



Newsletter 16 – Spring 2013

Are we alleviating poverty?

This was the question I posed to the team who have been working on the pig project for the last 3 years. It was met with a resounding **YES**.

Since that initial loan the programme has: - 35 pigs in 4 different locations; a bank account in credit and the members have a sustainable source of income from which they can pay the school fees of their children, improve their homes and improve their health.

3 years ago, they say, they had no plans for the future, but now they do. Now they are happy and positive, now they have self-determination. Poverty can be beaten. As a business model it is one that we are going to copy and use in other communities.

It has been a privilege to have been able to work with such warm and wonderful people.



Anna Paulo



Juliana and Grace the shopkeeper

Building business, building futures – LTT Micro-Loan Programme

We have now completed the first year of the micro-loan programme and we are so proud of the success it has brought. From a £60 loan some people have established businesses that have made £160 PROFIT. With this level of income they could be on way to climbing out of extreme poverty. When you consider that some of the women needed help completing the application forms and most of them have never run a business before, the outcome has been a revelation.

49 loans were made and only 4 have been granted extra time to repay. With the loan interest being inflation-linked the money can go round and round and provide a sustainable pool of funds for the future. With their profits houses have been improved, school fees been paid and clothes and food bought.

The people are excitedly looking for new opportunities. The groundnut seller wants to buy and sell sunflower oil. Door to door sales folk want to breed goats and pigs and those who were employed to smash rocks in the quarry are now employing people to do the work. More people want to join the loan scheme and those who did well as are asking for greater loans to help them with their more ambitious projects. We hope to continue investing in such successful futures.

100% Community Led Farming Programme

We have started a new project in the Managhat Community which is targeted at increasing the variety of crops that smallholder farmers are growing so that they can improve their food security, including crops that have greater drought resistance. Working through the local village executive office, who have approved the project, we will be training 10 farmers to establish a tree and vegetable nursery at the school and they will subsequently learn how to transplant, nurture, irrigate and support different crops which they will grow at the school. They then can take the seedlings home as a loan which can be repaid when they harvest them. By working closely with the farmers we will be able to learn from them about the local solutions to their problems as well as get a greater understanding of the gaps in their knowledge.

Our work at the 'demonstration farm' at Waangwaray has helped us identify how the local farmers learn and this is helping us design this project, which is benefiting from greater farmer input and closer training and mentoring. As we work with the farmers developing the programme they are identifying the steps they need to take to achieve success which allows them to do more self-monitoring. As such this is our first 100% community led project. In addition each farmer we train has agreed to become an "ambassador" and train their neighbours so that the impact of the training is greater than just the 10 farmers. We believe that by investing in grassroots capacity building we can help the community to bring about positive change.

Another significant step is that the Waangwaray School Development Committee is setting up a Community Based Organisation (CBO) to run the school farm so that it provides an income to pay for electricity costs but also provides food for the school. As such the students and teachers will have to take greater responsibility for the day to day running which will be an interesting challenge. Through our Farm Manager we will support them with training, planning, accounting and some initial funding and we will monitor their progress.

The Sinai Primary School becomes 2nd Babati school with 3:1 book ratio

The Sinai Primary School has become the 2nd school in Babati that has now got a text book ratio of one book per desk (3 students) per subject for every year group.

Congratulations to Leandre who not only came first in the Year 7 exams for the school but also came first in the ward. We hope for many more A-Grade students in the future.

Last summer we had a dream of converting the garden between the classrooms in to a market garden. We relocated the tap to facilitate this project and I am pleased to report that on my recent trip in Jan/Feb 2013, the garden has been transformed into a flourishing plot with banana, avocado and mango tress, passion vines, tomatoes, peppers, sweet potatoes, aubergine, cucumbers and greens. The abundant produce can be sold to pay for the electricity and the surplus eaten at the school.

The garden is run by Teacher Mollel and the Year 6 students who, as a reward for their work, get seedling vegetables to grow at home. This has become a great way to improve the students' health and to teach farming skills at the same time and also offers a self-help model which can be copied at other schools.



Flourishing Market Garden



From books, marks and classrooms an update: Managhat Primary School



Hand washing station

The Managhat School has come a long way since we started work there in 2011. Our aim is to create a school that provides a safe and inspirational environment in which to learn with enough desks, tables and chairs for all, to have one book per desk per subject per year group. In February we delivered 430 books to the school, which is just a drop in the ocean of what they need and the impact on the exam results will not be for a few years.

The recent exam results, which were not unexpectedly low for a school that has been deprived for so long, provide us with a base line from which to measure progress. The average grades ranged from 29% to 39% with 70% getting less than 40% and only 1 child getting more than 60%. The morning attendance is 88% but because lunch is not yet here the afternoon rates fall to 66%. There is much work to be done to achieve better results.

Last October, a team of students from Leighton Park School in Reading came out with *Inspire Worldwide* to work at the school. Thanks to their amazing hard work and commitment another classroom was fully renovated, more trees were planted in the market garden, murals were painted on the kitchen wall and even classrooms 6&7 got painted.



Dancing for joy when their new text books arrived

School Feeding Programme

We are delighted that despite the poor harvests some of the parents at Waangwaray have continued to feed their children at school and this has allowed us to continue to feed those in greatest need of help - the very poor and the orphans. We are feeding half the school.

The bookkeeping has been very well kept this year by the Maths teacher and we are really pleased to be able to sponsor 50% of a computer training course for her so that she can learn to use excel and other software to support her great work. It was not such good news at Sinai where the parents simply stopped contributing. But in February we encouraged them to restart for this term and so far a third of the school have signed up. It is our policy to only help those who help themselves so contribution is vital. The rains have fallen this year and so we are hopeful that next year the programme at both schools will be up and running across both terms.



Some are getting meals but many are not



DID YOU KNOW?

Previous designs of our stoves had a pipe going through the fire and into a water tank. As the fire heats the pipe, it also heats the water similar to an element in a kettle. The rocket stoves that replaced the old designs had no such facility.

But our new Tractor Stove does, instead of a pipe in the fire we are using the exhaust from the fire. The discarded heat and smoke passes through a pipe that is inside a water tank and as the heat transfers the water gets hot. This water can then be piped to an external water pot which can be accessed by staff and students alike and used for washing up, cleaning hands or even drinking. Simple and smart solutions.

The Kitchen at Kwaraa Secondary School

The cooks at the Kwaraa Secondary School have been feeding 800 students every day from traditional open fires since 2007. In an effort to reduce the large of number of trees being cut down and burned, we introduced fuel efficient stoves. In addition to environmental damage and loss of vegetation, this fuel efficient stove also reduces smoke inhalation and resulting respiratory conditions that are so common place.

The cooks would spend 3 hours cooking each dish, in part because of the quantity needed and also because the heat would be blown away from the large pans.

The development and building of a new fuel efficient kitchen means the food can be cooked in just 30 minutes and the amount of firewood significantly reduced.

We have also donated 271 much needed text books which were gratefully received. It is sad to realise that even at secondary school the resources are scarce. This is just a start and we hope more donations will follow on.

Pictures above (L-R): cooking before, new fuel efficient kitchen, serving the children food, proudly posing with their new books

Student Sponsor Update

Isabella at Singe Secondary School did brilliantly well in her year 2 exams with an average mark of 61% which would have been much better had Maths not pulled her down. The teaching of Maths is recognised as a major problem in Tanzania. Teresia and Rahema also did well, with averages of 57% and 40% coming 11th and 72nd in their year group out of 210.

I am told Phillipa did well but his exams results have not been sent through in time for this newsletter.

We have recently started to sponsor of a new student, this time from Managhat called Malika who, like Leandre from Sinai, came first in his school and first in the ward but whose parents are very poor and he would never have gone on to secondary education.

We would very much like to thank all our donors whose kindness and generosity have helped us achieve all this.