

## **Newsletter Tanzania July 2009**

With the holidays around the corner, occasionally perfect sunny weather, similar to the cool months in Mwanza, it is time for the newsletter of July 2009. And this is just prior to the visit of Marga and Hoja to the Netherlands, and our donors day early September. What has happened in our centres for the street children in Mwanza?

### **Back Home House.**

Over the last few months, the team worked hard to locate the street children and offer them a shelter in the Back Home House. It remains an uphill battle. But fortunately the people in the neighbourhood know more and more where to find us. We are seeing more and more visitors from our neighbourhood in the Back Home House. We have welcomed priests and acolytes, who played football with the children for a whole day, and enjoyed a nice meal. If they bring bananas and eggs, it is a real feast!

In the period January to May we received 34 children. We were able to bring 18 back to their homes, of which one child, unfortunately, is back on the streets again. We took 8 children in Malimbe Family. During the first half of this year, 43 children had to undergo medical treatment either for malaria, worms, skin problems, diarrhoea or sexual diseases.

Daniel Heyen, a volunteer from Germany has worked in the Back Home House from August 2008 to June 2009. He has made a great contribution to the work with the children, and has given a number of workshops on communication skills to most of our staff. He spoke Kiswahili very well, and he found it difficult to leave, but told us that he would come back to Upendo Daima after he had completed his study.

It is clear that some parents are definitely concerned about the wellbeing of their children; eight children have been collected by their families.

The rainy season has ended and we can therefore start with the construction of the new dormitory.

### **Malimbe Family.**

There are now 49 children living in Malimbe Family. Our nine boys of the secondary school still live together in a house in Luchebele. We also had our 'problem children' in Malimbe. Usually the older boys occasionally display a deviant behaviour and set a bad example for the little ones. We know that these children are often traumatised and we continue to give them a great deal of love and attention, and pray that it will help.

Mathias, who we reported about earlier on, is making good progress after the operation on his legs. The medical specialist would like to determine however, in about 2 months time, if a second operation is needed.

A lot of work has been carried out on the "First Aid House" in Malimbe, and it is almost completed. With the help of, e.g. the Dutch Albert Schweitzer Fund, we were able to achieve this. The house has been furnished and there is a microscope and a variety of test material. Dr. Mnema who is

associated with this project provides medical care and treatment for the children, but gives also medical briefings and counselling. In the future he will also provide support to the local residents.

Each weekend there is a football coach to play football with the boys. They play in competitions and several boys have even been selected for the Coca Cola Cup, to play in the tournament for youth teams in Mwanza.

Two of our cows unfortunately died. For the time being, we will keep the number at 3, and first we are going to investigate how we can improve the care for the cows. Perhaps these savana cows are not suited to be kept in Malimbe.

Our vegetable garden is full of tomatoes, aubergines, African spinach, mais and beans. Some children like to assist the gardener Mr. Kingi, and by doing so they also learn how to grow food.

Our vacation time started a few weeks ago. Most of the children were brought to their family by Hoja and Maarten. During such a visit there are always intensive discussions about the future of the child. We encourage parents to take more responsibility and to contribute to the care and upbringing of the children. However, eight boys had to stay in Malimbe because they could not return to their families or need to prepare themselves for their exams in October. For them, we have prepared a special holiday programme.

### **Makongoro Workshop.**

Upendo Daima took over a technical workshop from a Swiss architect, to provide the children a practical technical training. Under the leadership of our Tanzanian workshop supervisor they are being trained for carpenter, electrician or plumber. There are currently ten boys and girls working in various disciplines, including four boys from Upendo Daima. We received 3000 Euro from the Fides Foundation to refurbish the workshop and buy some material. We received tools from the Third World Workshop in Teteringen. The children have already made many stack beds, doors, and cabinets. An underground water tank has also been built and a new roof has been installed on the dormitories of Malimbe Family. The pupils will be given the opportunity to make furniture they can sell themselves, so that in the future they can look after their own livelihood.

### **Networking.**

A local cooperation network between various organisations in Mwanza, involved in the care of street children, is expanding at the moment. Each month we meet and, if necessary, we also have contact with the authorities. To expand and, but above all, maintain such a network, is difficult but we relentlessly continue to work on it.

On 16 June, I have extended my commitment with SMA with 5 years. A festive event with a holy mess and a lovely meal afterwards.

### **Visit to the Netherlands.**

After 2 years of hard work, the time has come for Hoja and me to refuel in the Netherlands and, above all, to see my daughter, her husband, the children and all family members. And that is going to happen from 29 July to 9 October. But it will not be a quiet time, because numerous visits will be made to churches and schools, and other donor and sponsor organisations. The donors day on

Saturday 5 September in Utrecht is a highlight. And, of course, there is a lot to be discussed and to be organised together with the management team of Upendo Daima Nederland.

## **Newsletter the Netherlands July 2009**

### **Activities and Sponsor Initiatives.**

In March this year, four students from the Stanislas College in Delft organised an event for the children of Malimbe Family. They visited our project in 2008 and were so impressed that they wanted to collect money for the street children. They did not eat for 24 hours and organised sponsors to pay them. On 29 June we received a cheque of 5405 Euro, for which we thank them on behalf of all the children.

In Berkel and Rodenrijs, the children who celebrated their first communion, once again, raised funds for Upendo Daima. For example, they helped their parents in the store or went around the houses to sell peppers. During the communion celebrations they collected money from all guests in a moneybox. Some children saved a part of their pocket money. They have collected 652, 95 Euro, which is fantastic, and we very much thank them for their help.

The Foundation Hoogendijk van Domselaar donated 7000 Euro is for the construction of a new dormitory in the Back Home House. This will enable us to make a real start with the construction.

The Paulus parish in Loosdrecht has donated the proceeds of the 'Vastenactie' to Upendo Daima. There have been several more actions in the past few months, and we would like to refer to the Web site.

End June, we had a stand at the Africa Festival in Hertme, close to Hengelo. This small scale festival was organised for the 21<sup>st</sup> time. Anyone who has any connection or affinity with Africa visits this festival. There is great live African music and a cosy market with many stands. We also had a stand to determine whether this event would help us gaining support for Upendo Daima. Through the sale of African products and handicraft, our photos and posters and a lottery, we had ample opportunity to speak with many visitors about the work in Mwanza. The lottery generated the addresses of 90 people, and there are perhaps some new donors among them.

On 2 August, there is a great book market in Deventer. The "Boekenlegger" from Tiel, founded by Wilma van Barschot will have a stand along the river IJssel, and Marga will also be present. Therefore, if you are interested in the book market in Deventer, visit the stand of the "Boekenlegger".

This year the donors day is scheduled for 5 September and will be held in Utrecht. Please make a note of this in your diary. We will send you the final version of the program. Of course, Marga and Hoja are going to tell their stories from Mwanza. Maarten Zilverberg, the volunteer who has worked in Mwanza during the last few months, will be asked to make a musical contribution. There will be a palmist to predict the future. The autumn can be enjoyable, because we are going to sell bottles of wine for the Upendo Daima project, but also a variety of African handicraft and gifts for your family and friends. Meeting other donors and Marga and Hoja remains however the main objective of the day.

## **Management matters.**

Early this year Wilma van Hienen stepped down as chairperson of Upendo Daima Nederland. She was the promoter of Upendo Daima Nederland and we thank her for her enormous commitment. The new chairperson is Maria van Strijp. She has been closely involved in Upendo Daima since 2002.

Also in the Netherlands a lot was done for Upendo Daima, during the first half of this year, and we have worked hard to create overviews, reports and requests for support from donor organisations.

It is always refreshing to meet colleague organizations and exchange ideas and approaches in order to further the professional standard of our work. In April, we participated in a network day organised by Sintan (Support and Information Network, Tanzania). In May, we attended the Cordaid day. They organised were a number of fascinating workshops and there was a lot of music. High point was the performance of the comedian Jetty Mathurin, who was able to present the challenges you face when working with cultural differences.

The Web site has been renewed, with the help and commitment of our webmaster Rien de Weerd. After the holiday period we will still make some improvements and include a few more reports, latest news and annual reports. We will also include more photographs and videos, so that everyone in the Netherlands will be able to follow the developments in Mwanza even better on [www.upendodaima.nl](http://www.upendodaima.nl). We would like to reduce the use paper and make use of email where possible. In case you no longer want to receive this newsletter via normal mail, or have no interest in this newsletter at all, please email to: [info@upendodaima.nl](mailto:info@upendodaima.nl), or write to:

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As you can see, we are working hard to provide financial support for the work in Mwanza. And this support is very essential so that the project can continue. Everyone is talking about climate change and in East Africa it is clearly visible, for many years. Harvests fail and poverty drives the people to the city. We are talking about an economic crisis, but in Mwanza it is really felt. Food, such as rice and mais, is considerably more expensive, and it is really difficult to make both ends meet. We hope that you, in spite of the crisis, will continue to support our project.