

**Report and Financial Statements for
GRA Charity
for the year ended 30 June 2009**



**Growth Reaching Africa
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Table of Content

1	Overview of Growth Reaching African Charity (GRA).....	3
1.1	Legal Structure	3
1.2	Charitable Status.....	3
1.3	Purpose and Aim of GRA.....	3
1.4	Background.....	4
1.5	Officers of the Charity	4
1.6	Committee Members of the Charity	5
2	Current Activities	6
2.1	Development Projects include:	6
2.1.1	Primary school feeding programmes for three primary schools.....	6
2.1.2	Employment of a teacher in Mugiko Primary School	7
2.1.3	Secondary School Scholarship Programme	8
2.1.4	Third Level Scholarship Programme	9
2.1.5	Repair and Renovation of two classrooms in Kiukuni Primary School	9
2.1.6	Employment of Nurse	10
2.1.7	Farms and Settlement Programme- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).....	11
2.1.8	Borehole.....	12
2.1.9	International volunteer work camps, women empowerment group, youth group.	13
2.2	Fundraising Activities.....	13
2.3	Volunteering activities.....	15
3	Beneficiaries.....	16
3.1	Mafanikio Community Based Organisation (MCBO).....	16
3.2	Fr. Gabriel Dolan, St Patrick’s Missionary Society (Kiltegan Fathers)	16
3.3	Mr. Simon Muthama, Head Teacher, Mugiko Primary School.....	16
3.4	David Njuguna, Chairman of Kirasha Children Centre	16
4	Bankers of the Charity.....	17
5	Income & Disbursements for the Period ended 30 June 2009	18
6	Notes to the Accounts	20

1 Overview of Growth Reaching African Charity (GRA)

1.1 Legal Structure

The Charity has been set up as an unincorporated body under a Constitution. The Charity is governed by a Board of Officers. The Officers are elected at Board Meetings and the Annual General Meeting. The powers of the Officers have been extended to various organising Committees.

1.2 Charitable Status

Growth Reaching Africa is a registered charity with **CHY Number 17849**. Growth Reaching Africa was granted CHY status in accordance with the provisions of Section 207 (as applied to companies by section 76) Section 609 (Capital Gains Tax) and Section 266 (Deposit Interest Retention Tax) of the Taxes Consolidation Act.

Growth Reaching Africa has conducted two Board meetings during the year and there have been in excess of eight Committee meetings.

1.3 Purpose and Aim of GRA

GRA (Growth Reaching Africa) targets the young generation of Ireland to develop their understanding of the world's biggest crisis and empower this generation to be informed, educated and active in tackling global problems, primarily poverty and lack of education in Africa.

GRA Core Objectives:

- To mobilise the energy and grá (love) of young people in Ireland and encourage them to contribute to educational and community development in Africa.
- To raise funds through donations, events, sponsorships and other innovative means.
- To operate as a non-profit organisation.

- To invest in specific projects and people where we can track the long term results.
- To partner with NGO/ CBO (community based organisation) in developing and implementing designated projects.
- We believe in investing in African education for the growth of future generations.
- To operate without admin costs in terms of salaries and overheads- guaranteeing donated funds go directly to projects.

1.4 Background

GRA was set up by Maria Butler and a group of young professionals to achieve the GRA objectives. They challenge their peers, young successful ‘Celtic- Cubs’ to engage with the realities of the developing world through events such as the GRA Ball and volunteering.

GRA meaning ‘love’ in Irish remains the core value of the charity. GRA is about being, thinking, doing, believing and acting.

In recognition of GRA's work, GRA proudly received an acknowledgment from the organisation called Africa Missions Ireland. GRA was nominated and received an award for 'Care for Mankind' on the 26th of July 2008. GRA was featured as *charity of the month* in a leading Irish Magazine, ‘Irish Tatler’ in November 2008.

1.5 Officers of the Charity

The people who have served as Officers during the period are:

- Maria Butler (Founder & Honorary Life Member)
- Donna Walsh (Secretary)
- Harry Simpson (Treasurer)
- Michelle Butler
- Caoimhe McWeeney
- David Cashman

1.6 Committee Members of the Charity

- Donna Walsh
- Grainne Crowley
- Shaunagh Connaire
- Ciara Commane
- Michelle Butler
- Harry Simpson
- Kevin Murphy
- Jennifer O'Sullivan
- David Cashman
- Deirdre Gallagher
- Emily Hall
- Gali Kelly
- Anne Brennan
- Barraí Brennan
- Lorna Dunne
- Ruth Leopold
- Michael Clancy
- Vincent Breslin
- Imelda Butler
- John Butler
- Niamh Comiskey
- Diana Chipó

2 Current Activities

2.1 Development Projects include:

- 2.1.1 Primary school feeding programmes for three primary schools
- 2.1.2 Employment of a teacher in Mugiko Primary School
- 2.1.3 Secondary School Scholarship Programme
- 2.1.4 Third Level Scholarship Programme
- 2.1.5 Repair and Renovation of two classrooms in Kiukuni Primary School
- 2.1.6 Employment of Nurse
- 2.1.7 Farms and Settlement Programme- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
- 2.1.8 Borehole
- 2.1.9 International volunteer work camps, women empowerment group, youth group.

2.1.1 Primary school feeding programmes for three primary schools

The Government of Kenya and local leaders proclaimed a national crisis on January 16 2009, with 10 million people (nearly a third of the country's population) being affected by food instability. Some areas in the Coast, Central, North Eastern and Eastern provinces are depending on relief food for survival. The food crisis has been attributed to severe drought, consecutive years of poor rainfall, displacement and damage to crops caused during the post-election violence (2008). These national factors have been further compounded by the international food and oil crisis and coincide with the global financial crisis and the ongoing challenges of climate change. The founder of GRA, Maria Butler, spoke at the GRA Ball 2008 about the severe effects of rising food prices on rural families. Since the GRA Ball, the situation has deteriorated in rural Kenya and the negative impacts have spread widely. At this time more than ever before, Kenya needs support in terms of volunteering and resources. The government pledges have not reached all communities and the rural marginalized communities where GRA's projects are based remain particularly vulnerable.



All the schools under the GRA feeding programme are located in the regions that have been adversely affected by famine and drought. We are working on a very

tight budget but GRA is determined to continue supporting education through feeding programmes in these schools. GRA provides lunch – a proper meal consisting of maize, rice and beans to over 900 pupils in three primary schools; Kiukuni Primary School, Miting'ani Primary School and Utaati Primary School.

Case:

Utaati primary school is situated in Okia division, in Makueni District with approximately 450 pupils and only 9 teachers. It is located in a semi arid area where agricultural activities are poor. GRA started a feeding programme in Utaati in January 2009 thanks to GRA Ball 2008.

Breakdown of Feeding Programme Costs:

Cost during year	2009	2008
	€	€
Utaati Primary School	2,284	1,520
Mitingani Primary School	1,548	990
Kiukuni Primary School	1,548	1,070
Total	5,380	3,580

2.1.2 Employment of a teacher in Mugiko Primary School

GRA sponsors a teacher in Mugiko Primary School, Mr. Harrison, who reduces the overcrowded classes of up to 120 pupils and improves the education standards of the school. The salary of Mr. Harrison costs GRA €1,300 per annum.



Maria with Mr. Harrison July 2008



A class of Mugiko Primary school

2.1.3 Secondary School Scholarship Programme

The education System in Kenya consists of eight years primary education and four years of secondary education. Primary education has been free after 1999 but small fee is still required. Secondary education is not free in Kenya and most rural families do not have the means to support a child through the four years.

The student scholarship programme is set up to educate students who cannot afford post-primary education and deserve the opportunity. GRA expanded the Secondary School Educational Fund in January 2009. Five new students joined secondary school in 2009 (with funding commitment of 4 years per student). This fund has been the key to reduce poverty through embracing education. The fund has mainly concentrated on the areas where our/Mafanikio projects are based. All the students are being provided with school fees, basic needs and school requirements upon joining form 1 and through to completion of form 4.

At the end of the first term this year (April 4th 2009), the students participated in a one-day meeting where we gathered feedback on their progress; they interacted and learned from each other; and exchanged ideas with mentors. A second meeting was held on August 10th. (Note: minutes of these meetings are available). A third follow-up meeting is scheduled for December, during the next school break.

The students in the Secondary School Scholarship Programme:

Group 1A

Dennis Ngugi Maina
Benjamin Mabwa K
Joshua Muiga Maina

Group 2

Mercy Ngerere
Veronica Karathi
Tabitha Wambui
Wanjiru Gakunga
Paul Kanyi
Irene Ngunju Ndonga
Beth Njeri Wambui
Godfrey Kamae
Simone Njoroje
Stanley Njuguna
Stephen Kibe

Esther Gathoni Ndungu
Monica Wanjiru Muhoro
Mercy W Kamau
Teresia Wambui Wairimu
Muslim Huka

Group 3A

James Njuguna Muthoni
Christine Miso
Edward Msafiri Mwacharo
Farouq Wandati
Mwajuma Swale
David Muema Mwendwa

Group 3B

Makame Feisal Omar
Kithome Anna Katunge
Irungu Maina Emmanuel
Moses Maingi Mbali

Miriam Ndunge David
Mwinzi Aquline Ndanu
Bishamba Abdalla
Anna Martha Shali Sio
David Waweru
Peter Muhoro
John Kamau

Francis Njuguna
Rahab Waithera
Teresia Nyambura
Ann Wanjira
Peter Kuria
Benson Muturi



June 2008 Sponsored student in Bongo and Gakoe Secondary School



August 2009 Student Meeting Nairobi

2.1.4 Third Level Scholarship Programme

GRA is currently evaluating potential female candidates for sponsorship in University to commence in October 2009.

2.1.5 Repair and Renovation of two classrooms in Kiukuni Primary School

In May and June 2009, GRA and our partner, Mafanikio Community Based Organisation, undertook the urgent project of repairing and renovating two classrooms in Kiukuni Primary School, located in Okia division, Makueni district, Eastern Province of Kenya. The 200+ students in Kiukuni School are recipients in the GRA Feeding Programme. It is a very dry area and we continue to struggle with finding long-term sustainable water solutions. The primary school had been badly damaged earlier in the year and two classrooms' roofs had been blown off, making learning conditions dangerous and simply, unbearable.

Therefore, after consultation with the community, GRA sponsored the repair of the roofs and the classroom structures, which began in May. In June, the Mafanikio work camp with 9 participants (4 from Ireland and 5 from Kenya) joined the community to

complete the classrooms. The work included; cementing of the classroom (which involved fetching stones, water and sand); painting the classes inside and outside and; decorating the classes with pictures, alphabets and numbers murals. The volunteers also helped with teaching the children, which has drastically improved the children's self esteem, confidence and command of the English language.

Cost: €1,900



Re-roofing in Kiukini Primary School



New roof



Repaired classroom in Kiukini



Cementing the classroom



Work-camp collecting water



The View from Kiukini

2.1.6 Employment of Nurse

The Bangladesh slum of Mombassa has a population of 150,000 all of whom live in informal settlements with irregular systems of tenure. Bangladesh is a crowded, densely populated area of five square kilometres. Initial estimates would suggest that 80% of residents live in a single room measuring two by three metres without access to proper sanitation or lighting. Most of those who are in employment earn less than €60 per month and still spend as much as 20% of this salary on their small rented room.

Fr. Dolan and the St Patrick's Missionary Society (Kiltegan Fathers) are constructing a multi-purpose centre that will provide the focus for our development and human

rights work in the community. They provide services in health, recreation and human rights advocacy work to the residents.

GRA is assisting the community with the salary of a community nurse who supervises the distribution of anti-retrovirals and treatment for people with Aids. Currently the area has 20% infection rate for HIV. GRA pays the salary and allowances for the nurse. The salary is €3,000 per annum and a €620 housing and travelling allowances equal a total of €3,620.

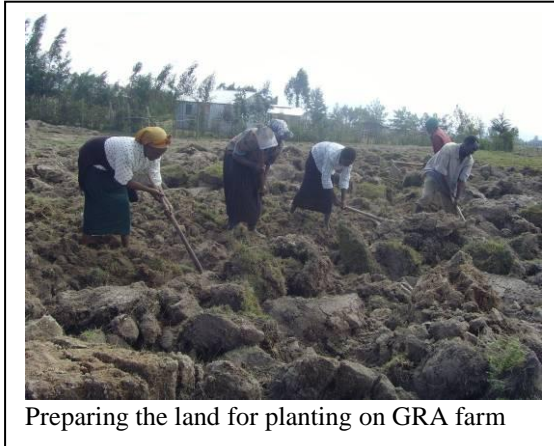
2.1.7 Farms and Settlement Programme- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

GRA and Mafanikio support the displaced persons (from post election crisis 2008) through a farm empowerment project that has enabled the families regain subsistence, dignity and empowerment. GRA is currently targeting 40 families, who moved to Kamae Location in Lari District in Central Province to seek refuge. The farm project was part of an overall project. The short and long-term objectives include settling displaced persons in their new homes; providing the school feeding programme to affected children who have joined local schools; empowering the displaced people in order to provide for their families; offering counselling and through sustainability investment.

The Empowerment programme through a farming project involves communal farming for 40 families. This aims to ensure that most families can provide for basic needs. For every acre, three families will work for their sustenance. This aims to empower families to sustain their families without being dependent on aid. The Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Farm has had important impacts in 2009. After the first harvest, the IDPs were able to provide basic needs to their families and some of them sent their children to school. Kenya is experiencing drought conditions, although there have been rains in Kirasha where the farm is located as it is in highlands. The contract on the farm extends until September/October 2009. Therefore, the IDPs continue with this project until such a time, when they will make a decision whether they can sustain the lease or otherwise. This project has immensely benefited them, enabling them access uniforms and daily meals for their children and above all, house rent for their homes.

[Recap: No cost in 2008/2009 period

Total



2.1.8 Borehole

GRA continues to work with Mafanikio and others on the Mkwiro Water Project (in the coast province of Kenya, Msambweni District, Mkwiro Island Village). The project is currently awaiting a treatment plant. MCBO/GRA have been granted an Electric aid grant (part of ESB) for funding for this plant (pending receipt of funds). An agreement between GRA and Mafanikio confirms GRA as legal ownership of the Borehole/Plant, held for the benefit of community members. The grant will cover a desalination plan for the borehole. The borehole digging and well construction project was undertaken in 2008, in partnership with Mafanikio community based organisation that runs the project on the ground. The Geologists surveyed and selected an appropriate site in January 2008, the ground surveys began and the area was prepared. Diana Chipso from Mafanikio, GRA's partner, has visited the village regularly to start the process of community empowerment around this new investment.

GRA recognises the right to water and that access to water is a major concern for communities in Sub-Saharan Africa. The island has a population of 1,700 people and their biggest problem is clean drinking and domestic water. In a developing country, access to safe and clean drinking water can be a life or death problem.

[Recap: 2007/2008 Total Cost €8,520]



2.1.9 International volunteer work camps, women empowerment group, youth group.

GRA continues to be representative for volunteers to go on three-week volunteer work-camps and longer term placements to Kenya with Mafanikio.

GRA continues to support the Kirasha Woman Empowerment Group. The Kamae Youth Empowerment Club is currently being re-structured.

2.2 Fundraising Activities

- GRA Ball 2008
- Donations/ Fundraising

The main fundraising activity of GRA 2008-2009 was the second GRA Ball. The GRA Ball took place on the 26th of September 2008. The event was attended by 300 guests in the D4 Hotels, Dublin. GRA raised over €40,000 net funds for GRA projects. The Ball was a glamorous black tie event with had top Irish celebrity couple Pippa O'Connor as MC and Brian Ormond as celebrity charity auctioneer. Other guests on the night included Irish Rugby player Jamie Heaslip, the Ambassador of Kenya H. E



Donna Walsh and Maria Butler
Committee Member and Founder



Amb. Green Josiah, a former Amb of Kenya to Australia and Canada,
Maria Butler (Founder of GRA), the Kenyan Ambassador to Ireland,
H.E Ms Catherine Muigai Mwangi, Brian Ormond (GRA Ball Auctioneer)
and Pippa O'Connor (GRA Ball 2008 MC).

Ms Catherine Muigai Mwangi and the Escort of the Year, Donal Droney and several 2008 Roses of Tralee. Guests enjoyed entertainment from a Gospel Choir, Eoin O’Toole as Guitarist, Emma Martin as Harpist, Good Intentions as the special featured Band and DJ Hanny. The Auctioneer, Brian Ormond, presided over the Ball’s charity auction, which brought in €9,700. The auction featured a signed Irish Rugby Jersey, a signed Print from Irish Golfing Legend Padraig Harrington with the Claret Jug at Carnoustie (limited edition), a weekend in Jurys Inn, a Sunderland Signed Jersey, a date with the Rose’s Number 1 ‘Escort of the Year’ and a luxury K-Club Get Away with Helicopter trip. At the Ball, Maria Butler, founder of GRA delivered the key not address and shared with the audience her anecdote when she was told “you’ve really got the grá” which began this initiative. She told the audience in a humble and honest manner... “Ladies and Gentlemen, tonight we’ve all got the grá!”. Guests from the Irish corporate world included those from Anglo Irish Bank, Ascon/Rohcon, Foster McArteer, and Century Management.

Additional funds have been raised through fundraising. Friends and supporters of GRA also have contributed some amounts during the year.

In March 2009, Andy Butler from Myshall, Co.Carlow, trekked in Nepal- a great adventure to Everest Base Camp. Andy raised almost €2,000 for GRA.

On June 1st, an enthusiastic GRA Team took part in the Dublin Mini Marathon. GRA team members included: Donna Walsh, Caoimhe McWeeney, Laura Brett, Deirdre Gallagher, Aoife Garry, Brenda Dalton, Ali Murray and Grainne Crowley. They raised €2,030.



2.3 Volunteering activities

GRA represents and facilitates international volunteers to experience three-week volunteer work-camps and longer term placements in Kenya with Mafanikio, GRA's partner.

GRA facilitates community work camps in the marginalised areas of Kenya. The camps are open to people who wish to volunteer and experience a different kind of life from their daily routine. Volunteers live and work together with the community towards a mutual goal. During this period, the volunteers get an opportunity of exposure through interaction with local and other different cultures; they encountered third world development challenges, conflict resolution and get an opportunity to visit local Kenyan sceneries, game parks and coastline.

The community in turn interacts with different cultures; gets motivated by the volunteer's spirit, learn new ideas and explore other development ideas within them. Fee for work camp participants is €350 to cater for food, accommodation, drinking water, airport transfer, transport to work camp and government clearance fee. This fee is paid directly to Mafanikio. GRA provides fundraising facilities through www.mycharity.ie for volunteers, advice and encourages volunteers to continue their involvement upon their return. The money raised for the work camps by volunteers is the responsibility of the volunteers themselves.

In addition to volunteering overseas, GRA enlists a vast variety of volunteers at home including; graphic designers, website providers, accountants, solicitors, musicians, publicans and public relation representatives to help with GRA's work in terms of fundraising. Donations in kind include a wide range of raffle prizes and services.

3 Beneficiaries

3.1 Mafanikio Community Based Organisation (MCBO)

MCBO was set up in 2003 to fight poverty in the marginalized regions of Kenya. The organization is registered with the Kenyan Ministry of Culture and Social Services Programmes. Diana Chipo is the Co-Coordinator of MCBO.

Contact details:

Diana Chipo,
Mafanikio Community Based Organization
Jamia Plaza opposite Meridian Court Hotel
3rd floor door 5, P.O. BOX 26303 00504 Nairobi, Kenya
Telephone: +254-720825340
www.mafanikio.com; info@mafanikio.com

3.2 Fr. Gabriel Dolan, St Patrick's Missionary Society (Kiltegan Fathers)

Fr. Dolan runs the multi-purpose centre in the Bangladesh slum of Mombasa. He has lived in Kenya for over 25 years.

Contact details:

Catholic Church Bangladesh,
P.O. Box 92253,
MOMBASA 80102
KENYA
Telephone: +254 -710 450113
Email: gdolan54@gmail.com

3.3 Mr. Simon Muthama, Head Teacher, Mugiko Primary School

Simon Muthama is the Principal in Mugiko Primary School, which has over 1000 students. Simon is also a community leader.

Contact details:

Mugiko Primary School
P.O. BOX 180
Matathia, CODE 00221, Kenya
Telephone: + 254-721595509

3.4 David Njuguna, Chairman of Kirasha Children Centre

David Njuguna is a community leader and chairman in Kirasha Children Centre. David and his family also host international volunteers through Mafanikio Volunteer Programmes.

Contact details:

Sulmac Primary School,
P.O Box 27, 00227, Kinale, Kenya
Telephone: 00254-725654410

4 Bankers of the Charity

The bankers of the Charity is Allied Irish Banks plc, 100 – 101 Grafton Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Bank Account Number: 24242050

Sort Code: 93-10-47

5 Income & Disbursements for the Period ended 30 June 2009

	Year ended 30 June 2009	Period ended 30 June 2008
	€	€
<u>Income</u>		
GRA Ball Income	60,682	58,142
GRA Ball Expenditure	(17,679)	(17,459)
GRA Ball	43,003	40,683
Donations	8,477	11,191
Miscellaneous Income	23	21
Total Income	51,503	51,895
<u>Disbursements</u>		
Health (Nurse Salary)	3,620	
Bore Hole	-	8,520
Feeding Programme	5,380	3,580
Community	1,900	4,680
Teacher Salaries	1,300	1,630
Educational Sponsorship	11,207	7,010
Administrative Expenses	562	
Total Disbursements	23,969	25,420
Retained Funds for the year	27,534	26,475
Retained Funds brought forward	26,475	-
Retained Funds carried forward	54,009	26,475

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2009

Assets	As at 30 June 2009 €	As at 30 June 2008 €
Bank Account	54,009	26,475
Total Assets	54,009	26,475
Funded By:		
Retained Funds	54,009	26,475

6 Notes to the Accounts

1. The Charity is not obliged to have the accounts audited due to current income levels.
2. The Charity has no employees and works on a wholly volunteer basis.
3. Some donations which were sourced from the GRA Ball but which were not received until after the event have been classified under donations.
4. The educational sponsorship and feeding programme disbursements represented two term's funding (one year) for the pupils.
5. The accounts are prepared in Euro as this is the main fundraising currency of the Charity. However, some disbursements are made in Kenyan Shilling.
6. Miscellaneous income relates to interest earned on the bank account.
7. Admin expenses are comprised as follows:

Administrative Expenses	2009	2008
MyCharity.ie Registration Fee	486	-
Bank Charges	76	-
Total	562	-

We consider that these costs are necessary for the efficient and effective management of the Charity and to promote its cause. We keep these costs to a minimum and consider carefully any costs and their benefits before committing to them.

8. The relatively high level of cash at the end of the period is being maintained in order to ensure that the Charity's commitments have

been met. These funds will be disbursed to projects over the coming years as we have undertaken to support educational sponsorship and the feeding programme over a medium-term period.

Signed: Date:

Maria Butler, Founder of GRA Charity