

# Travel diary

## Nairobi, Kenya



Supporting Alliance for African Mobility

FROM: Spain, Asociación Mundus  
TO: Kenya, Don Bosco Boys Town Technical School

25/01/2021 - 30/01/2021

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# Travel diary

## Nairobi, Kenya

### Let's discover our two mobility experts

*Enrique Miana and Beatrice Bellet have travelled in many countries all around Europe and other continents, but **Kenya is their first African experience.** Let's begin!*



**ENRIQUE MIANA**  
President of Asociación Mundus

As president in Mundus, he is involved in different parts of SAAM at an administrative and financial level, but also strategic. He has a lot of experience in VET field, as with youth projects. He is a mobility expert but also a counsellor for many aspects of SAAM.

He has been working for more than 20 years in the area of cooperation programs for private companies and public institutions as an expert consultant. Enrique is a recognized trainer by the executive Agency EACEA and the Erasmus + programme. He was for several years the general coordinator for mid-term evaluation training for EVS in Spain. He is also part of the REPLAY network that manages the EVS training cycle in Italy.

### **BEATRICE BELLET**

#### Head of Strategic Projects department in Asociación Mundus

Béatrice is coordinating SAAM through Mundus but she also takes part as a field worker. She is the SAAM GIRL because she wrote the project in 2019 and she knows its essence like no one. Therefore, Beatrice brings strong experience and a unique point of view in SAAM.

She is an interpreter translator in French-English and Spanish with a Master in Interpretation with a speciality in Geopolitics. She has worked on European projects since 2003 in various programs of the European Commission, all related to lifelong learning and capacity building among groups under risk of exclusion. She has coordinated the EUROPRO platform of the Government of Aragon, which provides training and technical assistance in the presentation of international projects to the entities of the Third Sector of the Aragon community. She has written, managed and justified more than 40 projects that have brought together more than 150 entities throughout Europe.



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# Travel diary

## Nairobi, Kenya

*Monday, January 25th*

### Highlights

On our first day, we were welcomed at the school's general assembly. We met Brother Francis, the principal, with whom we talked about SAAM. Later Motemi, the school's discipline coordinator, gave us a tour around Don Bosco Boys Town. The rest of the day was spent talking to the teachers and discovering all the workshops and specialities of the school.

We arrived on Sunday night. From the window seat we could see the first image of Nairobi at the same time we could feel our nerves and all our illusion. We got goosebumps when we spotted Brother Francis holding a sign and waiting for us super excited. We finally made it!!! **After so many months we were here and SAAM became REAL.**



Monday morning arrived without noticing and at 8 a.m. we attended the **general assembly starting the week**. We were in the courtyard, mixed between the staff and students who were lining up, living the moment with much intensity. The ceremony to raise the Kenyan flag started, then we prayed and listened carefully to some general directions from the director, Father John. After that, we were introduced and we made a brief speech about who we are, what we do and why we were there. Most of them were already quite well informed about our role and SAAM project!

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## Nairobi, Kenya

### Monday, January 25th



After the introduction, we met with Brother Francis and had the opportunity to talk deeper about SAAM, reviewing the agenda and talking about the project and future mobilities. At the same time, Father John, the director, briefly explained the leadership roles of Don Bosco Schools in Africa, what an amazing net!

Before leaving for the school tour that Motemy, coordinator of "discipline", had prepared for us, **we signed the guest book, hoping that our signatures would be a symbol of all the traces that SAAM will leave on all of us.**

**Motemi took us on a visit to the different workshops:** engineering blending, electricity and electronics, fashion design, builders, solar energy, plumbing, carpenters, mechanics, welding, secretary and beauty and hairdressers, where we were able to talk with the teachers. The rest of the visit included a social room, library, computer room, staff seminar and ITC room.



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## Nairobi, Kenya

### Monday, January 25th

In fact, the education of the students is admirable. All of them attend classes with great attention and are very polite also during class change and outside of school hours. It was a pleasant first day, in which we felt very welcomed.



### FACTS OF THE SCHOOL



- The school requires the use of English with priority to Swahili.
- Motemy ensures compliance with the rules, while guiding his 272 students (150 boarders and 22 teachers), mainly formed by young students who have lived the same way that the new students live now but with more experience, adding a lot of value to teaching.
- Some workshops have a production unit, and therefore receive external orders, such as carpentry, mechanics and construction.
- Guess what?  
All facilities are cleaned by the teachers and students at the end of the day!

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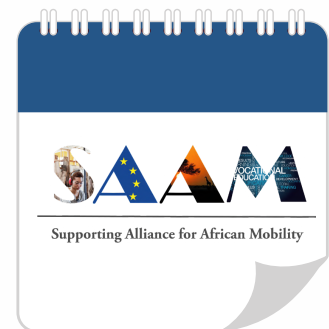
 **Nairobi, Kenya**

*Tuesday, January 26th*

## Highlights

Tuesday was dedicated to present and disseminate SAAM. First, we met with the teachers and later with the Salesians. We talked about all aspects, from the Erasmus programme and the European Commission to the phases and planned mobilities in the project. We ended the day having dinner with the Salesian volunteers.

Tuesday was without any doubt SAAM's day, since we dedicated the whole day to presentation and dissemination. In the morning we started with the teachers (despite the fact that only those from the engineering area will be able to participate, all the trainers from the different education fields attended!), introducing Mundus and SAAM in depth, as well as the future mobilities that the Don Bosco Boys town school could do.



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## Nairobi, Kenya

*Tuesday, January 26th*





Later we went to the lodge, recharge our batteries with a tasty meal and got back to work. **We met virtually with San Viator and with the Salesians**, spoke about the ERASMUS program and the European Commission as well as SAAM management team, defined the roles of San Viator and Mundus, and different stages of SAAM and the mobilities for its center. We still can smell the fantastic coffee we shared with the congregation after such a long and intense work day.

**Our visit there made the difference in SAAM's knowledge:** despite the fruitful online meetings, the communication materials for dissemination... they were able to understand better how SAAM will move from paper to reality. Listening to Brother Francis experiences as the mobility they did in Sweden for 3 months, helped us to add ideas and improve all the processes established in the project. **As we all agreed, there is no better way to explain the project and the activities that await them than in person.** How lucky we were!

Last but not least, we ended the day going out for **dinner with the Salesians volunteers:** Horst, Kuba and Dominika. What a wonderful way to finalize the day!

### DID YOU KNOW



-  *Jambo!* This is how you greet in Swahili. Also known by its native name Kiswahili, this is the most widely spoken Bantu language. In fact, it is a mix between Bantu and Arabic and was born around the 10th century.
-  Although the exact number of speakers is up for debate, it is the mother tongue of around 5 million people. But pay attention, as a second language, it is spoken by between 100 and 150 million people!

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 **Nairobi, Kenya**

**Wednesday, January 27th**

## Highlights

On Wednesday, we met with the students to introduce them to SAAM through a non-formal education session. In the afternoon, we visited DT Dobbie, one of the most important companies that collaborate with the Don Bosco school, with Brother Francis.

We woke up with great emotion... **The day to talk to the students had arrived!** They are the main reason why SAAM exists and, therefore, we could not wait more to hear their feelings and opinions. The center selected two participants by specialization, who were the ones who participated in the session that we prepared. **In total there were 28 young students of different ages and all of them opened up to us, letting us know about their fears and expectations.**



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# Travel diary

 **Nairobi, Kenya**

*Wednesday, January 27th*

In the afternoon we had a visit scheduled to **DT Dobie**, so we drove to the industrial zone specialized in mechanics and automotive in the city. Our new friend Brother Francis, the principal of Don Bosco Boys Town, joined us for the visit. When we arrived, Andrew Kinyua, deputy director of the plant, was waiting for us.



Throughout the visit we had a very interesting talk about DT Dobie's expectations regarding the internship program and the suitability of the students' qualifications.

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## Nairobi, Kenya

### *Wednesday, January 27th*

Speaking about SAAM, **Andrew told us that in the future it is very interesting for him to have workers who have been able to do their internships in European companies.** For him, it opens their eyes to different working methods and business structures with a different model.

In addition, he also told us how much he would appreciate if the students increased their interest in environmental protection, as well as their knowledge of electrically powered automobiles. We take note of it!

### FACTS OF DT DOBBIE



It is part of the largest dealer and workshop groups in Kenya. Is the most important repair shop for trucks and buses and has a huge workshop for maintenance and repair of Mercedes-Benz, Nissan and Volkswagen brands.

Every year welcomes second-year mechanics students from Don Bosco school for a 3-month internship. During this time, the students take turns in all the positions in the workshop in order to develop all the skills and abilities of a mechanic. A company tutor monitors them weekly and accredits technical learning.

DT Dobbie has an internal school-workshop. This not only allows external internship students to attend a theoretical session with their tutor, but also opens a 3-year private qualification program as a high-level mechanic. They offer theoretical classrooms and a school workshop with vehicles of high standing brands to carry out practices. This program, founded by the company itself, is controlled and accredited by the Ministry of Education.

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 **Nairobi, Kenya**

**Thursday, January 28th**

## Highlights

On Thursday, we worked mainly on the strategy with the Don Bosco Tech Africa network and learned about the schools that are part of it. We were joined by Father George, DBTA director Father TJ, project manager Roland Kornhaeusl, communication and administration managers Nancy Ndung'u and Lucy Musili Nzambi, and project technician Jean Nepo.



And without realizing it ... 3 days have passed and we are on Thursday! **We are at the Don Bosco Tech Africa (DBTA) offices**, located on the 12th floor of an office building, and we dedicate the day to analyze the tasks, responsibilities and challenges that might appear in the schools that are part of the DBTA network, to carry out balances on the current situation of SAAM and to schedule future meetings that involve them both at the level of partners and the Steering Committee.

It turned out to be a very productive day, **with the presence of** Father George, with the DBTA director Father TJ, with the project manager Roland Kornhaeusl, the communication and administration managers Nancy Ndung'u and Lucy Musili Nzambi, and with project technician Jean Nepo.



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## Nairobi, Kenya





**Thursday, January 28th**



We were lucky to learn about the extensive network of schools that are part of DBTA and the importance of PDOs (Provincial Developing Offices) when it comes to conflict resolution, special requests...

In our agenda, it was of course compulsory to meet with the EU delegates in Kenya and to inform them about the project and its ongoing activities in Kenya. We shared a "social distance" coffee with Barbra Alot, Policy Monitoring and Evaluation and Elisabeth Magnes, Political Officer (JPD), both from the European Union Delegation to Kenya.

### FACTS OF NAIROBI'S MARKETS

-  Nairobi is packed with markets across the city, accompanied by voices crying out "This is Africa, opportunities everywhere."
-  Brother Francis took us to various markets called "Chaukeli", which means "business under the sun". One of the biggest in Nairobi is Kariakoo, this is a beautiful market.
-  Depending on what is sold in them, they are concentrated by areas.
-  Most of them are second-hand, because recycling over waste prevails in the city.



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# Travel diary

 **Nairobi, Kenya**

*Friday, January 29th*

## Highlights

Mostly, we spent Friday preparing for SAAM's intermediate meeting, which is expected to take place in June 2021.

The week continues to advance and we come to the last business day. How quickly time passes in such good company! Besides, that day **we had our eyes and hopes set on both the present and the future.**

A visit to the hotel consortium where the **intermediate meeting** is scheduled to be held in June 2021, awaited us. Roland and Dann, accompanied us during this time. During the visit, we went through all the facilities and checked all the details that are going to be important in a few months, such as meeting rooms, Wi-Fi connection or outdoor activities that will be offered to guests. We are around 50 participants, and **we want to take care of all the details.**



Without a doubt, **the place is spectacular!**

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## Nairobi, Kenya

*Friday, January 29th*


What better place to live the African experience than a hotel surrounded by nature?



**Maasai Lodge** is located about 12 km from the center of Nairobi, within the National Park!

### DID YOU KNOW

**Ugali:** is the name for the main dish in Nairobi. It is made with corn flour and is a kind of porridge made from ingredients with a high starch content. Can be served hot or cold. To help 'lower it', the ideal is to drink fresh milk or fermented.

**Mnazi:** One of the most traditional drinks together with Uki Uki, tea and coffee. It is a palm tree wine served with linden. It is really delicious, although it should be drunk in moderation if you don't want to be extremely happy! 

*yummy!*



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# Travel diary

## Nairobi, Kenya

*Saturday, January 30th*

### Highlights

During our last day, we celebrated the International Don Bosco Day with the whole Salesian educational community and their friends and families. There we said goodbye and thanked them for a wonderful week.

In many countries, we long for Saturday's arrival, as it is usually one day to rest and disconnect. You try to make plans to switch off your mind and brighten your soul. However, any expectations fell short of what was actually waiting for us: **the celebration of the International Day of Don Bosco!**

The place chosen for the celebration was the Don Bosco Boys Town Technical Institute. **The entire Salesian educational community**, as well as friends and family, attended the event. When we arrived early in the morning, we realized that it was a great holiday for everyone.



**The celebration began with a mass.** In Spain, where we come from, masses are usually synonymous with silence and austerity. On the contrary, here the chapel was full and festive. Respect continues to prevail, but young people live religion with great ease and joy, as we could realize, as more than half of mass time was songs and dances. Thanks to this way of communicating, it seemed that even the shyest person could break through that barrier. **Attending it in live was incredible.** After mass, they invited us to have coffee and sweets.

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 **Nairobi, Kenya**




## Saturday, January 30th

Later, we all went to the "social" room, which is the room where the events are held. Once there, **we had the honour to sit in the place of the special guests.** From that place, we enjoyed the different performances, such as the Scouts club, the Journalism club, the dance and singing club, the Karate club, and many others.



Respect for the figure of Don Bosco and his mission was latent all the time, uniting them all. It is understandable, taking into account that young people with fewer opportunities are offered the education of Don Bosco centres, offering them a future, thanks to practical studies that will allow them to carve out their own future. After all the emotions of the day and of the week, they made one of us go on stage. Quique did it and **thanked all of them because even though "we were the experts", we learned much more from them than the other way around.**

### FACTS OF DON BOSCO'S DAY

-  For Don Bosco day: the inner street of the school complex was adorned with flags and there was an incessant swarming of students preparing for the day.
-  At 9:00 a.m. a special mass was scheduled, at 10:30 a.m. exhibitions and student shows, at 1:00 p.m. a shared meal and, finally, games in the afternoon.
-  There are huge respect and admiration for teachers. The students praised and thanked them many times for their work. We even got to see how a retiring teacher was brought up on stage to dance and to receive some gifts.

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# Travel diary

 **Nairobi, Kenya**

## Special thanks for the accommodation at: THE ORIONE SISTERS RESIDENCE



The residence is pretty well located, just 150m from the School, on the other side of the road. The building is surrounded by a closed field and with a large portal that remains closed day and night. How cute are the animals you can find outside of the building: cows, goats, rabbits and chickens!



During our stay, our new family was composed of 7 sisters (4 novices and 3 nuns) in which Sister Margareth is the superior one. Our sisters carry out the hard and lovely task of taking care of the poor and orphaned children of the city and help in dining rooms and slams. If you are wondering if they speak English.... They all do!



In this lovely residence, we can find accommodation for 36 people in single and double rooms, and many people use it throughout the year, so they are very used to attending external people with great charm, that always characterizes them.

The schedules despite being marked on the welcome sheet are adapted to each case. At least that's how they did it with us. Everyday we were asked what were our preferences for breakfast and if we were going to have lunch or dinner there.

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# Travel diary

 **Nairobi, Kenya**





## Special thanks for the accommodation at: THE ORIONE SISTERS RESIDENCE



The sisters are discreet and shy but if you listen carefully, you can hear them singing in the morning and also at night time sometimes. We felt they loved to listen and wanted to know a bit more of us. **Little by little and day after day we established a trustful relationship and became more fond of each other.**

### FACTS OF ORIONE SISTERS RESIDENCE



-  The rooms are spacious, simple and clean with an ensuite bathroom.
-  Linen and bath towels are provided and changed every two days. You can find the same kind of service as in any hotel but with the advantage of being with the best company and distributed around a beautiful patio where a chapel is located.
-  There is good access to Wi-Fi and both electricity and running water are powered by solar energy. Also we had a power outage throughout the room.
-  You can also find a large dining room and the laundry room and the space to work is also a plus!

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