



Since our last newsletter many things happened in Tanzania. You'll read more about that below. But first a request: to achieve a wider spread of information about our activities for the Maasai, we'd appreciate it if you can forward this newsletter to other persons who are involved or might be interested. For more information about the Maasai and our work, also check our website/facebook.

Dormitories: 100% successful!

We'll start with a great news fact. As you may know, in 2015 and 2016 two dormitories have been constructed at Mbaash primary school. For quite some time these have been in use unofficially for the most vulnerable children, but last July the central government changed the school's status: Mbaash now has an official *boarding school*! This means, among other things, that the government provides all meals for the children. So the dormitories are fully in use. And with success: last year only 5 of the 32 graduate pupils succeeded in the exams, this year all 15 pupils graduated!!! Our representative in Tanzania, Melchior, described it like this:

"Good news from Mbaash is all standard seven students passed their exams. No one failed. It's really good!! And this is because they have been studying



up to 20:00 hrs at night while staying in dormitories. You did a great work for Mbaash school students. Congratulations Johan and Marianne, Hanze group, Atos group and all who participated in giving a hand of help to these vulnerable students".

Work visit to Mbaash

In October 2018 a group of 14 volunteers travelled for two weeks to Mbaash. They went there with several intentions: e.g. improvement of the water supply, classrooms and toilets, checking the possibilities for a bio-gas kitchen and greening the surroundings. In this newsletter the most important subjects are described. Besides this, education methods were discussed and put into practice, More about that in the next newsletter.

Water supply

The community had asked to help them with the improvement of the water supply to the school. About eight years ago, a water pipeline of nearly 20 km has been installed, which originates at a water well near Selela. This pipeline has been put only 15 cm deep into the rockhard volcanic soil and it also crosses 4 rivers. These rivers are dry for most of the year, but during the raining season, the pipeline often gets damaged by the force of the water. As a result the school then has to rely on the rainwater that was collected in a few large concrete storage tanks. The tanks partly leaked and the rain gutters were broken. This has all been repaired and water taps



were installed in the tanks. Also an effort was made to fix the pipeline in the river bed, but without success,



because the water runs with too much force. The current pipelines have been repaired at several places, which results in less leakages and more water pressure.

Improvement of classrooms

In the classrooms there's not much available, only a few wooden school desks and a blackboard, all not in good condition. The classrooms lack many window glasses, so the whirlwinds and dust have free entry. Therefore during this trip the following jobs have been done:

- in all classrooms school desks have been repaired, so less children have to sit on the floor.
- two concrete floors were poured and others repaired (better for the desks and more easy to clean).
- the windows have partly been provided with acrylic window glasses.
- in each classroom the blackboards have been repainted and on the back wall beautiful didactic wall paintings have been created. A small impression in photos:



Football goals

The school children in Tanzania also have sports education. At Mbaash this takes place on a dusty space near the school, without any facilities. Therefore, Tanzania Support has installed two metal football goals. That results in the opportunity to participate in regional school tournaments which take place from time to time. The school also arranged a Friday afternoon competition in turn for the boys and the girls.

The goals were gratefully taken in use during the organized sports and games for the children while the group was present in October 2018.



(Re)greening

In this part of Tanzania there is also desertification. The group from October 2018 helped to teach children, teachers and their parents how to re-green the area by making 'waterbunds' to store rainwater and helped making use of a new pruning technique called 'Kisiki Hai'. This method helps old tree roots and tree trunks grow into full blown trees. They already planted a lot of small trees.



the school children help in the greening process



Making of a 'waterbund'

One of the teachers and one of the Maasai were given the opportunity to take a course about the pruning technique (click [here](#) for an instructive film). In October 2018 they made already 15 so called *waterbunds* and pruned almost hundred trees. We also brought scissors donated by [Gardena](#) and they made good use of it.

Biogas

Another way of re-greening the area is to stop using wood for cooking. We had a Tanzanian company (Simgas) do some research for possibilities of using biogas for cooking at the school. During the stay of the group in October 2018 there was a meeting scheduled to get the support of the school and the community for realization of installing a biogas unit and building a new kitchen.



Example of a Biogas installation



The current, wood burning school kitchen

Everybody was enthusiastic and committed. To make this possible we need € 15.000. There are already several different ways of funding started:

Fundraising Walstraschool

In May 2019 the [Walstra school](#) in Kropswolde (Groningen) had a project week on Africa and more specific on Tanzania. By selling 'sugar-bread' from [Bakker Meijer](#) (Hoogezand) and collecting empty bottles together with donations from the teachers and from others they collected **€ 1.064!**



Charity concert

The highly qualified and appreciated [Haydn Youth String Orchestra](#), led by Jan Ype Nauta gave a beautiful charity concert on June 22nd in Groningen. Afterward they left for a tour to Bosnia. The concert resulted in a wonderful **€ 1.000** for the biogaskitchen in Mbaash.



Depositing empty bottles and scrap

Empty bottles receipts were collected in Bedum (Plus), Roden (Albert Heijn) and Zuidhorn (Poiesz) **€ 700** in total. Metal scrap was sold for **€ 1.868**. Partly for the biogaskitchen and another part for the medical dispensary in Mbaash.

So we're well on our way for the biogas kitchen, but we haven't reached the required amount. Would you like to support this project? Donate your contribution at the Tanzania Support Foundation bank account nr. NL77RABO0154803103, specified by the word 'biogas'.

Goat fund

What to do with 25 secondhand smartphones from [Energiewacht](#) (Assen)? There has been an initiative somewhere else in Tanzania which might work here: a herd of goats like a fund, growing naturally. The fund will give the community a chance to let the school benefit from the profit, by using it for maintenance for example. For the price of one goat the Maasai could buy a smartphone. Although it is hard to keep the herd alive and healthy due to drought and wild animals, there are already 4 lambs born. If you happen to have no longer used smartphones which are still working do not hesitate to donate them for the growth of the herd in Mbaash! You can contact us by info@tanzaniasupport.org.



English students visit Oltinga school

Twenty students and two teachers from [Dame Alice Owen's School](#) (Londen) payed a visit to Oltinga high school in Selela. The group was camping near the school during their visit. The students exchanged experiences and the British students took classes with the students of Oltinga. They also visited Selela Forest and the Enaboishu Women's group, where they bought Maasai jewelry.

Students from Dame Alice Owen's School and Oltinga School exchange experiences



After the visit Tanzania Support received a donation of € 2.100, which made it possible to repair 63 bunkbeds in the dormitories. The beds were damaged by termites so a lot of the students had to share a bed or sleep on the floor. With the donation of Dame Alice and other donations it was possible to fix metal lattice work in the beds, so all the boys had their own beds.

Medical supplies

There were several materials, donated by [Martini Ziekenhuis](#) and [UMCG](#), both in Groningen delivered at Monduli hospital and the medical dispensary in Mbaash. Among which two respiration/ventilation machines. During the visit at Monduli hospital it became clear that a former donated diathermia machine was no longer functioning. We have sent a new donated machine to the hospital with the necessary equipment.



Changes in the TSF board

We started our newsletter by telling a lot has changed in northern Tanzania. Here, in the Netherlands/ Europe happened a lot as well. We will end this newsletter by informing you of a change in the composition of the board. Our president and co-founder Marianne Groenewoud had to stop after 10 years due to health reasons. She was the inspiration for a lot of the activities in Maasai area. Jeannet Celosse, Peter Reinsch en Niels Staal also resigned. We thank all of them for their time and effort in the board.



We have successfully looked for new members of the board! The group is bigger than ever and they all started enthusiastically on the job. The board is now formed by: Johan Groenewoud (secretary), Jacqueline van Dijk (treasurer), Maaïke Lensink, Jan Hoving, Yvonne Hoving, Agnes Meijer, Albert van der Veen, Anneke van der Veen en Ali Wit. The six last mentioned visited Selela and Mbaash in October 2018. Maaïke, Agnes, Albert and Johan were there already in 2016.

In 2020 a new visit to Tanzania is scheduled. The board will then present themselves to the community. In our next newsletter we will tell you more about the organization of the foundation.