

Supporting Tanzanian

STOW

Orphans and Widows

STOW NEWS

November 2024

Issue number 35



Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro



St Johns University of Tanzania, Dodoma



Institute of Finance Management, Dar es salaam



Ruaha Catholic University, Iringa

Some of the widespread colleges and universities visited by STOW in November 2024

www.stowcharity.org
Charity registration no: 1112424

Dear Members

I am writing this on a wet November day – what a contrast to just a few days ago when I was in Tanzania! However, I think that many people there would welcome a bit of rain, so mustn't complain!

I flew out on 8th November and arrived on the 9th. I was supposed to be there at 9 am but due to a delayed flight from Nairobi, where I changed planes, I didn't arrive until 12 noon and was met by Schola and our driver, Freddie. All of a sudden our ratiba (itinerary) was changed (don't they always say: "No plan survives first contact with the real world"?). Instead of seeing three students at the University of Dar es salaam and staying the night in Dar, we saw one student, Mariamu, at the Institute of Transport and Management in Dar and then set off straight to Morogoro.

Mariamu (Dar es salaam)

I managed to take a picture of the front gate of her college, but was not allowed inside.



Mariamu



Institute of Transport and Management

Mariamu told me she loves to play football and proudly said that she had played for Tanga Town against Dodoma. She said that she was really enjoying her course and was so glad to have this opportunity of further studying.

On the road

Dar to Morogoro

We then drove on to Morogoro, a very, very busy road with every other vehicle being a heavily loaded lorry. We arrived in Morogoro in the evening and quickly found the small hotel restaurant – I had not eaten since 3 am that morning on the plane from London to Nairobi!

Morogoro to Iringa

At 8am we set off from Morogoro towards Iringa, a very slow journey which took us through Mikumi National Park. As it is a game reserve the speed limit is 50 kph, giving lots of time to enjoy seeing animals. We saw zebra, giraffe, wart hogs and monkeys.

After leaving the park we climbed up the escarpment towards Iringa on a very narrow road full of bends and even more full of extremely slow and heavily laden lorries. Eight hours after leaving Morogoro we arrived in Iringa. We spent the night in the same small Lutheran hostel as last year.

Mwananvua, Iringa

First thing next morning we visited Mwananvua (whom we had also seen last year) at the Ruaha Catholic University. Poor Mwananvua was quite miserable with a bad cough. We gave her some money to buy medication and visit the hospital for a check.



Mwananvua and Schola with laptop

She told us that the small laptop we had given her last year was very slow, so we were pleased to be able to give her the second-hand one that I had brought out with me. Schola said she would take it back to Tanga to have appropriate updates and software put in and then it would be returned to Iringa on the bus.

Mwananvua told me that she does not go back to Tanga during the college holidays as she stays to study – it also saves her money! Schola told me that Mwananvua had done well in her end-of-year exams. She is due to finish her course in July 2025.

Hadija, Iringa

We then caught up with Hadija who is now in her first year at St Peters Health and Vocational Institute. She was doing “practicals” at the moment in town as part of her Industrial Laboratory course. She said she was really enjoying the course and glad that she had changed from her original course in Tourism.

Hadija in front of her college



Jackline and Emanuel, Dodoma

We then went straight on to Dodoma where we did quite a bit of shopping in one of the many market stalls, buying shoes for Emanuel together with other clothing items for him and Jackline. We eventually reached St Johns University at 6 pm where they are both studying Pharmacy.

Jackline is in her first year at university and said that she was really enjoying both the course and college life. She lives on campus and shares a room with 5 other students!



She was very pleased with her new white jumper to go with the white dress she has to wear to lectures.



Jackline with new jumper



With Schola the next day

Emanuel got some new shoes and some underwear. He also told me that, now that he is in his second year, he had an upcoming study trip to the nearby University of Dodoma and would need some extra funds – which we were able to instantly provide. I asked if he could let me have a summary of what he does during this trip.



Emanuel outside his college



Emanuel at home in 2018

Fatuma, Dodoma

The next morning our first visit was to Fatuma who is now studying at the University of Dodoma. She had been in Mwanza the previous year, studying medicine, but found it too far from home and so she changed her course to a BA in Nursing (a 4-year course, one of which is spent in a hospital). There are two big teaching hospitals on the massive Dodoma University campus. Fatuma has a room on campus which she shares with 3 other students. She said that she is enjoying the new course and not finding it too hard!



Fatuma

Yustina, Dodoma

We were then joined by Yustina who is studying to be a teacher. She had finished her lectures for the day so we went to the canteen for lunch.



Adamu, Dodoma

We headed back into Dodoma town to meet Adamu, who is in his second year at the College of Business and Education, studying Accountancy and Taxation. We gave him new shoes, trousers, shirt and underwear, together with a ream of paper. We are hoping to give him a second-hand laptop in January when I next go out.



Adamu

Adamu also asked if he could have a smartphone which would help with his studies. His current phone has too small a memory to be of help. When I said we would go and get one in town straight away, he couldn't thank us enough!



It can be easy to forget, when seeing them at university, the tough childhood most of our students have had. Adamu and his sister, Zamda, who STOW also sponsor, lived with their grandparents and the two of them would grow mchicha (spinach) and go around selling bundles to make ends meet. Hard work when you have to go and collect water from a tap a long way away! Sadly grandfather has since died, leaving their grandmother to be their carer.



Zamda and Adamu in 2015

Mariamamu, Dodoma

After we left Adamu we headed to the local District Commissioner's office to meet up with (another) Mariamamu. It is a requirement of the Tanzanian Government that every citizen should be registered. Mariamamu had been living in Tanga with her sister, then when her sister returned to Dodoma, Mariamamu moved to a boarding school in Tanga. However, because Mariamamu's family are from Dodoma, she is required to be registered here.



Mariamamu at the District Commissioner's office

Mariamamu said that she had not registered before because her phone was broken. She is studying Community Development which is a 3-year course and will be living in a hostel on the campus of the Rural Development & Planning College. Poor Mariamamu was also feeling quite poorly and when we left we gave her funds to register for the course and to get some medicines at the local hospital. We discussed the process of this "Registration" and Schola advised that once the form has been filled in, Mariamamu would have to go to the Immigration Office and – several forms later – would need to return to where we met her. Eventually she will be registered as a Tanzanian Citizen.

Jabiri and Janet, Dodoma

Later that afternoon we set off back to UDOM (University of Dodoma) to meet up with Jabiri and Janet. They arrived together after 6 pm, full of smiles!



They have known each other since childhood and live in the same neighbourhood, they even went to the same schools up to GCSE level. Neither of them will be going back to Tanga for any of the holidays – "too expensive" they told me. The university does not charge students for holiday accommodation – just for food.

Both Janet and Jabiri are in their second year of studies and have both been on Field Trips. Jabiri's was in Zanzibar at Mnazi Moja Hospital, which he really enjoyed.

When I asked them if they had any problems, they both replied: "No we are fine". After a bit of chat we parted ways, the students to their hostels and us back to Dodoma for the night.



Shabani, near Dodoma

We set off early the next morning heading for Morogoro, but stopped at Berega College on the way to see Shabani, who is in his second year studying pharmacy. The college is a few miles off the main Dodoma – Morogoro road along a fairly good, smooth dirt road, though not sure how it fares in the rainy season!

We gave him some new items of clothing and shoes mainly for sportswear as he plays football for the college.

Shabani's mother has had a loan from STOW to help her with her wood buying and selling business. She uses a donkey and cart, which she hires, to take the wood around to sell. During the long summer holidays Shabani returns home to Tanga to help his mother, cutting wood for her to sell and making repairs to their house.



Freddie, Shabani and Schola

Sokoine University, Morogoro

Originally, we were due to see Agape at Sokoine University in Morogoro. Unfortunately, the Government had transferred her to a college in Katavi – right the other side of the country! However, Schola knows one of the lecturers at Sokoine and we managed to meet up with her to discuss the chances of Agape transferring there. She was really helpful and explained the process. She also said that the number of students registered at the college was higher this year than ever before! Schola then immediately contacted Agape to let her know of the process. Time will tell whether the transfer is possible, fingers crossed!

James and Rafael, Dar es salaam



James (L) and Rafael chatting with Schola at a roadside cafe

The next morning we set off for Dar es salaam. Schola told me there were two students who needed sponsorship that she wanted me to meet. One was James, the brother of Rafael. Rafael was funded by STOW and had completed his course earlier this year but failed one module. He had returned to his home in Pangani to raise money to re-sit that module in March 2025. He said he would be heading back home after our meeting to earn some more funds.

His brother James has been funding himself for the 1st term of college.

James is studying to be a Clinical Officer and hoping that will lead on to him studying medicine. Prior to starting his course, he had worked in Pangani doing casual labour. Now that he is at college he gets up very early each morning, hires a motorbike which is used as a taxi, and takes passengers. He splits what he makes each day with the owner of the motorbike. He rents a very small room as he cannot afford the university campus accommodation. I gave James some STOW funds to help him out a bit with buying food but could not promise him sponsorship as I had to discuss with the STOW Trustees – our budget is already stretched! I have since received a message from Schola that his annual fees for tuition and hostel, not including food, are 3,000,000/- (around £900).

Amiri, Dar es salaam

We then went on to the campus of the University of Dar es salaam to see Amiri. Whilst waiting for him I went and had a look round a bit of the campus and was interested to see that they have a counselling unit.



Amiri at UDSM

Amiri is now in his second year - I wrote about him in the last newsletter. I congratulated him on his 1st-class exam results at the end of his first year. He was confident that he would continue doing well. He was keen to go back to the library to continue his studies so we did not keep him long. He told us that he is using the computer we gave him for studying and said he would not be going home for vacations as he wanted to stay at the uni to study. Amiri asked after Yustina – they went to school together and live in the same village. We were pleased to be able to tell him that we

had seen her at UDOM and that she was doing well and we had had lunch with her at the university canteen.

Samuel, Dar es salaam

The next day, my last day in Tanzania, we went to see a young man – Samuel – who Esther, Schola’s TUMAINI colleague, has asked if STOW could sponsor. He had been selected last year to join Dodoma university but was unable to find sponsorship. However a year later he has managed to join the first semester at the Institute of Finance Management in Dar sponsored by his local church congregation.



Samuel at IFM, Dar

His family is very poor and his father is bedridden with cancer. His mother goes around the village taking in washing. He can’t afford the college hostel fees, so is staying with a distant relative. He told me “she sometimes feeds me”. Samuel told us that he had only arrived last week, so

had not yet settled in or got himself a job. He said he would probably have to work weekends as at the moment he is studying until 7 pm. I said I would do my best to see if I could find a sponsor for him and wished him the best of luck.

I gave each student that we met, including the two potential new students, some extra money to help them with buying day-to-day food and drink. Although there are funds allocated in the budget for this, it never seems to be enough.

As always, I try to give you wonderful STOW members an idea of how the life of a sponsored student is going on. I have such respect and admiration for these young people. They are studying and living among fairly wealthy students and hold their own in the study field. They don't have the financial and social support that other students have, but not one of them had any complaints about their lot.

Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and here is hoping that 2025 brings peace and love.

*Kind regards and so many thanks to you all,
Marie Adams, Founder and Chair of STOW*

Tanzanian Media Snippets Conservation

Tanzania is committed to reforestation and restoring forest landscapes. The government has pledged to plant 5.2 million trees by 2030 as part of its efforts to combat deforestation and promote environmental sustainability. The initiative, led by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, has seen significant progress with 2.4 million trees already planted.

Carbon Trading

Leaders in the Manyara region are involving local communities in conservation programs through carbon trade agreements. The participatory approach aims to not only protect wildlife and natural resources but also provide economic opportunities for villagers.

The New Standard Gauge Railway Line

Passenger trains have begun operating between Dar es salaam, Morogoro and the capital Dodoma. The journey takes less than 4 hours and costs about £10. Two weeks after the service started, a reported 4,000 people a day were using the Dar to Morogoro route, equivalent to 70 bus loads. One bus company has already had to halve the frequency of its trips.

Tourism

Tanzania's tourism industry experienced a remarkable recovery in 2023, with tourist arrivals reaching a record high of 1.8 million visitors.

Jeremy Adams

Treasurer's Reflections November 2024



As I write, Marie has just returned from Tanzania on the first of her two planned monitoring visits during the coming

months. As usual she has brought back information to her fellow Trustees which will help update and inform our decisions during the coming year. As always, meeting with students, our TUMAINI colleagues, and local education professionals face-to-face is crucial. It enables STOW to better plan and prioritise spending, and alerts us to any need for further fundraising should this be required.

We have recently had our AGM and so I would like to take the opportunity to share a few financial headlines from my report with those unable to join us on the day.

Financial year ending May 31st 2024

Total Receipts	£53,648
Total Payments	£56,813
Money sent to Tanzania	£52,900
Deficit over year	£3,165

As the deficit at the end of the previous financial year was **£12,675**, our finances are clearly on the right track. We currently have ~£34k in the bank, having sent TUMAINI all the estimated budget for 2024/25.

Following the AGM our detailed annual accounts were given to our Independent Examiner who returned them with a clean bill of health. Subsequently the Trustees' Report and Accounts were submitted online to

the Charity Commission.

For those not attending our AGM I can report it is not as dull as you may think with plenty of questions asked during the formal part and much cake eaten, tea drunk, and ideas exchanged at the 'after party'.

As many are aware the number of students STOW supports continues to decrease, as students (and Trustees) get older. This has been our plan over recent years. As we have stated many times we intend to continue to support students post 'A-level' should they wish to progress through Higher Education (whether technical college, vocational training or university).

As our students are unsupported by the state and lack any family support, they can only continue in education if STOW provides them with funding for education costs and their wider needs. In short, our students need STOW (your) support for basics such as fees, books, accommodation and food along with the emotional support and guidance from our long-standing TUMAINI partners that others could expect from a wider family network.

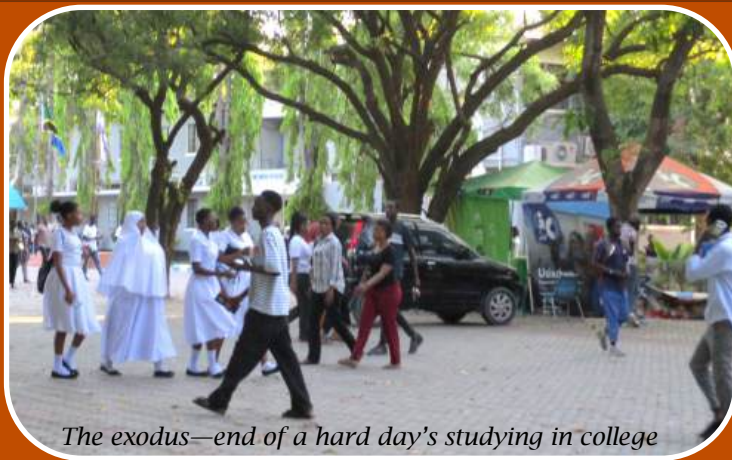
Finally as always a big thankyou to all STOW members and supporters. The money you continue to give really has, and continues, to provide a positive hand up rather than handout to our otherwise very disadvantaged students.

Martin Stevens

During the 20 years since STOW's founding in June 2005 we have funded over 2,750 annual school and further education places, helping well over 350 children to get education and training with many going on to paid employment.

Note: you can donate to us by a variety of methods.

1. Ideally, because this does not incur bank charges, by BACS online transfer to 'STOW' sort code 40-40-20 account number 61264370
2. By cheque made payable to 'STOW' and sent to Acorn Cottage, Kelsale, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 2QY
3. By credit or debit card via our CAF page (<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/19885>) or use the 'Donate' button on our website (www.stowcharity.org)
4. Contactless card payments are now available at events



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