



Newsletter

Ilula Orphan Program

January, 2017

Happy New Year 2017

We are happy to share with you the news of January 2017;

- ✓ Examination hall progress
- ✓ New year party
- ✓ Back from holiday
- ✓ Meeting for Farm For the Future
- ✓ Volunteers page

THE EXAMINATION HALL

Monthly Update

IOP TZ is pleased with the progress of contributions for the completion of the examination hall from different donors. We had received 80,000,000 TSH by the end of November 2017. We extend a heartfelt thanks to IOP Netherlands for their donation of USD 6000 which is about 20 million Tanzanian Shillings, IOP USA for donations from various individuals totaling 6 million Tanzanian Shillings (USD 2630). We also thank Bell & Carlene Bate for contributing USD 14,500. In addition, we are grateful to the IOP sister school in Norway, Kragerø Secondary School, for donating 24 million Tanzanian Shillings (NOK 93,000). During the IOP international meeting in Luxembourg, several pledges were made to see that IOP completes the construction tasks. We thank different friends and supporters who donated other funds in December 2016. Thanks to Fovea Foundation for supporting IOP with NOK 280,000(USD33, 091.37) in December 2016. The amount gives IOP the great and firm hope that construction of the examination hall will be done to an end.

IOP has been able to accomplish the following activities; Roofing and Purchasing and installing inside door frames and shutters.

The work is in good progress as pictured below. Congratulations to friends and supporters who made it possible for the hall to reach this far. You have been friends in need and friends indeed. We look forward to using the hall for examinations for the first time and for the third graduation ceremony in our hall. This is a big step in the right direction!

There is still much left to make the hall and surroundings fully completed including electricity installation and wiring, construction of toilets, ceiling boards, painting, tiles, landscaping and drainage. This will be made possible with all the end-of-the year donations we received. We thank all friends who have done the great works to make this construction activity a success. We shall keep you updated until the end of the construction.

Together we can make the world a better place.



Examination hall in plastering stage

NEW YEAR DINNER PARTY



On 14th January 2017 the IOP had a New Year dinner party. In this party the married staffs were asked to come with their partners. The party was good as various dances, games and quizzes were given and winners got the prize. The prizes were given to those who came on time and this was given at the door, best couples, younger couple, old couple, staff worked at IOP for over ten years, and other staff who deserved to be awarded.

Every participant enjoyed the party with music,

traditional dance and comedy played by the staff. With this, it was great as we had funny but also it was an opportunity to make the staff get together but also made the staff wives/husbands continue to feel part of IOP as they joined us in the party for the dinner and exchanged ideas.

The party started at 03.00pm to 07.00pm. It was very joyous. Having another party next year, will continue to create a very precious bond to the staff but also to people who have friends at IOP. It was a great work for the Managing Director and the committee that prepared the party and all the attractive programs.



BACK FROM HOLIDAY



Many of the girls from the center went to spend Christmas with their relatives and friends. We interviewed Gloria, and asked her about how her holiday was, and how it was to come back to the center.

Gloria visited her aunt, Uncle, and grandfather during Christmas holiday, and she says she had a really nice time. She was there for two weeks, but she says it was also very nice to come back to IOP. We asked Gloria what she liked the most when she visited them, she answers that she really liked seeing that they were doing fine, and

hearing about everything they had been doing since the last time she saw them. At Christmas eve, Gloria told us that they made a lot of delicious food, like “pilau”, chicken, beef, and they drank soda. They ate together with Gloria’s cousins, and her younger sister Violeth. Gloria and her family also went to church at Christmas Eve, where they sang and prayed.

She told that it was very different from her home at the IOP center and spending Christmas at her family. She liked it very much, but when she went back from the holiday, she had missed all the girls at the center very much, and was so glad to see them again.

MEETING FOR FARM FOR THE FUTURE

Farm for the Future gets strong supports from Stakeholders

- The work shop at IOP in January 24th. and 25th, visualized who much the project can do for the region

The meeting, which 30 people from different Agricultural sector attended, agreed, as part of the process to the following;

Farm for the Future (FFF), with its 651acres, is a unique regional development project in Iringa Tanzania. It combines commercial farming with training and learning for local farmers, young single mothers, youth and children of all ages from kindergarten to high school.

The area is characterized by poverty, high unemployment rate, poor nutrition, inadequate farming knowledge and crop productivity; social exclusion of Single Young Mothers, and some families where Children take care of themselves. IOP is economically not fully independent.

The project will greatly contribute to improve the standard of living in the area.

The workshop was a follow up of the presentation of the project in October and November 2016, to the Regional Commissioner, members of Parliament, management of Yara Tanzania, management of Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT), Representatives of the Management of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), and presentation from the IOP Board.

Main objective for the workshop was to reach a common understanding and agreement on:

- a) what to grow on the farm?
- b) on the main elements in a Business plan, which needs to be developed for funding, and for further development of the farm

The participants were; Managing Director of Yara Tanzania, Managing Director of Yara Africa, Managing Director of SAGCOT, Norges Vel Resident Representative, Principal of the College of Agriculture and professors and department Leaders from Sokoine University of Agriculture, representatives from the YWCA - YMCA Global, representatives from Iringa Regional Commissioner, Kilolo District Council representatives, Ilula Township Officers, Local farmers, Single Young Mothers and students' representatives.



Meeting participants

Day 1 - all this participants agreed on a master plan for Farm for the Future which is the division of the 651 farm into different projects (corn, soy, sunflower beans, pasture and buildings for administration and Livestock project).

Day 2 - a work process to bring up a Business Plan for the project, moderated by Norges Vel's resident Representative, Jose Ramos.

The stakeholders agreed to develop the Business plan (draft to be out April 1, 2017) and other initiatives such as training activities in a Project Document. The process for developing the Business plan and the Project Document will be led by IOP and Norges Vel. Norges Vel will play a key role to coordinate documents with the stakeholders. The updated drawings on the infrastructure, will also be present as part of the plan.

Yara and SAGCOT admit that the project is unique, and it must retain its simplicity to succeed. A project committee which includes Norges Vel, SUA, Yara Tanzania and IOP was established during the workshop.

Ilula Orphan Program (IOP) puts a lot of emphasis on education as the way to improve the condition, and is doing a marvellous job in helping educate and taking care of children and young people. The Farm for the Future is a project that will enhance this further, in other words the business driven farm will support some of the IOP activities in the region. This is a project that will bring revenue to the shareholders, education to farmers in the region, jobs to young people and young single mothers, and agricultural education to children of all ages. The good cooperation with the Iringa local and regional authorities is crucial for success, and as the project goes forward we learn more what works, this may be a concept for development and cooperation that can be copied also in other areas with similar challenges. We have the farm, the plans and the know-how together with our very good partners.

However, of course - here is still a lot to be done before we can start this. First of all - find stakeholders who will be able to invest in the farm and this is now our first priority.

The project management will use the Business Plan as a key tool for approaching potential donors and supporters. The plans for Farm for the Future will be based on sustainable and commercial principles.

Farm for the Future has emphasis on creating jobs, combined with vocational training in agriculture and renewable energy. This is in line with the priorities of the Norwegian authorities/NORAD in order for them to contemplate giving a contribution.

The plan is that some of the profits from the commercial operation of the farm will go to create an attractive learning centre in agriculture and IOP activities.

Concrete idea led to a plan during the stakeholder meeting:

- A complete set of new buildings and space for 30 dairy cows, 50 goats and 50 calves/bulls

- To cultivation corn, soy, sunflower and beans on 500 acres.
- The commercial part of the FFF will initially have around 30 permanent jobs, which will increase to 100 through seasonal work and through the processing part of the products grown on the farm.
- The competence part of the farm could engage up to 100 people annually, with priority on capacity building for local farmers, young single mothers and youth. The farm is mainly thought driven by youth, and it has a great potential to become an important arena for Village Community Banks (local bank) activity, which Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) currently operates in the area.
- A curriculum for all target groups is under development, active and targeted communication will be part of the project characteristics.

The FFF requires considerable expertise on the board, management and operations; this will ensure a systematic and knowledgeable training and further development.

The objective is to ensure adequate funding in 2017, so that the construction could start in 2018, allowing the farm to open in 2020. So far no money is promised, but we work on all possibilities, public and private. The IOP family will work in order to bring in part of the funding in 2018, 2019 and 2020.



Preliminary calculations show that the needed capital to realize Farm for the Future, should be around 1.2 mil USD, which will be divided into two parts, the commercial part 900,000 US Dollars and the capacity building part which will be 300,000 US Dollars. These figures will be updated when the business plan is completed.

The commercial part will be organized as a limited company with IOP as the owner of 51% of the shares. The company Farm for the Future Ltd (under establishment) will rent the farm from IOP. In the development phase, investors are invited into the company, while in the longer term; the plan is to have IOP along with regional and local community responsible for running the farm.

Work is going on with alternative funding models from Norad, Ministry of foreign Affairs, institutions and private capital. IOP and its 8 affiliated committees, will reach great achievements when they collect 180 000 US dollars as capital contribution to the project (e.g. funds for two 75 Hp tractors coming from IOP USA, and funds for Cow shed from IOP Norway).



IOP encourages different individuals to engage in the development of the Farm for the Future, a very important regional development project in the area in many years.

VOLUNTEERS PAGE

In this month, we had many volunteers coming to stay and work at IOP. Lindzay from Hawaii, USA, stayed for five weeks, and spent most of her time at Kids Corner, and having soccer practice in the afternoon. On the 7th of January, Synne Ronning and Stefanie Andersen from Norway arrived at IOP. They are both studying Child Welfare at the South-East University in Norway. They travelled around the area, visiting schools, orphanages, and meeting different types of people in order to learn different things and the African culture. On the 14th, Sofie Melkeraaen from Norway arrived. She is staying for 6 weeks. She will be doing different types of tasks. She has spent many mornings at Kids Corner and Sollerud, and have also done some computer work, and made brochures. She has been at IOP with SUFH one year ago, and wanted to come back for volunteering. She really likes spending time with the kids at the preschool, singing, dancing, and learning English.

Eirik Rund and Parth Sarna arrived at IOP on the 19th. They are also from Norway. They did different volunteer works at the Center, Sollerud and Lord's Hill boys' hostel. They are staying until the 23th of February.

Jake from the USA is also still at IOP, working mostly at the farm with his boys. He is staying until 17th, of April.



The four volunteers from Norway

INITIATIVES

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 operating expenses of \$49,000 for the IOP Center (Orphanage)
- Annual operating 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.

Your decision to sponsor one girl or boy will totally change a life.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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