

## **Tanzania – Travel Report 2011.**

### **Introduction**

It is since 2008 we endeavour to improve the fate of orphan children, HIV / AIDS victims and prostitutes in the region of Kagera. We give practical daily help, and we feel supported by the Tanzanian government. As far as is known to us, our projects are the only ones to help the destitute people in the uttermost North-western part of Tanzania. The region stretches from Bukoba to the Ugandan border 45 miles), and follows **the coast line** at a width of about 15 miles, covering some 300.000 acres.

There are 43 children in our Children's Homes in Mushozi village: 16 in TMF home, and 27 in Ya'zer Home. There are 10 more children in the "Boys and Girls Home" in Bukoba, and finally we care for 16 children in our day care centre in the fishing hamlet of Malehe. Total number of children: 69.



### **Regional situation**

Mushozi Village is situated in the midst of our area. Like most other villages this one has no centre; houses are spread around, and it looks like there is no road plan – and most often indeed there is none. It is a poor region with a lot of rainfall, especially in and around Mushozi Village due to onshore winds and subsequent orographic rainfall. The rainfall is around 80 inches annually, and causes erosion and – much worse – depletion of the soil; the nutritious particles are washed away, leaving the once fertile soil in a rather poor state. Not long ago this area was well known for its banana crops, but now they are of a rather poor quality, and new varieties are developed to cope with the changed situation. Except agriculture, there are hardly any other means of surviving. Regular jobs do not – or hardly - exist and the standard of living is so low that people can hardly afford making use of the service sector.

This restricts the possibility to make our projects self supporting. A conversation with a Dutch expert having twenty years of experience in tropical agriculture made clear that cultivation and processing of yam could be successful. He sees especially a healthy outlook for the cultivation of coffee, and recommends starting with one acre as a try out. To plant a plot this size could cost around \$ 750, and will reap fruit after two years time. The harvest can be sold either to cooperatives or to independent traders, mostly at a better rate due to smuggling to Uganda.

Manure is very important for cultivating bananas; artificial fertilizers hardly have any impact. Luckily our centre has a staple of 14 cows and 20 goats, which helps to cultivate the bananas. The fish – especially lungfish - is returning to Lake Victoria! Neither fishing with nets the size of mosquito nets nor making use of high capacity fishing boats is allowed. Algae in the Lake are still a big problem, caused by extensive habitation of the Nile Perch and over fertilization in Uganda (sugar cane).

### **Economical and social climate.**

Inflation is still stiff in Tanzania with an official rate close to ten per cent, but food inflation is much higher: twenty per cent on average – at the low end. The minimum wage for government workers amounts Tzs. 150.000 per month, or around \$ 100. Outside the government the minimum wage for adults can be as low as \$ 80.

According to people I have met corruption is increasing, and sometimes relentless, especially in the big cities. It is my personal impression however that in Kagera region it is not so bad at all, and that the government is functioning quite well. Our children's homes were recently inspected by a governmental team, responsible for controlling orphanages. They were quite happy, and gave some advice. There are many developing nations where they do not care for orphan homes, and any control is out of the question. Furthermore, the government really supports our work, and we have no impression to be left alone in our endeavour to uplift the



people out of their poverty, and to take care of the many, many orphaned children in this region. The government donated a stable and a cattle of 10 cows (now 14), and a stable with 18 goats (now 20).

Twice a minister of social affairs from Dar Es Salaam planned to come over to visit the project, but he had to cancel his visit; he could not make it. The visit is now planned in or shortly after August, 2011. This interest is a real indication how much the Tanzanian Government is interested in our project and the results achieved in a very short period of time.

### **Cleopa & Yesca Kaijage**

### **Visit to our project in Mushozi Village.**

We visited the project, and were welcomed by the entire board. The conversation is complex, for only two out of the six board members (Consulatha and Cleopa) speak English. We found out that the developments are satisfactory, and that no serious problems have been faced. The children are doing fine, both at home and at school. There is one child however we try to find a better solution for: Geoffrey Joseph (11 years). The boy is mentally retarded, and he was taken in into our home, behaving like an animal. He went around like a dog on hands and feet, and was untrained. It was a difficult period in the beginning, but Geoffrey made some improvement. He is able to stand and walk upright, and he can do small things – like partly dressing himself. Cleopa is not able to make any improvement in his situation from this point onwards, and Geoffrey ought to go to a school for mentally disabled children in Dodoma – several hundred miles away. In the past one of our children was admitted there, but it seems to be very costly

and we got a scholarship for it at that time, but it was a one-time opportunity. We will see what we can do in this respect.

Cleopa has a clear vision in making our project more independent from outside donors. He plants almost everything the two homes need themselves, from yam via bananas to coffee. He has eight coffee plants, and the beans are roasted and pounded in-house. Vegetables and starchy products are available in enough quantity, but high-protein food is hardly or not available. Beef is eaten once a month (in Mushozi Village once a month a cow is being slaughtered), and fish twice or thrice a week. Eggs are gathered till enough eggs are there to give each child an egg – which can take up to two weeks. There are 21 chickens now, and if you give them feed of sufficient quality and raise the number of chickens to 200, the number of eggs can



***Kerosene lanterns; no electricity***

be raised to 800 per week. It leaves room for selling to restaurants in Bukoba (10-15 cent per egg), or to traders – at a somewhat lesser price. A chicken stable costs around Tzs 3 million (\$ 2200). The stable (3.000 bricks, mud-cemented and cement-covered; tin sheets) should be at headroom height (because of the heat), and should be spacious enough to avoid diseases. The goats need absolutely more room. The stable is much too small, and Cleopa has built one at his own expenses (\$ 30). The expenses for a bigger one are estimated at \$225.



The government inspectors have ordered a toilet facility outside the building. They were of opinion that almost 50 people making use of two inside toilets would be unhealthy. A cess pool

of 16 feet deep is dug; we saw that the rocks are indeed porous, and there are beds of white silver sand in between the rocks. Out of own expertise I advised Cleopa how to start up the bacterial degradable process in the tank (putting a dead, rotten chicken in it before use). It is considered important to teach the children some kind of technical manipulative skills before they finish primary school. Not all children are clever enough to enter the secondary school, and for that reason they should be able to enter into the labour process. A vocational training centre (VTC) is not always possible – the one nearest by is 25 miles away – and not necessary either. Remember, children leave primary school at the age of 14-15 years – in normal circumstances. Therefore, Cleopa made a business plan and applied for support at the Tanzanian government. The official in charge told Cleopa already that the requested support of Tzs. 42 million (\$ 30.000) was too much of a burden for the Tanzanian government, but may be he could help Cleopa to find other donors. The amount includes building of a structure and inventories to accommodate lessons in carpentry, masonry and sewing. A tailoring teacher is available, and “our” building contractor is willing to teach for free, in exchange of the created products. We have not seen the breakdown of the plan yet, but Cleopa will make an English translation. Last year we bought a tool box for a just graduated carpenter. There was plenty of work, but he did not have tools to be in business! We visited the carpenter, and now he has work every day, and employs 5 youngsters (around 15 years) who assist him and get training on the job. I asked him the cost of his tuition at the VTC of the Lutheran Church. He was in a boarding school because of the distance (25 miles), and paid a fee of \$ 450 yearly (2007 - 2009).



He showed me a double bed he made. It has been sold for \$ 35, and he worked on it for three days. The material he used cost \$ 15. From his profit he has to pay the assistants a few dollars. I visited my friend Mushobozi – it is easy to have friends in Africa. He is the local director of the National Microcredit Bank NMB in Bukoba, and I asked him if he could eventually help me in finding an expert to make reasonable estimations of the price of agricultural land in Mushozi Village, and of our home in Bukoba – in case it ever comes up for sale. Real estate is a difficult item in Tanzania, for there are three main holders of RE: the national government, the local government and tribes or clans. Transfer of land is unusual; more common is to lease RE.



**Visit to Malehe.**

Two years ago we visited this fishing hamlet for the first time. We discovered 13 orphan children no one took care of. We decided to take them in into our orphan home in Mushozi Village. There were another 16 half orphans who hardly survived and did not

attend school. We have built three buildings, and one of those accommodates these children in a day care centre. We care for them, and send them to school. They all do very well. In the same building complex we welcome all the women of the settlement once a month and try to teach them the simple principles of daily life, like child care, health care, HIV / AIDS and small

businesses, for instance. In the group we have 105 women (out of a total of 120), and provide a meal for them. Most of the women are prostitutes – to survive only. **55 of the women are saving money now to start a small business in the future.** The capital they save is \$ 0,50 – 1,00 per month. It is very much a social affair. The group is divided in three subgroups, each with an own money box with three locks and three different keys. A fourth woman keeps the safe. There are saving accounts, and if enough money is saved, they will start doing business. The instruction is done by a lady who comes from Bukoba (60km), and is connected to a Swedish NGO, specialized in small business affairs. We pay her a small fee and transportation expenses. We were warmly welcomed, and there was a kind atmosphere. The ladies did everything to express their gratitude, and we got small presents: a few potatoes, a shirt and a cloth. When we visited Malehe for the first time, we counted two Christians. Now there are 32 women who accepted Jesus, and five men.



### **. . . and the rest?**

During our visit to the orphan centre in Mushozi village we met the HIV / AIDS adults, some 25 of them. We had dinner together, and exchanged nice speeches. It was a nice meeting, and we planned a day at the end of our trip to visit a few families in their homes. Another day was planned to visit our children's home in Bukoba, under the devoted management of Joachim and Gelda Nikodem. However, the composer of this report got seriously ill, and needed to be operated and hospitalised in a local hospital. Finally, he had to be transported home with "special care".

## **5. Summary**

- In three years time much has been achieved in this region, and we have been confirmed by the results of this trip. Cleopa is a man with power and authority and he does not shun addressing the authorities. This increases the local commitment. He has a clear vision to make his ministry maximally independent from external sources, and succeeds already in being self-supporting with regards to food supply. May be we will be able to reach this status in other areas as well. We will be looking for possibilities to set up more buildings in order to accommodate more children, and to acquire land for horticultural aims.

## **6. Addresses of importance / other important notes:**

Travelling by bus from Entebbe (airport) to Kampala (40km) costs around \$ 40. Going by bus from Kampala to Bukoba (Tanzania) costs \$ 22 (7 hours drive). If you prefer, a car / minibus with driver will bring you from Entebbe airport all the way to Bukoba: \$ 140 / 200. An acceptable hotel near Entebbe Airport is Sunset Motel. Prices: around \$ 50-75. Best hotel: Lake Victoria Hotel (\$ 230; day room \$ 120). Best address to stay in Bukoba is Balamaga Guest House [www.balamagabb.com](http://www.balamagabb.com). Rooms US\$ 30-50. Maximum capacity: four doubles. There are several other hotels of mediocre quality. Room rates around US\$ 25 - 50.

Internet: Bukoba Computer Services (BCS), Kashozi Road. ATM: CRDB Bank (opposite BCS). Other banks mostly accept local cards only.

Do you want to buy souvenirs? You will hardly find them in Bukoba, but Kampala has a few addresses of interest. The biggest centre is the compound at Buganda Rd. Other places are Garden City Complex, Lugogo shopping complex, Kisimenti or National Theatre.

- School system: Nursery (1 year) at 6 years of age; Primary School (7 years) 7 – 13 years; Secondary School (4 years) 14-17 years; High School (2 years) 18-19 years. After that, depending on the results of the exams the children – well, not children anymore – can enrol either for a college or a university.

The capital investment and running expenses for one of the two homes (Ya'zer home) in Mushozi Village are covered by **Ya'zer foundation in Apeldoorn**, The Netherlands. The same goes for all running expenses for Bukoba Home in Bukoba. The day to day management is executed by foundation "De Vaste Burcht" (The Mighty Fortress) in close cooperation with Ya'zer (no website).

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