

ILULA ORPHAN PROGRAM (IOP)



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Dear family and friends, we welcome you reading the events that happened at IOP in October 2025.

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CREATING MEMORIES WITH IOP CENTER KIDS IN IRINGA

On **October 4th, 2025**, a total of 37 people including the center kids, IOP staff and three volunteers from Luxembourg had an unforgettable trip to Iringa town. The trip was



funded by Carl family who stayed at IOP for one week. The trip offered the IOP center children a unique opportunity to explore, connect, and unwind. This special excursion was carefully organized to enrich the lives of our children through exposure to new experiences, team-building activities, and joyful moments.

This trip was more than just a getaway — it was a celebration of childhood, growth, and the power of community.

The diverse team ensured a safe, well-coordinated, and nurturing environment throughout the journey.

The first stop was at Gentle Hills Hotel where the children were warmly received by the Managing Director. Over the next four hours, the space buzzed with laughter as the children participated in interactive games that encouraged teamwork and friendship. The meal provided was well-enjoyed by all, with children especially appreciating the delicious food and soft drinks.



YOUNG MOTHERS' GRADUATION ON INTERNATIONAL GIRLS' DAY

On October 11th, 2025 the IOP through its YWCA program, proudly participated in the **"Girls' International Day"** celebration held at Mwembetogwa grounds in Iringa, Tanzania. This event marked a significant milestone for 22 single young mothers who were part of the 2025 graduation cohort, amidst a total of 23 participants.

The journey began at Highway Café, where the group faced an emotional moment as

one young mother had to withdraw due to her daughter's urgent health issues. Despite this setback, the remaining crew arrived safely, ready to embrace the day's events.

The celebration kicked off with a vibrant procession, featuring young girls from various schools and institutions. They marched from the Iringa Municipal Offices to Mwembetogwa grounds, embodying the spirit of unity and empowerment.

Photo above: A group of girls on the procession movement to Mwembetogwa grounds for the girl's international day celebrations.

The event was graced by the presence of Hon. Kheri James, the Regional Commissioner of Iringa, who commended IOP and other governmental and non-governmental organizations for their efforts in promoting better lives for girls. In his inspiring address, he urged young women to stand up against misconduct and emphasized the importance of respect and collaboration:

"We must stand together to ensure that every girl in Iringa has access to quality education, healthcare, and safe environments. Let us work together to break the cycle of poverty and empower the next generation of leaders."

"I advise you to respect parents, build unity, solidarity in education and all efforts in the promoting social economic development" said Hon. Kheri James. Photo right: Iringa regional commissioner, Hon. Kheri James giving a speech to the audience at Mwembetogwa, Iringa during girl's international day celebrations.

Hon. James also took the time to honor the young mothers by presenting them with certificates, recognizing their achievements in the Young Single Mother 2025 program.



One inspiring story shared during the event was that of Sylvia Dismas Ngohola, a young mother who faced significant challenges after becoming pregnant at the age of 16 while still in secondary school. With the support of IOP, Sylvia is now in her third year of secondary education, demonstrating resilience and determination.

Photo Below: A group of young mothers holding their certificates during the girl's international day celebrations, third from right is the YWCA training coordinator, Lynnchristine Isote.



The festivities continued with a celebratory lunch at CCM Hall before the official IOP party at Highway Café. The event was elevated by the presence of IOP's Managing Director, Mr. Edson Msigwa, and special guest Mr. Osmund Ueland, Chairperson and Project Manager of Farm for the Future.

The attendees enjoyed various performances, including dances, poetry, and a documentary about young mothers. Mr. Msigwa delivered a powerful message, encouraging the graduates to become role models within their communities:

"I urge you to be good teachers in the community based on what you have been taught here and to be role models" he stated.

Photo right: IOP's Managing Director, Mr. Edson Msigwa giving out a speech when he attended Young Single Mothers' graduation ceremony at Highway café.

Mr. Osmund also shared his insights, promising opportunities for the young mothers in agricultural projects:



"When it comes to harvesting maize next season, I welcome ten of you to participate at Farm For The Future as you will also be offered Tsh. 8,000/= per day," he announced.



Photo left: Chairperson and Project Manager of Farm for The Future, Mr. Osmund Ueland giving out a speech when he attended this year's Young Single Mother Graduation at Highway cafe.

The evening concluded with a communal dinner, bringing together participants, guests, and the families of the young mothers, fostering a sense of community

and support.

This event not only celebrated the achievements of the young mothers but also reinforced the commitment to empowering girls and young women in Iringa and beyond. With the support of IOP and its partners, these young mothers are not just graduates; they are leaders and change-makers in their communities.



LUNCH WITH STUDENTS SPONSORED BY IOP GERMANY, DONORS AND GUARDIANS

On October 18th, a gathering was held for children sponsored by donors from Germany, together with their parents and guardians. The event commenced with a prayer, followed by a brief explanation of its purpose.

The children presented various performances, and the parents and guardians also actively participated through songs and dances, contributing to the vibrant and joyful atmosphere.



The IOP Managing Director took the opportunity to remind parents and guardians of their vital role in the upbringing of their children.



He emphasized the importance of encouraging and supporting the children, particularly in their education. Children were also urged to take their studies seriously and strive for success, as their achievements not only shape their future but also bring great encouragement to their sponsors.

He further highlighted that children should take personal responsibility for their goals while being guided and supported by their parents and guardians. The success of a child serves as a great motivation to sponsors, who take pride in seeing the impact of their support.



OPENING OF TWO NEW CLASSROOMS AT KIDS' CORNER

On October 20, 2025, the IOP community proudly witnessed the official opening of two new classrooms at IOP's oldest school, **Kids' Corner**. For the past 23 years, the school operated with only two classrooms and two office rooms, limiting enrollment to fewer than 80 children. This small number made it difficult for the school to be financially sustainable, leading to over reliance on donations and support from donors for its recurrent budget.



This year, **IOP Germany** changed that narrative by funding the construction and equipping of two modern classrooms. The new facilities will allow Kids' Corner to enroll more children—up to over 100 thus reducing the school's economic dependency and strengthening its long-term sustainability. The official recommended student classroom ratio for preschools in Tanzania is 25 students

to one classroom. However, due to scarcity of classrooms the school takes up to 40 students in one classroom!

A marketing strategy has already been set in motion to ensure that the local community is well informed about the new classes and the enrollment opportunities available.

At present, Kids' Corner is in need of a school **van** to transport children who live up to 20 kilometers away, as well as **play units** to enhance the learning and play environment.



The entire IOP family extends its heartfelt gratitude to **IOP Germany** and the generous sponsors who made this long-awaited dream a reality offering more children a place to learn, grow, and thrive.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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