

Dear donors and supporters,

Our website is finally done! Besides general information about the Karimu Foundation (“What we do”, “Where we work”, “Who we are”), you can now read a detailed description of all Karimu projects in the website.

<https://www.karimufoundation.org/our-projects/current/>

Please also take a look at the latest articles about a typical day of a volunteer, midwives, the oldest person of Ayalagaya, and the life of Veronika - the most prominent midwife in the area:

<https://www.karimufoundation.org/stories/articles/>

(Please send me ideas of new topics you would like to read about and will be happy to create article(s) about it.)

The purpose of this email is to keep you updated on all current projects and the upcoming 2019 Volunteer trip. Enjoy reading it!

## Update on 2019 Projects

**New classrooms for Ayalagaya Secondary School** - urgent project to allow 29 students who passed the National Exam to continue their secondary school studies

We have started to build the 7 new classrooms divided in 3 buildings with one small teachers' office between the classrooms in each building. The foundation is done and the local workers have started to build up the walls.



**Fine tuning of water resources** - to address the recommendations by the independent engineer who audited the water project with me in January/2019.

I am happy to announce that we have addressed all recommendations. The construction of intake (where we collect the fresh water) at hills of Gidimu C subvillage is done.



*Gidimu C intake*

The water tank at Hhewas subvillage is also completed, expanding the water distribution to that area.



*Hhewas storage tank*

The risks of landslides and erosion around the large collection tank in the hills were addressed with the construction of a retaining wall, gutters and landscaping.



*Retaining wall of the tank in the hills*



*Gutter of the tank in the hills*

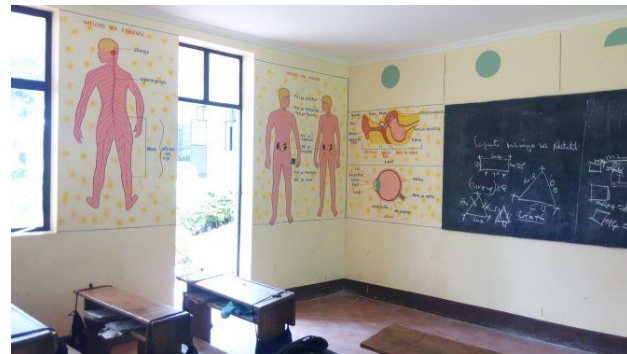
**Empowering Haysam and Bacho girls to stay in school** - providing adequate facilities for girls to deal with their menstrual periods at the schools.

The construction of Haysam and Bacho bathroom expansions was delayed because we had to wait for the rainy season to pass in order to build the foundations. The material started to arrive mid-May and construction has now started. As you may recall from previous newsletters, girls are more likely to go to school and perform better if they have adequate facilities to deal with their menstrual periods.

**Making learning a little fun** - small project to train students and the school staff about good habits of hygiene as well as illustrating the walls of the classrooms and bathrooms with educational material.

Training of good habits of hygiene was already given to all 95 teachers and 3789 students of Ayalagaya and paintings with educational material have been applied to the walls of Bacho Primary School. The colorful drawings will catch the attention of the students and help the teachers pass important information along. We are starting the paintings of the bathroom walls to train students and the school staff about good habits of hygiene.

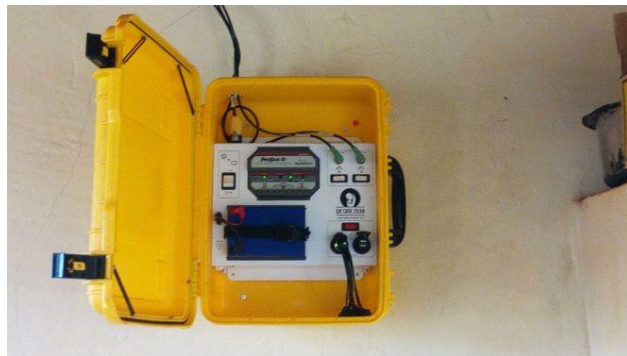




*Classroom paintings of Bacho Primary School*

### **Installation of solar panels at Gajal and Haysam Primary schools**

The solar panel for Gajal Primary School is already installed, providing enough energy to light at least one classroom that can now be used in the evening and to recharge small devices such as mobile phones. The solar panel at Haysam Primary School has still to be installed.



### *Solar panel at Gajal Primary School*

**Technology Learning Center** - ongoing classes on basic computer knowledge via video conference

Teachers of Haysam Primary School have completed the third and last module of the course on Basic Computer Knowledge and are graduating in another week. The technology learned in these courses will enable the teachers to earn advanced degrees through distance learning and improve their performance in classrooms. Katéri, our Canadian volunteer, will start training the teachers of the next school in August, i.e., once teachers and students are back from their vacation for the 2nd semester.



*Basic computer knowledge class via video conference*

**Making savings groups more effective** - training existing and new groups to excel in all their processes: record-keeping, transparency, loan tracking, etc.

We finished educating the community and its leadership about the project and have just started the training of existing savings groups. The more effective these community-led savings groups operate, the better their members can use the loans, for instance, to start a small business, buy seeds for crops or obtain funds in case of emergencies such as death or illness of a family member.

**Scholarship for teachers** - scholarships to 31 teachers covering 75% of the cost to obtain a university degree.

All 31 teachers successfully completed their university year now and 10 graduated. This has proven to be a very successful program.

### **Landscaping of Bacho Primary School**

We finished the landscaping in Bacho Primary School with a donation of 150

trees to the school, including many fruit trees. Students have planted 18 avocado trees, 16 pawpaw trees, 16 orange trees and 18 mango trees. The school is looking absolutely great! Your donations have made a big difference for both students and school staff.

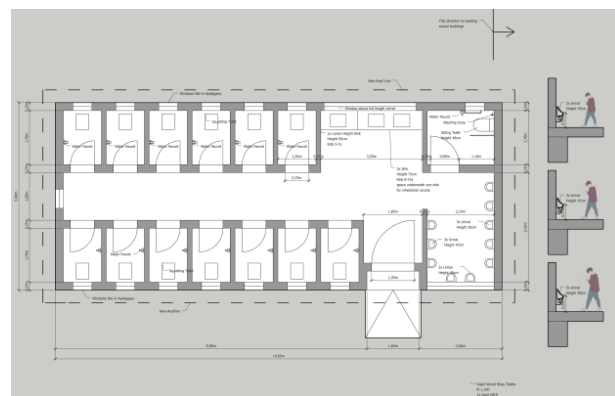


### **Construction of bathrooms for students and staff at Gajal Primary School**

The material for Gajal Primary School bathrooms has arrived, and the construction work has just started. Adequate bathroom facilities are crucial to increase hygiene and reduce the spreading of diseases. As a result, school attendance and performance rise. See the plans below



*Gajal Primary School girls' bathroom*



*Gajal Primary School boys' bathroom*



### **Upcoming 2019 Volunteer trip**

In mid-June, 31 volunteers from 7 countries are travelling at their own expenses to Ayalagaya Ward. Doctors, computer analysts, teachers, architects, engineers, dentists, business owners and other professionals will work on several projects, such as:

- Construction of Ayalagaya classrooms, working side by side with the community to build such classrooms
- Patient consultation and training of medical staff at 3 different health centers, serving over 30,000 people
- Midwives training for over 50 midwives from Ayalagaya and Arri
- First aid training for teachers of all schools in Ayalagaya and Arri
- Sustainability and preventive maintenance of water project
- Sustainability and preventive maintenance of schools
- Leadership training for girls
- School classes on arts, science, rhythm, and poetry for all schools in Ayalagaya and Arri
- Sports competition
- Survey of agricultural activities and challenges in the region
- And many, many meetings with leaders and community members

For many volunteers this is not the first trip to Ayalagaya Ward. They are returning not only to work with the villagers, but also to meet old friends.

I am extremely excited with this trip. Surely more than ever before! I will be celebrating my 60th birthday there with the community. It will be my first African birthday and I am anxious to go through this new life experience.

I am fully aware that without the support of volunteers, and all of you, donors, none of these projects could have been executed.

I thank you very much. *Asante sana.*

Nelson Mattos

Karimu, Chief Operating Officer