

Stove construction at Singonhali Primary School

Monday February 20th, 2006



Today we were back to Singonhali, the school which not had its kitchen building ready as planned when visiting them last Thursday. Now the building was ready including a roof. They had done a good job and many people were there



The new kitchen building

from the community. The chairman of the School Community was there including one of the members who attended the seminar of how to use the new stoves which were held at Ipera Primary School in February 3rd.

Many people were here and everybody lined up to give a helping hand with bricks, cement, clay and other material needed.



Everybody lining up



Ready?



The mason and local "fundi"

Singonhali Primary School

Singonhali Primary School	Pre-primary	Primary	Cobet	Total
Boys	42	248	21	311
Girls	37	242	18	297
Number of teachers				6
Total	79	490	39	608 (Teachers excl.)

The school are located "kushoto mwa dunia" (at the end of the world) so visitors does not often stop by here. This school is in a very bad shape and really needs a lot of different material as they are lacking the most of different items, even the most basic things.

The class rooms

Most of the class rooms looks more like store rooms, as every room has something stored in there and it seems like the items has been thrown in. If someone told me that this is the class



One of the "best" class rooms!



Second best!



Third and worst...

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rooms, I would not believe them. They are really in a bad shape, the walls are dirty and so are the floors, here are papers, sand, empty buckets and other things. The walls need to be painted and the black boards needs also to be re-painted.

70 students have no desk

When talking to the Head Master what's most needed he said that desks are needed as number one in his priority. They are lacking desks for 70 students, those students are today forced to sit on the floor when trying to study (read and write). The Governmental standard of a school desk is three students per desks. Consequently, they need another 24 desks.



Desks missing

Not enough class rooms

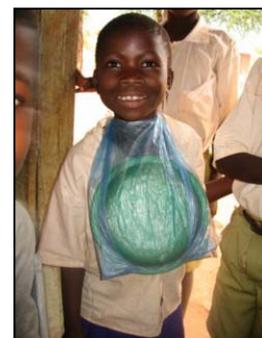
The school also needs more class rooms (priority #2) and more teachers (priority #3). There is a building under construction but not yet finished, today only the roof is missing and the floor needs to be cemented (only soil today). When a community and the school committee build a new school building, they need to have the building ready up to the point of roof. Up to this stage the cost is paid by the community and the school committee. The District Education Commission then pays and give the needed wood and tin sheets to the school for free, enabling them to build the roof and finishing the building. At this case they reported to the Commissioner that they are going to build a new class room, but during the construction they decided to increase the new building with another class room. As they from beginning only reported one new class room, they only got material for one. So now they have applied for more wood and tin sheets. It is expected to be ready at the end of March. According to the Head Master, 2 additional teachers are expected in next month but if the building not are finalised, they have no class rooms for the new teachers.



Waiting for a class room

No water

The school are not connected to local water system and has no water nearby; this is a huge problem as well. All students are requested to bring water to school every day from home and this creates other problems as some of the water may be contaminated and the children gets various diseases, such as worms. And this causes that more food is needed to the children as most of the food they eat, are being eaten by the worms in the stomach.



Happy student

Latrines

Not the best in show, in general in bad shape at all schools and also here we are missing possibilities for the students to wash their hands after a visit. This was brought up to discussion with the Head Master and The School Committee and they promised to place one water container outside the boys and girls latrine.

Less students on Mondays

When looking through the ledger to find out how many children's fed every day, we notice that there are less children in school on Mondays! When asking, we are told that especially now during the farming season; some of the children are helping the family in the fields with planting maize, etc. instead of participating school.

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At the end of the day

When it is time to go home from school, all students' first lines up to march around the compound accompanied by drummers and they sing. I walked together with them and after this we had fun with balloons.



The drummers



Lining up to march

As usual we had lunch together with the Head Master and The School Committee and thereafter we were invited to one of the members of the School Committee and her house. When coming to her house the whole family was there including her mother, her children and her sister. We were told that when she (the school committee member) had been on the seminar described first in this letter, and when she came home, she told her sister that there were two "wazungo" at the seminar and they will probably come to their village as well. Her sister, who is crippled and can not walk, she "walks" on her knees, said to her sister that it was a shame that she could not be at the seminar, enabling her to see the "wazungo" with her own eyes.



Invited to her house



Outside the house

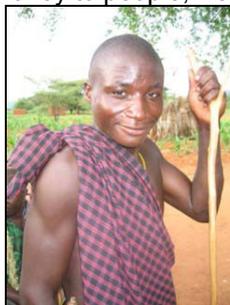
And suddenly were at her house and she was so happy so you can not imagine. She is making bread for her living but can not deliver the bread to the market so the children are doing this for her. She has a wish, and that is to have a bicycle so she can be at the market her self. You might have seen those, you do not use your feet's; you have the pedals higher up and use your hands. I have seen many of those in Dar es Salaam and will try to find out the price for such a bicycle when in Dodoma the coming weekend and then report to you in case you would like to donate some money to by a bike like this.



Her sister and child

For your information!

We never hand over money to people, we always buying the material and then hand over.



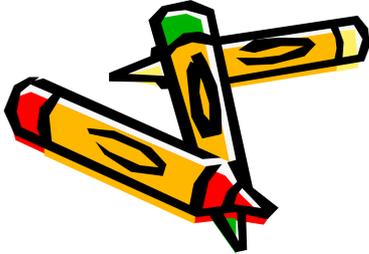
Happy masai



Not happy masai

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“Colour the World” competition



The competition was launched 16 World Food Day – 16 October 2005 and the theme was transportation of food to increase Global awareness. 40 Countries Participated and 1600 children took part. The overall winner of the competition was– Xia Qi Xuan, Aged 7, China

This competition results in;

- Donation of 250 dollars to one of the WFP schools where TNT volunteers work
- TNT volunteers make the donation on behalf of the winners
- Give pictures and feedback to the winners
- Select the school(s) who will benefit
- Decide the donation in kind (educational materials)
- Receive the laminated pictures of the prize winners (end of February)
- Arrange handover ceremony (early March)
- Send pictures, stories and testimonials to MTW HQ for sending to winning children

And the winner is...

As Singonhali Primary School is in such a bad shape, we decided immediately that this school is not only a candidate for having this prize, they are the winner. And according to what's most needed in this school was desks for the students, we informed the Head Master and the School Committee that a donation of desks will be made. The question is how many desks we can buy for the donation of USD 250. The plan is now to meet tomorrow again, the Head Master, The Chairman of the School Committee and the local carpenter for negotiation.



Salama
“Baba Kjelli” Rosengren