



Water harvesting tank project, first and second week

7-19th march 2006

We continue to donate food

As mentioned yesterday, we procured food for three schools. The same procedure is done today as the food procured earlier only lasting for two days at each school. Consequently, up early in the morning and immediately after breakfast we were going to town to procure another 4 bags of maize flour, we can only load 4 bags each day as the vehicle will be overloaded if taking more bags. This procedure continues also for the next days, and while we are staying at one school, the driver goes to the other schools for delivering the donated food supply.



Supplying more food

Construction work

We are staying at the Sagara Primary School to assist the construction workers with different things. We help them with the iron mesh, and we are collecting sand which are to be used when mixing the cement. Here we are using two cows and a farm cart to transport the material from one place to another, not exactly what I should have used back home to make the work easier. But we are not at home and this is what they have and it is very useful and practical.



Transporting material

Time for lunch

Soon it is lunch time and this Tuesday, the first day when the children will be fed for the first time since a month, I notice that the youngest children are leaving the school. They usually only attend the school until noon, but today they should not go home, it is feeding time... I notice immediately the Head teacher that something is wrong here, have the children not been noticed? All the children are called back and the reason why they not had been informed properly was that the teacher informed from the beginning about the new ration of food was that he has AIDS and the disease has now started to affect his back and brain, and he does no longer have so good memory and unfortunately he just forgot to transfer all the information given to his colleagues and Head Master.



Lunch time

All children lines up and at this school there is no doubt, the youngest are first in line and they all wash their hands before the meal. The cook and I serve them the first day and it seems like everybody wants to be served by mzungu (white man) and nearly everybody lines up in front of me. It takes time and the cook gives up serving as all of the students is coming to me. Unfortunately the food is running out and 18 children are not being served, they have used the wrong formula when calculating the food and the cook needs to prepare more food. After half an hour the food is ready and the oldest ones which not was served at the first time is now having their lunch and everybody is happy.



The pro's skipping

Anyhow, after an hour all the children was fed and everybody happy. And the happiness was even bigger when I handed over a real leather football to the school and the boys were nearly screaming of happiness and joy and immediately run away to play. For the girls we had skipping ropes and this was also very much appreciated and we had a good time with them until it was time to have lesson again.

During the week we also visits the other schools, Mgori and Mapinduzi Primary Schools to monitor the progress of the water tank construction, all of the construction teams are following the plan and are on time. After a few days the walls of the tanks are under construction and everything is done by hands, no



First layer of cement



machines or readymade cement are used, no concrete truck are coming, using a pump for the cement. Nope, here we are constructing water tanks the old fashioned way, and the artisans are really good. But it takes time as when one layer of cement has been ready; the layer needs to cure for 24 hours until next layer can be done. PolePole is the word and no meaning to rush; only fools rush according to African say. And I can nearly agree to this, as I have begun to act as a native... Janet assist one of the construction workers to prepare there lunch, it will be chapati and after making nearly 30 chapatis, she is nearly a pro.

Acting as teachers

It is always nice to talk to children and sometimes we visit the classes during lessons. We found one of the classes (standard one) studying without the teacher, so we entered the class room and immediately all raised and said, GOOD MORNING, TEACHER, yes they said it very loud and we greeted them as well and asked them to sit down. As the class at the moment were studying English, we helped them by asking the names of different things by showing them. Such as holding a camera and ask them, what is this? And they answered all together, that is a camera. While Janet was asking about different things I was writing the name



Hey, wazungo teachers...

of the thing on the blackboard to show the spelling. When I was asking, Janet was writing. This is really a nice thing to do. After a while the teacher came and wondered what's going on. He presented himself and said that this was his class, and as he came we thought it was best to leave them again so he could take over, but when we left he did as well!

This is a bit strange because we have discovered this at many schools that the teacher of some classes is not present in the class room, we do not why but think it is strange, what are they doing when not present?

Preparing the speech for Amsterdam summit in March 22nd

During the week I have started to prepare a speech which I am going to hold for the top 100 managers within Freight Management worldwide, the speech will be held during a summit in Amsterdam on March 20-22nd The last day of the summit will be about the partnership TNT-WFP, and my speech is about the importance of getting involved in the partnership program, the School Feeding and Specialist Projects. This speech was finalized and ready late Friday afternoon and was sent by courier to Amsterdam on Saturday. You will be able to listen to my speech/movie later on as this will be published on Freightnet.



Hit by Typhoid

I have been off the whole weekend really felt sick, all signs tell me, and I've also being told, that we need to get you to a doctor on Monday morning. So that's it, first thing after breakfast is to go to the dispensary for a medical blood test. A short talk to the doctor and blood given for testing, I was requested to come back after a couple of hours. The cost for visiting the doctor and to have my blood tested was TSH 1500 only, really cheap, wish that those prices could be applicable back home... So while waiting for the blood result, we visited the internet café and after we had gone through our emails and other stuff we went to a bar next door and we found our driver and Mr Karugaba there who had been at the doctor to have some information, and I was informed that the Malaria test was ready and that one was negative. Fine, that was good news but the test for Typhoid was not ready so we had to wait another hour.

Back to the doctor for the result, and the information was that the test was positive (which was negative...) and I said that's strange, I had taken precautious steps before leaving my home country by having a shot against Typhoid. Was informed that Typhoid often comes from contaminated water and it can be enough standing in the shower and some water comes in to your mouth, it can also come from eggs not boiled properly, so be aware if going to Typhoid countries. Got medicine at the cost of TSH 10.000 only, which is the maximum cost of medicine in this country, unbelievable cheap.

Because of the Typhoid, I was "grounded" for at least 3 days at the hotel, really boring. The second day was the heaviest one as I was totally exhausted, but as Janet said, why surprised, there is a civil war going on in your body



right now... so true... But bad news has always something good as well, now I have the time to try to write all stories and reports not being done earlier.

Like a monkey in his cage

Do you know how the monkey sometimes might feel inside his cage when people stand outside and staring at him? You don't? I know how it is. I went to a "Deathrow hair cutting salon" in Singida, yes the name is correct and I think that the owner does not know what death row means. This was the first time he was going to cut the hair off a Mzungo and wazungo in town is always interesting so when entering the salon, people was gathering outside looking and not only outside, they also came in to this little salon only having one chair, standing along the walls to look. I could request entrance fee, as I was so interesting to look at.



The monkey....

Singida rocks...

In Singida and its surrounding you will find the most fascinating rocks, big rocks on top of each other and with shapes probably made by million years of erosion.



Heading for the refugee camps

Saturday morning the 18th we start our journey to the refugee camps and some of the personnel at the hotel is wishing us "Safari njema". We are going to visit 2 different camps at the borders of Burundi and Congo, more details about the camps will be in the next report. It is a long journey and it takes 2 days to get there so we will have a stop over at Isaka as there is a WFP warehouse. We



Goodbye for now



Rift valley

are passing through mountains and rift valleys with savannahs, a beautiful trip.

WFP Isaka

We arrive late Saturday afternoon to Isaka and are welcomed by the site manager, a nice American guy named Kevin. He joined the Peace Corps for 9 years ago in Africa and later on joined WFP and has been around Africa since. He takes us on a tour through the compound and inform us that they have capacity for 15.000 metric tonnes, but at the moment they only have 2.500 metric tonnes. They are waiting for new shipments arriving from Dodoma. He also inform us that they have 2 milling machines preparing the maize to flour and they also have own tractors and carts for taking the maize locally from the warehouse to the milling machine and back



Kevin and Janet at Isaka site

again to the warehouse. Recently they had a new production record for one day; they produced more than 100 tonnes of flour. When WFP were building the warehouses they also needed water supplies but there was none, so they built the whole water system for the Isaka town, well done! They have also 2 railway lines enabling them to unload 2 sets of wagons at the same time. They then distribute the food from this warehouse by truck to the refugee camps at the borders. It is a big operation Kevin runs here, they are 250 staff.



Isaka food storage tents

He lives within the compound in a house and we will also stay at the compound in a house. He warned us though, please look where you put your feet down, this is snake country and he said that he had seen both Cobra and Black Mamba. It is



really nice and quiet, totally different from the last place we were at in Singida where I had a cage of chickens outside my window so I could hear them the whole night. So I thought that I could have a nice sleep here. At midnight a thunderstorm arrived which was vicious, it was very windy, surely storm winds, and the lightning's were so frequent that one could believe you were at a disco using stroboscopes.

According to Kevin this was the worst thunderstorm he has had here during the last 2 years.

On Sunday morning we are leaving Singida and some of the personnel say "Safari njema". Next destination is Kasulu.



Dreadful facts

More than 800 million people know what it is like to go to bed hungry; most of them are women and children



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 creates school feeding projects for children. By providing food, WFP makes it easier for hungry children to learn. Some of these projects are aimed at encouraging parents to send girls to school



Salama
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[Baba Shell]