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Dear donors and supporters,

I can barely contain my excitement with two great pieces of news I want to share with you:

Opening Ayalagaya High School on June 15th

It is finally opening! The 114 boys and girls who have been selected to attend Ayalagaya High School have started to arrive, the [physics and biology labs](#) are complete, and the [dining hall](#) is just needing its final touches.



Clockwise starting at the top left: Ayalagaya hostel, dining hall, high school students arriving, physics laboratory, and dining hall

Ayalagaya Health Center is Now Open

While not yet officially inaugurated (we are still waiting to hear from the Tanzanian Health Minister whom I personally invited to inaugurate it during my last trip to Tanzania), the center is already functioning. So far this year we have completed the [overnight ward](#), the [security gate and building](#), [walkways](#), [handwashing sinks](#), and [oxygen building](#), and [migrated and expanded the IT system](#). We will be breaking ground on the pediatrics, family planning, and obstetrics building this month and, with the recent \$100,000 funding from Mary's Mercy Foundation, hope to also complete the laboratory and mortuary still year. .



Ayalagaya Health Center site master plan

Mary's Mercy Foundation from Switzerland have funded most school bathrooms in Ayalagaya, significantly contributed to the construction of Gajal dispensary, and most buildings of this health center. Their most recent contribution has closed the final gap for us to complete the Health Center for which we are tremendously grateful. The majority of this funding is directed to what would have been 2023 projects and fundraising.



Views of the completed construction and health center in use.

Unfortunately, not everything is going amazingly well.

Fundraising

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we are still short on funds to complete two of our most important projects:

1. [Completing the Water Project in Arri](#) - We are looking to raise \$264,000 for the water points.
2. [Disabled Children's Hostel in Dareda Kati](#) - We are needing to raise \$110,000 to complete the hostel for boys and girls. This is and will be the only facility for disabled children in the whole district of Babati (containing 21 wards that include Ayalagaya and Arri).
Note: in my last newsletter, I mistakenly said the government provided one third of the total cost of the hostel and that we needed only \$70K. The total cost of the project is actually \$145,489.78 and the government provided \$35,434.78 so that Karimu needs to cover the gap of \$110,055.00.

We have had some encouraging news. Besides the news about Mary's Mercy Foundation grant mentioned above, we received several donations from some of you since my last newsletter (thank you!) and Rotary Club has promised us \$52,000 for the Water Project in Arri which, once received, will reduce that gap to \$212,000.

We are kicking off a new fundraising effort to close these two remaining gaps. Any and all contributions help and we receive with gratitude! In addition, donors sponsoring a fully functional shower room (\$1000) or a bedroom (\$2000) for the hostel and those sponsoring a fully functional water point (\$1500) will be given a gratitude plaque personalized with one of the following inscriptions: "In honor of ...", "Sponsored by ...", or "In memory of ...". Donors can also choose to fully sponsor all the water needed by a whole village with donations varying between \$6700 and \$18,400. If you can afford, please adopt a village!

Clean Water for Arri Ward

Progress is proceeding rapidly with the various tank construction and pipe laying. In parallel, we are running community meetings with each village to explain the project and answer any questions that the villagers have. Our design calls for integration of the new water projects with the existing water systems that provide limited water to 3 villages. To our surprise, those communities have raised some concerns and we are working through those with the local leaders and community members.



The community meeting at the village of Dohom

Despite the issues the level of engagement and contribution from the Arri communities remains extremely high. They have cleared land and dug approximately 24 km (15 miles) of trenches, are hand carrying the 60m length pipes up the steep and slippery slopes for laying the main lines, providing all the land clearing, trench digging, and pipe carrying for the entire project.



The community works hard on the rugged terrain to clear, trench, carry, and lay pipes.

Water Management in Ayalagaya

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we remain concerned with the leadership's ability to provide water system maintenance in Ayalagaya without the direct involvement of Karimu. We need to ensure they become independent from us in order to reach the level of sustainability that Karimu aims for. For this reason, we halted new construction projects in Ayalagaya, except for the health center, disabled children's hostel, and high school. We made specific recommendations to the community:

1. Adding meters to private water points to collect funds based on usage rather than a flat fee
2. Managing water maintenance funds centrally rather than village by village to deal more effectively with cross village maintenance
3. Saving funds from private water points to deal with future, major maintenance issues e.g. rebuilding a tank
4. Hiring fully dedicated employees (paid for by the collected funds) instead of relying on volunteers to manage and administer the maintenance and administration of the water system.

We continue to have conversations with the local leadership and engage our Tanzanian board in trying to resolve the situation. In addition, I will be in Tanzania in July and our founders in August and this will be a major focus of our attention.

Health Interventions

The health interventions are continuing and going well. We are currently running the 3rd [TB campaign](#) with the government. Last October and then in February this year we had 18.6% and 11.4% positive cases of those screened resulting in treating 61 cases. We are hoping we can drive new cases to near

zero. We are currently evaluating the results of the Ayalagaya Health Survey that we ran last year. We have had to deal with a fair amount of data cleansing and reconciling that has delayed progress. Our first project focuses on assessing the vaccination rate for children.

Financial Services and Income Projects

We have officially begun our first [Entrepreneurship Training](#) based on the Street Business School curriculum! We are running the first class in Ayalagaya and will run the second one in Arri. In the first class we have 30 participants spanning different gender, economic, and age demographics. We graduated another savings group from our training in Ayalagaya now totaling 7. We have 5 more groups in training in [Ayalagaya](#) and 3 in [Arri](#).



The first class have their first training.

We are very close to starting the green bean pilot project. We have signed an agreement with our local partner, [Home Fresh Tanzania Limited](#), who will provide training to the farmers and delivery of the beans to the market. The pilot should validate the high profitability of such crops. If proven, we plan to expand cultivation of green beans to all suitable areas in Arri and Ayalagaya.

A lot more is happening and you can see our full 2022 activities in [Karimu 2022 Goals](#).

Final thoughts

I will be in Tanzania in 4 weeks hoping to make a lot of progress on all our 2022 projects and the water maintenance issues in Ayalagaya. I am super excited to see the new high school students in classes and the health center providing health services that these communities never dreamed to receive.

I am also very excited with the fact that 4 university graduates from Luxembourg, Germany, and Belgium will be coming with me to start a 6-week stay in Tanzania. They will be deeply evaluating Karimu's impact on the lives of the poorest members of the Ayalagaya and Arri communities and proposing extensions to our programs to ensure the benefits of our projects reach all levels of society. We strongly believe that as we start to reach the end of our stay in Ayalagaya, it is the right time to review our work and fine tune our efforts to support everyone.

Stay tuned for more upon my return.

Asante sana for your continuous support.

Nelson Mattos

Karimu - Chief Operating Officer



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