

**Benedictine Missionary
INES
Illeret
Marsabit County
Kenya**



News from Illeret

Christmas 2024

Dear Friends and Supporters of late Fr Florian and the INES Project,

we the INES Team are happy to report once again that Fr Florians ideas are progressing and the Benedictine Mission in Illeret with the neglected Dasanaach people is thriving.

To begin with we would like to introduce Br Athanasius, the first Dasanaach who joined the benedictine community and now is getting involved with our INES System. Currently Ruth Wuerzle is in Nairobi (Nov 2024) to further develop the last ladder of learning - live skills. Edwin Changamu, Br Adrian, Br Athanasius and Ruth are optimizing the contents the milestones and materials. During the year we will then get the production running and prepare for teacher training.

Br Athanasius, stepping into Fr Florians footsteps writes:

The angel said to shepherds, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people...” Luke 2:10.

Dear Donor,

Warm greetings of Advent and a Merry Christmas to you!

I hope this message finds you in great spirits during this festive season. The community in Illeret sends their heartfelt Christmas blessings to you, expressing profound gratitude for your continued support through the INES program. Your generosity has been instrumental in providing education to our nomadic children who face challenges in accessing government schools due to their unique life-style.

I am delighted to report that the number of learners has been increasing significantly, leading us to recruit more teachers to accommodate this growth. All of these achievements have been made possible thanks to your kind support, and we truly appreciate your unwavering commitment to our community. May God bless you abundantly, and may you always find prosperity in your endeavors.

I would like to share the incredible impact our mobile school system has had on the lives of the Dasanaach community, particularly among our nomadic people. Previously, many of our community

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members lacked access to formal education. However, this initiative has provided them with valuable educational opportunities tailored to their nomadic lifestyle. The mobility of our school system allows them to continue their education as they move from place to place.

Since its inception, this school system has fostered cultural awareness, promoting acceptance and understanding among our neighboring communities, which has contributed to lasting peace over the years.

Moreover, our community has benefited health-wise, as individuals have made better lifestyle choices leading to improved well-being, a significant change from the past. We have also equipped our community members with essential skills for economic growth, resulting in noticeable reduction in hunger and poverty levels.

Furthermore, the program emphasizes critical thinking and logical reasoning, empowering our nomadic people with the skills they need to thrive. This initiative has brought about numerous positive changes, too many to list comprehensively.

In summary, the presence of this mobile school system (INES) has proven to be a gift for the Dasanaach community, significantly enhancing our quality of life.

Wishing you and your family the peace and joy of the Newborn King, Christ the Lord.

Warm regards,

Bro. Athanasius OSB, a son of the Dasanaach community, who grew up in the mission where the late Fr. Florian von Bayern ministered for over two decades, and who through the spirit and inspiration of Fr. Florian is now following the footsteps of Fr. Florian in the Monastic life.

Edwin Changamu our Headmaster and Manager in Illeret adds a short report on the progress:

DEAR DONORS,

on behalf of the INES, I would like to thank you for your donations. INES relies on the generosity of donors like you to carry out our missions. Thank you once again for donating to INES and making INES efficient in its operations.

With your donations we are in a position to reliably pay salaries to our workers and teachers, able to purchase materials for learning, hold workshop and seminars, fuel our land cruiser and motor bike. We currently employ 22 teachers, 10 bead ladies and 5 tailors. We teach approximately 700 pupils aged 6 to 14 years. The numbers are in a constant flow due to ever changing living circumstances.

The difference in our community, the Dasanaach we observe are tremendous. We appreciate and are genuinely grateful to you our donors for being there to support us. Thank you for being most kind and generous to our project, INES.

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AIM OF INES

Reaching the most marginalized, providing access to the most historically neglected will require new and flexible models. To access education, there is necessity for protective spaces or niche where learning can occur, for transformation to take place in the marginalized community. The INES school is a step forward in providing culturally appropriate education to the hard to reach who are marginalized because of traditional lifestyles.

INES school, informal provisions to nomads are an innovation to all to fill the gap resulting from the national rigid education facility, that is normally not stationary but one that is normally catered for learning in more than one place over time and space. Mobile schools are flexible in terms of mode and delivery, curriculum and school calendar and are movable from one place to another, hence they use collapsible classrooms that can be assembled or disassembled within 20 minutes, and carried to convenience at the back of an animal, a donkey or camel. They have, therefore, proven their worth, and appear to fit nomadic people, culture and livelihood.

KEY INSIGHTS OF INES

1. Produce societal impact and lead to transformative change alignment with existing culture and lifestyle which is vital. This can be seen with high demand for INES requests from elders.
2. The mobile schools in Dasanaach is a community lead and owned initiative supported by Benedictive fathers of Illeret.
3. Because of the INES initiative, children in Illeret in the fora and pastoralist can read and write, at the same time, assist their parents to herd the livestock while acquiring education alongside.
4. The INES school, which are informal schools in nature, now acts like feeder schools to formal schools, hence there is enhanced enrolment in formal schools, with improved performance.
5. The INES transformative nature of the mobile school has resulted in positive impact in peace, stability, and securitizing the region, with implication for the nation, attending education, via mobile schools. The boys in mobile school stated that:
 - a) cattle rustling has reduced in the area
 - b) ableness to communicate with other tribes, languages (Kiswahili, very little English).
 - c) girls are protected from early marriages (they spend time learning).

SIX VARIABLES IN INES

1. Directionality: new trajectory on relying on portable, locally available simple materials, familiar environment and vernacular languages.
2. Societal goal: mobile schools are essential to the local community as they innovate to fill the gap created by the rigid national education system that fails to reflect the environment and knowledge of the pastoralist children.

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3. System level impact: most boys are therefore not idle to engage in cattle rustling and theft. The girls attending schools feel protected from early marriage and improved behavioral of mother development.
4. Learning and reflexivity: removal of school rules like uniform, punishment and time management.
5. Conflict versus consensus is well explained to mobile learners.
6. Inclusivity: all learners access literacy and numeracy.

SUCCESS

1. We can move and supervise all schools with our INES Land Cruiser and motor bike.
2. Many more elders want more mobile schools in their grassing fields and Fora.
3. We can manage all purchases in time and the flow of finance is smooth.

Thank you again for the opportunity you gave us to serve the community.

Yours sincerely,

EDWIN K. CHANGAMU

INES- Director

Please allow us and Fr. Florians Family to add our sincerest gratitude for your continuous support of this unique project. We are sure Fr Florian looks upon this with content and puts in a good word for us and the Dasanaach at the highest authority.

Merry Christmas

Wolfgang Bayern, Christoph Bayern,
P Maurus Blommer

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Duties after schooling



Writing on the ground during school



Asking for teaching position



INES Fora School



Abandoned church



Abandoned government school

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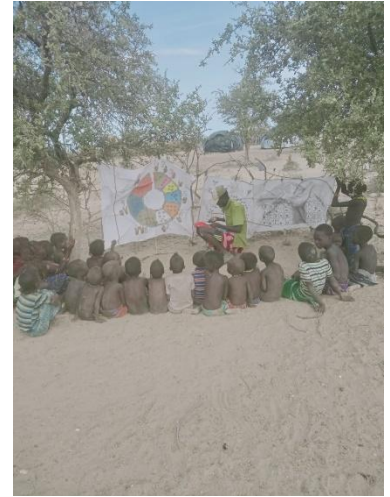
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Young girls after INES class 1



Learners write on the ground



INES classes are on



Learners write on the ground



INES Learner



Introduction bags



INES Partner based



Daasanach bag



Teacher in Class

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