

[View this email in your browser](#)

KARIMU

INTERNATIONAL HELP FOUNDATION



Dear donors and supporters,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and healthy.

I just returned from Tanzania. It is impossible to describe the amount of progress since my last trip in November 2019. Let me just say that it is visible everywhere you go within Ayalagaya. It is amazing! And to experience that in person was just wonderful. Of course, we have been updating you on progress all along with photos but witnessing it in person you really feel the impact of the difference we are making in the community. I wish I could transport each and everyone there to see for yourselves! Given that it is not possible, here are some highlights:

- Gajal dispensary is gorgeous, and the staff takes care of it as if it were their home. Look at the cleanliness and organization of the doctor's office.



- Bacho continues to be a gorgeous school and all Ayalagaya schools are getting there (hopefully we will finish all of them next year).



- Cleanliness of the Ayalagaya schools' bathrooms (due to mud) is no longer an issue. The school has flip-flops in all bathrooms, so students and teachers don't walk inside with muddy shoes.



- Handwashing with soap is now the norm. You see this in every school.



- Schools in Ayalagaya now have enough books for everyone.



- The level of commitment of the teachers is incredible! Ayalagaya Secondary is aiming to be #1 in the Manyara Region (state) and one of the top in the country. Classes are 7 days per week and run until 6 PM. Parents have to pick up the students from the school as it is already dark then. And everyone is excited and supportive: students, teachers, parents, and the whole community. This practice exam was taking place on a Sunday at 3:30 PM.



- And the level of commitment of the whole Ayalagaya community continues to impress me. It was

announced that Karimu would start the construction of the outpatient building for the health center on Saturday and over 1000 people showed up to dig the foundations. The work was done in about 3 hours.



- On the other hand, there is a lot to be done in Arri. It reminds me of Ayalagaya 5 years ago. This is a typical house in Arri - something that you now hardly see in Ayalagaya.



- It saddens me to see a classroom like this in Dohom Primary School. And it is not the only classroom in such a horrible shape in Arri.



- Despite all the challenges and reasons to be sad, you are constantly cheered up by the beauty of the people. Just take a look at this 2nd grade girl. Note her embarrassment when she sees me (mzungu or white man) around second 13. <https://youtu.be/bjjR0jFvOPY>

Let me start with some key updates and then let me share our plans for 2022!

COVID-19

The virus has, unfortunately, hit our local community. We think many of our staff had the virus. Tests are very expensive and even if you get tested, the results may not find their way back to you as one of our employees learned. Most seem to have weathered the virus and we are back at full force. The very good news is that we are not aware of any recent deaths in the community and vaccination is free and available to everyone in Tanzania. You just need to go to the several clinics around the country providing doses of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine from the US. There are 4 clinics within a 20-minute drive from our area offering vaccines.

Health Center

We are accelerating the construction of the outpatient building for the new health center. A government contract with a private hospital in a neighboring ward is expiring at the end of the year and we have the opportunity to get priority for many of the highly experienced staff if we can open the maternity and outpatient buildings by the end of the year. The maternity ward construction is nearing completion (we just need to connect it to the new building) and we have already broken ground on the outpatient building. The entire community came to help dig the foundation and the event and project was carried on national Tanzanian TV.



Tsaayo Secondary Bathrooms

We are again responding to an urgent request for building new bathrooms, this time at Tsaayo Secondary school. The waste was overflowing. An examination of emptying the waste was not viable. The current workaround of sharing the two teacher's stalls is not sustainable. And, again, the government was threatening to close the school. So we, together with the community, have moved the priority of this new construction to the top of the list in Arri ward. The community has already raised \$8,269.57 for the construction, we have the detailed architectural plans, and work has already begun. We began fundraising for this project last month and to our total surprise and gratitude, a donor has fully funded the project!



Arri Strategic Planning Meeting

Our Tanzanian staff led the Arri strategic plan review and prioritization with 55 representatives spanning the Arri ward. This is the first such meeting conducted entirely by our local staff without a western member of the leadership team. It went flawlessly and speaks highly of the leadership and credibility developed within our team. We are so proud of them. As expected, the Arri strategic planning committee agreed with prioritizing sanitation at the top of the list and the project to bring water to Arri and, as mentioned above, with Tsaayo Secondary at the top of that list.



We believe our major challenge in Arri will be to educate parents about the importance of education. Many believe their children (particularly boys) are better off failing the national exam so they can stop studying and stay home to work in the field or take care of livestock. Some even bribe their boys by offering them a cow if they fail the national exam. Passing rates of the boys is close to 50% in many Arri schools. However, as we addressed this challenge in Ayalagaya years ago, we are confident we will be able to do the same in Arri.

Tax Deductible Donations in Switzerland

Great news for our donors living in Switzerland. We have recently partnered with Socontial AG, Zurich, also a non-profit, to enable donors paying tax in Switzerland to make tax deductible donations by wiring your donation to:

IBAN: CH86 0839 0038 3956 1000 5

BIC: ABSOCH22

Recipient: Socontial AG, Zurich

We have also added this information to the Karimu website.

For a complete view of the current status of all projects please go to the [Karimu 2021 Plan page](#).

2022 Plans

Here is a preview of what we want to accomplish in 2022 and for which we will be fundraising the rest of the year.

Ayalagaya

As mentioned in the prior newsletter, all Ayalagaya sanitation projects will be completed in 2021. Together with annual hygiene training and first aid training to the teachers, this completes phase 1 of the education program. This is such an amazing accomplishment, it bears repeating. Thank you! In addition, we have completed the phase 1 construction for the health program giving all residents access to basic health services within a 30 minutes' walk. While their basic health services would not measure up well to those to which we are accustomed, it is still very significant as these dispensaries provide vaccinations, treat chronic illness like TB and HIV, offer family planning, deliver babies, and provide first aid.

Construction focus for 2022 will be on:

1. **Completing the high school for opening in 2022.** While almost 67% of Ayalagaya Secondary students had grades sufficient for them to attend high school, not all of them will be able to. The final construction includes building physics, biology, and computer labs and remodeling the last old building. Note: we re-directed some funds previously appropriated for the labs towards classrooms for Haysam and Gajal Primary schools after learning that the high school opening would be delayed to 2022.
2. **Completing the health center for full operation.** This includes building the overnight building, laboratory, mortuary, and family planning buildings. This will provide local support within a 30-minute drive for 1st time or complicated births, emergency services, xrays, labs, and other diagnostic support, and support major injuries like fractures. It will also provide overnight accommodations for pregnant women awaiting delivery, recovery from minor surgery, or those requiring overnight nursing or doctor care.
3. **Completing the classrooms for all primary schools.** While all primary schools already have some classrooms built by Karimu, most classrooms in Gajal, Haysam, and Dareda Kati are still dark and windowless with leaky roofs and muddy floors. We want all students to be learning in uncrowded classrooms with adequate light and protection from the weather. Only Bacho Primary and Ayalagaya Secondary are at or below our 45 students per good classroom target. You can see our students/good classroom progress now on our Karimu School Dashboard. For example, Gajal Primary has 245.3 students per good classroom! We have built 52 to date out of the 83 total needed.
4. **Building kitchens for all schools.** We require the schools to serve a daily meal to all children at school. Unfortunately, they are preparing these meals in little more than a hut and open fire. We need to provide safe kitchens for the health of those preparing lunch and to enable more nutritious lunches to be prepared.



Non-construction projects continuing include teacher scholarships, computer training, savings group training, financial assistance to qualifying savings groups, and vanilla farming. New non-construction projects are in two key areas:

1. **Health interventions:** We anticipate running a major health intervention around malnutrition in 2022 pending the results of the health survey beginning this month. We are also assessing the need for an intervention to support the government's focus on home sanitation via latrine construction.
2. **Entrepreneurship training:** We are very excited to train two members of our staff in the Street Business School program which helps non-profits create, deliver, and measure entrepreneurship programs. Their program focuses specifically on entrepreneurship for those living in poverty. Having started in Uganda, they have deep experience in eastern African rural regions.

Arri

The primary construction focus in Arri is all about **sanitation**: 1) the clean water project and 2) the bathroom projects for all schools. As discussed in the prior newsletter, we will bring water to within 500 meters of every household. One of the major goals of my trip to Tanzania was to resolve the source of water for Arri. Due to Arri's difficult terrain, the use of any water sources in Arri would increase the cost of the project by more than 50%. We reached an agreement with the Ayalagaya local government and leadership as well as the district government to use the same water source that provides water for Ayalagaya. With this major issue resolved, we just sent out the project for bidding and will be breaking ground on the water collection, sedimentation, and system of distribution tanks later this month. We also recently hired a civil engineer to our staff in Tanzania who will be overseeing this and our other construction projects. The Tsaayo Secondary school bathroom is underway, and the Dohom Primary school bathroom was partially completed with Karimu's help. There are a total of 9 schools in Arri ward: 7 primary and 2 secondary educating a total of 4662 children. Given the recent history of school closures, you can understand why these projects are at the top of the list.

Non-construction projects will roll out in Arri in parallel or serially with Ayalagaya as staffing allows. This includes ongoing participation in teacher scholarships and health interventions and new opportunities in savings group training and entrepreneurship training.

Final Thoughts

My trip to Tanzania gave me the opportunity to deeply realize (1) the value given by the government and the communities to the benefits brought by Karimu and (2) the impact to the community observing the contrast between Ayalagaya and Arri. The fact that the Ayalagaya community allowed us to divert some of their water to Arri is a huge recognition of the benefits Karimu brought to them. They would not have given water to anyone else. Also, in my meetings with the top government officials of the Manyara region, they constantly thank me for all our projects and offered help to enable us to proceed with our plans. I was received with open arms and a sincere desire to help us. As an example, I received this WhatsApp message from the top official of the Babati district (in which Ayalagaya and reside) following our meeting:

Thank you for taking the time to travel from abroad to meet with me, share your future plans, and openly discuss how to strengthen our partnership. Please note that we highly value your organizations' presence and work. On behalf of the government, I assure you that all points discussed in our meeting today will be done as agreed. PLEASE NOTE: just to reiterate that, we are eagerly waiting for your water project at Arri. If there are any issues that you believe the government should work on to ensure a positive outcome of the project, kindly convey them to me before your departure from Tanzania so I can work on this swiftly and without any delay on the project. I want to be sure that everything is resolved before your departure.
Lazaro

We are finishing the work in Ayalagaya (depending how our fundraising goes we could be done with all major projects by the end of 2022) and can, for this reason, clearly see the results of Karimu's work. We are, on the other hand, barely starting in Arri and can clearly see the impact of rural poverty without assistance. I was moving back and forth between the two wards daily and it amazed me every time I crossed from one to another to see the difference. It seemed like I crossed the border to another country!

I always believed that Karimu's approach was the right one to eliminate poverty in a sustainable way. I never felt more sure of this than during this trip. I came back excited with our impact and full of energy to finish our mission in Ayalagaya and repeat our success in Arri.

Thank you very much for your generosity and continuous support. Nothing would have been possible without you! *Asante sana kwa ukarimu wako na msaada wa kila wakati. Hakuna kitu kingewezekana bila wewe!*

Nelson Mattos
Karimu, Chief Operating Officer



Copyright © 2021 Karimu International Help Foundation - Tax ID 32-0227956, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

