

THE CHANGARAWE PROJECT

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AUTUMN UPDATE 2013

News from Luke Edwards-Stuart, Chair of Trustees.

Dear Friends of Changarawe

As discussed in our Spring Newsletter 2013 (see website) our principal focus for the next few years is trying to dramatically improve the academic achievements of our orphaned students who are supported by **The Nigel Lloyd Fund**. There are 150 of these children who we sponsor throughout their Primary and Secondary education. They attend our new Study Centre every day after school for academic support with library facilities and tutors and also have a monthly Social where they share a meal with the Grandparents from our Bibi-Babu Scheme.

This year, only 6% of students *nationally* achieved a sufficient academic standard to continue beyond O Levels to study for A Levels - a damning indictment of the Tanzanian education system. We were therefore extremely proud that 'our' student, Alex Lukoo, was one of this small number and we celebrated with great joy his departure to study for A Levels in Iringa. He is the first student from our programme to achieve this result. Sadly, teaching standards at the local secondary school are unacceptably low and the latest Mock results suggest that none of our O level Lloyd Fund students this year will get the grades required for A Level, despite our best efforts.

There are 2 key reasons why this situation exists; they are required to study in English for their O levels, having studied in kiSwahili in Primary School. While their own English when they start is very poor, their teachers are generally almost as bad as their students at English as well, and all the textbooks are in English. The other problem, as if that wasn't enough, is lack of access to key curriculum materials such as past papers and practice questions.

In an attempt to address this, we are sending an experienced teacher from the UK, **Caroline Brown**, to Changarawe for six weeks in February to carry out a thorough analysis of the barriers to academic progress our orphans are facing and to design a targeted intervention programme for them. She is a specialist in providing EAL support to secondary school students. She will travel to Changarawe with me on my annual visit and we are extremely grateful for her interest and support and excited at the prospect of being able to make a significant change in the academic lives of our children.

The Zawadi School

This year we have 83 orphaned and destitute children attending our Pre Primary school and they continue to enjoy structured teaching and play at Zawadi, including a weekly **story-telling session** with local elders from the **Bibi-Babu Scheme**. The play equipment at the school has been upgraded and the environment is looking good. The major drainage problem outside the school has finally been fixed by the village committee, thanks to a grant from a local benefactor, and the children and staff can now get to school without negotiating an enormous puddle! We are recording height and weight data for all the children in order to compare with national averages and thus evaluate our nutritional programme.

Unfortunately we had a tragic reminder of the fragility of life in Tanzania when one of our Zawadi school children, Enock Mathew, died suddenly of malaria - he had been in good health and earlier that week had been seen running around playing happily with other children. Our hearts go out to his family.

Micro-Finance Scheme

This scheme, in its' 10th year, continues successfully with the latest series of loans yielding 95% repayment again. We have a loyal and dependable group of borrowers who are wanting larger and more long-term loans, and conversely we

continue to encourage people to borrow for the first time. Our very low rate of interest, by Tanzanian standards, generates an annual profit for the charity of approximately £600.

The Bibi-Babu Scheme

We are continuing to welcome more elderly and impoverished grandparents of Lloyd Fund orphans into this 'club' and we aim to embrace all grandparents who are responsible for any of our supported children. The fittest are given light employment, and 16 of them are the story-tellers at Zawadi School. We have a group of elderly gardeners who grow vegetables on project land which we buy to supply our student feeding programme. They all receive some basic food supplies and soap at the monthly Social and share a meal with the Lloyd Fund children. Once the goat-proof thorn hedge at the Study Centre has grown up, we hope to expand the number of bibi-babu gardeners.

The Peer Educators

This group of young people has been trained by us to use drama as a means of communication about issues of sexual health and general welfare. They perform for their fellow students and members of the community, including every month at the Social for the Lloyd Fund children and Bibi-Babu Club. The group goes from strength to strength, with a new generation of students recently trained. They write their own extremely entertaining skits and perform in local schools and markets. They have all been given training in Counselling and pay regular home visits to give support to victims of HIV and AIDS.

Textiles

Redina Mtei makes our gorgeous fabric bags and Cook's Aprons, and we have added to the range with lovely light-weight canvas **Art/Craft bags** with special pockets for knitting needles or paint brushes and big enough for an A3 pad. They also have pockets for a water bottle and purse. They come in lovely colours, are lined in Tanzanian textiles and are reversible. In addition we have reversible canvas shopping bags which are also lined in beautiful fabrics. Contact Caro Walford if you would like to see or order one - carowalford2012@gmail.com

Cycle Ride

Trustee Kathryn Lloyd and 4 friends cycled from London to Brighton in the summer and raised over £2000 for Changarawe. A big thank you to you all!

2014

Next year, September sees the **15th anniversary of the opening of The Zawadi School** in September 1999 and we hope to host a special celebration to mark the occasion, with our Founders Caro Walford and Felistas Kalomo together in London. Details of this event will be announced in the Spring Newsletter.

As a way of marking this event, Caro's son-in-law **Mark Baylis** has decided to raise money for the education programme. He has set himself a challenge which he has called:-

Kili on Ben. Next June, his aim is to walk the equivalent of the height of **Mount Kilimanjaro**, Tanzania's highest mountain, by going up and down the UK's highest mountain, **Ben Nevis**, 4½ times in 24 hours!! This is obviously not for the faint-hearted, but some of the Changarawe Project trustees are planning to go with him and some of their friends too. This is an entirely independent venture, and we are all amazed at his inventiveness and also immensely grateful for his generosity in devising this plan.

Money Matters!

As always, we are looking for support, and our current focus is on financing the upgrading of the educational support of our **Nigel Lloyd Fund** children. We are intending to set up a teaching-of-English programme, plus extra general educational help, commencing with the visit of Caroline Brown next year, and for years to come.

- If you already a regular donor, we are so grateful for your help.
- If you could set up a standing order for £5 per month - or more! - that would be tremendous.
- If you could send a one-off donation that would be tremendous too.

Please send any donations to Michael Robarts at Priory Farm, Balscote, Nr Banbury, Oxon OX15 6JL

Luke Edwards-Stuart, Chair of Trustees.