



Registered Charity Number 1119512

Progress from Babati

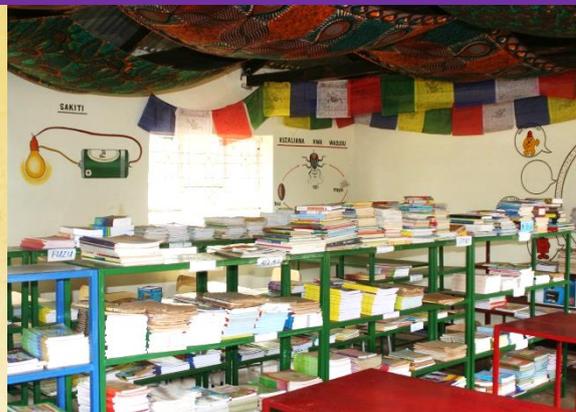
Newsletter 21 – March 2015

Livingstone Tanzania Trust

Your Help Is
Making A Huge
Difference...
Thank You!

In This Issue:

- Teaching English
- Self-Sustaining Schools
- Farmer Training
- Sponsored Students
- Girl Guides
- Solar Lanterns and more



Read Books
Every day
Soma Vita

The newly decorated walls of the Managhat and Sinai Libraries

English Language Teacher Training Programme

All secondary school exams, other than Swahili, are conducted in English which makes learning English in primary school a vital skill that all students need if they are to progress with their education. But sadly far too many bright students fail in their best subjects due to a lack of basic English language. The problem originates in primary schools where many of the teachers, on whom the students rely, struggle to speak English let alone teach it.

18 months ago LTT started work with two retired UK based teachers to design a bespoke course that could build upon existing knowledge and develop skills around everyday words and situations whilst incorporating grammar in a fun and applicable way. With the backing of the Town Education Officer and the Town Director we have started a pilot project at two schools. The course will last 30-40 weeks subject to the speed of each class. The lessons introduce alternative teaching methods to ensure that the lessons are engaging and highly participatory. Early feedback from one school suggests that teachers are enjoying the interactive learning and it has already challenged what they thought they knew. If the pilot proves successful then the Education Officer wants the course rolled out across all 34 primary schools in Babati. The coursework is also being shared with other small Charities seeking to address this problem in their regions.

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The Path to Self-Sustaining Schools

We are very excited to be leading the way by introducing the first ever biogas plant into a primary school in Tanzania. This exciting project intertwines environmental protection with income generation and practical learning. Each aspect of the project has been carefully planned with the school and community leaders to ensure that they understand how the different aspects are interdependent – one failure can have challenging consequences. Four cows and 450 students all contribute their waste to the biogas digester which then produces methane and bio-slurry. The methane is piped to the kitchen where specially designed cookers enable the food to be cooked in a smoke free environment. This means that the school will be totally self-sufficient for cooking energy and no longer add to local deforestation. The bio-slurry will be used to enhance the soil fertility allowing the market gardens to increase production of cow fodder and cash crops. The cows will, at certain times a year, provide between 10-14 litres of milk a day which will be sold to cover the running costs and the profits will be used by the school to maintain their assets.

Name that Cow.....

Our new cows each need a name. If you want the opportunity to name one or more of the female cows after a loved one or otherwise, then please submit a bid to us and the 4 highest bids will have their names allocated to the cows - nothing rude please! Please send bids to julian@livingstonetanzaniatrust.com before 1st April 2015. One word names only please.

Cow pyramid scheme

To get the milk the cows must first give birth. Our plan is to offer the female offspring to members of the community who, in turn, will offer 2 female calves to other families and so on, so that over time many families will benefit from a high yielding cow which alone will take them out of poverty.

School meals

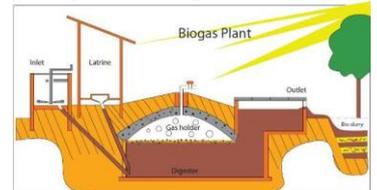
Creating sustainability and avoiding dependency on UK funding is always a challenge, especially for a school meals programme. We designed our programme so that the community food contribution increased annually while UK contributions reduced. To cover the financial costs of the chef, oil and other basic ingredients, we have established, in consultation and full agreement of the teachers, a loan fund. Each year we will loan funds to the teachers to support their small businesses. These loans will be repaid with interest. Some of the interest will guard against inflation and the remaining interest will be used to subsidise the kitchen costs and ensure the meals continue to be provided. The loan repayments are totally managed by the school who guarantee each loan. This simple and effective way of transferring the management and responsibility of the running of the school meals programme to the school forms a vital part of LTT's school exit strategy.



The toilets are connected through underground pipes to the digester while the cow dung is added manually through the right chamber.



Adding the cow dung and urine by hand



The design of the plant



Cow with no name....



Students queuing up for lunch



Kindergarten students enjoying porridge



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Farmer Training and Development



Our 2 year pilot programme working with smallholder farmers in the Managhat community has come to an end and we are very excited by the progress that has brought about significant changes to the lives of the farmers and their families. By combining farmers' skills training with health and business workshops and small loans, every single one of the 25 farmers has improved their knowledge and their yields. Previously focusing on just maize and pigeon peas (a local bean) production, the farmers are now diversifying their income streams by adding cash crops in the form of tomatoes, aubergines, onions and assorted spinach type greens. The resultant increase in household income has enabled homes to be renovated and expanded, children to be well fed, school fees to be paid, livestock to be bought and additional land to be rented. Through LTT's programme the farmers have turned their lives around and now live with greater hope for the future and all are positive about what they can achieve. By working closely with the farmers and monitoring their costs we are able to project their cash flow and assist them manage their money.

The farmers, now our ambassadors in the community, are currently planning how they can play a major role in disseminating their knowledge out into the community so that others can benefit.

Building on the success of this programme, we are seeking to invest in developing 4 new agricultural specialists to provide future training in other communities. We are interviewing secondary school leavers aged 18-24 to attend a 2 year agricultural and livestock management course at the Vocational Training centre in Bacho, Dareda. Our long term vision is to enhance the knowledge within the communities so that all smallholder farmers can diversify their income and improve their lives for themselves.

Sponsored Students and the Helping-Hand Fund

Martina Marcelli (left) grew up in remote Bacho before working as a house girl to fund her secondary school education. She is now waiting for her A level results. She is unsure of what she wants to do next, maybe law maybe something else, but LTT have agreed to support her as she moves forward because she has agreed, when she qualifies and gets paid employment, to set up a "Helping Hand Fund" to support others like her who need support to get from point A to point B in their education. Catherine, who is studying social work in Dar, will also join the fund when she qualifies and the others will join when their time is right.

While Martina waits for her A level results, Isobella, Rahema and Teresia have received their O level results - Isobella got 6 passes, Teresia got 5 passes, while Rahema sadly only got one. Isobella and Teresia are looking to go on to do A levels while Rahema is looking at vocational training courses.

Malaki has just completed his second year of secondary school where he came 4th out of 95 students, with a distinction, one of only 7 in the whole school. His hard work has assured that we can carry on supporting him for at least another 2 years.

Phillipo continues to be top of his class with an average mark of 90%. He has also retained his position as goalkeeper for the Tanzanian under 21 deaf football team, something we will never stop being proud of. Sadly we no longer have a sponsor for Phillip, we need to raise £17 a month to support his on-going education.

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Tanzanian Girl Guides – Manyara Region

Culture is ever evolving as education and other external influences impact on people. Not wishing to be accused of cultural colonialism, LTT believe that some aspects of cultural change ought to come from within. It is for this reason that we support the work of the Tanzania Girl Guide Association - Manyara Region. This NGO is dedicated to the advancement of girls and young women socially and economically by providing them with high quality non formal education programmes and dynamic, flexible and value based training in life skills, leadership and citizenship. The girls and young women come from both Christian and Muslim backgrounds and are working together in harmony to improve the lives of girls in their communities.

Recently the Girl Guides staged demonstrations to “invite parents, society and Government to co-operate together” in eradicating gender abuse and female genital mutilation. This call, made by primary and secondary school girls and young women, is the first step in a campaign to promote the need for girls and women to have a voice in their changing society. In addition the girls have adopted the UN’s ‘HeForShe’ Campaign which encourages boys to stand with the girls in their fight for the same rights that the boys get.

We have helped the leaders establish a Facebook presence, have provided a page for them on our website and have agreed to fundraise on their behalf. If you can spare £2 or £3 a month, that will help them hugely. For more information please visit livingstonetanzaniatrust.com/girlguides.

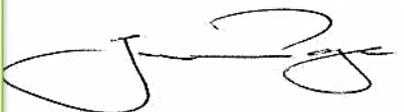
Solar lanterns for Students

Thank you all so much for your fantastic support of the solar lantern appeal, we were delighted to be able to buy enough for each child in all three primary schools. At parent meetings we discussed the importance of their homework and how at the end of the year they must return the lanterns so they can be used year after year. All the parents agreed and were very grateful for your support.

Malangi Primary School

The termites have eaten the rafters in 5 classrooms at the Malangi Primary School and have established a nest in the floor of one classroom. This school is in a very challenging position with 4 year groups sharing just 2 classrooms, each getting only half a day’s education. Working with the community we are planning to build a double classroom with a large teachers’ office this year and start the long process of total renovation. One of the biggest challenges we face will be water and we are ever hopeful that the World Bank Water Project will deliver water to the school and community. In the interim we will have to bring water in by the lorry load so that the construction of the classroom and teachers houses can commence.

Big thanks to Rob Johnston who will be running in the London Marathon in April. If you can, please sponsor his amazing efforts, it takes months of training and dedication to achieve this goal. www.virginmoneygiving.com



As a micro-charity, the financial help of our supporters is the only thing that allows us to do the work we do, so THANK YOU

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