

## *Newsletter Upendo Daima December 2015*

### *Refugees and street children*

The world is in turmoil, large numbers of people try to reach Europe, assaults in Paris, cancellations of friendly football matches and the end is not yet in view. Possibly we are at the start of turbulent times in the world history. There are many reviews and reflections about what went wrong; failing integration efforts, differences between religions, economical crisis and the gap between the rich and the poor. These are aspects that also affect us when we carry out the street work in Mwanza. Also in Tanzania the economical developments and the political climate leads to a situation where the poor get poorer and the rich get richer. The unpredictable climatological situation creates uncertainties for the farmers and leads to increasing prices for many food products.

Our street work, the care and counselling of the children, the re-unification of the children with their families and the care and support offered in Malimbe Family is not getting easier at all. When our teams are on the street they see more and more children and the children they meet are younger than in the past. They sometimes meet exhausted mothers or whole families with their children. Life in the streets is getting tougher by the day. The street gangs use the younger children to carry out the 'dirty' work and it is often difficult for us to get these children out of the control of these older boys and convince them to come to the Back Home House (BHH). This year we have, together with colleagues from other NGO's, been able to convince 168 children to join us to the BHH.



Streetwork

### *Back Home*

Despite the fact that more and more children try to survive in the streets, the number of children in the BHH remains reasonably constant. The number varies every week, but is normally around 20. The problems and issues of each child are larger and demand more attention and time than in the past. This is mainly because the children are more traumatized than in the past, since they grew up in the very poor parts of the town and around Mwanza, and their difficulties coping with the harsh environment they are living in on the streets.

Compared with a few years ago it seems more difficult for the children to get used to a more structured and regular life. Despite the fact that we have gained a lot of experience, it remains quite a challenge to help the children to get used to education and schooling and a more structured life with other children. We are proud that we have been able to absorb some 120 children in the BHH.



Back Home House

We have been able to re-unify 103 children with their families, jointly with another NGO. The families have collected 14 children. We try as much as we can to build a relationship and create a bond with the families so that we can support them with the education of their children. Where necessary we try to help them financially as well, or enabling them to follow training or schooling so that not only the child but the entire family will benefit and hopefully get a better future.

It is very painful to see that some of the boys return to the life on the street since they are unable to live with their parents or because the parents simply do not care. This happened 11 times this year. However most of the time our efforts to make the family more self-reliant are successful. Like the mother who got some business training and a small loan to start a charcoal 'company'; she is doing very well and has already paid back part of her loan. She also followed a short farming training and started to grow vegetables.



Lessons in the vegetables garden

A part of the crop is for own use and the rest she sells at the market. She is now able to rent a small house with the money she earned. We hope that the other five brothers and sisters no longer have reason to go to the street like their brother did.

## *Malimbe Family*

If re-unification with the family turns out to be impossible, we have no choice and bring the children to Malimbe Family. There are now 57 children in Malimbe Family, between 6 and 18 years and they form a happy family but it is rather busy. The MF team focuses on giving the children love, care, warmth, guidance and education and schooling.



Mara and the children of UD

All children go to the Nyamalango primary school. The quality of schooling leaves much to be desired and there are education backlogs. This remains a point of concern and the Upendo Daima staff give this a lot of attention. At the moment we arrange tuition classes and help the children with their homework in our beautiful education centre. As soon as the boys come out of school they rush towards the education centre to learn more from our own teachers. During the tuition classes they not only have lessons in English and arithmetic's, but also learn how to use computers. The children are very enthusiastic and all want to work on the computers. Our staff is also interested and are eager to learn how to use the computer.



Staff follow computer classes

Every month we receive many visitors. Recently there was a delegation of the foundation "Friendly Water for the World", who donated 5 water filters. These filters are made of local materials and clean the water for 99% through osmosis and filtration. It is therefore no longer needed to boil the water and this saves time, money and energy.



The water filters

Other visitors bring food, school materials or small presents. This support is very important for us. Our guests are of course welcomed with traditional dances and acrobatics. You can see how the boys grow in self-esteem when they give the performances.

Once the primary school has been completed the boys go to a boarding school or go to a foster family to attend secondary education. At the moment 15 boys attend 7 different secondary schools and 3 boys follow vocational training. One of our boys studies at a university to become a teacher. We are proud that these boys are doing so well, despite their background and traumatic past.

#### *The story of Sweetbert*

*When Sweetbert arrived at the BHH he was rather wild. He could not sit still, could not concentrate and easily became so angry that he started throwing big stones. Now, 3 years later, you always see him walking around with a big smile on his face and he is the first one offering to help someone else. Schooling is still a challenge, but slowly he starts mastering the basic principles of reading and arithmetic's.*

### **Our team in Mwanza**

Whilst Marga van Barschot has passed the pensionable age she still leads the team of 22 staff in Mwanza, supported by Hoja Tarsisius, Patricia Paul Buswage, Mara le Mahieu and Ambon Semberya.



The Back Home House team

### **Donors and sponsors**

The cooperation with Railway Children of Africa (RCA) has enabled us during the last two years, to work in a more focused way on re-integration of the children. The preparation and guidance of the families prior to the return of the child receives more attention. The after-care after reunification is also increased because of the extra means that are available through the cooperation with RCA. We hope that this cooperation can be continued in 2016. This is becoming more important because the financial support of

Cordaid will reduce considerably. The Dutch government has less financial means and this means that as from 2016 Upendo Daima has to work without the tremendous support of Cordaid.

Up till end October the second hand bookshop "De Boekenlegger" in Tiel transferred 14.000 € to our bank account. From the "Paardenstal" we received 3.000 € for solar panels in the BHH. The Sisters of Heilige Juliana have donated 1000 €. And just before the publication of this newsletter we received a few fantastic donations from Dutch donors and a generous gift out of Switzerland.

Also out of Tanzania and other countries we receive support. Our partner organization "The Shalom Centre for Conflict Resolution and reconciliation" made a considerable donation for our library.

Regrettably we also observed that donations from individuals and parishes in Holland are getting less. We will therefore continue to convey our message that children deserve to lead a dignified life, particularly at this time when many other issues ask to be addressed.

A lot of money is needed to feed all the children, to pay for the schooling, the salaries of 22 staff, the maintenance of the buildings and all daily operational costs. The total costs are approximately 150.000 € per year. UD Nederland contributes some 100.000 € and the remainder comes from other donors like Railway Children of Africa, Society of African Missions, Kids Aid Tanzania, Würzburg e.V. and Tanzanian donations.

### **Upendo Daima Nederland**

The team of UDN has this year been strengthened by Ite van Aardenne, who has earlier worked for one year as a volunteer in Mwanza. The four team members tried again to support Upendo Daima as good as they could; contacts have been made with a number of funds and new donor organizations, the Website and Facebook have been kept up to date and the financial reporting was completed in time. There is an almost daily email contact with the team in Mwanza and there are regular discussions via Skype.

All costs of the activities in Holland are borne by the management of Upendo Daima, including any travel to Mwanza.

*Up to date information about our work is available on our website [www.upendodaima.nl](http://www.upendodaima.nl) and on Facebook, <https://facebook.com/upendodaimastraatkinderen> .*

*The annual reports, newsletters, interviews and photo-reports give a good impression of the way the money is being spent and how our children are doing in the centres.*

***Get the children off the street and give them a dignified existence!***

*Please continue to support the street children of Upendo Daima.*

*NL 55 RABO 0102227365 of Stichting Upendo Daima Nederland.*

*We guarantee you that 100% of the money reaches the children, possibly a minor amount is used for a modest small present but mainly for care, food, schooling and counselling of these less fortunate citizens of the world.*

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***From Tanzania we wish you and  
your family and friends  
a Merry Christmas  
and a healthy and  
very happy 2016***

