



WE'RE BUSIER THAN EVER...

Goodness, it has been a while since we sent out news! How did that happen? There has been so much going on, it feels like yesterday since we last wrote. Apologies - we know not everyone is on social media, which is where we post more regular small updates. But, we have had some major things happening, so it's time to talk about it!

Since we last wrote we have had proper heavy rainy seasons, so there has been a lot of planting and harvesting of crops - people have food to eat this year, which is a very positive marked difference to last year.

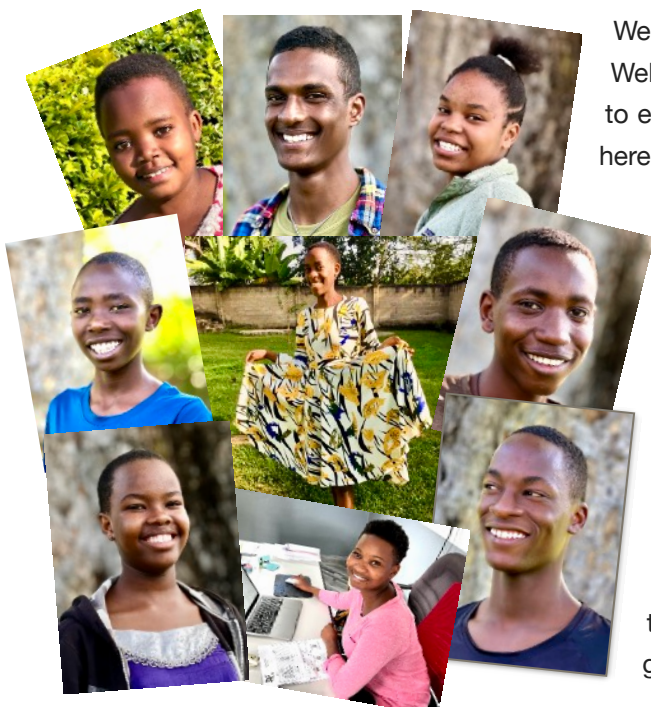
Let's take a look at what has been happening programme by programme:

Residential Care Programme

Last year we wrote about the long term effects of institutional care on children, and changing policies worldwide regarding childcare.

As many of our long-term residential children have now either graduated naturally or are in their late teens, we have had the opportunity to make the changes we wanted. Our social workers have spent all their time visiting families, discussing options, and organising weekend short stay visits for our younger children to start the transition back to family life, still supported by Seeway Tanzania to ensure they receive an education and have the nutrition and healthcare they need. As of January 2024 we no longer have any children living full-time at Seeway Tanzania. All our children are now either living with their families full-time or are at boarding school and going home to family during school holidays. We still see them at the beginning and end of school holidays, to make sure all is good, and they have what they need. They are thriving and loving being with family whilst at the same time knowing that we are there for them if they need extra help.

It is very strange not to have lots of children coming back to Seeway after school every day, and our beautiful compound feels a bit empty during school terms now, but we are visiting our children at their homes and schools and they are doing really well and are happy. We made the right decision. And we have plans for using our compound to help even more children...



We had a meeting regarding our changes with the Regional Social Welfare Officer, who was so thankful to us for having the courage to essentially close our residential program (though we are always here for emergency short term care). We were told we are a role-model for other residential programs, as the Ministry of Social Welfare continue to try to reduce the number of children in care in Tanzania.

We are so thankful to our amazing sponsors who have supported our changes and continue to sponsor our children. We still have 22 children/teenagers/young adults we are responsible for and we will continue to support them and see them through their various stages of education.

News from some of our kids: James, Ally, and Zainabu take their O levels (GCSEs) later this year; David and Arnold both graduate from university next May; Mariam graduated from her

tailoring course and 6-month practical experience and is now making her own designs; Saruni, Benjamin, and Asha, are loving Secondary school after getting great grades for their Primary school leaving exams; Neema has just started her A level studies at a high-performing girls' school near Dodoma (in the middle of the country); and Mahija is one year into her tourism diploma and currently on practical field work in one of Arusha's top hotels...wow, everyone is growing up!!

Nursery School and Special Needs Programme



Sometimes you have to make a big foundational change to be able to bring new energy and ideas into a project and we are learning not to be afraid to do that.

Our nursery school went through some huge changes earlier this year when we changed our head teacher. It has proved to be a good decision and the school is flourishing with several new students added at the beginning of Term 2 in July, plus a very successful parent's meeting recently. We are all about listening to concerns and needs and seeing what we can do to address them.



It has been a challenging year for schools at all levels with major curriculum changes announced in January, but with no resources or much information on the new curriculum ready for disseminating to schools to cope with the changes. Our staff have done an amazing job coping with teaching "in the dark".

Thanks to a very special donor, and with additional funding from The British International School of Bratislava we furnished and opened our second special needs classroom last year, and currently have

15 students in total. Some of them are severely challenged, and our staff show so much care and love to every student. We are seeing great results, especially in the physical well-being of our students. We have nutritious food every day and our students are gaining valuable weight. We give them physiotherapy daily which also makes a huge difference. And we are including our special needs students in our regular classes when possible, which is helping their self-esteem as well as teaching them valuable subjects.



We have focused on improving the quality of education we offer this past year for all our students - our teachers are teaching more English and we are incorporating more play and arts and crafts. The feedback from parents has been great and we will continue to improve.



A huge shout out to General Manager Neema, Human Resources Manager Hedwiga, and new Head Teacher Veneranda for working so hard to bring the changes we needed.

Community and Service Projects

In June we completed our expedition season with Nord Anglia Education working together with over 600 students and teachers from schools worldwide (schools based in Asia; Middle East; Europe; North, Central and South America!). We sent out a newsletter detailing the achievements during last season earlier this year - let us know if you didn't receive it and would like it! Too much good stuff happened to include here so it got its own newsletter!

New programme: Mtoto Awe Salama (MAS)

We are developing a new programme called Moto Awe Salaam which means "Children Should Be Safe". We are very aware of the issues surrounding child's rights in Tanzania. Abuse of children is common, physical and emotional, whether by adults or other children, and often there is nowhere safe to go for protection or advice. While researching for the project, our social workers discovered that the places children feel least safe in our community are churches, mosques, and schools.

We are developing teachings, media, and a mentorship programme



which we are currently trialling

in a nearby primary school. The basic premise is to create a group of peer educators to create awareness to their classmates about the ongoing child abuse within households and provide a method by which abuse can be reported. The peer educators will be someone children know they can go to if they need help, and who can teach children their rights and how they can implement their rights themselves.

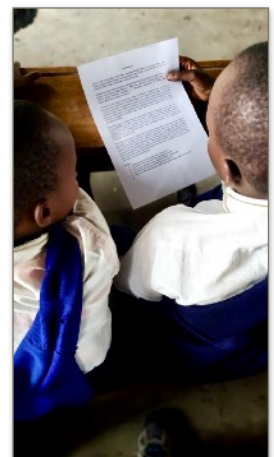
We started a pilot programme at Imbaseni Primary School earlier this year with 4 sessions.

Together with a school teacher we identified 20 peer educators and got to know them. There were introductory teachings on child rights and child protection topics. Then we looked at a case study and conducted learning through scenarios about child abuse and role-playing with the peer educators. Finally we had a role-playing session about child rights and protection.

The pilot programme went well, but we are finding resistance from the teachers at this particular school. It is imperative the head teacher, especially, is on board with what we are trying to achieve and invested into the well-being of their students, and we have been disappointed at the response at Imbaseni and are currently making relationships at another nearby school, Ngongongare Primary, and starting a project there this week!!

We know this is a project wanted by the government - we had to apply to our Regional Education Officer to get permission to start the programme. At a meeting to discuss the project we were asked to implement this into every school. Whoah! Let's get one set of peer educators trained and working well together first, and see how it goes!

Since starting this programme we have been blessed with a projector, t-shirts (with our MAS logo) to distribute to students, and financial support to create better resources and run the programme! We are very excited to give updates on our progress in the next newsletter.



What Other News?

- We were blessed with an unexpected large donation which enabled us to convert our old school classrooms into offices at our headquarters. There were 7 of us trying to cram into our tiny old office, and it was hard to manage space and work with multiple conversations going on. Now we're split between 3 spacious offices (*right: Asha working in one of our new bright offices*), with better equipment, and productivity is so much better. Thank you so much - you know who you are!



•We were thrilled to host wonderful volunteers Martha, Matilda, and Fiona at the end of last year. They got a good introduction into the different projects we do, and learnt important skills like making chapatis; making stoves from sustainable materials; how to build a goat shed and a school desk... They contributed so much, we really missed them when they left.



We have loved having volunteers over the years, but our volunteer programme is currently on hold while we have no residents staying at the main compound where our volunteer housing is...but watch this space...



- Earlier this year we held a seminar on soap making to try and help some local families start their own sustainability project. It was a huge success - each lady went away with 5 litres of soap and they all sold their stock within days. They have been coming back to Seeway regularly to make more soap, and are finding it's a great small business to start. Let's hope they continue and manage to start the path to sustaining their lives themselves.



- Finally, a huge shout out to all the wonderful staff at Seeway Tanzania who make everything work, and who give of themselves to benefit their community. As Wendy and Rebecca start the process of standing back a little from the work they started almost 20 years ago, our staff continue to step up and make decisions, come up with ideas and projects, and manage most of the day to day running of Seeway. This is what we have been working towards and dreaming of as we look to the future.

We are so thankful to each one of you for being part of making a difference in Tanzania!!