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Dear donors and supporters,

This year marks Karimu's 15th anniversary. It is truly amazing the difference that Karimu has made to the lives of the ~12,000 people of Ayalagaya Ward (and is starting to do so for the 15,000 in Arri). It has been a joy and privilege to work together with them. Please take pride in the many, many accomplishments that we have made together. Our founder, Marianne Kent-Stoll, put together a brief summary of [our journey and key milestones](#).

And next, let me, once again, congratulate the parents, teachers, and students at all our secondary schools. We had a 100% pass rate for the National Examination. Our own Ayalagaya Secondary school was the top performing school in the district!

## 2023 Fundraising

Sadly, we are on a path to raise just 1/3 of what we raised in the past and, for this reason, we are well short of our goals for 2023

- [Complete the remaining primary school classrooms in Ayalagaya](#) - **\$133,612 of \$309,000**
  - The goal is to have safe, clean, and light classrooms for all school children at 45 students per classroom. We have built 61 to date and have 31 to go. Right now, we can probably build another 3-4 blocks so 9-12 classrooms.
- [Building kitchens for the Ayalagaya primary schools](#) - **\$30,054 of \$90,000**
  - A key requirement for Karimu to execute any projects in a village is that the community must provide a free meal to all students. Today these are prepared over wood fires risking smoke inhalation for the cooks and students alike. Currently, we have the funds to build 1 new kitchen.
- [Medical equipment necessary to make the new Dareda Kati Health Center fully functional](#) - **\$21,966 of \$70,000**
  - While the government has increased staff and education and provided furniture and some equipment, they are unable to meet all the needs to make the center fully operational. We would like to fill that gap. And recognize that this facility services not only Ayalagaya ward but neighboring wards as well, totaling 40,000 people. We will donate whatever we can.
- [Building bathrooms for 2 of the 9 schools in Arri](#) - **\$25,685 of \$165,000**
  - Two of the nine schools received emergency funding from the community and Karimu donors in 2022 to build bathrooms to prevent school closure. We want to build the next two in 2023, leaving another 5 schools for the following year. Sadly, this is far short of what we need to build a single bathroom. Perhaps by mid year we will be able to commit one.

## 2023 Plan

Given the more modest fundraising so far we will be focusing this year on our long term projects across both wards which do not require significant funding, e.g. health interventions, entrepreneurship training, income generation, and financial services projects. Among those, it is important to highlight: the implementation of a new set of health interventions, scaling the cultivation of green beans in the region, pilot of biochar as means to increase income and to introduce agricultural methods that do not impact the environment, expanding our entrepreneurship training, and having the federation of savings groups in Ayalagaya fully operational so we can provide bigger loans to increase economic activities in the area.

In Ayalagaya we also want to build new blocks of classrooms for 3 primary schools and a kitchen for 1, but this work is still pending closing the maintenance issue (see below). To continue to emphasize the importance of maintenance, executing new construction projects in the ward is dependent on resolving these issues.

In Arri, we will complete the water project (bringing clean water within 500m of every household), the expansion of [Tsaayo dispensary](#) to provide better outpatient and maternity services and a [new kitchen for Arri Primary school](#). (Please note that the last two projects were moved ahead of the remaining sanitation projects because we received grants for them.)

Please see the completed list of projects on our [Karimu 2023 Goals page](#).

Now I will give you a few highlights in terms of progress and challenges.

## Sanitation Projects

### Clean Water for Arri Ward

Construction of the [water project for Arri](#) continues towards a completion target of mid-year 2023. We have completed all 11 distribution tanks, all tanks are connected to the main water source, and we have completed distribution lines and water points for 70+ water points. Ultimately there will be ~200+ water points across all 7 villages. We have not yet turned the water points on. We are waiting to see the new water committee that will be responsible for maintenance and management of the water project being fully functional and doing a good job before we hand over the project to them. At this moment, the committee members have been selected, the bank account opened, and the constitution that will rule their work written and approved. They are now hiring the future technicians and accountant, following a well defined selection process. We expect these to be in place in the next few weeks. Then, we will train the committee and the staff and observe their work for 1-2 months.



*A completed tank, trenching for distribution lines, truck full of distribution pipes, and a new water point.*

### Water Management in Ayalagaya

[Water management in Ayalagaya](#) is going very well. For the entirety of 2022 there were 81 reported incidents with an average time to fix of 45 days. It was double that in 2021. Everything we requested from them was completed, except the opening of the bank account which is caught in a quagmire between two government agencies vying for government oversight of the water system: the rural one and the urban one. We hope to see this resolved this quarter. Nevertheless, the current water committee is effectively managing the project. :-)

### Education Projects

We completed the [hostel for children with special needs](#) last year and had hoped to see children arriving in January, but the government does not have the funds to provide all the necessary furniture for the hostel. While we could pressure the government, we have made the difficult decision not to. We are concerned that our pressure (which is always effective) may cause them to rush and provide furnishings which would "fulfill their commitment", but not be best for children with special needs. We decided to wait and work slowly with the government to ensure excellent support for these disadvantaged children.

We completed the Gajal Primary block of 3 classrooms and an office and they are in use.



*Gajal classrooms in use*

## Health Projects

### Dareda Kati Health Center

The Dareda Kati Health Center is open and operating with all construction completed. As mentioned before, we hope to help supply the center with expensive medical equipment (e.g., X-ray machine, equipment for the 2 surgery rooms, etc.)

### Health Interventions

Besides that we will continue with the implementation of the health interventions following the World Health Organization protocols. Several of the health interventions are now ongoing or in monitoring status and going well in both wards. We anticipate running the 5th [TB campaign](#) with the government in 1Q2023. The [HPV vaccination project](#) is going well and the girls will be going for the 1st dose in February. The clinics have already secured the needed vaccine. [Training in infant care and cleaning](#) is continuing at all dispensaries and needed given a rise in young child diarrhea (we suspect due the rainy season complications). [Testing for anemia during pregnancy](#) and [testing for syphilis](#) are provided to all pregnant women and syphilis testing to their partners. We still have a ways to go for the government to begin providing the needed tests. We are still working with the District Medical Officer to arrange some onsite supplementary training and supervision for the [medical education on childhood illness](#). We are in the planning phase of a sanitation intervention to improve home latrines and we will be sampling Arri Ward to verify that there is no need for malnutrition nor vaccination interventions for young children as we found in Ayalagaya Ward. Finally, we have started to plan the next set of interventions that we will implement in both wards. In total, there are 96 interventions and we have made significant progress or completed 16.

## Financial Services

### Entrepreneurship Training

Our 1st class in our [entrepreneurship training](#) in Ayalagaya graduated in December. Already about 1/3rd of participants have opened new businesses and another 1/3rd have expanded pre-existing businesses! We are currently conducting baseline coaching visits (individual surveys of participants to understand their current income, challenges, and desires) for the 1st class in Arri Ward to begin in February.



*Our first entrepreneurship class graduation*

### Savings Group Program

Our savings group programs in [Ayalagaya](#) and [Arri](#) continue to be strong. In our year end analysis we found that our Ayalagaya groups increased their annual savings by 60% from 2020 to 2022! We anticipate starting to train community-based trainers in 2Q who will take over new savings group training in Ayalagaya in 2023. This will be another major milestone towards self sufficiency.

### Federation

Our [federation of savings groups in Ayalagaya](#) is officially saving money together and receiving ongoing training. The federation will be the future source of loans for savings groups in Ayalagaya. The financial assistance that we currently give to savings groups directly will be only given to the federation once they are fully trained and operating effectively, perhaps as early as mid-year.

### Income Projects

#### Green beans

We just harvested the 2nd harvest of the [green bean pilot project](#). After a thorough review of the mixed results from the 1st harvest, a major change was buying fertilizer in advance for all farmers. This harvest looks spectacular and we are really looking forward to the final profit numbers.



*Second green bean crop: planting through harvest*

#### Vanilla

The [vanilla project](#) is in year 2 of 4. We now have 36 farmers participating across both wards.

We are in the process of defining two more income projects: one for raising chickens and one for producing biochar. Look for these to kickoff in the March-April timeframe.

#### Final thoughts

As Karimu completes its 15th anniversary, we should look back and consider our impact. I joined Karimu as COO only 5.5 years ago and have been able to witness a transformation that I did not think was possible. However, we did not do this alone. Looking back, there were so many people who contributed to our successful journey. In the last 5 years alone, Karimu had 1147 donors from 41 countries, 89 active volunteers from 16 countries, 11 Tanzanians who worked for us (we currently employ 7), and many, many local leaders and government officials without whom we would not have achieved our incredible impact. Please do go to [our impact](#) and [our awards](#) pages in the Karimu website and take a look at what we (you) have done. It will only take 10 minutes of your time. In my view, these are the most significant presents Karimu could receive for its 15th anniversary. They make me feel proud, motivated, and full of energy for the next 5 years. I hope you feel the same.

Asante sana for your continuous support.

Nelson Mattos  
Karimu Chief Operating Officer



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