

North-South Co-operation

Dear friends of North-South Cooperation,

What a year!

Since the founding of North-South cooperation (CNS) in 2011 until today, we have always been involved in a number of activities and projects, but never as many as this year!

Below I will summarize only the extraordinary events that have marked this year leaving out those activities that we carry out regularly:

In April we received the “agrément” from the Luxembourg Ministry of Cooperation;

In June we organized the first edition of the Korogocho Run;

In September we visited Korogocho to meet our local partners, beneficiaries and local authorities; with them we have worked out the project "Improving education in Korogocho" which we then submitted to the Ministry;

In October the Ministry has approved our project and in November has co-financed the activities planned for the first year;

Our local partners have launched the activities planned in the first quarter;

Between September and December, we benefited from the presence in Korogocho of our first volunteer in the field, Oliver, who has made a decisive contribution to the implementation of our project;

In November we received a second partnership, this time with the Luxembourg Ministry of Education, Childhood and Youth thanks to which we will be able to send volunteers on the ground in co-operation with the National Youth Service;

Lastly, at the end of year we have launched a pilot project with a new partner, FinAfrica Uganda: the distance tutoring (e-mentoring) in favor of small entrepreneurs in Uganda.

Furthermore, we are planning various activities for the coming months: the General Meeting and the party of the Association are to be held on January 9; Festival des Migrations (11-13th March); The second edition of the Korogocho Run (June); a photography project aimed at raising awareness among the public on the theme of poverty and cooperation development in the slums of Korogocho.

All this was made possible thanks to your help, both in terms of financial contributions and personal commitment to the projects and activities of the association.

Together with you, we are focusing on Education (Library of Korogocho), access to information (Computer Centre) and the creation of employment opportunities (e-mentoring project), to help lift thousands of children out of poverty and give a future to their families.

We hope that you will continue to support us in this mission.

Thank you!

Roberto Marta,
Chairman



The United Nations sustainable development goals

On 25th September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the new Sustainable Development Goals: 17 goals to defeat poverty, to fight inequality and injustice, and to tackle climate change for the period of 2015-2030. The SDGs include:

Goal 1: End Poverty

End poverty in all its forms, everywhere.

Goal 4: Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.

Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

Promote inclusive economic and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

All our projects contribute to the goal number 1 to end poverty (although for us it would be enough to overcome misery, poverty being a relative concept, and as such can not be eliminated).

Our project "Improving education in Korogocho" contributes to the goal number 4 "Quality education."

The e-mentoring project aims to contribute to the objective number 8.

Korogocho field visit



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In September, four representatives of NSC made a visit to Korogocho: Oliver (our volunteer who was to remain in Korogocho until the end of December), Matteo, Fabrice and Roberto.

During the visit, we've had meetings with:

Our partner St. John's Community Centre: Father Kennedy, the missionary center manager; David (chief librarian); Kassim and Kevin (the two assistant librarians)

St. John's Primary School, the first user of library services

Our partner Emmaus Educational Centre: Kenedy, Director; teachers; students and their parents;

St. Francis of Assisi High school, who will benefit from the booklending programme

Our local assistant Peninah;

The representative of the government for Korogocho (who gave us a letter written in his own hand that confirms the ownership of the land of the library by the St. John's and authorizes the construction of the extension, a rare and unique achievement in the context of Korogocho!)

Other Comboni missionaries whose daily work in the field consists in defending the rights of the residents of Korogocho

During our visit, together with the local team, we worked out a project plan that was presented to the Ministry by Fabrice and Roberto at the end of September. The project (or "programme" as it covers multiple projects) spans over two years, with a total budget of 174,268 Euros, and it includes the following main elements:

Building an extension to the Library;

Buy 4,000 textbooks;

Helping elementary school Emmaus Educational Centre to expand to accommodate an additional 150 children and so save them from the Dandora dumping site;

Develop a booklending program for surrounding schools;

Buy 10 additional computers and a printer to the IT center of St. John's library;

Purchase sports equipment for the St. John's Sports Society;

Provide training courses for local staff.

Breakdown of the budget:

Ministry: EUR 116 760

CNS: 57 508 EUR, of which 13,390 euro are the contribution of the local partner (this being the value of the land)

Project approved and cofinanced by the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Directorate for Cooperation and Development)

In October, the Ministry has approved our project.

On 21st November, we have received the first transfer from the Ministry with the amount covering the 1st year of the project: € 82,018.93



Oliver, our first volunteer in Korogocho

From September to December, our first volunteer in the field, Oliver, was hosted by the Comboni missionaries in their residence of Kariobangi and has lived a great experience.

Despite his young age (24), Oliver has been instrumental in the success of both our field visit in September as in the following months when he had to follow the implementation of the first part of the project.

We have decided to let Oliver update us on the development of the project:



The Korogocho library project

Our new baby is called St. John's Community Library. For the next two years we are working on the extension and improvement of St. John's library in Korogocho.

This project could not take place without partnering with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and without our initiators Fabrice and Roberto. The partnership enables us to enlarge the size of this project. Fabrice who carried out an internship within the Ministry established the connection. Roberto the motor of our small organization was the man in charge to link NSC with the Ministry and St. John.

During this project a two storey building will be added to the current facility. This will add 200m² to the existing 300m² library space. The new building will contain an ICT center with 10 computers, 4 of which have been purchased due to last year's victory in the ING Solidarity Awards. To make the ICT center complete, a printer will be purchased.

The new facility will require new furniture, not only for the ICT center, but also for study/ home-work or group work areas. Moreover, North-South Cooperation wants to increase the current number of books by additional 4,000 textbooks for pre-school-, primary-, secondary-and University students.

NSC's activities to improve the library not only cover the obvious such books or furniture, but also activities which have been forgotten in the past. This said, curtains will be purchased to reduce dust from entering the library. Also, a budget has been fixed to create stronger awareness for St. John Library.

In order to ensure a smooth transition of the project we need trained staff. On this basis, the young librarian Kevin will receive ICT training to assist in issues with the ICT center. Afterwards, Peninah will receive project management training as she supervises this long and intensive project.

Furthermore, a strong focus has been laid upon the promotion of this library. Even though St. John library is the only library in the area of Korogocho and its neighboring districts, the word has not been spread sufficiently. On this basis, the first promotion activity is the installation of a signboard in front of the school. The road in front of the school is busy and is a main road crossing Korogocho from Kariobangi on the one side and Lucky Summer on the other one. Further promotion activities will be Library posters at 30 partner schools and the hand out of flyers.

These improvements will attract more students to join the library. Even more so, a new promotion strategy which involves a large signboard in front of the school, better communication with partner schools and several open days per year, will help to increase the number of library members. The primary reasons to increase library members is not monetary driven, but rather to offer children and students a chance to study and research in a quiet peaceful place which helps them to pass their exams, apply for a job and access the inaccessible e.g. internet.

There is no limit to emphasise the importance of this project. St. John Community Library is the only library within Korogocho and its neighboring areas. This means students from 2, 3, 4 km away come to this library to read and study. Also, people in Korogocho are very poor. In fact, Koch is the fourth largest slum in Nairobi. Criminality, violence, poverty has ruled this area for years.

The situation is slowly improving, but the standard is still very low. There is no electricity or running water in the small houses, called shamba, in Korogocho. Such a shamba might be 10 to maximum 15m² in which a whole family lives. This one rooms serves as the kitchen, living –and bedroom. Surely, there is no space to carry out homework properly, bookshelf with books to choose from or computer with internet for research. St. John Community Library serves the mass and offers its services at very low costs 100-200KSH per year (1-2€).

Not only are we convinced of this fantastic project, but also have we found partners who are trustworthy, reliable and honest. We are sure to say that this project will have a great impact on the community!

Oliver

Nel primo mese di progetto "biblioteca", abbiamo acquistato i primi mille libri scolastici e relativi scaffali.

Il prossimo passaggio sarà la costruzione dell'estensione, per la quale Padre Kennedy ha lanciato una gara pubblica al fine di trovare il miglior costruttore. Successivamente, nell'ambito della nuova struttura creeremo un centro internet di cui questo qui sotto rappresenta solo l'inizio.



Another partnership, this time with the Ministry of Education

The most recent partnership we have signed is with the Ministry of Education and Youth of Luxembourg.

This partnership allows us to take advantage of young volunteers enrolled in the Service National de la Jeunesse (SNJ) for volunteering activities in Luxembourg but also as volunteers for cooperation in the beneficiary countries. The SNJ gives volunteers the necessary training and covers the costs of the volunteering.

This is another big step forward for NSC, as it will allow us to count on additional help that is now essential for us to follow all the activities and projects.

Also, we can repeat the great experience of having one of our volunteers in Africa.

Special thanks to Jeff who followed our request to the SNJ.

E-Mentoring

With our current 2 years' project in Korogocho, North-South Co-operation not only committed themselves to a large project, but also exposed themselves to a great amount of work. Nonetheless, we at NSC aim high.

Therefore, we are about to start an E-Mentoring project with FinAfrica, our new partner in Kampala, Uganda. This project aims to connect experts from various fields in Europe with small entrepreneurs in Uganda. We seek to create a mentorship relationship between two parties from completely different worlds. As these regions are very far apart, and as the word "E" indicates, we are going to make use of modern technology such as conference calls, emails and skype calls. Clearly, several challenges lie ahead such as cultural, environmental or legal. Through this partnership we hope to enrich both sides on a business level and also from a social aspect. During the first stage of this project we run a pilot test with a small group of mentors. From there, we will be able to reflect and elaborate on the success of the partnership. In the second stage an improved mentor partnership will be launched. Later on, we hope to create a sustainable E-Mentoring program.

Should you be interested to know more, and maybe become an e-mentor yourself, please write to us: info@cns-asbl.org

Library Day in Korogocho

In July, St. John's and NSC have organized the celebrations for the "Library Day" in Korogocho. This year, the event had a massive turnout: 2,500 children, with their parents and teachers. The Korogocho community, despite the pressing daily problems, has acknowledged the importance of



education.

Sport shoes for Korogocho



In September, we brought with us dozens of pairs of second-hand sports shoes (but in very good condition) for children and young people of Korogocho. We want to

thank all the friends who contributed to this donation!

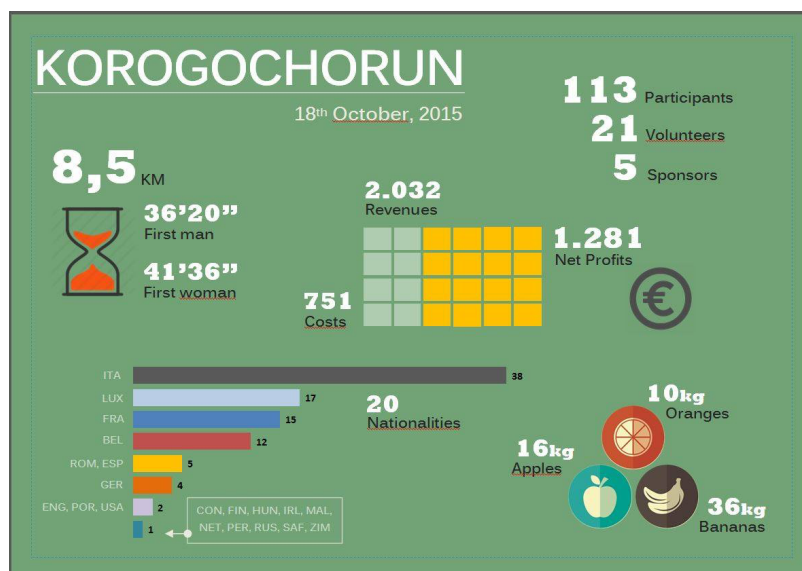
Korogocho Run!

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This year, new friends have joined the association and made outstanding contributions.

Myriam and Andrea, in particular, have organized the first edition of the Korogocho Run on 18th October in Bonnevoie (Luxembourg). It was an overall success: great organization and great atmosphere!

We expect even more participants for the second edition to be held in June 2016.



St. John's Sports Society



For the third year in a row, NSC won the ING Solidarity Awards arriving first among the participating Luxembourg associations. We want to thank all the friends who voted for NSC this year. Thanks to your support, we won the prize of € 1,000. And thanks to the partnership with the Ministry, this amount is tripled. With € 3,000 which we have already transferred to the account of St. John's, they will purchase sports equipment for the St. John's Sports Society.

New website

Thanks to Andrea and Jeff, we are developing a new website to make it more user-friendly and transparent. We hope that when you read this piece, the new version is already active:

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Regular meetings between NSC friends

From Andrea we have received the following suggestion:

Facebook page: we got it

Website: just renewed (Thank you Jeff!)

Newsletter: you are reading it!

What if we tried to have more meetings between NSC's members and friends? Ok, on 9 January we will have the Party and we have just organised the Korogocho Run, but these are big events (at least for our standards!) and maybe in order to better know each other and exchange ideas, something less formal would be better ... for this reason we have thought of organising a small get together every first Monday in the month, after work.

We might meet at a café at 18.30-19.00, have a drink, talk about the association, about the running projects, but also have a chat among ourselves. Without an agenda and without a leader, open to all and with no engagement.

To cut a long story short, the first meeting will be in Bonnevoie at Bounwegerstuff (<http://www.bounwegerstuff.lu>), the 1st February at 18.30.

We look forward to meeting you there!!

Andrea

bernandrea@gmail.com

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of members will be held on Saturday, 9th January 2016 at 14:00

Caution! The address of the Meeting has changed:

Salle Polyvalente, 24, rue de l'Ecole
L-8128 Bridel
Luxembourg

New Year's Party

This year, our party will take place on Saturday 9 January starting from 19.30:

Café-Bar Conter
64 Grand-Rue, Luxembourg

To participate, send us an e-mail to info@cns-asbl.org and pay your EUR 12 registration fee by Tuesday 5 January on our bank account:

IBAN LU98 0019 3555 9664 7000 / BCEELULL

Registrations for 2016 membership are now open

Annual contribution: € 25 (to be paid by bank transfer)

Account holder: North-South Cooperation

Account number: LU98 0019 3555 9664 7000

Code BIC: BCEELULL

Message: 2016 Member, First name + Surname

Become a regular donor

By becoming a regular donor, you will help us to maintain adequate control over revenue and plan our projects with a longer outlook. Since our projects are growing, we also need your help to finance them. Therefore, if you wish to support us, we ask to make a regular (monthly) donation through your bank. If you are a resident of Luxembourg, your donation will be deductible from income tax starting from a yearly amount of € 120. Therefore, we will provide a certificate of your donations for the fiscal year. In addition, the amount of your donation will be multiplied by three or four (depending on the type of project) thanks to the co-financing of our projects by the Ministry.

Please provide your bank with the following information for the monthly transfer				
In favour of	North-South Cooperation			
Account number BIC	LU98 0019 3555 9664 7000 BCEELULL			
Monthly amount	10 €	25 €	50 €	Other amount



Thank you!

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