

Ilula Orphan Program

NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE 2018



Dear IOP friends and family

It is quiet at IOP in June. The school are closed because of the holiday from June to July, almost all girls were visiting their families for two weeks. Some volunteers left and some arrived. But the employee and staff do not have holiday, and continued to work very hard.

It is the period for harvesting maize and the volunteers and students were helping. Besides that there are a lot of meetings for the Farm of the future, foster family and interviews for new participants for CFC and young mothers. Read about it in this newsletter.

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HARVESTING MAIZE

At the beginning of the holiday it was time to harvest maize.

A few employees, students and volunteers helped at the field to get all the maize off the plants. It is a lot of work, because you have to harvest every single maize by hand.

First you have to peel it, and then put it in the bag, before it goes on the tractor. After that, the tractor brings the maize then to the storage area.

The maize that is harvested will be used to make corn flour (Ugali) for IOP center and the surplus will be sold for purchasing the next season's inputs. It takes about 3 to 4 weeks to harvest by hand every field around IOP.

RECRUITMENT OF NEW CFC PARTICIPANTS



Since 2012, there has been an agreement between Ilula YWCA and Norwegian YMCA-YWCA through Fredskorpset for the exchange project called Communication for Chance (CFC).

The program encourages young people between 18 and 25 years from underdeveloped and developed countries to participate in this exchange. The southern countries that are involved in CFC are Madagascar, Tanzania, South Africa and Bangladesh. The main goal of this program is to build young leaders for a global movement of justice and peace.

In June IOP recruited three new participants for the CFC program 2018-2019. To promote the program, the surrounding villages were contacted and YWCA informed the community if there were suitable candidates.

The profile for the candidate is a boy or girl, between 18 and 25 years old, helps with development, speaks good English, is ready of leaving the parents and must be self confident. Finally, ten candidates applied for the program and nine of them came to the interview.

The chosen candidates for this year are (from left to right in the photo): Belina Mhanga, Sajida Ilomo, Lynnchristine (leader) and Ezra Mdeka.

Ezra has been the leader of the boy scouts with the possession of suitable leadership skills and an ability to express himself very well. Besides, he speaks good English.

Belina applied for the second time and is a girl from IOP center. She speaks fluent English, learned a lot of skills from earlier CFC participants and is a good ambassador for IOP. She was in Norway before to visit Kragerø high school in 2014.

Sajida also applied for the second time. CFC is a Christian program, but that was no problem for Sajida despite being a Muslim. She has leadership skills, very motivated, positive and speaks English very well.

The new participants are staying at the IOP Center for six months from the 1st of July. On their first day, there will be a parents meeting to prepare the parents and participants. They need knowledge about Europe, especially Norway, the people there, circumstances and what they can expect about the program.

In the further month the participants will learn more about living together, improve their communication skills, and learn about the Norwegian and other Countries' Culture

After this July, the participants will go to Kenya and meet other CFC participants from Kenya, Madagascar, Bangladesh, and Norway. They will learn more about the program, culture adaptation and gender issue.

Then the participants from Tanzania will return to IOP with two participants from Norway. They will stay here together for three months, until December.

After Christmas, all the participants will meet in Norway, to attend different programs and trainings at Sunnmøre Folk High School for five months. They will continue with the program and experience living the Norwegian Folk High School's life.

YOUNG MOTHERS – LOAN ACCESS FROM THE GOVERNMENT

The young mothers' project started in 2016 and since its beginnings has evolved a lot. The latest step in the project is the "government's loan access" for which 6 young mothers applied in order to create their own business.

After having interviewed, Lynnchristine (project manager and head of YWCA-Ilula), the young mothers were interviewed on the changes this loan has brought in their economical situation.

Interview with Lynn-Christine:

The program of Young Single Mothers started in 2016 with 20 women. Like many beginnings, the beginning of this project was somehow hard: as the program started to move on, some mothers simply dropped out of the project. In fact they expected the training to be a short training, others expected to gain some material benefits. However the program focuses on giving these young mothers skills. Of course, there is the opportunity of the child to be sponsored.

Realizing this, some mothers dropped out of the program and at the end of the year we had 15 young mothers left.

It was time to move on with the remaining mothers: we had given them certain skills like the knowledge of how to start and manage a business, how to properly take care of the child, self-awareness (how you act and see yourself) but also we've tried to build a network around them so that they know where to go in case of a problem.

However, while doing the evaluation of the project, we recognized that for the mother, it was difficult to see some concrete, long-term results of this independence.

Willing to include them in the future steps of the program we asked them: "*Now that we've given you some knowledge, some skills, what do you want?*"

Some of them chose to go back to secondary school, others wanted to learn how to sew while others wanted to focus on establishing a small business. Hearing about this business wish, we decided to help them by giving them a small starting capital of 100,000 TZS for each young mother. In addition to this, we helped them by giving them some skills like for example the skill of keeping animals.

Some of them therefore started their business with animal keeping by keeping chicken or pigs. However, the problem with the animal keeping business is the fact that it is a business that grows over time and in the meanwhile, they still need to do something.

So we tried to change our approach for the second year of the project. During this second year, 13 young mothers joined the project.

It is important to know that we have certain rules in our program: it is not allowed for the young mother to get pregnant a second time while she's in the project. In fact, the first pregnancy was not planned and now we want to help them to plan their second pregnancy. So, if they get pregnancy a second time and if it was not planned the empowerment that we wished for them somehow "failed". Because some of the girls got pregnant from their second child while attending the program, they automatically had to drop out of the project.

Another rule is that they have to be single while being in the program. However, some of the girls got a new partner (which is good for them), which is not the program's goal. So starting with 13 young mothers in the beginning of the second year, we finally remained with 8 young mothers.

So for the 3rd year we said "*Ok girls. Now you have your animals, you have a project to take care of, we have given you some skills, you are empowered and now what do you do with those skills?*"

At that time we had a volunteer from IOP Luxembourg, Lallemand Francois, who helped us developing a business plan which they could use to evaluate the evolution of their own project. Along the way we heard that there is a governmental trust fund that supports women and the youth by giving loans. So this got led us to pay an attention to that fund and we wanted to know what we were supposed to do, how we should proceed in order to get this loan. So we invited some officials at the Center to talk to us, to explain how we should apply for the loan and the eligibility criteria.

"The advantage of the loan is the fact that it pushes you to be good in your work: your business really needs to be profitable since you have to repay the money that has been given to you in the first place". Six young mothers were willing to apply for the loan.

The amount of the loan was 200.000TZS for every young mother for six months. From there, the girls got scared: "*Okay you motivated us to get this loan but now that we have the money, how can we pay it back?*" In fact per month, the girls need to repay 44.000 TZS but at that time, they did not have an income that could generate this money so what should they do?

Hearing this, Mr. Osmund proposed them a job at "Farm For the Future Tanzania Limited" where they could help the masons and would get paid 8.000 TZS per day. Even though this is a hard work, the girls accepted to do it.

Young mothers' interview

After having interviewed six young mothers, we realized that most of them have the same plan, the same goal and also face similar challenges. Therefore we are here only copying parts of each interview which can provide you with a global view of the reality these girls are facing today; in which way having the loan has changed their economical situation and also what their hopes for the future are.

When did you get the loan and in which business have you invested the money?

The 16th May 2018, we received our loan: 200.000TZS each. We started to repay on the 14th of June and this for 5 more months.

The loan helps a lot for the economical situation. Like most of the girls, I started with the animal keeping business. Personally, I have chicken but others have pigs.

One of us got a female pig but had no male pig so she brought it at IOP Center in order to get her pregnant. Now that the animal is pregnant, she will retake it in her place and can continue her business from now on by selling the piglets.

Is this animal keeping business already profitable? Are you already capable of repaying the loan?

Today, in order to repay my loan, I work at the Farm for the Future Tanzania Limited with the other girls and in a near future I hope that I can save enough money to buy a sewing machine to diversify my incomes.

Fortunately there is the Farm for the Future Tanzania Limited (FFF) where we get paid 8.000TZS per day (per girl) which really helps me to put some money aside in order to repay the monthly 44.000.

What happens if you are not capable of repaying on time?

Since we got the loan in a group we are mutually responsible for one another. That means that if I cannot cover this month, the girls will cover for me (it has not happened yet) and I will have to repay them next month. So far, we've always been able to repay on time.

Has having the loan considerably changed your economical situation?

Yes and no. On the one hand it is good because it gives us a starting capital to become financially independent. But after having repaid our loan we will have to manage by ourselves. Being independent means having to secure our proper income. Now that we still have a job at the FFF, a certain income is assured.

If there is the possibility for us to continue working at FFF while our own business is really starting, it would be great.

What is your goal (professionally speaking)?

Most of us would like to buy a sewing machine in order to diversify our income. Next to the money we get through the animal keeping business, we would also like to sew which could provide us with a stable income.

One of us, Lydia, would like to open her own shop in Mtua. However, the biggest challenge she is thinking about is the payment procedures in here: She is from Mtua, which means people there know her. It is most likely that if she opens her own shop, people will come to her, saying that they need an item but since they cannot afford to pay today, they will pay tomorrow.

If this happens too often it will be really difficult for her to pay the rent in time which can have bad economic consequences. But this is something she will worry about once she has her own store.



MARKET AT DVERGSNES SCHOOL



Dvergsnes School in Kristiansand, Norway has been one of the best all-the-time supporters of IOP for more than 14 years. This cooperation was started by Astrid Hareide (Norway) with the support to the Kids' Corner.

During all these years, students from Dvergsnes School have been sending Christmas gifts to every child in Kids' Corner but last year sent to Sollerud Kindergarten Tanzania as well.

The first bricks for the new Library in IOP were also supported by Dvergsnes School about 12 years ago.

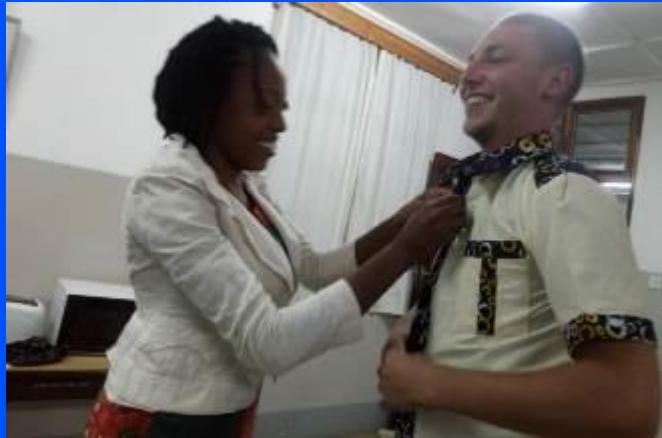
The school has promised to make a special effort for the Girls House in many years. Edson Msigwa, Berit Skaare, Lynnchristine Isote and Jane Mwani have visited the school.

Dvergsnes School has a big market every year. On Wednesday, the 30th of May 2018 , the annual arrangement started at 5pm with a speech by the Head teacher and a short concert by the school band, followed by 2-3 hours with many, nice activities and a cafeteria with a lot of delicious homemade cakes.

Elsbeth Dokmo's grandchildren Hannah and Henrik had a Tanzanian shop. They sold man-made elephants, hippos, baskets and so on, from the Maasai-Market in Iringa. Very popular! The goal for the Market was to collect money for IOP!

For many years the result has been almost similar of which it is about 76,600 Norwegian Kroner, which is about 22 million Tanzanian Shillings. It was a really great day!

GOODBYE AND WELCOME PARTY



On the 25th of June we had a goodbye and welcome party here at IOP.

Lallemand Francois, from the Luxembourg, who had been staying at IOP for 6 months, was saying his goodbyes, or see you later! He attended a lot of different activities, especially in the schools: Kids Corner, Sollerud Kindergarten Tanzania, Sunflower Primary School and Lords Hill High School. All the schools were represented at the party. In addition to that, he had English classes with the two Young Mothers' groups. It was sad to say goodbye, but we hope we will meet again soon.

We also said welcome home to our Emilie, from Norway, who is here for her sixth time. Emilie knows this place very well, and everyone was happy to see her again, especially the girls at the center. Emilie has done a lot of work with the Young Mothers, so she was very surprised and happy to see that almost all the young mothers were there to say their goodbyes to Francis and to welcome her.

The evening contained of speeches, songs, dances, gifts, amazing food and soda. We all enjoyed each others company and had a nice evening together

SEND OFF FOR VENERANDA, LUCY, SANTINA AND BELINA



It was a sad evening on the 27th of July. The reason is that we had to say goodbye to Veneranda, Lucy, Santina and Belina because they had turned 18 as at that age, the Law states that they should be back to their guardians.

Luckily Veneranda will continue to work at IOP, so we will see her every day. Belina is attending CFC, and will be coming back to the center soon to join the program. Lucy will start her second year at school in Morogoro while Santina will start her first year of studies in Arusha.

The guardian of the girls leaving were attending, and they were all thankful for the opportunities the girls have had to live at IOP, and happy that they were going home with them after the party. The night contained of songs from girls and staff, gifts for the four girls from matron Overnike who have been their (and all the girls') guardian here at the center and the Staff. There were dinner, many speeches, hugs and sad "see you soon". Especially between the remaining IOP girls and their big sisters.

All these girls have been living at the center since the beginning, and it was sad to see them move. We wish them luck on their new adventures, and we are happy this is not the end, but a new beginning. They are always welcome at IOP, and we know we will see them around as they will still be supported to go to school by the IOP Sponsor Program. We are looking forward to continue to follow you and see the paths that you will take.



FARM FOR THE FUTURE TANZANIA LIMITED

Farm for the Future (FFF) is rapidly developing!

- Farm manager in place, and buildings for office, learning center and warehouse are completed

Grace Kimonge (28), single mother, has been the Farm Manager for a month, and has started working on preparing the 651 acres farm for sowing in December. Trees are being taken down, and internal roads will be built before the soil preparation with ripping, lime and spraying can be done from September to November. December is the time for planting of maize and beans.

Grace says in a comment:

"I feel great and enjoying acclimatising myself in a new good working environment.

I feel so proud being a Farm Manager running a commercial farm with 651 acres with a good purpose of modernising agriculture and training the community about the best agricultural practices as well as empowering people especially young women. As a Farm Manager I will be a mirror to other workers and other people by living Farm for the Future values; Responsible, Committed and Result oriented. This will happen also through the investment done on the right personnel, right equipment, right culture and right partners, and I am sure we are going to achieve our goals, including reduce some problems which face the area like low farming knowledge, low productivity, poverty as well as unemployment.

We started cutting down trees on 15th June and we have already cut down 208 trees as of 29th of June, which is approximately 15 trees down per day. 1100 trees remain in our farm, so it will take us two months to finish the operation of cutting down trees."



Grace is in the process of building up her organization. Two key people come from the Clinton Foundation, a senior tractor driver and a mechanic for maintenance. Tractor Driver no. 2 comes from IOP. The team will, in the near future, employ two assistants.

FFF is also building up its own administration with an accountant and a service employee. A business culture will be built, characterized by the values: Responsible, Committed and Result oriented.

Two of the buildings from the Tobacco days have been completely restored to a very good standard. This includes the office and learning space for young single mothers and local farmers, and a storage area for tractors, tools, seeds and chemicals. The buildings are already finished.

The plan is that the building with the office and learning center eventually will be used as a guesthouse when the new buildings on the top of the farm is completed in 2020/2021.

The Contractor, Mwakalu Co. Ltd, with Fredy Chaula and his Engineer, Frida Mtewe, have done an impressive job. Management has always been on the site and followed up on quality and progress.

FFF has used Mr Ajolon Mgeveke from IOP as the Project Manager for the follow-up on these construction projects.

Most of the equipment has been purchased, including two tractors John Deere tractors with 75 HP and 195 HP, a planter, ripper and a sprayer. The 195 HP tractor (only used 640 hrs) was purchased from the UK and is on the way this moment in a container, along with the ripper, sprayer and a generator.

Drilling for water has also been successfully completed.



The skilled maize farmer from Iringa, Otto Ulyate from Rutuba Farm, is FFF's good advisor in the procurement of equipment, building up the organization, and for all preparations for the planting in December.

FFF is organized in two separate entities, with a commercial part, Farm for the Future Tanzania Ltd, and a capacity building unit (Non-Governmental Organization), Farm for the Future Training Organization. The training organization should be able to receive funds for its work for the training of young single mothers and local farmers in agriculture. The training part will also have a separate program to receive a class from kindergartens and primary schools, to awaken their interest and grow their knowledge on agriculture.

It is the aim of the learning part to start with the first 20 young single mothers already in October. In the development of the learning section, agreements are now being made with key partners for financing and knowledge transfer.



Grace (Left), Osmund, One of the Site Technicians, and Otto (Right)

Young single mothers should not only be trained in agriculture, but they will also be empowered through training in management, marketing, financial management, women rights, and more.

The importance of linking the learning arena to a commercial farm is seen as very positive from FFF's partners, including having shared values, "responsible, committed and result-oriented".

FFF has now developed the best team of partners for over 3 years, and newcomers will come, and they look at FFF as a very interesting partner.

One example is Hadija Jabiry (27) from Iringa, with her business Eat Fresh. FFF, as part of its learning arena, will start with a one-acre Horticulture department with drip watering, which supplies vegetables to Eat Fresh for the international market. With 3-4 crops a year, this part becomes an important learning arena at FFF. Hadija will also be a role model for young single mothers.

FFF is now investing substantial funds in the right gear, buildings and people that will make the FFF an important engine in the region's development.

FFF seeks companies and individuals who want to give something back to the community, through donations, and / or through buying shares in the farm.

Contact post@farmforthefuture.net and see the website www.farmforthefuture.net

Ilula Orphan Program (IOP), who owns the land, will when FFF is up and running, benefit as follows:

- IOP has taken the initiative to a new service expansion in the regional development through Agriculture
- A yearly income from renting out the land to FFF
- A yearly return as the 51 % shareholder, after 3-4 years, together with the other shareholders
- A learning place for IOP stakeholders on Agriculture, management, business and culture building



IOP FOR 20 YEARS

Are you planning for vacation this year? How about taking a trip to Tanzania, more specifically Ilula Orphan Program? We are celebrating our 20 years of IOP, and you are all welcome!

If you do not have the time to come, we welcome you to contribute with a present for our celebration. To do that, contact your nearest IOP committee. See the contact information below

IOP Tanzania	Edson: edson.msigwa@ioptanzania.org
IOP Netherlands	Annelies: info@iopnederland.nl
IOP Norway	Ingunn: iop.norge@gmail.com
IOP Luxembourg	Helen: Helen.clarke@sunflower.lu
IOP USA	Stephanie:stephaniegraber07@hotmail.com Or Ron: porterronaldj@gmail.com
IOP Italy	Deborah & Massimo: iopitalia@gmail.com
IOP Denmark	Lenne: iop.denmark@gmail.com
IOP Sweden	Annica: annicarenberg@hotmail.com
IOP Germany	Irma & Jos: iopgermany@gmail.com

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