

Stove construction at Mtamba Primary School

Thursday February 16th, 2006

This day was originally intended for stove constructing at Singonhali Primary School. But to our surprise, when arriving to the school, the kitchen was not ready; the roof was not in place and the floor of soil was not dry. We had a long discussion with the Head Master and the artisan (fundi) and informed them that we can not construct a stove in a kitchen like this not having a roof. This especially as it seems to be showers and/or thunderstorms today and the following days. They were of course dis-appointed but it would not be right to build and take the risk that a new stove will be destroyed due to precipitation, we just have to take care of the donors money. We requested them to finish the roofing and asked how long this will take; we were informed that it will take three days to complete. Accordingly we changed our schedule and said that we will come back on Monday. Due to this we proceeded to Mtamba Primary School instead; which we were intended to visit first tomorrow, Friday.



The kitchen at Singonhali

The School

The school are located 75 kilometres from Mtera town and when we arrived to the school, they were of course surprised to see us there as we were not expected until tomorrow. We explained the situation why we were one day early and asked if there was a possibility to start construct today and if they could call in the artisans. The teachers was really committed and started to help us immediately. This school was quite big, having x students, which was curious on us wazungo as at all the other schools.



Plates drying in the sun

We paid a visit in one of the classes as their teachers were helping at the stove construction. I had a look in their school books and they were at the moment practising mathematics. So I counted for them in Swahili and they were to count for me in English which they did pretty well. Then I counted for them in Swedish which they found amusing as this was a totally strange language to them.



Below some figures about the number of students in this school.

Mtamba Primary School	Pre-primary	Primary	Cobet	Total
Boys	70	244	59	373
Girls	85	229	10	473
Nbr of teachers				11
Total	155	473	69	846 (Teachers excl.)

The stove construction

After just a short while, the artisans and a member from the school committee was there helping us together with the teachers, carrying bricks, preparing clay and cement. Everybody was so committed and happy to receive a new stove and the



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construction was made really fast as one of the local artisans really did a good professional job supervised by Peter and Msafari from MIGESADO. During the construction of the stove, we and two of the teachers visited next school on the schedule, Iramba Primary School to find out if we could come to them tomorrow Friday and construct the stove instead of coming on Monday as planned. We were invited to the Head masters house and his assistant to talk about this and they called in the Chairman of the community to inform and check if this was possible. He confirmed and said that we were not expected until Monday so the roof is not yet ready but we can do that within one hour or two. This was good news as the school at Singonhali needed three days and this school only a few hours, really a big difference of commitment compared to Singonhali. Consequently we booked the day of tomorrow for stove building at this school. We thanked the Chairman and the Head master and returned to Mtamba very satisfied with the result of this visit.



The teachers

The final

After lunchtime all the students lined up for singing and they presented their school song and the National hymn to us. Good songs and all were recorded on video. After this they exercised by



Marching for the students



The National hymn



Lunch at Head masters house

marching with drummers in front before going back to new lessons in class. Janet and I participated in the march and this was very much appreciated. Before having late lunch in the Head masters house, we handed over one of the smaller TNT balls, and this was really appreciated by the students who screamed and clapped their hands. The lunch was good and we thanked the Head masters wife by saying, Asante sana, chakula kizuri which translated to English means, Thank you for the good food.

On the road back to the camp



Salama
"Baba Kjelli" Rosengren

Once again we faced some problems when returning back to the camp, but this time it was a minor problem. As the road was partly destroyed, a vehicle had tried to drive at the side of the road and go round a tree but was stuck in the mud. Our superb driver took a ride through the bush and passed them all.



Stuck in the mud