

I CARE Post



Fall 2014

Canada and Tanzania Working Together to Improve Education

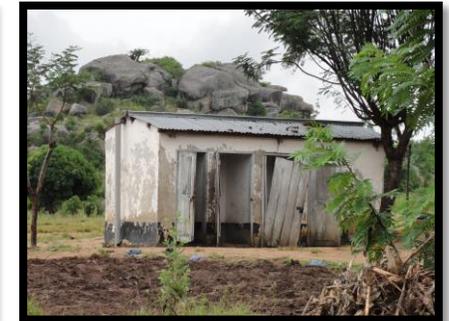
Education is the foundation for building strong economies in countries around the world. Not only is this true in Canada but it is also a key driver for economic growth in developing countries such as Tanzania. Realizing the importance of an educated population, over the past 15 years the Tanzanian Government has made significant changes in the education system designed to drastically increase student enrolment in both primary and secondary schools.

As noted in a recent UNICEF report, "the abolition of fees in primary schools in 2001, coupled with the compulsory requirement that parents/guardians send all children to school, meant that 94 percent of children aged 7 to 13 years were enrolled in primary school in 2011, compared with only 59 percent in 2000. Net secondary school enrolment has also expanded quickly: from 6 percent in 2006 to over 30 percent in 2011."

As would be expected, this rapid expansion resulted in the ballooning of classroom sizes. The average number of students per class room in government primary schools is approximately 70. UNICEF notes that the Mwanza region is hardest hit by this overcrowding problem, with an average of 89 pupils per classroom. In some classrooms there can be as many as 200 children, particularly at the lower primary school levels. Igoma,



Top left: An overcrowded Igoma classroom.



Top right: The run down washroom facilities at Bukagag Primary School.

which is located on the outskirts of the City of Mwanza, is experiencing this overcrowding issue.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of resources, there has not been a corresponding increase in the number of trained teachers or in the availability of equipment such as textbooks, desks, chairs, washroom facilities or a clean water supply to support the increased student population.

Fortunately, the Government of Canada has stepped up in a big way. In 2014, Tanzania was confirmed as a country of focus for our Federal Government's international development efforts. Countries of focus are chosen based on a number of different factors including their identified needs, their capacity to truly

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benefit from Canada's assistance, and the alignment with Canadian foreign policy priorities. Canada's international development efforts in Tanzania are focused on improving the lives of children and youth, increasing sustainable economic growth and strengthening governance in support of this strategy. With regards to education, Canada's support is helping improve the quality of teaching as well as increasing equitable access to secondary and vocational education. The intended result of this support is to increase the number of qualified teachers and to improve the quality of the education they receive, through infrastructure upgrades at four teachers' colleges.

These efforts by our Federal Government should go a long way towards improving the education system across Tanzania. In the months ahead, we will share additional updates on how Tanzania is benefiting from this relationship.



Above: Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete and Prime Minister Stephen Harper walk down the hall of honour in Parliament on October 4, 2012.

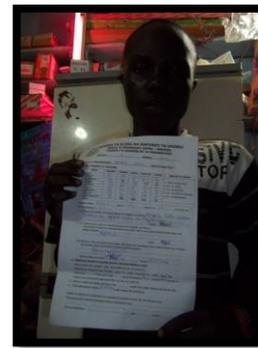


I CARE has a number of children who are achieving truly amazing academic results despite the short-comings of the system.

Baraka Amon (below left) came 9th out of 57 students in his form two class. This result is especially impressive considering his mother often leaves the family for days at a time to find work and Baraka is left to care for his younger siblings.

Lucas Ezekiel (below centre) came 2nd out of 74 pupils in his grade five class. His top grade was 94% in math.

Erick Andrew (below right) came 6th out of 96 pupils in his grade 5 class. Eric received a grade of 100% in history.

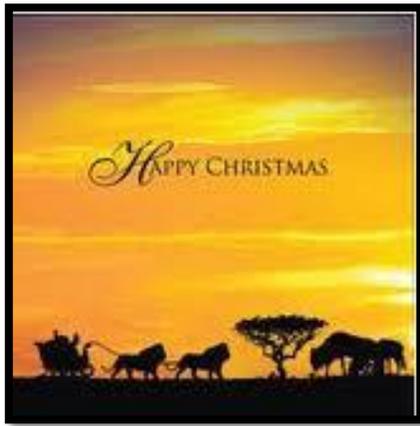


Congratulations to Eric, Lucas and Baraka on their great work!

August 2015 Trip to Igoma

Planning is underway for a trip to Igoma in August of 2015. If you are interested in learning more, there will be an information meeting in late January where additional details on dates, costs and a potential itinerary will be shared. Please let us know if you would like to attend the information session and we will ensure you receive an invitation.

Christmas Letter Package to Igoma



After the wonderful response we received from our sponsors over the past few years, we plan on once again sending a package of Christmas letters to the children in Igoma this December. Once received, our local staff will ensure each message is translated and distributed to the children ahead of Christmas Day. If you would like to participate, please send your letter or card to the I CARE mailing address noted at the bottom of this newsletter. Please write "Christmas Card to Igoma" on the envelope so we know to include it in our special package. If you would prefer an email message be shared with your I CARE child, please send your message to icaretanzania@yahoo.ca. Please write "Christmas message to Igoma" in the subject line. It would be ideal if all letters/emails can be sent to us by December 1 so that they can arrive in East Africa in time for Christmas.

The Daily Routine

As noted in the Spring edition of the I CARE Post, at the start of 2014, Joseph Katowa joined the I CARE team as our first full-time field worker. To get a better understanding of the work he does on a daily basis, Joseph has shared the following:

"I report to work at 8 in the morning to begin my daily activities. Each day can be different but could include reviewing reports from families, checking in on a child or members of their families who are unwell, follow up on children's school attendance and general academic performance, and check in on families who may be in the process of moving homes etc. I tend to visit 3-5 families a day depending on how far apart they are from each other and their general availability during the working hours. I also am responsible for taking photos and gathering information and updates for the Family Services Director. I also help with translation work when the children write letters to their sponsors"



Above: Joseph and his family

The Gift of Health

Earlier this year, a sponsor reached out to me to discuss the health of their I CARE child's sister. The sponsor had learned that the sister was suffering from a serious heart condition which required ongoing care. Wishing to help the family through this difficult time, arrangements were made to cover both the overdue medical costs and the ongoing monthly expenses for the family.



TANZANIA CONSULTANT HOSPITALS
BUGANDO MEDICAL CENTRE
P.O. BOX 1370 Mwanza
USIKIHARIBU KIPANDE HIKI
APPOINTMENT CARD
KILA MARA UFIKAPO HOSPITALINI
HAKIKISHA UMEKILETA

Namba ya Hospital **83.57.02**
Jina la Utkoo **nathias**
Majina mengine: **YUSTA CHARLES**
Anwani: **Igoma**
Mama Bana
Tarehe ya kuzaliwa: **may 06** Sex: **FC**
Kabila: **mishu**
AM 26

Yusta Charles (pictured above) last visited Bugando Hospital in Mwanza on the 6th of September. During this visit, the doctor confirmed that she is progressing well. Yusta takes medication at home in the morning and evenings while also taking some at school during the afternoon.

Thanks to the generous sponsor here in Stouffville, Yusta is receiving the medical care she requires and doctors are hopeful for her future.

Can I send my child a Christmas or Birthday gift?



If you would like to send something special for your I CARE child's Birthday or for Christmas, we would be happy to make arrangements for an item to be purchased locally. To do so, please send us a cheque which clearly indicates on the memo line how the funds should be used (e.g., Christmas gift, Birthday gift, purchase of bicycle etc). We will then include the funds as part of an upcoming wire transfer with specific instructions on how it should be used. I CARE staff will then arrange for the item to be purchased or will provide the funds to the child and their family to select a present for themselves. We do not recommend mailing gifts due to the costs involved and for fear that it may get damaged during transit.

I CARE Contact Information

Mailing address:

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P.O Box 104, Station Main
Stouffville, Ontario
L4A 7Z4

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Email address: icaretanzania@yahoo.ca

Web address: Please visit the I CARE website by going to www.sipartnership.org and clicking on the I CARE link in the top right hand corner.