

Dear donors and supporters,

I just came back from my 3rd and last trip to Tanzania this year and I couldn't be more excited!

First of all, it was just great seeing the **tremendous progress in the maintenance of the Karimu projects.**

- **Five out of the 6 schools in Ayalagaya already addressed 100% of the maintenance issues** identified throughout the year. The last school has a plan to address the remaining items between now and 1Q20.
- Even more satisfying was to witness the water committees proactively discussing the best way to manage and maintain the water project and realizing how much they improved since the summer. The **water project is now with 83% of all maintenance issues addressed** and the committees have got into the routine of doing preventive maintenance checks and addressing the issues on a monthly basis. They have created an inventory of all 541 water points (94 public and 447 private water points), 5 water tanks, the water collection tank and a checklist to ensure the maintenance checks are done adequately. When I left, they were introducing a “water champion” program. The water champion will be a person responsible for ensuring the proper use of the water resources in a specific water point and taking care of the water point.



I also had the chance to see **several projects just completed.**

- **Extensions to the girl's bathroom at both Haysam and Bacho primary schools**
The extensions to the girl's bathroom at both Haysam and Bacho primary schools are done. These extensions were retroactively added to the bathrooms previously built by Karimu to give girls the necessary privacy to ensure they come to school during their period. They contain a private room where menstrual pads will be stored and freely

given to the girls as well as a toilet with a hose for washing and a shower. The bathroom now has also a few larger sinks for cloth washing and an open area for drying it. Everything encircled by a high wall to guarantee the girls' privacy. We have seen a significant increase in girls' attendance in the other school where we built these facilities. For this reason, we are excited to be able to provide such facilities to the girls at Haysam and Bacho. And we are extremely thankful to a couple who fully sponsored these facilities. A plaque with their names will be installed in the facilities.



- **Student and staff bathrooms at Gajal Primary School**

We have also completed the construction of bathrooms for boys, girls, and staff at Gajal Primary School and of a large sink for handwashing. These bathrooms have stalls with flush toilets, urinals at different heights, and sinks at different heights. The girls' bathroom also contains the same facilities as described above.



- **New classrooms for Ayalagaya Secondary School**

The construction of the 7 new classrooms and 3 offices for the secondary school is also finished. We are excited that we brought electricity and installed lights in the 3 buildings, allowing teachers to use equipment such as computers and projectors during classes. The lights will make it possible for the students and teachers to meet and work after hours – something particularly critical during the weeks preceding the National Exam. Outside lighting has also made surroundings safer.



- **Hygiene paintings**

We have also finished decorating the walls of the bathrooms of Ayalagaya Secondary, Bacho Primary, and Haysam Primary Schools with self-explanatory images about hygiene topics. We expect to increase health consciousness of the students, reducing diseases and, consequently, improved performance on national exams. The colorful images made the bathrooms gorgeous!



Our remaining **ongoing projects** which I also had the opportunity to review are also moving along.

- **Books for the all schools**

The books for the primary schools have already been ordered and the books for the secondary school will be ordered next week.

- **Gajal Dispensary**

Ayalagaya villagers have been also working really hard. The walls of the Gajal Dispensary are up and they were finishing to plaster. At this speed, it will be done by the end of March and, during my meeting with the government, they committed to have the dispensary fully staffed and operational immediately after that.



Finally, I had all the necessary meetings with the community and its leaders to start the next set of projects:

- Students and staff bathroom at Dareda Kati Primary School
- Students and staff bathroom at Ufani Primary School
- Patient toilets, laundry, incinerator, and a few other enhancements for Dareda Kati Clinic
- Remodeling of Ufani Primary School
- Transformation of the old dispensary building into housing for doctors and nurses

It was a very productive trip – the perfect closure for a successful year!

We have 3 more weeks to go and, as you know, Karimu is intensifying its fundraising campaigns. Two recent activities deserved some recognition:

In November, our Brazilian volunteers Denise and Izidro organized two charity events for the benefit of our organization. They raised \$ 12,400. A big success!!!



Lesley and Regina (with the help of others) led our GivingTuesday efforts and were able to raise \$13,331, short of just \$1,668 from our goal. This amount will still be matched by the generous Bright Horizon Fund.

A big thank you to Denise, Izidro, Lesley, and Regina and an even bigger one to the hundreds of people who made contributions to Karimu during these two successful events. THANK YOU!

Unfortunately, we continue to be significantly behind our 2019/2020 fundraising goal. If you haven't donated yet and can afford to support us further, this is the time to help us. Please don't wait! Please go to the Karimu Website and make your contribution.

Remember that Karimu fully runs by volunteers so every dollar you donate goes directly to our projects on the ground! (I pay for all my trips to Tanzania.)

On behalf of all Ayalagaya and Arri villagers, thank you VERY MUCH for your continuous support. We could not have come so far without you! *Asante sana*.

Have a wonderful end of the year holiday!

Nelson Mattos
Karimu, Chief Operating Officer