

Mission Morogoro Newsletter

February 2022



Greetings, to all our friends and supporters from all the Trustees of the Mission Morogoro Charity.

Since the beginning of the global pandemic in 2020 we have, like so many charities, struggled to fundraise for our work in the Tunguli area of Morogoro Diocese and we have missed the regular visits to Tanzania that have enabled us to keep in contact with those whom we serve. Despite these difficulties we have managed to not only continue work on our existing projects but, in addition, we have begun the process of making those projects more sustainable for the future. None of this would have been remotely possible without your continuing support and we are all deeply appreciative and thankful.



A Tunguli hamlet

Maintaining contact

Throughout the pandemic we have all made personal contact with the leaders of the Tunguli community a number one priority because of the necessity to ensure that all monies provided by our supporters are properly channelled for the purpose for which they were intended. We have achieved this through regular emails and WhatsApp links and by personal contacts with those living in the Tunguli community. This has meant that all money spent has been in the best interests of those whom we are seeking to serve and whose lives we are seeking to transform.

Now let us tell you more about what we have been doing to improve the lives of those living within the Tunguli area!

1. Transforming lives through the provision of clean and safe water.

The early years of the Mission Morogoro Charity saw us collaborating with the medical profession to foster a number of women's groups. It was hoped that the strength of women working together on issues such as maternal and child health education would gradually lead to fewer deaths in labour and to significant improvements in child health. Sadly, due to a lack of local health resourcing at that time there was insufficient attention given to enabling these groups to grow and realise their potential, but more about this later!

However, one of the first decisions coming out of these groups was to ask for cleaner and more accessible drinking water. MM responded to this challenge and formed a close working relationship with SAWA (Sanitation And Water Action) a truly inspiring local NGO devoted to transforming lives through the provision of clean water. Over the last few years their help has ensured that a significant number of strategically placed new wells have been created providing clean water, which is usually collected by the women living in the area. Now there are thirteen wells with most of them working well providing those living within the community with safe water which is free of bacteria and



Kichangani hamlet waterpoint

viruses. During this process we have had to grapple with many problems, the most significant of

which has been the regular maintenance and upkeep of the wells and during the pandemic we have been working to build up a small team of local people who will take responsibility for regular repairs and maintenance work. At the centre of this MM initiative is Welloce Mhina, who we have introduced in previous Newsletters, who is trying to identify potential young leaders within the community to promote a developmental pressure group to strengthen the sustainability dimension of our water project as well as for all our other work.

2. Ambulance

The second most important decision made in the early years of the women's groups was to purchase a motor cycle ambulance which could be used in emergency situations to carry patients from Tunguli to the main hospital in Berega, a journey of about three hours over rough roads. Many women in critical situations involving labour and childbirth, as well as others with life threatening situations, have benefited as a result of this ambulance and MM intends to support its continuing use in whatever ways are deemed necessary by the community.



The ambulance continues to save lives

3. Toilets and general hygiene

We have been delighted to learn from SAWA that many latrines have now been built in homes within the area. We were also delighted to receive grateful thanks from our local schools for the



Football final

PPE and general sanitation and hygiene supplies that MM provided during the pandemic. We hope to foster this growing awareness of the importance of good personal hygiene by continuing to promote an annual low-cost football competition where the younger generation will become champions of change by disseminating messages about the links between good hygiene and good health throughout the various match fixtures.

4. Maternal and child health

As we have said, this whole area has been central to all our initiatives within the Tunguli community and led to the creation of a number of women's groups called TUSHIKAMANE (Swahili for "In solidarity") which carries the force of women joining together to promote better knowledge and understanding of maternal and child health. After an excellent start in which the newly formed groups pointed us in the direction of providing clean water as a number one priority, support for the groups dwindled as medical resources were directed away as a result of changing government priorities. Nevertheless, a number of groups still continued to meet and longed for the opportunity to receive more education in maternal health and child health issues as well as training in small business ventures which could increase their standard of living. MM has been very aware of these longings on the part of women still struggling to meet as part of this



Maternal health training class

initiative and, now that we have responded to their first priority of improving the supply of clean and safe drinking water, one of our next challenges will be to address both clinical and educational support for maternal and child health. As a result, we have begun to work closely with Tunguli Health Centre on the provision of new resources to assist expectant mothers as they carry their unborn children and prepare for labour and childbirth and then in the care of their newly born. This will entail a process of negotiations with the Director of the Health Centre aimed at the provision of new midwifery support and child health education. We will keep you all in touch with this new venture.

5. Promoting health through the provision of small business initiatives

Over the years MM has been in existence we have looked forward to our regular visits to the beautiful area around Tunguli and, as we write this Newsletter, our imagination is filled with the sights and sounds and aromas of what has become for us a very special community who have taught us much about how to live life trustfully and simply and in the present moment. Our response to their great gift to us is to want to provide them with the necessary education and skills to make their lives healthier and more comfortable.

One of our first steps in this process was to work with others in the development of the



Tending chickens

TUSHIKAMANE groups and, as we have seen, these self-help women's groups have been dreaming of the day when they could improve the health of their families by improving nutrition and generating a small income for their families. However, their efforts to achieve this have always been thwarted by the remoteness of the community where few are educated or have leadership skills. Now that the situation over the supply of clean water has been addressed, the MM team has begun working closely with Welloce on a pilot project with two of the women's groups that aim to nurture chickens as a means to improve nutrition and income generation. The groups, under the watchful eye of Welloce, have hatched eggs using an incubator, created secure compounds for the chickens and shared advice on nutrition and disease control. We are thrilled with this beginning and intend to provide Welloce with formal training from a well-

recognised NGO, to equip him with skills in sustainable agricultural development.

As we look further ahead we hope that Welloce will play a prominent role in discerning others who may, also, have leadership skills which, with training, may help us grow the dreams of the Tushikamane groups and of the whole community, creating greater sustainability for all our projects.

6. Farming, good nutrition and better health

As you will be aware MM has been responsible for the deployment of a tractor which was originally purchased by the Diocese of Worcester and we can report that it continues to be used heavily during the cultivation seasons and plays a significant role in the provision of good food for the Tunguli community.

Over the past few years we have collaborated with the SAWA team to create a Tractor Committee that has the responsibility for its regular maintenance. MM will continue to be involved in supporting those who are members of this



Ploughing to plant maize

Committee to ensure that the tractor continues to play a vital role within the life of the community.

7. **The church and the spiritual well-being of the community.**

A few years ago, St Elizabeth's Church in Tunguli was destroyed during a violent storm and MM has had the privilege of being very involved in providing resources for the building of a new Church very close to the site of the ruined building. As a result, we have all felt a sense of great joy in being able to play a part in creating a new spiritual home for the congregation and we have



Window grills installed

been thrilled to see the new Church building slowly beginning to take shape. Much to our delight we have now been able to pass on the baton to the Revd. Gary Crellin, who with his Old Hills Churches near Malvern, is continuing to support the final stages of the building works.

Looking to the future

MM is really excited at the prospect of continuing to work with all our friends in Tanzania as we seek to continue the process of creating greater sustainability for all our existing projects as well as opening our hearts and minds to new challenges, which may include the provision of an operating theatre for the Tunguli Health Centre. Watch this space!

In conclusion, MM owes the most profound debt of thanks to the women of the Tushikamane groups for providing us with a clear sense of vision and direction for our work and, also, to Charles and Wilhelmina and all the SAWA team, Canon Isaac Mgego, the Director of the Tunguli Health Clinic and to Welloce Mhina, our eyes, ears and hands in Tunguli. We are, also, sincerely appreciative of all those many other members of the Tunguli community who have shared their skills and wisdom as we have sought to bring greater fullness of life and more joy to all those whose hearts and minds belong within these remote villages overlooked by the awesome Tanzanian mountain ranges.

Finally, we must repeat our endless thanks to each one of you here in the UK. You have provided us with the resources to achieve what seems to us to be a real miracle of love, care and belonging, transcending all our differences.



Some MM trustees with SAWA team in Tunguli

THANK YOU 🙏

To learn more of our projects or to donate go to

www.missionmorogoro.org.uk