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The Nest Home



Within the context of the takeover of the SOCABELEC company by John Cockerill and of the founding of Cockerill East Africa in Kenya, the John Cockerill Foundation has decided to support 'The Nest Home' located at Limuru (southern Kenya).



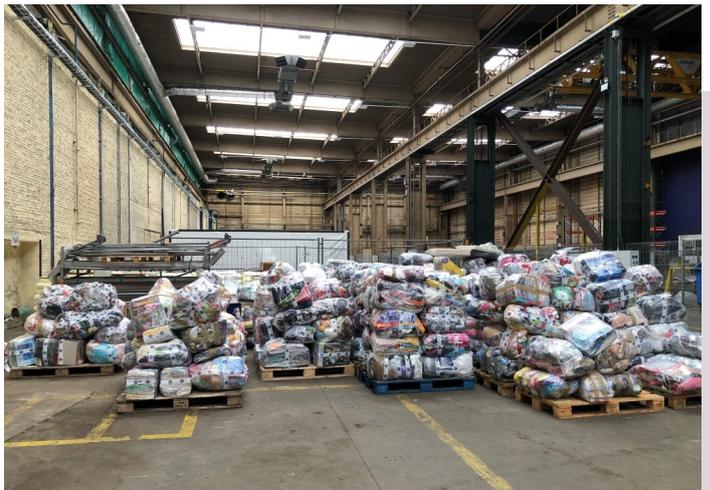
The Nest Home is a welcome centre for children and babies (born in prison or not) whose parents have died or been imprisoned, and assists mothers coming out of prison with reinsertion. It puts in place processes of assistance and social and economic reintegration (welcome, education, medical care, schooling...). There are currently around a hundred children and some thirty infants under the charge of the association. The internationally recognized association does not receive finance from the African state but survives thanks to funding which essentially comes from abroad (Germany and Austria).

To lend its support to this association, in June 2018 the John Cockerill Foundation decided to organize a **collection** for children of 0 – 15 years (clothing, educational items in English, computer equipment...) and to develop a project which would provide **an energy and water provision solution** for the centre. This latest project officially came into being on June 20th 2019 and provides the 150 residents of the centre with a respectable quality of life which helps them, on a daily basis, to overcome their trauma and which facilitates their social integration.

Thank you to all the volunteers for their commitment, their generosity, and the time they have given to the success of this fine operation.

A special word of thanks to Audrey, Rokia, Guillaume, Hugo and Julien who have so expertly led this project.

Together we have created a project which gives sense to and demonstrates the values of, our Group. We can be proud of this. #wearejohncockerill



Focus on the collection

To respond to the centre's need for materials and equipment, a collection of clothes, school equipment, computer equipment, toys... for children of 0 – 15 years has been organized within the entities of the Group in Belgium, France and Luxembourg (a perimeter defined for reasons of proximity and logistics).

In the north of France, 329 children also turned to action, encouraged by staff member Loic Tintillier. All of the material was brought to Belgium by a truck which made its way to all of the participating sites and brought back around 4 tonnes of materials to a hall at Seraing (Belgium).

It was in a spirit of happiness and good humour that the preparation and packaging of these materials commenced. Despite a false start caused by a change in legislation requiring repackaging of the goods (in plastic film rather than cardboard boxes) the goods were finally able to head for the port and be loaded into a container, to take their place on a ship bound for Kenya. On 24/08/2019, the container arrived at its destination and the packages were able to be delivered to the welcome centre.



11/19/2018 to 01/18/2019
Collection at the various
site

03/15/2019 to 05/15/2019
(Re)packaging by category
and size

08/24/2019
Arrival at the port in Kenya,
reception and official handover
to the association



01/15/2019 to
02/15/2019
Materials brought to Se-
raing (Belgium) by truck

07/15/2019
Departure of the container
to Kenya by ship



In a few figures:

- 73 John Cockerill sites involved
- More than 250 members of staff active (collectors & volunteers)
- Un nombre incalculable de contributeurs
- 4 tonnes of materials and clothing collected
- 355 parcels
- 41 days at sea

Focus on the energy and water provision solution

To respond to the need and desire of the association to become independent in energy terms, to reduce its energy costs and to store and treat rainwater, the John Cockerill Foundation decided to give it an energy production and storage solution, along with a water filtration solution. These solutions were able to be provided thanks to the technology developed by O-HUB (Innovation lab), to the commitment of the John Cockerill teams in Kenya and to the local partners for delivering and handling the materials.

In concrete terms the **energy solution** is a system which involves the construction of a photovoltaic carport made up of 62 panels, and the installation of a container equipped with batteries connected to the panels. This solution enables the centre to have electricity at all times, which considerably increases the comfort of the life of the residents.





As Limuru is a city at altitude where it is very cloudy and damp and where the temperature can drop as low as 9°C in July, drying clothes can take more than a week (to put this into context, more than 200 items of clothing are washed every day). The centre has now been able to invest in a few clothes dryers, which makes drying the clothes much quicker. Other facilities have also been able to be installed: lighting in the common areas (the night falls instantly at the same hour every day at this latitude), a television which enables the children to watch broadcasts in English once a week, and washing machines. To gain full benefit from this installation, several more pieces of work still have to be carried out (in particular the installation of electricity in the kitchen).

Where water is concerned, a **filtration system for untreated water and for rendering the water of the community drinkable** has been put in place via the Lifestraw® system. Thanks to this, even during dry periods the children have access to drinking water. Currently, some 192 litres of drinking water are being produced every day, which means around 1.6 litres per child per day. In order that the energy and water systems can be used optimally, training of the responsible persons within the community has been organized.

In a few figures:

- 80kWh of energy produced every day
- 192 litres of drinking water produced per day (1,6 litres per child per day (which is 6 times more than previously, and every day))

Those involved in the project



Audrey, Ambassador and heads of coordination of the project

“It was an honour to be able to support such a project in the name of the Foundation, in particular for this association. A pleasure to meet and work with the fantastic O·HUB team with the contribution of the teams of Olivier Lauvaux from Cockerill East Africa, those of Balteau and all of those persons involved in the successful achievement of the project within the different entities of the Group.”

Rokia, coordinator of the collection

“A tremendous and fulfilling experience which brings you right back to basics. From the wave of generosity we were able to observe during the collection to the meeting with such adorable, smiling and positive children, despite what they have been through. It all serves to make us aware of the opportunities we are lucky enough to have and of the necessity of this type of experience and sharing. I would like to thank the Foundation for making such things possible. We learn with LOVE, we grow with HOPE—with FAITH we fly, these words inscribed on the walls of the school reflect what I felt at Limuru... I will miss these children and their smiles. I wish them all the best.”



Guillaume, Hugo & Julien, O·HUB team

“The Nest project has been a long and very fulfilling adventure from all points of view. Not only does the project serve a worthy cause, which gives sense to our work, but on top of that it has been the occasion for us to confront reality on the ground. From the preliminary discussions to final execution, via the collaboration with our partners, this was a story of setbacks and success. We are extremely proud to have seen this project come to a successful conclusion and to have worked on it with the teams of the John Cockerill Foundation.”

Guillaume : “I am very proud to have been part of this project with such a positive impact.”

Hugo : “ I have learned a lot and been really happy to work with the team of the Foundation !”

Julien : “This project was really fulfilling! A super experience.”



1. Cockerill East Africa team
2. Olivier, Director of Cockerill East Africa; Hugo & Julien
3. Claudio, responsible for shipping the container
4. Simon, responsible for shipping the container



Find all the photos & videos of the project:

- Mike intranet - John Cockerill Foundation desk - « The Nest »
- John Cockerill Foundation Youtube Channel