

NEWSLETTER



Children of Kilimanjaro
Foundation

In this Newsletter we would like to update you on all our activities in Mdawi region. Since our last Newsletter early 2016, it has been an interesting time with lots of changes in our school and health projects.

We are very thankful for the regular donations we received from our friends that have been supporting us for years. Besides the regular flow of donations our gratitude is enormous for the additional gifts we received this year. We wish to thank the people who made this possible from the bottom of our hearts! Furthermore, we point attention to the great fundraising for Ujumbe (more about this below).

As a previous assessment about the needs of Mdawi villagers dates a while back, this was a good time to evaluate the current situation, explore how our foundation can best help Mdawi, and establish a list of project priorities for us to undertake next. This 3-week assessment took place in January 2017.

Children of Kilimanjaro Foundation
Needs assessment report
4th - 25th January 2017



In March 2017, the report was shared with all relevant stakeholders in Mdawi, i.e. the village chiefs, head teachers of the schools, dispensary staff and of course our own project coordinator Allen Lekey. We asked them to submit proposals to us for projects that they feel need our support, keeping in mind the mission of the Children of Kilimanjaro Foundation: education and health of vulnerable children in the region. Some proposals have already arrived with us. More on the next pages...

April 2017

Inside this issue:

- Introduction 1
- Needs assessment 2
- Ujumbe/Wilde Ganzen 3
- Worldschool 3
- Health insurance iCHF 4
- Mdawi Guest House 4
- Thank you! 4

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www.childrenofkilimanjaro.nl



Needs assessment in Mdawi

Our foundation was happy to find a Tanzanian consultant, Ms. Florence Chaki, to perform an assessment of the needs of Mdawi village. Florence recently graduated in Development Studies, Human Rights, Gender and Conflict at Erasmus Rotterdam. With the help of Lekey, she arranged a public inquiry as well as group and individual interviews in order to collect information from villagers about their current needs, achievements and issues in Mdawi.

Some findings in the report are:

“Despite all the efforts taken to rescue and graduate from poverty, people of Mdawi still face a lot of challenges to meet their daily needs, incl. how to afford paying for their children school fees, transportation, lack of sustainable market and capital, poor roads and infrastructure, water shortage...”

“When I think of school I cannot stop talking about those children who walk for almost 7 to 15 kilometers to access schools far from Mdawi village ... Schools being far from their home is a major factor for the girls to end up with pregnancies.”



Also about young girls (photo): *“... can be helped with an incubator machine to produce chickens to sell in the village. They can benefit even more from the project by giving them loans at low interests.”*

About the medical dispensary: *“There is a need of having a storage tank that can store water especially during prolonged drought.”*

Then some worrying feedback about young males: *“Lack of funds to support technical education particularly welding and driving. This has increased the number of youth remaining unemployed and easily involving themselves in social evils like weed smoking, alcohol and robbery.”*

We will now wait for all stakeholders to submit proposals for projects to us. These will be reviewed carefully to see which ones we can support. In line with the goals of our Foundation, i.e. to focus on education and health of vulnerable children, we will target especially projects related to schools and Mdawi dispensary.

A first proposal that has reached us is about building 15 toilets at Kimochi secondary school. We like the project as it covers health, hygiene, education, but also the security of young girls. Renovating existing toilets at other schools (photo) may also be in scope.



The comment about the distance from school and pregnancies due to exposures on the way to school is quite disturbing, especially when there is a school building at Kisaseni available but just not being used. Our Foundation will look into this problem and see if there's a project we can support.

As highlighted in our previous Newsletter: our focus has shifted from individual school support to helping the schools directly. With the new government that came into power more than a year ago, the school system has positively changed creating better access for students. That being said: schools still heavily rely on external funding, so we will assess what we can do on that front and your donations are still very much appreciated!

Although working on a water project would seem logical, we decided now not deal with water supply directly. In 2011, we asked two hydrologists of SamSamWater to visit Mdawi. Lack of water is an often heard problem and we were also wondering what effect global warming has on Mt. Kilimanjaro. They mapped the area for wells, pipelines, and actual use of water. It turned out that the water shortage is due to a combination of factors: provision at no cost, wastage of water by leaving taps open and agriculture, but also active water distribution by the government (open/close systems by hand). Besides educating villagers about “good water practice” and recommending they install water meters, we feel it is now a government task to make sure there is equal distribution to all those in need and will ask them to look into it. We will only focus on a water project for the dispensary (next page).

A big thank you to Florence and Mdawi villagers for the assessment. More to follow soon about all submitted proposals and which projects were selected!

SMS for pregnant women in Mdawi

Early 2017, we received the funding for the SMS project for pregnant women in Mdawi. After we had climbed Mount Meru in Tanzania last year, about half of the needed money was raised, but later more funds were kindly donated, which helped us to increase the portion from Wilde Ganzen (you may remember that they add funds for every euro that we raise ourselves). So recently, Wilde Ganzen has sent the full amount to Tanzania and the project activities could start.



The first activity is to make sure that there is water in the dispensary continuously. Stories about having no water in the dispensary, while a woman had just delivered her baby, were no exception. We hope to finish the rainwater catchment system this month. Together with a storage tank, this will create a continuous supply of water.

The second activity was to purchase equipment for the antenatal clinic consisting of gluco-meters, BP meters and a digital Doppler machine. This has been done already, as you can see in the photo.

The last part is to set up an SMS system to remind women about coming to the clinic. Since we started this project, another project has been implemented nationwide in which women receive SMS texts about



healthy lifestyles and danger signs of pregnancy. It makes no sense to repeat this, but when we talked with the staff of the dispensary, we realized there are still gaps, e.g. there is no inter action between the clinic and the pregnant woman. Also, there is no follow up regarding the SMS recommendations and clinic appointments. Together with the staff of the dispensary, we will build a system that will overcome these gaps including a patient following system.



When we were discussing this, we told that the water problem will be over soon and that equipment will be delivered within a few weeks. The midwife was especially very happy with the Doppler machine which we purchased locally in Tanzania.

The staff of the dispensary thank all who made these things possible and were asking for continuous support of the dispensary. Some wishes were to build spacious toilets close to the labour ward, to have an ultrasound machine and a projector for outreach activities. All these seem to be rather relevant so we are looking for ways to make these happen.

Do check out Marion's interview with OneWorld *(in Dutch only)*:

<https://www.oneworld.nl/werelddoeners/way-go-zwangerschaps-voorlichting-sms>



Worldschool

Early 2017, our Foundation submitted two project questions to WorldSchool. The Worldschool network connects with Dutch secondary schools and provides real-life examples of problems in developing countries that students learn to tackle. They can seek help from e.g. universities and companies in the Netherlands.

Our questions related to energy and agriculture. In the next weeks, students will pick topics from the many questions submitted by organizations. Let's hope our Foundation is also selected. We look very much forward to innovative ideas around sustainable energy and climate-smart farming and wish the students good luck with their projects! Info: www.worldschool.nl

Health insurance



In previous Newsletters, we mentioned that our Foundation wanted to explore the provision of health insurance for Mdawi villagers. Mid-January, a meeting was arranged in Mdawi where the improved Community Health Fund (iCHF), a National Health Insurance Scheme, provided information about what they could offer. The iCHF is supported by PharmAccess, an organization founded by Joep Lange (1954-2014), a Dutch scientist who made it his mission to get people in Africa on HIV treatment.

Under iCHF, a household can enroll up to six family members and thereby access outpatient services, which we felt would be a huge contribution to the health status in Mdawi. The iCHF scheme was introduced in Tanzania in 2014. By September 2016, more than 100,000 people had enrolled. Our idea was to provide some support for the first year of coverage in order to make Mdawi people aware and enroll into this health insurance scheme.

However, villagers seem reluctant. The report of the needs assessment describes:

“Although health insurance is accessible and some people have registered, still a large number of Mdawi

population cannot access because they lack money to pay for the membership whereby one is supposed to pay annually (30,000 TSh, equivalent € 15).

Patients are often told that the medicine prescribed is not part of particular insurance. Also, the community members complained that the insurance cannot be used in big private hospitals such as nearby KCMC, widely recognized for providing the best medical service in the region. This becomes a challenge for critical situations like motorcycle accidents; most youth are affected at some point and feel that an insurance should cover KCMC admission.”

The consultant of the needs assessment also told me that support by the Children of Kilimanjaro Foundation for the first year would not be sustainable. Households would register for the first year and drop-out once our support ends. Of course, this news was disappointing.

An alternative could be to use PharmAccess’ new innovation M-TIBA mobile health wallet, a digital wallet on the mobile phone that contains funds and benefits that can only be used for healthcare.

We now plan to contact iCHF and PharmAccess to discuss these issues and see how we can take this forward so that people have access to healthcare.

Mdawi Guest House

Hidden amongst banana trees, our Guest House can offer visitors a comfortable stay and allows them to interact directly with Mdawi villagers. The fees paid by the guests (\$10-20 pppn) support Lekey and kids living there.



We look forward to receiving requests via: childrenofkilimanjaro@gmail.com.

Please check out Ben and Marion’s **Caracal Tours & Safaris** to book your safari! www.caracalsafaris-tz.com

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Email: childrenofkilimanjaro@gmail.com
Website: www.childrenofkilimanjaro.nl



Asante sana (Thank you!)

On behalf of our board and the kids of Mdawi we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you who made a small or big donation to our foundation.



A special thank you to TravelSafe for providing boxes full of mosquito nets and repellent!

Children of Kilimanjaro Foundation

You enable our work in Mdawi!