

## Newsletter Tanzania December 2011

It has never been so warm and so dry in Holland in November this year. But in the same period it has never been so wet in Mwanza. But in March and April it was so dry that the harvest failed. It is not fair in this world.

You are probably busy with your Christmas preparations, but we would like to send you some news from soggy Tanzania! Fortunately the floor level in the new dormitory in the Back Home House is quite high and stayed dry.

This year we limit ourselves to this newsletter providing news from Mwanza and the events at the Dutch front, because there are regular news updates on our website.

### The Streets of Mwanza Town

Mwanza grows enormously and therefore you see more and more children on the street and regrettably also the young ones. This is partly due to the economical problems in Tanzania and the rise in food prices during the last few months. At home there are problems because of the misuse of alcohol, lack of food or separation or death of parents. The children look for support in the big city but are not aware of the many dangers that await them.



Sexual abuse, use of drugs and theft are common things. The bigger boys and girls suppress the smaller children. The police is becoming tougher, because of the robberies by the bigger boys. The children do not have much confidence in the provision of help since all kind of things is promised but often little is provided.



The staff of Upendo Daima is trying very hard to help as many children as possible. Six to eight times per month the team visits the streets, and half the time they go during the night. They know the locations where the children can be found. Street work has become a joint responsibility of a number of organizations.

BHH report April 2011

*"Most of the children were hiding, afraid of police patrol in town. Police patrol was carried out because some of the big street boys committed robbery. Consequently, there were no many children seen in the street at the night".*

A network has been initiated in Mwanza: Integrated Response for Street Children, led by Railway Children UK. Upendo Daima is a member of the work group to shape this network and to establish a good working relationship with other organizations for street children like local government organizations as the Police and Social Welfare. There is also an increased attention for the street girls and older youth. This is an enormous step in the right direction.

### Back Home House

With the new dormitory in use, the BHH has a capacity for 30 children. During the last 10 months we have been able to receive 150 children of which 36 went back home and 20 to Malimbe Family since going back home was no option for them. Regrettably there are also children who cannot adjust to living in a centre and return to the street. We keep a good eye on them when they are back in the street and still offer the opportunity to come back to us.

An important task for the counsellors of the Back Home House is making home visits. They speak with the family and get a good understanding of the problems. They also look into the

possibilities to help the families so that the children can live at home again. Sometimes the problems are so huge that living at home is no longer an option.

In the Back Home House a start is made with basic training and the children receive some education, which is completely new for some of them. They start learning to read and write for the first time in their life. We work often with volunteers, either Tanzanians or foreigners. They are important to Upendo Daima and the children like it and learn a lot from them.

Counselling is an important subject, which works well and helps to process the traumatic experiences of the street. Particularly the confrontation with sexual violence needs a lot of our attention. Children who have been raped feel deeply ashamed and do not dare to talk about it. They often also do not know how to deal with sexual feelings. For the staff this is also a difficult subject.

BHH report June 2011

*“Some of the children have deep trauma. It will take time to overcome it. These children need more attention from the caretakers. Some of them have experienced rejection from their relatives and families. Those who were sexually abused while on the street are delicate and have low concentration in class”*

Our regular general practitioner Dr. Mnema regularly pays attention to this subject. But malaria, worm infections and eye problems also receive a lot of attention.

Our center manager Sr. Monica has been asked by her congregation to follow a study in Nairobi from July 2011 till May 2012. We have distributed her tasks among the staff and the management team is following the activities more closely. In the mean time we are actively pursuing her replacement. She will return after her studies but as a counselor.

The new drainage system has avoided part of the water flooding. But last month it has been raining so hard that the old building was flooded. The septic tank was also giving problems because of the high ground water level. The new kitchen has been completed and can now be furnished.



## Malimbe Family

On average some 50 children live in Malimbe Family. Every month children from the Back Home House move to Malimbe Family, because they could not yet be re-unified with their families. They are received in a loving way by the Malimbe Family staff and warmly welcomed by the other boys.



During the day the children go to the Nyamalango primary school, which is close to us, and they sit in standard 1 till standard 7. Sometimes our children have gaps in their education and find it difficult to follow regular education. We therefore visit the school on a regular basis to discuss the approach and progress with the teachers.

After school hours we arrange time for homework, special training and therapy as well as possibilities to relax. It is good that we have started the construction of an Education Centre with the financial aid of the German government and the sister town Würzburg. The costs are estimated at 34.000 euro, including the new furniture. The building will be ready in a few months time. We plan to recruit a teacher who will provide assistance with homework and special training to reduce the education gaps. There will also be space for a computer class and a nice library. We still have to find money for the computers and books.

There is now also electricity on the compound and that is a major step forward. Reports and financial overviews can now be made by computer.



Individual and group therapy are important. Dealing with traumas, as a result of being dumped by the family and the misery on the street necessitates many discussions. The discussions about sexuality and social skills are often on the agenda. It is also necessary to address the "normal" life skills, as well as the need to make homework and to work for a diploma.

**MF montly report**

" In this month only one was injured his left hand after dropped from the bed at night time and got treatment at the Center".

The education and guidance of the children is complemented by concentration exercises and the evening visits of Babu the storyteller. He comes four nights per week to tell his stories with a morale to all children sitting around him. It fits in our African culture and it is a tradition. He not only tells fairy tales but also stories about daily life. The children always tell many stories and happenings of their home situation and school, particularly after the holidays.

We have worked again in the vegetable garden and the children who gain experience by growing their own food will benefit from this in their later life. And we should not forget the sport, traditional dances and our new activity acrobatics.



A teacher, a former street child, comes every Saturday and Sunday to teach the children. An acrobatics group has been formed and had their first performance on the Day of the African Child. We noticed that it needs concentration and mutual trust and this is seen as good for their development. Yoana for instance, a small but brave boy has absolutely no fears for heights.



**MF montly report**

" All children continued with training on traditional dances, drama, football, acrobatics, and various indoor games which was facilitated by Malimbe family staff. We are still working towards a performance on the day of the African Child on 16/6/2011"

We already have 23 children attending secondary school. They live outside Malimbe Family, with family, foster families or boarding school. Each year it is quite a challenge to find a suitable place for them to stay. Every month we speak with the family and school so that we can closely follow the school results.

Gradually we have to think about what to do when these boys complete their schooling. Can we continue to support them for a university study or vocational training, assist them finding a job or do we let them find their own way into the future?

**Visitors and volunteers**

Every month we enjoy receiving some 10 to 15 Tanzanian or European visitors. Often they bring money, food, clothes or school materials and this is greatly appreciated. It is good to receive people from Mwanza so that they can see how we live and work in Malimbe Family. This creates a better appreciation for street children. As far as this is concerned we still have a long way to go; the people have to understand that the children did not chose themselves to end up on the street!

Several volunteers have worked in the BHH and MF during the last few months. We see more clearly if and how we can deploy these people. We count on a real contribution from these volunteers. It should not create an extra burden for our staff. Connie from Germany has made an important contribution to the education and schooling of the children. Especially the school leavers received a lot of attention from her. She has lived on the compound for three months and occasionally she came to "let go off steam" with Hoja and Marga. Everybody was in tears when she left.

## The Organization

Two Dutch organization specialists, Bea and John, came early July for a second time to assist with further professionalizing Upendo Daima. They organized workshops and interviewed all staff.

Marga recently became 65, a respectable age but this does not withhold her to continue to work for her project and her children. She is however considering the scope of her future role. This takes time some time and thinking of course. But you will see more about this in the news flashes on the website.



**We hereby would like to thank everybody from the bottom of our heart for the fantastic support to this beautiful project. Without you we would never have been able to give the children a better future.**

**Asante Sana**

**For the future festive days and especially the coming year we,  
Marga, Hoja and the whole Team,  
Wish you Peace and Prosperity**



## Newsletter The Netherlands December 2011

### Activities and Sponsor Actions

It is most likely known to you that there have been quite some budget moves in the world of Development Cooperation. Also Cordaid, a very important sponsor for us, had to make substantial changes. Despite this we were fortunate this year and received generous support although there were nervous moments where we asked ourselves whether we would be successful. The future remains uncertain and we will continue with "all hands on deck" to arrange the financing of the project.

Last year many people made efforts to support Upendo Daima. The children of the family Staal-Calis organized a house concert, which generated 518 euro. John Miltenburg received 1.188 euro for his birthday and donated this to us. The family Ravens transferred this year again 500 euro and at the funeral of Mr. Buijsrogge a collection was made for UD and 910 was donated.

A number of donors linked their contribution to the education of the larger children of Malimbe Family like the 1.000 euro of Mrs. Klein Tank and also 1.000 euro of Mr. Verhoeven and 800 euro of Mrs. Risseeuw. Sanne Kuijpers and Jorte Nijboer received sponsoring for their climb of the Kilimanjaro and this generated 1.855 euro. We could follow all details of the climb on their website. Loek Drenth transferred 300 euro to UD, received during his farewell from the Supervisory Board. There were many more generous donors and people who are supporting UD. Also the regular donors who make monthly contributions we should not forget here; they are the engine on which we run!

*What is easier than a few clicks and order second hand books for the Christmas holiday? And by doing so you support, from your easy chair, the work in Tanzania.*

<http://www.deboekenlegger.boekwinkeltjes.nl>

From the children of the primary school "De Klim-Op" in Haaren we received 1.800 euro, the "Johannes Stichting" gave us 3.000 euro and "De Paardenstal" from the "Stichting Onder de Toren" gave 1.000 euro. Also the "Stichting Spelenderwijs" gave again 2.500 euro. The Soroptimists from Utrecht donated 1.156 euro and we received from our neighbours in the East from their action "Kicken für Afrika" even 6.440 euro. Fantastic.



### Donors day 10th of September

The visit of Marga and Hoja to Holland this summer was a good opportunity to organize the two-yearly donors day and we selected this time Huis ter Heide close to Zeist as the location.

Two years ago we organized a market with African music and African snacks. This year we wanted to do it

differently with more content. We started with an impressive movie about "Albino United", a football team of albinos who have to deal with discrimination and life threats. The witch doctors make the people believe that powders made of the bones of albinos will bring luck. A very penetrating documentary that clearly shows that it is possible to achieve something in life despite a handicap you have from the day you are born.



Obviously a lot of attention was given to the developments of the project. Marga and the chairman of Upendo Daima Nederland both gave presentations and thereafter there were sufficient opportunities to meet each other and exchange information.



### Administrative Matters

The board met five times to discuss all developments and actions. The management meeting on 15 September was used to meet with a broader group of external advisors like John Miltenburg, Bea van den Bosch and Kees Feenstra.

Two management team members attended the Cordaid-meeting day, Health & Wellbeing on 12 March. In September Marga gave a presentation on the Better Care Network afternoon in The Hague. André, our chairman visited Tanzania early April and the report is available on the website.



We enjoy working for Upendo Daima Tanzania. We keep track of all financial matters, produce newsletters as well as annual reports and the news flashes and Chemchem from Mwanza are published on the website. Producing the reports and maintaining contacts with all sponsors is a considerable but very rewarding job and the bilateral contact with the team in Mwanza keeps us alert.

The website now has a third language button, Kiswahili. The trio Hetty Bloemen, André van Strijp and Maud Devos is actively keeping the tri-lingual website up to date. From time to time Leon Noordam jumps in to solve some of the technical Joomla issues, not a Swahili pet name but the content management system name of the website



*The children of Upendo Daima love it to receive a Christmas present*

We sincerely hope that we can count on you again in 2012. You can always make a donation on bank account nr. 10.22.27.365 from the Stichting Upendo Daima Nederland. We can guarantee you that your money will be well spent. And because we are an ANBI foundation the donation is tax deductible in Holland.

**The team from UDN wishes you pleasant and peaceful Christmas days and a very happy New Year.**