



NEWSLETTER November 2020 Kisedet



ORGAN OF INFORMATION OF KISEDET KIGWE SOCIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING AND TANZANIA ONLUS GROUP

Chigongwe project: where we are

Dear friends, here are our **Kisedet** updates, as well as the main news from Tanzania and Italy, thanks to our Italian counterpart **Gruppo Tanzania Onlus**



1. In Chigongwe (a long-term boarding house for street children and teens) we are working on our Multimedia House. It was first conceived as a guest house, but, featuring a room where kids can study, play, have recreational activity (yoga, meditation, art therapy etc...), we decided to change its name. As anticipated, the Multimedia House is an improvement to our Responsible Tourism project "Let's meet under the baobab". Plus, it will also be a refuge for the many Dodoma citizens looking forward to a peaceful weekend right outside the city, after a frantic working week in the Tanzanian capital. The income will allow us to sustain other projects. In Chigongwe we already have two house buildings where we host 22 children, a canteen with kitchen, a house with an office for the staff, and additional buildings for animal breeding. The centre

was connected to the power net and we made an artesian well for domestic use and for the irrigation of our plants. We are planning to increase the structure as soon as we collect more funds. Thanks to our friends in "Progetto Agata Smeralda" in Florence for supporting this project.

2. Always in Chigongwe, we are starting a fruit and wood plant nursery, some fish-breeding pools, an agricultural project with a greenhouse and farm animals breeding. The kids are enthusiastic about working on these projects. Yoga and meditation courses are also active three times a week. The children adore them and follow the lessons with love and dedication. They also receive art therapy, which is an important meditation exercise itself (see zen circles). We are planning to promote a few activities this year: chicken and ducks breeding, fish breeding (project financed by "Arcobaleno su Tanzania" in Gallipoli (LE)), vegetable growing in greenhouse and field, 3 hectares field for sorghum, corn, sunflower, cassava and peanuts, growing of fruit and wood plants, use of the carpentry workshop for educational and production goals, together with the government schools of the Chigongwe village. Our goal is to build experience and technical know-how for the benefit both of the Kisedet association, and our children, hence the small dimension of these micro-projects and the low initial investment they require. Once we have consolidated the basic skills and knowledge, Kisedet will aim to enhance these activities, or introduce new projects (such as beekeeping or grapefruit breeding). Our goal is to lead the children to a mentality of self-sustainment and management capability, independent from external help.

SUPPORT KISEDET PROJECTS

You can make your donation through
a payment to

Tanzania Group Onlus - Via Sen .A. Carminati 28-
24053 Brignano Gera d'Adda BG

By Wire Transfer: Banca di Credito Cooperativo
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N ° 70264452

Reason: specify the activity you support

Family reunification

Family reunification: you already know that KISEDET's goal is to reunite children and teenagers with their families. In 2020, 40 kids reunited with their families, all of them spent some time either in "Shukurani", our short-term structure, or "Chigongwe", the long-time boarding house. These kids have all lived on the streets for a period. When they arrive at KISEDET, if both the kids and their families agree, we proceed with immediate reunification, otherwise they are welcomed in Chigongwe until the situation is safe enough for them to go home. They will keep studying, and start a new life with their family. We will not forget any of them, and we hope they won't forget us as well. That's why Gruppo Tanzania Onlus and KISEDET advocate collective support instead of single supports, as, working a lot with temporary situations (which



can be real emergencies sometimes: some girls, for example, were sexually abused in their families, so they were taken by social services and needed a temporary shelter, while waiting to be relocated with other relatives), a single support is somewhat less meaningful. Instead, a collective support is really helpful to support our projects and boarding houses, to help more and more children. KISEDET also supports government schools by improving infrastructures (classrooms) and providing learning material, desks,

and, in the Hombolo school, bunk beds for the hostel for disabled children. Through a collective support, you will help all of these children, instead of a few privileged ones. KISEDET, always cooperating closely with the government, is starting a pilot project for temporary custody. We'll hopefully provide more information in the next newsletter.



Kilimanjaro burns

The roof of Africa (mount Kilimanjaro) is burning. Our mountain has been burning for weeks, and the fire was really vast and difficult to tame because of the altitude. It might have been ignited by a cigarette from a tourist or a poacher. The point is, nature is revolting against us, progressively taking the toll for the years of mistreatment and rape (excuse me the strong term) from mankind. The fire started on Sunday, October

11th at dusk. October 14th is Nyerere Day, the day we celebrate our Father of the nation, Julius Kambarage Nyerere. We all prayed that JKN took a look down to his country, and turned off the fire before serious damage was done. On October 16th, there have been rumors that the bushfire was caused by a group of tourists camping, or maybe by farmers cleaning the fields to get ready for the sowing (kubelega, that's where my name Kigogo Mbeleje comes from) and thus setting fire to the stubbles. This is a very dangerous procedure, already banned by the government, especially in harsh areas like Kilimanjaro, or forest areas. The problem is, at that altitude, strong winds and dry bush facilitate the propagation of the flames.

Bank Coordinates for donations (pl. specify name of project/activity supported)

Banca Credito Cooperativo di Caravaggio Adda e Cremasco
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Covid19 in Africa

Africa has managed (up to now) to avoid the most devastating stages of the pandemic that, according to some experts, should have brought the continent down on its knees. Unexplicably, densely populated slums and risky hygienic conditions have not favored the spreading of the virus as expected. Scientists have ventured a few hypothesis on why this happened: for example, the low average age of Africans (which results in more asymptomatic cases), some sort of pre-existent immunity, deriving from infections from other viruses, hot climate (but Brasil is hot, too...). Nowadays the whole continent counts one million and a half infections (the figure includes healed and deceased persons) over 1 billion and 300 thousands inhabitants. Even multiplying the cases by 10 (as we don't have so many tampons as in the Western world), the percentage would still be low. Africa is known to have battled

pandemics before and maybe that's the reason why the virus didn't strike that hard here. We are living our life exactly as we did before Covid. We wore face masks for a while, but nobody is doing that anymore now. If Covid was so widespread, contagious and lethal as it is said to be, there should be signs of that – but that is not. In Africa, there is something that stops it, we don't know whether we should call it God or what else, but that's the way it is, and Tanzanians are sure that God loves us. If I ask: OK, but why should God hate Europe or the USA?, they answer: because they hurt us in the past, and God is having his revenge now. My tailor pleads me to not let my daughter back to Italy, to leave her here, where she was born and grown. So, Africa for now is getting off pretty well, and let's hope things stay this way; we have no certainty but at least up to now WHO got it all wrong about Africa!

Welcome Cristina

Welcome Maria Cristina, our new informatic expert for the websites of Gruppo Tanzania and KISEDET. Thanks Giulia for getting through to her and convincing her to start this solidarity process with us. We still need volunteers, notably someone skilful in

creating online events on special occasions and festivities, and keeping our online shop lively. If this is your background, please get in touch soon! Thanks Arianna and Gianni, whose work allows us to publish our newsletter.

Civil services

KISEDET was always very careful in avoiding to host volunteers aiming to “volontourism”: which means, literally, taking thousands of selfies with the children, playing with them for one month, and then disappear, making them face the trauma of abandonment once more. I have always thought that we don't need people with a “super-white-man-syndrome”: people who think they are coming to save Africa, thoroughly unprepared because, in their vision, “Africa needs everything”; this is wrong. Be prepared and motivated before travelling to Africa. Please don't choose Africa as a target for your own narcissism, but be ready to receive more than you thought you would give. Unfortunately, volunteers often think they know about Africa more than the natives themselves. They think they have everything to teach and nothing to learn, and that's the wrong way to cooperate. With time and experience, I realized that KISEDET has so much to give, that our concept of cooperation and mutual knowledge could be appreciated by young, willing and determined people looking for a new way to volunteer, different from whatever they have been told. These boys and girls are also ready to receive, not just give, and maybe they have understood, at last, that charity takes nowhere, apart from inflating our own ego. So, why not to host trained boys and girls from civil service (not “volontourists”), and breed them to a new vision of Africa and cooperation – OUR vision? Next year we will probably host two civil services in our new Multimedia House Mwalimu Nyerere in Chigongwe, and we are looking forward to this new experience!

10 desks to Mlowa

We donated 10 desks to Mlowa primary government school in the town of Itigi, and two bunk beds with four mattresses to the government school in Hombolo, that welcomes children with disabilities.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

who have free time to devote to the activities of the Tanzania Group. Report your availability to the e-mail address info@gruppotanzaniaonlus.org – We will contact you to propose the most suitable activities for you.

Responsible Tourism, why?

Classic" tourism has an annual worldwide turnover of \$ 2,300 billion and, together with satellite activities, it reaches \$ 7,500 billion, that is almost 10% of world GDP (2015 Data Wttc - World travel & tourist council).

It ranks third after oil & gas and military industry and since 2014 it has exceeded the revenues of the automotive industry. Let it be clear about that, it is a legal reality that respects the laws of all Countries, but it is also true that sustainability, solidarity and fairness are not things that tourism should be responsible for.

Let's go into more detail: we can estimate that, taking into consideration a standard trip to Tanzania (Northern Parks & Zanzibar), less than 10% of the expenditure remains in the African territory (Studio Mambo View Point). This is because airlines, tour operators, safari organizations and resorts are owned by foreign companies.

We repeat, everything is legitimate, but how many tourists do know it?

Responsible Tourism can be categorized by three words: conscious, sustainable and fair. In other words, the tourist is informed of the trip typology, the project is respectful of

local people and environment and it tries to leave most of the resources in the nation you visit.

Our last trip ensured that 71% of the money spent by travelers remained in Tanzania and half of this (35%) directly financed local communities that support the territory with projects concerning hospitality, education, health, agriculture and microcredit.

By traveling with us you can experience first-hand how Kisedet ONG works, you will visit our projects in Dodoma and Chigongwe, you will be able to see how Social Workers work and spend time with the guests of our shelter homes. Then your holiday will continue with a journey through Tanzania where you will have the opportunity to visit natural parks, go on a safari, spend a few days by the ocean or in Zanzibar. All this by visiting and being guests of Tanzanian companies operating in the area. Throughout the journey you will be attended by a cultural mediator who will allow you to learn about reality directly, without filters, without stereotypes and false pietism.

It is a different way of traveling that always leaves something unforgettable in the heart and soul.

We are waiting for you. Safari Njema

E mail info@gruppotanzaniaonlus.org

LONG-DISTANCE SUPPORT

300,00 Euro a year

A sum relatively small for a European worker, but which has great value in Tanzania. With this contribution you will guarantee schooling, food and medical care for a child in need.

Make a deposit on the

Post office account: 70264452

Made out to: GRUPPO TANZANIA ONLUS

Via Sen. A. Carminati, 28 – 24053 Brignano Gera d'Adda (BG)

In the motive box (Causale) write the code of the child you are supporting. The transfer is tax-deductible.

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Graphic project and creation: Offmedia – To send documentation, photos and articles: arianna@offmedia.it

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