



TLC February to June 2022 in Tabora, Tanzania

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Tabora League for Children: Working with orphans and vulnerable children and their families in 3 TLC Centres: Isevy, Ng'ambo and Chem Chem all within the Tabora Municipality.

If you would like to help please make a donation to: "Tabora League for Children" Barclays Bank, Sort code: 209748 A/C No: 63693430 or by Card/Paypal on our website www.tlctanzania.org

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Nearly there. After a COVID induced break in the UK Trustees regular visits to Tabora, we are at last on our way back to see everyone. Marg, Terry and Robina pictured in Nairobi Airport after half a night on a plane from London, await our flight for Dar in the dark. We will then get a night's sleep in Dar before our 6 am flight to Tabora the following morning. We will look more excited after a good sleep!

Terry took this picture of the Staff meeting with Magdalena, Jenesta, Charles, Marg, George, Beatrice and Trustee Robina (Terry's wife) an hour after we landed in Tabora on 10th June. It was 3 years since Marg's last visit so there was much to catch up on and we then discussed all the current issues.



We met the sewing team, a tutor is paid to teach one young apprentice and will soon be paid to teach Shabani, who has rejoined TLC. The group comprises some Form 4 secondary school leavers, a Std 7 leaver and was recently joined by a Form 1 leaver. They sew in the Isevy classroom and Magdalena's old office. All a bit cramped. They are doing some good work but in the classrom they are isolated from the public who might want to buy some of their output. It is suggested that we build a simple work area and shop in the wall of Isevy, with a roll up door in part of

the current wall. Then the public can meet them and place their orders.

A **Youth Enterprise Scheme**, provides a comprehensive guide to setting up Businesses and we have translated it into Swahili and printed copies for each student. The Scheme will be explored with the teachers for anyone in Standard 5 or above every Friday afternoon, with practical sessions on Saturdays. It should take two years for children to get through their books which they can keep and further amend.

Recently a practical session took place, under the watchful eye of our Isevy Day Guard, in making liquid soap which will be sold, by our four Form 4 Leavers. Making soap requires an hour of stirring the ingredients so it's quite a commitment.



Hadija, our TLC girl who spent a year in Ethiopia in 2017 having a series of operations to straighten her permanently bent legs and uncurl her club feet, went back to Dar es Salaam to get new splints, as she had grown out of the last pair. The new pair are working well and she can also, just about, walk with no splints now! Though she does still need the splints and always will. Amazing to those of us who knew her when she could not walk and assumed she never would. Thanks so much from her and her Mum for your help in getting her to and from Ethiopia and supporting her while she was there and to the clever Dr Tim who did all the operations. Thank you too for providing for her annual change of splints.

She is doing well at school and seems to have caught up with her age group. She seems to be a bit of a LUDO fanatic and had a gathering round the board every time she got it out. She carefully takes the board back to its place in the classroom at the end of the free play sessions.



Fire! During the quiet morning on 3rd July, TLC Volunteer, Terry's story goes on to say: I started to hear a faint crackling sound. We have insect screens but no glass in our windows. My curiosity prompted me to find a peep-hole in the grass fence, seen left below, but I couldn't see anything unusual. Just the field of tall dry grass and



weeds. I called George, the caretaker, and asked about the strange noise I could hear. He took me out so we could walk round to the outside of our fence. By this time the breeze had strengthened considerably. George started to get agitated as we caught sight, at the far edge of the field, of the smoke. In no time George was climbing the metal tower next to the house, disconnecting the pipe from the large black water tank and fixing a short hosepipe instead. He pushed the other end of

the pipe through the fence so buckets could be filled. The wind gathered strength and we watched as the flames headed towards us. George broke off a large tree branch and ran, barefoot, to the

edge of the fire. I went some way, very slowly, with buckets of water and stopped the advance of some fresh outbreaks. My wife and I had to leave for an engagement. It was early evening by the time we returned. George was still firefighting valiantly and I could see from the ground the flames had encroached to about a metre and a half from the grass fence. Goodness knows how it had survived. His young daughters, middle daughter seen by the grass fence above, were filling buckets and carrying them to where they were needed. I just got stuck in. As the sun went down the wind subsided and we had dampened down all potential danger spots around our fence. The fire was still quite strong by a neighbour's wall but, given the lack of wind, it didn't pose any danger to us.

Walking back with George I suggested to him it might, at last, be time for a rest. He just shrugged and within minutes he was back up the water tank tower reconnecting the pipe so that I could get a shower. What a man!



CONGRATULATIONS. Our lad, seen in the red shirt and yellow shoes, left school and his TLC friends months ago to follow his dream to become a footballer. We heard a few weeks ago that he had been **signed for the Tanzania Football Federation.**

Sadly last week we got the news that he had hurt his hand in training, but he seems to be on the mend.

He keeps in touch all the time with his Centre Coordinator Magdalena and receives a monthly living allowance until he starts getting paid.

Abandoned by parents, he and his 3 younger brothers have lived for some years in a room rented for them by TLC with their meals taken at the Centre. His brothers remain there.



One of our sponsors has made an annual donation for 3 footballs a year, one for each Centre. Here are 4 of the lads at Isevyu enjoying one of them this year.

One of our girls is playing for the local women's team. Thanks to everyone who donates for specific items so enjoyed or needed by the children. If you'd like to get in touch about supporting something like this, please do. We would love to have some bike donors as they are so costly each year for those starting secondary school and having long journeys between home, school and TLC.

Newly employed, John, far left, below shown with the tools given him on completion of his apprenticeship, has been living independently since being offered a job at the



end of his training in March. Both the others finished their apprenticeships at the end of June and are now employed . Yohanna as a motor bike mechanic, seen in the centre with the tools just bought for him.

Yusufu, right, with his own sewing machine for his work as a sofa maker. He combines the skills of carpentry and sewing.



Volunteering in their professions. The route to a job in Tanzania is via volunteering, and these three postgraduates have started with excellent placements doing what they have been learning how to do at university and college. Maganga, left, as a fifth and sixth form teacher in a Tabora High School, Tunda, centre, with TUWASA, the Water Board in Tabora, Adrian in the pharmacy of the at Kuliua Medical Centre. All three came to greet us



visitors and they are taking advantage of our new Post Graduate Volunteering Allowance of £16 per month. Meagre but enough to allow them to get started while living with family. Adrian has needed an extra £4 per month to enable him to share a rented room with another young man, as he is not in Tabora. Adrian showed us the medal given him a few years back by R.H. Mama Samira, now President of Tanzania.



Starting their own businesses. Both came to greet the visitors and told us of their business plans. One of the visitors and Charles, who looks after all youngsters who continue education beyond secondary Form 4, accompanied them to local Microloans banks, all of which required accounts showing a business active for 6 months already before there could be consideration for a loan.

Each was given £16 to see if this could get them started and they will be visited during July to see how they are getting on.

Ashura, left, wants to run a café, and is starting by selling chapatis from her grandmother's house. Zainabu, right, wants to start selling handbags, whether or not she returns to college later this year.



TLC is slowly expanding thanks to wonderful generosity of our sponsors and supporters. The big ones leaving as they become financially independent and are creating spaces for these new ones.

Since the last newsletter, we have taken on these 6 lovely children:



Eid May 22 was a huge success, thanks to Anisa, who shared her training expertise to raise funds. Everyone was given a gift of new (to them) clothes from amazing donations received.



Everyone was looking great, women staff covered their heads, the atmosphere was just right for the great feast....



A cow was bought and the meat divided between the 3 centres, the food was cooked, everyone began to eat....



Robina has been **meeting with all the teachers**, to work towards best educational practice.



Chem Chem's teacher could not be at that meeting but will be attending the next one. Each centre will eventually get back to having two teachers, so that the children can be split by age for lessons.

Art Days

Robina is an Artist, as well as a TLC Trustee since she retired from being a headmistress. She is running art days in each centre making banners in Batik. As you can see the children have really engaged with this craft.



The next step is to dye the cloth. Having Robina to visit is both educational and great fun.



Some medicines are only effective if taken together with a reasonable diet and so some of the **sole carers** of our TLC Children need nutritious food to make the medicines provided for them prolong their lives. While their Bibis or Mamas live there is a home for the family. They want to live and we can help them. We have already found foster homes for many children with no suitable relatives and have 7 secondary school boys living in 2 rooms we rent for them. But where possible children need a home with their own Mama, Babu or their Bibi

If you'd like to sponsor a Bibi at £10 per month let us know, so we can continue to help families stay together. Thank you.

Letters from Sponsors.

These were carried out by the visitors and the children have all seen theirs, except for the boarders who will have to wait a little longer.

Here is one girl with her letter. The messages are private of course but we can show you this one as the bright sunlight obscures the text!

The children will make their replies during the August school holidays and as Robina and Terry are staying in Tabora until 12th August they will bring the replies back with them.



One of the donated dolls had a new top and hat, knitted by a UK supporter of TLC, and brought out with the visitors. She was re dressed immediately after the new outfit was handed over at Isevy. The children loved it. More knitted/ sewn dolls outfits always very welcome.

- **We have 3 Virtual London Marathon places still available:** Let us know if you'd like to run / walk it for TLC. Be part of this year's medal line up! All participants will have 23 hours, 59 minutes and 59 seconds to complete the 26.2 miles on the course of their choice on Sunday 2 October, and all finishers will receive the coveted official medal and T-shirt.
- If you'd like to fundraise for TLC - maybe a **coffee morning or cake sale** or sponsored swim or pub quiz - we've teamed up with **Invest My Community** to help you. Here is the link:
<https://app.investmycommunity.com/fundraise/tabora-league-for-children-tlc-3065>

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