

Last update on Bacho School Project before we head to Africa

Dear Donor,

In a few days, Claudia and I are heading to Tanzania with 34 other volunteers to complete Phase One (of three phases) of our reconstruction of Bacho Primary School. As I mentioned in my previous email, most of the work for this phase was completed before the rainy season started. You can see that in the latest pictures I received. I think this part One of the new school is just gorgeous! The rainy season is now over, and the volunteers will be left with the job of painting the building and of starting Phase Two.

While we are in Dareda, we will drive other projects with the local community as well as doing the necessary research for 2018 projects:

- **School classes:** we will be teaching arts in the schools of the district. Children in Tanzania tend to have their visual art skills underdeveloped due to the lack of paper, coloring pencils, etc.
- **Sports competition:** some volunteers are taking soccer, basket, and volley balls to run a large sports competition with the children of all villages. All the material will then be donated to the schools encouraging the kids to continue to practice different sports.
- **Internet Connectivity:** two ex-Googlers will join me in researching what it would take to bring connectivity to all schools in the area, i.e., discussing with operators, meeting with ISPs in Babati (a town about 1 hour from Dareda), researching how to deal with lack of electricity, how to secure the equipment, etc. I am interested in making this one of our 2018 projects.
- **Reducing Girls Dropout rates:** Claudia together with a few other women volunteers will assess whether Dareda suffers from high dropout rates when girls enter puberty and, if so, how to fix this problem. This is likely to be another 2018 project.
- **Clean water for Gajal village** – we will do all the field research to bring clean water to the Gajal village and its school – another project we are likely to pursue in 2018.
- **Medical training to midwives and nurses:** In addition to taking a large amount of medicine, birth kits, and other health and hygiene related material, the volunteers with medical background will provide training to midwives and nurses in order to improve their services.
- **Kitchen for Bacho School** - we will work on convincing the Bacho community to allow its children to eat food cooked in a School kitchen so we can move forward in building the kitchen.
- **Teachers training** – I have been in touch with several NGOs that provide training to teachers in Africa and plan to look at how to bring one of them to Dareda to train its teachers in the future.
- **Karimu Website:** volunteers with strong background in photography will be tasked with documenting all our activities there as well as Karimu's past projects, success stories, and local activities (Sunday mess, celebrations, welcoming party, etc). Upon our return, this material will be used to significantly improve Karimu's website.

We are extremely anxious to arrive in Dareda to get things going. There is a lot to be done and we know the Karimu volunteers will have the most gratifying experience of our their lives.

You will now only hear from us after we return from Africa towards the end of July.

Claudia and I would like to, once again, thank you for making this possible.

Nelson & Claudia Mattos (with a lot of support from Karimu's founders: Don and Marianne)



