

# Mtwaralinks for families in Tanzania



May 2020



## Primary School Opens its Doors at Kilidu

Another major step forward was taken this year in the small growing hamlet of Kilidu, with the installation of new toilets for boys and girls at their very own primary school.

Mtwaralinks has supported this project with finance to assist with the building works, whilst the labour and many other costs have been met by villagers themselves.

The installation of toilets is another important step in the healthy development of young people there.

The hamlet of Kilidu sits in bushland close to the Mtwara/Lindi border. The nearest road is four miles away and the nearest clean water, primary school and clinic another two miles from there.

The hamlet is a collection of a few dozen houses. In the vicinity there are another hundred or so houses.

Kilidu, not clearly mapped, is not registered by the regional government as a village. Consequently, there is no school, clinic or access road. Only since the Sisters embarked on their plan to use surrounding land for agriculture have they started to invest in this

essential infrastructure. With their support, local villagers have built their own primary classroom and employed their own teacher.

Good health and hygiene go together like...well, you can't have one without the other, as the whole world is learning to our awful cost at the moment.

In the developed world we take for granted our flushing toilets and sinks with warm water and soap, but for millions in the developing world these luxuries are not available.

And yet we know that disease spreads and kills where we lack basic hygiene services.

The toilets next to the classroom at Kilidu are an important improvement to the facilities there.



Building work progresses as the base for the toilets is successfully laid.

## Success with Agriculture at Kilidu

Almost four hectares of land have now been brought into cultivation around Kilidu. This year the harvest, although very low by European standards, has produced enough rice – over fifty sacks of rice in total – to feed the congregations around the Mtwara region.

the generosity of a donor will combine to provide the investment to pump fresh water to the village and surrounding area.

The feasibility studies have been completed but the costs are too high for this to be done without government support.

In spite of these challenges



This land was given to Holy Redeemer Sisters some years ago, but was considered to be of low value because of the absence of water for irrigation and its distance from the access road. In the

perseverance of the Sisters and the skills of their agricultural specialist have generated pleasing results.

A small but very real example of some of the big challenges facing the Sisters in farming this land is the loss of nearly all the maize harvest. Maize is the basis for nearly all the flour in Tanzania and is the staple food in making ugali – the stiff porridge which most Tanzanians eat every day. This year the maize harvest from the land around Kilidu was lost to the foraging work of local monkeys.



rainy season much of the land is flooded, making it impossible for labourers to work, or their one tractor to move. In the dry season there is insufficient water to irrigate the land adequately. Sisters live in hope that technology and



## Feeding Programme at Majengo

The elderly and the disabled make their way to the Holy Redeemer Sisters each week. The old and the infirm, whose families have quite often been ravaged by AIDS, malaria or other diseases make their way to the Sisters for food. Here they are given a small portion of rice and beans which will save them from hunger for the next week or so. This hand to mouth existence affects thousands of elderly people whose children have either died or moved away. There is no safety net of social security in Tanzania. If your family cannot care for you, then you will either rely on charity or die. In this way the Holy Redeemer Sisters save many hundreds of otherwise destitute lives each and every week.

Of the money raised by Mtwaralinks, approximately one tenth of it is used to support this feeding programme.

In total, Holy Redeemer Sisters spend approximately £2000 annually to feed thirty five people.



## Access Road Needed

The road from Kilidu to Mtwara takes about three hours, by fast road from Mtwara to Mtama, then a dirt road over a rickety bridge to Kitere. From Kitere there is a muddy track which, in the rainy season, becomes a flooded ditch. Each year, sometimes twice a year and sometimes for several weeks, the thin track which leads from the road out of Kitere is the only route for villagers from Kilidu to move to Kitere for basic supplies, for children to go to school and for everyone to take clean water. It's a trek by bicycle or through thick mud on foot of about 5 miles.

The land surrounding the hamlet of Kilidu is owned by the Holy Redeemer Sisters and is used for agriculture. The maize, rice, beans and other produce is used throughout the region in their various mission projects - the clinic and kindergarten at Luagala, the College in Mtwara and crucially the feeding programme at Majengo. It's possible to take a bus from Mtwara to Kitere (four hours) and then a piki piki (motorcycle for hire)

from there to Kilidu (one hour) but generally, to transport produce and equipment the Sisters' Landrover is needed, which costs about TZS100,000 (£40), or a labourer's wage for a month. The Sisters see no solution to this problem in the short term. The involvement of the regional government and quite a lot of money will be needed before an access road can be built.



## STANDING ORDER FORM

Reference (if any).....

To.....(Your Bank)

Please set up the following Standing order and debit my/our account accordingly

### 1. Your Account Details

Account Name: .....

Account Number: ..... Sort Code: .....

### 2. Payee Details

Please pay: HSBC, Arndale Centre, Crossgates, Leeds LS15 8EU. For the credit of: **Mtwara Links**  
Account Number: 21525409 Sort Code: 40-27-33

### 3. About the Payment

The sum of: £..... Commencing on: DD/MM/YYYY ...../...../.....

And thereafter on the (DD).....of the month until further notice.

### 4. Confirmation

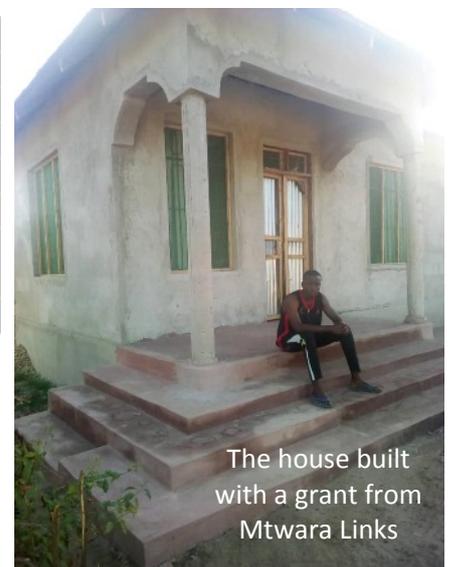
Signature: ..... Date: DD/MM/YYYY ...../...../.....

17 March 2019 – 16 March 2020

## Finances

Income		Expenditure	
Balance b'forward	942.84		
		website	29.13
Donations	12240.34	Grant	1830.00
Gift Aid	1252.50	Sponsorship	284.16
		Holy Redeemer Sisters	9400.00
Balance at bank at 17 March 2020	2892.39		

This year we have been astonishingly fortunate in receiving two substantial donations – one for £5000 from the Leeds engineering company, Corrocoat; and another for £1833.84 from St James Primary School, Leeds. These as well as affording a larger than normal donation to Holy Redeemer Sisters, has allowed us to make a grant to a Mtwara family for them to build a new house, their home having been destroyed in floods and pay university fees and subsistence for a young man studying to become a pharmacist.



The house built with a grant from Mtwara Links