



Dear donors and supporters,

Greetings from Tanzania! We have restarted Karimu volunteer trips with 2 trips: one for adults and teenagers as in the past and a pilot for families with small children. I am so excited to be able to share the beauty of our communities and our joint achievements with those coming to Tanzania this July ... and even more excited because my son, his wife, and my two grandchildren (ages 6 and 10) will be among the families. I can hardly wait to witness what my grandchildren and all the other children will experience. .

But, let me "control" my excitement and tell you what happened since my last communication.

15 Anniversary Celebration and a Facelift for Ufani

I mentioned in the last newsletter that Karimu is celebrating 15 years in Tanzania. We held a 15th anniversary celebration (not funded by donations) on June 4th just outside of Santa Cruz, California bringing together volunteers and donors living in the area and whose involvement spans the life of Karimu. Volunteers spoke of how their experiences in Tanzania changed their lives, and I detailed Karimu's growth and what we can look forward to as we turn our focus from Ayalagaya Ward to the neighboring Arri Ward. Three-time volunteer Marshall Hawkins and longtime friends Bob Boss and Yve Evans provided a masterful jazz accompaniment to the lively conversation and good food. As part of the celebration we were raising money to give Ufani Primary a facelift. A donation to fix the Ufani bathroom is what started Karimu to begin with. Volunteers from Karimu's inaugural Tanzania visit in 2008 led the way in donating toward that upgrade so that Ufani can be brought up to the same high standard as the five other schools that Karimu has renovated in Ayalagaya. The \$18,389 raised for Ufani School puts us within striking distance of our \$20,000 goal.



Good food, conversation, and music among friends

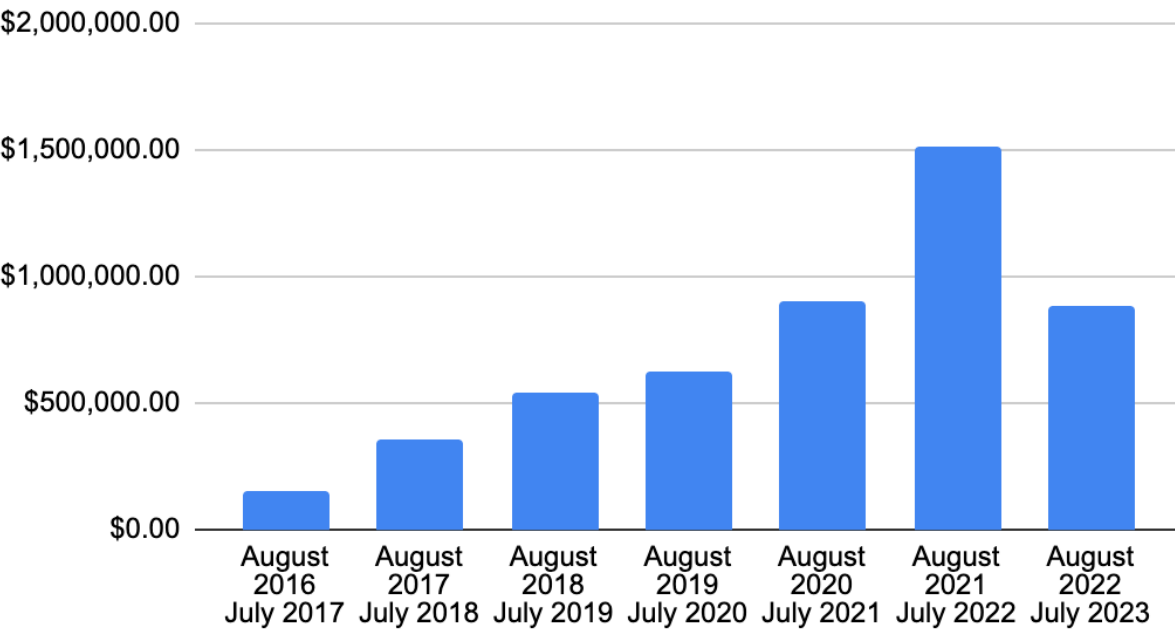
If you weren't able to join us for the June 4th event, there will be a virtual event coming up after our volunteer trips. **Hold calendar space on October 8th** (early morning in California, late afternoon in Europe) to join us online and hear first hand about our summer trips, and learn about our plans for next year.

Fiscal Year-end Fundraising Achievement

We have closed our 2022/2023 fundraising season (the season that provides the funds for all 2023 projects) with mixed results. On the negative side:

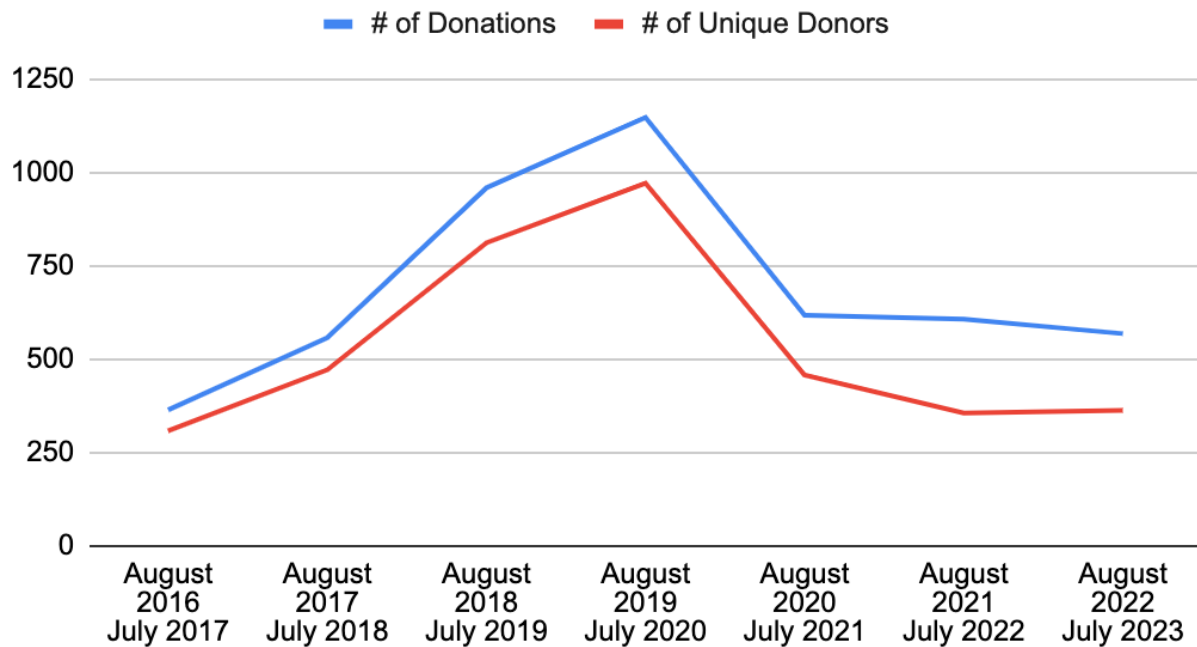
- We did not manage to reach our goal and, therefore, we are delaying several projects to 2024. Our biggest concern is that we did not manage to finish the construction projects in Ayalagaya.
- Our fundraising has declined.

Total Amount



- The total number of donations as well as the total number of donors continues to decline - a constant trend since the start of Covid which we haven't been able to revert.

of Donations and # of Unique Donors



On the positive side, we are happy that

- We managed to raise \$ 887,139.61 - definitely a nice amount.
- Our remaining donors have increased the average size of their donations.
- The number of countries from which we are receiving donations remains constant at almost 30 - quite impressive!
- We have an extremely broad range of donation sizes, varying from \$1.33 to \$210,000.00.

As we kick off our 2024 fundraising season upon our return from Africa, we will definitely increase our focus on broadening our donation base. We must:

- Reverse the trend of losing donors.
- Increase the number and amount of donations from foundations, family offices, and businesses. Today, only 15.52% of our donations come from foundations and family offices and an abysmal 3.38% of them from businesses.

Any help you can give us is very welcome!

Water and Sanitation

As you know, we are done with our sanitation projects in Ayalagaya and are now just monitoring the work of its water committee from a distance (see [our dashboard](#)) to ensure the project continues to be maintained and managed well.

You will notice in our dashboard that the number of incidents and time to address them has increased in 2Q. This was caused by the issue we had with the water agency in February and March. As I reported in my last email, the water agency took over the project for 2 months, stopping all management and maintenance activities of the Ayalagaya water committee. Additionally, during this period, several water points were damaged when the community rebelled and broke all water meters installed by the government. Obviously, this resulted in a significant increase in the number of incidents and the time to fix them. However, since the Minister of Water resolved the issue and gave the responsibility for managing and maintaining the project back to Ayalagaya, we have seen the same good track record as we did before.

Our biggest sanitation project this year is the construction of the [Arri Ward water system](#) which is continuing rapidly on the water points:

- Endasago village has 31 water points and is 100% complete.
- Dohom village has 48 water points and is 90% complete.
- Arri village has 34 water points and is 100% complete.
- Sharmo village has 29 water points and is 100% complete.
- Tsaayo village has 6 water points and is 38% complete.
- Duduye village - construction is commencing
- Managha village - construction is commencing



Managha Community preparing the trenches for underground pipes for the public water points.

The Arri water committee has been trained and is operating. We incorporated some previously existing water infrastructure that had many maintenance issues. The committee has itemized them and is currently addressing those issues. We expect to inaugurate the project this summer at which time we will have the Arri water system maintenance integrated into our online [dashboard](#).

Health

We are happy to have completed all construction projects in health in Ayalagaya. The Dareda Kati Health Center received [equipment donations from Karimu](#) and is nearly fully functional. We are expecting the first surgeries at any time. The government has provided another doctor and should now have enough medical staff to operate 24x7. In fact, this is one of my top topics to discuss with the secretary of health in the next few days.

In Arri ward, we have almost completed the construction of a [maternity ward for Tsaayo Dispensary](#). It is beautiful. The government added an additional staff member as part of the joint agreement so there are 1 doctor and 2 nurses at the dispensary. We will be lobbying for a laboratory technician as well.



Tsaayo dispensary building construction underway. Upper left: the community clears the field and digs the foundation, upper right: the foundation is laid; lower left: cement block walls are going up; lower right, completed exterior construction with roof and plastering.

Besides construction, as you know, we execute health interventions that follow the World Health Organization's medical protocols which, when followed well, significantly improve the quality of health services. We run such health interventions simultaneously in Arri and Ayalagaya and they are continuing as planned. We completed the 2nd quarter [TB campaign](#). Fingers-crossed: we saw a lower percent positive and we are hoping this is the beginning of a downward trend. Each TB campaign cycle, in addition to our service areas, we invite the government to name 2 additional villages outside our service area, but nearby, to include in the awareness campaign. This cycle we provided outreach to Dabil and Kiruu.



Clockwise from the upper left in Dabil: the TB coordinator for the district discusses TB with patients coming for testing, a local doctor explains TB to local school children, school children take fliers home to their families, a student reads the TB flier posted at the Dabil dispensary.

We also completed the [malnutrition sampling survey in Arri ward](#) of poor households to determine if the malnutrition rates require further intervention and also to assess rates of childhood vaccinations. We are currently analyzing the data and should have a conclusion soon.

Education

Nine teachers from across Arri and Ayalagaya completed another year toward obtaining their university degree thanks to [our scholarship program](#) (we pay 75% of the fees). We also completed our computer training for the teachers of Endasago Primary School - our 1st school from Arri to participate - and they had the best performance and participation ever. Their computer and copy machine is well deserved and on order.

We continued our [Importance of Education project](#) in Arri ward in order to change the views of parents who believe education is of no value. We just completed our third round of invited guest speakers who are highly regarded in the community and tell their own stories of how education allowed them to:

- Improve their standard of living
- Know people from different places,
- Use their knowledge and thinking skills to help their family and community
- Bring respect to their family and community



Local leader meets with parents and students of Tsaayo Primary

On the construction side, we are almost done with the new buildings with 3 classrooms and 1 office at [Gajla](#) and [Haysam](#) Primary School.



Current progress on Gajla classrooms (left) and Haysam classrooms (right)

We raised enough funds to complete 3 such buildings this year. We plan to start the building in Dareda Kati Primary school once the volunteers leave Tanzania. As I mentioned in my previous email, when we complete these 9 classrooms, we will have built 70 out of the 92 classrooms needed across all schools in Ayalagaya.

We have also started the 2nd of the 6 school kitchens we need to build in Ayalagaya and the community is currently clearing the site for the new kitchen at Bacho Primary and digging the foundation. I love the Bacho community. Their level of engagement is always incredible!



Bacho community digging the foundation for the new kitchen

The construction of the kitchens and the additional classrooms are the only remaining projects to complete our education program in Ayalagaya. These are the projects we delayed until 2024 because we did not reach our fundraising goal.

Financial Services and Income

New income projects have been put on hold after losing our lead staff on the income projects to a great government position (congrats to him). We recently replaced him with 2 new staff (including a graduate of our entrepreneurship program whose YouTube video I shared in my last email. If you haven't seen it, don't miss it! Just click [here](#)). They will work in the income, financial services, and entrepreneurship areas. However, first, we are sending them and another employee to Uganda to be trained as Lead Coaches in the Street Business School entrepreneurship curriculum this month so we can expand and accelerate our program. As you may recall, our [entrepreneurship program](#) has been extremely successful. (See its impact on the [Karimu Impacts page](#) on our website.)

Sadly, we are a little disappointed with our entrepreneurship training in Arri which we started in May. Only about half of those registered attended the 1st two classes. We dropped 5 participants and added 5 new participants and had higher attendance at the 3rd class. Despite repeated reminders that we are not giving loans out as part of this program, some participants still believed we would and finally dropped out when they understood there would be no loans given in the training. (Those are available through the savings group training).



Participants in the Entrepreneurship class take in and discuss the material

Our [savings group training](#) has picked up again after training 2 new field officers (who, in turn, train the savings groups). We anticipate the graduation of the first groups in Arri ward this summer, hopefully while I am here and can congratulate them in person. We have loaned \$49,458 to the graduated savings groups through our [Financial Assistance project](#) from 2021 to present and we have yet to have had a late or missed payment!

The [federation of savings groups](#) formed in Ayalagaya is operating smoothly. We hope to start providing loans to it still this year which will replace loans given directly to savings groups within the ward. The money given to the federation trickles down to its member saving groups which, in turn, increases capital available to their

members for loans. We completed training the committee that will assess its members according to our evaluation tool and they are now practicing by assessing their members. This committee will approve new group members, assure that members are creditworthy when they request loans, and self-assess the operation of the federation.

Final thoughts

I just realized that this is the first time I am writing an update to you from the ground in Tanzania. Gone are the days when we had no electricity, no running water, no internet connectivity, and, at times, not even phone connection. This place is still nothing close to what we are used to in the west, but the changes are striking. I can now work from here as effectively as I can from my house in Silicon Valley. When Shau started in 2017, he needed to walk to his mother's house in the hills in order to be able to have a video conference with me. I could hear the chickens walking around. The video had to take place in the evening, because there wasn't a strong enough signal during the day. So many times we had to cancel a meeting because his laptop ran out of battery or the signal just wasn't there. The poor guy had to stay overnight at his mother's because, without lights, it would be too dangerous to walk home to his wife. Today, he sits in our comfortable office in the middle of Dareda Kati town and we have video conferences at any time. We don't talk on the phone. We interact "face-to-face". It is incredible the change!

Ah ... you don't believe it? Well, come and see it with your own eyes. Consider signing up for our 2024 volunteer trip. Our staff on the ground will love to host you, show you the dramatic improvement in the community's standard of living, and expose you to their culture and the wonderful partnership that Karimu built with them for 15 years!

Asante sana for your continuous support.

Nelson Mattos
Karimu Chief Operating Officer



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