

PROJECT'S PROGRESS



VILLAGE EDUCATION PROJECT (Kilimanjaro)

Registered Charity No 1041672

Registered as an International NGO in Tanzania: SO No 9680

*In association with Mshiri Village Education Committee, PO Box 737,
Marangu, Tanzania*

SUPPORTERS' NEWSLETTER – Summer 2000

It has been another busy year with many achievements to report. We are pleased to welcome Alexandra Beldam, a barrister, as our fourth trustee. The last financial year was the best yet, and we extend again and again our grateful thanks to all our donors who make everything we do possible. This Newsletter is to keep all our supporters aware of what we have achieved with their help and support.

Continuing our close association with the local people of the Marangu region, our existing projects are working well with evident benefits, and new projects are developing. To summarise –

- Our new Teachers' Resource Centre is built and the work of the Centre has started with a full-time co-ordinator paid for by the District Education Office, and our VSO volunteer, Maggie Allen from Wales, is there for two years.
- Our major renovation of Samanga primary school is finished and the school is unrecognisable from its past state.
- Three primary schools now have a cow each, with calves due at any time, so that the pupils can benefit from milk in their school lunch, and can also learn good cow husbandry at school.
- Our vocational training school is in its second year. The carpentry and masonry

students have built a new classroom, a kitchen hut and all the office furniture. The art and craft students have found new markets for their goods.

- Our Student Project continues with another 8 UK students teaching English to the primary school children this year. This project finances the school outings which continue to bring the most pleasure to the pupils.

TRAINING FOR THE PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Mshiri Teachers' Resource Centre is ready. It has a large classroom, a library, an office and store, and has electricity. We have been very lucky with funds for equipment, and the office has a desk top computer, a laser printer, and the Centre has a brand new television and video.



Mshiri Teachers' Resource Centre

We have 43 primary school teachers from 12 nearby schools enrolled to study O'levels and to get a grade 'A' teaching certificate by the year 2004 if they are to keep their jobs. Since January they have been studying on three afternoons each week for 6 O'level subjects, and excellent tutors from Marangu Teacher Training College come to teach them. All O'level education is in English, and so this is an added struggle for them. The large number enrolled is most encouraging and demonstrates that the teachers are willing to try to improve themselves.



Maggie Allen and Willy Mtui

Central to the teaching at the Centre is Maggie Allen who started at the Centre in mid-April. She will be there for 2 years to help all the teachers with English (not just those up-grading to O'level education) and particularly with teaching methodology. Maggie has come through VSO and has been a primary school teacher for many years. She will work with Willy Mtui. Willy was a primary school teacher and then a Ward Education Assistant Officer. He applied for the job of co-ordinator at the Centre and was chosen by the Centre's management committee out of four candidates. The District Education Officer approved his appointment and he is paid by the government to be the Centre's co-ordinator. Maggie and Willy will be regularly visiting the 12 'cluster' schools to assess needs, observe lessons, and discuss how best to help. At the Centre they will be providing seminars and special courses. One other area which we hope to develop is that of parental involvement with primary

education as this, to date, has not been the custom.

This work at Mshiri Teachers' Resource Centre has only just begun, but we view it as the most important of our projects to date. It is through the work of the Centre that we hope to make our most lasting contribution to basic education in the area.

The cost of building the Centre, furnishing and equipping it to date has been 12,094,290/- (about £10,100).

The teachers studying O'levels contribute monthly towards the costs of the tutors, but the running costs of the Centre come from the charity's funds. There are no cinemas so it is hoped to make some money by showing videos at weekends and an entrance fee will be charged, to help with the costs of the Centre. The donation of video tapes, preferably with good, simple English (sent to the charity's UK address) would be greatly appreciated. Wild life documentaries, children's videos, and musicals would be particularly beneficial.

SAMANGA PRIMARY SCHOOL IS TRANSFORMED



The renovation of Samanga started in 1998. The school has nearly 600 pupils and is a 'double stream' school, but before the charity's work began there were insufficient classrooms for double-streaming. The work has been immense, with walls being knocked down and rebuilt to enlarge room sizes, new rooms built, and each room the subject of complete

decoration. The school is on the main road which leads to Kilimanjaro Park gate, and its transformation has been witnessed by most people of the Marangu region – a wonderful advertisement for the work of the charity. At one point there were rumours that it was going to be claimed as a secondary school as it was looking so nice – a view typical of the high regard still given to secondary education over primary education. However, everyone is now assured that it is and always will be a primary school.

The work at Samanga primary school, including some furniture, has cost 11,496,780 Tanzanian shillings (approximately £10,500). We have 1,950,000/- (approximately £1,570) set aside for another 150 tables and benches to be made for the classrooms.

Since last year we have started helping the teaching of English at Samanga. Last year just one of the UK students worked there helping the two streams of standard I. This year we have two students teaching both streams of standard I and standard II. It is a particularly friendly school, and its female teachers worked untiringly and in difficult circumstances assisting the charity to renovate the school. Results are already evident with attendance rates much improved.

SCHOOL DINNERS

The Charity has now fully renovated four village primary schools; Mauo, Mshiri, Ashira and Samanga. However, good buildings do not necessarily make good schools. Our work at Mshiri Teachers' Resource Centre is addressing the standard of teaching. One thing that is crucial to a good education is the ability of the pupils to concentrate, and with lack of nutritious food this is a problem. Most village children leave home in the morning with just a cup of milky, sugary tea. They arrive at school at 7.30am and have a lunch break at 12.30. Lunch is 'uji', a sort of gruel made with maize flour and water.

We applied for funds to help the children's diet. We proposed to buy 3 pregnant cows and to house one at each of three primary schools, to build three cow sheds, and to buy a bull to be periodically at each cow shed and ensure the continuation and expansion of the project. The Leggatt Trust very kindly gave us funding. Mshiri, Mauo and Ashira primary schools now have a cow in residence. The cows are part Fresian, and Mshiri primary school's cow was the first to give birth. She produced a lovely heifer, and is now providing the school with lots of milk.



Mshiri primary school's new calf

On school days the milk is used by the cook to make the school lunch, and on other days the milk is sold and the proceeds form a fund to help look after the cow and calf. However, inspired by this project, the three participating schools decided that 'uji' for school lunch was a disgrace. Each school has persuaded parents to contribute a little bit more, and now the pupils have 'ugali' (stiff maize porridge) and red kidney beans. The milk is put in with the kidney beans, forming a very nutritious meal.

As well as a vastly improved diet, the school children are learning how to look after cows – and are taking enormous pride in their new school 'pets'.

The charity has entered into terms and conditions with each school to ensure the well being of the cattle, and the proper use of the milk money, and of proceeds of sale should any calf be sold. We hope that future calves will be given to other primary schools so that they too can benefit from this project.

MSHIRI VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL – THE SECOND YEAR

The training school is now in its second year. The carpentry and masonry students have continued into the second year of their course and there is a new in-take in the first year. In the first year they built all the furniture for the school (tables, chairs, stools and office desks), wall storage cupboards for the storeroom, and plastered the outside walls of the school. This year they have built the school's kitchen hut with energy-saving cooking areas, and have nearly finished building a further classroom at the school.

The first year in-take of art and craft students finished their training at the school, and there is a new in-take for 2000. Susan Lowe, the BESO volunteer, returned for a two month follow-up visit in January to March. The first year's graduates were invited to return to spend a further six weeks with Susan and to decide together how they could be helped to earn some money. Five students took up the invitation, and Susan judged that for their work to be of saleable quality they still need supervision by one of the art and craft teachers. They have formed a workgroup and are producing goods. They use the school premises and school materials and they are being paid one half of the wholesale price of the goods they sell. The aim is that they will progress to independence with quality work.

Susan Lowe started to market the produce of the art and craft course. On a trip to Moshi, the nearest town, she and one of the course teachers sold out of all their samples after visiting just four shops. This is most encouraging, and they hope to sell a lot more to the same shops when the tourist season starts to pick up again in July. The school's own shop, Village Crafts, at Marangu Mtoni, has had steady sales throughout its first year of operation despite a very disappointing Christmas/Millennium with very few tourists passing through

Marangu for shopping. In the year the shop made 560,000/- profit (approximately £465) which has covered the shopkeeper's salary, the night-watchman's salary, and maintenance, and has left a net profit of about £100.



Mshiri Vocational Training School's shop

The value of the work done by the carpentry and masonry students in furniture making and building is easily over 600,000/-. The school is not yet self-sufficient, and indeed it was not expected to be so in the first few years. However, when the carpentry and masonry students start to do paid work, rather than work on the school itself, and with new markets for the art and craft produce, we hope that the school income will start to cover the salaries of the teachers. There is plenty of work for the carpentry and masonry students to do on our school renovation projects, as well as for other parties who will employ them. Encouraged by the response to their initial marketing in Moshi, the art and craft teachers with the workgroup will now prepare to market their goods more widely in Moshi, and also in Arusha which is one of the main tourist towns in Tanzania. At the moment the total annual salary costs for 5 teachers at the school, a cook and a watchman, and the shopkeeper and shop watchman, are 2,820,000/- (approximately £2,350).

THE STUDENT PROJECT FLOURISHES

This is our project for UK students to go to Kilimanjaro to teach English as a

foreign language in village primary schools. They go to Tanzania in January and teach until mid or late August when, typically, they return to the UK to take up a place at university. In November prior to departure, they are trained in the UK for two weeks. The training gives them basic methodology in teaching English, and they have plenty of time to practise giving lessons, and to learn some elementary Swahili.

We had eight students last year, four girls and four boys, and this year we have another eight, five girls and three boys. As well as their English lessons they are taking art sessions with the pupils, doing various sports, teaching one group the recorder (we have 15 recorders) and even giving a weekly dancing class. Last year's students painted murals on the outside of the renovated primary schools, and the most inspired of these was Leo's map of the world at Samanga primary school.

The students pay a fee to the charity to be able to take part in the project. After payment of their air fares, village accommodation etc., the balance is used to fund the school outings and to help other projects, such as the salary costs at the vocational training school.

SCHOOL OUTINGS

The school outings, all made possible by the fee income from the Student Project, are as inspiring as ever. In 1999 43 pupils went to Lake Manyara for an overnight stay and safari drives, and this year 52 pupils went. This year they had the added advantage of a huge male lion walking across the track and lying down at the edge in perfect view of the two bus loads of amazed nine year olds.

In August 1999 43 pupils went to see the sea at Pangani on the Indian Ocean, and this year 52 pupils will do the same.

In 1999 the student teachers took 18 pupils from standard VI and VII of the primary

schools (13 and 14 year olds) to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. Although none of the pupils got beyond the final hut, they all enjoyed it. This year the student teachers hope to take 30 pupils with them to climb the mountain.

In October we took 30 standard VII pupils, chosen from 5 different schools, to Moshi to see round two factories. We started at the Coffee Curing Factory which is over 50 years old, and went on to Kibo Breweries' brand new factory. At each factory the children were given very informative guided tours, and at the Brewery they were given sodas and biscuits. The staff accompanying them had hoped for some free samples of beer but as this was a primary school visit the Brewery's guidelines were strictly adhered to!

Guerba Expeditions Ltd, the overland holiday company, gave, for the fourth year running, a week long safari in October 1999 taking 20 pupils to the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater.

We have said it before, but there is no doubt that these outings have the most beneficial effect on the pupils. Before the outings they are keen to learn about what they will see, and after the outings they are inspired and ask questions and want to know more. Even the tiny standard I pupils (seven year olds), who were taken to Arusha National Park in January by the student teachers, learned a thing or two: one little boy whose shoulder bag with his lunch in it was bigger than he, said on seeing his first giraffe, 'It's bigger than me!', and another boy on seeing Mount Meru told his friend didactically, 'That's not our Mt Kilimanjaro, it's their Mt Kilimanjaro.'

RUNNING THE PROJECTS

Dilly Mtui, who was seconded by the Ministry of Education in March 1999 to work full-time for the charity, works unstintingly, co-ordinating all the projects. He not only employs and supervises all the

workmen, but goes himself to buy all the materials, and every evening accounts meticulously for every shilling spent. He has turned one room in his house into an office for the charity, with all its files and accounts. The work involved in running the projects is enormous but Dilly does not complain, and is always looking for ways to improve our performance.

We have a new recruit to help with communication. With no telephones, communication within Marangu was proving most frustrating; Dilly would send a message but would get no reply. We have employed Wilibrite, one of Katy's original pupils who finished primary school in December 1999. He is an orphan who lives with an uncle. He is barely literate but he loves running. He now delivers all messages and waits for replies, and is invaluable. He is also being given tuition three times a week to help with his reading and writing. He is paid monthly, the equivalent of 50p per day, and is thoroughly enjoying his job. The alternative for him would be staying at home until he was taken to be a porter on the mountain. We hope to be able to offer him a better future than that!



Wilibrite

The charity's accounting year, ending on 30 September 1999, showed income of £31,841.19, and the administrative costs accounted for 2.79% of that income. In Tanzania the administrative costs accounted for 2.72% of all expenditure.

SPECIAL THANKS

The purpose of this Newsletter is to keep donors informed of the use of their money, and to thank them wholeheartedly for their support of our work and for enabling us to achieve so much. We do not normally extend special thanks to named people but this year we feel such thanks are due.

Firstly, we would like to thank **Guerba Expeditions Ltd**, not just for the safaris they have given to the pupils, but for mention of our projects in their brochure, the donation of 10 tents for our other school outings, and for their support generally over the years.

Next we would like to thank **British Airways** in Dar es Salaam for giving Katy a free return ticket from Gatwick to Dar, and for their enthusiastic efforts to secure another free return ticket for her – the results of which are yet unknown.

A huge 'thank you' must go to the **Marangu Hotel** and its owners who have given Katy and Dilly immense support and generous help: use of their computers, telephone and fax machine, and warm welcomes and cups of tea on occasions so numerous that people began to think Katy was working for the hotel!

Finally, possibly the biggest thanks goes to Ian and Jan Gleeson in Dar es Salaam who for the past three years have extended their wonderful hospitality to both Katy and Dilly on all their visits to Dar. Katy and Dilly have stayed in the lap of luxury wanting for nothing on otherwise hot, humid, busy days in Dar. Through the Gleesons Dar has become not such a bad place, and their support of the projects has been most generous.

We are still financially a very small charity, and we operate in a very small area, but over the past 5 years we have achieved much and our work is making a real difference to the

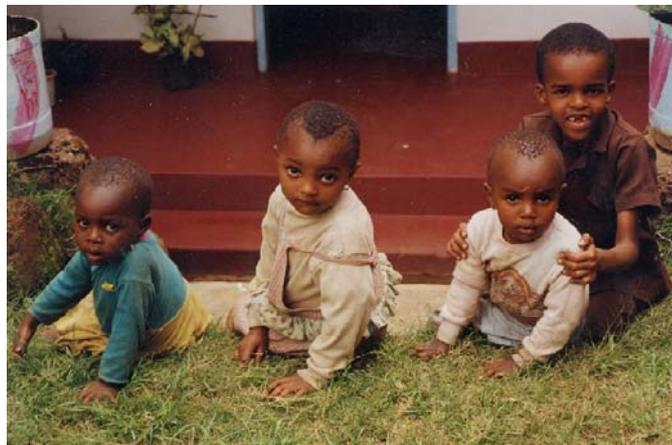
education of the children. Whilst we are lucky occasionally to obtain grants for areas of our work, the vast amount of what we do is from funds from our individual donors. We value your help enormously, and are always at pains to make sure our use of your money represents good value. Again we and the beneficiaries in Kilimanjaro thank every single one of you.

LOOKING AHEAD

We will be renovating Palangeny primary school in Marangu. This is a small school in a bad state, with 180 pupils. We will renovate its six classrooms, staffroom and office, and supply new furniture, and then books and other teaching equipment. Kibo Breweries, part of Guinness, have kindly donated 6,500,000/- (about £5,500) towards the renovation of the buildings.

Our aim is then to concentrate on the work of Mshiri Teachers' Resource Centre, and the development of Mshiri Vocational Training School, as well as continuing to run the Student Project. At Mshiri Teachers'

Resource Centre we want to increase the stock in the library, and to buy materials for the teachers to be able to make their own teaching aids. We will promote seminars and workshops in new areas to try to make headteachers more accountable for all expenditure of parents' money, and to make the community more involved in the running of schools and their performance. At Mshiri Vocational Training School we continue to provide materials for the students to get adequate practice and experience, and to finance improvements to the school's facilities (eg school lavatories, extra workshop space). We will also be considering a small micro-finance scheme for the school's graduates to borrow money to set themselves up in business or in a workshop.



We hope that receipt of this Newsletter makes you aware of how your gifts have enabled the projects to progress. Village Education Project (Kilimanjaro) is bringing increasingly noted improvements to education, and benefiting more and more young lives.

Education is life – Elimu ni uhai

There are new rules to help charities reclaim tax on donations of any amount from donors who are taxpayers. If you would like us to be able to reclaim the tax on your donation, or future donations, please complete the following declaration:-

Full name & title: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____ Telephone number: _____

I would like my donation(s) to be (a) Gift Aid donation(s). My donations are:-

The donation of £_____ made to you on _____ 2000*

All donations I make under the direct debit mandate/banker's order below* *please delete if not applicable

All donations I make on or after the date of this declaration.*

Remember, to be Gift Aid donations you must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the tax we reclaim on your donations (28p for every £1 you give).

Date: _____ Signed: _____

◆ If you would like to give again please make your cheque payable to 'Village Education Project (Kilimanjaro)' and send it to **Mint Cottage, Prospect Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3UA.**

◆ If you would rather donate by credit card (Visa/MasterCard) please complete the following:

'I wish to make a donation of £_____ to Village Education Project (Kilimanjaro)'

Card number:

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Expiry Date: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

Post Code: _____

◆ BANKER'S ORDER/DIRECT DEBIT MANDATE

I (full name and title) _____

of (address) _____

instruct my bank (name) _____

of (address) _____

_____ (bank code is _____)

to pay the sum of £_____ starting on _____ *
and on the same day each month/quarter/half year/year for _____
(state period)/until further notice.**

*this cannot be earlier than the date you sign this order

**please complete or delete as applicable

Signed (signature) _____

Date _____ Account Number _____

Pay to Village Education Project (Kilimanjaro) a/c 13643487,
National Westminster Bank plc (60-19-02) 67 High Street
Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1LA. Reg. Charity No: 1041672

THANK YOU VERY MUCH
VILLAGE EDUCATION PROJECT (KILIMANJARO)

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