



We welcome you all reading the events that happened at IOP in August 2022

Articles:

1. Mini Marathon competition
2. Dutch Group Volunteering Experience at IOP
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## Mini -Marathon Competition



The competition included racing: 10 km for youth males and 10 km for youth females, 3 km and 100 meters for children (girls and boys). On the other hand, walking involved 5 km for elders from 50 and above years of age. The stations were Kwa Asanteni, Stendi ya Upendo, Chavala Petrol Station, Zebra, Chief Kiumbe Lodge, Zebra, Kwa Mpemba and then back to IOP.

## Entertainment



The youths from IOP change program sang the song about census. The main theme of the song was to emphasize people to actively participate and give effective cooperation during census. It was done after the competition at IOP playing ground where there was a short ceremony.

### Overview

It was a Mini-Marathon event that took place on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at Ilula Orphan Program (IOP).

### Participants

IOP volunteers from

## Important Speeches

### IOP Director



Figure 1: Mr. Edson Msigwa, IOP Managing Director

It was after the competition when all participants met at IOP playground whereby the IOP Director emphasized on the objectives of the event that *it was to strengthen our health and influencing people to read at IOP library*. He emphasized on the importance of census to the organization, the Community, Government and other Development partners that it will help to obtain the demographic information to be useful for community development activities.

### IOP volunteers from Netherlands.



Figure 2: Mirte Klingeler from Netherlands

IOP received 08 volunteers from Netherlands on 31<sup>st</sup> July. As part of the participants, their representative, Mirte, was given the chance to say something to the audience. During her speech, she emphasized on the importance of mini-marathon and the work IOP does for the Community. She further said that the mini-marathon strengthens our health and contributes to network building. She also announced that for that day, her team will contribute the amount of money for Ilula elders.

## The Honorable Guest



She started with special thanks to IOP leadership and all people who participated in the Mini-Marathon. She explained that the day was very important as it brought unity and cooperation. great emphasis on census. Finally, she called upon the community to cooperate with IOP for sustainable development and to participate in the National Census Day which was done on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022.

## Other Speeches

Some people who joined the Guest of Honor were given the chance to introduce themselves and say something to the audience whereby after the salutations, one by one said the following: -Farm for the Future Tanzania Ltd.'s(FFF) Chairperson and Managing Director, emphasized on cooperation between IOP and FFF. The Chairperson for CCM youths at Ilula, called upon youths to collaborate in protecting children during census holidays.

Likewise, the Councilor, Special seat from Mazombe Division during her speech wanted all children to stay at home on 23 for effective cooperation during census.

Besides, the Ilula Township Executive Officer emphasized that all people including people with disabilities and those with special needs had equal rights to participate during census. Finally, the head of Ilula Police Station advised people to avoid *Group mistakes*. He gave an example of group mistake that when someone is beaten in front of the people and the witnesses do nothing to help the beaten person. He said that the beater and witnesses will both be treated as criminals.



One of the CCM youth leaders giving his speech.



Head of Ilula police station giving the speech.

### Principals and safety measures towards ensuring security during Mini-Marathon competition

(By the head of Ilula police station before competition).

It was instructed that there are certain rules to follow when a group of people or a person is participating in the Mini-marathon. One of the rules was that during competition, if a person is alone should use right side of the road and if they are many, they should use the left side of the road.

He informed the participants that at some road's points, there were policemen to ensure the safety to all road users including the runners.

The first aid car for any emergence case was there.

## Census Training



The census trainer was given the chance to provide education about census. The mode was short explanations. The content covered includes the modality of census, its essence, definition, aim and importance.

## Awards to the Winners



Later on, the Guest of Honour and IOP Managing Director offered the awards to Mini marathon and lottery winners. Lottery was the competitive game for those who bought the lottery tickets before the event. The awards provided to 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> winners of each competition which included some money and staffs like coffee table, bed, clothes, home utensils

and other staffs. The 1<sup>st</sup> winners for each Marathon competition excluding elders were given the bonus for free English course or one month's school fees Kids' Corner Pre school depending on the level of the winner.



## Bonanza

It was the second part of the day for Bonanza. There were two times football competition and later final match for the team that won the match. The teams were Ilula Veterans, Ilula DDH, Pepsi Boys and Number 1 FC. At final round, Number 1 FC won the match by having 3 goals towards Ilula DDH.

The results were announced and the IOP Managing Director took a chance to congratulate all football teams which participated, encouraged those teams which did not win and wanted Number 1 FC (winner of a day) to be prepared for further competitions.

He finalized his speech by advising the team members to rescue themselves from being drunkards and drug users and have good manners in order to reach far with their dreams. Eventually, he closed the day by offering the award (goat animal) to Number 1 FC as the winners.

## DUTCH GROUP VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE AT IOP

“My name is Hillien Hakvoort, I am eighteen years old and I was born and raised in the Netherlands. On August 2022, I was lucky enough to do some volunteering work at IOP, together with 7 other amazing girls, and I was asked if I wanted to write something about that. Of course, I said yes, for I can't stop talking about this experience and I would love to express my gratitude to this organization for granting us this amazing opportunity.

We arrived at IOP on Sunday evening, the 31<sup>st</sup> of July. We were welcomed by the girls and staff with dance and music. The warm welcome we received that day is something we will always remember!



During our stay, we did many different things. We started most of our days at IOP with singing, bible reading, and morning prayer and we ended most of our days at IOP with watching a movie, singing, evening prayer, and lots of hugs and kisses from the girls. We saw the girls multiple times a day and also did fun activities with them. For example, we gave them football training and we helped them with writing the Christmas cards for the sponsors and watering the plants and trees.

Our volunteering work, however, was not solely focused on the girls. We also visited the seniors at their homes and at the Holland House of Books, while giving them a bag with food and soap. We visited the seniors at their homes twice, for we came back later to hand out mattresses

and more bags with food and soap.



It was touching to see how grateful they were for our visit and gifts. A lesson I learned when visiting these poor people in their badly maintained houses, is that the people with the smallest houses might have the biggest hearts: people living under the darkest circumstances might shine the brightest light. The senior visits were the most emotional and confronting experiences we faced during our stay in Ilula. It was life-changing to see poverty and economic inequality, important subjects that we normally only hear and read about, taking place in front of our own eyes. It is good for a human being to empathize and change perspectives with people being born and raised under very different conditions and it is absolutely essential when tackling these important subjects.

We furthermore spent a day with a local family to help them with cooking. For this, we used the food

we bought the day before at the market. Buying food and cooking it went in a very different way than we are used to. At the market, we bought everything at different places, while in the Netherlands you buy everything all together at the so-called supermarket. Cooking takes also much more time in Tanzania, but this speaks for itself, for we don't have to slaughter our chicken before cooking it, for example. The family was incredibly friendly, not only to us, but also to the entire neighborhood, for all the children living close by were welcome to play games and sing songs with us.

We had so much fun and learned so much during our visit to IOP, but this wouldn't have been such a success without the staff members. They went with us to the market, the local families, the church, the trip to Isimila Stone Age, and/or the mountain trip. Elizabeth, Masud, Maria, Mohamed, and Adam: you guys were amazing! We also had two very interesting discussions with all the staff members, in which we shared cultural differences and similarities. Thank you all so much for organizing this and being so honest and open! I want to specifically thank the one and only Tamari: our heroine! This woman has been with us from when we arrived at the airport till we departed the airport and I loved

every minute of it. Tamari: you have truly been the best guide and friend we could have ever wished for! I want to conclude my piece of writing by thanking the girls, our 'sisters', for letting us into their lives and hearts. I can say this on behalf of all the Dutch and Belgian girls: you will never leave our lives and hearts again, for your inspiring stories and beautiful smiles have made a life-long impact on us! I hope to come back to you all in the future. Asante Sana, Mungu awabariki!"



## BIRTHDAY PARTY

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August, IOP Center Girls together with volunteers and IOP staffs celebrated together the birthdays of the girls who were born on July and August. The party was done at the Ilula Orphan Center Hall where by several events were performed such as singing birthday songs, dancing, a word from one of the birthday girls, a cake and others. Also, every birthday girl had a birthday present from one of the volunteers Emilie Wilhelmsen as she was also one of the birthday girls. The party ended up with delicious dinner all together.



## GIRLS TRIP TO RUAHA NATIONAL PARK

On 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 the Ilula Orphan Center girls, matron, nannies, two volunteers and the driver had a 2 days trip to visit Ruaha National Park where the children were able to see and learn about animals and birds. They arrived at Ruaha at 12:00 noon, after the procedures they went in the park with two tour guides who explained in short about the history of Ruaha National Park. Then, they firstly went to visit river Ruaha where they were able to see crocodiles, hippo and fishes.



They went also to the restaurant to have lunch and went in the park where the children were able to see lions, elephants, giraffes, antelopes,



impalas, zebras, and different kind of birds. They also learnt



about animals' life span, their kilograms, how these animals live in their families, their food and how much they eat per day. They had dinner at Msembe. The next day soon after breakfast they went for morning game where they saw birds and animals too.



They had also a chance to see the rope bridge which is so attractive and they crossed the bridge. They

were so happy. The trip was awesome as all the children were so happy and they really thanked Emilie Wilhemsen for funding their trip.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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