

Education & Knowledge

For children in Tanzania

NEWSLETTER

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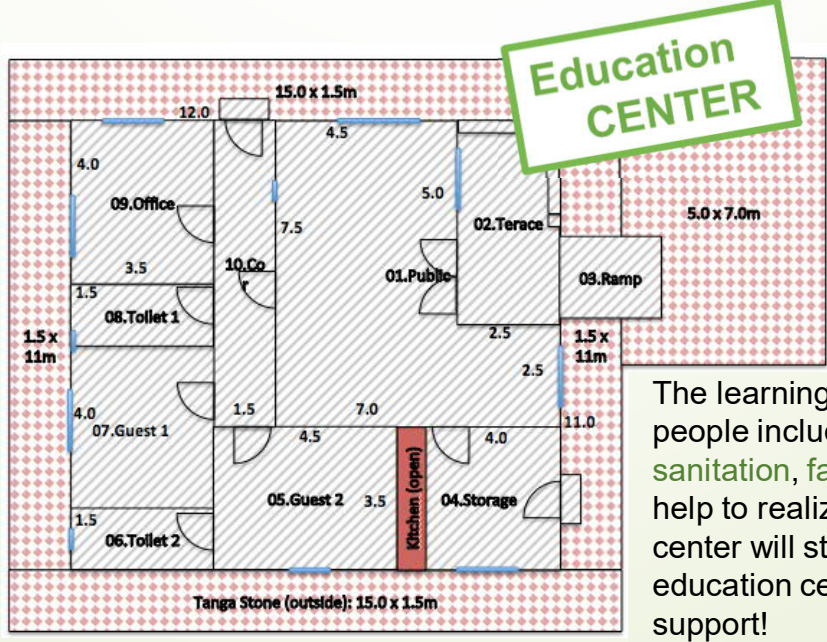
Dear Elimus, friends, members and donors,



In August 2019 the first three children finally moved into the new orphanage in Miono. We christened the house “**Tembo House**”. The orphanage’s first teacher, **Flora**, proudly refers to herself as “**Tembo Mum**”. Two of the children are identical twins; their names are **Faudhia** and **Faulisha**.

Initially, the twins were shy and rather withdrawn. **Upendo Aisha**, also a girl, adapted more quickly and has made friends with the other two girls. In December Nadine traveled to Miono to meet the orphans and to agree on the next steps for the children.

We also hired a **Montessori teacher, Nyangi**, who now takes care of the three girls during the day and plays with them in the pavillion. As a result, the twins opened up and became more lively. Nyangi also supports Flora in the household since Flora is passionate about sewing our “**DOLPHIN bags**” and needs extra time to do this. Overall it became a lot livelier in **DOLPHIN Village** – partly due to our donkey “**Pundi**” and our dog „**Mimi**“. There were occasional periods of rain, so our garden and plants flourish and Flora can sometimes even cook small dishes with homegrown vegetables.



The construction of an “**Education Center**” is our newest project in **Dolphin Village**. During our stay in Miono we recognized that there is a great demand for educational opportunities. For this reason, we started to plan an education center in 2018 together with our African partners.

The learning opportunities which are directed at old and young people include **reading/writing, English classes, proper sanitation, farming and sewing**. Your donations were a great help to realize this project. The construction of the education center will start in spring 2020. We are looking forward to the education center and say: ‘**asante sana**’ for your great support!

Project HOPES



The starting point of the project “Help Oasis for Participation Education Support” (HOPES) was in 2018, when Nadine and Michael met the Tanzanian teacher Christopher Rutuku while they were in the process of constructing the first orphanage in Miono. During their stay in Miono, a reliable contact and helpful exchange about the project work of the orphanage arose due to the remarkable engagement of Christoph’s family who take care of children with disabilities. Christopher and his wife Christina live in a small house together with their four children. It is with much effort that they maintain their standard of living and good educational opportunities for their children.

Despite these circumstances, Chris and Tina accept children with physical disabilities into their family. These children were abandoned by their families or their families asked for help because they could not cope with the disability. The key experience for this decision was when Christopher met a boy with physical disabilities one day, who crawled on the floor looking for some food in the rubbish bin. Christopher couldn’t turn away. This first contact with Ibrahimu, he said, changed his life.



Ibrahimu was the first child that Christopher accepted into his family. After this experience, he decided to give further support to children with physical disabilities. In the community, word got around quickly that he provided guidance for children and families in need. As a result, he got in contact with around twenty children and their families. Before he met Nadine and Michael, Christopher and Tina were on their own without any structured organization. At the beginning of 2019, ELIMU discussed establishing a cooperation with Christopher. He had convinced them of his competence, reliability and impressive self-confidence by handling several tasks in Miono with local authorities. Hans-Peter from ELIMU volunteered to develop the collaboration with Christopher even further. Christopher and Hans-Peter created an overview of what requirements are needed and planned the first steps to fix severe deficiencies of affected children within the newly formed network. Together they decided to name the project “HOPES”.

The project started under the roof of the NGO’s “Elimu” in Germany and “OPAL” in Tanzania. In their list of requirements Christopher highlighted the lack of wheelchairs for children in Tanzania. Research showed that there was a recycling workshop in Arusha which produced individualized wheelchairs made out of local materials. “Mobility Chair” was set up by a technician with impaired mobility. This project is helping to bring assisted mobility to disabled Tanzanian children.

In March 2019 the first three children were equipped with individualized wheelchairs. Nadine and Michael, who were there at the time, monitored the wheelchair production in Arusha and delivered them to Miono. The initial production was funded by volunteering participants of a training seminar that took place at the Fachschule für Sozialpädagogik in Lensahn. The lives for those children changed completely having wheelchairs. Christopher noticed that they now have better opportunities to participate, since they have greater mobility.



In June, ELIMU decided to extend collaboration with the project “HOPES” because of these very positive experiences. As a consequence, the production of further wheelchairs was implemented. Since the other projects in Miono are associated with high costs, Nadine and Michel encouraged Christopher to develop the project “HOPES” into an independent NGO. Christopher convinced them with his competence, well-structured and purposeful work. After a short time he presented a draft statute and prepared an application to become an NGO in Tanzania.

From 6th-8th September, ELIMU met in Fulda for a workshop. Part of the agenda was the collaboration with the project “HOPES”. Charlotte Schmidtke, Steffen Neubauer and Hans-Peter worked on require-

ments, possible solutions and the time-line for the project. Finally they evaluated a **working schedule** that extended the support of children with physical disabilities to visually- and hearing-impaired children. On 31st October, the project **HOPES** became an independent NGO in Tanzania and received the official certificate.

In November, ELIMU decided to support Christopher in establishing the first **HOPES-office** which provides consulting services for children and parents in need. ELIMU also provided funding for further wheelchairs. For this, Christopher created a list of requirements showing that there were 7 children with **reduced mobility**, 5 children with **hearing impairment** (near deafness) and 2 children with **severe visual deficiencies** (unilateral temporary blindness as a consequence of albinism). The list of requirements did not include children who need a simple visual aid or suffer from significant disrupting development. The working plan that evolved during our workshop in Fulda will be further developed in 2020. According to Christopher the number of children in need and parents who approach **HOPES** is increasing constantly. Hans-Peter still works closely with Christopher and is the main contact for supporters, people with new ideas and those who are interested.



Orphanage CHIPOLE



Around 30 children live in the **orphanage Chipole**. Many of them are babies, others are crawling or running around. The older children go to **Kindergarden** or to **preschool**. Their teacher, Sister Aquinata, said that they support around **70 children**. At the age of six, children go to the Primary school nearby and later on to the Secondary School where they live permanently. They usually spend their holidays in the orphanage. Last year, a **guest house** was constructed for the children. It is impressive to see that Sister Aquinata is on top of everything. She knows exactly which child is going to which class and which children go back to their families.

Schools in Chipole have performed well in the regional school assessment. ELIMU still pursues the goal of supporting the orphanage by financing their **personnel costs**. Our wish is to find qualified co-workers, which is a major challenge in the regional set up.

Anke Mikolajetz, a friend of ELIMU, has supported the orphanage since 2012 with her charity organisation "**Kinderdorf Chipole**". We would like to thank Anke for the very pleasant exchange and the lovely pictures that she sent us after her visit in November 2019.



In November a bazar took place in the primary school where Christine teaches. Handicrafts from the pupils as well as our **DOLPHIN bags** were being sold and we raised a sum of 500 Euros which we directly donated to ELIMU. Christine planned the **new collection** of DOLPHIN bags in autumn 2019 and the bags will be available next summer. Nadine took the ideas and patterns of the new bags to Miono in December and handed them over to Flora. Flora sewed diligently and produced the first **prototypes** of the new collection during Nadines' stay in Tanzania. The production will most likely start in February 2020. We are looking forward to the beautiful new bags.

Amongst other things, a **bodybag** and a **shopper** are planned for the new collection.

Nadine also brought back new bags from our current "**Twiga**" collection to Germany and therefore, Christine's storage is full again after having been emptied out within the last few weeks. This makes us happy, of course - every bag sold means we can continue building **DOLPHIN Village**. For more information about our current models please go to www.dolphin-bags.com

For more information about our current projects please go to: www.elimu-ev.de  