



**WAKINA
MAMA
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WATOTO**
Foundation
Tanzania

Arlesheim, 9th May 2008

www.wakina.ch has a new look and new content!

Dear Friends and Benefactors

Slowly but surely, summer is making its presence felt. Every day the trees are looking greener and greener. Tanzania is green, too: more so now than at any other time of year. Although the rains are over, our projects did not stand still during the rainy season. And now, with the summer, comes our new website!

Water project:

We are currently completing the tapping of the spring. Many locals are regularly engaged in this drinking water supply project. The difficult terrain makes everything particularly complicated. All the materials we need have to be laboriously transported into the bush. Sometimes we ask ourselves if we are totally mad to persevere with our plans. However we are undoubtedly making progress despite the problems – both large and small – that crop up along the way

We have had the advantage of valuable advice from the waterworks expert of Arlesheim, a small town in the Swiss canton of Basel-Land. He visited the site in April and helped our project manager there to overcome a number of hurdles. The local workforce was, for instance, shown how to lay the water pipes. Instructing them was no easy undertaking since they speak virtually no English, but only the language of their tribe. We hope to finish tapping the spring by the end of May and to be able to start on the piping in July.

Agriculture:

We have started to plant a variety of hibiscus and an orchard of acerola cherry trees. It is, above all, the cherry trees that are proving trickier than expected, but we are confident that the issue can be resolved quite soon. Planning and initial trials are underway to decide how these two crops can be maintained in a sustainable manner. We are also looking for a local agronomist who could ultimately take over responsibility for our agricultural schemes.

Tanzania has also been hit by the massive rise in basic food prices - a situation that means big problems for such a poor country. In response, we are making self-sufficiency even more of a priority so as to be able to feed our workforce and our guests from our own resources.

Basics:

Over the next few weeks we will be starting work on the new women's refuge. We have also decided to train a young woman to be a seamstress in the hope that she will subsequently be able to pass on these skills to others. She has lived in this region all her life and has been integrated into the work of the Foundation. If any of our readers is interested in sponsoring this young woman, we would very much like to hear from them. Her two-year training course will cost CHF 1,500. This may not sound an enormous sum, but since we hold no reserve funds for such purposes we need your support for each and every major outlay.

The solar-powered hot water installation is in operation and sweetens the life of our European volunteers.

www.wakina.ch

We have created our new website so as to be able to bring you updates on our activities. This is where you will regularly be able to learn about our ongoing activities and discover the progress we are making.

Our development project in the region of Haraka–Hezya is proving increasingly successful and yet, compared with all the major aid organisations, our ability to collect donations are modest indeed. We therefore need your support more than ever before. Without your help we would simply have to give up. We have set ourselves ambitious objectives: the supply of drinking water to 25,000 people, self-supporting agricultural schemes, education for the youth of the region and gainful employment for its inhabitants. These ventures are designed to prevent youngsters from gravitating to the cities. Please help up to continue to pursue these goals.

Sometimes, when we put our feet up at the end of another long and hectic day working on Foundation business, we ask ourselves whether we will ever achieve our ambitious objectives. Nonetheless the feedback we receive and our tours of the region invariably motivate us afresh and give us the strength to keep going. The help you give encourages us still further. Do, please, continue to support our project and thus assist the people of the Haraka–Hezya region. Thank you.

Enjoy the summer sunshine and asante sana!

Wakina Mama na Watoto Foundation



Hartmut Vetter
President of the Foundation



Leston Kalupande
For the people of Haraka–Hezya
Project Manager in Tanzania

PS: We have set up a new account for donations in Switzerland