

Tanzania Community Development Project Achievements

About

Working with the Livingstone Tanzania Trust and formerly the Village Education Project (Kilimanjaro), Quest4Change aims to give disadvantaged children in rural Tanzania the opportunity to attend school through the construction and improvement of educational facilities. We have also worked with home for ex-streetchildren.

Overall Achievements (Updated August 2011)

- Establishing a sustainable school farm at Waang'waray, including the construction of chicken, goat and cow enclosures, and a Tilapia pond which can hold 200-300 fish
- Digging four large fish ponds and construction of two pig sties with Sinai Women's Group
- Preparation of foundations for a new classroom at Waang'waray school
- Completed a well and water pump at Sumaye Secondary School
- Construction of a 2-storey accommodation block for vocational training centre apprentices; 3 nursery schools and 5 class rooms at Waang'waray school.
- Construction of a community library; large 8 room health centre and recreational facilities for local children including 2 playgrounds and a basketball court.
- Spent hours giving informal conversational English lessons
- Built a school kitchen.
- 5 pit latrines and 4 other water sanitation buildings – not glamorous but critical!
- Painted countless educational murals
- Renovated 4 schools, a community hall and volunteer house
- Spent several hundred volunteer hours supporting local street children by leading activities.

2002

Foundations built and first phase of building completed for large nursery school (Tanzania Community Development Project)

2004

This year has seen full construction action for three nursery schools. The pre-primary school located at Ashira (which Tanzania teams one and two worked so tirelessly on this year) have now officially opened.

2005

Construction of large community library with resources (Tanzania Community Project) and a huge achievement for the year was the construction of a hostel for the Mishiri Vocational Training Centre near Marangu Villiage, Tanzania.

Tanzania team 1

Completing the library at Masia Primary School

We were expecting to take on this, our main project with all the superstructure in place; foundations, walls and a roof with our job being to do the flooring, windows, veranda and all plastering and finishing. But when we arrived the roofers weren't available to put the roof on until the first week of the students arriving. This was quite a set-back as the bulding was almost twice the size as the pre-primary which the summer team had struggled to complete from a more advanced stage. This was going to be hard work but the team seemed committed and all the lads were sportsmen, well up for some hard physical work. Looking back this was the first team that enjoyed the manual labour more than the painting and were actually quite dissappointed in the last few days of finishing. Any opportunity to dig up a tree or push down a wall was welcomed with glee.

Having had the experience from the summer of a similar project, it was easy to realise where we needed to be in the building at what point, to have any reasonable chance of finishing. We set weekly targets and if it looked like they might not be met, we just got the fundis to work a bit later or got a few extra in. Some things won't go any faster no matter how many extra fundis, but for the most part, we were easily able to control the pace of work.

In the end, the last week was especially hard work as always, but we got there and there was enormous pride in the group, despite it often not being expressed. As with all these things, the 'looking back period' during the expedition is always more revealing.

Painting the interior of the dining room & part of a classroom

Renovation work, which was good to have when jobs dried up on the main site. The dining room walls and windows were filthy, so these were all washed down well and given a couple of coats of paint.

Painting the water tank and connection up to the main system

The water tank needed to be finished, as although the summer team 04 did a great job, there were a number of bits that hadn't been completed. Sifueli worked with Ediniki (the village plumber) for about 3 days to get all the parts and then to connect up the tank to the mains system. There were a few hitches of going through water pipes with some quite serious flooding but the job was completed and the village now has a constant supply of water. It took about 5 students 3 days to completely paint the outside of the tank, which now looks really fantastic.

Preparing the ground for the new workshop to be built as an extension to the VTC (Vocational Training Centre)

This was used to keep students busy during the first week when there were limitations to the work that we could do as the roofers were busy doing very scary things on dangerously thin scaffolding.

We had to dig up a whole load of coffee trees and flatten a terraced area ready to start laying foundations.

Completion of Pre-primary school building

The pre-primary was never completely finished by the summer team, so the two remaining rooms (store and teachers room) were sanded down and painted/varnished. Also many of the windows and doors had warped and needed to be altered slightly.

(Amani -

A mini project that I believe really complements the work on the site. People who volunteer for Amani really understand the tough life these children have lived through. To be able to provide extra facilities for schools where we can is giving other children more of a chance to live a better life.

On the whole I think the work done at Amani is fantastic. Valerie works really hard to give these kids a better life than the one thrown at them, and the different levels of education is testament to this. Unfortunately sometimes their 'logic' back fires. One of Amani's aims is to place the children back into a 'safe, family' home. A great idea. However, taking them back to their abusive home in the hope that the child & parents will 'reconcile their differences' is NOT the way forward. Unfortunately these children end up back on the streets once again having been hurt both physically and mentally. This happened while we were there and affected the Quest volunteers dramatically. Their faith in Amani started to disappear, and every time one of the children was given the hope that they'll have a 'family' we all wondered what the reality of that was.

Still, it's a fantastic project, and one that I think Quest should pursue, especially as they have bought land for another building, its use especially for the permanent members of Amani. (Sorry, bit overprotective of my kids)

Architecture project

VTC Hostel

Building progress on arrival:

Pius Chao, the engineer/contractor who had been employed to complete the foundations had still not completed them by the date agreed. He constantly tried to reassure me that it will be done 'soon', and in any event before the team arrived for work in August. So at a week before the project was due to start, I was getting worried. During the orientation days I had to revise what our job would be for the first week, and instead of starting blockwork for the ground floor, the delay meant that we would be helping carry out the foundation work that should already have been finished.

Helping out on the foundations, although somewhat demoralizing at first to be set back, turned out to be not such a bad thing. Many of the team would not have understood the enormous amount of work, money and materials that went into the foundations, and quite appreciated a variety of work – even if it was very physically demanding because of moving so much earth. Something satisfying about seeing the project from bare earth to 2 floors in the 10 weeks

Blockwork

Previous quest teams will know that this is a really satisfying part of the project, and good to see progress so quickly, so this was good all round, apart from some of the team not being able to lift the blocks. Still, pointing was also a good job.

Timber shuttering for the slab

This is a fairly skilled job for the carpentry fundis unfortunately but we could help out in sawing the mirunda (thin wooden tree trunks that support the concrete while it is being poured) to the right length. Also involved splicing together two pieces together which everyone could do.

Steelwork

As a team of fairly technical people, most got really interested in this part of the job because you have to calculate where the right length of steel will fit into which beam. Ideally, and this is what the team were really good at, each 12m length of steel has to be cut into the right size and number in order to minimise waste.

Pouring concrete columns

Parts of this were dangerous but were a good teamwork exercise as the whole team had to get together to pass karais of concrete to the columns. It was particularly dangerous when it was passed over the top of the blockwork walls on thin plank scaffolding. People generally knew their limits though.

Pouring concrete slab

This was really tiring work but a good team effort like the columns. We had to split the team into sections : some filling karais with sand and feeding the mixer, some filling karais with aggregate (mix of 3/4in and 1/2in stones), and the boys generally pushing wheelbarrows of wet concrete up the ramp and over planks on the formwork for the slab and tipping it wherever the fundis were directing us. One person also had to help tug each barrow up the ramp (really tiring). Carrying concrete bags (one day we had to carry 300 of them) is also tiring, and mostly done by the boys.

Andy H was known as mechanic fundi because he could actually help fix the mixer and vibrator (many jokes) when they wouldn't start. The mixer did cause problems when it wouldn't start for 2 days though. Unfortunately there wasn't much else we could do at that stage on site.

Really satisfying when the slab was done and we had a celebration on top – we had the tradition of the fundis giving us a goat, presented by babu the senior fundi, as a thank you for the work. Although in theory I could have set the goat free, as some of the group would have wanted, we led it down to the slab and made a meal of it there and then. Although it was 4 days before the 8 week volunteers left, this provided a kind of closing ceremony for them.

Services

We used Happygod, on Katy's recommendation, for fixing the conduits within the slab to allow for the ground floor lighting and electric wires. He seems experienced, generally a good guy, and a bit of a joker. Bob couldn't get hold of the usual plumber they used so we were referred to a guy called Mike, who seemed a bit inexperienced and didn't put the holes in the slab in exactly the right places, but was ok.

Continuing on with the 1st floor

We started setting up the shuttering for the 1st floor columns in the week that 8 week volunteers were to leave. quite a specialised job, so not that much for us to do. after that though we had the blockwork to do (needed loads of bricks, which was unexpected).

Team 2

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Summer

1. Medical Dispensary
2. Ashira: Renovating a cook house and wood store. Painting a mural in the dining room.
3. Ashira: Replacing the swings in the playground and building of 2 see-saws in the school playground.

1. MEDICAL DISPENSARY

The project comprised of constructing an 8 room building capable of providing medical care to the local community (Mshiri) as well as acting as a drug dispensary. Approximately 5,000 will have access to this facility. The medical dispensary will act as a support to Marangu Hospital, 45 minutes walk away. The building will house a doctor, a nurse, laboratory, drug store room, a female & male ward and a bathroom housing 2 'asian style' flushing toilets and a shower. The buildings foundations were started by the local community but funding ran out and it remained unbuilt.

Pre project: Funding was provided to carry out all the brick work and to construct the roof. During the reccy week we made arrangements for all preliminary electrical and plumbing work to be done so that work could commence as soon as the group arrived. All work was successfully completed for the groups' arrival.

The group, together with the fundis finished the building and carried out the following work:

- Plastering (Inside): A cement layer was put on the bricks followed by a finishing 'lime' coating.
- Floors: Similarly a gravelly cement layer was topped up with a lime coating.
- Ceiling: This work was contracted out to the roofers (Ezekelly and Jasper). Work involved putting a frame in the building and nailing ceiling boards to it. The whole job took 6 days.
- Plastering (outside): Walls were plastered with cement and then a Fundi finished it using a machine to 'pooch' it, leaving a pebble dash effect.
- Painting (inside): The whole building was painted firstly with a white water based paint. The bottom half of the walls were coated with a crème oil based paint to aid cleaning.
- Electrical: The electrical wiring was completed in 2 phases. The first phase was pre group arrival and consisted of fitting the internal tubing and fittings needed before plastering could commence. The second phase was completed after plastering was finished. All rooms had light fittings and plugs as required. Energy saver flourescent tubing was provided for the whole building including outside security lighting.
- Plumbing: The plumbing work was carried out in 3 phases. The first phase was pre group arrival which included all the installation of components needed before plastering could commence. The second phase was all installation of tubing and components post plastering. The third phase was the installation of all the sinks, showers and toilets as well as the outside waste chambers. The septic tank pits were started by the team but were to be finished by the community.
- Windows: These were contracted out to specialist fundis. They were measured up pre project and were fitted during the first week. Some were not put in straight and had to be corrected. The group were then tasked with putting red oxide on the window frames (post plastering) and then giving them a final coat of bright yellow! (VEP's request)
- Doors: The door frames were measured during the reccy week and then installed and fitted during our first week. The doors arrived in the final week and were fitted by a specialist fundi - the installation of which were completed 2 weeks after our departure.

Although we completed our targets the following were left unfinished with the following plans for completion. The extra funding mentioned refers to cash left in the VEP account by Quest

which have not been allocated - something like 2,000,000 TNZ, This fund will help to complete some of the following:

- Completion of Sewage pipe linking to Septic Tank.

We had been promised local people throughout our time here to turn up on Mondays (which is community work day when local people work for free on community projects). However no one had turned up throughout. Although we had started on the pits needed to house the septic tank and the deeper sewerage pit we had not finished. This was left for the community to complete and funding was available for the pipe linking the 2 holding chambers near to the building which had been completed and the septic and sewage tank.

Although the plumbing had been completed, on the day of the opening ceremony the tank had sprung a leak. I saw the plumber (Edinik) who assured me that the matter would be resolved.

- Installation of Doors.

All door frames had been installed and varnished. However there had been a delay in preparing the doors due to a scarcity of suitable wood. Half of the 14 doors had been prepared when we had left. Fitting and the preparation of the all the doors was completed 2 weeks after our departure. All had been paid for.

- Connection of Electricity

Electricity had been completed and tested using the churches electricity supply. However official connection has to be applied for once work has been completed. Thompson, the village secretary has promised to write to the electricity board to apply for connection - funding is available for the meter (approx 100,000 TNZ SH).

- Medium Term Additions

Piping and wiring has been left for a water heater for sinks and the shower in the building once extra funding become available. A sink is also required in the nurses room which was not included in the original plans.

- Furniture and Equipment procurement

Katie and Dilly have already found 2 nurses who want to work in the Dispensary. One nurse (Mama Shushu) lives really close to the site and works in the dispensary in Kilimanjaro national park. They have offered to purchase and instal furniture and equipment needed to get the dispensary going within the budget set. This is great news as the dispensary should be up and running within weeks rather than months.

2. ASHIRA: RENOVATION OF COOK HOUSE AND WOOD STORE

The Cook house was being used as a wood store and the wood store was being used as cook house. Both were in a poor state of repair. We restored the wood house (a former world challenge project) and renovated the cook house. The cook house was refloored and repainted

and a new servery hatch was fitted. A Mural was painted in the dining room on the wall with the two servaries

3. ASHIRA: PLAYGROUND RENOVATION

The swings in the playground (a former Quest project) had been so popular that they had been broken. New metal swings were fitted which should prove more durable and a new see saw was installed in the playground

2007

The main work to be undertaken during the duration of this trip was the completion of the second floor building of the Vocational Training Centre (VTC) accommodation block, started previously by Quest Overseas. With the ground floor complete, the task for the team was to cement, plaster and paint the first floor of the building, hopefully completing the work in the timescale allotted. Unfortunately, whilst GJ and AD anticipated there to be areas of schools etc. to be painted with murials and so forth, this was not an option as it appears that every school in the area has plent of paintings etc. so it was decided to concentrate on the building, and the group seemed to accept this.

Unfortunately, there was no scope to paint pictures in the schools, but we did organise a traditional sports day at one of the schools- a much needed break from the site and a different challenge for the volunteers trying to organise over 100 children! Two days were also spent visiting the Amani childrens care in Moshi, with half of the group going one day and the other half the next. Amani are busy preparing for the opening of a new building, so the volunteers assisted in making material bunting, and playing with the children. GJ and AD were keen to spend more time with Amani, however the timing was unfortunate so they really had little time for us, which was understandable. I am sure that in the future, perhaps if Amani were to be informed of some dates well in advance, that they would be happy to accommodate a quest group for longer than two days.

2008

Sabbaticals

School farm built. Also the first team at our new project site constructed **livestock enclosures** for cows, goats and chickens on the school farm at **Waang'waray School**, enabling the school to generate a sustainable income as well as producing fresh food for the school kitchen.

Tailor Made

To complete the work started on Ufani School. Four classrooms in total were planned to be completed in the allotted time. Two classrooms that were almost finished had their walls limed and painted and window frames cleaned and painted. Two other classrooms had a lot more work to be done...plastering, window and door frames inserted, floor foundations to be laid, plus a lot of work done on the exterior of the school. The whole group deserves massive credit for working so hard and solidly for close to two weeks .

Gap Team

Only one project was due to be undertaken over the 6 weeks, the completion of the the VEP accommodation block. After three weeks of breakneck speedy work, the group and fundis had cement plastered and limed all walls on the top floor, installed the window frames, ceilings and laid the floors and filled in any remaining holes. Job done, it seemed! However, the painting of the entire building was severely underestimated and as a result volunteers had to really keep their initial momentum going to get the building finished. The building now looks fantastic, with all interior walls undercoated and vinyl topcoated in cream with black skirting and window-frames. And as a finishing touch, the volunteers added a mural depicting Quest and VEP, with a list of all volunteers names who had been involved in the construction from start to finish. Very nice!

2009

The team in **Tanzania** built a Tilapia pond which now contains **200-300 fish** and will generate more than £500 a year for the school, as well as building a new **classroom** and attached office. Waang'waray now has 7 classrooms, one for each year group. The team worked hard on the **school farm**, organised a sports day and worked in the local **Kindergarten** as teaching assistants in conversational language lessons.

2011

(Winter)

Earlier this year, a group of Quest gapers spent six weeks volunteering at Wa'angary primary school, building fish ponds, pig sties and water tanks!

The team worked incredibly hard to complete the four large fish ponds, and then went on to assist with the building of pig sties for the Women's Group at Sinai, enabling them to get their pig farm project off the ground. There was also a great deal of informal English speaking lessons going on between the volunteers and children at Wa'angwaray.

Another key feat was the digging of trenches and completion of a water tank at Sumaye School, which previously had NO access to water on site at all. The children now have access not only to drinking water, but to taps where they can wash their hands. Diarrhoeal diseases are responsible for 7.7% of deaths across Africa each year, and are a big reason why children miss school – So naturally, the team feel a great sense of achievement at having minimalised these risks for the school.

There was, through all the hard work, a lot of singing, dancing and games of football which brought the volunteers, the school, and community together.

(Summer)

Later that year, the intrepid summer volunteers spent over four weeks working on renovations at Managa Primary School, just outside Babati. Here the team worked together to create two keyhole gardens and several bag gardens. They even made a prototype mud fridge at another primary school!

Team Tanzania then went on to build a toilet block for the school, which they painted along with a storeroom and a couple of classrooms. One of the classrooms was completely transformed from its disused state, to a space fit for learning!

Some of the team also went fishing for Tilapia in the school pond and others helped the farm hands out with watering and picking vegetables.