

## Inauguration of Bacho Primary School and 2018 Volunteer Trip

Dear donors,

In less than 10 days a group of 24 Karimu volunteers will arrive in Tanzania to work with the community of Ayalagaya Ward. Many are also going to meet old friends, as they are coming for the third or fourth time. This interaction is crucial to get to know the people we work for and with and to understand their culture in order to be effective in our development aid work.

This year everyone in the village will also have the opportunity to experience the culture of several volunteers, particularly of the 5 Brazilians and 2 Argentinians who will be in the group. It is world cup time and I am sure the locals will be amazed to see us (me) screaming in front of a large TV set getting upset when Neymar or Messi misses a clear goal. Did you really think we, Brazilians, were going to miss the Fifa World Cup? Sorry, but nothing can stop that! I have personally donated a 32-inch TV, a satellite dish, and solar panels to the Institute where the volunteers stay. It will be exciting to watch the games from the interior of Tanzania and to enable so many people who have never watched TV before to experience this unique world event.

During our 18 days in the village we are going to help the locals construct the new children's bathrooms at Ayalagaya Secondary School. They are in deplorable conditions, as you can see in these pictures.



There will be a lot more happening in parallel:

- **Midwives & First Aid Training**

As in every year, the midwives will be trained by a physician and a fellow volunteer, who will also train the teachers of all six schools of Ayalagaya and all nine school of Arri Ward on first aid. At the end of the training, each school will receive a complete first aid kit donated by Karimu.

- Mapping  
In order to better plan Karimu's projects, volunteers will collect GPS coordinates of all main sights in the region and create layers on Google Maps with all the details of Ayalagaya Ward.
- Survey  
Two volunteers will also run a pilot of the census we are planning to run in the whole area in 2H2018. This census will be executed door-to-door to collect precise data on the population, their income, health, education, etc. We hope to use it to enhance Karimu's planning and to measure the impact of our projects. Cross your fingers that the pilot goes well. :-)
- School Classes and Sports' Competition  
The students of Ayalagaya Secondary School will have the opportunity to participate in a rhythm or poem class given by a volunteering professional musician, and several volunteers will take turn to offer art classes at all 5 Primary Schools: Gajal, Haysam, Bacho, Dareda Kati, and Ufani. And the students from all schools will take part in a sports competition.
- Assessment of Savings Groups  
We are also going to assess the operation of the 20+ savings groups in the region with the goal of developing a plan to improve their effectiveness. Once that is accomplished, we could then consider providing seed money to develop entrepreneurship, fueling the increase of the overall income.
- Expansion of Dareda Kati Clinic  
Some volunteers will be analyzing the feasibility of expanding the clinic Karimu build in 2016 and of constructing smaller dispensaries distributed in the region.
- Official Inauguration of Bacho Primary School  
Probably the highlight will be the official inauguration of Bacho Primary School at the end of our trip. In preparation for that, volunteers and the community will work together to clean the school grounds removing all remaining construction material and to plant dozens of trees, green plants, and flowers. We hope to transform the school grounds into a beautiful, green area. We are proud that Bacho has been selected by the national government to be highlighted as a model project across the country when the National Torch visits the school in a couple more months.

Speaking of Bacho, after one year of hard work, no more cave-like classrooms threatened by wasps' nests! Instead of cracked walls and faded blackboards, three brand new school buildings have now respectively 3 classrooms, all of them with proper windows and doors. Head teacher and teachers can meet or prepare lessons in one of the three teacher's offices that are illuminated by solar panels donated by Karimu volunteers.



Rather than a hole on the ground, the children's and the staff bathroom have now flush toilets and faucet for cleaning. The construction of the large sink with several faucets for hand washing which is almost done will be finished before the inauguration.



As for the kitchen, all villagers agree that Karimu should only start building it if the parents provide food for the school to feed their children. Part of this could actually start coming straight from the school garden. In 2015 Karimu brought water from a clean source on the wall of the Rift Valley escarpment and installed a filtration system and storage tank. The water from taps close to the school has been used to plant bananas, beans, and maize on 10 previously barren acres. This crop production could complement the school funds. Below you can see the difference water makes! The picture left was taken in June 2017, and the image right shows the garden as it is now, in June 2018.



The difference is just impressive! Can you imagine that such a difference will be possible in every school once we bring clean water to all of Ayalagaya

Ward? The water project will accomplish that, and it is going so well that we are now expecting it to be completed this year - several months before schedule!

I think that is all for now. We are all busy preparing for another productive trip! You won't be hearing from us for a while now.

We make a point of keeping you always updated on the Karimu projects because without the support and financial contributions of each one of you, donors, nothing would have been possible.

Thank you so much,

Asante sana,

Nelson Mattos  
Karimu Chief Operating Officer