

Ilula Orphan Program



Dear IOP friends and family

Yet another month have passed, and we are already going into the fifth month of this year. New volunteers have arrived, and we have also welcomed another new girl to the Center. We also had The General Assembly on the 22nd of April, and the month ended with a big birthday party. Read about these things, and more, in this months newsletter:

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EXAMINATION HALL

Monthly Update

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 permission from the officers to conduct the National examinations in ordinary classrooms. They inspected all classrooms but found none was acceptable to the given standards. There was no other way then to plead.

At the end they allowed the Examination to be conducted in the school mini library block, which was three meters square bigger than the classrooms. 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 on-going 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.

The budget for finishing the hall to the point of being usable is 336,000,000 Tsh in total (about 176,843 USD). IOP still needs an additional 94,931,032 Tsh (43.332,0 USD). IOP is requesting goodwill and assistance from our IOP friends inside and outside Tanzania, so that our school can use the hall as required by the government.

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 Engebråten High School in Norway for donating the start-up funds for the construction of this hall.

CHICKEN PROJECT



In 2012 a Norwegian volunteer, Kjetil Andreas Størkson, decided to make a plan for the chickens here at IOP. He shared the idea with the SUFH group that was there the same year, and they helped with some contribution. Kjetil also shared the idea with another Norwegian volunteer Kim Osmund Ueland, who also was there at the same time as him, and Kim liked the idea a lot. That was the first time Kim was at IOP as a volunteer. Kim also shared the idea with his family, in Norway, and Kim's family took the responsibility to do the fundraising for the new chicken house at IOP. They all helped arranging events to collect money to make the project happen. They showed film from their Kilimanjaro trip in 2012 twice at the local cinema in Egersund in Norway, and collected there 10.000 UD. Thanks to the Ueland family, we got a chicken house, and now a kindergarten too!

This is a good example for who important a volunteer can be to the development of IOP. We need more volunteer example like this.

The chicken house opened on the International Women's Day, the 8th of March 2013. The goal that was made, was to earn net 10 000 000 TSH (around 4 569,36 dollars) a year, by selling eggs. This is net financial result after bought food for the chickens, salary for the people working with the chickens and some % to the administration at IOP.

The project has been like a roller costar, with both ups and downs. The first round of chickens, in 2013, didn't go well. They were not given the right food and probably not taken care of the way they should have been. In 2014 we got new chickens, but it didn't go so well this time ether. The problem was that most of the chickens didn't lay any eggs. Luckily, third time is a charm, at least in this situation.

In July 2015 we got new chickens again, but this time it has gone much better. We learned a lot from the two first years, and out of the 700 chickens we got in July, only 12 of them have died. Every day they lay around 450 eggs, and we have calculated that if they lay 480 eggs a day, we will be able to reach our goal for net result of 10 000 000 TSH a year from the chicken project! This is a lot of money, which can be used to develop IOP.

It should also be said that IOP in 2015 got a sustainable certificate, where the development of the Chicken house, was an important background for qualifying for the



YOUNG MOTHERS - AND ILULA YOUTH EMPOWERMENT CENTER



Right now there are 16 girls who are attending the Young Mothers Empowerment Center, and 21 people who are in the youth group. Both groups meet 3 times a week, and have a lot of the same lessons.

Both groups have learned about Saving and Lending system VICOBA (Village Community Bank), and both groups have started their own saving groups. They also have English lessons, Entrepreneurship training on Soap and Batik making, how to raise their children (for young mothers group), team building, leader training, Tamar Campaign and Gender Issues, Youth Forum, Food and Nutrition, Reproductive Health, Business Development Model, PETS (Public Expenditure Tracking System, Mushroom production, Interpersonal Relationship and so on.

On the 25th of April the Youth group finished their three month course at Ilula Youth Empowerment Center, and they each received a certificate on what they have learned. We are excited to welcome a new group and also to continue the work and learning with the young mothers.



VOLUNTEERS



Hey everyone!

This could possibly be the thousand time that someone asked me to introduce myself in the last month, so here it is again ☺:

My name is Willy Hoogerdijk, I am 22 years old and I am from the Netherlands.

I studied History at the university of Leiden and after I had my bachelor degree last summer, I was a little bit tired of studying, so I decided to quit and postpone my master and started to look for something else to do. And that brought me here in Ilula at IOP.

I arrived on April 1st and will be leaving at the end of June, so I'll be here for three months. So far I have been teaching a bit (Geography and History) at Lords Hill secondary school, which has been both challenging and fun. The rest of the week is filled with helping with other projects, like the elderly program, at the sponsor office and all other kinds of plans Berit comes up with :p.

It has been amazing so far and now that I'm settled it'll probably only get better, so I'm excited to see what the rest of my time here will bring.

Lots of love,
Willy



Jambo!

My name is Laura Kuppens, and I come from Belgium. I'm 25 years old. I have studied history and culture studies, and I'm staying at IOP for six week.

During my time here, I will be working with the Young Mothers Empowerment Center, Kids Corner Pre School, sponsor program and other places where I'm needed.

My time here so far has been amazing! I have learned so much already. All the staff, volunteers and children are fantastic. I'll never forget this experience. I'm very happy that I've made this choice. It gives me so much energy, but it's also very peaceful and quiet here. The perfect combination for a fresh start when I'm back home.

MARKED AT IOP



On Monday the 18th of April there was a small market in the hall of the IOP centre to sell some of the suitcases, clothes and other things brought and left by volunteers, that were piling up in Berit's office.

The market was going to start at 16:15 and by that time a lot of people were waiting by the door. Berit had to guard the door on the other site, so that no one would enter before they were allowed (see photo). Exactly on time the door was opened and in came a big group of running staff. The hall was filled quickly with people trying to get hold of the suitcases, which were the most popular by far.

We managed to raise over 800.000 Tsh in little over half an hour, and that is amazing. The money that was collected will go to the senior program that started up last month. You can read more about our two last meetings in this newsletter. The money will be used to buy supplies and to pay for the meals that we end every meeting. So a lot of thanks to the IOP staff for coming to the market, and for your contributions.



NEW GIRL AT THE CENTER

On Wednesday 20th of April, another beautiful girl arrived IOP.

This is Esther. She turned 5 in February, and we are so happy to welcome her here at the center.

She started in Sollerud Kindergarten Tanzania the same week as she arrived, where she is enjoying her time with Witness, Delila, Angel, Stella, Elemina, Prisca and all the other children there.

Esther has been smiling every day since she arrived, and the other girls have also welcomed her with open arms.

Esther is funny, kind, charming and very loving! We are really looking forward to get to know you even better!

You are most welcome, beautiful Esther! We are happy to have you here!



GENERAL ASSEMBLY



The General Assembly was held on the 22nd of April 2016, and many people attended with big expectations. There were IOP Board members, Volunteers, IOP staff, guests from the local government in Ilula and Kilolo, and the IOP school coordinators.

Close to 42 people attended this function. This year, few staff attending the GA due to lack of funds from projects to support this!! But thanks to all who attended and made their contributions for IOP's success. There were a lot of comments and questions, asked to the IOP boards, focusing on all the projects. In particular the sponsor program, Foster Family and The Lord's Hill Secondary performances on their exams. But also there were explanations on the developing of the project of Farm for the future which created more attention to the GA participants, with all the plans that IOP is working on.

The reports, both narrative and financial, were read which has shown that IOP has been moving forward. This can be measured through the performance of different projects, like chicken projects, cow projects, Artemisia project and many other projects regardless of the obstacles that are here and there which can be solved with IOP members all over the world.

The day went well with snacks, food, drinks and music!!

We expected much for the General Assembly, and are already looking forward to next year!

SENIOR MEETINGS



This month we have had two senior meetings, one on the 2nd of April and one on the 23rd of April.

The first meeting was about “Feet and foot care”. We started the session with some questions, like last time, where they had to raise their red card if the answer was “no”, and the green card if the answer was “yes”. As always, a fun and nice way to learn. We were also lucky to have Rodha Kihwele, from Ilula Lutheran Hospital, as our guest speaker. She told us and showed us how we should wash our feet, and how often. Each were also given a gift, soap, from Wasiwasi who was there helping with translation.

The second meeting this month, we arranged a role-play telling them about Henry 8, and his 6 wives. Laura and Willy were in charge of the play, and they had fixed both costume and things that were needed to make it easier to visualize the story. One of the men were chosen to play the king, and along the story, one by one of the women, were chosen to play his wife, until we had gone through the story of all the six wives. We all enjoyed, laughed and visualized the story. This time we tried to play YATZY, which was very successful. The only problem was that not all the seniors were able to see what the dices showed, luckily each table had helpers when needed.

Both times we had some exercise and both times we played BINGO, where they could win prizes. As the first time, we also ended the meeting with dinner in the hall at the center. Everyone enjoyed, learned something new and we are all looking forward to next time. It has been decided that we will have a senior meeting the last Saturday of every month. The next one will be on the 28th of May, and the topic will be “Something I remember well from my childhood”!

QUIZ FOR FORM FOUR



On Friday 29th of April, we started with a series of quizzes for form 4 students of Ilula's secondary schools in the IOP library, Holland House of Books. Five schools are participating in teams of four students, and the schools are; Lords Hill, Nyalumbu, Ilula Secondary, Vosa Secondary and Hiheka Secondary

Every Friday and Tuesday, the next two weeks, one subject will be quizzed and at the end the school with the most points will win the entry money, which was collected in the beginning. This Friday we started off with 'science' and quizzed the students about chemistry, astronomy, physics, the history of science, etc.

The teams did amazing and two schools, Ilula Secondary and Nyalumbu Secondary, are currently leading the competition with 30 (out of 40) points. As said by the teachers, that were also present to judge, this competition is a great way to not only expand the students', the teachers' and the audiences' knowledge, but also to learn about teamwork and so much more.

The teams and the teachers are very excited to proceed and we are all very curious to see the results. There will be four more quizzes and they will be about Geography, Arts & Culture, Health & Medicine and the Bible. In other words, a lot to look forward to.

Good luck to all the form 4 students!

BIRTHDAY PARTY



This month we had 13 people to celebrate. Four girls from the center; Witness, Latifa, Radhia and Lestuta. Eight staff; Enicka Sanga, Ayuni Hamadi, Devotha Mbinda, Victor Kisulilo, Jessica Merengo, George Maketa, Atupye Nyivambe and Rehema Itambu. Last but not least, IOP's dear bibi, Berit Skaare.

Unfortunately there were some who didn't have the opportunity to join the birthday party, but we had eight exited people to celebrate!

We sang for each one of them, had speeches, we even found out that there were 66 years between the youngest and oldest birthday kids, Witness and Berit. Laura and Emilie arranged two games, which everyone enjoyed. The birthday kids also got a birthday hat each and of course cake. At the end we all shared a lovely meal with soda.

Hope every one had a wonderful evening, especially the once we celebrated! Again, **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**



INITIATIVES

1. Do you have some OLD PIECES OF FABRIC that you do not 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 girl's 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.