

Karimu had a very busy and productive first quarter

Dear Karimu donors,

It has been a very busy and productive first quarter! I just came back from Tanzania, where I reviewed the Karimu projects, and am pleased to inform you that all projects are going extremely well, if not already completed!

The **reconstruction of Bacho Primary School** is done, and it is GORGEOUS: all three buildings are operating, and children are distributed according to age in one of the 8 brand new classrooms. The toilets for the children are ahead of schedule and should be done in another 3 to 4 weeks, depending on the amount of rain in the ongoing rainy season. The official inauguration is planned for June, after the group of Karimu 2018 volunteers plant trees, plants, and flowers in the school grounds.



One piece of not so good news is that we haven't seen strong indication that the parents will provide food for school lunches. We discussed the matter with the community and jointly decided to delay the construction of the school kitchen. The community leaders assured us that this will be addressed and, once parents provide food to be cooked in the old open-fire kitchen for 12 months, Karimu will construct the kitchen.

Until then, we will use the funds originally allocated for the kitchen for the **construction of toilets at Ayalagaya Secondary School**, which are in deplorable conditions. We apologize if anyone has contributed money specifically to the kitchen project. Please let us know if you have donated money to the construction of the kitchen and do not agree with this reallocation of resources. We will be more than willing to refund you.

The **toilets of Haysam Primary School** which were completed in early February are absolutely gorgeous, as you can see in the next picture, and are

operating temporarily with a water tank filled daily by the community. This will change as soon as water arrives in the village, which may be sooner than expected, if workers keep up this tempo.



The **water project** to bring clean water to the two large regions of Gajal and Haysam is significantly ahead of schedule due to the hard work of the community. The foundation of the water tank and treatment station in the hills is done and the walls are being raised. I was impressed with its size. Enough to provide water to several villages.



The pipes to bring water from the hill water station have been laid. The 135,000-liter tank to provide water to all villages in Haysam is also done, as you can see in the image below.



Here you can see that the foundation for the 135,000-liter tank in Gajal is done and walls are already being raised:



These are the next steps of the water project:

- The community will lay the pipes in the valley, covering over 8 km to bring water to the tanks in Haysam and Gajal.
- Several water faucets need to be constructed in many villages.
- The community will lay the smaller pipes to bring water from the tanks to the water faucets.

Unfortunately, we realized that we underestimated the number of **water faucets** needed to cover the whole area, without requiring people (mostly children) to walk long distances to fetch water. As we are out of funds to construct more water faucets, we will run a campaign to obtain additional funds for those faucets. Stay tuned as you will receive an email from me on that soon. :-)

The **Dareda Kati Health Clinic** which we built in 2016 is operating in its entirety with a full-time doctor, Dr Jeremia, and several nurses. Additionally, it is now receiving enough medicine from the central government.



Besides reviewing the projects, the Karimu founders and I hold a **strategic meeting** with several leaders and representatives of the Ayalagaya Ward villages to finalize our 5-year strategic plan. The discussions were very productive, and a solid agreement from all parties has been reached. The plan defines Karimu's priorities for the next years, an exit strategy, and the expansion to new districts.



As I was walking through the villages last week, I kept thinking about how lucky we, at Karimu, are for having your help and commitment. At times, seeing all the progress and the positive impact we are having, I got a little emotional and had to hide a tear or two coming down my cheek. I truly hope you get as excited as I got when you read this email, see the pictures, and feel the progress we are making. **Thank YOU for your financial and moral support. And please give yourself a tap in the back for being part of this wonderful mission.**

Asante sana! Thank you so much,

Nelson Mattos
Karimu Chief Operating Officer