

Carmen Raabs:

Erlebnisbericht:



Hilfsprojekt Nambala-help

—

„Meine Arbeit und mein Leben
bei Freunden in Tansania!“

27. August bis 9. Oktober 2014

Diary of a journey:

week 1: August 27 – September 5

My name is Carmen Raabs. Actually I am going to college at the University of Leipzig. I am majoring in special education needs. But right now I am on summer break. Therefore I am able to spend the next six weeks with family Mshana in Nambala and get to know the work of your project on site. I am looking forward to this time and want to use this blog to share my experiences with you. But before I get started I want to talk about the reasons why I am doing this.

My family is involved in a small association which gives similar assistance in Belarus compared to what you are doing here in Nambala. Together with a partner organization at site we support the children and families, who are affected by the nuclear catastrophe of Tschernobyl in 1986. We sponsor children and use donations to support schools and other facilities. Due to that and due to my Christian faith the eye for people, who are not as well, is very important to me. When Anne, Patrick and Baraka visited Germany in spring they also went to the workshop for people with special needs of Diakonie Westsachsen in Werdau, Saxony. There they met my dad. He was very enthusiastic and told me about their encounter, the work of Nambala and the Usa River Rehabilitation Center. That's how I found out about your work and I wanted to use my time during summer to get to know everything and support you on site. I am very happy that Ecki and family Mshana made this possible. And now I'm here.



After Ecki and Baraka had given me a warm welcome at the airport on August 27, we drove to the house of family Mshana. Already the drive was a very special experience. At the moment it is dry season in Tanzania and you can see that everywhere. The ground is so dry that while driving the cars swirl up so much dust, because most streets – especially in the villages – are not tarred. It's a completely different world and so many things were new for me. Many people live in shacks or smallest houses. The kitchen and toilet you can find outside the houses. The women usually cook over an open fire. After spending the first day with the family (Everyone is so kind!!!), Baraka, Ecki and I drove through the villages on the next day. We were at Kikwe Secondary School. About six hundred students starting at age fourteen learn there in four classes. The certificate they get at graduation is comparable to our German secondary school certificate. During the last year unfortunately more than 90% didn't pass this examination. Although once you see the conditions under which they have to study, this is not as surprising anymore. For me it is really hard to imagine but each day many students have to walk more than 4 km to school – some of them even 10 – 15 km!

There is a hostel close to the school. Students who come from further away can live there. But there is not enough room for everyone. The students living there have to „live“ under shocking conditions. In the girls' dormitory more than 59 girls sleep in a house not bigger than 50 or 60m².

The rooms are overfilled with beds. The space lasts for maybe 15 bunk beds and you can hardly move. They hang their clothes on the trees so they can dry. Their personal belongings they put in small metal boxes. It would be so important to build a new hostel with better conditions!!! We also visited the school building which is going to be renovated. During the next weeks I will visit the school on a regular basis and document the progress of the construction work. Additionally we went to the new built community center. It looks very nice with the tiles on the floor. The rooms are still empty and it will be another while until the computers can be set up because the passing main road needs to be asphalted first. This is supposed to happen until the end of this year.



After Ecki had left again for Germany on August 29, Baraka and I spent some time this weekend updating the questionnaires, which Annika had created in 2012. Together with Gabriel, one of Baraka's friends, we created a database where the collected data will be filled in and analyzed

afterwards. With the help of these questionnaires we can figure out the current life circumstances of families, their individual needs and come up with measures of further support. In there we also asked whether a family is member of the microfinance group, whether they received dairy goats and what happened to these goats.



This week I spent visiting families in the closer area. Godlove Akiyoo, one of the supported orphans came with me and translated the questions into Kiswahili so I was able to talk to the families. I am trying really hard to learn the language as fast as possible but so far what I know is not helping with more than small talk and some simple sentences. But I still have a couple of weeks, right? ;-) We were walking five to six hours a day and I was happy that for most of the time it was

pretty cloudy, so the walking was very easy to take. ☺ Among others we went to family Kisanga in Manyire and I was able to give Anna the backpack, her sponsor Marita Bullmann had sent with Ecki.



On Thursday, September 4, Baraka and I went to one of the weekly meetings of microfinance group. Afterwards we drove to Kikwe Secondary School to take a look at the construction work. The building will be renovated from the top to the bottom. When we came the workers were painting the roof with a special color to prevent it from rusting. We will document the progress of the reconstruction work taking pictures and making videos during the next weeks.

Today (Friday, September 5) I was also at the preschool in Nambala to hand over the presents. There children were so happy! They were singing for me and said a big thank you.



Maybe that's enough for now. My second „diary entry“ will follow soon. From now on you will hear from me by the end of each week. To be honest with you, it is unbelievable how fast time flies. When I first arrived, I thought six weeks would be a pretty long time. But when Baraka starts talking about all the things he still wants to get done, while I am here, I am curious whether those six weeks will be enough at all. Either way I am very happy to be able to be here and to be given this warm welcome. You will hear from me soon!

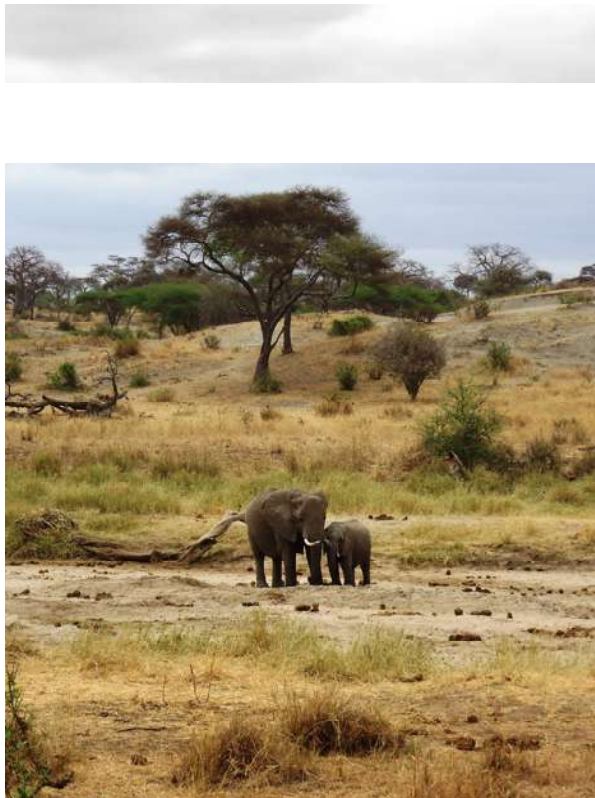
Carmen

Diary of a journey:

week 2: September 6 – 12

Mambo! Another week has passed already. It is crazy how the time flies. One of the reasons for that is probably that there is always so much happening around here.

For this last week we had initially planned to continue visiting the families. But Godlove's break is over so he had to go back to school and couldn't accompany me. But that was not really a problem, because the construction work at Kikwe kept me pretty busy. There was not much time left for other tasks. But before I want to continue writing more about the renovation, I want to share my amazing weekend with you.



On Saturday, September 6, Baraka picked me up at 05:30 a.m. and together with his wife Tamari we headed to Tarangire National Park. Baraka's cousin Ernest, his wife Riziki and their son Daniel accompanied us. For someone like me, who had only seen wild animals of this kind and size in zoos before, it was an indescribably amazing experience. ☺ We saw so many animals: buffalos, wildebeests, gazelles, lions, giraffes, zebras, elephants, warthogs and even a big python. Baraka's cousin knows so much about animals, because he works in this sector and he has a really good eye for seeing animals, who are very far away, just by driving past them.

On the way there we saw many Maasai bomas (small villages where the Maasai live) and could see what it means for some people to walk kilometers over kilometers, only to reach the next water hole and bring a bucket of water. Ernest asked me about the "ice bucket challenge", which is present in any kind of media and social networks at the moment. He

said that these people here have to deal with a whole different kind of "bucket challenge" ...

On Monday, September 8, it was my intention to go to Kikwe Secondary School together with Tamari in the morning to meet and get to know those students, whom we support. We also wanted to collect information about their current performance and challenges for our database. Unfortunately Tamari had gotten a bad flu and we had to cancel the meeting at the school. But I used the unexpected free time to wash my clothes.

Of course I didn't use a washing machine. I was washing outside and used two washbowls filled with cold water. Since it had been raining every once in a while during the last couple of days, some of my clothes had become pretty dirty. So it took me a while and I had to scrub to get everything clean again. It took me about the same time a washing machine would need for one wash cycle, but it was a tad harder!!! ;-)

Monday evening I drove back to Kikwe together with Baraka to get to know the construction supervisor and to have a look at the current status of the work. The building is going to be renovated from the top to the bottom. After the workers had colored the roof last week, they had

also started to color the inner walls during the last couple of days. Following that they wanted to put tiles into the rooms.

But the workers discovered a problem before they could start applying the tiles, which the construction supervisor explained to us that evening. Apparently while initially building the school there had been used a substandard cement, which was not hard and stable enough to apply tiles on it.



Therefore this material had to be taken out first and new cement had to be reapplied. That work started on Monday. But by then the painting had already begun which is the reason why the rooms were being painted first and then the floor had to be rebuilt instead of doing it the other way round.

On Tuesday, September 9, I got the chance to learn more about the Usa River Rehabilitation Center when I visited it. I was very interested in doing so due to my college studies. I was able to get insight on their work on site and I was allowed to shadow two different classes during that day. In the late afternoon I met Baraka and the construction supervisor in their café “Tanz-Hands“. They introduced to me their estimated budget for the construction and we talked about further necessary steps. One of the current relevant topics are the boards, which we want to buy. It’s not really a problem but boards, like we know them in Germany, are simply not available here. We probably have to get them made.

The next day I drove to Kikwe again, to see what had been done so far. I noticed some minor faults, which had occurred during painting. I talked to the construction supervisor about them and



he assured me, they would be corrected as soon as the last coat of paint would be applied. Obviously they won’t apply that last layer until all the “dirty” work is finished.

Thursday, September 11, was a pretty filled day. In the morning the construction supervisor (his name is Joseph) and I drove to Arusha Town to pick out the tiles and buy a part of them. Following that we drove to Usa River to buy 40 bags of cement. I accompanied the workers transporting the cement to Kikwe and was present when they unloaded the lorry. As always I took pictures and videos during this visit. Unfortunately so far Ecki and I couldn’t manage to give him access to my Dropbox. Therefore I am trying to insert some pictures into this journal.

Besides painting the walls the workers had also started to aerate the soil and to expose the foundation of the

building, that there can be tiles applied on the sides as well. The building is now ready so that they can start with applying the tiles.



Baraka and I spent the afternoon of that day planning the next couple of weeks. I also created a document for Ecki which shows in detail, what amounts of money have been used so far, for what and what still needs to be paid.

Today (Friday, September 12) I initially wanted to meet with Baraka's friend Gabriel to fill in the first amount of collected data into the database and match the related pictures. Unfortunately he had an important meeting cropping up in his schedule so we had to postpone ours. So after again being at Kikwe in the morning (thy applying of the tiles has started. – Everything is being done very tidily with a bubble lever and spacors.). I spent the rest of the day bringing the rest of the pictures in ordner, naming them and match them to the questionnaires. I also named all the pictures of the construction work, so I can hand them over to Ecki when I am back in Germany. And, of course, I also wrote this text. All in all it was a very busy day on the computer. 😊

And for that, I've also come to the end of this journal. To draw a small conclusion: The work is going well. If we can continue like this, the school building will be finished by the end of September. You will hear from me again at the end of next week!

Carmen

Diary of a journey:

week 3: September 13 – 19

Last week was again a very eventful one. First of all, on Saturday, September 13, I went to church with Baraka, which was a very interesting experience. There it is different from us, the service lasts around three hours and consists of various parts. Baraka explained various things to me and it was a very nice time. Afterwards we met some of his friends in front of the church. I'm realizing that I've been here for quite a while now, because I'm able to recognize more and more faces and match them with the fitting names and families. That's a very nice feeling!! Besides I also had a very funny experience, when after the service some children came running towards me from everywhere and within all the hugging and shaking hands they didn't even want to let go of me again. By now it's nothing unusual anymore, that randomly children come running towards me and call me "Mzungu", when we are on our way through the villages. But this much curiosity was new. Honestly, I kind of felt like an exhibition piece in a museum, because I had the feeling that every child wanted to explore one part of me very carefully. Whether that was my hair or my clothes, didn't matter. It was very funny and all of us had a great time.

I also visited Kikwe Secondary School for several times again. At the moment the students are on midterm break, which means they have a one week of vacation, and the construction work is going very well. The tiles are being applied and on Monday, September 15, two rooms were finished already.



On Tuesday I was there again with Joseph the construction supervisor. We measured the outside corridor and tried to calculate how many boxes of tiles we still need. Yet the same day the still needed material (tiles, cement, scarting and metal stair noising) was bought and delivered in the evening, so that the work on the tiles should be finished soon. The work is being done neatly. Some smaller errors, which I noticed, were already removed.

Furthermore Baraka and I faced a problem with some students this week which had occurred earlier. After the news had been spread, that the building is going to be renovated, some students apparently used this as a reason to not treat the rooms as carefully as before. Due to that some extra costs had risen and we absolutely wanted to do something to prevent a behavior like this in the future and to show the students corresponding consequences at the same time. I think, that this is only about some few students, but still we don't want to support behavior like this by leaving it unnoticed.



Therefore we met with the districts education officer for all secondary schools in Kikwe ward on Wednesday, September 17. Such a sympathetic woman! In the beginning of the meeting we introduced our work to her and invited her to the inauguration of the school building in November. Afterwards I could describe to her our problem in detail and show her the possible consequence that we cannot further support Kikwe if behavior like that occurred again in the future. She understood and ensured us her support which will be of great help, because in her position she can greatly influence teachers and students. We also thoughts of ways how to include the students in the work and show them in a sense of “helping them to help themselves” that they can be part of the progress. All these ideas are going to be discussed in a first conversation with the teachers at Kikwe next week. Following that she greatly thanked all the German sponsors for their support.

In the second half of last week Tamari, Baraka and I visited several families who live further away, collected data about their current living circumstances and took pictures. I am always very moved by these visits. Often families can report joyful things like improving their living standard with the help of the dairy goat project or a small credit from microfinance group. Also always very touching are the various words and gestures of gratitude, which are shown to me and which I want to pass on to all of you at this point. These visits always show me how important it is to invest into the education of our children. Here education affects your living standard in a greater way than it does in Germany, since there is not the same kind of social insurance system. What moves me most is how hard it is for children, living in really poor families. For them it is so hard to break out of this circle. Most of them have to overcome such hard circumstances to learn successfully. Halima Musa for example, one of the students at Kikwe Secondary School, told me that being the only girl at home she has to help her mother so much that there is hardly any time for studying during the day. If it is possible at all to study in the evening, then only by using candles which often cause headaches. Or we meet families like the one of Anita Cuthbeth, where six people live



and sleep in only one room with only one bed and without a single window!

And still these people have a warm and positive attitude towards life, which amazes me!!!

Besides my work for FRI-SUCODE I helped Anne and Patrick with harvesting the maize this week. Our whole back yard is filled with maize – maize kernels, cobs, maize plants, no matter where you look.



Together with Tamari I also went to the markets at Arusha and Tengeru, for one reason I wanted to get a feeling for current prices of groceries and I also wanted to buy some things. Because tonight (Friday, September 19) I want to make German potato salad for everyone. Anne, Patrick and Baraka still rave about the potato salad they ate in Germany. We'll see whether the salad I'm making tonight will be just as tasty – but this time Tanzanian ingredients are being used. ☺ That also why I have to stop writing now, I need to finish preparing the salad, so we can eat soon.

You will hear from me soon,
Best wishes,
Carmen



Diary of a journey

week 4: September 20 – 26

I am so sorry! This time my weekly journal reaches you very late. This was caused by the fact that last week was very special to me. My dad came to visit us and we spent the whole weekend on Safari. When he had met family Mshana in Germany, they invited him to come see them in Tanzania soon. That it would be this soon, none of us would have imagined at first, but personally I think it is great, because this way I don't have to fly back home all by myself and hopefully that way it will also be easier to say goodbye. It is crazy, I already write about saying goodbye while it sometimes feels like I only arrived a little while ago. Sometimes I feel really torn apart. Then I don't know whether to be happy or sad about leaving. Of course I can't wait to see everyone again back at home, especially my fiancée whom I missed soooooo much during the last weeks, but on the other hand there is still so much to do here and the people I've met have



grown dear to me, especially Baraka and his family. It is great to work with them and everytime I see what Baraka does for the association everyday **WHILE STILL HAVING HIS REGULAR JOB** it's simply incredible and I can only admire him for that!

That my stay here is coming to an end I also realize through the fact that my weeks are getting fuller and fuller. We are trying to use time as effectively as possible – which under Tanzanian circumstances can sometimes be a

little challenging ;-) But you'll hear more about that soon.



On Saturday after church I went swimming together with Tamari and Baraka. Close to Usa there is an old lodge with a pool, which is being filled with water for the weekends so you can go swimming there. Annika had suggested that I should go there by any chance (The man, who is taking care of everything there asked me about you! ☺) And it was worth it! We could relax very nicely and also the weather was great!

Sunday, September 21, I spent again with Godlove. We were able to visit some families, but this time we didn't walk only. Besides Nambala we also went to Sing'isi and Maji Ya Chai. This way I had the „pleasure“ of going to Tengeru by motor cycle. Those of you who know the road also know what I am talking about. For those of you who don't I would describe it to be a VERY bad

road which has so many holes and bumps in it. ;-) Our drivers didn't worry very much about that, they had some good speed riding their bikes, which sometimes caused me to hold on VERY tightly. In the evening Baraka and I had another meeting. This time it was with Cuthbert, a good friend of Baraka. Together with Baraka's sister Naka he is working in the second project of FRI-SUCODE which takes place at Babati. From what Cuthbert already told us about their work I was impressed and amazed and I am very happy that I get to go there on Monday next week, to see and get to know everything on site.

At the moments it's not so easy to plan our activities long term. Baraka doesn't have his car. Two weeks ago he brought it to the work shop because there were some minor things which needed to be fixed. But then the workers did more things than those they had agreed on, which caused extra costs, which weren't planned at first. And up until now there hasn't happened much. They simply don't give back

Baraka's car!!
Something like that would not even be imaginable for us in Germany...
Due to that it happens more often that I'm doing things on my own. But that is not a problem at all. By now I've adapted to everything and I'm able to figure



things out on my own. ☺ But often both of us depend on public transport and then it is not so easy to match times reliably – I mean it can happen that you have to wait for 45 minutes or an hour until the bodaboda driver arrives and busses need shorter or longer time depending on the traffic and the route. There is also no set bus schedule like in Germany, you know? ☺

Monday morning I went to Kikwe first. Baraka and I wanted to meet the teachers there to talk to them about how to react to the activities of some students, which I had talked about in my last report. Prior to that Baraka, Joseph and I had collected ideas, which we wanted to introduce and discuss together. But I had to wait for quite a while, which I could use well to take a close look at the work that had been done so far and to take lots of pictures and videos. I hadn't been there for a couple of days and therefore various things had changed since my last visit. The workers had

started to apply the scarting to the inner walls of the rooms and to apply tiles in the outside corridor. But I notices some things I didn't like. When I came there were no workers around and some of the teachers told me the reason for that was that the bought tiles weren't enough. But as I wrote Joseph and I had calculated the amount of still needed tiles



based on his measurements. I also noticed some minor faults again and the room where the workers had stored the material was very untidy. When Baraka arrived, we organized a meeting with Joseph, to clear out these discrepancies.

After that we had the meeting with the teachers. We would like to include the students in the work. Something, which you helped to build and design, you also appreciate more. Since the rooms now have new rooms, the old desks and chairs would scratch scars on the floor, if they were used in the

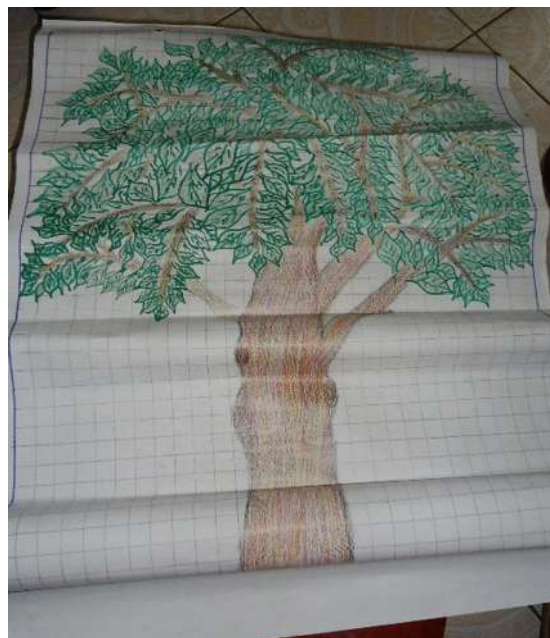
same condition they are in now. Therefore we thought of planning a day, where all students could apply new rubbers on the old desks and chairs, to protect the new floor. The teachers liked our idea and together we discussed whether the school would be able to pay for the rubbers. This action day should take place on Wednesday next week. But to us it was also important that the work of the students will be made transparent and acknowledged in some way. I had the idea to paint a big tree on one of the classroom inner walls. The leaves of this tree should be depicted by the handprint of each student, who was part of the work on that day. After hearing that Ecki and Baraka liked this idea as well we shared it with the teachers. At first we wanted to find a painter but then the teachers suggested to ask a very artistically talented student in Form 4 who could take over this task.

Only a couple minutes later we were introduced to Phillipo Cosmas. Right away he agreed to do the painting and suggested to draw a first sketch until Tuesday.

On the next day I met Baraka and Gabriel at the Usa River Rehabilitation Center to continue evaluating the so far collected data of the family visits. We tried to get an overview on the question which families



are most vulnerable due to their living circumstances. We also collected first ideas about the direction into which further projects could go. From our perspective a big problem are the toilets which are in very bad condition at some places. Again and again they turn into A source of infections. Unfortunately the time for creating new ideas is always very limited but we want to continue working on it, even when I am back home. In the evening I was then visited by Phillip and his friend Anold M. Paul. They had decided they wanted to paint the picture together. Those two students really impressed me! Not only had they drawn two different sketches out of which I could pick one – within only one day. They had also already thought about which material and tools they would need and had prepared a lists of things for me where they had noted down everything necessary – both in English and Swahili. We talked about some minor changes for the first draft (the tree top should be a little wider towards the sides) and we scheduled a second meeting for Friday before that guys wanted to transfer sketch onto a pencil sketch on the wall.



On Wednesday, September 24, I had a very long and very good conversation with Joseph the construction supervisor. He picked me up and then we drove to Kikwe together. On site I could show him the faults (for example: some of the scarting had been applied to the wall brokenly) and he assured me they would be fixed. Besides we took a look at the room with the materials and due to that the workers started cleaning it up right away. But most important, I told him that I couldn't understand why the tiles we had calculated and bought weren't enough. To him it was very important to clear out any doubts (which I greatly acknowledge) and to assure total transparency. For that reason we took the time to remeasure all the rooms together and to remeasure the amount of tiles needed and double-check everything from there. He had also



prepared a document, where all the costs were split up into costs for material and performance of the workers. All these documents and calculations will be evaluated in a final meeting once the construction work is being done completely. The rest of the day I spent visiting the VTC at Sing'isi and the Primary School Nambala. During these visits I talked to the head teachers of both schools about current challenges concerning the schools and to complete my list of current school fees.

Thursday I was at Kikwe – again. But this time I was there to talk to the head teacher about our activities next weeks. I was very happy about him confirming that the school would pay for the rubbers and had already ordered them. After that meeting we went through the renovated building and I showed him the room where there painting was supposed to be created in. I also saw that the workers had already fixed most of the faults from the day before. The outside corridor was almost done and they had also begun to apply the black tiles around the corridor.



Friday, September 26, was a stressful day. Baraka and I wanted to meet in Usa at noon to go to the airport together and pick up my dad from there. But first I went back to Kikwe. There I had a meeting with Joseph and the head teacher. Now that most of the work is already finished (Joseph said, that by the beginning of next week applying the tiles and coloring the walls should be done.)



we wanted to start looking towards one of the last important problems – the rain water. At first we wanted to level the ground in even high compared to the tiles. We also wanted to mix the soil with cement to prevent the foundation to get washed-out. But that won't be enough to protect the building from water and mud, because the whole ground is leveled down towards our building. We thought it might make most sense to build a small concrete channel leading mud and water around the building

without flooding the building itself. Similar to what you can see here in bigger cities between street and sidewalk. Baraka, Ecki and I agreed on asking Joseph to prepare a budget for it so we can continue planning. Baraka is also not sure whether the school will have electricity soon. Therefore we want to wait with renewing the solar panels for now. Maybe we can use the money which was initially planned to be used for this work for our channel... Because this work is currently most relevant. Rain season already starts in the end of October. We decided that the preparation work for this can also be supported by the students. At the moment there are still big piles of dirt and rubbish in front of the building, which need to be transferred before this work

can start. Together with the head master we agreed on also giving this task to the students on Wednesday. The head teacher will also take care that all the rubbish will be taken away until that day. Afterwards I hurried to also meet again with our two artists. They showed me their second sketch. After we looked on it and agreed on everything they started right away with the pencil draft on the wall.

From there Baraka and I picked up my dad and left for safari after only a short stop at Anne and Patrick's house. I am already sooo excited what the building will look like when I am back on Tuesday!

For some reason my reports are getting bigger and bigger each week...I hope you are not bored while reading my texts. ☺ To finish I want to share one last picture of last week: the big potato salad dinner last week...You will hear from me again in my next journal entry!



Diary of a journey

week 6: October 4 – October 9 + résumé

My last weekend in Tanzania started out with an unforgettable experience!!! On Sunday, October 4, Emmy and Abraham (good friends of Baraka and Tamari) got married. During the last couple of weeks I often attended meetings when they met to plan everything. Here in Tanzania things are a little different from what we are used to. A wedding is planned and organized by a big committee. Many guest also participate in financing the wedding and it is a huge event. Emmy and Abraham had invited me a couple weeks ago and I was so excited and happy about that. But the fact, that I was also supposed to be one of Emmys bridesmaids, I didn't realize until the morning of the wedding, when we were on our way to the salon. 😊 Obviously it increased my excitement and nervousness to an incredible level and this day was simply amazing and unforgettable. Here are some pictures of it:



On Sunday morning we went to Kikwe once again to meet with Joseph. Since the workers had finished the reconstruction we could go through all the rooms together and prepare a list of things that still needed to be fixed.



Since Baraka didn't get back his car before afternoon, we had the pleasure of riding "mishkaki style" on Earnest's motor cycle one last time. (picture) ☺ "mishkaki" is kiswahili for shashlik and as you can see in the picture, you sit as close to each other as the pieces of meat are stuck on a shashlik stick.

...It had been rainy during the night and we could witness ourselves how important it would be to build a channel around our new building. Only by dropping down, the water from the roof had caused severe soiling. I think, even looking at the pictures can give you a hint of what it might look like once the rain season really starts. We shouldn't let it come that far.

On Monday, October 6 2014, Saufa and I showed my dad the schools in Nganana and Sing'isi. We were walking once again and I



was so happy!!! Even though it was close to our departure, but I finally achieved to not get lost the entire way!! I mean, Saufa was there but still I always knew where we had to go next. ;-) A HUGE difference compared to the beginning of my stay here in Tanzania!!! ☺



From there Baraka picked us up and we drove to Usa River to Muungano Usa River Secondary School, where I met and interviewed two other students, who are supported by us.

The evening we spent cooking a typical German food again. We had potato dumplings, beef and vegetables, which especially Anne and Patrick liked a lot.

On Tuesday, our last full day in TZ, Baraka and I sat down to talk and drew a final conclusion of my stay here. He showed me some of his ideas for the future and inspired by my time here we were trying to furtherize them and think about additional possible ways. In the afternoon we went to Arusha once more to buy some last things.

Among others I wanted to buy a big package of Tangawizi, to bring it to Germany with me. Tangawizi is a type of soda which tastes similar to Ginger Ale, just more intensive. With Tangawizi it's so easy. I could simply put it into my suitcase and take it with me. But there are so many other things and especially people here, who have grown so dear to my heart – even though it has “only” been six weeks. But unfortunately they don't fit into my suitcase...

Especially Tamari, I like her so much and when we had to say goodbye to each other on Sunday evening (she works in Monduli during the week) it was really hard for me.

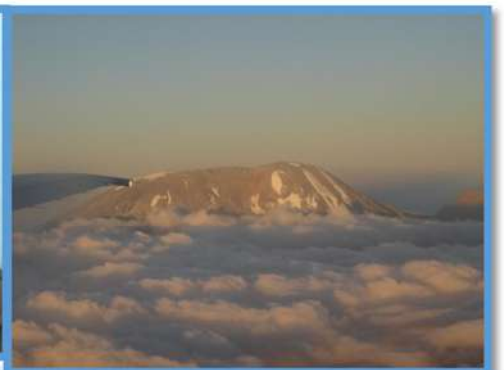


Therefore the surprise was even greater when I got to see her again on Tuesday night because she took a day off. So together with her, Baraka, Cuthbert and my dad I got to spend the best and greatest last Tanzanian night imaginable with barbecue and drinks in Arusha. ☺ ☺ ☺

The morning of our departure was scheduled very tightly again. Getting up that morning really wasn't easy for me!!! Not only that I had spent half of my night packing my bags (I didn't want to "waist" any of my time during the day ☺), but it wasn't a nice feeling to "finally" leave "my bed" anyways. We met Joseph once again to find some last agreements for the preparation of my "punch list" and clarify some open questions. The meeting should have been already the day before but couldn't take place due to an overlap of appointments. After that we went to Kikwe a very last time, to finally say goodbye to everyone there as well. For me it was a very moving moment again, since I got to spend so much time there and I was so happy about the new building – but most of all, because those students and teachers amazed me with their commitment and joy at our day of action.



After a very tasty last lunch (how else could it be if Anne is cooking ☺) and after saying goodbye to Anne and Patrick, Baraka and Tamari brought us to the airport and then we already had to finally say goodbye to this impressive and beautiful country.



And now...

...Now I'm back here, at home. I have to admit that it took a couple of days until it felt like being home again for real. But it was sooooo great to see everyone again! That's the great thing. – Having to say goodbye to dear people in one place means that at the same time there are people, who are just as dear to you, in some other place already waiting for you and looking forward to seeing you again. – For that I am very, very thankful! Simultaneously my thoughts went back to Tanzania very often – and they still like to do that. ☺

By now already one month has passed since I got back, which gave me some time to reflect and organize all those impressions in my head.

When I think of my time in Nambala, those thoughts are characterized by one thing above all others: gratitude. First of all, I am so thankful to God, that he lead me to this way and stayed by my side all along. And I am thankful for all those people, who made this stay possible and who encouraged me. And then there is this incredible warmth, which people like Anne, Patrick, Tamari, Baraka and so many others have shown me, which has delighted and inspired me – just like the work Baraka, Ecki and all these other people do. There is so much lifeblood and commitment in there, it is great and motivates incredibly. Of course I also want to thank all of you for reading my streams of thought, but most of all for making this work possible by supporting it. I was allowed to see how much can be achieved and when I talk to Baraka and Ecki, I know that there is so much more possible and going to be realized. Certainly, six weeks are not enough to get an thorough insight on everything. But I think I can also confirm that the education of the people there is sooo important. Which certainly includes that by financing school fees or uniform you make education possible in the first place. But besides that students still have to deal with various challenges, which impair their performance. Projects, like building a new hostel for Kikwe Secondary School, will help to meet these challenges. Baraka says that it's also very important to know the student's problems in detail and offer them counselling and opportunities to talk. I think he is right. For the future the questionnaire, we developed together with Gabriel, can be of good help with that. But for me education also means very simple and functional projects like creating awareness in families and schools, like the project about hygiene in Babati. By visiting schools and families, filling out the questionnaires about current challenges, we found out that especially topics like hygiene and sanitary systems will perspectively be an important topic with a lot of scope but also need for action. Concerning that I would like to emphasize, how impressed I was, seeing that especially Baraka cares very much about figuring out which projects really make sense and are sustainable, by collecting and interpreting data in detail. The microfinance group and the project with the goats are great examples for that.

...There are so many possibilities! Certainly, all these tasks also need many shoulders on which they can be distributed. Because especially what Baraka and Ecki have to accomplish is a lot! But I also believe that one determines the other. If you take Kikwe Secondary School as an example: By helping there we draw the local people's attention to our work. And then it is possible that people like Agnes, the teacher from Kikwe, come to us asking how they could help. ch, dass wir dort helfen, machen wir die Menschen vor Ort gleichzeitig auf diese Arbeit aufmerksam. Und dann wird es möglich, dass Menschen wie Agnes, die Lehrerin aus Kikwe, auf uns zukommen, mit der Frage, wie sie diese Arbeit unterstützen können. – Which has potential, doesn't it?!! ☺ I would also like to continue applying myself as much as it's possible here from Germany. And that's another reason to be thankful for. Due to the internet

we have all these great ways of communication to consolidatedly make a diffenrence, despite the distance.

I want to conclude this résumé by sharing a thought, which has become more and more significant to me during my stay and in conversations with Gabriel and Baraka: It's not about those "rich white people" coming to Africa, making everything better (I'm exaggerating this a little – on purpose). Your work is borne by friendship and teamwork at eye level – on both sides. And that's where I think it's big potential is to be found...

