



The water harvesting tank project has started

Visiting the Authorities

We have had a good night sleep at our new camp, Scene Lodge Inn, located just outside Singida town. Everything is fresh, the beds are good, the rooms are clean. Scene is newly built and opened up in december last year only.

As we now are starting up a new project, we need to visit and greet the partners involved within this project.

First thing to do is to pay a visit at the authorities and to meet the District Commissioner of Singida, he was unfortunately not there so we met his assistant, Mr Kidia who has the role as Statistic & Logistic Officer. We introduce ourselves and had a chat and as usual we are signing the guest book. I use to look through the book and sometimes we find european names and organisations, today I noticed that a Swedish guy had signed the book and that was the first time since we started signing guest books.



Mr Kidia
Statistic & Logistics Officer

Next place (office) to visit were to meet the District Executive Director, Mr Charles Mwagoa and his staff. He informed us about the critical situation within the rural areas of Singida and expressed his and the communitys happiness and how grateful they were for our kind assistance. We had a very nice chat and despite his pain from a motorbike accident recently he was in a good mode. I asked if I could take photo now when he was in this "good" mode, and that made the atmosphere even more friendly. The Tanzanian people enjoy to be photographed (most of them, but not all) and the Director posed villingly and we promised to send him copies.



Meeting with the District
Executive Director and his staff

The vision of Singida District Council

VISION – Become the most successful local Government Authority in the region and the country in terms of scope and quality of service delivery.

MISSION STATEMENT – The council is committed to deliver and co-ordinate efficient provision of Socio-Economic services, Environment conservation and maintain peace and order to its community through good governance and sustainable livelihood.

Visiting the supplier, HAPA¹

Just before lunch we went to the NGO, HAPA who is the one to construct the water harvesting tanks at the schools. Their office is located nearby a lake and they have a nice view outside. We met the founders of the organisation as well as the technician and the accountant. The meeting was held in a warm and informative atmosphere. The selection and construction of water tanks was explained clearly and it was agreed the process was relatively straight forward. The technology being used had been in place for over 30 years and it was confirmed maintenance was minimal. The selection of schools to be supplied with watertanks are done by the local Government and they ask the District Council about preferred NGO. Mr Karugaba (Responsible for the School Feeding) then contact/visit the community and have discussion about what and how the community itself can assist and mobilize.



Meeting with HAPA

A drawing of the water tank was received and we had some information such as: the water tanks are preferably connected to pump from bore hole / public well, and always collecting the rainwater from the biggest classroom building through gutters and pipings connected to the tanks. The size of the tanks depend on the nature of the soil. A 90.000 litres tank can therefore be divided to 2-3 tanks. The tanks are owned by the community and it is therefore their responsibility to do the maintainance of watertaps, gutters (usually of wood, lasting for 3 years) cleaning of the tanks, etc. Number of tanks installed to date are 11.

¹ HAPA = Health Actions Promotions Assembly



Visiting the schools

In the afternoon we travelled to the schools to meet the Head masters, School Committees and the Community to present ourselves and to secure the mobilisation. On the way to and from the schools we had flat tyre two times! I have stopped counting... We met the people at all the schools and the preparations had already started which showed that the communities were well committed to the project.



Assisting the construction workers with the iron mesh at Sagara Primary School



Meeting with the village chairman at Mapinduzi Mr Hasani Lissu

At Sagara they were ready with the foundation for one of the water tanks (they will have 2 tanks) and we helped them preparing the iron mesh for the second foundation.

Lack of food convinced us to do an immediate donation of emergency supplies of food

It was apparent from our first visit to Sagara Primary School there was a problem with the school food supply, attendance and moral. The schools were quiet and somewhat lifeless. It was obvious that there were less children attending the school now when no food were served, no breakfast and no lunch. TNT and WFP agreed the best course of action would be to procure emergency supplies of food and make short term deliveries during our visits to the schools over the next 4 days. The Head master was informed about our planned action / donation so he could inform the cook and the children that food will be served tomorrow. Food for both children and local helpers was procured and distributed with an immediate beneficial impact the following day.



Dreadful facts

One child dies every five seconds from hunger related causes



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>.

Positive facts

WFP provides nutritional supplements such as high protein biscuits to babies so they get a healthy start in life



Salama
"Baba Kjell" Rosengren
[Baba Shell]