion, vocational training is sure liberate from poverty. By giving our Kenswed high school graduates vocational/technical skills, we are directly positioning them for jobs and entrepreneurship. The issue of unemployment will not be there for our students, they will have real jobs to depend on. The next big program for us would be starting such trainings and grow to a technical institute with science, technology and entrepreneurship as the main focus.

Being a sports beneficiary, I will be more than happy to see development in sports, music and arts. Our students are very talented, they only require a platform to explore and showcase their talents.

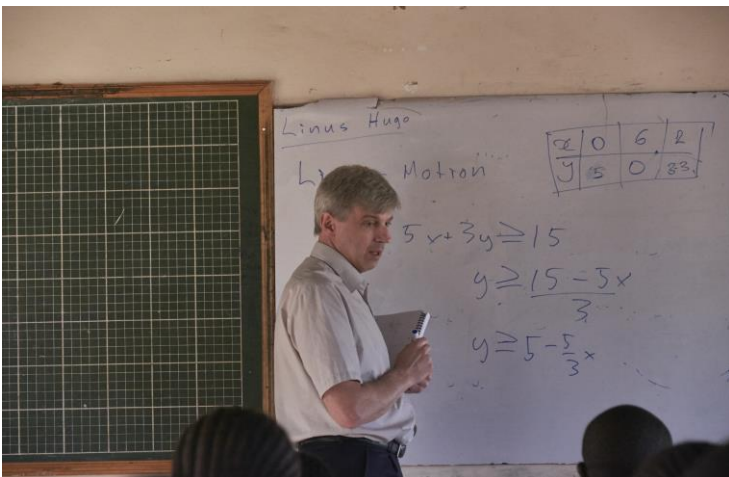


*Isaac med sin fru Veronica på Kenswed.*



## BESÖK FRÅN GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET

I januari fick Kenswed besök av studenter från Göteborgs universitet. Detta är en del av alla utbyten av kunskaper och erfarenheter mellan svenska lärare och elever som sker. Varje år är det flera grupper av svenska elever, lärare och andra föreläsare som besöker skolan och håller i workshops eller bara utbyter kunskap. Nedan visas härliga bilder från besöket från Göteborg.



## STÖD PROJEKTET

Vi påminner igen om att det är möjligt att stödja projektet via autogiro. Är du eller vet du någon som är intresserad av detta så finns all information på hemsidan [globalrelations.se](http://globalrelations.se). Målet är att månadssponsorer ska täcka upp de fasta månadskostnader så att vi kan fokusera mer på utveckling och förbättring. Vi ber därför dig att informera om projektet för vänner och bekanta för att få in fler sponsorer och göra detta möjligt! Vi är en liten organisation som drivs helt ideellt så all hjälp är vi mycket tacksamma för!



### STÖD PROJEKTET

Stöd projektet genom att skänka valfri summa till:

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*Vi är så tacksamma!*

**Tack till er som gör detta möjligt**

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