The children at the Children's Home had such a lovely holiday season, but have now settled back into their new classes and are working hard at school.

Some started brand new schools, with Richard, Nuru, Evaristo, Pascal and Zainabu now in Secondary school, others have moved up into a new school year. They have been busy getting to know their new teachers and happy to see their friends again after the long holidays.

Three of our children Selemani, Augusti and Happy Joseph have now moved into their last year of primary school, which means they are now boarding. We miss them a lot at the children's home, but are able to visit them often and are looking forward to having them home again during the Easter break!

We also received the Standard 4 National Exam results, and all children passed with grade B, except Donaldi who received an A! We are all very proud of your hard work!

Tausi, our oldest child at the Children's Home also passed her Form 4 examinations this year, and is now busy planning her next steps! In the meantime, she has been helping out at Kunduchi Day Care Centre and at Bajeviro, demonstrating her exceptional teaching skills!

We are extremely proud of what all of our children have achieved!

Read more about our Children's Home.

A new school year brought new students, and a new staff member to Bajeviro’s primary school! Our students’ number rose from 332 in 2016 to 388 this year. While this brings new financial challenges, it also means that we are impacting more lives, and that is at the core of what we do and who we are. Therefore, we are very happy to have welcomed in this new group of pupils. In January we bid a fond see you later to Martin Kuery, the previous primary school manager. We are so grateful for all of his hard work during his time with help2kids and we wish him the best.

Paulette, Bajeviro’s new school manager is very excited to continue working for the well-being of our school community: the children, the parents and our staff.

The continuation of the second floor construction has raised the level of excitement at our school! Currently, minor details like polishing the wood from the door and window frames and finishing electrical work is being done. Once this is finished we will have a brand new space to enhance our students’ learning experience. In addition to this, we will also have a classroom that will be used to hold our Nursery students who, at the moment, share this with the Standard I pupils. All of this, has us very busy but also extremely thankful for the constant support of our volunteers and donors.

Looking ahead, we have national examinations for our students, teacher training workshops and collaborations with other schools to improve our performance. We will continue to look for partnerships and assistance from volunteers and donors to reach our financial and academic goals. Asante Sana!

THE RAINBOWS

Twice a week our strong Rainbows meet for progressively professional training, in which coaches Uncle Masia and Mama Lucy form the help2kids Children’s Home, teach them the fundamentals of the game and the importance of practice. During these lessons our kids developed an amazing team spirit which has proven itself when Bajeviro Rainbows was recently in a tense game with Mbezi Beach Primary School. Regardless of the challenging Mbezi Beach, that scored first within the first half of the match, Bajeviro Rainbows made sure they used their training, technique and teamwork, and were able to equalise the score to 1-1 by the end of the match.

We were especially proud of the fair and respectful behavior all players showed, before, during and after the game.
help2kids Tanzania Health Project

After spending the last quarter of 2016 working closely with our partners to set in motion our expansion plans for 2017, this January the Health Project was able to open our medical treatment services to Kunduchi Day Care Centre. As a result, the Health Project now has 626 children as registered beneficiaries across 5 different partnered centres.

With a generous donation from Charity Goat Races, it was also a busy time for the expansion of our First Aid Program, we increased the quantity of preventive supplies as well as introduced new items for our cabinets, including mosquito nets and multivitamins. This will ensure that whenever a child needs help, it will always be around the corner!

At the beginning of March we resumed the Girls club; where we educate girls about different life skills as well as how to take care of themselves. This month we had a discussion with the girls from one of our partners (Bajeviro primary school), where we talked about what to use and how to be clean during their menstrual periods.

We didn’t end there; the help2kids Health Project also conducted a meeting with parents at Bajeviro Primary as well as at Kunduchi Day Care Centre to discuss the services that we provide to their children.

We thoroughly explained the rules and regulations of the health project as well as the benefits the children will receive from our project.

The Health Project has exciting plans for the next quarter, such as organising basic medical training for caregivers at all of our five partners, and collaborating with local and international organisations to provide Nutrition Education. We believe that all children have the right to accessible and quality healthcare and, with your support; we will continue to strive towards making this a reality! you can read more about the Health Project on this link. https://www.help2kids.org/en/health-tanzania/

EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

help2kids Education Sponsorship Program

Improvement has been the goal for our ESP sponsees.

January was a very busy month that was spent preparing the ESP students for a new school year, purchasing new school uniforms and any other needed items. This year we are very happy to announce that we have been able to sponsor five more children from Bajeviro primary school into Form 1 at Secondary School, thanks to the support of their education sponsors.

Thanks to the hard work of our ESP coordinator, Ambrose, all of our ESP students are really focusing on their education this term, and class attendance has really improved! In January, we received all Form 2 National Examination results and we were very pleased that all students passed and are now continuing into Form 3. We will be providing all our ESP student with more support with their studies this year, so their academic performance can keep on improving!

If you would like to support one our students’ education, you can find out more about becoming a sponsor for our ESP programme, contact our sponsorship team today at sponsorships@help2kids.org or visit our website https://www.help2kids.org/en/tz-education-sponsorship-program-tanzania-en/
Looks like it will be a wonderful year for our volunteers! After the unfortunate suspension due to new complicated Immigration Laws in Tanzania, we re-opened the Volunteer Program just before Christmas, and since then, we have already had 13 amazing volunteers supporting our help2kids projects here in Tanzania, and many more are going to come! The presence of new help2kids Project Managers and such great volunteers – plus all the interesting and funny guests from all over the world – are opening the new year with loads of enthusiasm and happiness and are leaving a great positive impact within our beautiful community. We want to thank you all for all the efforts and the joy you brought in Mbezi Beach, and we want to let you know that seeing you enjoying the experience and learning so much about yourself and the world we live in, it's one of the most rewarding things for us. Do you see yourself in the beautiful words that our former volunteer Catarina wrote about her experience with us? We hope - or, better, we know - that you do! Thank you Catarina for your report, and thank you all for staying and supporting us!

“Jambo? Sijambo! That moment when you forget you are volunteering to help change lives, because it’s changing yours. When you decide to join a volunteer program abroad, you are not only deciding to offer your time and your efforts to the most vulnerable people, but you are deciding to immerse yourself in a new and absolutely different environment and culture. Volunteer work does not only mean teaching something in a school for a month, but it means learning something in that school about life. help2kids offers the incredible opportunity to explore and immerse yourself in two completely different countries, and cultures, and volunteers have the chance to experience so much during their stay that they usually define it as a real life-changing experience.”

Jessica Vogt’s, one of our current volunteers, who has been a great addition to our staff, can better explain why choosing to volunteer with help2kids both in Malawi and Tanzania has changed her life and her point of view of the world:

“I chose help2kids because it offers the opportunity to volunteer and explore two different countries within several different projects. For me to work as a volunteer means to help someone with the knowledge I have and to expect nothing in return, but just some little experience for my life. Since I have been in East Africa, I have learnt a lot about myself. The people here have so little, but they are still smiling. In Switzerland we have everything, and we are complaining about everything. During my experience, I have learnt from the people and the kids that you do not need much to be happy, and that you just have to be happy with what you have.”

KUNDUCHI DAY CARE CENTRE

So far this year around 60 children from the local community have been attending Kunduchi Day Care Centre on a daily basis, learning, playing, singing, dancing and much more! From the help of the wonderful teachers and Nursery Coordinator, Maureen, the children have really benefited from a more structured timetable, varied learning materials and lesson plans that are being developed daily! We have been really lucky this year, to have the support from our long standing English Corner volunteer, Hassan, who is currently the acting headmaster at the centre. Not only are we excited that we are now the 5th partner for the help2kids Health Project, but we have also been able to have two parent meeting’s so far this year, encouraging parents to play an active role in their children’s education.

In the afternoons, the centre gets filled up with people from the local community, learning English through stories and anecdotes from a variety of cultures across the globe. Neither the English Corner or the Day Care Centre, really would not be the same without the incredible volunteers, who support the children and adults week after week. Thank you so much to everyone, for all of your support! Read more here https://www.help2kids.org/en/nursery-school/
Malawi Field Manager's Report

Greetings from Malawi!

It has been a busy few months since the holidays and we are loving every minute of it here in Lifuwu!

We received several donations that have been utilized to make a positive impact on the children in Lifuwu Village. We have also welcomed new staff and enjoyed the heavy rains for this time of year.

Students at the Primary, Nursery, and Secondary schools will be ending Term 2 on April 7th and appreciating a two week holiday before returning for their final term of the school year.

Thank you for all of your support!

Warm regards,

Katherine Mensinger
Malawi Field Manager

help2kids Malawi: Tiyanjane and Chisomo Nursery School

Tiyanjane and Chisomo are bustling as usual with many students and lots of energy. Thanks to a donation from volunteers Sina Nohe and Teresa Lang; both schools received playground equipment to channel their energy. The children have been able to experience play in a whole new way and are quickly learning their ropes on the play sets.

Their donation also provided Tiyanjane Nursery School with a hand washing station. This has greatly improved the children’s hygiene and is helping them learn the importance of clean hands. The children are now eager to be the first ones to the hand washing station before enjoying their Phala.

Both schools will be holding their closing ceremonies for Term 2 on April 6th. The ceremony is a time to celebrate the students for their hard work and to allow them the opportunity to demonstrate their accomplishments.

We are so very happy to announce that Baby Favor had his 1st Birthday on March 16th! This is a testament to the donor support that has allowed help2kids to provide the much needed Phala and formula to Favor since soon after his birth. As well as the care from his Aunt Jamila who is always ensuring Favor is healthy and happy. We are eager to see Favor’s continued progress.

Baby Favor was orphaned at birth and his family was unable to afford formula until the donation of Lena Feldhaus. Zikomo Kwambiri!

Baby favor is going to grow up to be a strong man.
**help2kids Kazembe and Lifuwu Basic Primary Schools**

Kazembe and Lifuwu Basic students are doing well. Standard 8 students have spent much of the past few weeks in mock exams and preparing for their Term 3 examinations. When the students are not working hard in the classroom or helping their families, they are often taking time for sports. Specifically football and netball. Thanks to a large donation of sporting equipment from Janine and Roland Burla, both schools teams have been provided new jerseys, training equipment, and plenty of footballs. They are excited to put them to use in their training sessions and matches.

**help2kids English Class**

Our afternoon English Class is now held Tuesdays through to Fridays by teacher, Blessings. Blessings is doing a fantastic job of creating dynamic lesson plans for the students and keeping them highly motivated. As it is rainy season here in Lifuwu, a lot of our adult learners have had to devote much of their time to working in the fields and farming. Due to this, we have seen an increase in attendance from students in primary school. Specifically, Standards 5, 6, 7, and 8. We will be holding an exam in the coming weeks to gauge the student’s comprehension of the material.

Thank you all for the messages of support and love for what help2kids Malawi is doing.

**EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP**

Donate a Meal, Feed a Child and Keep our Food Program Alive

Most students in the village will drop out of school to become subsistence farmers after completing standard 8, but a few of the brightest will be selected to secondary schools. Unfortunately, their impoverished families are often unable to pay for their school fees and materials. **help2kids** Malawi currently sponsors ten students in secondary school who would otherwise be unable to attend. If you are interested in helping us tackle poverty through education in Lifuwu village, contact the field manager kate.mensinger@help2kids.org for more information.
help2kids STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

help2kid wants to thank all of our outgoing staff for their great work and welcomes the new staff.

Filipe Magalaes, has been the Children’s Home and Nursery Coordinator in Tanzania for the past year. Filipe has worked hard in growing the Kunduchi Day Care Centre, and working with the children at the Children’s Home. We thank Filipe for all of his hard work for the past year, and we all wish you the very best with your future endeavours!

Martin Kuery, was the Primary School Manager for almost 2 years with help2kids in Tanzania and has spent a lot of time developing the infrastructure of the school as well as supporting the teachers and children with their learning. Thank you for all of your hard work, and good luck!

Harriet Smith, joined us this year as the new Field Manager for Tanzania. For the past two years Harriet has been living in Moshi working for a grassroots NGO. Harriet has had many years of experience working within education, children’s rights and development, in Tanzania, Ghana and in the UK. She holds a Masters degree in Human Rights and Social Justice, and is very happy to have joined such a wonderful team of staff and children.

Maureen Gituru, has recently joined the team here in Tanzania as the new Primary School Manager and Assistant Field Manager. Paulette graduated from Kings College London with a Masters in Education, Policy and Society. Paulette has had many years teaching experience in her home country, Ecuador, as well as a vast amount of experience in training teachers and curriculum development. Welcome Paulette, we are very happy to have you join our team!

Bayekeni Thenga, is one of our new members, joining us as a Marketing Coordinator and will be working both in Tanzania and Malawi. Bey comes from the entrepreneurship industry, with a vast amount of experience in continuing education and community development. He has been part of developmental initiatives like the 67 Minutes Nelson Mandela Day introducing golf as a sport in underprivileged communities in South Africa.
help2kids thanks all of our former, current and future volunteers for your hard work on our projects in Tanzania and Malawi! Your dedication changes our children’s lives for the better. We are thrilled to be able to bring you this newsletter with updates from all of our projects. For more regular news, please check our Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages and our website!

help2kids runs projects in Malawi and Tanzania that serve hundreds of children and their families. We can use all the help we can get! Please click on the button below to go to our donation page. Every little bit helps! Donations are tax deductible in the US, Switzerland and Germany.