

Newsletter December 2007

News from Upendo Daima Tanzania

Dear reader,

My one and a half months back in Mwanza look like eternity! There were so many things waiting for me when I returned! The stay of Hoja and me in the Netherlands has yielded a lot, both for Upendo Daima as for ourselves with friends and family. Thanks to everyone for their warm reception and their hospitality.

From Day Care Centre to Back Home House.

It is great news that mid-November we found a facility for our new Back Home House. The team and I are very excited about it. It is just outside the city. There is a large cowshed which is being converted to a dormitory. There is water and electricity. Close to the road there is a small building which was previously used to grind mais. For the renovation and completion of the Back Home House, we are going to set up a workshop for the carpenters who, as former street children, have been trained with our support. Once the furniture is ready, the boys will be able to accept other work orders.

During the last few years the staff in the Mwanza has experienced how difficult it is to achieve lasting results, when the child goes back to the streets every night. Recently the city council of Mwanza stipulated new conditions for obtaining a licence for the care of the street children, and they demand that the children are looked after during the night. This means that the current Day Care Centre is modified into a temporary Back Home House. This name has been chosen to emphasise our main objective: temporary care of street children in Mwanza, with the objective of reunification with parents or family.

On 19 November 2007, the pilot project of the Back Home House started. This pilot project is currently run in a dedicated area of the Day Care Centre. We have selected four children, and we take care of them during the day and night. Our goal is to re-integrate 120 children per year.

We familiarise ourselves with the home-situation of the child and the reason why the child ended up on the street. When a return to the family is not possible, we will have to look for a foster family, preferably in the child's social environment. Malimbe Family has only a limited possibility to accommodate children who cannot return to their families.

Objective of the Back Home House.

During the three months that the children remain in the Back Home House, we help them with their problems, through counselling and trauma healing. We are trying to achieve this by talking with the children, and by singing, dancing and painting on a daily basis. Rebecca Jansen, who studies creative therapy, has started doing this since her arrival in October 2007.

Children, who are addicted to e.g. drugs or alcohol, are being treated and receive medical care and good food, so as to improve their health. During this period, they can already get used to a regular life. The learning of basic skills such as reading, writing, arithmetic and hygiene is in this period, one

of the other important objectives. After this period we anticipate that the child will attend regular primary schooling. Through this intensive approach, the chances for a successful reunification of children with his family are higher.

Malimbe Family.

The latest great news for Malimbe Family is that Twiggold has offered us once again to search for water. For example, they found water in a place in Malimbe at approximately 30 metres. In the next few days a large drilling installation will come to look for the water. We are very curious!

We have also some slightly less good messages. Sadoki (19 years) who went to a vocational training has several times stolen a phone at his school; he was caught and handed over to the police. As a result he could not sit for the exams for the 2nd year, and will have to complete his imprisonment. We are of course all very concerned about this, but this is reality! When a boy finishes primary school and continues further education, he must sign a letter stating that, if he does anything that is unlawful, he will no longer be supported by Daima by Upendo, and that his place will be taken by another child which is also in need of assistance.

We have started the construction of two additional dormitories for the children. All the children have each carried 50 blocks on their head to the construction area. Once the houses are ready, we can provide all 50 children a spacious place to sleep. We still have to build a staff house and an office building.

With money of Maria van Strijp we can buy a fat cow, which gives 18 litres of milk per day!

During the Christmas holiday, the children do not go home. It is too expensive to let the children go home twice a year. In fact they like this because there is much more to be done at our site, and above all ... something extra to eat.

Evaluation.

From 3 to 5 December 2007, we have held our annual review. Tiring but very informative. We have made plans for the future and made some important decisions such as:

- a work plan for the Back Home House.
- special attention to capacity building of the staff
- and -fear not-the closure of our Computer Centre and Internet Café. This was a tough decision, but we were running with a loss. The expenses were higher than the income, and we all agreed that we cannot use the money of the sponsors for this Centre, but that it is intended for the children. We have made a phasing-out plan, and fortunately, the staff of the Centre can be employed in the new Back Home House.

Our theme for the review was: work with "love and compassion".

Maziku's History After Street Life

Some time ago I lived in the streets for a long time. Then Upendo Daima helped me to the talent of drawing. They took me to studies where I gained skills of drawing postcards. When I was dismissed

at Upendo Daima I went on with drawing and selling cards, while living in my self rented room. Thus I was snapped out from street life.

In the course of living myself in my room I chanced to meet a girl who had experienced hardships like me. When she narrated me her life history I enjoyed her and decided to live with her, while proceeding with my business of selling postcards. The girl became pregnant and got a female who was named Pili. This emphasized me prolong live with her and persevere her. After two years my wife begot the second child and we named her Happy. I continued to love this wife because she gave birth for both children through surgical operation and thus we managed to control birth by stopping at these two children. The first child (Pili) is now in Primary School standard 1 while aged 5 years; the second (Happy) is aged 2 years – we plan on how we shall take her to the kindergarten.

Up to now my main Income Generating Activity which enables me live with my family is drawing of postcards and find markets. I thank the Lord to rescue me from street life and Upendo Daima for facilitating me with skills of drawing.

Constraints

The main constraint is that the city Council has prohibited small business to be done at town, thus we face big trouble in selling these cards. Also there is a high number of card sellers nowadays. For this reason even the rate of card selling has become low and the money obtained is distributed to family issues including house-rent, food costs and treatment to children. It therefore becomes a tough task to regain capital. All in all I am putting efforts to survive with my family and to look the children's future. I don't like my children to undergo street life as I was! That's why I work very hard.

News from Upendo Daima Nederland.

Donors day.

On Saturday 1 September, Marga van Barschot and Hoja Tarsisius were present at the donors day in Schalkwijk. The day was very successful for a number of reasons, but above all because of the presence of a large number of donors. Many of them had been in Mwanza and enthusiastically reported on their views of the project. The involvement of the neighbours was very obvious from the spontaneous offer to bake waffles. Furthermore there was delicious African food, a performance of members of the choir " 't Verzetje", and African products and ceramics were sold. The "Boekenlegger" from Tiel (see www.boekwinkeltjes.nl/boekenlegger), a second-hand books shop who donates all benefits to Upendo Daima, also had a stand. The day, attended by 70 people, has generated 1600 Euro for Upendo Daima.

Cordaid.

Marga van Barschot and Hoja Tarsisius, have been in the Netherlands for three months during this summer. One of the activities was a visit to Josta ten Broeke, a coordinator of Cordaid. Cordaid is enthusiastic about the objectives and working methods of Upendo Daima and has confirmed to continue their subsidy next year. The grant is intended for the above mentioned re-organisation, and for the creation of a network in Mwanza. Through this network of all involved organisations such as local police and other aid organisations, a larger support base will be formed for street children in Mwanza, and a more common vision and approach will be created.

Visit to Würzburg.

Würzburg has a city-relationship with Mwanza for already 40 years. In January 2007, the mayor of Würzburg paid a visit to Mwanza and since then there is a regular contact with Upendo Daima. At the end of September 2007, representatives of Upendo Daima visited the 'Mwanza Vereï'n in Würzburg. They have also paid a visit to five schools and have given presentations to more than ten classes in all age categories. The president of the 'Grünen' in Würzburg has promised to motivate the schools, to provide financial support for the boys who start secondary education in 2008.

The 'Umweltstation' in Würzburg has donated a solar cooker. How do you get such a huge device to Mwanza? Solution: Würzburg donates a used refuse collection vehicle to Mwanza and it is filled with ... e.g. the solar cooker.

We have made real friends in Würzburg and have already been invited to their Africa Festival in 2009. The photos can be viewed on [Laatste Nieuws](#) of the new website of Upendo Daima (www.upendodaima.nl).

The New Web site.

The web site has been renewed and looks great. We would like to thank Rien de Weerd for the many hours he has spent to build the site! The left hand column on the homepage lists the various categories, such as • What are street children • Upendo Daima Organisation Tanzania • Upendo Daima Nederland • Newsletters • News • Help us? • Photos • Contact and • Guestbook. The two most recent newsletters are to be found in their entirety on the Web site under the heading [Nieuwsbrieven](#). It takes a few seconds, but when you click the category [Foto's](#) you get a Power Point presentation with recent photos of the children of Upendo Daima. In the category [Laatste Nieuws](#) we plan to provide something new every month, and you can leave a message in the Guestbook or send a greeting to Mwanza.

Charity Concert.

Bert Steinmann, althoboïst of the 'Holland Symfonia' Orchestra, won the 'Minerva' culture prize. With this money he started the project "Spelenderwijs naar Tanzania" (through fun and games to Tanzania). The family Steinmann has selected two projects in Tanzania which they are going to support in the future: a school for children who are deaf or with impaired hearing, in Dodoma **and** our project in Mwanza. Bert has organized a benefit concert with his orchestra on 25 October, 2007 in Haarlem. It was a special musical evening with a great deal of variation. The chairman of both projects have given a presentation about the work in Mwanza and Dodoma. Next year Bert Steinmann and his wife Sybreg Snitker will visit Mwanza to start their work as volunteers. They will arrange music workshops for the children of Upendo Daima! We think it is wonderful that the family Steinmann intends to support our project in this way. Very many thanks!

Foundation the "Ziekenfondsode "(Agis Zorgverzekeringen).

We have received 5000 Euro from this foundation, for a part of the furnish of the Back Home House and for medical costs. We hope that this foundation, will continue to support us in the future.

Management.

We have two new board members. On 1 September 2007 Maria van Strijp became a member of the Board, and Hetty Bloemen on 16 November 2007. Maria visits Mwanza on a regular basis and acts as an intermediary between Upendo Daima Nederland and the Upendo Daima Organisation in Tanzania. Hetty has in the past worked in Tabora in Tanzania and visited Upendo Daima in Mwanza this summer. We are sure that they can make a valuable contribution as a board member of Upendo Daima Nederland.

Donations received in 2007.

Private donors. 18000 Euro
Cordaid. 20000 Euro
Foundation Tafadhali. 30000 Euro
M.W.A.N.Z. A. Verein Würzburg. 6000 Euro
Ziekenfondsode. 5000 Euro
Vastenactie. 2000 Euro
Amsterdam Studenteneklesia. 1000 Euro