

2015 //

Reports from Tanzania

The Girls' Boarding School in Mikese

Sponsored Project for the School and the Parish



Catholic Integrated Community in the Diocese of Morogoro



Greetings

In this report from Tanzania we, the persons that are responsible for the Girls' Boarding School in Mikese, wish to greet all the friends and sponsors of our work. We wish to greet cordially the groups of school children in Germany, as well as the women and men from different countries of the world and to thank you all for your regular support! Together with you our commitment for a lasting development in Africa will not be in vain. This is also the subject of this report.

*Yours,
Theopista Katoto and Olympia Kimario*



The bright girls of the boarding school are an enrichment for the entire school.

The Enlargement of the Girls' Boarding School in Mikese

Nowadays many mostly young people from African countries take upon themselves the journey to Europe. They are looking for a life with chances for themselves, a life in security. But is this the solution? What can help them so that they don't need to emigrate, but can build up a secure existence in their home countries? The decisive basis certainly is a sound school education.

Twelve years ago, the Catholic Integrated Community began with the construction of the Herbert Wallbrecher Primary School in the Parish of St. Nicolaus in Mikese, Tanzania (grades 1 to 7). In the meantime, this school has become highly esteemed. Three years ago, a boarding school for 20 girls was added. The students who were lucky enough to get in, all developed well. They are an incentive to the other students in their openness and friendliness.

Everybody takes part in caring well for the laundry.



The Tanzanian girls are enthusiastic about living and learning together. At the boarding school they learn everything that concerns every day life and doing the daily tasks. It is the wish of many parents that this lively project should now be enlarged. As the supporting association we would like to help in financing the construction and the furnishing of the building (see page 12).

The group of the younger students preparing supper.



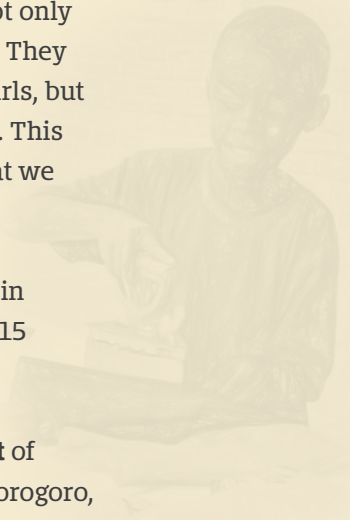
The Contents of This Tanzania Report 2015



In order to find out something about the **insights, thoughts and dreams of the girls aged 9 to 13 years**, who are living in the boarding school at this moment, we asked them to answer some questions. Their answers surprise us in their honesty and sincerity. They strive for a better life, not only for themselves, but also for everyone in the country. They know that it is a steep path, especially for them as girls, but they are ready to do everything: to learn, to practice. This is what they are speaking about in their answers that we print here (see page 6).

In **short reports** our readers can find out about certain **sponsored projects** that have been carried out in 2015 (see page 14).

Finally, there is a report about the **sponsored project** of the **“Theological Study Days”** at the University of Morogoro, to which participants had come from all of East Africa (see page 18).



The Girls Answer Our Questions

What is the difference in your opinion between living at home and in the boarding school?

MY NAME IS MAUA MAGAWA. I'm in the 6th grade and 10 years old. I belong to the tribe of the Massai. My parents sent me to the Herbert Wallbrecher School from kindergarten on. At first I lived with my grandfather. His name is Mzee Kipara Ndikila. Since 2015 I have been lucky to be able to live in the boarding school and to begin living the life of a boarding school student which is different from living at home. In the boarding school I have time to learn and to write, whereas at home I didn't have this time. In the boarding school I also get time for playing together, but at home there is no time for this. At home there is the work to do, milking the cows and goats and bringing calves to the pastures. So life at home and in the boarding school is very different. I love life in the boarding school very much, because we are well taken care of.

*Every girl chooses
her question and
answers it in writing.*





Work in the field



Learning in the kitchen



Preparing the fire in the stove

Could you please tell us what you have seen and learned here at the boarding school since you arrived here?

MY NAME IS ELISABETH SEDRICK. I was born in Iringa and my tribe is the Wachaga. I am here in the 6th grade now. I am a young person with lots of expectations and plans. My goal is to become a teacher. What I have learned at the boarding school since I arrived is: cleanliness, good conduct, respect for each other, skills for the profession and diligence in work. Preparing various meals, for example cooking rice and cooking vegetables. Baking bread, going to the mill to get the corn ground for ugali etc. Agricultural work, for example planting beans, peas, bananas, green leaf vegetables and fruit like papaya, as well as picking weeds in the garden. I'm thankful for everything I could learn and for everything I'm going to learn.



One of the learning times is from 4.30 to 5.45 pm. The older girls are also responsible for the younger ones.

Students of Europe are astonished to hear that you study till 10 pm and that you don't need any surveillance for this. Why are you so diligent and want to learn so much?

MY NAME IS ANTONIA COSTA. I was born Feb. 25, 2003. My father is a politician, and my mother is a nurse in a hospital in Morogoro. My motivations are my father and my mother. When I see how my father and my mother scratch the money together for the school tuition, that gives me the pride to study hard. I am sorry for them when they pay school tuition including my school uniform and shoes, medical treatment and other things. That is why I learn eagerly, so that I will get the chance to help my parents sometime if they are needy. When they are old I will take care of them. I want to learn in order to get the chance to found a good family in which it is peaceful. There is a saying that says: "Whoever wants to fetch something that is under the bed will have to bend down." That is why we "bend down" and do all the homework that the schoolteacher gives us. I enjoy life at the boarding school, because I can learn so many things that are valuable for my later life.

Because later on when I will live in the boarding school of a secondary school, I will have learned a lot beforehand to live happily and contently with others there.



"... that gives me the drive to study hard."



Returning home
from school to the
boarding school.

Many people want to live in the city. Do you yourself want to live in the country, in a village? What is attractive for you there; what would speak against it?

MY NAME IS EMANUEL IMELDA. I am 14 years old and the oldest of five children in our family. My parents are farmers. My father is also the catechist of the church of the outstation of Koo. We belong to the tribe of the Wajita.

Yes, I would like to stay in the village, because there is always work to do there in agriculture. This prevents distress and hunger. It is easy to get food for your own needs, also enough to sell. In the village it is more peaceful and safer than in the city.

However, the village also has its disadvantages. In the village there is no medical care for the ill and no school. That is why it is difficult to get help. Many girls in the remote villages have no work, because they haven't had a good school education. So they hang around and do bad things. I am thankful to my parents for committing themselves to a good school education and that I can also learn a lot of things that are necessary.

A lot of young people in Tanzania have no jobs.

What will you do to get work?

MY NAME IS IRENE ALEX. I am in the 7th grade and 13 years old. The reasons why people have no jobs is because there is a lack of jobs, there is a lack of ideas – and a rapid growth of population.

1. Lack of jobs: *There are lots of young people in Tanzania who are studying now. However, the problem is that many of these are hoping to get a state job. But the government does not have enough jobs. Besides that, it is not able give them a loan as an assisted take-off. There also aren't enough private companies to provide work for all Tanzanians.*

2. Lack of ideas: *The reason why young people don't get jobs is not only lack of finances, or that they don't get loans, but the fact that there it is a lack of ideas, that is, they can't think intelligently. Young people who have no clear orientation give up quickly then and begin with something that puts them on the wrong track, for example stealing, drugs, alcohol.*

3. The rapid growth of the population: *When the population grows, the open jobs become even fewer. The government and private companies cannot employ everyone. When I'm through with school I dream of becoming an engineer. An engineer is a person who uses science and math to solve problems in the sectors of handicrafts and trade.*

I am glad to live in the boarding school, because I need a lot of time to learn and to understand. I get really restless when I read something I don't understand. At home nobody could help me. But here we learn together and also have the time to do so.



*Irene Alex of the group
of older students.*

What does Julius Nyerere mean to you as a role model and what do you want to learn from him?

MY NAME IS AGNES ANTIPACE. I'm in the 7th grade of the Herbert Wallbrecher School in Mikese. I am 12 years old.

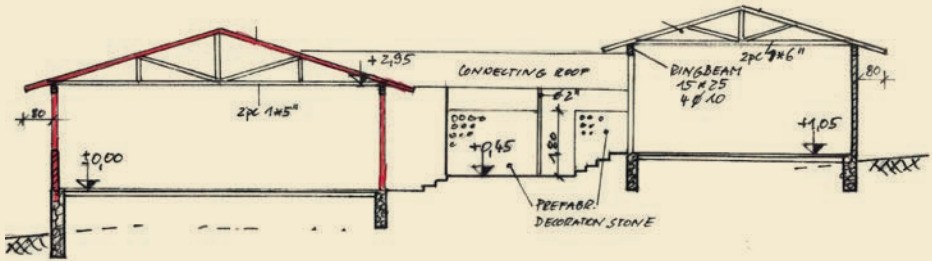
I was born in the Kilimanjaro region. My father is a businessman and my mother a businesswoman.

What I have learned from Julius Nyerere: He was not an egoist. He wanted that everything that he had would be of use to everyone and in equal portions. So in 1967 he founded the "ujamaa villages" (that are organized in a cooperative, editor's note). Nyerere took more care of others than of himself. That is why he didn't have a special house in the village where he lived. He was courageous and sure of himself. For example when he went to the United Nations and asked for the freedom of Tanganyika. Also in the years 1955 to 1956 when he spoke with various colonial masters to give African nations like South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Kenya their independence. Nyerere stressed the equality of rich and poor people. He was dependable and worthy of trust in his government, because he helped people of various classes of society.





*A Dormitory with
its own Cistern.*



Enlargement of the girls' boarding school

Construction of a Second Dormitory with a Cistern, Starting in 2016

In the middle of the future inner courtyard there is already a tree waiting to give its shade. In the house at the right (see *photo of page 12*) is the dining hall and the kitchen. On the left is the first dormitory for girls.

In the sketch above, on the left half (*marked red*), you can see the new living quarters in planning with enough space for 18 girls. A fence with green shrubs will finish off the inner courtyard.

A View of the interior: The girls having their dessert in the well lighted students' eating and working room. The rooms (see *picture at left of page 12*) are furnished with bunk beds as well as cupboards with personal shelves. There are showers and a common washroom. There is an apartment for the housemother. Again the furnishings will be produced in the carpentry in Mikese.

Various Projects

Some Projects Supported in 2015.

Again in this past year various special projects were promoted (besides the regular support for the school and the parish, such as the contribution for the pay of the teachers, of the kindergarten teachers and of one of the priests).



*Equipment
for Games...*

Equipment for Games for the Kindergarten

The students of the “**Grund- und Werkrealschule** (Primary School and Junior High School for Learning Professions) of **Niederwangen**” in the Southern German Allgäu donated what they earned in their Christmas bazaar to construct a swing and a seesaw in the kindergarten of the Herbert Wallbrecher School in Mikese.

Cisterns...



The Constructions of Cisterns

In the outstations of Koo and Lukonde the constructions of two cisterns was begun thanks to the **supporters from Erlinsbach in Switzerland**. When these are finished two of the other outstations are supposed to get cisterns. For the four months dry-period the rainwater from the roof of the house must be stored. A new cistern of 4 meters diameter and depth, including a pump, is also planned for the enlargement of the boarding school in Mikese.

Kindergarten in Koo...



Construction of a New Kindergarten in Koo

The large outstation of Koo with its church community of St. Thomas has been introduced in the Tanzania report of 2014. At that time we mentioned the urgency of constructing a Kindergarten there. “The foundation of the nearness to God must be set while the children are still small!” is what we heard at that time. In 2015 the basic construction including the roof has been completed. This was paid for by the **supporters from Vienna.**

A Wire Fence Around the School and Boarding School Area.

The fence of about 200 m length is inserted deep into the earth and attached to concrete posts. It protects the fields and vegetable gardens from hungry wild animals and at the same time acts as a reassuring boundary to the main road close by with its vendors' booths and its lively traffic. Next to the fence the Bougainvillea bushes will grow larger and bloom. The fence was financed by the **Realschule (Junior High School) of Aschheim near Munich.**



A Wire Fence...

Bishop Telesphor Mkude from
the diocese of Morogoro



Support

Support of Three Study Days in Morogoro

About 600 men and women took part in the Study Days at the Jordan University College in Morogoro in the spring of 2014. The subject was the person and the message of Jesus, according to the three Jesus books by Pope Benedict XVI.

There were even six bishops among the participants of this public event; one of them was the bishop of the Diocese of Morogoro, Telesphor Mkude (*see photo above*). This is the diocese in which the parish of St. Nicolaus and the Herbert Wallbrecher School with its Boarding School are located.

The Study Days were financed by the support and participation of various groups. That is why the participants were able to receive the three Jesus books of the Pope emeritus for free, founded by the Cardinal Ratzinger Foundation (Fondazione Vaticana Joseph Ratzinger). The preparation and the implementation were carried through by the Chair for the Theology of the People of God at the Pontifical Lateran University.

The speakers were, among others: two former students of Joseph Ratzinger and the director of the above-mentioned Lateran University Chair, Prof. Achim Buckenmaier, as well as Prof. Michael Maier (of the Gregoriana University). Both of these professors had lived as teachers and priests in Tanzania for several years and had participated in the initial steps of the Parish of St. Nicolaus and the Tanzanian Catholic Integrated Community. The Chair at the Lateran University and the beginning of the work in Mikese are branches of the same tree and have grown as such through our support. The campus of Jordan University College in Morogoro has proved to be the proper place for these Study Days. Students of various branches of study and coming from several countries of East Africa came together. A nun commented this in the following words: “The great variety of participants from different origins in Africa and even India will help to spread the seeds of these Study Days and will bring fruit in Africa in its proper time.”



*View of the
plenum:
10th to 12th
March 2014 at
the University
of Morogoro*

This booklet with the letters of our girls of the boarding school and with further reports was produced with the help of the donors and friends in Europe. They have also delivered this English version. Some of them have worked with us as craftsmen and as volunteers in the school. May their colorful report encourage not only us in our work in the school and the parish, but also all those who advocate a good education for our young generation.

We will be glad to have contacts and to answer questions.

With our best wishes from Mikese

Yours,

Astheria Mudende

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