

ILULA ORPHANAGE PROGRAM



Dear friends and family, you are welcome to read the news that happened at IOP Tanzania on the February 2018 newsletter.

Articles:

- Farm for the Future
- Major renovation of the Kitchen
- Welcome and Goodbye parties
- Construction Work at Sunflower
- Girls' sports and games

FARM FOR THE FUTURE

Farm for the Future – A Regional Development Project for business and Capacity building to local Farmers and Poor Single Young Mothers.

Farm for the future will now be a reality by the big donation of 580.000 USD from Kavli Trust. Now farming will start in December 2018, and Kavli Trust approval is very important quality stamp.

History:

Starting as a tobacco farm in 1958 when it was first leased by a Certificate of Occupancy number 10658 for 100 years signed by Queen Elizabeth and given to the first owner of the farm Rattan Sigh Bajaj the farm has changed hands to several owners, Ilula Orphan Program being the fifth owner from October 20th 2011. The farm for the future is located in No 1 Ilula Township area. This is the first out of the 10 farms formerly leased to Greek/Indian settlers during British colonial rule up to early years of independence. Out of the 10 farms 7 farms still exist as farms while farms number 7, 9 and 10 are now turned into villages.

The farm was bought by loan from one generous friend and supporter of IOP in Indiana USA, aimed at being one of the income generating projects of IOP. Over these years the farm has mostly being rented out to local farmers while IOP has been tilling a small portion not exceeding 50 acres. The farm then christened *Farm 651* referring to the number of acres in the farms then

changing to *Farm for the Future* in 2017. In March 2015 the farm was included in the IOP strategic plan 2015- 2019 Strategic Objective 7; *Develop Farm 651 (acre) with facilities that lead to a substantial contribution to the sustainability of IOP by 2019*. The IOP Management was tasked to find potential partners for the farm. The farm development plans were approved by the IOP board then shared to IOP outside committees in March 2016.

This farm is a Regional Development Project that aiming to provide vocational training in agriculture for youth, local farmers and young single mothers, and create jobs through processing and ‘value addition’ to products grown on the farm. The project contains a big potential for IOP and the community.

The project started March 2015 by Osmund Ueland as a volunteer project manager. At the same time as IOP strategic plan was approved in 2015, IOP requested Mr Osmund Ueland, an experienced project manager from Norway to be a project manager responsible for fundraising and communication. Mr. Osmund Ueland has found very important partners, and has been working jointly and singly in developing and finalizing the farm business plan. The farm partners include Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in Morogoro Tanzania, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), Yara Tanzania limited (a fertilizer company), Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT), Kilolo District Council, Iringa Regional Secretariat. After the big funds from Kavli Trust, Osmund followe up good advice from Yara and SAGCOT to connect up to the Rutuba Farm by Otto, as one of the best maize farmers in Tanzania.

The farm is a commercial farm and capacity building farm. Registration of the farm as Business farm Farm for the Future Tanzania Ltd is just now done end of April, of the capacity building NGO, Farm for the Future Training will start now.



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The presence of good partners, good organized project, a project that can be copied, focus on empowering people, a well-developed business plan, and a famous project manager, enabled Kavli Trust, a dairy company in Norway, to donate 580,000 dollars to the project. Thanks to Mr Osmund Ueland who worked tooth and nail to make it possible. The presence of the farm as a capacity building arena for the local community will strengthen the existing Income Generating Groups (IGAs) by providing modern agronomic practices so as to increase productivity and increase production per unit acre as well as adding value to the farm products thus improving the wellbeing of the community we serve. IOP has trained and supervised establishment of over 200 Village Community Banks (VICOBA) in different brands such as inter religious VICOBA (IR VICOBA) supported by

Norwegian Church Aid, Peacemakers VICOBA through Ilula YWCA supported by YGlobal and Saving and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) supported by USAID. Most of the loans taken from these groups are related to agriculture and animal husbandry so empowering these groups and linking the groups products to markets will be a big plus to poverty eradication.

IOP Tanzania is so glad that the Farm for the future is not rhetoric but a big regional development project now included in the Iringa region plans to the extent that even the Deputy Minister of Agriculture Hon. Dr Mary Mwanjelwa visited the farm early this year. The farm is in line with the government plans of creating more employment to Tanzanians especially youths.



The Deputy Minister of Agriculture Hon. Dr. Mary Mwanjelwa and Farm for The Future stakeholders

MAJOR RENOVATION OF THE KITCHEN

Crying red eyes, smoky kitchen, poorly ventilated firewood kitchen are some of the characteristic features to describe the status of the kitchen before renovation

It was about a month Occupational Safety and enforcement officer visited how IOP adheres to the when Team Ueland Norway renovate the kitchen to standards. Among the areas in was the IOP Center kitchen.

“I am so thankful to Team Ueland and IOP administration for caring about our health and working conditions, I feel so proud and privileged to work in

or so ever since the Health Act (OSHA) IOP premises to check OSHA prescriptions accepted a request to acceptable OSHA need of major changes The former kitchen was

built in 2003 according to the then safety regulations and got all certifications from relevant authorities of that time. However, so much has changed since then; different Acts had been enacted or amended and kept in shelves for some years until the fifth phase government came in power in November 2015. The new government has given sharp teeth to the enforcement officers that even those who used to simply bark are now biting.

Well, the above statements justify why the kitchen renovation was important, necessary and timely at that moment. The renovation included but not limited to putting new sliding aluminum windows with mosquito screens, installation of overhead hood, gas stoves, stainless steel working tables, shelves, backing oven, with capacity to bake 100 loaves of bread at once, freezer, refrigerator and a dish washer to mention but a few. A number of new cooking pans have been bought to match the required pans for gas burners as well as buying other equipment like meat grinder. The completion of the kitchen renovation was really a revolution that called for training of cooks on how to safely use the new kitchen and equipment as well as the safety standards in the kitchen. A cook from one hotel in Iringa was contracted to train cooks for five days but he offered to train for free for two weeks more! The cook had this to say about the kitchen “there is no kitchen like this in Iringa; the backing oven like this can only be found in one restaurant Iringa. It is so nice and motivating to work in a kitchen like this” It was no wonder when he was offered position as a head cook he accepted the position and is now part of the kitchen crew.

The new kitchen addition to providing services to IOP’s traditional customers like the IOP staff, girls, volunteers and guests attending different seminars and trainings will also provide bread and cookies to all IOP schools and institutions including supplying quality food to bite café thus creating better services and widening customer base. The pressure of our cooks to wash dishes till very late hours during high seasons has been significantly reduced due to availability and use of a washing machine. This used to happen when we have trainings seminars and welcome parties together involving guests, volunteers and staff.

More importantly, the kitchen has provided a safe working place for cooks thus emancipating them from the smoke coming from firewood some of which could be poisonous. In addition to improved food services this kitchen will serve as a training place for students of IOP taking cookery courses that otherwise would go far from Iringa for internship or practical trainings. Already the kitchen has started providing customized orders to customers thus making every customer to feel at home. The kitchen has been very well received by the cooks as one cook was quoted as saying

A good star is seen in the morning (A Swahili saying) –before the Team Ueland Norway pledged support to renovate the kitchen and buy kitchen equipment IOP Center received a gift of kitchen tools from Sunnimore Folk High School (SUFH) in Ultensvik Norway. SUFH was visiting IOP as part of partnership with IOP/Ilula YWCA in which students and staff of SUFH visits IOP as part of learning from each other and exchange. In addition to material support SUFH sponsored two Masai girls Dina and Elizabeth to go to SUFH to deepen their cookery knowledge as part of capacity building to IOP cooks. The two girls will come back in May. IOP will benefit so much

from these trainings and looks forward to employing the two Masai girls. Toringer a cook from SUFH, as part of the SUFH staff, conducted trainings to IOP staff especially on professional meat preparation. IOP is so blessed and thankful for having these important partners.

Bravo to Team Ueland for being good supporters of IOP not only in this project but also in the previous ones.



The inside looks of the new kitchen

WELCOME AND GOODBYE PARTIES

Due to the high number of volunteers and guests who visited IOP, there were several welcome parties and goodbye parties.

We welcomed the Kragero group and Osmund Ueland with a welcoming party outside. Many speeches were given by our guests, one of the girls and by the Managing Director of IOP Mr. Edson Msigwa, who explained why the work of volunteers is so important and essential for IOP to prosper. Afterwards everybody had dinner together in the paved yard of the IOP center.

To say goodbye to our Norwegian visitors, a Goodbye-Party was held, again outside the yard. The volunteers played together with the girls from the center, there was dancing and singing and to top it off.

IOP welcomes all who wish you volunteer in making a difference inside the Tanzanian Community. There is plenty to help for the purpose of improving the living standard of the very low-income Tanzanians.



IOP staff, volunteers and girls during the welcome party

CONSTRUCTION WORK AT SUNFLOWER

At Sunflower primary school where construction work started in 2017 on July and still going on, on the mid of February 2018 the new dormitory for boys started to be constructed. The dormitory under construction will accommodate 45 students the same as girl's dormitory. The plan is to have boarding students by next year. Hence before the end of this year those two dormitories will be registered and in January 2019 the students will start using the dormitories. By next year Sunflower primary school expects to recruit students from all

over Tanzania as there are dormitories for them to stay. IOP is planning to advertise the school through radios, television and other social Medias. Many were asking of when the school will be boarding schools as they wanted their kids to stay at school but failed enroll their kids to Sunflower primary due to the shortage of dormitory.

IOP Tanzania appreciates the Government of Luxembourg, Christian Solidarity International (CSI) and IOP Luxembourg for great effort to let this happen.

The constructed foundation for boy's hostel & Girls hostel



GIRLS SPORTS AND GAMES

Every Wednesday and Saturday evening girls at IOP center do sports. They play netball, football, running and other local games. Through the involvement of sports they get various benefits like mental health improvement, they reduce risk of overweight, healthy growth of bones and muscles, they improve coordination and balance. They girls also improve their social skills and personal skills and leadership. Volunteers available are the once teaching the girls different kinds of games.

Girls have possibilities to develop sports culture and altitude. It is important for the most of the girls. It calls for different sports professionals who can teach girls different sports and games.



KEY CONTACT INFORMATION/EVENTS

IOP has over **100** students in the waiting list for **sponsorship**. Contact the nearest IOP office for more information. You will surely take the students' dreams to the destination.

Thank you for your continued support. God bless you.

If you would like to get more information about projects and/or sponsoring opportunities, please use the contacts below;

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