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## IOP NEWSLETTER JANUARY - 2026

1. **BIRTHDAY; Celebrating First Birthdays**
2. **VOLUNTEERS' WELCOME PARTY**
3. **SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF THE YOUNG MOTHER'S PROGRAM**
4. **DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM AT ILULA PEACEMAKERS VOCATIONAL AND TRAINING COLLEGE(IPVTC)**

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our first monthly article of 2026!

Hello, our dedicated monthly readers! We're excited to kick off the Year of Communication and the Year of Doing Better Things, helping our organization continue its forward momentum.

In this beloved first-month edition, we share highlights from several inspiring events. We know you'll enjoy diving into this article packed with uplifting news. Welcome!

## BIRTHDAY; Celebrating First Birthdays: A Joyful Start to the Year at Our Children's Center

On January 30, our children at Ilula Orphans Home came alive with laughter and cheer as we marked a series of first birthdays for our youngest learners. This heartwarming celebration served as the perfect opener for the year, following our cheerful New Year festivities and



setting a tone of warmth and community that carried throughout the day.

Spectacular, attractive cakes tempted little hands and eyes, with caretakers guiding the youngest celebrants through their first, memorable bites. In a celebration of care and connection, attendees exchanged handwritten

birthday messages and small handmade gifts, adding personal touches that highlighted the sincerity of the occasion.

Our gratitude extends to the dedicated friends whose generosity makes these celebrations possible year after year. Their support ensures that every child at our center has the opportunity to experience these magical milestones, and we are grateful for their continued partnership.

It is this backing that allows us to cultivate a nurturing environment where joy and learning flourish in equal measure.

Children's memories are backed up for their emotional, intellectual, physical and moral development.

## VOLUNTEERS' WELCOME PARTY



On January 29th, IOP staff and children hosted a joyful welcoming ceremony for a fresh wave of guests who arrived at the Center. Among the arrivals were five enthusiastic volunteers from Norway, ready to dive into a variety of hands-on activities, and a group of returning Universal Civil Services Volunteers from Italy, resuming their impactful program with renewed energy.

The event covered with excitement as guests were greeted with traditional hospitality songs, dances, sharing stories, laughter, and visions for collaboration. The volunteers from Norway have already launched a generous fundraising campaign for children's play area at Kid's Corner preschool. This initiative promises to bring safe, fun spaces for the school kids to play, learn, and grow.

At IOP, we extend a heartfelt welcome to all our guests. Your passion and support are the pillars of friendship, cooperation, and sustainable development here. Join us in making a difference—whether through volunteering, donations, or partnerships—and become part of our growing family dedicated to uplifting communities.



## SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF THE YOUNG MOTHER'S PROGRAM

In underscoring our efforts towards community empowerment, we officially launched the Young Single Mothers Program with a transformative opening session in this month. Bringing



together young single mothers from different areas around Kilolo District, the event promotes self-awareness and personal development.

The launching event was accompanied with the deliverance of practical guidance on effective parenting skills, covering responsible childcare, emotional support, and fostering positive upbringing. In a safe,

nurturing space, these resilient women opened up about their stories, learned from peers, and left with new confidence to navigate their paths forward.

To strengthen our engagement, follow-up and assessment efforts included home visits to newly identified young single mothers. These visits offered a firsthand look at their living conditions – from their homes and household dynamics to the everyday environments which shape their children's lives. By meeting them where they are, we're now equipped to craft targeted interventions and personalized support that truly makes a difference.

The program recruited 30 young single mothers, with 6 who will be staying at the mama House for closer supervision.

This launch marks just the beginning. As we continue these efforts, we're committed to fostering lasting change, one family at a time.

IOP appreciates the support received from different individuals to make this program life-changing.



## DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM AT ILULA PEACEMAKERS VOCATIONAL AND TRAINING COLLEGE(IPVTC)

As a results of the drilling of a water well last year, 2025, leading to the college having sufficient water, we have been able to install drip irrigation system to facilitate farming. In enabling



sustainable and climate-resilient farming, and hands-on learning, our college has launched a drip irrigation system spanning two acres, supported by dedicated volunteers from the Netherlands. This innovative project promises to revolutionize water use, boost crop production, and equip the students with real-world skills.

As of January 2026, one acre is fully operational, marking a significant achievement. The installation process was thorough, covering essential phases: Land preparation to optimize soil conditions, installation of mainline and sub-mainline pipes for reliable water distribution, laying of drip lines to target plant roots directly, connection to the water source, followed by rigorous testing, comprehensive system pressure testing and final inspections to ensure peak performance.

This system reduces water waste by delivering moisture directly to plants, enhancing efficiency in this climate. Expect higher crop yields, reliable food production for students, and surplus vegetables for sale to IOP Projects like the Highway Café, Volunteers Kitchen, and Center.



Most importantly, it offers students practical training in modern irrigation techniques.

### **Challenges and Path Forward**

The project hit an initial obstacle with delays in covering the full two acres, due to resource constraints like material shortages and logistical hurdles. Despite this, the team's resilience—fueled by volunteer support—has kept momentum strong. Future phases will address these by securing additional funding and streamlining supply chains.

This drip irrigation initiative exemplifies how targeted investments can yield lasting impacts in education and food security.

## **FINAL WORDS!**

Thank you for reading and supporting us to fulfil our key priorities in addressing Community's and Organization's Development initiatives. As we start this twelve-month journey, we share our Special Request for Our Kids' Corner Preschool!

Right now, our young children at Kids' Corner Preschool face daily challenges traveling from distant areas to school. Thanks to IOP Germany for constructing two classrooms making it even more demanding for enrolling new students to get education in this school with modern furniture, teaching and learning materials.

The school is now in urgent need for a school bus to make their journeys safer and easier.

May you kindly join us making this a reality? Your help will transform lives—thank you so much!

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

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