

Heshima Newsletter

December 2019



Here's a brief update from Heshima following my visit there in October. If you have any questions about the project, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me!

Main Building (Education and Textile Centres)

The solar panels are generating electricity effectively, powering the laptops in the main building which are used by Mwamvita with the 11 children who attend the Day-care centre, and by the textile ladies.



There are pre-loaded resources provided by a "Raspberry Pi": these "wireless" resources can therefore be accessed independently by each lap-top. We have employed a young man, Victor, who, with Mwamvita, is using the lap-tops to teach both the children and the textile ladies English. The ladies are also learning basic office/IT skills. Heshima will ensure that Victor himself receives adequate training, and therefore benefit himself as well as being an investment for Heshima.



We are also hopeful that another teacher will be appointed soon, initially on a part-time basis (perhaps working Saturdays), to provide support for older schoolchildren, and to enable them to learn basic IT skills. Additional chairs and tables will be purchased, and a resource library will be made available to the schoolchildren.

The electricity generated from the solar panels also provides lighting inside the textile centre, and security lighting outside--: and enables the ladies to charge their mobiles!



The Textile Centre, also located in the main building, continues to train local women, who produce a wide range of textile products, in the process earning an income. Maintaining quality is of paramount importance, and the highest standards are insisted upon. Sub-standard products are returned to the ladies!



(photo courtesy Quentin Danel)

In June/July a group of students from Taiwan again visited Heshima and carried out some useful "DIY", as well as organising activities with local children. Assisted by local *fundi* (craftsman) Japhet, and Heshima teacher Mike Mugambo, the outside of the main building was plastered, whitewashed and painted. Site Manager/caretaker, Kasyoki, is keeping the grounds spic and span!



The textile centre is located in the bottom left of the photos; the textile shop top left; and the single storey room with elevated roof on the right is the education/training centre.

The Day-Care Centre

As already mentioned, Mwamvita continues to run the Day-care centre, having recently returned from maternity leave. She is assisted by young lady Mary, and Victor.



Education is very much through play, but the children are also learning to read and write in both Swahili and English, assisted by the resources on the lap-tops. This will give them a big advantage when they start primary school.



The playground

Future development

Thanks to many generous donations, both individual and corporate, Heshima is able to continue developing. In addition to employing an additional teacher for the Education Centre, and purchasing new chairs and tables, there are plans to build some basic but comfortable accommodation on site for volunteers.

If you are able to visit Tanzania, please do pay Heshima a call (and if you have any DIY/painting/general skills..... !). Also if you would like any textile items to sell, please order them on the Heshima website (www.heshima.org.uk), and we'll endeavour to get them to you.

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