

ILULA ORPHAN PROGRAM (IOP)



NEWSLETTER – June 2015

Dear friends,

We would love to share with you the new events of which IOP Tanzania has been involved with over the month of June.

Enjoy reading!



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CLOTHING MARKETS IN THE VILLAGES

Besides at the center, IOP sells clothes to people at many other places. Starting in April, different volunteers started visiting villages Mazombe and Mahenge Divisions, where they would sell clothes to the residents of those villages. **Liston Kibassa**, IOP shop manager, who is responsible for the village markets, was interviewed!

How and from where did you collect all the clothes?

The clothes came from IOP USA, where various good people collected clothes for us. They came, together with a lot of other goods, in a container. IOP took the responsibility to pay for the tax which must've been about 20 million TSH, but the contents of the container were worth much more than that. The clothes have been stored for a long time but we finally started to do something with them. Some volunteers have helped a lot with sorting these clothes.

In which villages are you organizing the markets?

We organize the markets in many different villages, not only in Ilula but also further away, but all within 150 kilometers from Ilula. We try to gather people from different villages that are close to each other to get the most out of one market.



Visit to a small Masaai village. We made many people happy with a new pair of shoes, trousers or shirts, and besides that it was a rewarding day for IOP; we collected TSH 111,000.

Why do you sell clothes in these villages?

It is so that when we have to visit a village with one of IOP's programs, especially the Foster Family program, we use the opportunity to sell clothes in that village. This is very good because these villages are far away from town, and so it is hard for people to get there. Not everyone has the

energy and/or the money for transport, and will therefore keep walking around in the same outfit that isn't good anymore. Besides that, not all clothes are of good quality. In the villages closer to town the people are quite critical about that, but people in the villages are more easily satisfied with less, because they don't have a choice but *really* need the clothes.

What will happen with the money you made with the village markets? Is there a special destination?

The money is included in the shop income, but we want to invest in starting an M-Pesa business at the shop. M-Pesa is a way to transfer money through your phone. It is like mobile banking but without internet connection needed. I hope we can introduce this by July, because it would be a good way to increase the shop income.

LIDIA MGEVEKE

Lidia lives at our orphan center. Now she is studying in Mbeya, but temporarily back at IOP for her holiday. I got the chance to speak to her about her life, dreams and plans.



“If you want to succeed, it is possible”

My name is Lidia, I come from Masukanzi, my father's name is Leson and my mother's name is Ando. I have been an orphan from the age of 10 and until the age of 12 I lived with guardians in Isele. That life was not good, but then when I was 12 I came to IOP. That is six years ago, now I am 18 years old, and in form 6. I'm studying at a high school in Mbeya; I started there in July last year. My combination is HKL: History, Kiswahili and English Language. It is a boarding school so I stay in the school's hostel, but now I'm back here for the holiday. I have a lot of time to play football and netball, but I also have private studies during my holiday; just studying for myself. Besides playing football and netball I also like to dance and sing; I especially like Hip-Hop music. I remember another year during the General Assembly, I rapped in English.

In July I will go back to school again and on May next year, I will be completing form 6. I like to study hard in order to pass the examination and I'm sure I will get division 1. After that I hope to go to University. I want to be a lawyer. I want to help poor people and orphans like me. If you want to succeed, it is possible. But first, I want to volunteer here, without enjoying any salaries, in order to say thanks to IOP. IOP has taught me to study hard, have a good behaviour, and live in peace, without any quarrels. At IOP, I have been doing a lot of activities; gardening, kitchen, housekeeping, and sometimes helping the small children. I love all the girls, volunteers and all workers.

Finally, thanks a lot to IOP, for helping me. Thanks to Bibi Berit for starting to help us here. I will never forget you! IOP is a good place for all people! There is such a good gender balance here at IOP, no discrimination towards girls or boys. And finally, I want to say thank you to my sponsor Anita, for helping me from primary school up to high school. Thanks a lot and God bless you and your life!

TRAINING OF PARALEGAL COMMITTEES

By Gerald

The training of paralegal committees (Committees that support people in legal issues) was conducted under support of Women Legal Aid Center. In this training 10 paralegal committees were reached and were trained on legal aid such as marital laws, human rights, land rights, children's rights and gender based violence issues. The intention of giving this training was to make sure that all committees have some legal understanding so as they can provide legal assistance to the community around their villages. After the introduction of these committees in the village government, IOP now sees the results because five land cases have been reported: one from Mtandika village, two from Kitumbuka village and two from Mlafu village. A widow claimed for her land which was taken away by the relative of her husband, one case was solved; a woman from Mtandika village was helped by ward land committee after fighting for 7 years. IOP believes that community members do not know laws which guide them on their daily life, something which has caused more torture to the lives of women and children. Only a handful of people in rural Tanzanian communities can afford to pay a lawyer, besides, only in district courts one is allowed to have legal assistance or representation from an advocate. Paralegal committees thus provide a solution to marginalized communities' rights being deprived due to ignorance to law.



IOP-ADEN

Interview with Adam Evarist



What is IOP-ADEN?

IOP-ADEN is a sports tournament organized by IOP which was introduced 7 years ago. The aim of it is to commemorate the African Child day. Different kinds of sports are being played, like football and netball. And different kinds of teams are invited: primary school teams, secondary school teams and community teams. Each year African Child day has its own theme, so the games and sports played relate to that particular theme. For example the kids have to draw pictures according to that theme. This year's theme was "Together we can avoid childhood marriages and pregnancies"

How have you organized the event?

We usually start with the preparations in February by asking for permission on village and district level. After getting the permission we have to sit as a committee, we have meetings to get ideas and discuss how we will do it this year, after that we visit teams with invitation letters, giving them enough time to confirm if they'll attend or not. Then IOP-ADEN takes place from the 10th until the 16th. During this week different games are being played: football, athletics, netball... This is done by all teams. The finals of the games are on the 16th, the last day of the competition.



Children (including girls from IOP) celebrating African Child Day

There was also a raffle. Can you explain a bit and tell us about the winner(s)?

IOP ADEN as a tournament has no specific sponsor. So we are looking for different sources where we can get some finances for the event. One of the sources of income is contributions from the departments, the registration fee from the teams, other donations from different people and the third source is the raffle. We prepare the tickets and publish – after getting permission from the government. After that we sell tickets to as many people as possible, around here and abroad. The aim of doing this is to raise funds to run the event. This year, one ticket costed 3000TSH and the biggest four prizes were a motorcycle, a chainsaw, a sewing machine and a bicycle. None of these prizes were supposed to be won by IOP staff in order to avoid conflict on interest. The motorcycle went to Amani Sanga, a 19-year old boy from Kimamba village. On the picture he is just receiving his prize from IOP Managing Director Mr. Edson Msigwa.



Who were the winning teams?

Under the primary schools in the category football the winners were Masukanzi primary school, they won TSH50,000. The second winners were Itungi primary school, they won 30,000TSH. In the category netball Itungi primary school was first and Masukanzi primary school was the second winner, the prizes were the same as in the category football. There was only one secondary school joining, Kiheka secondary school. There were many community teams (10) and one of the teams came 45 Kilometers from Ilula : its name is Black Cheetah football club. They were beaten during the half finals. The winning community football team was Sunshine FC, the second winner was Galatasaray FC and the third winner was Ghuba FC. These teams were from Ilula Mtua and Ilula Sokoni.

Are you satisfied with the whole event? How did it answer your expectations?

It went well, it's a good event because it brings children from different places together, they get to enjoy, they get to learn about different topics. I'm also happy that through the raffle we can change lives. A motorcycle is a good way of bringing income, by transporting goods and people, so Amani Sanga can support himself and his family now. But having this raffle is also risky, because the people who are buying tickets but don't win anything are getting disappointed, and sometimes complain when I meet them in the street. It would be easier if we could find another way to finance the event, for example being sponsored instead of getting the income out of the raffle tickets. Finally, I would like to thank those who have supported and those who have participated in IOP-ADEN this year.

Girl Guide kiosk

During IOP-ADEN, the girl guides of Ilula had responsibility for organizing a kiosk on the playground. The ones in charge of this kiosk were Penina (left) and Tamari (right). In the kiosk they sold different things: water, soda, homemade popcorn, candy, baobab powder and biscuits. It was also possible to buy the raffle tickets at the kiosk. During the whole event, the kiosk managed to collect 200 000 Tanzanian Shillings. Besides that the kiosk was also a nice place for people to come together and socialize during the break and/or games.



ONGOING CONSTRUCTIONS

We thank God that some activities are still going on. Construction in IOP is endless as there are many buildings that are highly needed for the school. The hostel and examination hall construction started in March 2015. The activity is going on. The start of the construction of the girls hostel has been supported by Kragero High School, Norway while the examination hall by Engebraaten Secondary School and Knowit Company in Norway. More funds are needed to complete the two buildings which must be opened by October 2015

Together with the two constructions, the new pre primary school is under construction. The construction of the Sollerud Kindergarten Tanzania supported by Sollerud Kindergarten/Y-Global, Norway, started in March. The opening of the school is expected to be on September 11th, 2015. We thank all sponsors who have started sponsoring the construction.



Sollerud Kindergarten Tanzania.



Examination Hall (Left; Front side & Right ; Back side)



Girls Hostel

VOLUNTEERS PAGE

We are happy to welcome some new volunteers this month. Here they will introduce themselves.



My name is **Angelle Henkelmann**. I am from the United States, where I am a rising sophomore at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. I plan to study Psychology and Community Health while at Rhodes in preparation for nursing school. I have two older sisters, and hope to one day own a pet pig. In my spare time I love gardening, reading, sewing, hiking, biking, meeting new people, and going on adventures.

I have been looking forward to my stay in Ilula for quite some time, and am so thrilled to be here for seven weeks. I have already begun to fall in love with Tanzania, and am quickly realizing that seven weeks will not be nearly enough time! My mother spent much of her childhood in Ethiopia, and her countless stories of adventure inspired me to travel to Africa on my own. I am so lucky to have ended up here at IOP, where the people I laugh with and learn from already hold a special place in my heart.

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My name is **Julia Foyer**. I am 22 years old and from Sweden, Stockholm. This is my first time doing volunteer work outside Sweden, and as I am writing this I have been here for almost two weeks. I will stay here for eight weeks in total, so six more weeks to go!

To volunteer abroad has been one of my dreams for many years, and the last couple of years I have also been struggling a lot with thoughts about unfairness. I did not do anything to deserve being born in a wealthy country, and I don't know how to handle having access to so much supplies and opportunities that I know most people in the world don't have. I have been thinking a lot about this, and I still don't know. So being here is also a way for me to try to move forward in some way. I chose to do my volunteer work at IOP because I thought it seemed like such an interesting project, not the least because it works in so many different ways. IOP seems to do so much good for so



many people, and I am here because I hope to learn more about how it works.

I know that my time here will make me grow. I am already learning so much from the people around me and from being here. But I am also really hoping to give something back. I hope that I can contribute in some way and that I can make at least a very little difference.

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Mambo! My name is **Ingrid Eriksen**, I am 21 years old and from Norway. I arrived in Ilula 8th of June and will stay until 21th of June, and this is my third time at IOP – so all the girls at the center and the staff are like family to me, and I am so happy to be back here with them! The reason why I am coming back again and again, is because IOP is an amazing organization doing fantastic things for the people they support and work with, and I feel so lucky to be part of it.



This time I will work a lot with the sewing-girls – Osolina, Edda and Aneth – and they will help me to make hair bands for girls and bowties for men. When I am back home in Norway, I will sell them to collect money for the new IOP pre-school. We have had a lot of fun making them, but the best part was when we had a photo-shoot with the staff, as you can see in the pictures! (see next page)

I have had a very good time at IOP, and I wish I could stay longer – but I know for sure that I will be back again and again! All the best, Ingrid.

HAIR BANDS & BOWTIES

As you have read on the last page, Ingrid Eriksen has been working on hair bands and bowties with Osolina, Edda and Aneth from the sewing room, which she wants to sell in Norway to collect money for IOP. Right now I (Janna) am also working on hair bands which I will sell in the Netherlands. Here are some pictures to illustrate what the hair bands and bowties from Ingrid look like. Thanks to our beautiful staff members for modeling!



INITIATIVES

... And now we need **YOUR HELP!**

Do you have some **OLD PIECES OF FABRIC**

and you don't know what to do with them?

HERE at the **IOP CENTER** they would be very useful for our girls!

They will sure be of great use including clothing and decorations!

We see nothing of no use to us. Every piece of cloth you find to be useless, find its usefulness in IOP!

IOP still has projects in need of great support. Any cent coming leads to completing the entire goal.

Some of these projects are:

- ◊ Running expenses of the IOP center
- ◊ Finishing the new welding house
- ◊ Funds to complete examination hall and girls' hostel at the Lord's Hill Secondary School

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

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*****GOD BLESS YOU - MUNGU AKUBARIKI *****

If you have any questions concerning new projects, please send an email to our IOP managing director Edson (edmsigwa@yahoo.com).

Prepared by Janna and Enicka