Tanzanian Field Manager’s Report

Greetings from Tanzania!

I hope everyone is well and has had a great start to the year. Here in Tanzania we have had a busy and fun start so far. Our children have started a new school year, and we have already seen great results in their mid-terms, exams.

We have had some exciting transitions and developments in Bajeviro, as well as Kunduchi Day Care Centre in terms of education and infrastructure. The Health Project started the year with the health education workshops, and ensuring we provide good quality health care to our children.

I am very grateful for the support of our wonderful team on the ground in Tanzania, who work hard, night and day, to support our children, and accomplish such amazing achievements! We’re very grateful for all of your support, and I can’t wait to see what the rest of the year holds!

Thank you, Aanteni Sana

Harriet Smith
Field Manager Tanzania

The first months of this year have been filled with a lot of educative and fun activities at our Children’s Home both for the children and their caregivers.

We started off with a Caregiver’s workshop that was organized for the purpose of equipping our caregivers with the necessary skills and tools to continue taking care of our children and providing them with a lovely home environment.

An educational trip to Bagamoyo allowed the children and staff to see and learn about different historical aspects of Tanzania and some of the children took this opportunity to conquer their fears at the Snake Park!

We continue nurturing our children’s talents by organizing talent based activities like art sessions as seen in the photo below.

To find out more about the Children’s Home in Tanzania please visit our website today: www.help2kids.org/en/childrens-home-tanzania-2/
THE ENGLISH CORNER

The English Corner has seen some very important improvements in the last 3 months and one of these changes is that all the students have undergone official registration into the program. We are also very proud to have a very detailed and extensive curriculum in place that is being implemented now.

The English Corner continues to be one of our biggest platforms of Community Engagement in Kunduchi and its environs.

KUNDUCHI DAY CARE CENTRE

Back to school time! The last few months have been very exciting for Kunduchi Day Care as we welcomed new children who joined us in January to start their early education and development with us. Other children moved onto higher levels of study and they have been adjusting very well.

With the completion of the fence around the school, the children have a very secure learning environment and they are mostly enjoying playtime as it is much safer without any risks or interruptions from passing vehicles and motorbikes as it was the case before.

THE EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME

This term we have had some very exciting announcements, and we are very proud with the results of the Form 2 and Form 4 National Exam Results. We have had 5 Form 4 students receive their grades, and are now waiting to be selected to college, start further training or employment.

We not only support our students on a weekly basis with educational support and guidance but we also ensure they are informed about various health related issues through health education workshops.

If you are interested in sponsoring one of our students, please email our sponsorship team today: sponsorship@help2kids.org
Bajeviro started off the year with a successful English medium program for our Nursery and STD 1 students. Teachers and students are working really hard and the results we are seeing are fantastic. In addition, we began Saturday classes for our upper classes, with this we expect to raise our academic performance and close our students’ learning gaps.

There is a lot of work ahead for us but we are hopeful we will end the year with great achievements, after all we are Bajeviro, Fire Fire!

Click below to see our latest Bajeviro video

So far 2018 has kicked off with more than 700 beneficiaries from 5 different partners. By collaborating with AAR hospital for of treatment, children are able to get free medical care whenever they get sick as well as being provided with different health workshops that give them knowledge on how to prevent themselves against disease and live a healthy life. This has been possible through the support from our donors, different organizations, companies and the engagement of our community members.

February 15th was International Childhood Cancer Day. On this special health day we managed to talk to our beneficiaries at Bajeviro Primary School about cancer in general and challenges impacting childhood cancer. It was noted that, the percentage of children with cancer in Tanzania has increased by 9% from 2012 to 2016. Due to that, we celebrated the day by raising awareness about childhood cancer, and to express support for children and adolescents with cancer.

Along with our normal day to day activities of providing treatment to the children by taking them to the hospital and do follow up on them, in 2018 we will continue organizing different health workshops that we believe can help the children and caregivers to maintain their health and fight against diseases. Starting on March, we will deliver dental and personal hygiene talks to all our 5 partners and engage the children into simple practice on how to go through it.

We appreciate the support given to us in order to help our children.

**help2kids Health Project**
The Warm Heart of Africa

Malawi Field Manager’s Report

Greetings from Lifuwu Village!

The past few months have been filled with the welcoming of new staff, lush rains for our clinic garden, and students hard at work in their second term. This term is very crucial for both Standard 8 students as well as Form 4 students, as both have completed MOCK examinations and are preparing for the official exam in the first month of term 3.

School closing ceremonies were held at the end of March and we made sure to celebrate all students for their efforts! As students enjoy the two week holiday we have implemented computer classes once again at the gecko and are seeing many of our Education Sponsorship Students coming to improve their computer knowledge.

I would like to appreciate our staff for always going above and beyond in their work for the community and the children in Lifuwu! We look forward to the coming months and the developments they will bring!

Zikomo kwambiri!!
Kate Mensinger
Field Manager

help2kids Malawi: Tiyanyane and Chisomo Nursery School

The wonderful teachers at Tiyanyane Nursery School continue to add to the education of their learners. We have rearranged the classroom structure and learners are now seated in a circle, leading to less distraction amongst them. The teachers have also further developed a story time activity in which children are encouraged to be creative and make up the story together. The morning activities also includes a “weather report” to help children understand in both Chichewa and English the different types of weather. And no morning circle is complete without a little singing and dancing to really get the children energized to go outside for break time.

We have continued to utilize worksheets to assist children with learning to write and comprehend the alphabet letters, numbers, and shapes. Our two older classes are also taught with the use of additional materials so that the learners can better grasp the lesson. We continue to update and develop new ideas to reach the learners as best as possible.

help2kids Maternity Feeding Programme

In the past months we have welcomed a new gardener to the clinic garden. As planting season has been underway and we are preparing for the rainy season, the gardener has been busy planting a variety of vegetables such as; okra, mustard, rape, and tomatoes. We are eager to see the success of the garden as harvesting season draws near in the next months.

These vegetables will be added nutrients to the women awaiting delivery at Lifuwu Health Centre. They are also an added incentive for women especially those in the far reaching surrounding villages to come and stay at the clinic as they await delivery. With the accommodation for their guardians, sleeping areas, and access to Ufa and vegetables, women can come to the clinic for upwards of one month while before they give birth.

With updates on Lifuwu and questions about how the rainy season was progressing, as most student’s families plant and harvest rice as a large means of income.
help2kids Community Library

The Community Library continues to benefit youth in the community, we mainly receive primary school aged children and thanks to a recent donation have just added a new collection of books. As most of our children’s books featured the western world we have purchased several books which showcase the perspective of children throughout the continent of Africa. We were even able to find two books based on Malawi.

While learning about other cultures is great, we also find it essential to let children explore books with pictures that they can connect to their everyday lives and stories they might more closely relate to.

help2kids Malawi: Education Sponsorship Programme

Students from the ESP program returned for term 2 at the start of January. We were even able to support a second round selection student who began at Salima Secondary School for the start of Term 2. She is adjusting and catching up on anything she may have missed during term 1.

Just recently in early March, we were able to catch-up with our students in boarding school thanks to Visiting Day. The visits were full of updates on how the term was going, their goals for the upcoming term, and their biggest challenges. The visit was also filled with updates on Lifuwu and questions about how the rainy season was progressing. As most student’s families plant and harvest rice as a large means of income.

Our student’s will end Term 2 on the 29th of March and enjoy a two week holiday before returning for the final term of the year. This means for our two students in Form 4, Emmanuel and Godfrey, that the MSCE examination is drawing near. Both students will attend extra studying sessions at their respective schools during the holiday to continue to prepare for exams.

GRASS ROOTS SOCCER

GrassRoots Soccer (GRS), a project for students from Lifuwu Basic Primary School is a mix of health and life skills education taught through sport. This past month members of the group were taught about Cholera and how to prevent and treat it.

The lessons are more of an open discussion in which members of the group can ask questions or discuss amongst each other what their opinions or concerns are.

In the coming months we will continue to tackle important issues relating to health education which will be most useful for the students as they continue to grow and enter into Secondary School. The GRS group is a close knit group and we are hopeful that these discussions and lessons will only strengthen their bond and give them people to turn to if they need them.
Abdallah Salum joined the help2kids family in February this year, as our new child carer and social worker at the Children’s Home. Abdallah has a degree in Social work, and previous experience working as a social worker in different orphanage centres in Dar es Salaam. Abdallah has many years of experience working with orphaned and vulnerable children in Tanzania, Welcome to the team Abdallah!

We are very sad to say goodbye to Gabriella Tagliani at the end of this year. Gabriella has been with us for one and a half years as our Guesthouse Manager and Volunteer Coordinator. She juggled the challenging responsibilities of her role with ease and even when answering constant phone calls, emails, and questions from volunteers, she still had time for a smile and a kind word for everyone. We will miss Gabriella enormously and wish her all the best for her future endeavours.

This past February we said goodbye to Phoebe Harger who had spent one year with help2kids in Malawi. It was hard to say goodbye but we are happy to welcome Caroline Betbede as our new Program and Volunteer Coordinator. Caroline received a Masters in International Cooperation and NGO from the University of Paris and has experience working in West Africa focusing on increasing access to clean water. We are happy to have Caroline here in Lifuwu with help2kids Malawi!

Saying goodbye to Gabriella meant that we were able to welcome Jamila Palermo into our team as the new Friendly Gecko and Volunteer Manager. Before joining help2kids Jamila previously lived in Arusha, working with a social business, and previous work experience in Italy working and volunteering with a variety of different NGOs. Jamila has a masters in international cooperation, development and human rights, and we are very happy to have her join our team! Welcome to help2kids Tanzania!

In February, we were also very sad to say goodbye to Petrina Darrah, who was our Marketing and Fundraising Coordinator at help2kids. Petrina worked very hard, responding to all of our (very many) marketing and fundraising needs! Supporting the team, developing new ideas and overall bringing lots of energy to the Tanzanian team. We will miss you Petrina, but wish you lots of luck with your next chapter!
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.