



# TUWAPENDE WATOTO

NEWSLETTER MAY 2021

## Dear Friends and Donors,

The annual travel activities of the Tanzanian population during the last days of Christmas and New Year triggered a second wave of the Corona pandemic. Many people fell ill and died, especially in January and February 2021. The President of Tanzania John Magufuli also died in March 2021, officially of heart failure. Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan took over the presidency and promises a different leadership style than her predecessor. She is reviewing the Covid-19 situation and is assuring help, both domestic and from abroad, fighting corruption and she wants to activate the natural resource management. She promotes freedom of the press and wants to create a trustworthy climate for investors and good relations with other countries. We hope that the economy will recover and more jobs will be created.



All children wash their hands with soap before class, after sports, before and after eating and after using the toilets.

We are very happy and reassured that the families in the area take advantage of our educational opportunities despite the difficult economic situation and they continue to enable their children to attend school. This is not a matter of course, since a Helvetas study shows that in many developing countries this worsened economic situation leads to job losses, families have less to eat, have to get into debt and thus there is no money left to send the children to school. It affects girls in particular, who fall through the school system because of this.

In both nursery and primary school, as well as in our vocational school, we take into account the special circumstances of families with financial difficulties and work together to find transitional solutions.

## Orphanage

- Vanessa, Eliza and Gabriel celebrated their confirmation in November. Due to the pandemic, no guests were invited to the celebration. The three confirmed children enjoyed their special day very much, which started with a celebration in the church and ended with a wonderful meal and cake at home.

TUWAPENDE WATOTO





The youngest nursery school children attend the Baby Class. They are lovingly cared for by Montessori nursery teacher Gloria.



Hygiene measures are important to us. Before each bus ride, the students' hands are disinfected.

- All 29 children spent the Christmas and Easter vacations at home. The secondary school students, who attend boarding school, very much appreciate the vacations in the familiar home, with their siblings and mamas.
- Bahati completed her fourth secondary school class in November 2020 with a good exam and qualified for high school, which begins in July 2021. She is looking forward to advancing her next goal, her high school diploma. At the beginning of the year, she attended a basic IT course at our vocational school and then took on tasks in the kitchen and childcare in our children's home.
- Emmanuel will graduate from Baobab Secondary School at the end of May 2021. Due to the pandemic, the graduation ceremony was held without parents and siblings at the end of April.
- We are all very proud of Baraka, he passed the National Examination of the fourth grade in November 2020 with an excellent exam result. Congratulations and many thanks to the siblings who supported him with his homework and exam preparations.
- Some of our children have important exams coming up this year. Nancy and the twins Martha and Maria will take the National Exam for the fourth grade of secondary school.
- Aisha, Vanessa, Eliza and Gabriel will finish elementary school in the fall with the seventh grade National Exam. We wish them all lots of energy, perseverance and good luck.
- Our young children of the Tuwapende Watoto family are also making great progress. Vanessa, Khadija and Brighton attend the second year of nursery school, Samson, Gloria and Eveline are already in pre-unit.

### Nursery school and primary school „Education for a bright future“.

In Tanzania, only 70 percent of children complete elementary school. For every four girls, only one receives a secondary school education. Tuwapende Watoto attaches great importance to the fact that many girls attend our school and can thus benefit from a very good school education. As one of the leading schools in Tanzania, Tuwapende Watoto Primary School enables all children to transfer to secondary school. In this way, we lay the foundation for a good education and a self-determined life.

- With 743 children, 42 more than in the previous year, the new school year started in mid-January at the Tuwapende Watoto Nursery and Primary School. 386 girls and 357 boys attend the three double classes in the nursery school and the seven classes in the primary school, which are also double and in some cases already triple.
- Both teachers and students were very aware of the threat of the pandemic. Daily information about Corona was given before classes started and the most important rules such as washing hands, wearing face masks, keeping distance, etc. were repeated. We are very happy that no teachers and school children fell ill with the Corona virus.
- The very good results of the National Examination of the fourth grades were a great success for Tuwapende Watoto Primary School. Out of the 71 students, 56 children passed the exam with the maximum grade A and 15 children with the grade B. We congratulate the 33 girls and 38 boys for this great achievement. In Dar es Salaam district Kinondoni our school ranked 10th out of 113 schools and also nationwide our school achieved once again a top position with rank 317 out of 14'514 schools. The National Exam is a measure of the quality of education. We are very proud of the results.
- The 26 girls and 24 boys in the seventh grade also passed an excellent National Exam in October 2020. Nationwide, our school placed in the top three percent and in the Kinondoni District, it ranked 13<sup>th</sup> out of 107 schools. It is extremely gratifying that all students successfully completed elementary school and were able to begin their secondary school education in early January 2021.





Nursery school children enjoy their snack in the new patio.



Our apprentices can choose from eight different vocational apprenticeships in the dual education system. We have workshops with an excellent infrastructure.

- We would like to express our sincere thanks to the principal and the teachers, who with their tireless efforts competently taught the students the material of the Tanzanian curriculum and ensured the high standard of education with additional lessons.
- On December 12, 2020, the highlight of the school year for the students of the Pre-Unit took place. 37 girls and 28 boys received their certificates for the transfer to the first primary school grade. Together with their parents, they enjoyed the day with dancing and performances. We are happy to be able to offer these children an excellent basic education for the next seven years.
- We have the painful duty to inform about the passing of our beloved nursery school teacher Caroline Mohamed. She passed away at 39 years old, on February 15, 2021. Caroline was married and the mother of a five year old daughter. She was a very talented nursery school teacher who expertly and very lovingly cared for the children for many years. Playful learning, music, singing and dancing were very important to her. The nursery school children as well as the parents and our school administration loved her and the staff appreciated her very much.

## Vocational school

After completing secondary school, we enable young adults from our neighboring villages to attend a two- or three-year apprenticeship at our vocational school. Here, too, more than half of the apprentices in the eight professions are young women. We offer the following apprenticeships in the dual education system: tailor, gardener, baker / cook, electrician, electronics technician, hairdresser, plumber and computer scientist.

- 45 apprentices successfully completed their two-year dual vocational training at the end of 2020. We are proud that almost all of our apprentices found employment immediately. Some went into business for themselves, others signed up for the third year of their apprenticeship. Many companies that offered the young adults a three-month internship hired them after they completed their apprenticeship.
- In May 2021, we will expand our offer with an additional apprenticeship for house electricians. After successfully completing their apprenticeship, they can use this additional year of training to become industrial electricians (heavy current). In Tanzania there is a lack of this specialist knowledge and our graduates will certainly find interesting employment. The necessary heavy current infrastructure was installed in the last months and was certified by VETA (Vocational and Education Training Authority).
- In cooperation with the Solafrica Foundation, we also train our electrician and electronics apprentices in solar technology. With the „renewable energy“ project, we give residents in our area access to light and charging power with small, self-built solar systems. Access to energy, even if it is only a solar-powered lamp at the beginning, will give students the opportunity to complete tasks in the evening as well, thus preparing them for a secure future with improved school performance. Likewise, a lamp in the house is eminently important for observing hygiene measures.
- The recruitment of apprentices is very complex. The offer of the vocational schools is still too little known. In March 2021, we welcomed 52 apprentices for the first year of their apprenticeship. We continue to work on a better utilization of the individual classes. Many families can hardly afford the school fees for their young adults due to the economic crisis caused by the pandemic.
- On April 24, we organized an „Open Day“. All interested people from neighboring villages, secondary school students and their teachers were given an insight into our workrooms and learned about our dual vocational training. 182 adults and over 100 secondary school students visited the excellently organized day. A repeat of this event is planned for the fall.
- It happens again and again that students have to discontinue their training, whether for family reasons, financial problems in the family or pregnancies. We expanded our contact point for these cases in order to be able to offer more help to the affected learners. On April 23, a course was held with external speakers on the topic of sex education and family planning.



During his volunteer work, our volunteer Florian supported the coordinator of the vocational school with numerous constructive suggestions and their implementation.



On our open day, all interested visitors were given an insight into our workshops.

- In mid-April 2021, ground was broken for the fifth building at the vocational school. We expect construction activities to end and the classrooms to be handed over to school operations in mid-December 2021.
- In the new vocational school building we will offer the training course for two-wheel mechanics. Furthermore, we will offer young people who have not passed the national exam of the 4<sup>th</sup> secondary school the possibility to repeat the 4<sup>th</sup> secondary school grade and to graduate with the National Exam. For many vocational apprenticeships, this qualification is mandatory. We will use the multi-purpose room in the basement as both a dining room and a theory room.

## Three month of voluntary work at Tuwapende Watoto

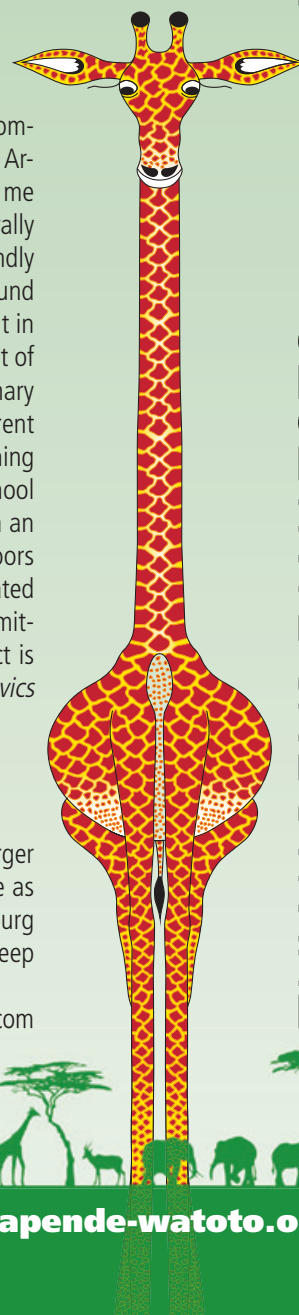
With a negative Corona test in my luggage, I set off for Tanzania. The trip took longer and was a bit more complicated than usual before the pandemic. I was picked up at the airport and driven directly to the orphanage. Arriving a bit overtired, the mamas greeted me with friendliness and warmth. After a short tour, they introduced me to all the children. They were very happy that a volunteer was there again to play and fool around. I was literally overrun, climbed on and examined from every side out of curiosity. I was quite overwhelmed by this friendly reception and felt welcome right away. The little kids are especially sweet as sugar and love to be carried around or explore the area hand in hand with you. I was able to get involved very quickly, whether it was helping out in the kitchen, doing the little ones' homework or playing with them. As soon as the whole gang of rascals is out of the house, some peace returns. While the mamas are busy with the daily chores, I got involved first at the primary school and later at the vocational school, where my help was needed. The cultural exchange and the different worldviews were the most exciting for me. I spent many hours in conversations with teachers about everything and anything and together we tried every day to achieve the best for Tuwapende Watoto. The vocational school is something very unique for Tanzania. I have visited other vocational schools in the area, but none has such an infrastructure. The students are offered an unbelievably good education, which will most certainly open the doors to a better future for them. It was not always easy, because sometimes there were conflicts, but after heated discussions we could always laugh together. I can only warmly recommend the experience and the commitment to Tuwapende Watoto to everyone who wants to get involved and help in a good project. The project is something unique and sustainable thanks to the tireless work of Mama Ruth and Baba Beat. *Florian Paukovics*

## Förderverein e.V. Tuwapende Watoto Deutschland (Germany)

We would also like to report about the German support association. We were able to transfer the first larger amount to Switzerland, which makes us very happy. Due to the ongoing pandemic events cannot take place as we would like them to. We very much hope to have an information booth at this year's Alafia Festival in Hamburg in August/September. However, it is still uncertain if and in which frame this event can take place. We will keep our fingers crossed and hope to be able to report on participation in the next newsletter. Stay healthy!

Sincerely Ann-Kristin Schulz

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The teaching staff of our vocational school.



The groundbreaking for the fifth building of the vocational school was in mid-April.

### New payment slip with QR code

For the first time, the payment slip with QR code is enclosed with this newsletter. As before, you can make your donation via online banking, mobile app of your financial institution, payment order or also at the bank counter. Those who use online banking or mobile banking will benefit most from the QR bill. The QR code can be easily scanned with a QR scanner or the scanner of the mobile app of your financial institution and executed with one click after entering the amount.

More payment methods for donations via our website Tuwapende Watoto.

On the donation page of our homepage, we now offer payment options via PayPal, credit card, Twint and PostFinance. Your payment data goes directly through RaiseNow, a partner certified by the credit card industry (PCI DSS). Our service providers are only allowed to use the information to fulfill their tasks and are obliged to comply with data protection regulations. The donation is received in trust by the FairGive association and forwarded directly to Tuwapende Watoto.

**Donations via online banking or mobile banking do not incur any fees.  
Your entire donation can be used effectively in Tanzania.**

### Many thanks for the great help with inestimable value

Since my last visit in October 2020, we have continued to communicate with our local employees on the internet-based communication platforms. Our employees in senior positions are aware of their responsibilities and are working in a focused manner to achieve our defined goals and tasks. We would like to express our sincere thanks for their exceptional performance.

The care and education of the children and young adults of our Tuwapende Watoto family, the support of students from families in need, the further education of our employees as well as the furnishing of the workrooms of the vocational school are only possible for us thanks to the long-standing and very much appreciated support of our numerous private donors, of associations and organizations, the Wyler-Anderson Foundation, the Dr. Rau Foundation, the Rotary Club Zurich-Airport, the IMS Sport AG, Off Limits Solutions SA and the association „Bildung gegen Armut (Education against Poverty)“. The very generous support of the Swissair Staff Foundation for Children in Need, the Tibetania Foundation, the Migros Support Fund, the Fondation Gertrude Hirzel, the Esperanza Foundation and netpulse AG will allow us to build the additional school building for the vocational school.

On behalf of the board of trustees, I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Tuwapende Watoto ambassadors for their much appreciated support. They give our foundation many days of volunteer work in Switzerland and Tanzania every year.

The Foundation Board, the Ambassadors, the children and the staff in Tanzania would like to thank you very much for the trust you have placed in us. We will continue to use your donations purposefully, respectfully and carefully

With kind regards,

Ruth Buetikofer, president of the board of trustees

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