



STOW ON THE ROAD AGAIN!

Some of the money STOW raised was converted to food then delivered by Jem, Marie and the AFRIWAG team to Mama Ibrahim and her family. Just one of the many activities during the May 2011 monitoring visit!

UPDATE FROM MARIE

Dear Members. Thanks to you and other kind friends, STOW continues to be able to support 200 very vulnerable children and their families. It is really very clear, after 6 years of supporting and following many families, that steady and consistent support makes a very tangible difference to their lives. This stability is so valuable as it offers security and commitment - something AIDS orphans often don't have. Let me give you an update on how the project is going.

May 2011 visit



Our trip this May was spectacular when it came to the weather. We thought the rains would be over, but oh no they weren't! But out of all the children we were visiting there were only about half a dozen who weren't at school due to the torrential rain. Even the Toyota Landcruiser couldn't reach some of the homes – we got stuck once and did much skidding on many occasions. Here is a picture of "Shortcut Deo" – the AFRIWAG driver – feeling very pleased with himself after finally managing to reverse out of the ditch he had put the car into – but only after a passer-by had done a lot of digging in the rain using the tools Deo thoughtfully provided. (Note Deo's still spotless clothes!)

You can see how very wet it was when we visited Margaret Wilson's home. She had ridden her STOW bike in the pouring rain to and from school that day. Nothing was going to stop her going!! The children are so grateful and



pleased to be able to go to school; they make sure they get there whenever possible.

Roofless 2010



Roofed! 2011



Investment in education

Whenever we visit Tanzania we look for signs of progress. This year the biggest change we saw was investment in school infrastructure. Every year for 5 years when we visited Mwang'ombe Primary School we saw a roofless classroom. At last this year it had got its roof! And we found similar stories at other schools.

Making light of difficulties

Akandu is 11 years old and goes to Kisimatui Primary School, which is in one of the poorest villages we visit. He likes school and is a bright young lad. When we did a home visit he showed us

to his bedroom and proudly pointed out a little light. As there is no electricity in the house I was curious to have a closer look. Here he is showing us a torch he had made out of semi-used batteries he found, strapped to a piece of wood with a tiny LED bulb at the end. We were so impressed!!

Reports to sponsors

It's great that we now have 107 children individually sponsored. I am about a third of the way through writing this year's reports for sponsors. So those of you who haven't yet received yours be assured it is on its way.



Challenging times ahead

As many of you will know we have been working in partnership with *Oxfam Ireland* who have funded a large part of AFRIWAG's activities over the past 5 years including salaries, admin. and vehicle costs and the support of over 1800 vulnerable children. *Oxfam Ireland* has now been merged with other Oxfam branches to form *Oxfam Tanzania* which has re-focused its activities from 'service delivery' to 'advocacy'. Unfortunately, this means they will no longer provide any funding to AFRIWAG in 2012 and indeed have already slashed their funding at the start of 2011, reducing the number of children supported in 2011 to 980 (it will be zero in 2012). Of course AFRIWAG asked if STOW could take up the slack and of course we had to refuse. We are a very small operation compared to Oxfam! AFRIWAG does have some other donors (eg HelpAge International and PSI). We are at the moment in the very process of setting up meetings for when Marie returns to Tanzania this October in the hope we can agree on sharing some of the admin. and transport costs.

A big thank you to all our members for your continuing support through these difficult economic times.

Marie Adams
Chair and Founder of STOW

Boarding School



In the last newsletter I told you how STOW had taken the step of moving our most vulnerable children to boarding schools. This year we have placed 8 boys at Lanzoni Boarding school. They are enjoying the luxury of 3 square meals a day but it can get cold at night in the foothills of the mountains and they asked for jumpers!

They certainly seemed more cheerful here than when I spoke with them at their previous schools.

Going the Extra Mile for STOW!



You may remember that supporter Sarah ran the Berlin Marathon in 2010 to raise funds for STOW. This year she ran the London Marathon and tells us, "this was my third London Marathon and my fifth Marathon in total. I aimed to finish in under 4 hours 30 minutes. However, on the day...best laid plans and all that!! ...the heat made things a little tricky and I crossed the line in 4 hours 51 minutes."

Another of our members, Mark, ran in the London Marathon and says, "that was about the toughest thing I've ever done! Completed it in 4 hours and 23 minutes which is slower than I was hoping for; however I did keep running."

Thank you both so very much for again raising so much money to support the work of STOW. What a difference you both have made to the lives of many vulnerable children.

Marie

STOW's AGM will take place on
Sunday 11th September 2011
at Denny's Farm,
East Green, Kelsale, IP17 2PH
at 1 pm

(by kind permission of Rob & Sue Potter)
All members and friends are invited to attend
and it would be great if you could bring
a plate of food to share.

www.stowcharity.org

email: info@stowcharity.org

Then and Now (or rather, Now and Then)



Previous newsletters have tracked our support to Jacqueline. She has now won a scholarship to study at a University in the USA. Before she goes she is researching the practicality of registering STOW in Tanzania.



Here she is in 2007, still at school in Tanga with Albert Valentine. Albert too has just completed his A-levels and is applying for university in Dar es Salaam. They have both grown so much in confidence. Jacqueline says she is glad to be able to help STOW as a thanks for all the support she has received over the years.

STOW wishes both Jacqueline and Albert every success in their degree courses and we look forward to reporting on how they get on in their university years.

A STOW Trustee in Tanzania

A F R I W A G – 7 letters of the alphabet, the significance of which meant very little until I set foot upon the red earth of Africa. My introduction was immediate and I was cast into the midst of an incredible group of committed, courteous and determined Tanzanians, with whom I have been privileged to work for two short weeks.



They pursue their aims quietly and without fuss, giving support and advice, driving for many miles into remote villages and schools, sometimes hurtling into the undergrowth along an invisible footpath within feet of a river bank!

It was a revelation to me and it was humbling to be received like an honoured guest by so many people. To have witnessed the conditions and difficulties the children face to reach school makes me have faith in the value of the human spirit and we should not fail to help these young people and their vulnerable families.

These are my impressions and it is for Marie and Jem to explain the intricacies and the future of AFRIWAG and STOW. But the lion cub is young and still growing!

Joan Craighead, STOW Trustee

Note: the fact that we returned safely is partly due to the expertise of "Shortcut Deo", the driver of the invincible Toyota Land Cruiser. But that is another story!

DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS: OUR YEAR RUNS FROM 1.6.10 - 31.5.11

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Members' subscriptions	1619	Public liability insurance	367.50
		Grants to AFRIWAG (2 nd instalment 2010 + 1 st instalment 2011)	22964
Donations	19634.5	Bank charges for transfers	60
Child Sponsorship	4609.96	Grant money taken out to Tanzania on Nov 2010 trip	1500
Money brought back from Nov 2010 monitoring trip	415	3 flights for May 2011 monitoring trip to Tanzania	1823.93
		Grant money taken out to Tanzania on May 2011 trip	2440
Money brought back from May 2011 monitoring trip	400	May 2011 trip expenses	60
Fundraising events		Carr.'s Barn 2010 expenses	118.97
Carrington's Barn 2010	1077.10		
Saxmundham Middle School	150	Printing newsletters and leaflets	301
Saxmundham Primary School	142.05	Stamps and envelopes for newsletter distribution	33.42
Sale of Notelets	1.95		
Bryans Barn	1428.12		
Beetle Drive	163		
Carrington's Barn 2011	25		
Gift Aid	6917.10		
Bank interest	310.86		
Total receipts	£36,893.64	Total payments	£29,668.82
Excess/(deficit) of receipts over payments	£7,224.82		
Balance brought forward from 1 June 2010	£38,059.03		
Funds in hand at 31st May 2011	£45,283.85		
Account balances			
HSBC Community account	£19,462.20		
HSBC Community savings account	£13.50		
Scottish Widows savings account	£25,808.15		
Total	£ 45,283.85		

Note A second installment of £6,900 was paid to AFRIWAG in June 2011.

The first installment for next year will be sent to AFRIWAG in December of this year.

Martin Stevens Hon Treasurer 4 June 2011

Pangani (AFRIWAG's coastal outpost south of Tanga)



Pangani lies 45 km south of Tanga. Its history and culture goes back to the 15th century. You have to travel for over an hour from Tanga on a long unmade road to reach AFRIWAG's office there, near the ferry terminal. We



always try to get there but the state of the road sometimes prevents this. However, thanks to the Land Cruiser this has become easier and this year we made a successful visit.

What always impresses us is the tolerance that is evident in this mainly Muslim community.

As you can see from this picture the children that STOW support

mingle happily in their multi-faith environment in a typical Tanzanian way.

STOW registered charity No. 1112424

When Marie Broke the Rules (part 2)!



STOW's rule is that no child will be supported at secondary level who has not first been supported at primary. However, last October Marie broke this rule twice with Seleli and Hamisi (see issue 8).

You will be pleased to hear that the rules were not broken in vain. We visited Seleli in his boarding school hostel. He says there is a kind lady who is the House Manager and he has not 1, not 2 but 3 square meals a day and it all tastes so good! He was so proud of everything in the hostel and we had a tour of the kitchen, the garden and his room.

Seleli studies hard and asked if we could buy him some text books as he has been sharing his friends' books but this doesn't always work out. We went round to a school book shop and bought him Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Geography and Biology text books. He just couldn't believe his luck and was keen to show us on return to the hostel where he would be studying in the evenings. Our photograph shows Seleli in the room that he shares with 3 other boys and he says they are so lucky to have a table in the middle!

Oh - yes I broke the rules twice, didn't I?! Let me tell you how Hamisi Salimu is doing. The Head at Mwapachu Secondary told me when I visited his school that Hamisi still needs ongoing help. His mother was still recovering from TB. When we visited the house he and his older brother were both studying, sitting on the front porch.

Looking at their school work it was very obvious that both he and his brother are studious boys. Hamisi is studying 10 subjects for O level. They asked if they could have extra tuition with Maths, Chemistry and Physics to help them catch up with their school mates. We were very impressed. So of course we agreed (and gave them the necessary £12 each). It takes Hamisi an hour to walk to school every morning but he says it is worth it. Hamisi was also keen to show us that his father is trying hard to start a business selling shorts and trousers. He asked, please could STOW continue to support him through school as things are still not yet right at home, even though it is better. Yes we will! I don't regret a moment of rule breaking - I think the stories speak for themselves - don't you?

Marie

A Recent Visitor's View of Tanzania

Tanzania is the largest country in East Africa. It is also one of the poorest countries on earth with an average per capita income of about \$250 - that's just 1% of the UK figure. Maternal mortality is 200 times the UK figure. Average salaries are around \$60-80 a month but a third of the population subsists on under a dollar a day. In some areas, tourists abound and tourism is the number one foreign exchange earner.

Tanzania is a stable multi-party democracy - they have just had a peaceful general election. The parliament is modelled on the British system. Tanzania was formed as a United Republic from Tanganyika and Zanzibar in the 1960s. There are 128 officially recognised tribes - some much better organised, educated and powerful than others. Despite this diversity they are joined by a common language - Kiswahili - thanks to the first President, Julius Nyerere, known to Tanzanian people as "Father of the Nation" and often referred to as "Mwalimu" (Teacher).

Outside town centres, shops as we know them in the UK don't exist but little businesses abound everywhere. If you go on a bus journey, every time the bus stops it is immediately surrounded by traders selling food and drink. Modern technology has hit Tanzania because everyone has a mobile phone and you get the incongruous sight of the poorest village consisting of tiny two-room mud huts with thatched roofs and outside loos but with a tall pylon-like mobile phone mast and sophisticated power supply in the centre of the village.

(*Note from Jem:* this person is not connected with STOW but gives a very succinct and accurate account.)

Note taken from a Tanzanian blog

The geneneral election last year saw the President of Tanzania, Jakaya Kikwete, win with 61% of the vote. The main opposition challenge came from Wilibrod Slaa who won 26% of the vote. As expected, Mr. Kikwete's ruling party, the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) won on the strength of the rural vote, Mr. Kikwete getting 80% of the votes in the remoter rural areas.

The CCM has been in power since Tanzania's independence in 1964. The party holds socialist and pan-African values but still has a way to go in the difficult task of delivering government services. Election observers from the European Union noticed that the increased strength of Mr. Slaa forced Mr. Kikwete to work harder during his campaign. During the run-up to the general election Mr. Kikwete claimed that he had driven 24,000 kilometres and flown for 180 hours in order to attend 706 rallies.

New Business Ventures



It's always such a pleasure to visit the families we support and even more so when we can bring back good news of how they are doing.

STOW gave Bibi Magow (grandmother of secondary school student Amiri Vitalis) a loan in April 2011 and she has started her café. When we visited we found her surrounded by her pots and pans

and she had 2 charcoal fires going. She sells delicious food to the local community who come there to meet friends and share local news. I know this because I bought food from her and joined some of her customers.

Although she had only been established for 2 months when we visited this May, Bibi Magow was able to confidently tell us that she was making 2,000/- (nearly £1) a day profit which enabled her to feed her large extended family.

Another lady who got a loan this April and started her business is Lucy Daudi. She buys fresh fruit at the local market every day except Sundays (when she goes to Church) and then carries it on her head to sell to fishermen at a remote beach area on the other side of town. She too makes a profit of 2,000/- a day and proudly told us that she was planning to make her first repayment of 10,000/- at the end of May.

