



Dear all,

This newsletter is especially to inform you about the biggest challenge that Tanzania Support Foundation has taken so far: the construction of dormitories at a primary school. And with success, you can read about that further below. But that's not all. Would you like more information after reading the newsletter, do you have suggestions or would you like to contribute to our work? [Please email us!](#)

#### *ANBI-status*

In our last newsletter, we've informed you about the extension of our board. This was one of the most important demands of the Dutch Tax Authority, for a foundation to be qualified for the 'ANBI-status' (status by the tax authorities as Public Benefit Organisation). Our application has been approved, and as a result Tanzania Support has been appointed this status, starting from January 1, 2014. This implies that donations can be deducted as such from the income tax, according to the [fiscal conditions](#), but already for the income tax over the past year.



#### *Eel smoking*



Last autumn Siem van der Kolk approached us with a – both literally and figuratively - lovely initiative. He really likes to eat eel himself and proposed to smoke eel for one day with the benefites for Tanzania Support. Siem did this on November 22, during an Autumn Fair in cooperation with [IQ Balance](#) from Nijkerk. It appeared to be a successful day, because he collected € 560!



#### *Project S*

Just like in 2014, this year again in April a group of students from the Montessori Lyceum Flevoland (MLF) in Almere (Netherlands) will go to Tanzania. Twelve students and two teachers are going for a roundtrip through the country, guided by our board member Cynthia de Beer. During the trip they will also spend some days and nights at the Oltinga secondary school in Selela. Under the name [Project S](#) the students have been collecting money in various ways for Oltinga. They organised a film night, a sponsor run and a High Tea, sold roses for Valentine's Day, cleaned trucks and they did activities in supermarkets with empty bottles and lottery tickets. Besides this, the teachers of the MLF were so generous to donate the value of their Christmas gift to Project S! At the moment of writing this newsletter, the final result is not known yet, but they do already know that it will be more than last year.



### *Dormitory for girls constructed*

Since 2013 we've been trying to get financial support to construct two dormitories, at the primary school at Mbaash, in answer to a request of the local community. One for boys and one for girls, plus at both buildings a small toilet/washing building. The school is the heart of a service area with a diameter of almost 50 kilometers. The school counts around 400 pupils. They all come to school on foot, something that sounds more easy than it really is. For the children that live most far away from school (max. 23 km), this means that they get up as early as 4.00 a.m. and start walking when it's still dark. At around 9.00 or 9.30 a.m. they arrive at school, which has already started at that time. When school's out at 3.30 p.m. they start walking back home, to arrive there at 8.30 or 9.00 p.m. Like that, they walk about 200 km per week!! And to emphasize this: we're talking about children of primary school age here. No wonder that many children, especially towards the end of the week, are nearly exhausted.



Besides that it's quite dangerous: in the past few years three children have died during the walk to school. One stepped on a cobra, got bitten and died, two others were washed away by strong water streams they had to cross in the raining season and drowned. Because of that risk many children don't come to school during the wet seasons.

So far the reasons why dormitories are necessary. In the summer of 2014, the Tanzanian government of Monduli district promised to take care of the foundation of one dormitory plus the adjacent toilet/washing building. After that we've been able, especially thanks to two major sponsors, [Atos Foundation](#) and [Ein Herz für Kinder](#), to construct the whole girls' dormitory. During the 11<sup>th</sup> so called *construction trip* of Atos Foundation, last January/February, the structural work has been built in two weeks time. That was quite a heavy job. To give an idea, here are some facts. The walls of the building have been constructed using 3,260 concrete blocks of at least 25 kg each. There's no electricity at Mbaash and thus no concrete-mixer; all concrete and mortar had to be mixed by hand. This meant mixing sand/cement/water/stones with a spade for the entire building (about 25 x 10 meters), including the poured floors. At a temperature of 35 °C or more that took literally spoken blood, sweat and tears of the volunteers.





The building has been finished after that by local construction workers. The photo's above give a small impression of the construction process. The next one shows how the building looked on the day the Atos group left on Februari 7:



That's a great result, for sure, but the boys that have to come from far away, now still have to walk to school, with all the mentioned risks and difficulties. By constructing a dormitory for them as well, they can at least attend school and stay there for the night. Children that don't go to school also miss the school meals and supervision of their health by the medical dispensary at Mbaash. So now we're looking for tips and ideas that can help to raise the necessary money for the second dormitory.

***Who knows suitable funds, companies, large foundations or other possibilities?*** If you can help us get in contact, more children can attend school in Tanzania.

The people from Atos fully enjoyed their stay at Mbaash, where they had a chance to meet and experience the Maasai population and their traditions.



### *Renovation of classrooms*

Because not all 23 Atos people could work on constructing the dormitory at the same time, it was decided to refurbish the seven classrooms of the school. There were 348 window panes broken, the walls had holes and cracks in the plastering everywhere, the paint on the walls and two classroom floors were in very poor condition. In the available time they put new panes in four classrooms, window handle bars were renewed, the two bad floors were repaired and in all seven classrooms the walls were cleaned, repaired and painted. This made a big difference (see picture on the next page)!



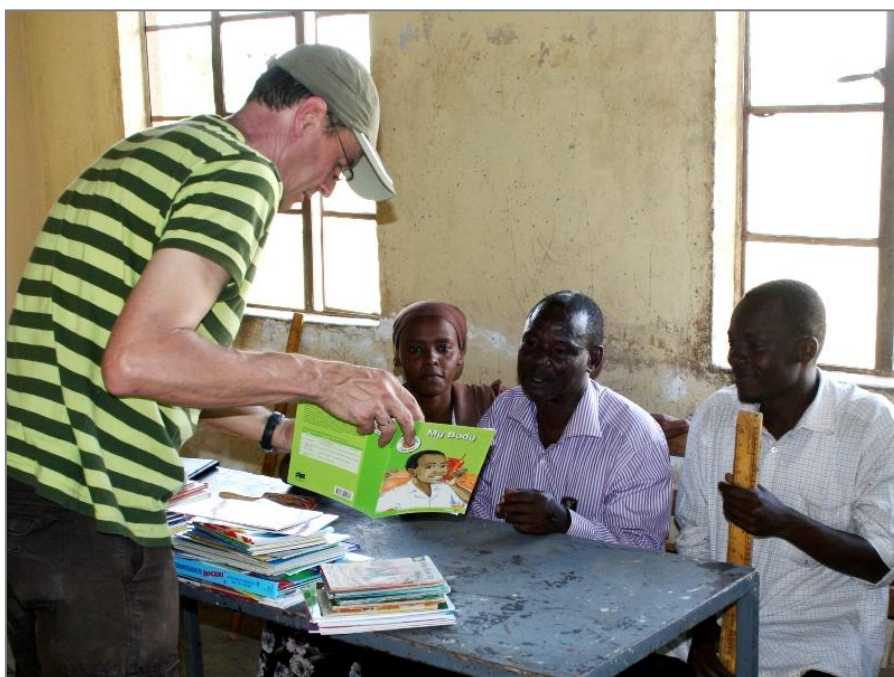


### *Medical goods*

Twice before we were able to transport medical equipment, both times with *Luchtvaart zonder Grenzen* (Aviation without Borders). Because the Atos group was so numerous and everyone to Tanzania is allowed to bring two suitcases of 23 kg each, we gladly used this opportunity. Thus we could, without dealing with the logistic rules and regulations, transport among others things examination gloves, syringes, needles, stitching materials, bandages and intubators. The goods that are suitable for first-aid usage were divided among the (new) medical dispensary at Mbaash and the one at Selela. The other goods went to Monduli hospital. All goods came from surplus stock of the [Amstelland Ziekenhuis](#) (Netherlands).

### *Biblioneef books*

For the third time we received childrens' books by [Stichting Biblioneef](#). These could also be taken in the luggage of the Atos group. The books were divided among the primary schools at Selela and Mbaash. In the picture Johan is handing them over to some of the teachers at Mbaash.



### *Discover the nature of the Veluwe region*

Finally you're most welcome at the next sponsor activities by our 'nature team': Burnie, Oscar, Gerard and Karin, in the surroundings of Elspeet (Netherlands):

- Book an outdoor photoshoot for men and/or animal for the price of € 37,50, by a professional photographer on Saturday May 2;
- Join in for a 'dew bike ride', guided by a professional nature guiden Ascension Day (May 14) from Vierhouten (Netherlands), with a breakfast buffet after the tour.

Information and booking through [burnie886@gmail.com](mailto:burnie886@gmail.com) or tel. +31 577 49 23 10.