



Tuesday February 28th 2006

Stove construction at Malolo Primary School

It is 19 days ago we were here for brick-making, and now we are to construct a stove with these bricks. It is a friendly school as all the others, the children and the teachers comes to say hello immediately when we arrive to the school.



The mason from MIGESADO stayed over night at Malolo and could therefore start early with the construction and we start immediately to line up and bring all the bricks to the kitchen. The construction goes very smooth and we have some free time to talk to the children and to see when they are being served the breakfast.

The breakfast is always CSB (corn soya blend) with micro nutrients and sugar added. The taste of this is described by a colleague as the taste of wet cardboard carton! I wonder if my colleague has eaten cartons, but she is very precise when she gives the description. Anyhow, the children eats with good appetite, and some of them are "licking the pots" to get as much as possible in their stomachs. Some children look after the cook and as soon as the cooking pot is taken away from the fire, they immediately try to get the last drops from the pot.



After having a bottle of water, I give the empty bottle to one of the young boys and he is very happy and proud and goes away like a cowboy, a really funny boy. Later on when having a break in the shadow, the boy comes to talk and he want us to take pictures of him. He poses with the bottle and he wants to borrow the sunglasses during the posing. He is so funny and nice and is a true to "star" and says that "wazungo" is his friends.



We visit a class with pre-primary children and at the moment the teacher are singing together with them. We shoot some photos and video sequences. Then she let them count to twenty, one by one, each child have o stand up while doing the counting. When they have counted correct to twenty, the all clap their hands in a specific way and then lift their thumb towards the child and say in choir, "safi" which means good / well done.



Back to the kitchen again to support with mixing cement together with our driver, Msafari. Today's stove looks extra nice as the lines are perfect and the finish is absolutely perfect. We are signing the stove by writing our names, dates and TNT-Sweden in the top layer of the cement.

As it is very efficient to take the mason from MIGESADO (Mr MSafari) to next village the night before to stay over night for an early start in the morning, we do the same today. Tomorrow we are constructing a stove at Idodoma Primary School. Consequently, we are heading towards Idodoma. This village are really more than "kushoto mwa dunia" and when we arrive, we find that the new kitchen is not yet ready. This surprises us as they were informed already late January that we were to come tomorrow and still no kitchen. We ask the Head Master why it is not ready and he informs that there are problems within the local government of the village and that they are disputing with each other internally. We request that he should bring the chairman of the local government enabling us to speak to him directly and explain to us why they not have fulfilled their obligations as expected. We had a chat with the chairman and said that if the kitchen not is ready, we can not build a stove. We had a long discussion and they promised to have the kitchen ready at 10.00 AM the day after.





The rescue of a woman's life

On the way back to our camp, we find some women on the small road / path, and one of them is lying down with her baby. She is on the way to collapse completely. We give her water and ask them what happened. They inform us that they have been walking from Idodoma to Ipera to get food as the food delivery from the Government was delayed. This is a distance of 60 kilometres, one way. This means a total of 120 kilometres walk and they did not have any water and no food and they had been walking since the day before. We found them when they had another 12 kilometres to go before arriving back to Idodoma.

As she never would make that distance to go, we take her and the baby and her sister onboard and return to Idodoma. We provide her with one portion of CSB plus sugar, which should be enough for her to recover. When we helps her out of the car, she starts to walk home and no one in the village helps her, that is a strange behaviour, isn't it?

After this rescue, we finally can return to our camp at Iringa and we arrive late.



The Swedes

When having dinner at Iringa, I suddenly recognise a language, it is Swedish. At the table next to us arrives a Swedish couple and I can not resist to say hello and I am invited to join them. They present themselves as Ulla-Britt and Christer from Trelleborg and are travelling around the whole of Africa. Their trip started in Sweden and the route has up to date been; Sweden – Denmark – Germany – France – Andorra – Spain – Morocco – Western Sahara – Mauretania – Senegal – The Gambia – Mali – Burkina Faso – Niger – Chad – Cameroun – Gabon – Congo Brazzaville – Namibia – Botswana – Zimbabwe – Zambia – South Africa – Lesotho – Swaziland – Mozambique – Malawi and now Tanzania. Up to date they have travelled more than 40.000 kilometres which is equal to the distance round the Globe! And they estimate to go another 20-40.000 kilometres until coming back to Trelleborg in Sweden. Maybe some of the TNT colleagues in the southern part of Sweden know who they are.



You can follow their adventure at their web-site www.cub-adventure.se

At last



Do not forget this important event; the walk this year is taking place in May 21st in your city or a city nearby. You can register your attendance by visiting <http://www.fighthunger.org/signup06>.



Salama
"Baba Kjelli" Rosengren