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# ILULA ORPHAN PROGRAM

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**Dear IOP friends,**

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It's the time of the year where we spend time with our family and friends. Here in Ilula the big shopping rush doesn't exist and we start to realise that Christmas should always only be about spending time with the ones we love.



**Jemaida**

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## **In this Newsletter:**

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## YOUNG PEACE PERFORMERS

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Young Peace Performers (YPP) is an exchange program founded by the Norwegian Peace Corps (FK Norway). FK Norway is a part of the Norwegian government, and they work together with various organisations both nationally and internationally.

The YPP-program is initiated by Y Global (YMCA/YWCA Norway) who is partnering with various YMCAs and YWCAs worldwide. YPP work to mobilise youths to fight for peace and justice in their society in a non-violent way. Their main goal is to inspire the youths they meet to join the campaign “Stop Poverty”. They are spreading the message through shows and workshops.

The Projects are cooperated with international partners- where the initiative comes from the grassroots. In this way they help build up viable and justified communities where the help is most needed. The main target for their projects is children, youth and women. The experience is that these groups often struggle and are vulnerable towards unfair treatment. Therefore they need extra support. They want to change the way children, youth and women are treated!

To mobilize youths, they are going to spend six months touring in Tanzania before they spend two months touring in Norway. In this year YPP, the group consist of fifteen youths from four different countries; Norway, Tanzania, Kenya and Madagascar.

On the 3rd of December the YPP Group arrived in Ilula. They motivated youth to join village community banks(VICOBA), encouraged them to start income generating ctivities. They also talked about gender issues and way to stop gender violence.

When they were in Ilula they also participated in independence day – helping cleaning the villages. They also showed their show to the staff and kids and played with the kids.

They also use drama, dance and songs to reach the youth. Their dramas would be about poverty. They had a drama about a girl living with her mother and father, where the father was drinking and stealing money from the mother that was supposed to buy food – the girl wants to kill herself, but YPP shows up and informs the family about savings and borrowing schemes for example village community banks(VICOBA). Through funny sketches, YPP puts attention on challenges like this and shows how there is a solution to the problem.

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## INDEPENDENCE DAY

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Tanganyika Independence Day is a celebration of independence from the British on the 9th of December 1961, which united with Zanzibar in 1964 to become Tanzania. The day is a National holiday celebrated with parades, youth leagues marching before the invited guests and the president at the stadium in Dar es Salaam, school games, cultural dances, and aerobatics by the air force.

Tanzania's newly elected President Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli postponed independence day celebrations at the National Stadium and dedicated that special day to a clean-up campaign instead. It would be "shameful" to spend huge sums of money on the celebrations when "our people are dying of cholera", he said, state television reported. Cholera had killed about 60 people in Tanzania in the last three months.



This was the first time in 54 years Tanzania to celebrate the day differently since independence from the British colonization. Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) Party (where Dr. Magufuli comes from), has led Tanzania since 1977 and before its "birth" following the union of TANU (Tanganyika African National Union) and (ASP) Afro-Shirazi Party, TANU was ruling. He came with the slogan "Hapa Kazi Tu", to ensure every Tanzanian including leaders become responsible and playing their roles as required

The state Acting Communication Director Gerson Msigwa did not say how much would be saved by cancelling the event but said the money would be spent on hospitals, and the fight against cholera - a major problem in poor areas where there is a lack of proper sanitation.

The IOP Staff-members took Magufulis concern to their hearts arrived to work on Independence Day and formed different groups. Some cleaned the surrounding of the IOP Centre, others went to Mtua to clean the street. We were not the only ones on the street cleaning, many people went out and helped, even school groups. The Day was hot, but that bothered nobody. With a lot of helping hands we finished the task very fast and we could look proudly on our work.

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## CHRISTMAS PARTY

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On the 19th of December the girls jumped in their new shiny dresses and their new shoes and filled the hall with christmas songs. Their eyes were sparkling and their smiles so broad they almost 'reached the ears'. The christmas spirit had definitely arrived. The weeks up to the christmas party the girls had been practicing christmas carols, drawn christmas paintings, written christmas cards and last but not least; practiced the yearly christmas play. There were no doubt about how much the girls had been looking forward for this day.

The UMC, United Methodist Church Ilula, was invited to take part in this joyful event as the years before. Staff and volunteers were gathered sharing the warmth of christmas with the girls. The christmas party went on traditional ways, though there were one remarkable difference; Bibi Berit was not here. Luckily dear Babu Jake stepped in Berit's footsteps and enlightened us all with the story behind "Silent Night". A story followed by singing the song in both Swahili and English. This was how most of the party went on, story-telling from both pastors, volunteers, staff and girls followed by wonderful singing and dancing.





We shared the words of the true reason for us being gathered on Christmas, how Christmas is celebrated in different countries and the words of true Christmas joy. After watching a well performed act of Nativity of Jesus from the girls, it was time for presents. As the girls waited patiently to see what was in their christmas present. By first look the chocolate in the bags was definitely a winner.

The whole Christmas party was ended with a gathering around the christmas tree singing one last Christmas carol before eating a nicely prepared Christmas dinner all together. Even though the formal part of the Christmas party ended after dinner and closing speech from the girls, the joy of the girls would not stop here. The music continued playing and so did the dancing.



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## MONTHLY UPDATE ON THE EXAMINATION HALL

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The hall was supposed to be finished in November to conduct the National Examinations. Unfortunately it was not finished in time. Representatives from the Kilolo district education office, security office and the Kilolo district police office came to inspect how IOP had complied with the established standards. It was obvious that the hall was not completed. Due to that we needed to get the officers allowance to conduct the National examinations in ordinary class rooms. They

inspected all classrooms but it was seen inconvenient to do use classrooms!

At the end they allowed the Examination to be conducted in the school mini library block, which was three meters square bigger than the class rooms. After a long struggle we managed to do the first National Examination safely. The Officers insisted that everyone is aware of the fact that this favour will never be given again.

It is IOP responsibility now to ensure that the hall is completed by September 2016 when they will come to conduct another inspection. With the availability of building materials for example roofing sheets and an ongoing construction work IOP could convince the Representatives that the standards will be fulfilled next year.

**Big thanks to IOP supporters who enabled IOP to save the day.**





Thanks to the recent support from different friends including Hakadal School Youth School, Haldis Ostby Family and Fovea Foundation for the latest contribution making the funds available to make the work continue. The remaining work, will need Tsh 132, 048,000 (69,499USD) to be finished. God bless the great works of the IOP Families around the World. IOP continues to request goodwill and assistance from our IOP friends inside and outside Tanzania

To this end we have broken down the budget into smaller fundable parts, so that it is possible for anyone to donate for a particular purpose - for example cement, windows, et cetera. We would like to thank our friends and supporters for always helping us in times of need. Also, we thank Knowit Company and Engebraten High School in Norway for donating the start-up funds for the construction of this hall.





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## INITIATIVES

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1. **Do you have some OLD PIECES OF FABRIC that you don't know what to do with?** They would be very useful for our girls HERE at IOP CENTER! They could be used to create covers for our old chairs! Please send us your old pieces of fabric!
2. **IOP has some projects that need fundraising and financial support!**
  - Funds to complete the examination hall and the girls' dormitory at the Lord's Hill High School;
  - Annual running expenses of \$25,000 for the IOP Center (Orphanage);
  - Finishing the new welding house \$9,800;
  - Annual running expenses of the IOP pre- school "Kids' Corner" \$10,500;
  - We have a good number of students waiting for Sponsorship so they can go to school.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**If you would like more information about projects and/or sponsoring opportunities,  
please contact:**

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If you have any questions concerning new projects, please send an email to our IOP  
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This Newsletter was written by Maximiliane Mitterhauser (Austria)